

## NEWS.

**CASTE—THE CURSE OF HINDUISM.**—The town of Goodbee consists of two main streets intersected by several minor ones. At one side stands the fort, mud of course, within which live most of the rich merchants; several holding a private residence here, even though they carry on business in the pettah. On another side is that unfauling appendage to a Hindu town, the village of the outcasts. This is a polluted spot. No caste man, though he be a drudge or a menial, would be found here. He will come within call, without touching the accursed ground, and, howling out his summons for the person he may happen to want, continues on his own sacred ground till the message is conveyed. No one who has not lived among the people can conceive the weight of that curse which Hinduisms has prepared for those unhappy beings who cannot claim a standing among the accredited castes. The meanest of the people loathe them as vile than swine. Caste men have followed me to the very verge of the defiled ground, begging me, by all manner of arguments, by my respectability, my regard for decency, my disapproval of everything disgusting, and by the utter impossibility of making them understand anything, not to degrade myself, or affront the people who had just been listening to me, by going to preach to wretches wholly incapable of being taught. Servitude is honour, slavery brotherhood, and public conviction approval, compared with the fathomless degradation into which the poor outcast is plunged. Father, mother, children, down they are sunk; all trample on them, all abuse, all revile, all execrate, all shun, and this has been going on for generations. By this horrid proscription, millions of human beings are held in a state of anomalous slavery. No one claims their person—it is too vile; but with limbs unchained, the man is denied every right of citizenship, education, or society; he and his unborn children, and his children's children, are doomed to ignorance, exclusion, and contempt. He is an exile from the human family, cut off, and cut off for ever, from affection, esteem, and improvement. No sum can buy his ransom; no monarch make him free. He was born to his curse, and his offspring is predestinated to the same. Let him look where he will, he reads the sentence of his exile, pronounced for a crime he knows not. The earth rejects him; he may not own a single perch; the water rejects him; his defiled vessel, or more defiled person, would pollute a whole well; let him dig in a corner, or drink with the swine: law rejects him; who is he that he should complain? religion rejects him; his impure steps would contaminate the holiest fane; let him crouch to a goblin on his own vile ground: ay, charity herself rejects him; to give him a morsel would be "to take the children's bread, and cast it unto dogs." And this is the bitterness of his lot, that he is dwelling in his own land, not captured in war, not sentenced for crime, not banished as dangerous; but living full in the sight of all blessings, and denied every one, because he was born accursed.—*Mission to Mysore.*

**DISCOVERY OF A CAVE AT GIBRALTAR.**—A few weeks ago, the Chief-Justice of Gibraltar had some workmen employed at his house, and whilst one of them was digging near the dining-room window, he perceived an opening which he found was very deep. He, with some others, and the Chief-Justice himself, ventured down this aperture; and after descending about 40 feet almost perpendicularly, they came to a very narrow passage, which led to a most beautiful cave; stalactites hanging about as white as snow, and of various forms, some like cauliflowers. In the midst of all this was a human skeleton, sticking fast to the rock, and the bones of a dog beside it, both having become petrified. The Chief-Justice's house (which is an old one) is built immediately over the cave. I walked out on the 4th inst. to examine the bones. It is quite melancholy to see the skull; the water has dropped on the lower jaw till it has run down and hardened, giving it the appearance of a beard. Some parts are quite petrified. The scalp still remains, and the veins on the left side are very distinct. It is just like stone, and is chipped here and there, so that the bone of the skull appears through very white, in some places like ivory. The nose, likewise, has not quite decayed, and the remaining parts are also stone. The bones of the right hand were fastened to the right side of the head, so that the poor creature has the appearance of having lain down and died, very probably of starvation, with his hand under his head, which is half turned round, as if he or she had been looking up. The entire set of teeth were beautifully perfect, but the front ones of the lower jaw dropped out when it was moved. There is some of the back-bone, arm-bones, legs, ribs, and thigh; in fact, I believe they have all been complete. The bones of the dog lay beside the human bones.—*Literary Gazette.*

**NEW KIND OF TRADE.**—A letter from Siberia speaks of a new traffic which has arisen in that country. Of late years, it seems, there have been discovered in various parts of that vast region, at depths more or less great, beneath the surface of the ground, large deposits of the bone of the mastodon, and as the teeth and jaws of this animal, which are mingled in great numbers with the bones, not only possess all the quality of elephantine ivory, but even surpass it, being still less brittle and less liable to turn yellow, a company of merchants has been formed to collect these treasures throughout Siberia. The commencement of this enterprise has been eminently successful. During the past year, the society has collected upwards of 16,000 pounds of mastodon tusks and jaws—all of which have arrived at St. Petersburg, and been sold, under the denomination of Siberian ivory, at prices 30, 40, 60, and 100 per cent. above those of elephant.

We are without further news from Europe, although the Great Britain is now more than a week over due. Serious apprehensions are entertained respecting the safety of this vessel, but, of course, nothing can be stated, except mere conjectures, concerning her.

**UNITED STATES.**—The expected intelligence of the capture of Monterey has at length arrived, but the struggle has been more severe than was expected, from the previous inactivity of the Mexicans. The assault upon the city lasted three days, during which the besiegers lost, it is said, about three hundred killed, besides an equal number wounded, being about a tenth part of their army put *hors du combat*. The loss on the part of the Mexicans is supposed to be comparatively trifling, on account of their being protected by the walls of the town. Indeed, the contest appears to have been gained only by the superiority of the American artillery, and the courage of the Mexican soldiers as risen materially in public estimation.

Monterey is the capital of the Province of New Leon, situated on the Fernando river, about 220 miles from its mouth. It contains about 12,000 inhabitants, and is strongly built. The conditions granted by General Taylor to the Mexicans, either manifest great leniency or great weakness, being very favorable to a conquered enemy. They are to the following effect:—

That the officers should be allowed to march out with their side arms.

That the cavalry and infantry should be allowed to march out with their arms and accoutrements.

That the artillery should be allowed to march out with one battery of six pieces, and twenty-one rounds of ammunition.

That all other munitions of war and supplies should be turned over to a board of American officers, appointed to receive them.

That the Mexican army should be allowed seven days to evacuate the city, and that the American army should not occupy it until evacuated.

That the cathedral, fort, or citadel, should be evacuated at ten, a.m. next day, (25th) the Mexicans then marching out, and the American garrison marching in. The Mexicans allowed to salute their flag when hauled down.

That there should be an armistice of eight weeks, during which time neither army should pass a line running from the Riconda through Linares and San Fernando.

Terms so favorable have excited much speculation in the American papers, and convinced most people of the futility of any attempt to march upon the city of Mexico. It is said that instructions have been sent to renew offers of peace, but, in the event of their not being accepted, to prosecute the war with vigor. Meantime, it is understood that General Taylor's army is suffering from scarcity of provisions, while the Mexican authorities, on the other hand, are suffering from a total lack of funds.

**CANADA.**—The papers continue to give much attention to the navigation laws, and the question is vitally important to Canada, of how the produce of the Country is to reach the European Market at least expense. Some papers contend that the whole difference between the rates of freight from New York and Montreal respectively to Britain, goes into the pocket of the British Ship Owner, being in fact a tax imposed on us by the monopoly which he enjoys. Others with more discrimination and judgment maintain, that however injurious the monopoly may be to us, the greatest part of the difference in question is not to be attributed to it at all, but to the difficult, dangerous, and expensive navigation of the River and Gulph, so that while we should exert ourselves for the removal of the navigation laws, we should still more strenuously exert ourselves to do all that lies in our power to render this navigation safe and easy. In this connection a very sensible article has appeared in the Quebec Gazette, which we are happy to see making the round of the papers, contrasting the paucity of light houses in the Gulph of the St. Lawrence, with the great number which stud the American Coasts of Maine, Massachusetts, &c. This article states that Quebec is no farther from Britain than New York is, and that it only requires the navigation to be made equally safe and expeditious in order to equalize the rates of freight at once. This of course will never probably be effected, 'till we may continually approximate towards it.

The melancholy accident on board the Lord Sydenham will be found noticed in another column,

The Montreal Board of Trade is exerting itself for the establishment of the Electric Telegraph in Canada.