

for the prohibition of a traffic, which has done more during the last twenty or thirty years to precipitate the ruin of his vast dominions, than "malice domestic" or "foreign war" could effect in a century. It is a misnomer and a degradation of the term to dignify the opium traffic with the name of "trade;" it is a gigantic system of smuggling and falsehood, unequalled by any other traffic in the history of the world, except the slave trade, for its demoralising effects on the minds and habits of those engaged in it, and for the ruin it entails upon the souls and bodies of the millions of miserable beings for whose use the deleterious drug is thus furtively conveyed to the shores of China. Our readers will form some idea of the extent of the smuggling transactions when we inform them that the annual sales by the East India Company, who raise the opium, and monopolise it, produce a revenue equal to that of the United States, or of the whole tea trade between China and Great Britain and America. Indeed it appears from the intelligence just received that the quantity of opium in possession of the British merchants at the very time the seizure was made at Canton was worth £2,000,000; and it is no unusual thing to see between twenty and thirty opium vessels on the coast of China at once. The traffic is yearly enlarging, owing not so much, we apprehend, to the extension of the population of the Chinese empire, as to the increasing appetite for the contraband narcotic; just as in this country and America the less destructive appetite for ardent spirits, bad as it is, grows daily more ravenous on what it feeds. Opium-smoking is deteriorating the habits and reducing the numbers of the Chinese population with a fatal precision and rapidity unequalled by the effects of intoxicating liquors among the savage tribes of North America and the Southern Ocean; and we have it on the authority of the most intelligent and eminent missionaries to China, that it is also presenting an obstacle to the introduction of Christianity into the empire, more formidable than the decrees of the government against the entrance of Christian missionaries, and the diffusion or toleration of the principles of any other religion than Buddhism and Confucianism. And all this has grown up under British rule in the east, and has been sanctioned and encouraged by the British Government at home, contrary to the law of nations, and to every principle of common honesty and humanity. The very magnitude of the traffic seems to have blinded the minds and hardened the hearts of those engaged in it to the wickedness of the practice; and men, whose characters are otherwise consistent and irreproachable, are found embarking their capital in an enterprise as foul and atrocious as the traffic in human blood. The Emperor, in self-defence, has for years past been thundering his denunciations from Peking to the remotest parts of his dominions against the smugglers and the consumers of the poison of his empire; but the cupidity of the Christian merchants of Great Britain has hitherto baffled the merciful intentions of the heathen Emperor, as the bold and desperate step to which he has now resorted too manifestly shows. We have no doubt that here the question will be attempted to be overlaid by commercial speculators and men of the world, with unprincipled maxims of secular policy, and that the system of opium smuggling will have its defenders both in and out of Parliament; but we are firmly persuaded that the Christian public in Great Britain, who have already sacrificed so much in putting down slavery and the slave trade, will not allow their minds to be diverted from the great principles it involves, and that every virtuous feeling will ere long be directed against this outrageous wickedness, which is perpetuating and aggravating tenfold the heathenism of the most populous empire of the world, and is accumulating a moral responsibility upon our own country which it is frightful to contemplate.

The *Augsburg Gazette* contains accounts from Constantinople of the 9th ult. which mention the arrival, at Malatia, of Hafiz Pasha, with about 15,000 men of his army, which he stated he would shortly lead back to the Euphrates. The disaster of Nezib was represented as less extensive than was at first reported.—Numerous executions had of late taken place in Constantinople and many bodies were seen floating in the Bosphorus. It was rumoured that "the Seraskier had concluded an armistice of three months with the Egyptian, and agreed with Ibrahim to march together on Constantinople at the same time that the fleet would proceed thither, in order to free Abdul Medjid from his pernicious councillors." These rumours rest on no foundation.

According to accounts from Syra of the 11th ult. the British ship-of-the-line the *Vanguard*, had just passed that island, coming from Dardanelles, and proceeding to join the squadron under Admiral Stopford on the coast of Syria. The rumour that this ship was sunk by the Turkish fleet was absurd.

The *Semaphore de Marseille* and *Gazette du Midi*, of the 25th ult. announce the arrival of the British

steamer *Blazer*, with important despatches from Alexandria of the 14th. The *Gazette du Midi* adds, that it was reported on the Bourse of Marseilles in the evening of the 25th, that the *Sébastopol* fleet had landed 16,000 Russians at Bujukdéré. This statement also has received a positive contradiction.

We have heard, from what may be considered good authority, that her Majesty the Queen-Dowager is shortly to honour Edinburgh with her presence, and that the Royal apartments in Holyrood Palace are about to be prepared for her Majesty's reception.—Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are also expected at Holyrood in the course of the ensuing month.—*Edinburgh Observer*.

Yesterday evening the Chartists of Sheffield met as usual, when a person named Wolstenholme was introduced, and addressed the crowd. He said that 40,000 colliers were ready to make a general strike, which was necessary to be done quickly or the country would be overrun with the blood-thirsty rural police. Upwards of 100 soldiers had deserted from their tyrants and the special constables were daily sending in their resignations. He then abused Mr. Atwood, declared him to be no Chartist, and concluded by calling on the Meeting to decide whether they would fix the day for the commencement of the holy week.—*Sheffield Iris*.

On Thursday the Bradford Chartists assembled before the doors of several persons who had refused to subscribe to their funds, and endeavoured to prevent the people from entering their shops; a considerable obstruction of the pavement took place, but the tradesmen, who are happy to state, have not done the less business.—*Halifax Express*.

The next five regiments for foreign service are the 1st Rifle Brigade, 42d, 78th, 88th, and 97th. The 34th depot, from the Cove of Cork to Chatham. The 7th Fusiliers, from Kilkenny, and the 38th from Enniskillen, are to replace the 81st and 82d at Gibraltar. The 25th Regiment, from Devonport, for Canada. The 94th depot, from Chester to Bristol. The 29th Regiment—head quarters, from Bristol for Weedon. The 25th Regiment replaces the 15th Foot and the Royals the 11th, in Canada. The 11th and the 15th return to England. The 81st and 82d replace the 56th and 67th; the 56th, from Jamaica, and 67th, from Barbadoes, replace the 66th and 73d in Canada, which return to England. The 32d depot, from Fermoy to Wexford. The 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons, at Canterbury, are to relieve the 12th at Brighton—the latter proceeding to the north of England. The 78th Highlanders, from Glasgow, are to replace the Royals in Edinburgh. The embarkation of the 1st battalion of the Royal Regiment, for Canada, has been suspended for the present.

Portsmouth.—The *Wanderer*, 18, Com. Bashby, has arrived from Halifax, having nearly completed four years in commission.

NEWS BY THE GREAT WESTERN.

THE HARVEST. The most important event to the country is the probable result of the wheat harvest in England, and on the Continent of Europe. In France most of the grain has been harvested and the crops remarkably good. In the Southern parts of England the wheat harvest was nearly over, and the crops generally good. In Wiltshire very little was cut, up to the 24th, but the crops, it is believed, will be tolerably good. In the Midland Counties the prospect is not quite so favourable, and in the North the crops will be decidedly bad, and the harvest very late. The weather for many days had been fluctuating, and so had been the prices of wheat. In Mark Lane, 19th August, wheat advanced 2s. a 3s. per quarter, and a farther advance was looked for next market day, but providentially the weather cleared up, which is at all times a barometer for regulating prices.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—The Queen was to prorogue Parliament in person, on Tuesday, the 27th day of August. There were reports in London that the prorogation was to be by commission, in order that mention might be made of the intended marriage of the Queen, but this report, although stated by the *Morning Post*, as by authority, proved to be unfounded. Among the bills to which the Royal assent had been given is that called the Penny Postage Act.

THE CHARTISTS.

Most of the leaders of the Chartists have been tried and found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment from one to two years, leaving the party without a head to direct their movements. Altho' they are still agitating various parts of the North of England, it is believed that little mischief will be done. Those men who were concerned in the riot at Birmingham, and who were sentenced to death, have been reprieved, and will be transported. The Chartists in many places are adopting a new and singular method of annoyance. They assemble at some public place and proceed in a body to the parish church, excluding thereby all pew holders, &c. Frequently they send

to the clergyman a text, and if he preaches from it they appear to be satisfied with his efforts.

SLAVE TRADE SUPPRESSION BILL.

The royal assent has been given to the slave trade suppression bill. A very strong feeling of indignation prevails in England against the course pursued by Mr. Trist, the United States Consul at Havannah.

FRANCE.—All is bustle in the diplomatic circle; the King himself has seen the ambassadors of England and Austria on the subject of the East. The naval and military departments are no less eagerly engaged on the same subject. On Wednesday the King had a conference of three hours with Marshal Soult. The treaty between France and Mexico has been ratified.

SPAIN.

Is still in a deplorable condition, and there is no prospect of a speedy change.

TURKEY AND EGYPT.—The news from Constantinople and Egypt extend to the 30th of July. The most perfect tranquility continued to reign in Constantinople. Akif Effendi, who had been sent by the Porte to offer peace to Mehemet Ali, and the hereditary pacha of Egypt, had returned. It is known that the Viceroy has declined this proposition, and persists in demanding that the Sultan should grant to him the hereditary possession of all the provinces of which the government had been given to him by the arrangement of Katuga.

General Sir J. Stewart died at Cheltenham on the 19th of August. He was the oldest officer in the British army, having entered as a cornet in 1761.

ALEXANDRIA, July 26.—Nearly the whole of the Turkish fleet is now in the harbour. Five or six ships of the line are still at sea, and must be disarmed, in order to bring them over the bar.—In the mean while, all the warlike stores and ammunition have been removed from on board these ships, together with the military chest of the squadron, in which were found 3,000,000 francs (£120,000). The Captain Pacla, and most of the Turkish officers have changed their dresses, and are now attired in the Egyptian costume. The English Captain (Walker) who accompanied the fleet, as chief instructor, has resigned his commission, and takes his passage in an English frigate, to join Admiral Stopford.

There are rapid and extensive movements of Russian and Austrian troops on the Turkish frontier.

The interests which the affairs of the East are exciting in Europe, may be gathered from the following extract of a letter from Vienna of the 10th of August, which mentions "that the Congress of the European powers, so long talked of, would assemble in that capital in the month of October, for the purpose of deciding the Eastern question. It was reported at Vienna that Austria was striving to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance with England and France, for the sake of defeating the ambitious views of Russia and Prussia. The former, it is well known, is now labouring to excite the Slavonic and Greco-Russian populations to revolt against Austria, and Prussia is visibly desirous of asserting her supremacy over the Germanic Confederation. The concentration of troops still continued in the south-eastern provinces of Austria. There are at present no less than 115,000 men in Galicia, and Transylvania, the Banat of Tameswar, and on the frontiers of Hesnina and Montenegro, besides the military colonies, and the frontiers of Chasseurs, who can easily put on foot from twenty to thirty thousand men."

The nature of the forthcoming ultimatum of the Five Powers is not mentioned, but the tone of all the communications in which it is referred to goes to indicate that it will not be palatable to Mehemet Ali. An attack upon Alexandria, in case of his refusal to accept the terms so to be dictated by the Great Powers, was deemed probable, and is held, indeed, in one of our Paris letters, to be beyond doubt.

WEST-INDIES.

BERMUDA, SEP. 7.

Accounts from the West Indies are very unsatisfactory. The continued indolence and inactivity of the negroes have caused exports to be high, and imports to fetch barely the cost. Statements from some of the Islands are favourable—but the majority bear testimony of the ruinous state of things to both Merchant and planter. Let tourists and travellers say what they will—it is an indisputable fact, that IDLENESS is the most dominant feature in the negro character; and so long as they can obtain subsistence for present purposes, they are utterly regardless of any future good. Emigration from Europe has been advocated by almost every Press in the Caribbean group; and it seems obvious enough that some such measures must be devised to arrest those fine possessions from their fallen state.

There has been a fearful mortality, from Yellow Fever, among the Officers and Men, comprising the respective Garrisons of Demerara, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.