British News.

British Military Operations in Asia.—We have already published, among the extracts from late London papers, a short narrative of the movements of the British Indian Army in Affghanistan, under Lieut. Gen. Sir John Keane, and the gallant and successful affair of storming the citadel of Ghuznee. The following is the official despatch, containing an account of this exploit.—*Boston Cou.*

To the Right Hon.
Lord Auckland, G. C. B. &c. &c.

My Lord—I have the satisfaction to acquaint your lordship that the army under my command have succeeded in performing one of the most brilliant acts it has ever been my lot to witness during my service of forty-five years in the four quarters of the globe, in the capture, by storm, of the strong and important fortress and citadel of Ghuznee, yesterday.

It is not only that the Afghan nation, and I, understand, Asia generally, have looked upon it as impregnable, but it is in reality a place of great strength, both by nature and art, far more so than I had reason to suppose from any description that I had received of it, although some are from officers in our own service who had seen it in their travels.

I was surprised to find a high rampart in good repair, built on a scarped mound about thirty-five feet high, flanked by numerous towers, and surrounded by a fausse brayz and a wet ditch, whilst the height of the citadel covered the interior from the commanding fire of the hills from the north, rendering it nugatory. In addition to this screen, walls had been built before the gates, the ditch was filled with water, and unfordable, and an outwork built on the right bank of the river, so as to command the bed of it.

It is, therefore, the more honorable to the troops, and must appear to the enemy out of all calculation extraordinary, that a fortress and citadel, to the strength of which, for the last thirty years, they had been adding something each year, and which had a garrison of 3500 Afghan soldiers, commanded by Prince Mahomed Hyder, the son of Dost Mahomed Khan, the ruler of the country, with a commanding number of guns, and abundance of ammunition, and other stores, provisions, &c. for a regular siege, should have been taken by British science and British valor in less than two hours from the time the attack was made, and the whole, including the governor and garrison, should fall into our hands.

My despatch of the 20th instant, from Nance, will have made known to your lordship that the camps of his Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, and of Major General Willshire with the Bombay troops, had there joined me in accordance with my desire, and the following morning we made our march of 12 miles to Ghuznee, the line of march being over a fine plain. The troops were disposed in a manner that would have enabled me at any moment, had we been attacked, as was probable from the large bodies of troops moving on each side of us, to have placed them in a position to receive the enemy. They did not, however, appear, but on our coming within range of the guns of the citadel and fortress of Ghuznee a sharp cannonade was opened on our leading column, together with a heavy fire of musketry from behind garden walls, and temporary field works thrown up, as well as the strong outwork I have alluded to, which commanded the bed of the river from all but the outwork. The enemy were driven in under the walls of the fort in a spirited manner by parties thrown forward by Major General Sir Willoughby Cotton, of the 16th and 48th Bengal Native Infantry, and her Majesty's 10th Light Infantry, under Brigadier Sale. I ordered forward three troops of Horse Artillery, the Camel Battery, and one foot Battery, to open upon the citadel fortress, by throwing shrapnell shells, which was done in a masterly style under the directions of Brigadier Stevenson. My object in this was to make the enemy show their strength in guns, and in other respects, which completely succeeded, and our shells must have done great execution, and occasioned great consternation. Being perfectly satisfied on the point of their strength, in the course of half an hour I ordered the fire to cease, and placed the troops in bivouac. A close reconnoissance of the place all round was then undertaken by Captain Thomson, the chief engineer, and Captain Peat, of the Bombay Engineers, accompanied by Major Garden, the Deputy Quarter-master General of the Bombay army, supported by a strong party of her Majestys 16th Lancers, and one from her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry. On this party a steady fire was kept up, and some casualties occurred. Captain Thomson's report was very clear; he found the fortifications equally strong all round, and as my own opinion coincided with his, I did not hesitate a moment as to the manner in which our approach and attack upon the place should be made. Notwithstanding the march the troops had performed in the morning, and their having been a considerable time engaged with the enemy, I ordered the whole to move across the river (which runs close under the fort wall,) in columns to the right and left of the town, and they were placed in position on the north side on more commanding ground, and securing the Cabool road. I had information that a night attack upon the camp was intended from without. Mahomed Ubzul Khan, the eldest son of Dost Mahomed Khan, had been sent by his father with a strong body of troops from Cabool to the brother's assistance at Ghuznee, and was encamped outside the walls, but abandoned his position on our approach, keeping, however, at a distance of a few miles from us. The two rebel chiefs of the Ghilzie tribe, men of great influence, viz: Abdool Rhuman, and Gool Mahomed Khan, had joined him with 1500 horse, and also a body of about 3000 Ghaveer from Zeinat, under a mixture of Chiefs and Moolahs, carrying banners, and who had been assembled on the cry of a religious war. In short, we were in all directions surrounded by enemies. These last actually came down the hills on the 22d, and attacked the part of the camp occupied by his Majesty Shah Shooja and his own troops, but were driven back with considerable loss and banners taken.

At daylight on the 22d I reconnoitered Ghuznee, in company with the chief engineer and the brigadier commanding the artillery, with the adjutant and quarter-master general of the Bengal army, for the purpose of making all arrangements for carrying the place by storm, and these were completed in the course of the day. Instead of the tedious process of breaching (for which we were ill prepared) Captain Thomson undertook, with the assistance of Captain Peat, of the Bombay engineers, Lieutenants Durand and MacLeod, of the Bengal engineers, and other officers under him (Captain Thomson,) to blow in the Cabool gate, the weakest point, with gunpowder, and so much faith did I place on the success of this operation, that my plans for the assault were immediately laid down and the orders given.

The different troops of horse artillery, the camel and foot batteries, moved off this ground at twelve o'clock that night, without the slightest noise, as had been directed, and in the most correct manner took up the position assigned them, about 250 yards from the walls. In like manner, and with the same silence, the infantry soon after moved from their ground, and all were at their post at the proper time. A few minutes before three o'clock in the morning the explosion took place, and proved completely successful. Captain Peat, of the Bombay engineers, was thrown down and stunned by it, but shortly after recovered his senses and feeling. On hearing the advance sounded by the bugle (being the signal for the gate having been blown in,) the artillery, under the able directions of Brigadier Stevenson, consisting of Captain Grant's troop of Bengal horse artillery, the camel battery, under Captain Abbott, both superintended by Captain Pew, Captains Martin and Colgrave's troops of Bombay horse artillery, and Captain Lloyd's battery of Bombay foot artillery, all opened a terrific fire upon the citadel and ramparts of the fort, and, in a certain degree, paralyzed the enemy.

Under the guidance of Capt. Thomson of the Bengal Engineers, the chief of the department, Colonel Dennie, of her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, commanding the advance, consisting of the light companies of her Majesty's 2d and 17th regiments of foot, and of the Bengal European regiment, with one company of her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, proceeded to the gate, and with great difficulty, from the rubbish thrown down, and the determined opposition offered by the enemy, effected an entrance, and established themselves within the gateway, closely followed by the main columns, led in a spirit of great gallantry by Brigadier Sale, to whom I had entrusted the important post of commanding the storming party, consisting (with the advance above mentioned) of her Majesty's 2d Foot under Major Carruthers, the Bengal European regiment under Lieut. Colonel Orchard, followed by her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry under Major Thomson, and her Majesty's 17th regiment under Lieut. Colonel Croker. The struggle within the fort was desperate for a considerable time. In addition to the heavy fire kept up, our troops were assailed by the enemy, sword in hand, and with daggers, pistols, &c.; but British courage, perseverance and fortitude overcome all opposition, and the fire of the enemy in the lower area, on the fort, being nearly silenced, Brigadier Sale turned towards the citadel, from which could now be seen men abandoning the guns, running in all directions, throwing themselves down from immense heights, endeavoring to make their escape; and on reaching the gate with her Majesty's 17th, under Lieut. Col. Croker, followed by the 13th, forced it open at 5 o'clock in the morning. The colors of her Majesty's 13th and 17th were planted on the citadel of Ghuznee, amidst the cheers of all ranks. Instant protection was granted to the women found in the citadel, (among whom were those of Mahomed Hyder, the governor,) and sentries placed over the magazine for its security. Brigadier Sale reports having received much assistance from Captain Kershaw, of her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, throughout the whole service of the storming.

Major General Sir Willoughby Cotton executed in a manner much to my satisfaction the orders he had received. The Major General followed closely the assaulting party into the fort with the reserve, namely, Brigadier Roberts, with the only available regiment of his brigade, the 25th Native Infantry, under Lieut. Colonel Montieth; part of Brigadier Sale's brigade, the 16th Native Infantry, under Lieut. Colonel Wheeler; and they immediately occupied the ramparts, putting down opposition wherever they met any, and making prisoners, until the place was completely in our possession. A desultory fire was kept up in the town long after the citadel was in our hands from those who had taken shelter in houses, and in desperation kept firing on all that approached them. In this way several of our men were wounded and some killed, but the aggressors paid dearly for their bad conduct in not surrendering when the place was completely ours. I must not omit to mention that three companies of the 35th Native Infantry, under Capt. Hay, ordered to the south side of the fort to begin with a false attack, to attract attention to that side, performed that service at the proper time, and greatly to my satisfaction.

As we were threatened with an attack for the relief of the garrison, I ordered the 19th Bombay Native Infantry, under the command of Lieut. Col. Stalker, to guard the Cabool road, and to be in support of the cavalry division. This might have proved an important position to occupy, but, as it was, no enemy appeared.

The cavalry division under Major Gen. Thackwell, in addition to watching the approach of an enemy, had direction to surround Ghuznee, and to sweep the plain, preventing the escape of runaways from the garrison. Brigadier Arnold's brigade—the brigadier himself, I deeply regret to say, was laboring under very severe illness, having shortly before burst a blood vessel internally, which rendered it wholly impossible for him to mount a horse that day—consisting of her Majesty's 16th Lancers, under Lieut. Col Persse, temporarily commanding the brigade, and Major M'Donell, the junior major of the regiment, (the senior Major of the 16th Lancers, Major Cureton, an officer of great merit, being actively engaged in the execution of his duties as Assistant-Adjutant General to the cavalry division,) the 2d Cavalry, under Major Salter, and the 3d under Lieut. Colonel Smith, were ordered to watch the south and west sides. Brigadier Scott's brigade were placed on the Cabool road, consisting of her Majesty's 4th Light Dragoons, under Major Daly, and of the 1st Bombay Cavalry, under Lieut. Col. Sandwith, to watch the north and east sides. This duty was performed in a manner greatly to my satisfaction.

After the storming, and when quiet was in some degree restored within, I conducted his Majesty Shah Shoojaool Moolk, and the British Envoy and Minister, Mr. Macnaghtan, round the citadel and a great part of the fortress. The King was perfectly astonished at our having made ourselves masters of a place conceived to be impregnable, when defended, in the short space of two hours, and in less than forty-eight hours after we came before it. His Majesty was, of course, greatly delighted at the result. When I afterwards, in the course of the day, took Mahomed Hyder Khan, the governor, first to the British Minister, and then to the King, to make his submission, I informed his Majesty that I had made a promise that his life should not be touched, and the King, in very handsome terms assented, and informed Mahomed Hyder, in my presence, that although he and his family had been rebels, yet he was willing to forget and forgive all.

Prince Mahomed Hyder, the governor of Ghuznee, is a prisoner of war in my camp, and under the surveillance of Sir Alexander Burnes, an arrangement very agreeable to the former.

(Here follows an eulogium on the officers engaged.)

The brilliant triumph we have obtained, the cool courage displayed, and the gallant bearing of the troops I have the honor to command, will have taught such a lesson to our enemies in the Afghan nation, as will make them hereafter respect the name of a British soldier.

Our loss is wonderfully small, considering the occasion; the casualties in killed and wounded amount to about 200.

The loss of the enemy is immense; we have already buried of dead nearly 500, together with an immense number of horses.

I enclose a list of the killed, wounded and missing, I am happy to say that, although the wounds of some of the officers are severe, they are all doing well.

It is my intention, after selecting a garrison for this place, and establishing a general hospital, to continue my march to Cabool forthwith.

I have, &c.
JOHN KEANE, Lieut. General.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

COMMON COUNCIL AND CHARTERED RIGHTS.

Mr. Editor,—You must have seen the laboured production which appeared in the Observer of 3d instant, signed *One of the Minority of Com. Council.* It is true also that the said communication has been allowed to pass with silent neglect, which has offended greatly the magisterial vanity of the writer. Now Mr. Editor, do allow me to draw forth this "One of the Minority," that his vanity may be once more gratified by appearing again in the columns of the Observer; for at the conclusion of his last effusion, he partially promised to appear again on the subject. Very many citizens state positively, that he really forgot the subject he intended to speak about. In his communication, he begs "leave to give his views and the reasons that actuated him in the *important matter*," but in all my researches through his valuable effusion, I cannot discover either his *views or the reasons;* and I strongly suspect that he must have reserved them for his future attempts, which I am desirous, by your permission of drawing forth.

This "One of the Minority," vociferates greatly of the majority being 7 to 5; but what has it to do with his *views and reasons* he promised to give the public in vindication of his own untoward opposition. The majority, it evidently appears, are supported by a large portion of respectable citizens, who are interested very deeply with properties in the burnt district, and also by an overwhelming portion of impartial citizens, who are anxious to uphold and maintain their Chartered rights from being violated by a local Legislature, or from being sacrificed by an incompetent minority.

When Aldermen or their Assistants shall so far forget their duties or be found incompetent to perform them, as to attempt bartering or sacrificing any rights strictly and properly belonging to the Corporation, it is then high time that the citizens should assert their rights by exposing the ignorance of such persons, and by displacing them from their seats at the Board.

A very futile argument has been exhibited against the majority, by harping upon the word "sole," stating that the Charter does not say, the Corporation should have the *sole* ordering, &c. But Mr. Editor, I maintain that the charter *does* give the Corporation the sole and undivided power of ordering and completing, amending, widening, and every other term that the opponents shall please name; otherwise there can be no true meaning to the following words of the city Charter, "And we do "further, for us, our heirs and successors, give and "grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, and their successors, that they and their "successors shall from time to time, and *at all times* "hereafter have FULL *power, licence* and *authority,* "not only to establish, appoint, order and direct "the making and laying out all other streets, lanes, "alleys, highways, &c. heretofore made, laid out, "&c. but also the *altering*, amending, &c. all such "streets heretofore made, or hereafter to be made "or used in and through the said city of St. John, "and the vicinity thereof."

From the above words, I contend that the *sole* and *undivided*, full and complete ordering is vested in the Corporation, and that it cannot be taken from them without the consent of the Sovereign of Great Britain. C.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor,—It must be pleasing to the Citizens to witness our Corporate Body, even at the *eleventh* hour, evincing a spirit in good earnest to make improvements for the benefit of their constituents, and for which they have been for years loudly and generally solicited to do. The draft of the Law for regulating the Public Markets, as published in the last Courier, deserves the commendation of every citizen. The disgraceful practice too long permitted by our Corporation, and exercised by forestallers and country people, to the annoyance and injury of citizens, it is to be hoped will now be effectually put down. How often has the poor citizen witnessed a Forestaller monopolizing a whole cart load of provisions that has not arrived in the city for the space of five minutes, and however desirous he might be to obtain a quarter of lamb or a peck of potatoes for his suffering family, he is told that *the whole is sold;* but that he can get a peck of potatoes or the quarter of lamb from Mr. *So and So*, and of course at an additional price.

If ever the Board of Aldermen deserved thanks, they are assuredly deserving them for the Law now published: Countrymen and all others entering the city with articles for sale, should be invariably under the controul and directions of the Clerk of the Market or his Deputy, and if the Public squares of the city can be so arranged as to give ample accommodation for carts, waggons, sleds, &c. it will be a much more preferable plan for the convenience of the community, than by allowing the streets to be incommoded and occupied by vehicles of every description. Your's, &c.

Dec. 12 KING STREET.

N. B.—It is sincerely hoped that the Law just referred to, will not be allowed to become a dead letter, but that our Corporate Body will advance one step further to forward so desirable an object, and that is, by appointing some citizen of good character to watch over, and cause the law to be rigidly enforced.

The Editor of the Chronicle will oblige several Members of the Bible Society if he will publish the inclosed communication in Friday's paper:

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.]

Sir,—One of the most unprecedented inroads upon the intentions of the Bible Society, took place at the meeting of its Committee on Wednesday evening last. After resolutions had been passed that every Minister of Religion in the city should be invited to attend the General Meeting to be held on the 18th instant, one of the gentlemen present named that the Rev. William Andrew, Presbyterian Clergyman of this city, should be requested to attend. Upon which one or two of the Committee objected, asserting that his presence would do much injury to the meeting; and it was agreed that the Rev. William Andrew should not be invited.—Mr. Editor, can it any longer be questioned that the Bible Society has now espoused the cause of a party—that it has encouraged a party of litigators, and refused an invitation to a Reverend gentleman who is as competent, as able, and as thoroughly qualified to speak on the great cause, as any who shall speak on that evening. Shame on such conduct, especially from a Committee of such a society. Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists, are included, while Mr. Andrew, (many of whose congregation are members and contribute towards the support of this Institution,) is not permitted to attend, because one or two of the Committee are bitterly prejudiced against him. I hope, Sir, that you will give publicity to this fact, and oblige one who wishes to see no animosities cherished at such assemblages; but would ever desire to have the Bible Society kept clear from party feeling.

AN EPISCOPALIAN.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, DEC. 12, 1839.

The arrival of the British steamer *Liverpool*, at New-York has furnished Liverpool dates to the 16th November.

We regret to state that another Chartist insurrection took place in Monmouthshire, in the town of Newport, in the early part of November; the Chartists were armed and assembled in great numbers; they commenced their attack on the Westgate Hotel, part of which was occupied by Lieut. Grey and 30 men of the 45th Regiment: The Mayor of the Town was twice wounded from the fire of the Chartists; Sergeant Daly, of the 45th was also wounded in the head. The soldiers then commenced firing in defence, and nine men of the Chartists body were killed on the spot. Some further particulars will be found below.

Opium Trade to China.—The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, have declined making compensation to the British Merchants, for the Opium delivered up to the Chinese Government by orders of Captain C. Elliott; and have further stated that Her Majesty's Government do not propose to submit to Parliament a vote for the payment of such claims.

France.—The number of failures in Paris from the 1st of January to 1st of November, 1839, were 858, and the losses amount to between Fifty five, and Sixty Millions of Franks.

In the Money Market generally, there appears much depression. The Dutch Funds, which have hitherto sustained a high standing, are now considerably depressed, and are feeling heavily the weight of their Loan of 56,000,000 of florins.

From the Liverpool Chronicle, Nov. 16.

Lord Melbourne will give his first Cabinet Dinner on Monday next.

Lord Francis Egerton has been re-elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University.

The Duke of Newcastle has subscribed £1,000 towards the erection of a pier just completed at Aberystwith.

There are rumours of Mr. Sergeant Talfourd's appointment to the Solicitor-Generalship; and that Sir John Campbell will be Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in the place of Lord Plunkett, about to retire.

The Earl of Durham has been introducing his Royal Guest, the Duke of Sussex, to his neighbors at Newcastle and Durham. His Lordship has entertained a distinguished party at Lambton Castle; and, in compliment probably to their noble host, several have been initiated into the mysteries of freemasonry.

India-rubber Boat.—"There has just been launched on the Neva," says a St. Petersburgh letter, "an India-rubber boat. It is made of sail-cloth, impregnated with caoutchouc. It may be rolled up, and in the space of ten minutes can be filled with air by means of four little cocks, by which inflation it assumes the form of a boat. During its trial on the river it held three persons, and excited much attention, as well by the readiness of its movements as by its very pretty appearance."

The Sword of Bruce.—The sword which King Robert Bruce wielded at Bannockburn has, with his helmet, survived the entire family. Mrs. Catharine Bruce, the last of the royal house, died in 1791, at a very advanced age; only a short time before her death Burns called upon her, and though she was almost speechless from Paralysis, she entertained him nobly, and conferred the honour of knighthood on him with Bruce's two-handed sword, saying, she had a better right to grant the title than "some people." After dinner the first toast she gave was "Awn,' uncos!" that is, away with the strangers, which showed her Jacobite feelings to the house of Hanover. The old lady bequeathed the sword and helmet to the Earl of Elgin, whom she considered the next of kin.

Proposed Blockade of China.—The British Government ought not to interfere for the protection of smugglers; but it is for ever disgraced if it suffers the oppression of innocent merchants, and the violence done to its own public functionary, without requiring ample satisfaction. The whole external commerce and revenue of China is at our mercy. Without an attack on its unarmed population, or molesting a single inhabitant, we can bring that government to reason, simply by cutting off its supplies. Half-a-dozen British cruizers—nay even the private vessels employed in the opium trade—are more than sufficient to stop the whole of the Chinese trade. If they (the Chinese) tell us "Your trade is stopped" we shall reply, "So is yours: you shall have neither rice nor salt (the necessaries of life, and sources of revenue (till you come to reasonable terms"—*Oriental Herald.*

It is estimated that the repairs of the Menai Bridge, occasioned by the injury it sustained during the storm of January last, will cost upwards of £10,000.

A woman died lately in Italy, at the advanced age of 143 years, after having eight husbands, the last of whom survived her.

Coffee.—It appears by a Parliamentary return recently published, that the quantity of coffee imported into the United Kingdom, from the Cape of Good Hope, between the 1st January, 1838, and 31st July, 1839, was 7,413 cwt 28 lb, of which duty was paid on 1,502,125 lb at 9d per lb.

The *Morning Herald* says there is not a word of truth in the statement respecting the alleged union between Mr. Lockhart and Miss Burdett Coutts.

General Bernard, formerly aide-de-camp of Napoleon, and lately minister of war, died on Tuesday night week, at the Palais Royal, of which he was governor, after a long illness. Another distinguished officer of engineers, General Lamy, who had evinced symptoms of insanity during the late residence of the Court at Fontainebleau, also died in Paris on Tuesday.

Dover.—On Monday, a few minutes before high water, a number of persons were very much surprised at the sudden rising of the tide, at least two feet in the space of about five minutes, and then immediately afterwards it ebbed, rushing, boiling, and foaming through the bridgeway with greater velocity, if possible, than when the sluices are running; and for some little time suspended the operation of shutting the gates, which the harbour workmen were about effecting. Several old mariners who witnessed it, observed that there had been an earthquake, or some strong convulsion of nature somewhere.—*Kentish Times.*

Legacy to a Minister.—The will of the late Major General Sir William Blackburne, Knight, has just been proved in the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury by his brother,—Blackburne, Esq. Amongst the different bequests is one of £1000 to Lord Glenelg, in the following words;—"I bequeath to Lord Glenelg, late Secretary to the Colonies, £1000, as a mark of my high respect for his public conduct in the East India Colonial Department." This legacy to a Minister of the Crown, for the discharge of his public duties, is perhaps without a precedent.

The Royal George.—Colonel Pasley has concluded his operations against the Royal George for this season. It is intended to recommence operations about May next. There has been consumed during these experiments 12,940lb. of powder. Above 100 tons of the wreck have been recovered and placed in the dock-yard at Portsmouth, with five brass and six iron guns. It may not, perhaps, be generally known that the total expense incurred has been more than defrayed by the value of the articles recovered.—*Kentish Times.*

Opium Trade to China.—The following answer has been sent by the Treasury to the claimants for indemnification for losses sustained in consequence of delivery of opium to the Chinese Government:—"Gentlemen—having laid before the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury your letter, in which you apply for a settlement of certain claims for opium delivered to the Chinese Government, and transmit certificates signed by Captain C. Elliot; I have received their Lordship's commands to acquaint you that Parliament has placed at the disposal of this Board no funds out of which any compensation could be made, and that the sanction of Parliament would be required before any such claim could be recognised and paid. To prevent any misconstruction of the intentions of this Board, my Lords have felt it necessary to direct me further to state, that the subject has been under the attentive consideration of her Majesty's Government, and to add that her Majesty's government do not propose to submit to Parliment a vote for the payment of such claims. (Signed) R. Gordon.—Treasury Chambers, Nov. 11, 1839."

Prince George of Cambridge landed at the Custom-house on Thursday afternoon, attended by Col. Cornewall, from the Giraffe steam-packet, from Rotterdam.

Prince Ernest and Prince Albert of Saxe Cobourg Gotha, arrived in London, on Thursday morning, from Windsor Castle. Their serene highnesses and suite immediately took their departure for Dover.

Reduction of Postage.—The Treasury minute clearly states that the fourpenny rate, which is to commence on the 5th of Dec., is a *temporary* arrangement, to enable the post-office to obtain the necessary practice in charging by weight before any great increase of letters takes place, and that the penny rate is to follow. No one who reads the minute can possibly understand it otherwise: and yet the *Morning Post* describes the fourpenny rate as a permanent measure, not as a preparation, but as a substitute for the penny rate, and congratulates itself in finding that the *Quarterly Reviewer* has not written in vain. In the meantime we would assure the Tory writers, that they need take no further trouble to demonstrate their dislike to the penny plan; the intelligent public is already well aware that no measure which is calculated, as this is permanently to advance the best interests of the middle and lower classes, is likely to find favour in their eyes.—*Morning Chronicle.*

Distressing Shipwreck.—Captain Little, of the ship Glasgow, at Baltimore, from Liverpool, on the 18th Sept., lat. 39 40, long. 61 20, took from a fragment of the poop of the wreck of the ship Arab, Capt. Robertson, from Honduras, for Hull (England), three exhausted men, the survivors of nineteen, who had all perished except these, when the ship went to pieces, in the gale of Sept. 13. The survivors had been on the raft five days, with nothing but two cocoa nuts to eat. The rest had starved, become mad, and plunged into the sea. The names of those saved are William Westwood, carpenter, of Selby, Yorkshire, England; John Arsley, a Prussian; and Halvor Haralsen, a Norwegian.

Condition of the Liverpool.—The cabins of the Liverpool retain all their apparent original splendour, with the exception of a very slight tinge here and there on the paint-work, caused by the occasional escape of the gas from the bilge water showing what is called a "tight ship." The passengers extol the cabin fare as being excellent and abundant, as well as served up in an admirable and first-rate hotel style, under the superintendence of the steward, Mr. Amans, of whom the passengers speak in the highest terms. The Liverpool has now accomplished six voyages across the Atlantic. The average run in each may be about 7,500 to 7,800 miles; so that she has run, without once being in dock, or, in other words, being constantly afloat, a distance of little short of 50,000 miles. Her engines are still equal, if not superior, to new, and work to admiration. She was on Thursday brought upon what is called the "gridiron," in the Prince's Dock Basin, where she was left by the retiring tide high and dry, for the purpose of inspecting her lower works. Her bottom was found to be as sound and perfect as on the day on which she was launched; and, after being scrubbed, and some few sheets of copper being replaced, where her sheathing had become chafed above by connect with flats and other vessels in loading and discharging, she was hauled out into the river with the following tide as fresh and perfect as on the day she first sailed.—*Standard.*

The Gallant forty-fifth.—It is rather a remarkable circumstance, that Captain Stack's company formed one of the two companies summoned out by the Kentish magistrates to put down the insane attempt of Thom, alias Sir William Courtenay, some two years back. One of Captain Stack's men fell on that occasion. Lieutenant Bennett, of the other company, lost his gallant life by a ball fired from the musket which the madman, Thom, carried himself.

The Court.—The Queen is about to lose the company of her cousins, the Princes of Saxe Coburg, whose early departure from Windsor is announced; but the *Morning Post* says that Prince Albert's absence will be only temporary. Prince Ernest has been jaundiced—not jealous—and recovered by the skill of Sir James Clark, summoned to Windsor Castle to attend his Serene Highness. Among the other distinguished guests at Windsor are Lord and Lady Ashley, and their three children. Her Majesty has given a hundred guineas to the West Cornwall Diocesan Church-building Association.

The Lord Mayor's Dinner.—On Saturday, Sir Chapman Marshall, the new Lord Mayor, was sworn in with the usual ceremonies. There was a grand dinner, of course, in the Guildhall. Every thing went off very well till Lord Melbourne rose to return thanks for the routine toast, "Her Majesty's Ministers;" when the interruption caused by yells and hisses was so loud that the Lord Mayor was compelled, more than once, to beg for silence; and Lord Melbourne himself thought it necessary to remark upon the reception he met with, and the unseemly introduction of political feeling on what ought to be a festive occasion. Lords Normanby, Palmerston, and Cottenham were present.

Intended Steam Vessels on the Atlantic in 1841.—Besides the three already plying, there will be the New-York, 2000 tons, 600 horse power, Liverpool to New-York; the United Kingdom, 2000 tons, 600 horse power, London to ditto; the President, 2500 tons, 600 horse power, Liverpool to ditto; the City of New-York (iron,) 2500 tons, 700 horse power, Bristol to ditto; Cunard's four steamers, 1100 tons, and 420 horse power each, London to Halifax; two British Government steamers, 1000 tons, and 300 horse power, Glasgow to Boston; fourteen Government steamers 1400 tons, 400 horse power, from Falmouth or Southampton to the West Indies and South America, also from Havannah to New-York; five Government steamers, of 1500 tons, and 500 horse power, from London, either to Egypt, or, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, to India; four French Government steamers of 1200 tons, and 400 horse power, from Havre to New-York; one ditto, 1000 tons, 400 horse power, from Brest to Brazil; four ditto, 1100 tons, 350 h. power, from Brest to Brazil; two ditto 1100 tons 350 horse power, from Bourdeaux to Vera Cruz. Total, 42 steamers, 58,200 tons, 18,048 horses' power.

France.—The Calais papers state that the marine population of that town is in consternation on account of an extraordinary press, or levy of seamen, which is to carry off all sailors from twenty to forty years of age, except such as have already served three years on board of King's ships. The owners of fishing boats are not to be, as hitherto, exempted.—"The price of flour is rising," says the *Capitole.* "If, at the market of the 15th, which is to serve as a criterion to fix the price of bread during the second fortnight, in November, a fall do not take place, the 4lb. loaf, for which we now pay the enormous price 17½ sous, will be raised to 18 sous."—19 bankruptcies occurred during the first week of this month. The liabilities of the bankrupts amount to nearly 1,000,000f. One of them exceeds 500,000f, and two others 100,000f., but the remainder, 16 in number, are under this last sum. There were 858 failures in Paris from the 1st of January to 1st of November, 1839, and the losses amount to between 55,000,000f. and 60,000,000f.

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE INSURRECTION.

Last week we gave ample details of the chartist insurrection in Monmouthshire. Lieutenant Grey, who commanded the handful of soldiers who put the masses to flight, in the town of Newport, gave the following evidence on the examination of two of the prisoners. The witness is the Lieutenant of the 45th regiment. He said—

I received orders from Captain Stack, on Monday morning, a little after eight o'clock, to proceed to the Westgate Hotel, and put myself under the orders of the Mayor. I repaired there immediately with 30 men, and formed in front of the building. The Mayor then desired me to enter the court-yard, the gate of which was closed after me; he then took me to the room on the right flank of this hotel, and asked me if that was fit for my purposes. It suited my purposes, and I immediately proceeded to get it cleared of furniture and other articles with which it was crowded. I then marched the men in: the Mayor gave me instructions to conceal my men as much as possible, to avoid irritating the mob, which was then approaching; to effect which, I closed the under shutters of the room, and latched them. The room had three projecting bow windows. I had only time to give a few necessary instructions, when I heard cheering, and the Mayor told me they were approaching. They formed in front of the house, and I saw a few of the spear-heads over the half shutters, and the mob immediately let fly a volley of small arms: this demolished all the glass in the room where I was. I immediately gave the word to load; I did not do this before, as I hoped that matters would not have turned out so seriously. While my men were loading, which took a very short time, the crowd effected an entrance: it took about a third of a minute to load. The mob rushed through the hall and the back entrance into a passage which communicated with a door of our room As soon as we were loaded, I stepped forward to unlatch one of the window shutters: the Mayor handsomely did the same with the other: the third I know not how it was opened. This unmasked us, and a quantity of small arms were discharged at us, by which the Mayor was twice wounded; and a sergeant by my side, Sergeant Daley, was wounded in the head; all in a moment: it happened instantly. I heard each of them say—I am wounded. I saw both covered with blood immediately after. The Mayor spoke very quietly, so low as only to be heard by me, and not by my men, that he was hit; he then went and sat down; the sergeant, also only spoke to me. Our men soon got to work, and *enfiladed* the streets from the bow windows and the passage of the house from the doorway of our room: this continued for about ten minutes; after which, I saw that our shots were getting thin from want of objects. The chartists' shots were not repeated after the soldiers commenced their firing. I then went into the passage, with a few of my men to see how things were looking. I saw there was no more attack when I returned to the room, and ordered them to cease firing from the window, which order was obeyed immediately: I then made every preparation to strengthen my position in case of a second attack; while so employed, I entered a side room, leading from the passage, on the right hand, and found the two prisoners in a corner; I ordered them to follow me, and gave them to my men prisoners. I saw nothing in their hands; but, on examining their persons, a quantity of ball ammunition was found on the person of the prisoner Benfield. I was putting a dead body out of the passage, to clear it for a second attack, into this room, which was dark, when I found the two prisoners skulking in the corner. The window shutters in this room were closed. They had evidently gone into this room from the passage, to avoid the fire of my men, and they could not leave it without again exposing themselves to it; they were in fact, taken in a *cul de sac.* I do not recollect whether Venn, the last witness, spoke to me, for I had not time to speak to any one. I was engaged in strengthening my position; one of my men told me, in the presence of both the prisoners, that Benfield had ball ammunition on him. In a moment after their pockets were turned out, I saw them eating bread and cheese. Finding the attack was not renewed, I had all the dead bodies in the house taken out of the room and passages, and placed in the yard, under a verandah. When the scene became quiet, I caused the dead bodies to be removed from the outside, and placed them with the remainder, in the yard. There was, in the whole, nine dead bodies in the yard. I cannot say whether the mayor gave the orders to fire or not; for being fired on by the mob, I did not require any orders to return it. The mayor was by my side. I do not recollect whether the room in which I found the prisoners was open or shut.

The prisoners will be tried by a special commission, and the attorney-general will be sent down to conduct the prosecution.

The nine dead chartists that lay for some days in the stable of the Westgate, were buried on Thursday in Stow church-yard, in three graves, containing three each. The passage of the bodies created a great sensation. The military accompanied them to their graves.

We understand (says the *Monmouthshire Merlin*) that it is the intention of several influential gentlemen, of this town and neighbourhood, to set on foot a subscription for the purpose of presenting to the Mayor, Thomas Phillips, jun. Esq. a testimonial of their esteem and admiration of his conduct, on the eventful occasion.

The Monmouthshire Insurrection.—Lord Normanby, as Secretary of State for the Home Department, has addressed the following letter to the Mayor of Newport, conveying her Majesty's approval of his zeal and promptitude; and also, of the Magistrates acting with him, during the recent insurrection:—

Whitehall, Nov. 9, 1839.

Sir,—The Queen has been pleased to command me to express her Majesty's high approval of your conduct, and of the conduct of the magistrates acting with you, on the occasion of the outrage recently committed in the town of Newport.

"To the resolution and courage of the magistrates, and of the small military force which supported them in withstanding the unexperted and daring attack of numerous bodies of armed men from the mining districts, her Majesty ascribes in great measure the preservation of the lives and property of the inhabitants.

"Her Majesty is deeply concerned that any one of her faithful and loyal subjects should have suffered personal injury in the discharge of his public duty, and in defence of the peace of the town against lawless aggression; and while her Majesty cannot but regret that any loss of life should occur, it is a satisfaction to her Majesty to know that this loss, which, under the circumstances was unavoidable, has been confined to those who were foremost in making the attack; and that the loss was not greater or more indiscriminate her Majesty attributes to the judgment evinced by the magistrates, and by the officer in command of the troops, and to the exemplary forbearance, steadiness, and good conduct of the soldiers.

"I have, &c., "NORMANBY.

"The Mayor of Newport, Monmouthshire."

THE COURT AND THE QUEEN.

(From the Age.)

The proceedings at Windsor Castle continue to afford matter for serious consideration, exciting alike our pity and our regret, and rendering still more imperative the necessity for the immediate expulsion of the Baroness Lehzen and her clique from the Royal residence and the kingdom.

The differences—shall we call by such a mild term the continued contumelies by which maternal solicitude, through long years past, is now so *gratefully* repaid!—the differences between her Majesty and her truly good mother, the Duchess of Kent, have recently reached a height which it has become impossible for the latter to put up with any longer.

A few days since, we know that her Royal Highness had prepared everything for an immediate and final departure from Windsor Castle, and that she actually came up to Kensington to complete the arrangements.

By the advice of the Duke of Wellington, her Royal Highness returned to Windsor, his Grace emphatically observing—"Unless you remain with the Queen for at least six months longer, the monarchy will be in danger."

It may be that Sir Robert Peel was also consulted, for the right hon. baronet was in town for two or three days during the time to which we allude.

We have every reason to believe that the stay of the young Princes of Saxe Cobourg does not prove so delightful as "my uncle" anticipated. The gathering of the *Pagets* has of late been like a flight of locusts in the Palace. It only needs that old Anglesy should be appointed Lord Steward—then the Beaudesert banner may float from the Round Tower, superseding the Royal standard; for "the family" will have completely got possession of the Castle."

And thus stands Royalty! Squabblers within the Palace—angry distrust without—revelling and joy in its halls for a favoured few—and rebellion in the county, carrying bloodshed and terror amongst the many—the Popish foreigner rejoicing the more over his Royal *Potage*, because no prelate or clergyman of the Church of England is ever present at the banquet to disturb his swallow, and the Home Secretary sipping his champagne, whilst the blood-despatch from Newport reposes in his *escrutoire.*

Saint Patrick's Society.—At a Quarterly Meeting of this benevolent Institution, on Monday evening last, the election of Office-Bearers for the ensuing year took place, when the former Officers were re-elected—viz:

Thomas L. Nicholson, Esquire, *President,*
M. H. Perley, Esquire, *Vice-President,*
William Hutchinson, Esquire, *Treasurer,*