Extracts from Late English Papers.

THE LATE EXPEDITION TO THE LAKE OF NICARAGUA.

Some of our readers are no doubt aware that, in consequence of an aggression committed by officers of the state of Nicaragua upon English agents stationed in the Mosquito country, an expedition was sent in boats up the river of Nicaragua (which empties itself into the Caribean Sea,) and penetrated to the great lake of Nicaragua, which lies but a few miles from the Pacific, where Captain Loch, who commanded, succeeded in exacting reparation for the outrage. The whole of the despatches connected with this expedition,—which has been the means of conferring distinction on the young officers employed on it, namely, the red ribbon on Captain G. Loch, and the rank of post-captain on Commanders Ryder and Peel,—never having been published, the following account may be interesting to some of our readers; it is an extract from a private letter not intended for publication:—

"*At sea, between St. Juan de Nicaragua and Jamaica, March 15, 1848.*

"We sailed from St. Juan yesterday, in company with the steamer Vixen, leaving the harbour [illegible] to take some specie [illegible] with the [illegible] Captain [illegible] to [illegible] the Vixen [illegible] the meaning of this [illegible], when we saw all these peasants in [illegible] from and domestic serving out [illegible] I suppose of beguiling [illegible] our appearance. The [illegible] room all [illegible] surrounded him, [illegible] with great gravity presented him with a painted egg, accompanying the gift with three smart kisses. In compliance with the custom of the country my husband had to give each of them an egg in return and a glass of brandy, after first putting it to his own lips. But the ceremony did not end there; *Kooda bariaya? kooda bariaya?* (where is madame, *mademoiselle*? (it must be so); and so I was forced to come among them and receive my share of the eggs and embraces. During all Easter week the peasant has a right to embrace whomsoever he pleases, not even excepting the emperor and the empress. This is a relic of the old patriarchal manners which prevailed so long unaltered all over northern Europe. In Russia, particularly, where extremes meet, the peasant to this day addresses the czar with thou and thee, and calls him father in speaking to him. When we had got rid of these queer visitors we repaired to the parlour, where the morning repast was served up with a profusion worthy of the times of Pantagruel. In the centre of the table stood a sucking pig flanked with small hams. German sausages, chitterlings, black puddings, and large dishes of game. A magnificent pie containing at least a dozen hares towered like a fortress at one end of the table, and seemed quite capable of sustaining the most vehement onslaught of the assailants. The sonding and the sterlet, those choice fish of Southern Russia, garnished with aromatic herbs, betokened the vicinity of the sea. Imagine in addition to all these things, all sorts of cordial waters, glass vases filled with preserves, and a multitude of sponge cake castles, with their platforms frosted and heaped with bonbons, and the reader will have an idea of the profuse good cheer displayed by the Russian lords on such occasions." On leaving the breakfast table we proceeded to the place where the sports were held; but there I saw nothing of that hearty merriment that elsewhere accompanies a popular holiday. The women, in their best attire clung to the swings, I will not say gracefully, but very boldly, and in a manner to shame the men, who found less pleasure in looking at them than in gorging themselves with brandy in their smoky *kabaks*. Others danced to the sound of the organ with cavaliers whose zigzag movements told of plenteous libations. * * We noticed on this occasion an essential characteristic of the Russian people. In this scene of universal drunkenness there was no quarrelling, not a blow was struck. Nothing can rouse the Russians from their apathy; nothing can quicken the dull current of their blood; they are slaves even in drink. * * Such are the Easter festivities. As the reader will perceive, they consist on the whole moderately. The whole week is spent in this way, and during all that time the authority of the master is almost in abeyance; the coachman deserts the stables, the cook the kitchen, the house keeper her store-room; all are drunk, all are merry making, all are intent on enjoying a season of liberty so long attempered with impatience."—*Travels in the Caucasus.*

Farther Items of European News per Steamer "Caledonia."

ENGLAND.

PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Hume's long anticipated motion for the Representative Reform came on Tuesday evening, 25th June, in the House of Commons. A vast number of [illegible] members crowded the house, and [illegible] a session of 1848 [illegible]; and this was supported by a long and able speech in which the gross defects of our present system of representation were clearly set forth. The new character of Mr. Hume's party embraces "four points," namely, to extend the elective franchise to householders; to take the votes by ballot; to limit the duration of Parliaments to three years; and to adopt a new electoral arrangement in the apportionment of members so as to divide the number of electors more equally, and to give population a greater weight relatively to property. Mr. Hume in the course of his speech added a fifth "point," namely, the abolition of the property qualification. Mr. Hume earnestly advocated his plan, alleging that the concessions of the Reform Act had secured peace during the last sixteen years, and in the prevailing discontent it was necessary to meet the wishes of the people. He denied that any organization had been resorted to, known to him, to get up an agitation throughout the country, and urged upon the House the adoption of this plan, as the means of restoring confidence in the country.

After one of Mr. Drummond's witty and philosophical speeches, in which he condemned the present agitation, Lord John Russell flatly opposed the motion, and exhorted the House to give it a steadfast and determined negative.

His lordship expressed a wish to give an extension of suffrage—to give, for instance, the depositors in the savings' banks and others, a right of suffrage, and he added "that latterly the public mind has been turned to these questions and to several others, and I do think that the time will come, and perhaps it is not far distant, when reforms of this nature might be enacted, and might tend to improvement." Mr. Disraeli made a very eloquent speech against the motion, and after some discussion the debate was adjourned to the 23rd.

In Ireland, the organization of clubs is proceeding to an alarming degree. In Dublin alone it is stated that there are forty clubs, each consisting of 300 members, making an aggregate of 12,000 men, who are accustomed to assemble at least once a week, for the avowed purpose of being trained and disciplined. The county of Dublin is about to be organized in the same way, and some of the Old Irish party are taking an active part in this movement. In the provinces, under the influence of emissaries from Dublin, the club movement is rapidly progressing, and a great monster meeting, in favour of repeal, is about to be held in Derry, at which the leaders of all the various sections of repealers are invited to attend. The Nation and other confedrate journals have, within the last few days, resumed a far more daring tone.

The Indian mail has arrived with dates from China to April 26. The Vishnur, from New Hebrides, arrived at Hong Kong, reports the loss of seventeen American whalers in the typhoon, on the north west coast of China, in October last. The China Mail says the loss of the seventeen American whalers is exaggerated, that the majority have escaped. The Vishnur touched at Ascens on on the 11th of March, where she learned from Capt. Swain, of the whale ship Potomac, who had lately arrived from the the coast of Japan, having fallen in with the Rebecca Sims, Capt. Tabor, that in September last he was in company with upwards of thirty whale ships on the coast of Japan. They experienced a severe typhoon in lat. 35, N., and after it had subsided, seventeen of the ships were missing. There is a probability of several having been lost; but the opinion of an experienced captain of a whaler, now in this port, is that during the gale many vessels were driven from their cruizing ground, and, as the season was nearly over, bore away for the neighborhood of the Equator, and not having been seen by their consorts, were considered lost.

It is also reported that the mediation of England will be accepted by Austria, as regards the Italian quarrel.

A collision having ensued between the Borgher Guard and the populace, some assassin seized the opportunity to indulge his private malice by firing a rifle at the Princess Windschgratz, who was shot in the head. The victim was the daughter of the celebrated Prince Schwartzenbourg. One of the princess's sons was also mortally wounded.

In Italy, affairs are not so favourable for the Piedmontese. Radetsky, after the capitulation of Vicenza, returned into Verona with 15,000 men, so that the meditated attack upon that fortress by Charles Albert with fifty thousand men, had been abandoned after they had been brought within three miles of the town. Charles Albert has accordingly returned to his old quarters at Valiegio. Vicenza fell into the hands of the Austrians on the 11th, the garrison having exhausted their ammunition. General Durando capitulated to save the town. Durando has agreed to retire beyond the Po, and not to serve in the war during the next three months. The Austrians in the Venetian territory have been strongly reinforced, and have entered Padua in triumph. The act of the union of Lombardy and Piedmont was signed on the 10th inst.

FRANCE.

THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—The French people continue still in a transition state. The same degree of anxiety and alarm exists respecting the future, although the threatening objects of affairs which prevailed last week has in some degree worn away, in consequence of the resignation tendered by Louis Bonaparte of his seat in the National Assembly. In the meantime the Executive Government loses authority and influence daily; the finances are in a most deplorable condition; the provinces in a state of great disorder; increased taxation and diminished resources, both affecting alike the people and the Government, are fast bringing on some frightful catastrophe; and the eventful issue of the mighty revolution of February remains still one of the unfathomable mysteries of the future.

In the provinces the most frightful distress prevails; and the peasant—in the very heart of the country as well as at the extremities—resist the payment of the increased taxes with arms in their hands, and blood has been spilt in many of these collisions.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.

The Schleswig war is still proceeding. Both the Danish Government and the Frankford Diet have rejected the terms of a armistice