

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

CHINA PREPARING FOR WAR.

ANOTHER GRAND ATTEMPT TO POISON THE BRITISH.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte*, of Paris, publishes some further details relative to the war in China:—"The Chinese, it is said, are making formidable military preparations. Since the attack on Canton, the Chinese have executed enormous works on the Pei-ho, a river which falls into the Yellow Sea, and by which a communication is maintained with Peking. That river is now barred in 22 different places by dams built of stone, which intercept the navigation. These works are regarded as a curiosity. Moreover, the three branches of the Pei-ho, canalised by the Emperor Kia-Kang in 1817, are cut, and the course of one of them, the Hu-ho, has been turned off into the Lake of Hoho-tchi. When an army invades the Chinese empire the principal means of defence is to let the waters of this lake overflow the country. This system of defence, efficacious against an enemy, but most disastrous for the country, was first used against the insurgents in 1852. The city of Peking is considered safe from an attack either by land or sea, and the Emperor will be protected by the fanaticism of the people, who will stop at no means to destroy foreigners. The British ships proceeding to Canton have been in the custom of taking fresh water at Whampoa from a small river which falls into the Tchioukiang. It was remarked that the sailors using this water lately have been attacked with cholera, and it was discovered that the water was poisoned by the Chinese. They employed for this purpose the trunks of certain trees, which, after being prepared for the occasion, impart a deadly poison to the water. The Chinese are naturally malignant, and their wickedness is still increased by their fanaticism, which is beyond description. There is but one way to subdue them, and that is to act on their senses, and to terrify them by a display of force and by a maritime demonstration on a grand scale, such as is about to be accomplished by the British government."

It appears, moreover, that some of the wealthiest mandarins in the empire propose to revive the Commercial Company founded in 1759 by Tsong-Too. These great dignitaries, through personal interest, are highly favorable to an arrangement with the English, notwithstanding their dislike manifestations, and as they are in direct communication with the members of the Nuy Ko, or cabinet council at Peking, they can bring their influence to bear directly on the Emperor's advisers. The revival of the company founded in 1759 will render impossible in future for the Chinese government to violate at will its treaties with foreigners. The *Moniteur de la Flotte* concludes that an arrangement of the difficulties at present existing between the Chinese and English is perfectly possible. For this purpose the British government have merely to adopt the only means efficacious with the Chinese character, which is to make a formidable demonstration on the coast of the Chinese Empire.

THE POISONINGS AND ALARM AT HONG KONG.

HONG KONG, Feb. 14.—(Extract from a private letter).—You heard by the last mail of the horrible attempt that has been made to poison the whole community of Hong Kong by a rascally Chinese baker, who attempted to administer arsenic to us in successive batches of his bread. Allum has undergone the form of a trial, but has been acquitted; and the opinion of all the Chinamen is, either that we were afraid to hang him, fearing that the Chinese might rise against us, or that we have no law to punish poisoners. Between 400 and 500 human beings partook of the poisoned bread—myself amongst the number. I escaped the worst symptoms, and did not vomit, but suffered much pain at the pit of my stomach, and a tightness of the head, as though it were being pressed between two hyards. Many who partook of the bread were fearfully ill, and the medical men seem especially to have suffered. We owe our deliverance from a horrible death to the circumstance of the prisoner having put double or treble the

quantity of arsenic in the bread which would have been necessary to destroy life, in consequence of which the food did not remain on the stomach. Everybody—even many of the Chinese themselves—consider Allum guilty, and so did the jury, but they sheltered themselves by declaring that, in their opinion, there was not sufficient evidence he had done the deed. The mandarins at Canton are offering rewards of 200 dollars for our heads; and they have sent a number of braves into the colony with orders to fire the town and massacre all the inhabitants they can lay their hands on, promising that, if they can accomplish their bloody purpose, they will be rewarded liberally, but if they fail, disgrace and punishment may be expected. The reward for the massacre of the crew of the *Thistle* steamer was 7,000 dollars and a mandarin's blue button. It is generally believed that Allum was concerned in this transaction. It is well known that he chartered the steamer of its owners, and that some of his own servants were on board when the massacre took place."

THE GLASGOW POISONING CASE.—Miss Madeleine Smith, the young lady who was apprehended on the suspicion of having administered poison to her sweetheart, a young French gentleman named L'Angelier, has been formally committed to stand her trial on the charge of murder. The result has been arrived at after a consultation with the Crown authorities in Edinburgh. So far as motive is concerned, the grounds of the charge are understood to be that Miss Smith was anxious to cast L'Angelier off in consequence of having received and accepted an offer of marriage from a gentleman who occupies a much more elevated position in society so far as wealth is concerned. L'Angelier was resolved to maintain his ascendancy, and had some power of blasting the young lady's reputation in the event of her marrying his rival. Hence the catastrophe. That the young lady procured arsenic about the time of L'Angelier's death, that he died from the effects of arsenic, and that there is no reason to believe he committed suicide, are matters undoubted. The event has created much excitement in Glasgow.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

During the elections we presented in detail the result of the "appeal" which was made by the Government on the Chinese question. The Ministerial "gain" and "loss" were stated where either occurred, and it is therefore unnecessary to occupy space with a re-publication of the list. The result is a gain of 73 votes to Ministers, equal to 158 votes on a division involving the Ministerial policy. The loss is 13 votes, which will count 26 on a similar division. The analysis presents the following results:—

	Liberal	Conservative	Conservative
England and Wales 284	53	179	
Scotland..... 37	3	12	
Ireland..... 60	10	33	
Total..... 361	66	224	
Total number of members returned.....	681		
Double return for Huntingdonshire not included....	1		
Leitrim County (election not taken place).....	2		

ELECTION OF SCOTCH REPRESENTATIVE PEERS.

The election of sixteen Peers to represent the ancient peerage of Scotland in the Parliament of the United Kingdom took place on Tuesday at the Palace of Holyrood. The following were elected:—The Marquis of Tweeddale, Earls of Morton, Home, Strathmore, Leven, and Melville, Orkney, Seafield, Selkirk, and Airlie, Viscount Strathallan, Lords Grey, Sinclair, Elphinstone, Colville of Calsop, Blantyre, and Polworth.

IRISH ELECTION RETURNS DURING THE WEEK.

ANTRIM COUNTY.—Col. Pakenham, and Mr. Macartney.
CLARE COUNTY.—Lord F. Conyngham, and Mr. Calcutt.
DUBLIN COUNTY.—Mr. J. H. Hamilton, and Col. Taylor.
TIPPERARY COUNTY.—The O'Donoghue and Mr. Waldron.
LONGFORD COUNTY.—Col. White, and Col. Greville.

WICKLOW COUNTY.—Viscount Milton, and Mr. W. F. Hume.

DOWNS COUNTY.—Lord A. Hill, and Col. Forde.
KILKENNY COUNTY.—Hon. A. Ellis, and Mr. Green.

GALWAY COUNTY.—Sir T. Burke, and Mr. Gregory.

KING'S COUNTY.—Messrs. O'Brien and Bland.

THE DEMANDS OF PRUSSIA DECIDEDLY OPPOSED.

A letter from Berne in the *German Journal* of Frankfurt says:—"The news that in the conference Dr. Kern has decidedly opposed the demands of Prussia is confirmed. In conformity with his first instructions he declared that Switzerland declined the payment of any pecuniary indemnity to the Crown of Prussia, and that she would do nothing more than pay the expenses caused by the occupation of Neuchâtel, and the calling out of the troops. Switzerland also refuses to recognize in any manner whatever the rights of sovereignty to which Prussia pretends. The instructions of Dr. Kern not permitting him to recognize the right of the King of Prussia, nor of any member of his family, to bear the title of Prince of Neuchâtel, he has protested in advance, in the name of Switzerland, against all pretensions which may hereafter be based on that disputed title. We are assured that the Ambassador of England supports Dr. Kerne."

The annual grand Swiss rifle match will be held this year at Berne.

A BRITISH MAIL STEAMER BOARDED AND ROBBED BY PERUVIAN REVOLUTIONISTS.—The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamer *New Granada* had arrived at Huanchaco from Valparaiso, on her way to Panama, with the semi-monthly mails for Europe. The mails for Huanchaco were sent ashore in a boat. The boat was intercepted, and the mails and cargo put on board the *Soa*, a steamer belonging to the revolutionary party. After a remonstrance, the captain of the *New Granada* proceeded on his voyage. He was followed by the revolutionary steamer, and at the next port the *New Granada* was boarded by sixty armed revolutionists from the Peruvian war steamer, and they demanded money, arms, ammunition, which they said were on board the *New Granada* for Castille's party. The captain of the mail steamer refused to give anything. The revolutionists took by force what they demanded. They then broke open the treasurer's room and took away thirty thousand dollars.

MALTA, MARCH 28.—Her Majesty's ship *Sphinx*, which left Malta for England on the 25th, conveys a present from the Sultan to Queen Victoria of an ancient and most beautiful brass gun, about 15 feet long, and throwing a shot of about 29 lbs. This morning Major Erskine, Captain King, and some other officers of the 21st, went to bathe at Ricasoli. It blowing fresh, Captain King was sadly beaten against the rocks and drowned.

GENERAL MANSEI, K.H.—A very large and massive piece of plate was presented to the gallant General at his residence, Tivoli House, on Thursday last, by some friends, as a token of their esteem and regard for his character as an officer and a gentleman. After a suitable address on the occasion the party partook of an elegant collation, at which the healths of the General and Mrs. Mansel and family were proposed and warmly acknowledged.

THE MILITIA.—The Earl of Lucan, Lieutenant of Mayo, has intimated, through the Clerk of the Peace, to the Colonels, of the North and South Mayo Militia Regiments, that the intention of the Government to call out their regiments for drill in the month of May has been abandoned, and that these regiments will not be called out until September next. We may add that whilst this postponement is most desirable, as far as agricultural purposes are concerned, it looks to us somewhat like the first step in the "national retrenchment," and simply means that the Militia are in future only to be a figment, a name, but no reality.—*Mayo Constitution*.