

(From the Liverpool Courier, Jan. 29.)

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Jan. 21.
PRINCE ALBERT'S ALLOWANCE.

After some routine business, the Chancellor of the Exchequer having stated that he should bring on the question of the provision for Prince Albert this day.

Col. Sibthorp gave notice, that "on the grant which might be proposed for the establishment of Prince Albert, he would move a proviso, that in case Prince Albert survived her Majesty, such sums as might be granted for life should cease and determine if he failed to reside for six months in each year within the United Kingdom, or if he should ally himself to a Foreigner, or cease to profess the Protestant Religion."

JANUARY 27.

The debate in the Committee of the whole House on Prince Albert's allowance was commenced.—It was opened by Mr. Hume, who, when the proposal for £50,000 a-year had been put from the chair, expressed his regret, that after the announcement of national distress in Her Majesty's speech, any application whatever should have been made to Parliament for a pecuniary grant. He denied the analogy of the precedents put forward by Lord J. Russell on Friday, and thought the odium of the proposal ought to rest upon that noble lord. If the measure would have advanced the Queen's popularity, his consideration of it might have been different; but he was sure that its effect would be a contrary one. So far the house went with him very seriously; but a shout of laughter followed, when, with characteristic simplicity he besought Lord John "to consider the danger of placing a young man in London with £50,000 a-year in his pocket." He moved, as an amendment, that the grant should be £21,000, the amount allowed to the Royal Dukes.

Mr. Baring, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, reasoned the matter upon the ground of the precedents.

Mr. Goulburn put it to the House whether, if the Queen had been married at her accession to the throne, they would have given more to her and her consort than they had given to King William and his Queen. But Queen Victoria's civil list, with this £50,000 would exceed by £10,000 the civil list of Wm. and Adelaide, and the recent reduction of £10,000 in the salaries of the present household, coupled with that addition of £10,000, made this civil list practically better by £20,000 than the civil list of the former reign. Therefore, even if the necessities of a Prince united to a female sovereign were equal to those of a Princess united to a Sovereign, still an allowance of £20,000 less than in the last reign would put the present Queen and her consort in an advantageous situation as the late King and Queen. It was his intention very shortly to move for a still further reduction in the salaries of Her Majesty's household, by which her civil list would be made to go even further yet.

A division then took place, and Mr. Hume's amendment having been negatived by a majority of 267, (the numbers being 365 and 36), another amendment was proposed by Col. Sibthorp, substituting £37,000 for £50,000.

Upon this Lord J. Russell addressed the house, still on the unstarkest footing of the precedents; which, at last, he said, were applicable in this, that they uniformly treated the consort, male or female, of the Sovereign, as entitled to some provision of from £50,000 to £100,000 a-year. He believed that if the accident had not occurred last May, which displaced the opposite party from their momentary hold of office, they would have proposed the very sum they were now refusing.

After a word or two from Lord Elliot in his own vindication.

Sir James Graham rose to express his astonishment that a Minister should insinuate what he durst not charge directly, that the conduct of those who voted for the smaller grant was inconsistent with the respect due to the Queen.

After refuting some of the fallacies of Ministers on the subject of the precedents, he observed, that Queen Adelaide's establishment, including that of the stables, exhausted £35,000 of her allowance, leaving only £15,000 for her privy purse; but by the admission of Ministers themselves the establishment of Prince Albert would cost but £5000 or £6000, leaving for his privy purse not less than £21,000. This allowance was surely ample, it was liberal.

Mr. Leader would support the smallest grant that could be carried. The moral effect of such proposals as this of the government was most unfortunate. The ministers were economical for the purposes of the public, but extravagant for those of the palace.

Mr. O'Connell rose, and, in a vein of the tenderest loyalty, supported the larger grant. His constituents, he said, had instructed him to do so.

Sir Robert Peel said, that though he never would shrink from openly vindicating any of his votes, he should not now have risen but for that insinuation, so contrary to all parliamentary rule and so unworthy of Lord John Russell's situation as a minister. Suppose the motive of a base subserviency to the crown had been imputed to the noble lord, would not that have been most irregular and unjust? Yet it had been imputed to the Conservatives that they were influenced by the events of last May in the opinions they expressed to-night. The notice of the motion for a reduction to £30,000 had been given without communication to him; nor had he made up his mind until after hearing Lord John's statement on Friday.—He thought £30,000 a just and liberal allowance for the joint lives of the Queen and Prince, and for the Prince's possible survivorship, should there be no issue; in an heir should be born, then the £30,000 might properly be advanced to 50,000. Sir Robert Peel concluded by saying, that he was resolved not to enter into a party contest who should go further to please the court—that he had no difficulties to reconcile on the subject of his loyalty—that he had never made the Sovereign's political support a condition of his allegiance—that he had never been guilty of disrespect either to the crown or to any of the royal family—and that he could afford to take his own straightforward course, without needless professions of the loyalty he felt.

The house then proceeded to a division, in which ministers were signally defeated by the aid of those Liberals who, with a notable consistency, are preparing themselves to affirm this evening that the government possesses the confidence of the house! The amendment of Colonel Sibthorp, for reducing the grant to Prince Albert from fifty-

thousand to thirty thousand pounds a year, was carried by no less a majority than one hundred and four! the numbers being 362 and 158!

Expedition to China. The Master-General of the Ordnance has transmitted orders to Woolwich for a party of artillery and artificers, to be selected from volunteers of civilians out of the royal arsenal, to be embarked in the ships of war now fitting out for the coasts of China. Howitzers and rockets are being prepared with the utmost celerity: in fact, the workmen have been employed even on Sundays, in addition to extra hours during the week. Officers of the royal artillery have been directed to hold themselves in readiness for instant embarkation; but from the particular nature of the service in view at present, the absolute selection has not yet taken place, and they are not to be taken according to the "roster," or usual routine of duty. The non-commissioned officers and gunners are also to be picked men from the several battalions, although the commandant of the garrison is desirous of selecting them from the seventh battalion. Twelve arsenal artificers, belonging to the laboratory department, have volunteered to accompany the expedition, on receiving double pay; and it is stated to be the plan to purchase on the voyage (as near the Chinese seas as possible) several ships, which are to be filled with combustibles, and converted into fire-ships by these artificers, in conjunction with the naval department and then intended to be employed among the Chinese war junks.

It is estimated the repairs which the *Great Western* steam vessel is now undergoing will amount to £6000; whilst the alterations and improvements about to be effected in the *British Queen* will not be less than £13,000.

The Bank of England issued a notice on Thursday, that they had reduced the rate of interest to five per cent.

Lady Sarah Villiers, the daughter of Lady Jersey, has been selected by her Majesty as one of the ladies in waiting at the ceremony of her marriage.

Her Majesty's Marriage. We can confidently state, that the marriage of her Majesty will take place at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, either on Monday, the 10th of February, or on Thursday, the 13th Feb., but on which of these days has not yet been positively determined, although it will, in all probability, be the latter, as the Court mourning does not cease until Sunday, the 9th. The august and solemn ceremony will be performed by daylight, in the Chapel Royal, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who will be assisted by the Bishop of London, the dean of the chapel. Her Majesty, on the day of the nuptials, will leave Buckingham Palace, accompanied by her august mother, the Duchess of Kent, and proceed to St. James's Palace, entering by the garden gate, where she will be met by the various branches of the royal family, who will be there to receive her. It is intended, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex should give the royal bride away, if the state of his health permit him to undergo the fatigues of the day; otherwise, this part of the ceremonial will be performed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. Her Majesty, with

all the Members of the royal household, together with the different members of the royal family, will assemble in the "Throne-room" and the Ambassadors-closet, while Prince Albert, with his suite, will muster in the "Ante-Throne-room," Queen Anne's-room, the Tapestry-room, and the Guard-room, through which the royal cortege will pass, will be fitted up with seats to view the procession from the palace to the chapel, as will also, the Flag-court, (immediately opposite the entrance to the Chapel Royal,) and the latter will have accommodation of this kind for nearly 500 persons. After the celebration of the royal nuptials, her Majesty and the Prince Consort will leave London for Windsor Castle. Prince Albert may be expected to arrive in England very shortly. *Globe.*

Assam Tea. It is satisfactory to find, in the present state of our relations with China, that the prospect of an abundant supply of Tea before many years have elapsed, will be obtained from the British possessions in the *East Indies*.—The despatch received by the *East India Company*, by the last overland mail, states, that upwards of 4000 laborers, including 300 Chinese families, were most actively engaged in clearing ground in *Upper Assam* from jungle, upon which the Tea plant flourishes so luxuriously, that, with an adequate number of men, the produce of Tea would be unlimited. About 100 chests of Tea, consigned to the *East India Company*, from Assam, have just been received, and the samples furnished to the leading brokers in the trade, after due inspection, have been pronounced to be of a very superior quality, and will, no doubt, as a matter of curiosity, realize high prices. We are informed, that the whole of the experimental establishment formed by the Indian Government in Bssam, is in course of being transferred to the *Assam Company*, which was established last year in the city, to promote the cultivation of the Tea Plant in India. The whole of the shares allotted to India by the company, had been taken in *Calcutta* and *Lengal* before the last advices from the firm were despatched.

The loss of the Exchequer, consequent on the existing state of affairs with China, will amount, it is said, in the year, to no less a sum than £4,000,000.

WRECK OF THE ORION.

We regret to learn, by the following communication, that the *Orion* from Newfoundland for this port, has been wrecked on the Irish coast, and, it is feared, the whole of the Crew are drowned:

DUBLIN CASTLE, 24th JAN. 1840.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit, for your information, a copy of a police report from Constable Burke, with regard to part of the wreck and cargo of a ship driven ashore on the Galway coast, which it appears, was the schooner *Orion*, John Tregarthen, master, bound for Liverpool, and consigned to you for sale and remittance; cargo consisting of oil. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant.

"I. DRUMMOND."
"Wm. Tarbet, Esq. Liverpool."

"ROMIDSTONE, 22d JAN. 1840.

"I have to state, that, on the afternoon of the 21st instant, part of the wreck and cargo of a ship had been driven ashore at Gentow, in this sub-district. There has been a small quantity of the cargo preserved by the tenants of Thomas Martin, Esq., M. P., on whose property it came ashore, consisting of six casks of

oil. I have, this day, found part of the ship's papers, which, I think, would be of much importance to the owners.

"It appears, by the invoice, that the cargo consisted of oils shipped at Kingscove, Newfoundland, by Jas. M'Braire and Co., on board the schooner *Orion*, John Tregarthen, master bound for Liverpool, and consigned to William Tarbet, Esq., there for sale and remittance. It bears date Kingscove, Newfoundland, 31st December, 1839.

"It is supposed, she had been wrecked on the night of the 20th instant, as it blew a violent gale on this coast. There has been, as yet, no trace of the crew; but, from the violence of the storm and the total wreck made of the ship, it is considered they have been all drowned.

"M. BURKE."

(From the Bristol Mercury, Jan. 11.)

LONDON.

JANUARY 10.

The latest news from Africa is of the 28th ult. The colonists in the plains were continually harassed by the Arabs, who carried off their cattle, and hindered their defensive works. Several skirmishes had taken place, in which casual losses were sustained on both sides. On the 26th, a French merchant vessel, the *Frederic Adolphe*, while fifteen miles from the shore, had been attacked and captured by an armed vessel from Chercheil, a point nearly half way between Algiers and Oran. The *Sphinx* and *Crocodile* steamers, with a detachment of the 23rd of the line went to Chercheil, and found the vessels ashore. She was therefore burnt. The Arabs resisted the burning of the vessel, and the French had four killed and 13 wounded. Abdel-Kader had received a deputation from the Sultan of Morocco, who recognised him as Grand Khaliff of Algiers. An attack on Oran was hourly expected.

ITALY.—Letters from Italy state that Venice has suffered dreadfully from the rains and consequent inundation, which covered the streets and squares with water, the waves injuring the palaces.—The sinking of the water has left the streets covered with putrid matter; the shops and depots have had their contents spoiled, and the desolation is universal.

CHINA.

The disputes with the Celestial Empire have, at length, terminated in open hostilities. It will be in the recollection of our readers that, in an affair which took place between the natives and some English and American soldiers, one of the Chinese was killed. In consequence of this, on the 26th August, all the British were ordered to quit Macao, on a notice of 12 hours, and were compelled to embark with so much precipitation as scarcely to find time to take with them their account-books and clothes. On the morning of the 4th Sept. when all seemed, for the moment, quiet, Capt. Elliot, who, since the 23rd of August had been at Hing King, got under weigh in his cutter, in company with the schooner *Pearl* and stood for the bay of Coloon, intending to procure a supply of provisions for the fleet. These were brought in abundance by the Chinese, but the mandarins opposed their embarkation; upon which an intimation was conveyed to them from Capt. Elliot that, if in the space of half-an-hour the provisions were not allowed to pass, he would open fire upon them.—The half-hour passed and the gun was fired. The Chinese war-junks were driven under the walls of the Coloon fort, and the *Volage* frigate afterwards coming up, an attempt was made with the boats to board the junks, which, however, was unsuccessful, from the height of the vessels, which were proved with pikes and boarding-netting. The result of the battle was, that six Chinese, including two mandarins, were killed, and seven wounded, while four English were wounded, and the attempt to procure the provisions failed. What will be the consequences of this event, it is impossible at present to foresee.

The Address in the Commons.—We understand that the Hon. G. Cavendish, one of the members for Derbyshire, will move, and Sir W. Somerville, bart, member for Drogheda, will second, the address to her majesty on the royal speech, at the opening of the ensuing session.

Franking Letters.—The franked letters, under the old system, amounted to nine millions per annum! This, at even a penny each would amount to nearly £28,000.

The return of the revenue for the quarter ending the 5th of January was,