

PORTUGAL.—Her Most Faithful Majesty Donna Maria has placed herself in a strange predicament, that she can neither advance nor recede without either offending her consort, or violently opposing the Cortes. By advices from Lisbon to the 21st ult. we learn that her Majesty had the temerity to write a letter to her husband, conferring upon him, of her own mere will, the Commandership-in-Chief of the Portuguese army. The Cortes naturally enough, were alarmed at such a stretch of the prerogative. A motion was made in the Chamber for excluding the Prince from the Command which was so well received, that the utmost ministers could obtain, was the adjournment of the debate sine die. Thus stands the affair at present; and though it is likely that the Chambers will eventually confirm her Majesty's appointment, yet the attempt to confer it without the consent of the Cortes will not be soon forgotten. Donna Maria is very far from being so popular now as she was at the period of her accession. Her temper is by no means likely to endear her to her subjects; and her notions of the prerogatives of a Constitutional Sovereign such as accord not with the convictions of her people. Neither is her Majesty's heart likely to redeem the faults of her head, if we may presume to judge from her conduct on those occasions when the Queen stood confessed in the woman.

Our Bayonne correspondent informs us that the garrison of Plencia, after a vigorous resistance, had been compelled to surrender to the Carlists, on the same terms as that of Balmaceda.

The Spanish intelligence published in the French papers, and confirmed by our private letters, is of some importance. It will be seen that the Carlists are drawing closely to Bilbao, and otherwise proceeding almost without interruption from the Christians.

On the 27th, 40 men of the British auxiliary legion, deserted to the Carlists, and were presented to Don Carlos at Durango.

LONDON, APRIL 25.

(From the Times, April 20)

Lord Minto stated, in answer to observations from Lord Hardwicke, that after the present year, the establishment of the Naval College at Portsmouth would be suppressed; but he said he was not yet prepared to state in what manner the education hitherto afforded by that establishment to the younger branches of the naval profession would be supplied.

Mr Hardy gave notice on Monday last that on Thursday next (to-morrow) he will move the following resolutions:—

Resolved, that it appears, in the evidence reported by the committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances under which Alexander Raphael, Esq., was returned a member for the county of Carlow at the election in June last, that an agreement in writing was concluded between Daniel O'Connell, Esq., a member of this House, and the said Alexander Raphael, as follows:—

Charles-street, June 1, 1835. My dear Sir,—You having acceded to the terms proposed to you for the election of the county of Carlow, viz.—you are to pay before nomination £1,000—say £1,000, and a like sum after being returned, the first to be paid absolutely and entirely, for being nominated, the second to be paid only in the event of your having been returned—I hereby undertake to guarantee and save you harmless from any and every other expense whatsoever, whether of agents, carriages, counsel, petition, against the return, or of any other description; and I make this guarantee in the fullest sense of the honourable engagement that you should not possibly be required to pay one shilling more in any event, or upon any contingency whatsoever.

I am, my dear Sir, your very faithful, DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Alexander Raphael, Esq.

Resolved, that it appears that Nicholas Aylward Vigora, Esq., was cognizant of, and consenting to, the said agreement, and that in pursuance thereof, the said Daniel O'Connell and the said Nicholas

Aylward Vigora did endeavour to procure the return of the said Alexander Raphael as a member to serve in Parliament for the said county of Carlow, and who was returned accordingly.

Resolved, that to enter into, or consent to, such an agreement, was a high breach of the privileges of this House.

Resolved also, that such agreement, as aforesaid, is in violation of the statute passed in the 49th year of King George III., for preventing the giving or receiving of money on any contract or agreement to procure, the return of any person to serve in Parliament.

The *Moniteur* of Monday confirms the account transmitted to us from Paris on Saturday, relative to the fall of Lequeu into the hands of the Carlists. That place is said to have been taken on the 12th. The telegraphic despatch which communicated the news of its fall must have been received in Paris two or three days at least before its publication. It is difficult to understand why the publication of the news was so much delayed. The *Moniteur* adds, that between 500 and 600 of the garrison were made prisoners. It appears, however, that their right number was 700. Still this is a very insufficient garrison for a place where it had been deemed necessary to have sent some time before by General Cordova that the garrison should withdraw; but we have reason to believe that the orders, if issued at all, were given too late, and could not therefore be executed. Lequeu is, however, an extremely insignificant place on the coast, and cannot be of any use to the Carlists so long as the coast is well guarded. No other accounts from Spain appear in any of the French papers of Monday which we have received along with the *Moniteur*. Some fresh naval movements are about to take place at Toulon, in consequence of the arrival of orders from Paris by the telegraph. All the ships that were fitted out for sea, were to proceed to the roadstead to complete their victualling and stores, and be ready to sail immediately. Their destination was supposed to be Africa, where it is said they are to take in troops for Spain. But as there are among them large three-deckers, it is hardly possible to believe that they are to be employed on so insignificant an expedition. Besides, it is not probable that any French troops will be transferred from Africa to Spain.

Bombay papers to the 29th of December have been received. The Tigris had arrived out with the mail from Alexandria. The only news she brought from the Red Sea was, that the Pasha of Egypt was determined to carry on the war against the Arabians, notwithstanding his recent reverses. When the Tigris left Suez 12,000 troops were waiting to be transmitted to Judda, and 4,000 were at Cossier to be conveyed to the same destination. The coffee monopoly at Mocha had been partly relaxed, it having been determined that one-half only should be appropriated to the account of the Government, and the remainder to be exported. Lieutenant Burnes, who it will be recollected, had been ordered up the Sindh to quell some disturbance amongst the Ameers, had returned after fully completing his mission, besides having removed many obstacles in the way of the expedition which was about to proceed up the Indus. He had also gained permission from the Ameers to survey the mouth of the river, which was considered an important point.

The report of the intended visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange to this country, mentioned in the Hague Journals, we are enabled to confirm, preparations, being now making for the Prince's arrival. His Royal Highness's visit to this country is said to be unconnected with politics, and arises from a wish of placing two of his sons (Prince Alexander and Prince William Frederick) at one of the British Universities to finish their education. Such an object the Prince contemplated last year, but circumstances prevented his leaving Holland.

Such is the scarcity of seamen at present in this Port, that we are informed several vessels ready for sea are detained by the want of crews.—HALIFAX JOUR.

(From the Morning Herald, April 25.)

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATIVE DINNER.

The Chairman, on proposing the health of Sir THOMAS COCHRANE, informed the company that he had arrived from the Continent expressly for the purpose of attending the meeting.

The toast was drunk with three times three, and the warmest demonstrations of satisfaction.

Sir THOMAS COCHRANE, adverting to the probability of his again becoming a candidate for the representation of Westminster, said he was most anxious that his political sentiments should not be misunderstood. He would not, by even an equivocal expression, attempt to gain a single vote, for he had never yet been able to understand how a man could be at once a political rogue and an honest private character. If any persons voted for him at the former election under the idea that he would oppose the correction of abuses which had crept into our institutions, he was bound in candour to say that they ought to find some other person to represent them. It was a long time since he had been of opinion that the House of Commons required a judicious reform, because it did not fairly represent the people, or work out the principles on which it was originally founded; and he regretted that the proposition which Mr. Stanley brought forward in 1828 for enfranchising some of the great towns had not been adopted. He was not only willing to amend defects, but would seek them out, and he knew of no final measure in such a work until the last abuse was corrected—(hear). Being a reformer, he of course did not wish to destroy. He could not sanction any of the wild schemes which were at present afloat. He was opposed to the ballot and universal suffrage; to the abolition of the national Church, and the destruction of the House of Peers—(cheering for several seconds)—because that assembly choose manfully to declare its own opinions, and would not consent to become a simple register office to the decrees of the House of Commons—(applause).

The situation of the country at the present moment was one of a peculiar nature. With a majority of the people of England opposed to the policy of the present Ministers—with three-fourths of the wealth, four-fifths of the nobility, and almost all the intellect of the country opposed to them, the nation was, nevertheless, obliged to pass under their yoke. To what was this owing? To the apathy and want of energy of the sound thinking part of the community—to that very moderation which made them Conservatives—(hear, hear). If every individual would exert himself, the good cause would speedily triumph. The Gallant Officer concluded by proposing, as a toast, "The Conservatives of Westminster."

Politics in Lower Canada are thus coming to the crisis which we predicted. The patience of the Governor and the Home Government appears to have been exhausted; and the wild overtures which have been made to the anti-British faction have had no other result than, as we have before said, of compelling Lord Gosford to prorogue the Provincial Parliament in the following manner:—

On the 21st March, Lord Gosford went down in state to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the throne, the House of Assembly was summoned to attend, and, after giving the Royal Assent to 58 Bills, His Excellency closed the Session, sine die, with the following speech:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The advanced season of the year, and the want of a sufficient number of Members in both Houses for the despatch of public business, render it expedient that I should prorogue this Parliament.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

It is to me a matter of sincere regret that the offers of peace and conciliation of which I was the bearer, to this country, have not led to the result which I had hoped for. The consequence of their rejection, and of the demands which have been made on His Majesty, I will not venture to predict. In the speech which

which I opened the Session, I announced that should you consent to discharge the arrears due to the public officers, and provide for their maintenance, pending the inquiries which His Majesty had commanded to be made in the Province, so part of the surplus revenue of the Crown should be touched during these inquiries, without your assent. As no provision has been made for the purposes contemplated in that proposal, I shall be under the necessity of applying the revenues at the disposal of the Crown, as far as they will extend to the payment of the public servants, and towards the current expenses of the Civil Government.

What further measures must be adopted for the removal of the difficulties to which the affairs of the province are reduced, the authorities in England must now determine.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

Of the 59 Bills that have passed both Houses during the Session, I have given the Royal Assent to all save one—namely, the Bill for establishing a railroad between the river St. Lawrence and the Province line. As this Bill affects the King's prerogative in the disposal of the waste lands of the Crown, the 42d clause of the Constitutional Act makes it necessary that I should reserve it for the signature of His Majesty's pleasure; and it is probable that the omission of the formalities required by that clause will be altogether fatal to the measure.

I shall continue to do all in my power for the advancement of the public good, and the furtherance of that paternal policy which has been enjoined upon me by our most Gracious Sovereign; and you, Gentlemen, will, I doubt not, each in his individual capacity, labour to preserve the peace, and to promote the real interests of the community.

In the letters of our Correspondents from Lisbon, received last night, will be found a detailed account of the ceremonies observed upon the occasion of the arrival and marriage of the Prince of Saxe-Coburg to the Queen, in the Portuguese capital, of the fact of which we have already informed our readers, upon the authority of advices received in London from Madrid and Paris. The descriptions are interesting, but for such an occasion it appears to have been rather a melancholy one. The Royal bridegroom reception by the people of Lisbon was anything but enthusiastic.

These letters are naturally much grossed by the courtly ceremonial, being five days more recent in date than the last advices, they contain some intelligence of the general state of things in Lisbon which is not without interest. The resignation of M. Campos is now placed beyond question, but it appears to affect his own retirement only, and not broken up the Cabinet. Several persons have been named as his successors in the Finance Department, but the most likely is thought to be M. Manoel A. Jo de Carvalho, the President of the Chamber of Deputies. This Gentleman, who, like Mendizabal, boasts of possessing a secret nostrum for restoring vigour and health to the all but exhausted Portuguese Exchequer, appears not to be unwilling to undertake the great responsibility of the post, but upon terms of being interfered with in his plans by other Ministers, and of having associated with him in office the Viscount de Corvo, and three others of the rank of merchants in Lisbon, upon whom he expects to prevail to advance money to the public service. This rather suggestion had not been well received, but M. Carvalho was obstinately adhering to it as the condition of accepting office. The only real resource for the Government, it was thought, would be to impose new taxes, which would raise a tempest of remonstrance, if not resistance against it, or to try the experiment of another loan upon the London or Belgian Exchanges, which would no doubt be equally fruitless.

The Queen, finding that the Cortes were still discussing the question of propriety of her gift of the Commandership-in-Chief to the Prince of Saxe-Coburg, whilst her husband was already in sight, went and very cavalierly broke up the assembly. This conduct has given great offence, and there have been meetings to prepare remonstrance