

EXTRACTS FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.

PORT NATAL.

We mentioned last week that the force under Capt. Smith, at Port Natal, had been relieved, by the arrival of the Southampton frigate in the port.

Cape of Good Hope, July 22, 1842.

Amongst the possessions ceded to us by the Dutch, at the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope, Port Natal, a province and harbour on the S. E. coast of Africa, was included; and after keeping up a military establishment at that post for some years, the troops were withdrawn.

Such was the state of affairs when we received the intelligence on the 15th of June, and embarked the 25th regiment, and Quartermaster-General Cloete in command, and anchored off Port Natal on the 25th; the same evening we sent up two rockets and fired two 68-pounders, to give notice to Captain Smith of assistance being at hand.

The attack was fixed for the morning, and, accordingly, at day-break, on Sunday, 27th of June, we got the boats out, mounted their six-pounders, and towed the ships as near the bar of the harbour as the depth of the water would allow.

On the sand-hills was the flag-staff and two guns; on the bluff point was one gun; this was all we could see from the ship, which was about 2,000 yards off. I should have mentioned, that across from the bluff point runs a bar, which at times breaks violently, and is particularly dangerous to boats; and also that the Conch schooner had arrived with a howitzer mounted, and about 100 soldiers of the 27th regiment from Algoa Bay.

The day was fine, and a light breeze setting in the harbour, when the attack commenced in the following order:—first, the schooner; second, the launch, 14 sailors and 25 soldiers; third, the pinnace, 14 sailors, 23 soldiers; fourth, the yawl, (which I commanded) with 14 sailors and 18 soldiers and officers; fifth, the cutter, with 10 sailors and 12 soldiers.

EXTENSIVE FIRES AT LIVERPOOL.

A FIRE, the most extensive and most destructive that ever occurred in this town, broke out about three o'clock on Friday the 23d September, in a paint manufactory and oil warehouse in Paisley street, which is a small street leading from

Great Howard-street to Bath-street; it is surrounded by warehouses and sheds used for bonded goods, and filled with produce to the top. From the inflammable nature of the materials, and a stiff breeze from the N. W. blowing at the time, the fire spread with inconceivable rapidity, extending up to the front of Great Howard-street and across Formby-street, and up to Neptune-street, covering an extent of two acres of ground.

The following particulars of this calamitous occurrence we abridge from the Liverpool Albion of Monday:—

The fire was discovered shortly before three o'clock on Friday morning, on the premises of Mr. Peniston, bone-grinder and drysalter, whose manufactory opened from Crompton-street. Immediately on the discovery of what had taken place, the alarm was given; the officers on the contiguous beats were summoned; intelligence was dispatched to the fire-police station and through the town.

The sheds and cooerage of Messrs. Taylor and Graham were next assailed, and added fuel to the devouring element. These gentlemen are also extensive owners of carts, lorries, and horses, and we are happy to state that this part of their property was removed to a place of safety.

About six o'clock two of the fire-police engines, with a full complement of men, were hard at work, pouring a continued discharge of water upon the sheds of Mr. McKnight, when, without any warning whatever, a great explosion or crash took place in one of the warehouses on the north side of the street, and almost over the engines were being worked.

In addition to this calamity, we have to notice the death of a very useful and very active officer of the name of Samuel Hodson. About half-past six he and officers Bates and Tuck were holding their branches directing the water against the warehouses at the top of Formby-street.

Lower down the street, the yard of Mr. Gray's yard gave way, just as three or four labourers were removing some timber, and they were buried in the ruins. Inspector Riding was also at this spot, and by the falling of the wall had his heel-bone broken.

At seven and eight o'clock, in Formby-street and in the adjoining cotton sheds (Poole's) in Great Howard-street, the fire burned with an intensity that heated the atmosphere to a great distance around. Great exertions were made to save the houses at the top of Formby-street, but those on the north-side, dwelling-houses, frequently caught fire, chiefly by the intensity of the flames in the burning warehouses below, the ruins and blazing materials of which were piled to the height of 80 to 90 feet, throwing up immense volumes of flame and smoke.

Shortly after nine o'clock, the gable end of the warehouse, next to the fire proof one, fell inside, and we are happy to say that no accident occurred. The flames, however, from the cotton within, had now free egress, and the wind carried them over the sheds before mentioned. The flames then

reached Mr. Lythgoe's cooerage, the spars and staves in which were soon on fire. Considerable anxiety was felt seeing that the destructive element was proceeding up Neptune-street, lest the Borough Gaol, crowded as it is with prisoners, should suffer.

Meanwhile, the area of the conflagration presented a most remarkable appearance. At a short distance from each other might be seen huge piles of partly consumed, yet still burning cotton, which appeared like small mountains of fire. As the wind roared through them, some portions appeared like blazing furnaces, whilst flakes of flame were expelled from other parts, as if issuing from the crater of a burning mountain.

The progress of the fire was arrested at the cooerage of Mr. Lythgoe, at the top of Neptune-street. There it stopped, without injuring the shed at the corner of that street and Great Howard-street. The masses and pyramids of cotton and other materials continued burning over the whole scene of ruin, and as there was now but little fear of fresh outbreaks, the firemen played on the flaming piles from every assailable point.

As night closed in, the appearance of the fire, as seen from a distance, reflected in lurid brightness in the hazy atmosphere, gave rise to a report that the flames were extending. This was, happily, not the case, the glare arising merely from the piles of burning cotton.

Throughout Friday night and Saturday morning, the flames continued to rise from various parts of the area, but engines were kept continually in action, and the firemen never relaxed their exertions for an instant. These labours were continued incessantly throughout Saturday, and as the men succeeded in extinguishing the fire at the margin, they were enabled to climb over the heaps of embers so as to play on the interior.

The following is, as near as we can ascertain, a statement of the buildings destroyed, and the goods supposed to be destroyed:—Rayner's A 309, B 315; Rayner's C 309, D 315; Maw's four warehouses, no numbers; Gray's E 223; Gray's C 229; Taylor's 233; Rodger's 256, two; Rayner's shed, 252; Gregson's 319, two; Horsley's two sheds; McKnight's two ditto; Poole's two sheds; Taylor's cooerages and other timber yards. The whole is assessed at an annual value of £350,000.

It is now our painful duty to speak of the casualties which occurred at the fire, which were, as usual in such cases, greatly exaggerated by the tongue of rumour. Taking them at the best, however, they have been fearfully great, and the loss of life has been deplorable. Of those buried beneath the fallen ruins, it is impossible to form a correct notion. The prevalent opinion amongst those employed at the fire from the commencement was, that not less than 18 or 20 had been thus immured.

LIVERPOOL, Sept. 29.—Three American packets, the Cambridge, the Siddons, and the Monongahela, arrived at this port on Thursday. By all these vessels the number of emigrants returning to this country is very great. The Cambridge brought 200 passengers; the Siddons had 240 in the steerage and 34 in the cabin, and the Monongahela had 100 in the steerage.

The melancholy account of the wreck of the Russian ship of the line, on the rocks off Christiansand, with a frightful loss of life, are fully confirmed. The Gipsy, of Belfast, which arrived from St Petersburg on Wednesday week, rescued ten of the Russian sailors; a Danish steam frigate took 90 on board, and the William, of Dundee, picked up 40; but as the crew consisted of at least 600 men, between 400 and 500 sailors must have been engulfed by the waves.

FOREIGN CORN.—Since the passing of the new Corn-Law Bill, the importation of grain into London from foreign ports has been unusually great; and notwithstanding that there is a glut in the market, the importation of foreign produce (chiefly wheat) appears to be daily on the increase.

THE SUPPLY OF MEAT.—We read almost daily of the arrival of vessels at the different outports bringing live cattle from Holland, Germany, Spain, &c.—We find from the reports of the great Scotch and Irish fairs, that the fall in the price of store stock has been full one-third—and last week's account of Smithfield market shows a dulness in the trade and a depression of prices.

IMPORTANT PROVISION CONTRACT.—The large annual government contract for supplying the navy with Irish provisions was taken on the 21st ult. at Somerset-houses. The quantity required was 16,000 tierces beef and 14,000 tierces pork. It was taken by London houses at from 10s. to 12s. per tierce below the prices of the Irish manufacturer.

THE NEW TARIFF.—The amount of duties received at Sunderland on the exportation of coals, between the 5th of July, 1841, and the 5th September, 1841, did not amount to

£120; whilst, under the new tariff, upwards of £2,000 have been received, for the exportation of coals, in one month.

The stamps for charter party are now obtainable at five shillings each in lieu of thirty-five shillings, and for bills of lading at sixpence each, instead of three shillings, as formerly.

THE BARINGS.—We have heard it stated that the long-established and wealthy firm of Baring, Brothers, and Co., have returned their profits to the income-tax commissioners, on the average of the last three years, at less than £150,000, and that they have requested the proper authorities to search clerks to examine their books and ascertain the correctness of the returns. This strange circumstance is attributed to their dealings with some of the repudiating States of America.—Sun.

The building of the protestant church at Jerusalem was going on slowly; Bishop Alexander was not yet entirely recovered from his recent illness.

The Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham has become a Baptist.

One of the four battalions of Rifles will in future be retained for service in Canada, in consecutive rotation, the Cavalry establishment to be withdrawn.

NIGER EXPEDITION.—An arrival at the Delaware reports that the remains of the Niger expedition had removed from the shores of Africa, and that the fondly indulged project of exploring and making settlements in the interior, is altogether abandoned for the present.

TURKEY.—Private accounts from Constantinople, dated the 31st ult., are of considerable importance. They state that, on the 30th, Izzet Mehemet, the Grand Vizier, was deposed, and Raouf Pasha, formerly President of the Council, elevated to his post. Halil Pasha, brother-in-law to the Sultan, had been appointed chief of the council in Raouf's place. The overthrow of Izzet has caused great satisfaction to the whole of the diplomatic body, who saw in him the promoter of the fanatical policy that prevailed of late in the councils of the Sultan, to the detriment of the empire.

PARIS.—In a correspondence lately commenced between the Pope and the Cabinet of the Tuileries, his Holiness, whilst praising to the skies M. Guizot's Administration, hinted that he wished his Excellency would enter into the true road to his salvation. The Minister, who, as you of course know, is a Protestant, answered, that on his part he only offered up prayers for the conversion of his Holiness.

A REAL JACOBITE.—Among the inmates of the prison of the parish of St. Nicholas there is one Kirsty Fraser who has reached the age of 103 years. She appears to be in the enjoyment of excellent health, and says that, if she could get "a wee drop o'tea an' a sma' bit tobacco, she might waddle on a good while yet." Kirsty was seven years old when the battle of Culloden took place, and describes the appearance of the field on the day after with all the gusto of a real Jacobite. "Muckle stir and muckle fae we there," she says, "the trenches of the dead lie as high as a house, an' covered wi' earth." She was acquainted, in youth, with the cave in which Flora Macdonald concealed Prince Charles, having explored it "ae day wi' i'er two lassies, when Flora and Prince Charlie were out at a walk."

A SAGACIOUS ANIMAL.—At the fair of Ballintubber, a horse, on which a celebrated sporting character was mounted, actually kicked two talents out of a fellow's waistcoat pocket, disabling his arm so as to prevent him effecting service upon the owner; and in less than half an hour, was prostrated two process-servers, who had civil bills to sue upon the same gentleman.—Roscommon Journal. [Let our American friends match this, if they can.]

CANADA.

On Wednesday, the 12th inst., the Governor General of Canada closed the Legislative Session with the following SPEECH.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentleman of the Legislative Assembly;

Although I anticipated, when I called you together, that your consideration might have been given at the present session to such public business of importance as seemed to require your early attention, yet I am induced, by reasons of public convenience, and with a view to an early resumption of our joint labours, to put a close to the present session.

I have to thank you for the zeal and assiduity with which you have considered and perfected the various measures in which the short period of the session has been occupied. Those, I trust, will be an earnest to the country of the principles by which I am guided, and of the advantages which may be expected from the cordial and united efforts of the several branches of the Provincial Legislature.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; I thank you, in the name of Her Majesty, for the liberality with which you have voted the supplies requisite for the Public Service; and for your ready co-operation in carrying out the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen; In relieving you for the present from further attendance on your Legislative capacity, I would express my confident hope that when you return to your homes, you will use your just influence in promoting, in your several districts, that unanimity and good feeling which it has been my endeavour to establish, and in diffusing those hopes of permanent peace and prosperity, which I trust you will unite with me in believing that we may now, under Providence, be permitted to indulge.

The Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Council has declared the Provincial Parliament prorogued to the 15th day of November next.

STRANGE.—The Tory, or Conservative papers of Canada, are more vehement against the government of Sir C. Bagot, — a Conservative, under Conservative Ministers at home, than they were at any former period against any preceding government. The causes of this extreme feeling are, the Excellency's advances towards conciliating and employing persons of the French and liberal parties. Very strong, and of coarse and exciting language is used by these opposition organs.

Mr. Wakefield, celebrated for his Emigration schemes, is spoken of as a Candidate for a seat in the Canada House of Assembly, and as an expectant of lucrative office.

PUBLIC WORKS.—By a despatch it appears that the British government have agreed to pledge the credit of Great Britain for a sum of £1,500,000, to be raised by the Province, for the completion of public works. The interest is not to exceed 4 per cent, and certain conditions respecting security, and a sinking fund, are attached to the very liberal proposition.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The introduction of the New Constitution will, in all probability, cause renewed excitement in Newfoundland. The St. John's Times, of September 28th, says:—

"In pursuance of Her Majesty's commission and instructions His Excellency the Governor has appointed to the Executive Council the following gentlemen:—The Honorable James Simms, James Crowley, Patrick Morris, William B. Row, Joseph Noad and William Carson."

The Gazette understands that His Excellency reserves the nomination of the remaining Members of the Executive Council until after the Elections have taken place—probably with the object of adding some of the elected Members of the Assembly to the Council Board."

On September 23d, His Excellency Sir John Harvey informed Her Majesty's Council, that "having received Her Majesty's commands to carry into immediate operation the Act recently passed by the Imperial Parliament, entitled 'Bill for amending the Constitution of Newfoundland, the duty