

LATEST NEWS.

From Papers by the Acadia, to the 4th October.

"PROTOCOL OF A CONFERENCE HELD AT LONDON, THE 7TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1840.—PRESENT: The plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey.—The plenipotentiaries of the courts of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia, after having exchanged the ratifications of the powers concluded on the 15th of July last, have resolved, in order to place in its true light the disinterestedness which has guided their courts in the conclusion of that act, do declare formally.—That in the execution of the engagements resulting to the contracting powers from the above-mentioned convention, those powers will seek no augmentation of territory, no exclusive influence, no commercial advantage for their subjects, which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.—The plenipotentiaries of the courts above mentioned have resolved to record this declaration in the present protocol.—The plenipotentiary of the Ottoman Porte, in paying a just tribute to the good faith and disinterested policy of the allied courts, has taken cognizance of the declaration contained in the present protocol, and has undertaken to transmit it to his court.—(Signed)—PALMERSTON, NIEUMANN, SCHLEINITZ, BRUNNOW, CHEKIB."

In addition to the above, in order to complete the series of documents connected with the treaty of the 15th July, we now publish the note from Lord Palmerston to the French ambassador, by which it was accompanied:—"NOTE.—The undersigned had the honour, on the 17th of July, to inform his excellency M. Guizot that a convention upon the affairs of Turkey had been signed, on the 15th of that month, by the plenipotentiaries of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, on the one hand, and by the plenipotentiary of the Porte on the other. The ratifications of that convention having now been exchanged, the undersigned has the honour of transmitting to his excellency M. Guizot, for the information of the French government, a copy of that convention and of its annexes. The undersigned cannot make this communication to his excellency M. Guizot without again expressing to him the very sincere regrets of her Majesty's government that the objections which the French government has felt to taking any share in the measures for the execution of which this convention provides, have created an obstacle which has prevented France from being a contracting party to this compact. But her Majesty's government feel confident that the cabinet of the Tuileries will see in the provisions of this convention indisputable proofs that the four powers, in undertaking the engagements which it contains, have been animated by a disinterested desire to maintain those principles of policy with regard to Turkey which France has, on more than one occasion, distinctly and emphatically declared to be her own, that they do not seek to obtain, by the arrangements which they have in view, any exclusive advantage for themselves, and that the great object of their aim is to uphold the existing balance of power in Europe, and to avert events which would disturb the general peace. PALMERSTON, Foreign-office, September 6, 1840."

The reply of M. Guizot to Lord Palmerston's note, communicating the signature of the convention of the 15th of July, has been the subject of much curiosity and speculation ever since the appearance of the latter in the journals. The document so anxiously desired is at length given to the world. We find it in the Augsburg Gazette of the 14th inst.

"Memorandum delivered by M. Guizot to Lord Palmerston, on the 24th of July, 1840.—France, in the affair of the East, has always been desirous of acting in accord with Great Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia. Her conduct has been influenced only by the interest of peace. She has never judged the proposals made to her in any other point of view than that of the general interests, and never with a view to her own interests, for no power is more disinterested in the eastern question than she is. Judging in this manner, she has considered as ill-conceived all the proposals, the object of which was to tear from Mehemet Ali, by force of arms, those portions of the Turkish Empire of which he is in occupation. France does not conceive that this will be for the good of the Sultan, because it would tend to give him that which he could neither govern nor keep. She does not think it good either for Turkey in general, or for the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe in particular, because it would weaken, without giving any advantage to the sovereign, a vassal who may give powerful assistance in the common defence of the empire. Nevertheless, this is a question of system on which there may be many diverging opinions. But France has particularly declared herself against any project the adoption of which might bring on the employment of force, because she could not distinctly see the means which the five powers could dispose of. These means appeared to her to be either insufficient or more injurious than the state of things intended to be remedied. What she has thought on this subject she still thinks, and has reason to believe that this opinion is not exclusively hers. Under later circumstances no positive proposition has been addressed to her upon which she could explain herself. The determination communicated to her by England, no doubt in the name of the four powers, cannot, therefore, be imputed to refusals which she never had an opportunity of making. But, further, without insisting on the question to which it might give rise, France again declares that she considers as inconsiderate, and not very prudent, a conduct which shall consist in coming to resolutions without the means of carrying them into execution, or with means of execution insufficient or dangerous. The insurrection of some of the people of Lebanon is no doubt an opportunity which it has been thought right to seize for finding means of execution which had not been before presented. Is this a means avowable, or above all so useful, that the Turkish empire ought to act upon it against the viceroy? It is desired to re-establish some little degree of order and obedience in all parts of the empire, and yet insurrections are fomented. New disorders are added to that general disorder, which all the powers already deplore as contrary to the interests of peace. Will they succeed in subjecting these people to the Porte, after exciting them to rise against the viceroy? These questions have certainly not been resolved. But if this insurrection is suppressed—if the viceroy becomes again the assured possessor of Syria—if he thereby becomes more irritated, more difficult to persuade, and answers to their summons by a positive refusal, what are the means of the four powers? Certainly, after having employed a whole year in seeking for them, they cannot have discovered them recently, and a new danger will have been created more serious than before. The viceroy, excited by the means employed against him—the viceroy, whom France has contributed to restrain—may pass the Taurus, and again threaten Constantinople. What will the four powers do in

this case? In what manner will they enter the empire in order to give succour to the sultan? France conceives that thereby there is prepared for the independence of the Ottoman empire, and for the general peace, a danger much more serious than that with which they were threatened from the ambition of the viceroy. If all these eventualities, the consequence of the conduct about to be adopted, have not been provided for, the four powers will be engaged in an obscure and perilous path; if, on the contrary, they have been foreseen, and the means of meeting them agreed upon, then the four powers ought to make them known to Europe, and, above all, to France, who has always taken part in the common object—to France, whose moral concurrence they still claim—whose interest at Alexandria they invoke. The moral concurrence of France in one common conduct was an obligation on her part, but it is no longer so in the new situation in which the powers seem to wish to place themselves. France can henceforth be no longer directed but by what she owes to peace, and what she owes to herself. The line of conduct she will hold under the grave circumstances in which the four powers have placed Europe will depend on the solution which may be given to all the questions that have just been indicated. She will always keep in view peace, and the maintenance of the present balance between the states of Europe. All her means shall be consecrated to this double object."

THE EAST.—Advices from Alexandria, to the 6th September, state, that on the 27th ult. Mehemet Ali called a council of the ministers, beys and sheiks, of several Arab tribes, to whom he submitted the propositions of the four powers, together, it was believed, with a letter from Ibrahim Pacha, who offered to renounce, in his own right, the hereditary possession of Syria. The assembly approved of these terms, and on the following day the Viceroy, having summoned the four consuls to his palace, declared to them that he would content himself with Egypt and Acre, and restore the fleet to the Sultan, provided he was permitted to hold the government of Syria during his life. The consuls replied, that they had no power to interfere with or modify the conditions of the ultimatum, and that they could not, accordingly, comply with his last request. The French consul took no ostensible part in the affair, but on the 30th he sent off M. Walewski, in the *Pepin*, for Constantinople, with the proposition of the Pacha. The result of this interview had caused great disappointment among all classes of the population, who had indulged the hope of a pacific solution of the pending difficulties, and fresh apprehensions were entertained when the preparations for defence were found to be carried on by the Pacha with redoubled activity. . . . Admiral Stopford landed at Alexandria on the 31st, and was accompanied to the palace by Colonel Hodges, who presented him to Mehemet Ali. The latter received him with great courtesy, and invited him to dine on the following day, but, being indisposed, he was obliged to countermand the invitation. The British merchants having waited upon the Admiral, to ascertain what course he intended to pursue, should the Viceroy decline accepting the ultimatum, he candidly answered that he had no orders on the subject; but, apprehending that some misconception might be placed on this verbal communication, he addressed, on the 1st, to the merchants, a letter, in which he repeated his first statement, but said that he trusted that it would not be misconstrued so as to lull them into a dangerous security, he being ignorant of the consequences which might ensue, and consequently unable to advise them. . . . The 5th September being the last of the second period of ten days, involving the fate of Egypt, Rifat Bey, M. Alison, and the four consuls, called at the palace to receive Mehemet Ali's final reply to the ultimatum. The Pacha being still unwell, was not visible, and the answer was communicated to them by Cognos Bey and Sami Bey. Mehemet Ali declared that he accepted the hereditary pashalik of Egypt, and had forwarded a petition to Constantinople by Count Walewski, praying the Sultan to permit him to retain the government of Syria during his life, in order to avert the disgrace of being dispossessed of his honorary employment in his old age. He then added, that until he received the Sultan's reply, he could not think of giving his master's fleet into the hands of the representatives of the powers, or surrendering an inch of the territory of Syria. The Pacha concluded by an assurance to the European residents that his government would protect them in their lives and properties. It was expected, after this declaration, that the consuls would strike their flags and remove on board the squadron, but down to the 6th they had not taken that step. . . . Admiral Stopford sailed on the morning of the 6th for Beyrout, with the Princess Charlotte and Bellerophon, leaving the Asia and Implaceable before Alexandria.

THE CABINET COUNCIL ON MONDAY.—We extract the following from the *Capitole*:—"For the last two days the political world has been much interested in the Council extraordinary which was held in London. It was known in a vague manner that all the members of the British Cabinet would come to a decisive resolution on the Eastern question. This Council has been held, and its results were known in Paris at half-past 2 to-day (Tuesday). Little has transpired concerning the contents of those important despatches; nevertheless, rumours were spread, and caused a very strong reaction on the Exchange. Before making known the information, which we have derived from, we believe, a very good source, we ought to say a word on the facts anterior to the meeting of the British Council. It will be recollected that the voyage of M. Walewski to Alexandria, had for its object to induce Mehemet Ali to make some concessions to the Porte. The Viceroy made them, and M. Walewski set off immediately for Constantinople, in order to prepare the Divan to accept them. The Divan showed itself inclined to conciliation, and relied on the good offices of France for definitively concluding its arrangement with Mehemet Ali. These inclinations of the Porte being well known both at London and Paris, Lord Palmerston requested the French Cabinet to draw up in writing, its definitive resolution upon this new phase of the Eastern question. M. Thiers, who had been duped so many times already, was apprehensive of being so again, and he begged the English Ministry itself to declare its final intentions. Lord Palmerston not daring, as he said, to adopt an important determination without consulting his colleagues, promised to convoke them in a grand council. This grand council has been held, and we have every ground to believe that the resolutions adopted at it were—1st, that the propositions of Mehemet Ali should be rejected; 2d, that the execution of the treaty should be carried out to its full extent; and, 3d, that Admiral Stopford should be reprimanded for having shown weakness in the execution of the coercive measures."

LONDON, OCTOBER 3.

Extraordinary Express from Paris.

THE FALL OF BEYROUT.—Friday's *Monitor* contains the following most important telegraphic despatch:—

"MARSEILLES, Oct. 1, half-past One, MALTA, Sept. 27.

"The Prometheus, which left Beyrout on the 20th, announces that, after a bombardment of nine days, which reduced the town to ashes, the Egyptians evacuated the town in the night, and the allies took possession of it. "The Oriental, which quitted Alexandria on the 24th, makes known that the firman deposing Mehemet Ali, had been communicated on the 21st to his Highness by the consuls-general of the four Powers, who instantly struck their flags, and retired on board their shipping."

According to the latest accounts, Commodore Napier has declared a blockade of the entire coast of Syria; but on the other hand, Ibrahim Pacha has pronounced Syria to be in a state of siege. Meantime the autumnal equinox is at hand, menacing the safety of the blockading squadrons both in Syria and Egypt, and co-operating with Mehemet Ali in his manœuvres to outwit the authors of the Treaty of London, by gaining time, and lying in wait for the chances of war in his favour.

PORTUGAL.—The Montrose steamer, from Lisbon, has arrived, which brings intelligence of the complete suppression of the Portuguese insurrection. It appears, that on the 12th Sept., Colonel Miguel Augusto de Souza, the chief of the insurgent band, expressed a desire to go into Spain. Several of his soldiers demanded the colours of their regiment, that they might return to their former allegiance. The Colonel refused to comply, except with his life. Murmurs immediately arose, and the result was, that the Colonel was killed by a volley fired by his own men. The officers of the revolt entered Spain, and the soldiers presented themselves to the officer commanding the troops who were marching against them.

SPAIN.—We mentioned last week that the Queen had yielded to the necessity which she could not controul, and acceded to the demands of the Junta. The result was the immediate construction of a new Cabinet, with M. Sancho at its head. The new Administration, however, did not meet the wishes of the people; its character and tendency were at once inferred from the appointment of so unpopular a President of the council. Public opinion was at once, therefore, brought to bear upon it, and the result was that it fell to pieces almost as soon as formed. Another Ministry has since been formed, with Espartero at its head, as President of the Council of Ministers. This appointment has not entirely removed the suspicions of the Junta of Madrid: that body had approved of the nomination, but declared it would not dissolve until complete satisfaction had been given to the popular demands.

FRANCE.—The fortifications of Paris are commenced at various parts. Engineers are already at work in the plains of Neuilly and the Bois de Boulogne, and in a few days at least 30,000 men will be employed. Louis Philippe, accompanied by the Duke d'Aumale, Generals Dobe and Vaillant, and the minister, paid a visit to the projected works on Sunday last, and expressed himself highly satisfied with the plans. The *Courrier Francais* and *Constitutionnel*, semi-official paper, give a summary of what is doing and what is to be done. There are 1000 field-pieces of artillery ready for use. The army, at the end of October, will be composed of 610,000 men. The cavalry will be effective in men and horses to the number of 60,000. Manufacturers of clothing, harness, and all other military necessaries, are at hard work. Saltpetre, sulphur, iron, brass and copper have been purchased in large quantities, and the foundries and arsenals are in full activity.

The various French papers also continue to show that the activity which for some time past has been displayed in the arsenals and dockyards of France is in no degree relaxed. Advices from Cherbourg of the 19th state, that the Friedland three-decker, carrying 120 guns, is being fitted up with great rapidity, and that her captain has been appointed. Commanders have also been appointed to the newly-built frigates, Calypso and the Reine Blanche. A ministerial despatch of the 16th had been received, directing the central fort of the dike of Cherbourg, which defends the entrance of the harbour, to be mounted with 12 80-pounders and 12 of 36. At Toulon, according to a letter of the 18th instant, great activity was observable in the harbour, the roads presenting a formidable appearance. Amongst the ships at anchor were two of 120 guns, the Sovereign and the Ocean; and another vessel, the City of Marseilles, was being prepared for sea.

ABDICATION OF THE KING OF HOLLAND.—We have received, by extraordinary express from Brussels, the important news of the abdication of the King of Holland.

Our correspondent writes—"I hasten to communicate to you the most important news just received by the Amsterdam papers of Wednesday afternoon, that his Majesty, before setting out the day before from the Hague, for the Castle of Loo, announced to his Ministers his intention of abdicating. In a few days a proclamation will be issued, by which his Majesty will inform his subjects of his resolution. I am enabled to assure you, from private letters I have received this moment from Holland that this news has an official character."

The *Observateur* of Brussels gives several extracts from the Dutch journals, which confirm this intelligence. In the city article of the *Weekbode*, of the 30th, it is stated that the rumour caused great depression. The King made known his resolution to some of his ministers before his departure for the chateau of Loo. The *Handelsblad* makes the same announcement, and adds that "the King went to Loo with Baron Fagel, one of his oldest friends, who had recently arrived from Paris, where he had performed the functions of minister plenipotentiary. The Prince and Princess of Orange are summoned to meet the King at Loo on Monday next. It is believed that his Majesty has already given orders to transmit in two days all the official documents of the various ministerial departments to the Prince of Orange, who will for the future conduct all the affairs of the kingdom. We wait with the most eager anxiety for further intelligence respecting this interesting event." The Dutch papers do not even hint at the causes which have led to this determination on the part of the King; but it is thought in Brussels that he has descended from his high estate solely to accomplish in private life the union with an amiable lady of his court which met with so much opposition when first announced to the Dutch people about a twelvemonth ago.—*Chronicle*.

AWFUL EARTHQUAKE.—The details of the following terrific earthquake are contained in a letter dated St. Petersburg, Sept. 11.—"You have doubtless heard of the terrible earthquake at Mount Ararat, which has totally destroyed the town of Nakichevan, damaged all the buildings at Erivan, and devastated the two districts of Scharour and Sourmata, in Armenia; all the villages in those districts have been destroyed. The earth is rent in such a manner that all the cotton and rice plantations have perished for want of water. But the most awful event has taken place in the neighbourhood of Mount Ararat. A considerable mass was loosened from the mountain, and destroyed every thing in its way for the distance of seven wersts (nearly five

English miles.) Among others, the great village of Akhouli has had the fate of Herculaneum and Pompeii: about one thousand inhabitants were buried under heaps of rocks. A thick fluid, which afterwards became a river, ran from the interior of the mountain, which was opened, and, following the same direction, swept over the ruins and carried with it the corpses of the unfortunate inhabitants of Akhouli, the dead animals, &c. The shock continued to be felt every day in the above-mentioned districts and entirely laid them waste, when the shocks became less frequent. Ararat is not yet quiet; the day before yesterday I was awake by two violent subterranean commotions."

NEW ZEALAND.—We find, by the *New Zealand Journal*, of Saturday morning, that letters and papers have been received from New Zealand to the 23d of May. Captain Hobson had issued two Proclamations, dated the 21st May, in which he declared the British sovereignty over the whole of the islands of New Zealand; thus sweeping away at one stroke of the pen all the elaborate arguments of the Colonial Office to prove that Great Britain could not claim the sovereignty of the Northern Islands; and sweeping away, too, the grand difficulty which the British Government had opposed to the colonization of the country. The Government were going to found a small township at the Bay of Islands, to be called "Russell." The settlement at Port Nicholson, under the admirable guidance of Colonel Wakefield, was proceeding with unexampled activity and prosperity. The chief town, which the Company's agent meant to have named "Wellington," Captain Hobson chooses to name himself, and he intends to call it "Durham." Did he anticipate the contrite courtesy of his superiors at home, which was so soon after to approach the deathbed of the ex-Governor of Canada?

FIRE IN PLYMOUTH DOCKYARD.

On Sunday, the 27th Sept. at twenty minutes past four, the police officer on duty in the northern division of the dockyard observed a mass of smoke issuing from the bows of the Talavera in stern Dock. He instantly ran to the station and gave the alarm. Lieut. Williams, R. N., the active superintendent, was on the spot with the engine in a few minutes, but it was instantly seen that no human effort could save the ship, for the whole bow was in flames. Near the Talavera lay the Minden 72, in what is called the Head Dock, her bow lying within a few feet of the former's stern. The Imogene frigate lay in the South Dock, between which and the others stood the Adelaide Gallery containing the figure heads of the old broken up ships of the navy, preserved as mementos of past glories, a spot which always attracted the notice of visitors. Right and left of the gallery were large sheds containing planks and prepared timber, and here were the workmen's tools, all ranged in boxes, marked and numbered. The whole of these docks and buildings were surrounded with immense quantities of timber, consisting of pine logs, deals, knees, &c., and scarcely a vestige remains of all these, except the Minden, line of battle ship, which was preserved, though in a damaged state; her bow having repeatedly caught fire. There were twenty-two engines at work at one time; and nearly all the military, seamen, and marines in the port, with their officers and the heads of the different departments, were present at an early hour.

All that human exertion could do was done, with courage, alacrity, and skill, highly praiseworthy. Admiral Sir Graham Moore and Admiral Warren were on the spot immediately after the alarm was given. At this moment the fire has been nearly subdued, and there is no danger of its spreading further. Fortunately the flames were prevented from igniting the Rigging-house, which stands close to the South Docks, and contains all manner of combustibles. The loss is estimated at 150,000. We have not heard of any serious accidents.

It is impossible to state how the fire originated. No work has been done on board the Talavera for five weeks, and strong suspicions are entertained that it has been the act of an incendiary. One of the police inspectors visited the spot at half-past three, and walked round the dock, but observed no appearance of fire.

For several hours the scene was awfully magnificent, the ships, building and timber stores being all on fire at one time, presenting a sheet of flame a quarter of a mile in extent, and in some places 100 feet high, while volumes of dense smoke covered the town. Provisionally there was little wind, or the consequences might have been beyond conception.

LATER PARTICULARS.—The fire in the Arsenal was not entirely got under until late on Sunday night, and the engines at half past eight on Monday morning were brought out. It is impossible to say the amount of damage. As the Talavera was an old ship, the estimate of her worth, if sold by auction, (the usual mode of disposing of ships when unseaworthy,) is not above £20,000, though to replace her with a new ship of the same class would be from £70,000 to £80,000. The other vessels must be estimated in the same way; but the loss of stores is immense. The sheds, covered, as they were, with painted and tarred paper, cost from £10,000 to £12,000 each; the cost, when covered with copper, is from £30,000 to £40,000 each. The granite facings of the docks are split to pieces. The fire was providentially stopped at the very point where the destruction would have been greatest, as property to the amount of £5,000,000 was deposited in the very building adjoining that where its progress was terminated. Those best informed are yet disposed to place the act to the account of an incendiary. It is expected one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will come down to hold a court of inquiry.

ATTEMPT TO FIRE SHEERNESS DOCKYARD.—We borrow the following from a second edition of the *Times*:—

SHEERNESS, Friday Evening, 8 P. M.—Her Majesty's ship Camperdown, 120 guns, was attempted to be fired in the Basin this evening by some incendiary. The fire was first discovered in the Midshipmen's berth, but was extinguished after burning a locker, but on further search a well laid train was discovered in the warrant officers' store rooms, consisting of rosin, oakum and lucifer matches.

SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE AT NEW ROSS.—The town of New Ross was visited, on Tuesday last, with a dreadful gale of wind. About seven o'clock it turned to a hurricane. A few minutes after that hour there was felt a shock of an earthquake. I myself saw the candlestick which was on my table tremble, and the light from the candle appeared to show a faint blue colour. At this time a gust of wind came on with such terrible violence, that windows were blown in, chimneys prostrated, while two doors, fastened with iron bars, were rent asunder in the timber yard of Messrs. Jas. Galavan & Co. The sheds were stripped of slates, and several piles of timber displaced. In fact the shock the inhabitants of New Ross experienced on Tuesday evening will never be obliterated from their recol-