

PAPERS BY THE PACKET.

INDIA AND CHINA.—Despatches have been received overland from India and China, with dates from Macao to the 12th of February, Calcutta to the 22d March, Bombay to the 1st, and Alexandria to the 2d of April.

CHINA.—The intelligence from China is of the most unsatisfactory character. Captain Elliot was wasting his time in negotiations, which, on the part of the Chinese, were evidently only employed to put off any decisive settlement of the question as long as possible.

Official despatches are published, in Friday's Gazette, detailing the destruction of the Chuenpee and Tycockto forts. Although the Chinese fought desperately, not one of the British force was killed in the engagement.

"This service has been performed with trifling loss on the part of her Majesty's forces, although it is but justice to the Chinese to say that they defended themselves, especially in the batteries, with the greatest credit and devotion; they have suffered severely; their loss, including that on board the war junks, cannot be estimated at less than from 500 to 600 out of a force calculated at 2,000 men.

INDIA.—From all parts of India the news is warlike. The affairs in Afghanistan appear of increasing importance. Shah Soojah, who was placed on the throne by the efforts of the British army, is described as intriguing in order to effect the expulsion of all auxiliary British troops from that country.

The Bombay army in Scinde has made a partial movement into the provinces around Quetta. Five thousand have passed through the Bolan, and four thousand remain in the Scinde provinces. In a late attack on the fort of Sebbee, belonging to the Kujjks, the folly of despising the enemy cost the lives of three European officers and of fifty sepoys.

The fire of the artillery commenced about two P.M. Shortly afterwards Colonel Wilson was wounded, and the command devolved on Captain Rollings. This officer, finding the cannonade did not produce the desired effect, ordered preparations to be made for an assault.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY, MAY 6. WAYS AND MEANS.—Lord J. Russell said, if he had considered the question as of a commercial or financial nature, he would have left it in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but it was a great national question—(cheers.)—one which would influence to all time the commercial policy of the country, and its financial conduct.

PERSIA.—The state of Persia is alarming. The present Shah is in delicate health, and incapable of managing his troops, who are unruly for want of pay. Russia has guaranteed the succession to the throne; and, notwithstanding, two of the Shah's uncles are ready to dispute it with his children and with each other; one of them is stationed near Bagdad, and the other on the frontiers of Afghanistan.

EGYPT.—From Alexandria we learn that Mehemet Ali continued his preparations for defence with unabated industry, though with less show than formerly. The artillerymen and workmen of the arsenal have been employed in carrying arms, powder, and ball, into the forts in and around the city; and the troops encamped under the walls are kept in a constant state of vigilance and exercise.

THE INSURRECTION IN CRETE.—Tahir Pacha was to sail from Constantinople at the end of April with a strong division of the Turkish fleet, amounting to 12 sail in all, and having on board 6000 troops, to attack the insurgents. The Malta Times says that "nothing less than the partial extermination of the Candioties will put the insurrection down, and it asks whether the Port will do this, or the protecting Christian powers allow it to be done."

SWEDEN.—One of the most extraordinary circumstances in the annals of a constitutional government has just occurred in Sweden. The Ministers of State there have been accused, not of having violated the laws of their country and abused their power, but of having brought the country to a state of unexampled prosperity.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY, MAY 6.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.—In answer to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Viscount Melbourne said that it was impossible for him to tell what might have been the terms agreed upon with the Government in China. But unquestionably her Majesty's Government had sent out information that if a definitive treaty should have been concluded, according to the preliminary articles which had been received by previous advices, such treaty would not be satisfactory to her Majesty's Government, and that they would not advise her Majesty to ratify such a treaty.

CORN-LAWS.—The Earl of Fitzwilliam, in presenting petitions from Leeds and other places against the Corn-laws, contended that every shilling which this country paid for corn more than it would do if the Corn-laws were repealed, was a tax upon the people for the benefit of the landowners, and ought promptly to be abolished.

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Mr. Hogg seconded the amendment. He knew not what internal monitor had suggested to Lord John Russell the probability of that charge against which he had defended himself unattacked—the charge that this sudden budget had been the offspring of the ministerial defeats. (Hear.) He could not help remembering other budgets. The last conservative budget showed a surplus of £1,500,000; the Whig budget of this year showed a deficiency to the same amount.

of slavery, had been the most successful experiment ever attempted for the relief of 800,000 of their fellow-creatures. It was impossible to read without gratification the accounts which continually reached him as to the improved condition of the negroes in the West Indies. (Hear.) The noble lord cited numerous instances, tending to show the remarkable improvement that had, within the last few years, taken place in the condition of the negroes. He then entered upon a description of the comparative distress endured by a large portion of the manufacturing population; and he would ask the representatives of England, he said, not to be so much misled as to sacrifice the interests of the people of this country, in order to preserve a monopoly for the benefit of those with whom the people of Bolton and Manchester would be but too happy to change places.

Lord Sandon rose to move an amendment to Lord John Russell's motion, that the house do go into committee of ways and means. Had this, he said, been a mere question of revenue, he would not have interfered, but even as a question of finance, the ministers had miscalculated. The measure they proposed would not raise the required revenue. This probable deficiency he showed from a variety of documentary references; and he proved the recent increase of our exports to those colonies in which free labour has been established.

Mr. James was himself the proprietor of a pretty large estate in Jamaica, but that should not prevent him from giving his vote in favour of her Majesty's government that night; though he was sorry that circumstances had compelled them to bring forward a measure that might make slavery and the slave trade more profitable than ever.

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likely to contribute to the maintenance of slavery. He was as much attached to his party as any man living, but the measure to which ministers now call on them to assent, was one that would lower them in the face of Europe, that would degrade them in the eyes of their own people, and it was one for which there existed no necessity.

Mr. Ewart rose at about a quarter before twelve, and was met by loud cries of "Divide!" and other marks of impatience. After vainly endeavouring for a few minutes to obtain silence, the hon. gentleman moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

CHINA.—In reply to Sir R. Peel, on the subject of China, Lord J. Russell said the state of the matter stands thus:—Accounts had been received of preliminary arrangements, which preliminary arrangements had not, by the latest intelligence possessed by the government, been ratified by the Emperor of China.

IN REPLY TO MR. HUME, Lord John Russell stated that Captain Elliot was recalled, and that Sir Henry Pottinger would immediately go out with the appointment of chief commissioner in China. On the subject of Egypt, and its relations with Turkey, he declined to enter.

MAY 12.—LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords, the business was unimportant.

In the House of Commons, the adjourned Debate on the Sugar Duties was resumed by Mr. Macaulay, who denied the introduction of the slave-grown sugar was inconsistent with anti-slavery principles. What principle was it, which allowed a man to wear slave-grown cotton on his feet, but forbade him to put slave-grown sugar into his mouth? We were bound to suppress slavery in our own dominions, but we had no right to interfere with the internal slavery of the other states.

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1841.

The Steamship ACADIA arrived at Halifax on Monday the 31st ult. in 12 days from Liverpool. The letter bag for this Island was received here early on Wednesday morning, having been forwarded from Picout immediately on its arrival there, by the Pocahontas, steamer.

The Acadia brought London dates to the 18th and Liverpool to the 19th May.

The debate in the House of Commons on the Ministerial proposition for reducing the duty on Foreign Sugars, was protracted for eight nights, and had not terminated on the 18th. Little doubt seemed to be entertained that Ministers will be in a minority. The state of the Corn Laws, and the revision of the Import duties on Timber, were subjects which were also about to undergo discussion, provided the Ministry held out, which by many is considered a doubtful point.

Capt. Elliot, the British Commissioner at China, is recalled, his proceedings not being approved of by Government. A renewal of hostilities with the Chinese is far from being an improbable event.

Nothing has been heard of the President Steamer. Fears respecting her fate are sadly confirmed.

To the kindness of Capt. Douglas, of the Steamer Unicorn which arrived here on Monday, in 58½ hours from Quebec, we are indebted for a Quebec paper of the 28th ult. The new Parliament of Canada was to meet at Kingston on the 12th June. His Excellency the Governor General had proceeded thither.

QUEBEC, May 28. His Excellency the Governor General left Montreal for Kingston on Wednesday; and, we believe, nearly all those connected with the Civil Departments of Montreal or Quebec have already gone or are on the point of their departure for the same place, with the books and papers, and in some cases, even with the furniture of their offices.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—Yesterday afternoon, H. M. Troopship Athol, P. C. Bellamy, Commander, arrived in port, from Barbadoes, in 26 days, having sailed on the 1st inst, at 8 o'clock, P. M. She has on board three Companies of the 70th Regiment.

H. M. Troop-ship Sapphire also sailed from Barbadoes at the same time with the other half of the 70th Regiment. The Cornwall and the Somersetshire, transports, with the 74th Regt.; the Bogue and the Prince Regent, transports, with the 14th Regiment, sailed from Barbadoes six hours before the Athol. The Abercrombie, transport, was to sail from Barbadoes on the 2d May, with the whole of the 89th Regiment on board.

The 14th, 68th, 70th, 74th and 89th Regiments, which are coming out here from the West Indies, relieve the 24th, 32d, 34th, 65th and 73d Regiments, ordered home.

A part of Cape Diamond fell recently, burying eight houses in the ruins. At last accounts the dead, by this dreadful accident, amounted to 32. The catastrophe is attributed to the action of the streams and frost, and encroachments of builders at the base of the precipice.

Seed time has almost passed, and the Snow was on each side the river late in May.

The St. Lawrence had spring vessels in hundreds, approaching Quebec. 314 vessels had arrived within four days.

Sir John Harvey and suite left Halifax for England in the Steamer Britannia on the 29th ult. Sir John is accompanied by Lady Harvey, Lieut. Harvey, of the 34th Regiment, his Aide, and Captain Nugent, of the 36th Regiment, late Military Secretary at Frederickton.

The state of the health of the Honble. Chief Justice Jarvis rendering a voyage to England necessary, he took his departure on Saturday last, in the Steamer Pocahontas, for Picout, from whence he will proceed to Halifax, to take his passage in the first Steamer from that port, on a leave of absence of three months. The Hon. R. Hodgson has been accordingly appointed to officiate as Chief Justice in his absence, and has The Hon. J. H. Peters is appointed acting Attorney General, and Henry Palmer, Esq., Acting Judge of Probate, in the room of Mr. Hodgson. It is not, at present, intended, we