NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Russian and Austrian newspapers contradict the report, that Odessa was to be made a free port, and they add that docks and shipbuilding establishments for the construction of merchant vessels are to be immediately commenced at Sebastopol on a very extensive scale.

THE COMMERCE OF LIBERIA.—From facts recently published, it appears that the important and constantly increasing commerce of Liberia and the west coast of Africa is rapidly passing from the hands of Americans into the control of the English. The diminution of the slavetrade has been followed by the substitution of legitimate cargoes, and the export of goods from Great Britain has remarkably increased. It is said that there are one hundred ships and steamers, varying from two hundred to upwards of one thousand tons burthen, trading between English ports and the coast of Africa. Ex-President Roberts, of Liberia, states that most of the supplies of merchandise of every description go from England.—The only articles going from America, are, flour, beef, pork, tobacco, herrings, mackerel, and some few cotton goods, but this latter article is constantly diminishing. England furnishes salt, crockery ware, cotton, woollen, linen and silk goods, metals of all kinds, hardware, and all other articles required for a rising and rapidly growing commerce. The palm oil trade is expanding rapidly, and yet is unable to meet the increased demand in England. Only a few years ago, there was not an export of one thousand gallons per annum from Monrovia, but now it has swelled to at least seven hundred thousand gallons. The trade in ground nuts in France is becoming of great importance, and so it is with all the other articles of African produce, the demand for which in England, France, and Germany is far greater than the supply. Western Africa is believed to contain fifty millions of inhabitants, and the natural products of the country are rich and varied, comprising gold, ivory, coffee, sugar, dyes, fruits, nuts, woods, &c. No better field could be asked for commercial enterprise.

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ITALY.

On the 2nd instant, the Pope and the King of Naples had an interview at Porto d'Anzio. It is said that these sovereigns have agreed to resist the aggressive policy of tho Western Powers.

The Archbishop of Florence is dead.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* at Turin, writing on the 4th instant, says that the Austrians will succeed in causing premature outbreaks. At Massa, on the borders of Modena and Lucca, an Austrian commission has condemned more than seventy Italians for supposed political crimes. The names of nine who are condemned to twenty years' imprisoment are given, among whom are three land proprietors and one artist, all with wives and families. Among the condemned is Giovanni Calzolari, a native of Piedmont, residing in the Duchy of Modena; consequently the Austrians, who have no legal jurisdiction in Modena, have committed a great outrage on Piedmont in sentencing one of her subjects to twenty years' imprisonment. The writer calls on the Government, of England and France to see fair play, and asserts that, if they demand the instant liberation of this man, 'more good will be done, and more Austrian oppression in Italy will be prevented, than can be accomlished by a cartload of protocols.'"

RETURN OF THE GUARDS TO LONDON.—On Wednesday the 9th inst., after an absence of nearly two years and a half, the three battalions of the Guards, engaged in the late war in the East, re-entered London in triumph. A more heart-rending scene has rarely been witnessed.

Well did these brave men deserve the hearty tribute of admiration and applause which their countrymen were so eager to bestow upon them; for in all the long catalogue of brilliant service which the military annals of England unfold, there is none brighter or more glorious than that performed by the Guards in the late war. One of the most eloquent historians of their exploits in the Crimea (witnessing their entrance into London on Wednesday) thus speaks of the manner in which they acquitted themselves when in front of the enemy:—"During twenty-eight months they have gained more glory and endured more hardship and suffering than perhaps has ever, during the same period, fallen to the lot of any regiments since standing armies were first adopted by the powers of Europe. They have not only trebled their own great renown, but in the midst of military oversights and administrative failures, they have conferred a lustre on our national reputation, which, but for the exertions of our troops individually, would have been sadly clouded. When at one time ruin appeared to threaten the whole allied expedition, and when the English nation was bowed down with shame at the conduct of its rulers, the quiet fortitude, and enduring courage of the English soldiers formed the only bright spot in that gloomy picture. Then it was, that the reputation of the Guards rose higher and brighter than all. Then it was, that the brigade was called upon—not in words, though in fact, to sacrifice itself to the exigencies of its untoward position; and it obeyed without a murmur, even to the death." Again he says:—"Would we could think that the troops who dared so much were the same with the men whom London has so triumphantly welcomed back; but unfortunately it is not so. The real Crimean Guards have left successors, but few survivors to partake their crowning honors. Of the 3,400 Guards who left England in February 1854, less than 300 have returned. For the rest, many are laid among the picturesque hills which overlook the fatal swamps of Varna—many beside the surf which rolls on the wild beach of Kalamita—many repose in their glory under the heights of Alma—and hundreds by hundreds lay in the deep square pits on the black ridges of Inkermann. Seventy per cent. of the Guards, it computed, have thus left their homes in the land which their courage has saved." But in speaking of the ovation of Wednesday last, we need not ask what proportion of the men saw the beginning of the war, or even took part in the great battles of Alma and Inkerman. They who marched before the Palace had, at least, all seen the Crimea, and had nearly all taken some part in the siege.

It is said that the late Emperor Nicholas has left a manuscript work on the political and other events of his reign, and that, by his direction, it is to be published five years after his death.

The preliminary works for the erection of a monument to the Emperor Nicholas at St. Petersburg have commenced. It is to be composed of an equestrian statue on a lofty pedestal, the four sides of which will represent in basso-relievo the four most remarkable events of that Sovereign's reign.

Late from California.

CALIFORFIA.—The Steamer Illinois arrived at New York at noon on the 27th, bringing California dates of July 5, and Panama and Aspinwall to the 19th. She had on board $1,650,000 in treasure. The Illinois connected with the steamer John L. Stephen, which brought down upwards of $2,000,000 in treasure. The J. L. Stephens spoke on her passing, the Sierra Nevada on the 12th, and the Sonora on the 17th. both bound up.

Advices from San Francisco indicate that the State authorities had apparently determined to make no farther resistance to the Vigilance Committee.

The startling event of the week was the stabbing of S. R. Hopkins, by Judge David S. Terry, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Hopkins proceeded to the office of Dr. Ashe, Navy Agent. for the purpose of arresting J. R. Maloney, charged with attempting to convey munitions of war to the city for the use of the State. Judge Terry, being present, interfered to protect Maloney, and, together with others, formed an armed party to escort Maloney to the Dupont street armory. Hopkins collected assistance, and attacked the other party in the streets. A struggle ensued, in the course of which Terry stabbed Hopkins with a bowie-knife, who fell senseless. The news of this melee was immediately communicated to the Executive of the Committee, which was then in session, and a general alarm was sounded for the rally of the committee troops. In fifteen minutes, one regiment of infantry two companies of cavalry, and five companies of artillery were in motion.

In the meantime, Maloney and his party had taken refuge in a brick building, well guarded and fortified. This building was invested on all sides by the Committee troops, and the inmates ordered to surrender. They obeyed without hesitation, and Maloney and Terry were conveyed prisoners to the head quarters of the Committee.

At the same time, the armories of the State troops were invested, and forced to surrender to the Committee. One hundred of the State troops were taken prisoners, but subsequently released on parole.

At the latest dates, Judge Terry was still in custody of the Committee, and Hopkins was still alive.

On the same day Hopkins was stabbed, two vessels freighted with arms for the State authorities, were seized in the Bay, by armed vessels belonging to the Committee. Subsequently J. L. Durkee, commander of one of these vessels of the Committee, was arrested by federal officers, and held in $25,000 on charge of piracy.

The Committe disclaim any intention to oppose the federal authorities.

Much indignation is manifested at San Francisco relative to the bill before Congress, for quieting land titles in California, said to have been introduced by Herbert.

On the day following the stabbing of Hopkins, the committee arrested a notorious gambler named Dan. Aldridge.

Hopkins was, at last accounts, considered out of danger.

The evil effects of the disturbance at San Francisco are becoming evident. Business is in a languishing condition, and it is only at greatly advanced rates that money can be negotiated. Our merchants and other men of business know better than we possibly can the condition of such matters; but that the *complaint* of dulness is universal, we have had plain demonstration. This is not the worst of the evil. Our mercantile relations will become daily more complicated, until order shall have been restored. The time is not far distant, when those persons who now are our bitterest enemies will thank us for the conservative policy we have pursued.—*Sacramento Journal.*

MURDERS IN CALIFORNIA.—It is stated that there have been fourteen hundred murders in San Francisco in the last seven years. There have been murders enough, undoubtedly, and other crimes of every kind; but this number is increased by the exceedingly reprehensible practice said to have been introduced by the coroners of murdering a man several times over for the sake of the inquest fees.

A part of San Francisco is built upon piles over the water, and in some of the streets are occasional openings or traps. By chucking a dead body down one of these, a subject is made for the coroner. The body floats out, is picked up, duly sat upon, a verdict of "found drowned" rendered, and then it is poked down again, and so kept in lively requisition as long as it will last. Occasionally, when trade is dull, we suppose a live man is sent down. This practice, with the cases that come legitimately before him, keeps the coroner in pretty active employment, and make his office a very desirable one; while the sum total of murders is swelled to an amount that corresponds with the general exaggerations which form the peculiar type of California society.—*Providence Journal.*

A Query for Sceptics.—Is geology to be credited when she asserts that mankind have for thousands of years maintained their existence on a crust?

Unprofitable.—The secretary of an American institution made the following entery on the minutes:—"After gwine through the yewzel fowms, there was a colleksllun taked up, but nothin' was taked in."

TWO GREAT EVENTS.—Under this head an American editor announces, "The Empress of France has got a baby, and my wife has got another."

PRINCE COUNTY BRANCH ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Report of past year to July 7, 1856.

Your committe in reporting for the past year have again to acknowledge the blessings showered down upon us by the Almighty, in abundant crops of every description raised on the Island.

The report given by the Judges of the wheat crop, was, "that the fields examined by them, were so much injured by the Hessian fly and wevil—more so than ever they knew to be in this County before, yet we are happy to state, the crop—in average—was equal to other seasons of late.

The potato crop— we need not tell you—was superior to any we have had for many years, and we trust in Providence, the blight in that valuable and nutrituous root, will be but a thingspoken ofand gone by.

The Turnip crop exceeded that of 1854, which surpassed *all* previous years they have been grown on the Island, by 1361 bushels more, from six acres which received premiums, than the six acres of the former year having the same premiums.

The Hay crop was superior to any we have had for many years, and every appearance of a still more abundant crop this year.

The sale of clover seed this season, is not equal to that of last, owing to the enormous advance in price, being fifty per cent on white, and about twenty on 'red' which has almost excluded nonsubscribers from purchasing. Another reason, is that more seed has been raised by individuals who could afford to sell it at a less price than the Society's.

For the reasons given above and a deficiency in the amount of subscriptions, also retailing some of the seeds at a less advance than formerly, as your Committee considered your fund would allow—the balance Sheet does not show the same progress this year in favour of the Branch, as it has done since the present Secretary has been in office—still we are progressing. The Balance in favour of the Branch in 1854 being £60 5s. 4d. and for the past year £60 17s. 6d.

The Reports and accounts being passed unanimously the appointment of officers for the current year took place as follows:—

Mr. George Jones, President, T. L. McNutt, Vice President

COMMITTEE.—Wm. Jamieson, Esq., Arthur Ramsey, Esq., Benj. Bearisto, Esq., Jas. Bearisto, Esq., John Townsend, Esq., Mr. Thos. Cairns, sen., H. C. Green, Esq., Wm. Bearisto, Esq., Benj. Darby, Esq., Mr. Robert M'Nutt, Jas. Campbell, Esq., Mr. Wm. S. Williams.

Persons chosen as eligible for Secretary and Treasruer for His Excellency's selection of one.

James J. Fraser, James Cambbell, Esq., James C. Pope, Esq.

A vote of thanks was unanimously given to the president for his untiring exertions in forwarding the Branch.

Mr. Jones as President then took the chair Moved and carried—That the report and proceedings of the Branch be published in all the Island papers.

Resolved—That the Secretary for the Branch correspond with the Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society relative to the disposal of the turnip seed remaining on hand.

Prince County Branch of the Royal Agricultural Society in Account with James J. Fraser.

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1856	To Cash balance July 2d.	£56	4	11	By Cash &c. paid Royal Agricultural Society	£29	0	4
1856 July 7th	Amount of Sales to date	130	13	9	Timothy - -	5	6	0
	Subscriptions for 1855	22	11	9	Incidental expenses	8	6	1
	Balance	26	2	3	Prizes, commission & carriage of seeds to Princetown depot	21	8	6
					Secretary & Treasurer's salary	15	0	0
					Cash in hand -	156	11	9
		£235	12	8		£235	12	8

Prince County Branch in Account with Royal Agricultural Society.

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1855	To balance due July 2d	£77	16	2	By stock in hand	243	11	7
1856 July 7th	Seeds, Implements, Live Stock and insurance,	310	10	0	Cash &c.	29	0	4
					Royal Agricultural Society's Grant	20	0	0
					Cash to balance	95	14	3
		£388	6	2		388	6	2

Cash in favour of Branch £60 17s. 6d.

JAMES J. FRASER,
Secretary and Treasurer