

NEWS BY THE LAST ENGLISH MAIL.

WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND CHINA.

A serious collision has taken place at Canton between the British authorities and Yeh, the Chinese Governor-General. A lorchia under the British flag at anchor off Canton was boarded on the 8th Oct. by a Chinese force, and 12 of the crew seized. Consul Parkes proceeded on board, and was insulted and threatened with violence. The remonstrances made to Yeh were treated with contempt. On the 21st of October the matter was placed in the hands of Admiral Seymour. Hostile measures commenced on the 24th of October. The forts of Canton were taken, and several of them destroyed.

Yeh persisted in rejecting Admiral Seymour's demands for satisfaction, or even an interview. On the 27th Oct. fire was opened on the city walls and on the Governor's palace. The city walls were breached and stormed on the 22nd Oct. The troops penetrated to the Palace, but were withdrawn in the evening. The loss was 3 killed and 12 wounded.

Attempts at negotiation continued fruitless, and on the 31 and 4th of November the old city was bombarded. On the 6th of November 23 war junks were attacked by the Barracotta, and all destroyed. Time was again granted to the Chinese, but no signs were given of submission.

According to the last accounts the Bogue forts had been captured. The factories had been almost totally vacated by the foreign community. Property to a large amount had been destroyed by fire. Commerce was at a standstill.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The intercourse between the British authorities and the Governor of Canton has for some time been embarrassed with growing difficulties, the result of the unredressed grievances of British merchants. On the 8th of October the Chinese authorities consummated their career of arbitrary violence by seizing a lorchia under British colours, and making prisoners of the crew. It is stated on good authority that they cut off the heads of four of the crew. The Counsel, Mr. Parkes, the British agent on the spot, proceeded first on board the lorchia, and afterwards endeavoured to obtain an interview with the mandarins. On board the lorchia he was menaced, and the mandarins refused to give any kind of explanation of the proceeding. The river in front of Canton is rather broader than the Thames at London-bridge, but the depth of water does not exceed two fathoms, while the narrow passages by which access is gained to it on the eastern side of the island of Whampoa have a depth not exceeding a fathom and a half. The city is externally guarded by five forts, of which two are on the land side and two on Pearl river. These were attacked and taken by our countrymen on the 24th of Oct. An attempt was then made by Admiral Seymour to terminate the difficulty without further hostilities, but the Chinese Governor would neither give satisfaction nor grant an interview to the British Commander. Admiral Seymour then determined to attack the city itself. A wall, composed partly of sandstone and partly of brick, surrounds Canton; it is about 30 feet high and 25 feet thick, and is mounted with cannon. Against this wall a fire was opened on the 27th of October, and by the 29th a practicable breach had been opened through which the troops entered. The Imperialist garrison of Canton was in a very weakened state. The governor had raised the pay of common soldiers from six to eight dollars a month. Kowloon-foo, the capital of the adjoining province of Kwangsi, was closely invested by the insurgents, who, it was thought, would probably attack the Manchow governor as soon as his new embarrassments became known. Our fleet of war ships in the Chinese Seas at this particular time large, as will be seen by the following list:—

At HONG KONG.—H.M.S. Calcutta, 84, Capt. Hall; Winchester, 50, Capt. Wilson; Coromandel, 3, Lieut. Nares; Hercules and Minden, Hospital ships.

At WHAMPWA.—H.M.S. Sybille, 40, Commodore Elliot; Encounter, 14, Capt. O'Callaghan; Bittern, 12, Capt. Bate; Sampson, 6, Capt. Hand; Comus, 14, Capt. Jenkins.

At CANTON.—H.M.S. Barracotta, 6, Capt. Fortescue.

At WOSUNG.—H.M.S. Pique, 36, Capt. Sir F. W. Nicolson; Hornet, 17, Capt. Forsyth.

The sloop Comus has lost eight of her guns, which her commander was compelled to throw overboard in a tempest in the Formosa Channel. Admiral Seymour only arrived at Hong-Kong from his northern cruise ten days before the commission of the outrage which he is engaged in avenging.

The man who "drew Priam's curtains at the dead of night, and told him half his Troy was burnt," was doubtless an abrupt and ill-bred person, little versed in the language of Courts, and extremely distasteful to the awakened Royalty of Ilium. He did not break the news, but blurted it out all at once, and no doubt gave his listener a shock which he had not quite recovered from when the lance of Pyrrhus put an end to his existence. Such an abrupt and unmannerly messenger is in modern times the electric telegraph, which without caring whose feelings it may shock, whose sympathies it may wound, or whose nerves it may shake, blurs out its message with blunt, unmannerly brevity, leaving us to swallow it as well we may. On Sunday night every citizen in this metropolis went to bed in the profound conviction that, though things might look squally in Switzerland and warlike in Persia, we were enjoying with the Celestial Empire, at any rate, the most profound and unbroken peace. On Monday we awoke to the sudden conviction that we had taken and destroyed the forts, breached and stormed the walls, and bombarded the city of Canton, and were probably preparing something more in the way of bringing our dispute with the Chinese authorities to a point. The first feeling that every one must experience on reading the account so bluntly and abruptly conveyed to us of all this slaughter and desolation must be one of regret that anything should have occurred to render so strenuous an appeal to armed force necessary; and, secondly, a hope that enough has been done to render anything more of the same kind superfluous. There is no appearance of haste in these transactions; and the British Admiral appears to have acted with all proper forbearance. It was on the 8th of October that the Chinese authorities, on what pretence we are not apprised, boarded a vessel bearing the British flag anchored off Canton, took away twelve of her crew, and insulted and even threatened with violence the British Consul, who went on board the ship to remonstrate against their conduct. It appears that remonstrance was then made to Yeh, the Governor-General of Canton, and treated with the utmost contempt. Negotiations seem to have continued until the 21st—that is, for a period of 13 days, before the matter was handed over to the Admiral; nor does the Admiral appear to have acted precipitately, for it was only on the 24th that hostile measures were commenced, on which day we are informed that the forts of Canton were taken, and several of them destroyed. Time was again given to Governor-General Yeh to reconsider his position, but he seems to have been more contemptuous than ever, for not only did he reject Admiral Seymour's proposition, but even refused to grant him an interview. After an interval of two clear days, on the 27th of October, fire was opened on the town and the Governor's palace. Breaches were made and stormed with trifling loss on the 29th, and the troops penetrated to the Governor's palace, but were withdrawn in the evening. As the loss was only three killed and 12 wounded we may fairly conclude that the retirement of the troops was not owing to any overpowering force, but to motives of prudence, grounded on the obvious danger of exposing a handful of men to surprise, to fire, or to explosion, or to the risk of having their retreat cut off in the midst of one of the most populous and closely built capitals in the world. Again attempts were made at negotiation, and

a period of four days was allowed to elapse, in hopes, no doubt, that the chastisement already inflicted and the misery it must have caused would bend the stubborn will of the Chinese authorities, especially as the attack was directed against that very quarter, of the town, the southern district, in which Yeh himself resided. Negotiations again failing, the old city was bombarded on the 3d and 4th of November. In a town so thickly inhabited, containing more than a million and a half of inhabitants, the effect of a bombardment must have been dreadful, and the loss of life enormous. We hear only, however, of the loss of property by fire. Again a pause of one day seems to have occurred, and then 23 war-junks were attacked, and all sunk. As the fleet cannot approach nearer to Canton than 15 miles, these operations must have been performed by small craft and land forces, and the only assistance that the fleet was able to render seems to have been the destruction of the forts at the mouth of the river, which have been so often destroyed or captured by British fleets. The operations seem to have been performed with vigour and promptitude, and to have comprehended in a few days almost as much fighting and destroying as took place in the course of the whole last Chinese war. Assuming the collision to be inevitable, the stoppage of commerce at this moment is peculiarly unfortunate. The failure of silk in Southern Europe rendered the Chinese export especially valuable, and anything which tends to raise the price of tea is a matter of importance to every family in this country. At the same time, it must not be supposed that Canton is, as it once was, the principal tea-market in China. The following figures show that in the year 1855 Canton was the third, and in 1856 the second, entrepot for the exportation of tea:—

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH OF JUNE, 1855.

Table with 2 columns: Location, Tea, lbs. Canton: 16,123,800; Foo-chow-Foo: 19,512,800; Shanghai: 50,872,400.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH OF JUNE, 1856.

Table with 2 columns: Location, Tea, lbs. Canton: 30,404,400; Foo-chow-Foo: 26,764,700; Shanghai: 34,762,700.

We sincerely wish it were in our power to devise any means to prevent the occurrence of these periodical collisions, the effects of which, while caused by the folly or insolence of the Government, fall with such deplorable severity on the wretched people, who have no share in promoting them. Canton, in the neighbourhood of which we have placed our military and naval depot, seems to be the place least adapted for a point of contact between European and Chinese civilization of any portion of the empire. The climate is tropical and unhealthy, the people turbulent and cruel, the city inaccessible to ships, and situated quite at the south of the empire. It is evident that our relations with China require an entire and thorough readjustment, and it is well worth considering whether some step could not be taken to remove our settlement to a spot nearer the districts where the main staples of the country are produced, where the climate is comparatively temperate, and our position would command the mouth of the great river. It has always been considered a lamentable oversight that we gave up Chusan for Hong Kong; as the Chinese force upon us a reconsideration of the subjects, it may not possibly be too late to amend the error.

THE DEATH OF HUGH MILLER.

A post-mortem examination of the body of Hugh Miller has been made at his house in Portobello, by professor Miller, and other medical gentlemen. The following is the conclusion to which they have come:—"The cause of death we found to be a pistol shot through the left side of the chest, and this we are satisfied was inflicted by his own hand. From the diseased appearances found in the brain, taken in connexion with the history of the case, we have no doubt that the act was suicidal, under the impulse of insanity." The following few lines to his wife, found written on a folio sheet lying on the table, give painful evidence of the awful intensity of the disease:—

"Dearest Lydia, My brain burns. I must have walked; and a fearful dream arises upon me. I cannot bear the horrible thought. God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me. Dearest Lydia, dear children, farewell. My brain burns as the recollection grows. My dear, dear wife, farewell. HUGH MILLER."

Correspondence.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY INSTITUTE.

Mr. Editor:—An anonymous letter appeared in your paper some few weeks since, signed "Omega," avowing the existence of a Society, entitled the "Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute," under the patronage of Rev. Thomas Phelan, P.P. This communication excited considerable attention in our city. The Hon. Charles Young, LL.D., a gentleman ever forward in promoting the cause of literature and the fine arts, wrote to Rev. Mr. Phelan, wishing to know if such was the fact, and, if so, desired to see a copy of the rules and regulations. The Rev. gentleman promptly responded, and forwarded to him a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the institution. Mr. Young, in return, expressed himself "very much pleased with the rules, &c." adding, "As I see nothing to prevent me from becoming an honorary member, may I ask the favor of your proposing it to the Institute," "and upon receiving notice thereof, I will be happy not only to send you three pounds [the prescribed fee constituting an honorary member], but also make a donation of books towards the Library." This generous offer being communicated to the Institute, a vote of thanks was given; Mr. Young was unanimously elected an honorary member, and a committee appointed to wait upon him with an Address, informing him of the facts. The Committee accordingly waited upon the Hon. gentleman; were kindly received, and presented him with the following Address:—

"CHARLOTTETOWN, Jan. 27, 1857.

"HONORED SIR:—At a meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute, held on Thursday evening, Jan. 22d, 1857, the correspondence which passed between yourself and our Patron, the Rev. Thomas Phelan, was submitted to that body, and elicited its grateful praise and thanks.

"The following resolution was unanimously adopted:— 'Resolved, That the following persons do constitute a Committee, and are hereby instructed, to wait upon Hon. CHARLES YOUNG, LL.D., and respectfully intimate to him, that (pursuant to his request) he has been elected an honorary member of this Institute:— 'JOHN J. McDONALD, President; THOMAS KIRWAN, Vice President; RONALD WALKER.'

"In the performance of this our agreeable duty, we beg leave to say, on behalf of the 'C. Y. M. L. I.' that this unexpected notice you have been pleased to take of us, and the kindly interest you manifest in our humble endeavors to promote the dissemination of knowledge,—overstepping, as it does, the narrow bounds of sectarian prejudice, which nothing but a philanthropic spirit and a love of learning could accomplish,—has created within us the most heartfelt gratitude towards your person, and a hope that you may long live to reap the rewards of such disinterested benevolence.

"We cannot take leave, honored Sir, without expressing our thanks for the generous proffer of books you have been pleased to make our Institute; and beg to add, that, as

"This education forms the common mind,"

there is nothing we so much desire as good and useful works.

We have at present in our Library a collection of some of the best standard authors, embracing History, Philosophy, Poetry and translations from the Classics, and nothing gives us greater pleasure than adding to its quantity and quality.

"With the best wishes for your health, and that of your accomplished lady, we have the honor to subscribe ourselves, respectfully,

"Your obedient servants, "JOHN J. McDONALD, THOMAS KIRWAN, RONALD WALKER."

When the following reply was received:—

"CHARLOTTETOWN, Jan. 27, 1857.

"GENTLEMEN:—I feel highly gratified at the very handsome manner in which you have conveyed to me the resolution, unanimously adopted by the 'Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute,' electing me an honorary member of their society.

"Ever since my arrival in this, my adopted land, I have felt a lively interest in the dissemination of Literary and Scientific knowledge among all classes of the community; and I have always manifested a disposition to co-operate with those who had this useful object in view.

"So soon as I ascertained that your Institute was in being; and so soon as I learned from its Constitution that it was so entirely free from sectarian prejudice in its organization, I then felt a desire to render it such aid as was in my power; and I now have the pleasure of handing to you the sum of three pounds, and books of a corresponding value.

"I trust that the young men, who have so creditably banded themselves together for mutual improvement, will see their Institute flourish, far beyond their most sanguine expectations; and that on every succeeding year, it will abound more and more in usefulness and prosperity.

"I am, gentlemen, "Your obedient servant, "CHARLES YOUNG."

"Messrs. John J. McDonald, Thomas Kirwan, and Ronald Walker."

The Institute cannot but feel grateful to Hon. Mr. Young, who has thus liberally come forward in its support; nor can the fact be omitted that Hon. E. Whelan, who was one of the first to apply for an honorary membership, has also come forward handsomely to give it his support.

But I must not omit mentioning how much the Institute is indebted to the noble and prompt activity and goodness of its Patron, the Rev. Mr. Phelan, who was the first to nourish its existence, and to whom it is indebted for the room in which its meetings are held, besides many other good offices.

The Institute numbers at present well on to thirty members; has a Library of one hundred and fifty volumes, of choice standard works, and needs nothing but the hearty support and co-operation of all good Catholics,—who would wish to see their children and young friends do well,—to make it rival the best institutions of the kind in this Colony. On behalf of the Institute,

Jan. 31, 1857. R. B. REID, Secretary.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., FEBRUARY 2, 1857.

EDUCATION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

WE make the following extract from the report of a lecture on "The Emigration Fields of Great Britain," recently delivered by P. L. Simmonds, Esq., of London, before the Cheltenham Atheneum, of which Dr. Humphreys, formerly Head Master of our Central Academy, is the President. The report appears in the Cheltenham Free Press of the 20th December:—

New Brunswick and Canada are the North American Colonies to which emigrants have hitherto proceeded in the largest number; but he could not pass over Prince Edward Island, which had been greatly overlooked. Of this island their excellent President could tell them much more than he could do, as Dr. Humphreys's name had stood high in colonial estimation there, and been familiar to him from its frequent honorable mention in various ways, long before he had made his personal acquaintance. In that island the soil is uniformly good; all the crops that grow in England yield plentiful returns, and ripen in great perfection. In British America, all who have with persevering industry and frugality applied themselves to the cultivation of forest lands, have, with few exceptions, succeeded in acquiring the means of comfortable independence, and all that is requisite to render rural life happy.

On a motion being made to give the lecturer a vote of thanks, the President, Dr. Humphreys, is reported to have spoken as follows:—

The President, in putting the motion, observed that as the lecturer had so unexpectedly alluded to that colony with which he himself (the President) had been connected, he felt bound to make one or two observations, and, firstly, he would express his belief, that for a certain class of emigrants, which he would afterwards define, no colony connected with the British Empire offered equal advantages. The class he referred to consisted of those who derived a small but certain income from the mother country, for the rate of exchange would double their incomes, while all the necessities of life were very cheap, and the climate was exceedingly healthful—so much so that the inhabitants were noted for longevity of life. Nor must he omit to add that education received a more than ordinary attention in this little colony, as a proof of which he might mention that while the entire revenue last year was only about £50,000, the legislature had appropriated no less than £14,000 to the support of public education. Having for a considerable time been at the head of the educational board there, he felt warranted in saying that the mother country herself might, without shame, take a warning and example in this great point of education from that little colony. In reference to the North American colonies generally, Dr. H. said he was very glad to hear Mr. Simmonds express the opinions he had uttered. Having studied the subject with considerable care, he had no hesitation in saying that to the farmer and the hardy sons of toil who wished to secure an independence for themselves and children, and were willing to work hard for it, the Canadas presented as good an emigration field as could be desired, much better, in his opinion, than either the United States on the one hand, or Australia and California on the other. The President then presented the thanks of the meeting by acclamation to Mr. Simmonds.

It is sad to reflect that attempts are being now made in our midst to destroy our pre-eminence in regard to education. After all the pains that have been taken to perfect our system of public instruction—the noblest that has ever yet been established in any part of the Queen's dominions—it is really too bad to see the fair edifice threatened with annihilation at the hands of individuals who should be the readiest and the most zealous to defend it. In civilized warfare there are some institutions which challenge the respect or forbearance of the belligerents on both sides. Education is one of these. A respect for literature has been known to disarm the rapacity even of banditti. Yet, so intent on storming the public offices are the old Ascendancy Party of this Island, that they will not spare our school-houses! And should they succeed in their unholy task, who can calculate the amount of injury, material and moral, which will result to our hitherto happy Colony? One-third of our revenue frittered away on separate schools—religious and national prejudices, which were fast dying out, revived among our people; for to this it must come at last, unless the Liberal Protestants see through the political dodge which is attempted to be played off on them. That the Party which believes that they were born to rule, and all else in this Island born only to be ruled by them—that this Party should resort to any means likely to further their ends—is what any one at all who knows the kind of men of which it is

composed, would naturally expect. They are the men of Ascendancy, and ascendancy can only be re-established by misrepresentation and injustice. But we confess there is one phase of the present excitement which has taken us completely by surprise, and which we think will excite the surprise and indignation of our readers also. It is this. Some of the officers who had been entrusted by the Government with the administration of the educational department have been foremost in fanning the flame, at first in private; but, emboldened by impunity, afterwards took the lead at Indignation Meetings! Yes, the very employees of Government. To such a length did they proceed, that a paper belonging to their Department had been copied, circulated and read by themselves at public meetings! We shall not stop to characterize such conduct. They must have reckoned largely on the forbearance—or weakness of the present Government. Beyond a certain point forbearance manifests either weakness or culpable neglect; and after the fullest consideration of this matter, we think this point has already been reached. Such being our opinion, our duty as a public journalist requires that we thus candidly state it. Indeed, a member of the Board of Education who can characterize so large and peaceable a portion of our people as the Roman Catholics are, as "the Common Enemy," is better fitted for office under the Palmer Administration than under the present.

THE SERMON.

On last Thursday evening the Rev. D. Fitzgerald preached a Charity Sermon in the Temperance Hall. Fears were beginning to be entertained that this amiable clergyman's zeal was cooling down. It was observed with regret that even the last Fifth of November had failed to enkindle his enthusiasm. His sermon on this occasion must have dissipated all doubts. He took his text from the thirteenth chapter of John, 34th and 35th verses:—"A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another; as I have loved you, so you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another."

We regret exceedingly our inability to give our country readers extracts from the discourse itself; and an outline, however able, could not do it full justice. Suffice it to say, that the well-known benevolent expression of the reverend gentleman's countenance—his habitual sauvy of manner, aided by an insinuating and rich-toned voice, were all in admirable keeping with, and lent an additional charm to, the sentiments to which he gave utterance. That remarkable kind of charity which breathed through the whole sermon, has been thought by some to be peculiar to certain parts of Scotland and Ireland, and the Welsh border in England. They go so far as to say, that it can no more be acclimated in the New World than the rattle-snakes on the borders of Lough Erne. On this hypothesis we are ourselves at present unable to pronounce, but shall watch with interest to see what kind of fruit the seed sown with such care on Thursday evening may produce.

Some misapprehensions regarding the benevolent intentions of the reverend gentleman must have gone abroad, for two of the managers applied to the Mayor for a Police force to be stationed in the Hall; and it must be confessed that the benevolent preacher who flourished on this occasion has the credit of being the first, at least in this Colony, to wring charity from his hearers through fear of the constable's baton. The congregation itself—unmindful of the sacred character of the meeting, instead of melting hearts and moist eyes—kept tramping as folk are wont to do at the Mechanics' Institute, when any thing strikes them as being very ridiculous. Such is the strength of local associations, that every one seemed to fancy it must be a meeting of the Political Alliance. A certain employee of the Tory Government—and to whom Responsible Government has given plenty of leisure to attend public meetings—was lavish in his plaudits. Ever and anon he would exclaim—"Go it! Isn't he giving it to them!!" We wonder how much he would take in hand for the reversion of his chance of the office he formerly held?

"THE LATE LIBEL CASE."

UNDER this caption the last Islander contains an article which we notice merely for the purpose of letting our Conservative friends—whose number, we are happy to state, is being rapidly augmented—have an additional proof of the moral nature of the editor of that journal. Sincerely anxious to avoid anything offensive to the good taste of our numerous readers, we shall endeavour to discharge an unpleasant duty in the mildest manner the nature of the case will admit.

The editor of the Islander, not content to withdraw his case from public notice, and devote his pen to other and more worthy subjects—continues the system of personal abuse which received such marked reprobation from the Court and Jury on the trial. As to the gentlemen of the jury, their conduct is, in one paragraph, excused at the expense of Judge Peters; in another, it is imputed to them that they acted from personal antipathy to the plaintiff. The Judge is very coarsely assailed, and ourselves, as defendant, of course, get the lion's share of abuse. After being styled "a notorious liar," "a convicted liar," and favoured with other choice epithets—it is stated that the question of damages was eliminated from the case by the plaintiff's counsel, who expressly told the jury that he would be satisfied with merely nominal damages, as they would carry costs. True that, in closing his case, after we had read the gross personalities which had appeared in the columns of the Islander, Mr. Charles Palmer, conscious of the ruinous position in which his client was placed—abandoned the idea of benefiting, at our expense, all the Benevolent Societies in the country, to which Maclean had publicly and most ostentatiously promised the thousand pounds which he demanded as the price of his character; and he (the Counsel) expressed his willingness to take a sixpenny salve for the damaged reputation of his self-debated client. In Mr. Palmer's closing speech there was no repetition of the enormity of calling a man a felon—no confining the meaning of that word to the crime of killing one's posterity that went before him, and his ancestors who came after him; but the Counsel "soused" suddenly down from one thousand pounds to a paltry sixpence!!

The allusion to the Judge's charge, on which the editor of the Islander comments with characteristic assumption of superior knowledge, forms by no means the least amusing part of the article under review. In the plenitude of his legal wisdom, he takes no less than four grounds of exception, which we shall briefly dispose of:—First—That there was no proof of his having written the libels of the Islander. To this we answer, that if his own oath in the cause be considered any evidence of truth, he was the editor of the Islander, and as such might fairly be considered the author of the "elegant