

CHINA.

London, June 13.—A subject of more than usual importance is the arrival of two extraordinary expresses from India, bringing journals and dispatches from Bombay down to the 30th of April, and intelligence from China up to the 13th of March, that is, within three months of the present time. The substance of these accounts is, summarily, that the British expedition from India to China had embarked at Madras on the 16th of April, and that the ships and troops were on their voyage, in the first instance, for the Canton river. On their side, the Chinese displayed fierce activity, and a stubborn, malignant determination. The accounts from China brought by these papers and correspondence come down to the 13th of March. They state that an order of the Emperor, for suspending trade with all foreign nations, without exception, reached Canton on the 12th of February. The Emperor, moreover, ordered Commissioner Lin to give effect to that interdiction, without referring to the government at Peking. The accounts then proceed to state that the utmost alarm prevailed at Macao, which had been greatly increased by two or more successive attempts of the Chinese viceroy to burn the British fleet in Tongkoo Bay. The first of these attempts appears to have been made on the 9th of February, and is very picturesquely described in one of the despatches. It appears that about half-past one o'clock on Saturday morning, some Chinese fire-ships were observed coming down from the end of the bay in flames, but the wind having shifted against them, they drifted inshore of the shipping through the mass of small Chinese boats and foreign schooners; one touched the Devil schooner, and set fire to her forward, but the crew succeeded in extinguishing the fire, with the loss of the jib and damage to the bowsprit. These junks, or rafts, were filled with all kinds of combustibles, cotton, oil, bamboo guns, or rather tubes, thickly mounted in several tiers, which threw out fire balls as the fire reached them. Some of the ships slipped their cables, and one of them was aground for a few hours, but without receiving any damage. It was the opinion of an experienced eye-witness that had there been 20 such junks chained together, the shipping would have been greatly injured. This abortive attempt, however, had the good effect of awakening the captains and officers of the ships to the danger to which they are exposed, and they are therefore more on the alert; several having bent sails, shifted their berths, and got springs on their cables. It is added in a later statement that the boats of her Majesty's ship Volage were employed in towing these fire-ships out of the line of danger. They burnt out after having drifted on shore without explosion, though, it is said, they were filled with bamboos, stuffed with gunpowder, broken glass, small stones, &c. On the following night another attempt at firing the fleet was made, but without success. The tide was very low, and the weather fine, two circumstances much in favour of the fleet, which might have suffered considerably had the attempt of the Chinese been on a larger scale and better managed.

The same papers contain several proclamations, some of them immediately from the Emperor of China himself, commanding the Viceroy of Canton to put a stop to all foreign trade whatever, and to proceed to the utmost extremities against the British ships. Every Englishman who shall be taken in the Chinese waters is forthwith to be given up to the authorities at Canton, and to be punished as an outlaw trespassing on the domains of the Chinese empire. In another public Chinese paper, contained in the *Canton Journal*, the Viceroy solicits the Emperor of China to take into his imperial consideration, whether an immediate massacre of all Englishmen should not be ordered—or, at least, to such an extent as might strike terror into such as the imperial clemency might deem fit to spare. The concluding paragraph of this Chinese state paper is singular enough, and a good specimen of Chinese morals and policy. "Only let a plan be laid for a general massacre, and these said foreigners cannot but fear and tremble, and come to implore us. Afterwards, if we find that they can with a sincere and contrite heart repent them of their crimes, then a memorial may be addressed to your sacred Majesty, praying that, out of the abundance of your heavenly goodness, you will again permit them to renew their commercial intercourse. But even then, a limit must be put to the export of tea, rhubarb, and other commodities, and they must on no account be permitted to exceed the prescribed bounds. This is what I call keeping a strong hold upon them—literally the plan of the nippers. If, however, they dare afterwards clandestinely to convey opium into the inner land, then at one and the same time I would punish the offending parties with death, according to the new statute, and again cut off for ever their admission to our markets; this then would most certainly cut off their greedy views and cleanse the fountain."

THE QUEEN.

(From the *Scottish Guardian*.)

The attempt to assassinate the Queen was made on June the 10th. On the following Friday, within eight-and-forty hours of that dreadful event, her Majesty had a private concert, in which she sung in trio with Signors Rubini and Lablache, two professional vocalists and play-actors. The Prince also took part in several concerted pieces.

Saturday evening, the Queen and Prince Albert went to the Italian Opera.

Sabbath, the Queen and Prince Albert, after attending divine service, drove in the parks in an open carriage and four.

Tuesday, the Queen and Prince Albert went to Ascot races; dinner party in the evening at Windsor Castle.

Wednesday, a grand banquet to Ministers and the nobility in St. George's Hall.

Thursday, the Queen and Prince Albert again at Ascot Races.

Yesterday, (Monday, the 22d) was to be distinguished by a grand state ball at Buckingham Palace.

We refer to these details with unfeigned sorrow; and none who have the true welfare of our beloved Sovereign sincerely at heart can peruse them without deep concern. The pious portion of the community were naturally led to hope that an event of all others calculated to impress the least thoughtful heart, would be suitably improved by her Majesty. They regarded the public recognition of the finger of Divine Providence in her deliverance, and the appointment of a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for averting the threatened calamity, as an earnest of this; and they looked, of all places in the nation, to the Court, for the most becoming example. We have adduced mournful evidence of their grievous disappointment. There are prayers, indeed, for the sanctified use of this trial to her Majesty, and earnest thanksgivings for her deliverance, ascending to the king of kings, from all quarters of the land, in the public services of the sanctuary, and the private devotions of the family and the closet. We rejoice that it is so, and look forward to the appointment of a day of thanksgiving in our own Church as an occasion of devout humiliation and reverential gratitude to God, for warding off from our beloved Queen and country a visitation, which would in all probability have involved us in consequences too awful to be contemplated. The Court alone is silent; and the object of all the exuberant loyalty and Christian feeling we have witnessed of late, is in the meantime absorbed in a succession of amusements, which, were they innocent in themselves, would, in the present juncture, be obnoxious in the last degree, as diverting the mind of our youthful Sovereign from the right exercise of her recent trial and deliverance. We offer these remarks in no censorious or captious spirit. We attribute the circumstances to which we have referred, to the friends and advisers with whom it was her Majesty's first real misfortune to be surrounded on her ascending the throne; and it is our sincere wish that, come from what political party they may, others may speedily take the places of the present companions of our Sovereign, and, restraining the inordinate love of pleasure which their predecessors found it their interest to cultivate so industriously, restore her Majesty to those habits of staid and sober observation and reflection, and that aptitude for public affairs, which she manifested at an earlier period. Such counsellors and friends will lay the surest foundation for her Majesty's peace of mind, and her permanent usefulness, dignity and respectability, in the eyes of a great nation.

In the House of Commons, June 5, upon the motion of Mr R. GORDON, the following votes were agreed to:—

£3520 for the civil establishment of the Bahama Islands. £4049 for the expenses of the Bermudas. £3070 for Prince Edward Island. £10,380 for the civil establishment on the western coast of Africa. £7099 for the settlement at Western Australia. £11,790 for the expenses of the British North American Provinces. £18,895 for certain expenses connected with Canada. £23,265 to defray the expenses of the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, and others, in the West Indian Colonies. £963 for the civil establishment of Heligoland. £58,700 for the expenses attending the offices of the Chief Justice, &c., at the West Indies, Mauritius, and Cape of Good Hope. £30,000 for such expenses as her Majesty may incur in aiding the local Legislature in providing for the religious and moral instruction of the emancipated negroes. £3549 for the Colonial Land Emigration Board. £14,500 for the civil establishment of St Helena. £3900 for the civil establishment of Nova Scotia. £4000 for the maintenance of the Rideau Canal, Canada. £61,263 for the expedition to the river Niger.

FUNERAL OF SIR SIDNEY SMITH.—The mortal remains of the gallant and illustrious Admiral were, on the 25th of May, interred in the Cemetery of Pere la Chaise. The body was taken from his late residence in the Rue d'Anguesseau, to the English Episcopal Church in the same street, followed by his relatives and many of the principal English residents in Paris, among whom we noticed several officers of high rank in the British Navy. The introductory part of the service was performed in the church by the Right Rev. Bishop Luscombe, and the body was then transported to the cemetery, attended by a long train of mourning and private carriages. On the pall was placed the hat and uniform of the deceased, and on a cushion his epaulettes and his several orders. Over the foot of the coffin was spread the British union jack. At the conclusion of the burial service, which was most impressively read by Bishop Luscombe, three orations were delivered; the first by Mr. Raoul, avocat of the Court of Cassation, who, after pronouncing a panegyric on the character of the deceased as a warrior, proceeded to eulogise him for his active and generous exertion in promoting the objects of several philanthropic societies of which he was a member, and to which his advice, his practical and scientific acquirements, and his invention, were so invaluable. The next speaker, Mr. Julien, gave a short but comprehensive recapitulation of the services of Sir Sidney, from his first entering the British Navy, at the age of thirteen, and also expatiated largely on his amiable and philanthropic qualities. Both speakers were loud in their praise of Sir Sidney, for his having been almost the first to interfere for the suppression of European slavery in Africa, and for his indefatigable and strenuous exertions in that humane cause. The third gentleman, whose name we could not learn, spoke in a simi-

lar strain of eulogium of the character of Sir Sidney as a citizen of the world, ever ready to aid the cause of humanity. Some surprise was felt that, after these speeches had been delivered, none of his countrymen present should have come forward to pay a last tribute to his memory. No stronger testimony to his worth could, however, be shown than to hear his eulogium pronounced solely by members of a nation against which, in his career of arms, he had so successfully and gloriously fought. No doubt this was owing to the absence of some previous arrangement, and to the want of any such custom in England.—*Galignani's Messenger of Saturday.*

DEATH OF GENERAL SIR JOHN OSWALD.—We regret to announce the demise of one of the bravest soldiers of modern times—General Sir John Oswald, G. C. B. and G. C. M. G., which event took place on the 8th June at Dunikier, in Fifeshire. Sir John had been unwell for several months, but latterly he had rallied so much that his friends were sanguine of his recovery. Sir John had seen much service, having been 53 years on full pay.

FIRE AT YORK MINSTER.—With deep concern we announce that this magnificent Minster, the pride of Yorkshire, and perhaps the finest gothic structure in the world, has again been desolated by fire: but it will be most consolatory to our readers, to be assured, in the very outset, that all the majestic towers are yet standing, that the splendid stained glass of the west window and the side aisles are safe, and thus the injury done, though very extensive, is such as may be repaired without leaving any permanent marks of the ravages of the flames.

On the evening of the 20th May, about twenty minutes to nine o'clock, flames were seen in the south-western tower of the Minster, that is, in the tower on the right hand of a spectator who looks at the west front of the cathedral, and which contained the bells, and the clock works. At once, in every direction, the fearful sound ran through the city—"The Minster is on fire." The citizens rushed from their houses in consternation, and flocked to the spot. The workmen regularly employed in the works of the Minster, the ringers, and the firemen belonging to the different Insurance offices, flew to the scene and entered the building. The flames, fanned by a brisk wind blowing from the north-north-west, rapidly ascended from the clock-chamber to the ringing-chamber, and from the ringing-chamber to the bell-chamber, so that in a very short time the whole of the wood-work was on fire, and the tower was quite filled with flame, which burst forth at the windows, and soared above the highest pinnacles, whilst the stone work had the appearance of being red hot! The enormous bells fell in succession from their elevation, carrying with them the blazing floors below, and flinging up at each fall a prodigious eruption of flame and spark. They were all melted with the intense heat. The Lord Mayor, Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., Mr. Hewley Graham, Captain Price, and other influential gentlemen, were immediately on the spot, with the engines and firemen, who did all that could be done for extinguishing the flames. Some of the firemen, with other workmen, accompanied by Mr. Hewley Graham, went upon the roof of the Minster, betwixt the two western towers, and conveyed the hose of the fire-engines to play upon the flames. But unhappily it was soon discovered that the roof itself had taken fire. The roof of the nave was not arched with stone, but was constructed entirely of oak, as was also the groined ceiling below it. The space betwixt the roof and the groined ceiling was about fourteen feet; and along this space the intense flames rushed and roared, with food for their fury above and below, and urged by the current of wind from the entrance before mentioned as by the bellows of a blast furnace. We hardly need say that it was soon perceived to be utterly vain to attempt to check the progress of the flames along the roof. The lead which covered it poured down in streams, like water. The firemen and workmen on the roof retreated before the devouring element, which burst out from the top in awful columns and waving pinnacles of flame, illuminating the whole city and the country round to a considerable distance. As the ceiling was burnt through below, the flames played in the interior of the building, and were seen through all the beautiful windows, converting their many hues into one intense flame colour. The conflagration was now grand and dreadful, and great fears were entertained that the entire Minster would fall a prey. Happily the direction of the wind was such as to blow the flames away from the northernmost of the two towers at the west end, so that it was altogether untouched. The roof was first discovered to be on fire about ten o'clock. About eleven, that portion of the western end fell into the nave, with a tremendous crash, and throwing up a volcano of flames and sparks; and as the flames completed their work, successive portions of the roof fell before them, so that almost the whole was in by twelve o'clock, though the last timbers, adjoining the lantern tower, did not fall until near one o'clock. During the progress of the flames, the citizens in the adjoining houses were running about in great alarm, some of them carrying their goods out of their houses to places more remote from danger. The officers of the Minster were also very busily employed in removing the deeds and papers from the Will Office, the music from the organ loft, and the furniture from the choir.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF INTemperance.—The First Anniversary of this Society was held in the large room, Exeter Hall, on Thursday evening, the 14th May. The attendance was exceedingly numerous. The Earl of Stanhope, President, took the chair. Mr. J. W. Green read the Report of the Executive committee. It commenced by stating the grounds of separation between this

and the new British and Foreign Temperance Society. In the latter there were formerly two pledges—the short and the long pledge. By the first, persons pledged themselves to abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages; the second expressed a determination not to offer such beverages to any other person. Previous to the year 1839 some members of the committee suggested that the American or long pledge should be the only one taken by the members of the society. Several members of the committee, together with the President, protested against the alteration. Meetings of delegates were afterwards held, and several divisions took place on the subject. In every case the majority was in favour of the continuance of both pledges, leaving it to the members to sign which they chose. At the last annual meeting, however, after the President had left the chair, and a considerable number of those who agreed with him in opinion had withdrawn, it was submitted to the meeting that the long pledge only should be adopted by the Society, and was carried in the affirmative. The present Institution was forthwith formed. The Report then detailed the constitution of the Society, and furnished the statistics of all of its auxiliaries both in town and country. Several interesting anecdotes were introduced, strikingly illustrating the beneficial operations of the Society. During the past twelve months nearly 20,600 persons had entered into a solemn promise henceforth to abstain from intoxicating drinks; no fewer than 2,000 persons had been rescued from habits of gross intemperance; about 1,000 had been induced to attend places of religious worship, who before had been living without God and without hope in the world, a great proportion of whom had been counted worthy of admission to church fellowship. (Hear, hear, hear.) Reference was then made to the exertions of Father Matthew, who had consented to become one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society, through whose instrumentality nearly two millions and a quarter of the inhabitants of Ireland had declined the use of intoxicating drinks. (Loud cheers.) The Report then urged the duty of all professing Christians joining the Society, and, after an appeal for liberal subscriptions to carry on its efforts, it concluded by exhorting to prayer for its success. The Treasurer presented his accounts, from which it appeared that the total receipts of the year amounted to only £152 7s. 4d.; its expenditure to £324 12s. 8d., leaving a balance of £172 5s. 4d. against the Society. The meeting was addressed by the noble Chairman, the Rev. J. F. Witty, J. Spence, Esq., the Rev. E. Prout, Mr. Biscoe, the Revs. C. Stovel, Dr. Andrews, and G. Evans, Mr. R. M'Curdy, and Mr. Davies, —the latter of whom moved a vote of thanks to Father Matthew.

SINGULAR MONUMENT.—An old and curious monument remains at Christchurch, Waterford. It is one of the most curious, perhaps, in the kingdom, and at no distant day was an exquisite specimen of art, but is now a heap of unsightly rubbish. It lies in the north-eastern corner of the churchyard, and is inclosed with an iron paling; but it would appear to have had frequent visits at the hands of mischievous and ignorant, or perhaps bigoted destroyers. Rice was Mayor of Waterford about the middle of the 15th century, and esteemed a man of such great justice and piety, that, by the unanimous voice of the citizens of that day, he was several times in succession called to fill the civic chair. He was the unostentatious dispenser of charity to hundreds; and being desirous of exhibiting a practical proof of the vanity of life to his survivors, he willed the exhumation of his body, after it should have lain some weeks in the grave, and an effigy taken of the appearance it would present in that state. The effigy accordingly was cut in high relief, the body represented lying in a supine position, with a shroud knotted at the head and feet, and frogs, worms, &c., creeping about the body. Around the figure is a Latin inscription in the Gothic character.—*Waterford Chronicle.*

EATING.—Every animal eats as much as it can procure and as much as it can hold. A cow eats but to sleep, and sleeps but to eat, and not content with eating all day long, "twice it slays the slain, and eats its dinner o'er again." A whale swallows 10,000,000 of living shrimps at a draught. A nursing Canary bird eats its own bulk in a day, and a caterpillar eats 500 times its own weight, before it lies down to rise a butterfly. The mite and the maggot eat the very world in which they live; they nestle and build in their roast beef; and the hyena, for want of better, eats himself. Yet the maggot has not the gout, and the whale is not subject to sciatica. Nor does Captain Lyon inform us that an Esquimaux is troubled with a toothache, dyspepsia, or hysterics, though he eats ten pounds of seal, and drinks a gallon of oil at a meal, and though his meal last as long as his meat.

CLOSE CALCULATION.—The *St. Louis Gazette* goes into a calculation to show the amount of tobacco a man chews in his lifetime. The editor says—"Suppose a tobacco chewer is addicted to the habit of chewing tobacco 50 years of his life—each day of that time he consumes two inches of solid plug, which amounts to 6375 feet, making nearly one mile and a quarter in length of solid tobacco, a half-inch thick and two inches broad." He wants to know what a young beginner would think if he had the whole amount stretched out before him, and he were told that to chew it up would be one of the exercises of his life, and also that it would tax his income to the amount of 1095 dollars. We guess he would think it a pretty considerable job.—*New York Evening Post.*