STATE OF CHINA.

[The following is from the pen of a relative of a gentleman residing in the vicinity of Charlottetown.]

CANTON, Aug. 20.

The political rupture in the empire is gradually assuming a very serious aspect, and it now appears inevitable that the reign of the Tartars must end before very long. The latest dates received here from Shanghai, are to the 6th inst., at which time the most reliable information that had been received regarding the progress of the rebel forces was, that they had taken possession of Kai-fung-foo, the provincial capital of Honan. whence they had crossed the Yellow River, and invested Taming, on the borders of Chihli and Shantung, and afterwards marched upon Tainan, the capital of the latter province. This intelligence, it appears, has been confirmed by overland communication at Canton, and in the course of a fortnight it is expected that news will reach that place of the rebel army being encamped under the walls of Pekin.

The rebels having been so long in possession of the key to the northern provinces Chin-keang-foo, by which they have been enabled to prevent supplies of grain from reaching the Impe.ial army, the troops have been for some time suffering from privation of food; the people in the northern provinces are discontented and becoming impoverished from the same cause; and, with the *pres.ige* of former successes before them, there can be little doubt that the insurgents will make an easy capture of the Imperial capital. Indeed, it is confidently reported that the Emperor is fully prepared to abdicate, that he has a caravan all ready to take to flight in, with his household and body guard, the moment the sound of danger approaches, and that he will move towards Shingking in the first instance.

What will be the state of the country after the fall of the empire it is impossible at the present moment to foretell. The general impression seems to be that a long reign of anarchy will ensue, and that foreign intercourse with the country will be much interrupted,—perhaps the trade entirely suspended, as has been the case for several months at Amoy, and very nearly a Shanghai.

The policy of our Government has hitherto been to adopt a neutral position, and a good policy it is so long as the Emperor retains his throne; but whenever the insurgents gain supremacy the pursuance of such a policy further would be useless, and attendant with danger to the lives of foreigners and to the revenue which we derive from the products of the country. It is therefore to be hoped that the Foreign Minister will appoint an able diplomatist to take the place of Governor Bonham, and that at a very early date, so that no time may be lost in entering upon negotiations for a new treaty with China, and at the same time ample provision be made for, a much more extended latitude to our trade than has hitherto been accorded to us. We confess to being sceptical upon the point of the religious principles of the rebels: not that we do not give every credulence to the established fact of the present body being imbued with certain religious views, but, on accendancy to power, it is very problematical whether such views may be continued, or, at all events, whether the little leaven that at present exists will be diffused throughout the nation or not. We should be glad, indeed, to learn that the spirit of Christianity was spreading rapidly through the country, as the prospect of the most friendly intercourse with all Christian countries would be then not far distant; and happy will the day be when we can proclaim that China is opened — China, that most incomprehensible of all countries on the earth—that region of pride and arrogance, subtlety and deceit, intermingled with the most atrocious barbarity and excessive corruption—the country to which we look for the supply of our most social beverage and many other necessaries and luxuries of life,—the country to which we may hereafter have to look for a supply of silver adequate to the daily-increasing demand for that precious metal, and to which we may look for an enormously increased consumption of our cotton manufactures.

That the present movement in the Celestial Empire will be productive of ultimate good to this country we see very little reason to donbt; but, in the meantime, we much regret to hear by each mail that arrives a confirmation of the reports of a very short supply of tea this season. The crop of congou is only estimated at the most at 850 chops, while last year it exceeded 1,200; it is to be inferred, therefore, that if such prove to be actually the case, the export to this country will not be more than 35,000,000lb., while the consumption in 1852 was 45,000,000lb., and this year will probably be 46,000,000lb. In estimating the export to the united kingdom, we are supposing that America and the Australian colonies will take off nearly a similar quantity to last year—viz., 10,000,000lb. between them. Should the anticipation of a short supply be realized, the consumer of the leaf country will derive no benefit from the reduction of duty, except in so far that under excisting circumstances he would have had to pay very much higher than will actually be the case had there been no reduction.

There appears every reason to anticipate that the supply of silk procurable will be quite sufficient for our demand, provided the merchants can find the wherewithal to pay for it. In the present state of affairs, neither the tea nor silkmen will consent to dispose of their merchandise for any other medium of payment than money or specie; and not withstanding that in ordinary times sycee silver is procurable in large quantities, at the present moment it is very scarce and dear, in consequence of the withdrawal of capital from the trade, and the fact of all the money that is paid for produce being locked up by the natives from fear and distrust.

The exchanges on London had reached the unparalleled figure of 7s. 3d. in Shanghai, and 5s. 10d. in Canton; and on India to 330 and 275 respectively. It was not supposed that such rates could be long maintained, but until political matters developed themselves more fully it was impossible to form a correct opinion for the future.

THE CHINESE INSURGENTS AND THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

A supplement to the Overland *Friend of China* says:—Among the books published by the insurgent chiefs, and brought by the Hermes from Nanking, is the first part of the Book of Genesis, according to the translation made by Gutzlaff, and published by him in Hong Kong. There is another editor of Gutzlaff's Genesis printed at Ningpo, but in all those places where the Ningpo edition departs from the one published in Hong Kong, the insurgents' copy adherers to the latter, and not to the former. It is difficult to assign a reason why they have stopped at the end of the 28th chapter; perhaps the book when issued in Hong Kong was divided into two parts, and the first part only has fallen into the hands of the insurgents; or perhaps they are intending to print the whole, and this is the first part that was ready when the Hermes visited Nanking.

There is one circumstance connected with its publication worthy of remark, namely, this: that the little-page is emblazoned by the imperial arms, consisting of two birds of Paradise paying court to the sun, and supported by two prancing dragons rising out of the water on either side. Over the whole are the words—"A new edition, published in the Kwei-haow, on the 3d year of the celestial dynasty of T'hae-ping." If this first half of Genesis be only the commencement of a series, which the insurgent chiefs intended to continue as soon as they have opportunity, and as soon as the various documents comprising the "Holy Book" come into their hands, we may then expect to see, in the course of time, should the insurgents prove successful, the whole of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures published by authority, and circulated throughout the empire. This will do more towards the diffusion of divine knowledge than anything which has hitherto been attempted, and may be the means, in the hand of God, of correcting many erroneous and superstitious notions which, in their partially instructed state, the insurgent chiefs have propagated. The leaves of the tree of life will thus contribute to the healing of the nations, and what man has done imperfectly will be more perfectly accomplished by God's own truth. We rejoice to know that while the Hermes was at Nanking, two copies of the delegates' version of the New Testament were placed in the hands of one of their chiefs, and received with respect and gratitude.

In the "Book of Religious Precepts of the T'hae-ping Dynasty," we have frequent reference to "the presentation of animals, wine, tea, and rice, which is in the book directed to be offered up to the great God;" and it is not improbable that they may have been led to the inculcation of these offerings from the perusal of Gen. iv. 3, where it is said "that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord, and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock." The practice, also, of Noah (Genesis viii. 20) and of Melchisedeck (Genesis xiv. 18,) with that of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, might have led them to conceive that offerings would be acceptable to God; while they had not present to their minds the statement of the Apostle that Jesus had, by one offering, perfected for ever them that were sanctified.

We find in one of their pamphlets, called "The Proclamations published by Imperial Appointment," the very phrase used by Gutzlaff as the general title of the Old Testament, viz: "The Sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament;" and the phrase, the supreme Lord, the great God," so often used in the books of the insurgents, is evidently taken from Outzlaff's translation in Genesis ii. 4, aud numerous other places. He has used it as an equivalent for "the Lord God," where the supreme Lord stands for the first, and the great God for the second part of the phrase. The practice of Gutzlaff to employ the term Shang-te for God, by way of eminence, has been followed throughout in the insurgent books, while his practice of using Shing for gods when the Almighty was not designated, as in Genesis iii. 5, has been imitated in the pamphlets brought from Nanking, so that they may be said to have made Outzlaff's translation of Genesis their text-book.

DISTILLERIES UNPROFITABLE FOR FARMERS.—The *Ohio Cultivator*, in allusion to the common plea that distilleries afford a market for corn and keep up the price, states in substance that Ohio pork would command two or three dollars more per barrel in some of the eastern markets, if purchasers could be assured that none of it was "*still*" *fed*—and that, generally, the farmers of Ohio lose at least one dollar per barrel on all the pork sold, from this cause, amounting to at least *half a million of dollars* for the State. Also, that the value of lands would be greatly enhanced in some neighbourhoods, if these nuisances could be removed; and that such is their blighting influence on the community around them, that intelligent persons avoid purchasing farms in their vicinity. It is likewise stated that there are many townships in Ohio where the lands are depreciated full twenty-five per cent. from this cause.

How to breathe the "free air" of Austria.—Keep your mouth shut.

DISCOVERIES IN THE HOLY LAND.—A work has been issued from the London press, of great promise, detailing some extraordinary discoveries in Syria and the Holy Land. It is the translation of the itinerary of a Fench traveller, M. de Saulcy, who made teh journey round the Dead Sea, and through the whole of Palestine and that part of Syria mentioned in the Scriptures, in 1850 and 1851. M. de Saulcy is a member of the French Institute, a scholar of high repute, a liberal Catholic, and possessed of ample means to make a journey under the most favourable circumstances. The tour was the fruit of long-cherished interest in Bible study, and was made with the determination to solve some of the problems which the Holy Land has been the theatre of. He was well acquainted with the Hebrew. Arabic, and Greek languages, and took every precaution to render his journey safe, intelligent and fruitful of results. If his narrative of this tour may be credited, he has achieved some results of surpassing importance and interest. We have no further knowledge of the work than is supplied in a copious review in the *Dublin University Magazine*, which fully accredits all his statements, and ascribes to him all the importance of a discoverer. He left Paris in september, 1850, and reached Jerusalem in December. The many interesting relics of antiquity abounding in this city he carefully investigated in three separate visits, in which some information was gleaned after the learned labors even of Dr. Robinson, Clarke, Smith, Maundrell, Wilde, and Schultz. Immediately after Christmas, M. de Saulcy left for a careful tour round the Dead Sea. Passing through Bethlehem, he soon reached the shores of this remarkable asphaletic lake, and pitched his tent by the side of a spring. For more than twenty nights he and his companions encamped upon the shores, aud in the neighbourhood of this deaded lake, without accident or malady, generally in places where there was no lack of fresh water. He asserts that the current stories respecting the sea are mostly fabulous. There are no pestilential vapors; the climate is not worse than average of places in the same latitude. There are trees and verdure in the neighbourhood and on the shore, the birds singing in the thickets and sometimes resting on the waves. The fruit which turns to ashes is an idle exaggeration, and the alleged impossibility of horses wading through the waters, and of men swimming, on account of their density, false. But it is eqnally certain the Dead Sea contains no fish. The water is excessively nauseous. The whole circnit of the lake was made, and then M. de Saulcy went South, to Karak, the modern capital of Moab. Returning, he made his great discovery—the actual ruins of the cities of the Plains—Zeboim, Sodom Zoar, Admah. These were never before identified, nor believed to be in existence. The usual supposition has been that they occupied the place of the Dead Sea, and that the sulphureous sea was formed by the depression occasioned by their distruction. At least since the days of Abraham, two thousand years before the Christian era, they have never before been heard of. M. de Saulcy identifies them by a variety of proofs, which the reviewer pronounces, after careful scrutiny, to be satisfactory. What the proofs are, we know not; but if they are sufficient, this must be pronounced the most extraordinary discovery of modren times.

M. de Saulcy contradicts the testimony of our Lieut. Lynch, respecting the pillar of salt, and states that he saw twenty like these which our traveller mistook for the cenotaph of Lot's wife. He proves too, that which Lieut, Lynch saw could not be in the place of the pillar described in Genesis. After returning to Jerusalem, M. de Saulcy went out again, and this time discovered the ruins of Oommorrah, so that the doomed Pentapolis is now identified, if we may believe him. In his exploration, he identified many of the places in the route of the children of Israel, but was unable to satisfy himself of the situation of Mount Pisgah, where Moses died. Returning to Jerusalem he went North, and made in that better known region some important discoveries. He indentified and measured, for the first time, the ruins of an ancient temple in Samaria, built by Sanballat, under permission of Alexander the Great, which are still traceable. These ruins have been observed before: Dr. Robinson regards them the remains of a Roman fortress; but M. de Saulcy argues, successfully, our reviewer thinks, its Samaritan origin. He differs also from Dr. Robinson, in reference to the site of Cana of Galilee, the place of Christ's first miracle. He identifies it with the modren Kafr-Kenna; Dr. R. decides in favour of another and neighbouring locality, called Rana-el-Djalil. He indentified also, Caperneum, Bethsaida, Chorazin, Dan and Hazor, a vast city, the capital of Jabin, principal king of the land of Canaan, a metropolis built long before the days of Moses, first burnt by Joshua, and fully reduced to desolation by Nebuchadnezzar. Other discoveries of great interest are discribed in his volumes, all of which, it is said, the fortunate traveller supports by proofs and reasonings that carry great weight. The pretensions are certainly extensive enough; and if they shall endure the sifting which critics will be sure to give them, M. de Saulcy may be congratulated on a most useful contribution to our stores of Biblical knowledge.—*New York Evangelist*

CERTAIN MISSIONS OF RUSSIA AMONGST THE TARTARS.—The Russian goverment has for some time been endeavouring to convert its Tarter subjects to Christianity. But it has a more serious difficulty than the antipathy of the Tartars, and that is the degraded state of its own priesthood. The intellectual and moral improvement of the latter is a pressing want, not only to bring about the conversion of the Tartars, but still more for the instruction and elevation of Russians themselves. In fact, the Tartars of Kassan are so superior to their Russian neighbours, that their conversion at present is out of the question. There are certain popes sent by the Government for this purpose, but they have undertaken the mission for the sake of gain, and use it merely as a pretence. They require from their converts three things:—First, that they shall let their hair grow; secondly, that they shall cease to eat horse-flesh; and thirdly, that they shall worship pictures and embrace the cross. On doing all these they baptise them.—*Hazlhausen's Russia*.

TREES IN CALIFORNIA.

The following description of the Calaveras trees still standing in the neighbourhood of the mammoth tree, is given by a party of ladies and gentlemen who visited the spot.—*Republican*.

Another of the trees is named the *Eather Pine*. This is dead and has fallen to the earth. Its dimensions are as follows: Length, 400 feet, Circumference, 110. The trunk of this tree is hollow, which has been traced for a distance of 250 feet. There is a little pond of water in the centre of this cavity four feet in depth. The tree 350 feet from the stump is not less than 12 feet in diameter.

The cluster called the Three Sisters, taken together are 92 feet in circumference and 300 feet in height. The centre one is bare of branches for 200 feet above the ground.

The Mother Tree is 90½ feet in circumference, and 325 feet high.

The Mother and Son are 92 feet in circumference, and 300 feet in height, united at the base.

The Twin Sisters, 100 feet in circumference, and 300 in height.

The Pioneer's Cabin is a remarkable curiosity. This tree has been partially burned, the result of the scorching is the dividing of the trunk into several compartments, which are known as the parlor bed-room and kitchen. The hollow which is 200 feet in height, is called the chimney. The tree is 86 feet in circumference.

Siamese Twins 65 feet in circumference, 325 feet in height.

Guardian of the Times, 85 feet in circumference, 325 feet in height.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, 94 feet in circumference, 300 feet in height.

Pride of the Forest, 87 feet in circumference, 300 feet in height.

Beauty of the Forest, 72 in circumference, 300 feet in height.

Two Friends, 85 feet in circumference, 300 in height.

One of the party "asked" the Father Tree for some bark, and was rewarded by obtaining a handsome section thereof.

The above trees are all embraced in an area not exceeding one half mile in extent.

The surrounding country is exceeding picturesque and beautifnl, and the scenery at many points along the road is said to be unsurpassed for sublimity and grandeur.

PECULIARITIES OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT.—In recent news from Turkey, our readers have seen references to the Ulemas and the Sheik-ul-Islam, as important personages in the Ottoman Empire. An explanation of their character and position may be acceptable to many. The Ulemas are a body of learned men who interpret the Koran. Theik-ul-Islam is their Chief, and the Minister of Justice. Mohammed did not establish a Priesthood, and any Mussulman can say the prayer himself. The Koran, however, being in Arabic, and its translation prohibited as a profanation, a body of men, learned in Arabic, was gradually formed, who recite the prayer aloud, in the Mosques, and serve as guides to the devotions of the unlearned believers. These men received the name Ulemas. The Ulemas interpret the Koran, as well as lead in the prayer; and as amongst the Mahommedans the religious and civil law is one, the Ulemas call themselves the interpreters of the law. Their Chief, the Scheik-ul-Islam, controls their deliberations and decisions. He has under him, for each province, a Karaskier, or superior Ulema, who is the provincial chief justice. All the Karaskiers reside at Constantinople, near the Scheik-ul-Islam, and form with him the Council from which, in important conjunctures, the Sultan asks for a fetva—which is a declaration that the measure in contemplation is not in opposision to the Koran. The form of proceeding in granting a fetva, is by the Scheik-ul-Islam presenting the question to the Ulemas, who reply, yes or no, like a jury, and the decision is then adopted by the Sultan. The Scheik-ul-Islam now in office is represented to be a man of learning and moderation, but of great firmness. He belongs to the party who are for resisting the aggressions of Russia, and is said to have sufficient influence with the Sultan to prevent him yielding too much to the dishonorable counsels of his allies. The Ulemas, who are computed at 30,000, for the whole Empire, sustain their Chief, for whom they have great respect.

THE FRENCH EMPRESS.—A correspondent of the Morning Post describes the appearance of the Empress of France at the ball given at Bologne. He says:—"The grace and beauty of the Empress was observed to the fullest advantage. Her faultless delicacy of feature, and the elegance of her figure, were all displayed by a very chaste costume of white lace, ornamented with ribbons of violet color falling half way down the skirt. The head-dress was exquisitely beautiful. Her Majesty's hair is of a beautiful light brown tint, and it was disposed last evening in tasteful rolls over the forehead, leaving disclosed the ears, from which diamond drops were pendant. Her Majesty wore a diamond necklace of marvellous brilliancy, every stone of which reflected its myriad hues, and a pair of somewhat small bracelets *en suit*.

The Turkish Ambassador at London was at a public dinner, in company with some of the magnates of the land, but, of course, drank no wine. The President gave, as a toast, in compliment to his Excellency, "The Sublime Porte and the Turkish Ambassador." A waiter echoed it down the table, "A supply of port for the Turkish Ambassador."

The Cairngorum clipper, built at Aberdeen, has made the voyage from London to China in seventy-seven days.

The Russian monks prophesy such a severe winter, that the Russians will be able to cross the Danube with their cavalry and artillery, in order, God willing, to encounter the army of the infidels.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Newfoundland Mail, saved from the Schr. Spray, wrecked at Gabarus, was received on Saturday.

"A good deal of reasonable dissatisfaction," says the *Newfoundlander* of the 3rd instant, "has been expressed at the withdrawal of the Mail Steamer, and the employment of a sailing vessel to bring down the Mails. It is needless to point out the inconvenience and lost to a commercial community from such a change in the mail service, but we are glad to perceive, from the Admiral's letter to his Excellency the Governor that the proceeding in the present case is not attributable to caprice, and that the gallant Admiral is fully sensible of the importance of keeping this service in an efficient state, which can only be done by the reserve boat, to which he has called the attention of the Admiralty.

Mr. P. F. Little, attorney for the laborers lately engaged in constructing the Newfoundland Electric Telegraph, enquired of the Secretary of the Company, at New York, "Whether they will be paid, and when; or whether the Company intend sacrificing the work already completed, or going on with the line?" The Secretary, Chas. T. B. Keep, acknowledges the receipt of Mr. Little's favor, and says:

"The Company regret exceedingly that the laborers employed on their line should suffer by the suspension of the work. The Company are unacquainted with the amount outstanding for labor; but if you will, by return mail, forward the amount claimed by your clients, arrangements will be at once made to satisfy their demands. The works of the Company will be proceeded with as early as practicable. and the line carried through, as intended.

"The Company desire me to express their thanks for your exertions and wishes for the success of their line, and trust that the early completion of the enterprise will secure the approbation of all classes of the commercial community."

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday, November 26, 1853.

No error is more common, nor more productive of injury to both, than the idea that the respective interests of the town and the country, are opposed to one another. That such an idea exists is made most peculiarly visible and apparent on the eve of a general election, or in the committee of supply in the Assembly. "Choose your member from those who live among you, whose interest is the same as your own and who best knows what you want," is the cry of those in whose estimation every farthing that is not spent in roads and bridges is so much money wasted. Talk to people of that description of building a good substantial roomy Market House in the Metropolis, and you immediately are told. If the Town wants a Market House let the Town build it, the country suffers enough by the Town without being taxed to build Market Houses. No, no, every shilling of the public money that is expended in Charlottetown is just so much plundered from the Country. And the representatives in Parliament make use of the same language, sometimes because it is their real opinion and oftener with a view to a future election. It will be time not ill spent we think if we devote a few moments to the investigation of truth of the matter. It will be obvious we think to every unprejudiced mind that gives itself time to reflect and seriously considers the thing that Towns and Cities are with very few exceptions the mere creatures of the Country, without whose continual aid and sustentation they could in very few cases exist, much less increase in numbers and opnlence. Let us look around us and take note of whom is the population of a town chiefly composed; and in the first place single out the Merchants, and Shipkeepers as not only the most numerous and conspicious but as being in the most immediate connexion with Farmers and dealers in the country. A man with a hundred acres of land might build a house and raise a sufficient quantity of food to support himself and family, and flax and wool to make garments to cover them, without apparently having much occasion for either merchant or shopkeeper; but the farmer even upon the smallest scale, before he can begin to work must have an axe to cut down the trees, and before his wife can make his clothes she must have a needle to sew with. Now though the axe may be made in the country, the iron must be imported, and so must the needle and the buttons; by and bye, iron is wanted for the ploughshares and colters, as well as harrows, chain traces, and all the various articles required for assisting him to put his seed into the ground. To enable him to live in a cold country like this, his windows must be glazed, and glass and putty must be imported. Now, in order to obtain these, he must part with some of his surplus produce to some one who will procure him either the manufactured article, or the materials wherewith to have them made. Hence the origin of merchants. But if produce is to be exported and raw and manufactured goods imported, the person who transacts the business must live near to some safe haven where vessels may be loaded and discharged. When such a man as this begins to be prosperous, another comes and sits down at no great distance from him and tries to divert a little of the profit into his own pocket, and in order to gain custom, he gives the farmer a trifle more for his produce and sells his goods a trifle less than his rival. Where there is enough for two, three, says the proverb, will not starve. So another comes and now the competition begins in real earnest, and he who gives the best price for the surplus wealth of the farmer, and sells at the cheapest rate the best articles wins the day, and forces his competitors to come down to his prices, and humble as it seems, this has been the origin of most great towns. Now in what relation does the merchant stand to the farmer—clearly and evidently in that of a servant to his master, which by the way we are all of us, by turns, one to the other, and at all events, the relation is a mutually beneficial one, and so acknowledged and considered. By degrees as the country becomes improved and more populous larger quantities of surplus produce have to be exported, new and more artificial wants arise, what was once a straggling street following the sinnosities of the sea coast becomes closely built up; more convenient and straighter streets are laid out and lines of houses begin to appear. People not in trade find it a place of cheap and comfortable living, and by degrees the village becomes a town. Charlottetown has been an exception only by the site of the town being determined upon before a single house was built, and a few officers of Government located upon it for a beginning; but Picton, in Nova Scotia, and hundreds of towns in the United States have had this commencement. The influx of people from the country creates a new body of citizens, viz: Inn-keepers. It needs no great power of demonstration to shew that this class are wholly dependent upon the country. As the town increases so does its wants, and by whom are these wants supplied? By the Farmers. Capital begins to accumulate both in town and country; in the former it is of that kind called circulating, and consists chiefly in money and goods for immediate use or consumption; in the latter, from the necessity of the thing in the first place, it takes principally the form of fixed capital, and displays itself in the erection of comfortable buildings, cleared land, together with increase of cattle, horses, sheep, &c. In proportion as the country increases, so does the town, and upon the same principle that it was first begun; and different trades, occupations, &c. are entered into, because they become necessary to carry on the trade of the country. One way of proving that the town depends upon the labors of those who live at a distance from it, is to suppose that the country has