

has been arrested by Gov. Kearney and sent home for trial; and there seems to be neither harmony, order nor prosperity in any part of the country. Portions of parties of emigrants, who were later in reaching California than they had expected, are represented as having died by freezing and starvation, and the bodies were eaten by the survivors. It is impossible to conceive the amount of misery and privation the California pioneers have undergone, simply with regard to the time and expense of reaching there, and the wilderness, half filled with savages and throat cutting Mexicans, with whom they have had to combat. Add to this the prosecution of a war, which, though gloriously successful, scarcely left them in strength to take care of themselves, and then add a civil war, such as is now raging, in which the whole territory is divided into factions, one battling against the other, and the picture of distress in California is complete. The greatest of all evils that have followed the brilliant career of our arms, is this overmastering ambition of the leaders to take all the glory and a considerable share of the plunder to themselves. From corporals to generals, each officer seems to feel that conquered country is an indorsement of his particular glory; and, forgetting who sent him on his errand, begins, as soon as the battle is over and the victory fairly won, to scramble for a post of trust, to swagger on his own hook, and really plant himself where he sees fit, as the representative of the United States. The powers of the officer and soldier have not been well enough defined; where every man is permitted to usurp upon his duty, insubordination, discord and confusion are natural consequences. In California, where one man should have been appointed chief, some half dozen commodores, generals and colonels have been fighting for the honor of command—waging a war more fatal to the colony than all the Indians and Mexicans in the country. The interests of the United States have been swallowed up in the self-aggrandizing notions of individuals, as shameful as they have been ruinous. A few months more of misgovernment will leave California a nest of outlaws and robbers, living in gangs and making murder and plunder their chief game. The government ought immediately to reform these abuses and appoint men to the rule of that territory who will forget themselves for the sake of the country, half of the time at least. All California wants is an honest and efficient government, in place of greedy and ambitious governors.

#### IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Gen. Valencia arrived at the capital on Monday with four thousand troops. Gen. Pearce arrived at Perote after an action with the guerillas near the National Bridge.

Mr. Kendall represents the chances of peace in an unfavourable light.

He says Scott will march immediately on the arrival of Pearce—certainly in the first week of August, and it is more than probable that the hardest fight yet will be at the city of Mexico.

The Mexicans were prepared to meet him, all their fortifications completed, and twenty-five thousand men. The English Legation was secretly exerting every influence to keep the Americans out of the Capitol.

Other letters to the Picayune, represent the chance of peace in a more favorable light, and think the resistance to our advance will be almost nominal.

Congress had referred Mr. Buchanan's letter back to the Executive and thrown on him the responsibilities of the war. The peace party at the capital was strong and increasing. They have no faith in their generals.

The *Sun* of Anahuac says that when the Guerillas attacked Pearce, 600 Americans approached under their fire until within 100 yards of the Mexicans, when our forces opened a deadly fire, forcing them to an immediate retreat.

While the Mexicans were retreating, the American Cavalry rushed upon them, killing about one hundred.

The position of the Mexicans was one of the strongest in the country, but the Americans passed the Bridge after a short engagement and arrived at Perote in safety, Gen. Scott despatching Gen. Smith's Brigade from Puebla to meet them at Perote.

The Commercial Times considers the news a full confirmation of the failure of Mr. Priest's Mission, and that all prospects of peace are dissipated.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO LIVES LOST!

The above is an announcement which we make with melancholy feelings, caused by reading the following paragraph in an exchange newspaper:

**FEARFUL COLLISION AT SEA.—LOSS OF THE BARK IDUNA, AND NEARLY TWO HUNDRED LIVES!**—The Boston papers contain the particulars of one of the most awful accidents that have ever occurred at sea. On the 9th inst. at 1 o'clock, in lat. 44 25, long. 58 30, the ship *Shanunga*, bound from Liverpool to Boston, the weather being foggy, came in contact with the Swedish barque *Iduna*, from Hamburg for New York, with two hundred and six persons on board. The shock was so fearful, that the *Iduna* sank in about half an hour. Immediately after the collision, the *Shanunga's* boats were put out, and, with one boat from the barque, picked up thirty-four persons only. One hundred and seventy-two persons, including the master, were lost.—The passengers were composed of industrious Swedes, who were going to the United States, with considerable sums of money

in their possession, for the purpose of settling at the West.

Much as we are accustomed to meet with similar details in the daily papers, an incident accompanied by such an extraordinary loss of life, is one that must rend the heart, and stimulate a peculiar course of reflection. One hundred and seventy-two lives were lost in one 'fell swoop!' Well, and what then?—Are lives scarce? Is not food sufficiently plentiful? Has death overtaken those who were the most useful in their own country? Have these left loving and everlasting momentoes in their rear?—and a thousand such like questions might be the issue of the first proposed. The incident is appalling and solemn. "One Hundred and Seventy Two Lives lost!" Why? We cannot give the reason, and therefore merely name the effect of the cause. The passengers, we are told, were industrious Swedes, possessing money, and bound to some of the Western States, with a view of settling there. Many and tearful were the friends left behind—whose hearts are to be still more woful when receiving the intelligence of the unforeseen fatality. Great were the expectations of the departed when 'gliding' from their native shores. The riches of the wide and open field had attracted their attention—there was no Tory cry to dissuade—no Tory despotism to intimidate—therefore did they yield to the impulse of their enlightened feelings, and start upon their mission with hearts buoyed with hope, and bosoms heaving with anxiety and temporary pain.

But we have further facts, giving even yet a more melancholy phase to the event:

The *Traveller* of the 17th says:—

Captain Patten came ashore this morning, from the *Shanunga*, which was anchored in the stream. Capt. P. is wholly incapacitated, from the depth of his feelings, from entering into any details at present relative to this unlucky event. He says that no statement could exaggerate the horrors of that awful moment.

All the survivors that were saved were picked up from the surface of the water. One cause why so few were thus saved was, that almost all of them had, when the cry went round that she was sinking, seized their belts of gold and silver and tied them around their waists—thus those who had attempted to save their gold lost both life and gold, being unable to sustain themselves until the boats could reach them.

The survivors being entirely deprived of their property by this sudden occurrence, were brought on board the *Shanunga* in a state of complete destitution. Capt. Patten and his mates have done every thing in their power to render these unfortunates comfortable, until their arrival here should allow him to state their case to the charitable of this and other cities.

We are glad to learn that efficient measures are being taken by our citizens to relieve the present distress of these survivors. Mr. James K. Mills has sent on board a quantity of clothing for the females; and a subscription list, has been opened, which already, in the active hands of Messrs. Audson & Smith, of the Merchants' Exchange, has obtained nearly \$500. We hear of one case of peculiar distress. A little girl, 12 years old, now on board the *Shanunga*, by this sudden calamity has lost father, mother, brother and sister. Many families who came from the same village, in the old world, and who anticipated settling together in some chosen spot of the new, are thus separated forever.

It is estimated that something like \$50,000, or even \$100,000 in specie, belonging to the immigrants, went down in the vessel, or on the bodies of the lost. One individual lost \$14,000. The hold of the vessel was full of cargo, destined for New York, and perhaps insured there. The vessel was probably insured, if at all, in Europe.

Our intention is not to sentimentalise, but to record the fact—being one of the 'fitful' changes of life—showing us the frailty of human events—a point of covetousness, but still the kindness of fellow creatures who came forward to assist the needy in their unfortunate dilemma.

'The vessel was probably insured,' says the report. The property of the passengers was not. Perhaps this should teach a lesson to insure property and also life for the benefit of heirs or assigns. Such an event as that to which we now allude is one of the most important arguments to be adduced to advance the system of life insurance.

The movements of Providence are inscrutable and always wise, therefore, we are instructed to be prepared, not only for the most desirable, but for the worst.—*Nob.*

#### News by the last English Mail.

[From Willmer and Smith's European Times.]

##### COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.

The alarm of a monetary crisis immediately succeeding the excitement of a general election, commercial affairs have not improved since our publication of the 4th instant. The pressure for money has increased considerably, and general distrust continues to prevail, notwithstanding declining prices of grain, and the certainty of a harvest of more than average abundance. The produce markets, however, have exhibited a considerable share of activity; and the main articles of general consumption readily find buyers.

The failures in the Corn markets of London, Liverpool, and Sligo, together with very large arrivals of foreign grain, have produced a complete paralysis of

business, and the dealers only supply themselves for their immediate wants. It almost tends to mislead our readers at a distance to quote actual prices, since each successive market day exhibits the unsteadiness of the trade. The further reduction in prices recorded in our last number of the 4th inst., when Wheat was still declining from about 70s. per quarter for the best description in the market, was checked by the fall of rain in most parts of the country, and at the Corn market in London on Monday last prices were firmer at the currency of the previous Monday. New Wheat sold at about 68s per quarter. But still the business was limited. During the last few days the weather has been less unsettled, and the intervals of fine weather have been warm and genial. The markets have accordingly again declined, and the highest price of the best description of Wheat in London cannot be quoted more than 67s to 68s per qr., and the best American Flour has fallen in Liverpool to 26s per barrel. Much lower rates for the best Western Canal Flour are reported, with very low quotations for Indian Meal, but no real transactions have taken place, and we only allude to them as indicating the downward tendency of the market. The arrivals of foreign Wheat and Flour are still enormous, and, during the next three months, as the abundant new produce of the continent becomes available, will doubtless continue. The fluctuations of prices before the close of the year will inevitably be very great; about that time, when the navigation of the rivers will be closed, and the stocks and wants of England and the neighbouring countries are better ascertained, the market may then become more steady. The relations of demand and supply under the new system of free trade in grain will find their level, and future prices be regulated accordingly. The accounts of the produce of the continental crops are still of the most satisfactory character; and during the past week we have not heard of a single instance of damage to the Potato crop, whilst at the same period last year the disease had become distinctly developed. The Corn market in Mark-lane yesterday was dull, and prices barely equal to Monday's rates, but on Friday this is generally the case, as little business is done. No further failures had transpired. American Flour being relatively cheaper than English, has been taken off the London market rather largely at 27s to 29s.

#### CLOSE OF THE ELECTIONS.

The elections for the English, Irish, and Scotch boroughs are now, we believe, concluded. There are yet a few of the counties undecided. Various speculative divisions of the new members have been allotted by our contemporaries; but if political parties are to be ranked as before into Liberals, Peelites, and Protectionists, the numbers will be considerably on the Liberal side; but the apparent numerical accession of strength gained by the Ministerial phalanx may, upon a division, be counterbalanced by the votes of the new members entertaining ultra, or independent opinions. The Ministerial or Liberal section would, if united, be about equal to the Peelites and Protectionists combined. With the exception of Free-trade questions, respecting which there is a great gulf fixed between the more liberal Peelites and the Protectionists, it will be found, probably, that the Ministerial measures which may be proposed in the ensuing Parliament, will be carried either by the forbearance of the Protectionist party or by the support of the Peelites. Should any important question arise upon which all parties are as yet unpledged and unfettered, turning upon the great cause of public liberty, and involving the rights of the people as against the aristocracy—then it will appear whether the present rancorous feeling of the Protectionist party against the Peelites would survive the trial; and such a question would test the integrity and consistency of the Peelites. The present distinctions of party cannot be of long duration. Either Sir Robert Peel, with such of his adherents as may continue attached to him, must form a virtual coalition with the Whigs, or they must return to their old seats "below the gangway," and merge into the Protectionist party; who, upon a new question, would receive some fresh designation, remaining still, as they ever will be, the great Tory party of the country. The county contests have not exhibited so many singular features of excitement as the borough elections. The great constituency of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the most numerous in the kingdom, proposed Mr. Cobden just prior to the nomination day; and his name threw such terror into the hearts of his opponents that Mr. Denison, who had represented the West Riding for six years, did not venture to demand a poll; and Mr. Cobden was by acclamation elected the colleague of Lord Morpeth. Such a step cannot fail to have predominating influence over the Free-trade discussion in the ensuing Parliament. Mr. Bernal Osborne, a Liberal, has displaced Colonel Wood, a Conservative, in the county of Middlesex. Sir George Grey has also gained a county seat in Northumberland. In Ireland, our apprehensions of the loss of Mr. Shiel's seat have proved unfounded, but he gained his election only after a severe contest; whilst we regret to say that Mr. Wyse, one of the most enlightened Liberals of Ireland, has been defeated. Sir Denham Norreys, a rising influential member of excellent principles, has been successful again at Mallow.

THE STEAM SHIP GREAT BRITAIN.—We think it not improbable that in our next publication we shall