

such blockade was ever attempted at such a season of the year.

At one time we had two squadrons to watch the fleet in the Texel and the Scheeldt, one of which was usually at an anchor in Hosely Bay, and the other at anchor 25 miles from the land, with a brig or a frigate occasionally looking into those ports as the batteries would allow her; and this was sufficient at that time, as the large ships can only leave the Texel at spring tide.

If ministers are anxious to get at the real state of public feeling respecting the unnatural war now impending, let them ask the underwriters at Lloyd's, or the merchants of the exchange, and they will find that these matter of fact individuals are too obtuse to discover the advantage England can obtain by giving up her valuable trade with Holland, for the chances of a secure frontier to France. The committee at Lloyd's have applied to the Admiralty for information respecting the measures Government had resolved on for the protection of British property now afloat, and in reply have been informed, that directions for duly securing the safety of such had been given. Convoy is to be appointed immediately for the protection of vessels sailing, and all tends to show that the struggle is not expected to be of short duration.

There are many here however, of opinion, that the first gun fired will be attended by such fearful consequences that the administration of Earl Grey will be unable to stand against it, and that a contest, in which victory will be dishonor, and defeat irreparable disgrace, can only ultimately entail execration and dismissal upon its projectors.

PRIVATERING.—The New-York Standard has the following paragraph:—

There is a report afloat, connected with the Holland and Belgian business, that excites a good deal of attention and interest. It is said, and believed, that the Dutch Charge has instructions or authority to issue Letters of Marque against English and French commerce to vessels sailing from American ports on the news of the first hostile proceedings by the combined powers—the capturing of a ship, or the firing of a gun. The commissions will probably be eagerly sought for, and Baltimore clippers fitted out with Dutch crews may be got ready for sea in a very short time. Such a measure as this could hardly have been counted on by the Convention of London, but it is so natural and feasible that the probability of its adoption is evident, and may have given rise to the report. It appears first in the Albion, a weekly paper of the highest standing, the editor stating that he has it on sufficient authority to warrant his laying it before the public. It is difficult to conceive a course more likely

than the arming these privateers to bring on a serious war.

The number of passengers, who have arrived at New-York during the past year from foreign ports, exceeds 40,000.

The following remarks are from Bell's Messenger, relative to British policy towards Portugal and Holland:

Portugal has been one of our greatest consumers for the last century and a half; not only does she take all our manufactures, and much of our raw produce, such as tin, lead, iron and copper; but, being at the very gates of Spain, a country of rigid, fiscal prohibition, she has the means of introducing a great quantity of our raw goods and manufactures into that kingdom.

A late traveller in Spain, of much observation, has told us that the whole trade of that country is nearly all contraband, and that English manufactures enter it on every part, notwithstanding the jealous and duenna-like vigilance of a military custom-house and excise. But do we not run the risk of destroying our trade both with Spain and Portugal by upholding the civil war now raging in the latter country, instead of suffering it to expire as it soon would do, if left to itself?

It is hardly to be denied that our present professed neutrality is a mere farce. The whole Thames below Deptford, is as it were, the dockyard of Don Pedro, and money is borrowed on his account, and troops openly enlisted for him, almost by beat of drum, under the Treasury windows of Whitehall.

Can this then be neutrality? Is this that impartiality which we profess: viz. that of leaving the two rival candidates for the throne to fight for the prize by their own unassisted strength, and with their own proper resources.

But we ask, what must be the consequence of such a proceeding as the present undisguised support given to one of the competitors? Will it fix Don Pedro upon the throne of Portugal; will it tend to establish liberal institutions; to dispossess Don Miguel; and to convince the beset and bigoted people of the Peninsula of the folly of upholding their old abuses,—their church—their convents, and other monastic establishments? No such thing. All that we now do is to heap new fuel upon the flames, and to prolong a sanguinary contest, which (after a trial had once been made under all possible advantages, and found unsuccessful) it was our duty to have discouraged.

Whatever the result of Don Pedro's possession of Oporto may be, we are satisfied that it can never seat him upon the throne, but through years of civil wars and long protracted contests. It is admitted that there is an adverse feeling in the people against Don Pedro; that the priests who lead on the people, are opposed to him; and that the whole aristocracy of the coun-

try reject him with one voice, as unworthy of their confidence. What chance of success therefore has he but by a course of prolonged civil war? Strange, it may be said, that the Portuguese people prefer Miguel to Pedro; but there is no accounting for taste; so it is.

UNITED STATES.

A letter from Charleston says:—"Our citizens bandy epithets of abuse, and charges of treason and talk familiarly of shedding one another's blood, and we are every instant in danger of civil commotion among ourselves.—The storm nearly broke out on the reception of the President's proclamation. Some of the young nullifiers proposed to burn the President in effigy. The Union party determined to prevent it. The prompt interference of the city authorities, civil and military, suppressed the measure in the bud, and our community was saved from a scene of carnage."

Strange as it may seem, says the Journal of Commerce, we doubt whether there be a state in the union in which the question being fairly put to the people, they would not vote against the Tariff. The cause of this is plain to those inclined to see it, and is nothing less than this, that in no state are a majority of the people benefitted by the Tariff. The labouring classes, after all the logic which has been expended to prove what a capital thing it is for them to pay four dollars for two dollar cloths, and eight cents for four cent sugar, do not exactly see through it. The matter is not made plain enough for their comprehension. They come to the same conclusion, by the short process of common sense, which the most profound minds have come to by laboured deductions from masses of facts.

Jamaica.—We have been favoured by Capt. Ross, with a file of Jamaica papers, down to the 10th Dec. Some progress appears to have been made by the Governor and Assembly, in the agreeable game of cross purposes, which they were playing at the last accounts. We quote a paragraph relative to a new cause of contention that appears to have arisen:—N. S.

"The Message of Earl Milgrave, to the House of Assembly, on Friday, denying the Committee of the House the right of examining witnesses on oath, some what astonished the *lieges*, as such a right had never been doubted, until General Carmichael the Commander of the Forces, prohibited the officers under his command, from divulging oaths, the causes of the mutiny in the 21 West India Regiment. We have taken some pains to lay a history of this case before our readers; and we lament, that at a moment like the present, the Executive and the Assembly are likely to come into collision on a point so vital to the interests of the Country, and so important to the rights of our Constituents; and as it is impossible that either can abandon a point, at which they are so decidedly at issue, we have no doubt the Governor will be under the painful necessity of prostrating the House, until his Majesty's pleasure be known; and should it be at variance with the rights of the House, dissolution after dissolution must be the consequence."

His Majesty's Government has consented to relieve the Island from the payment of the troops for three years.