

European & Foreign News.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

On Monday the 6th inst., the mortifying fact was made public that the Transatlantic wire no longer spoke articulately between Ireland and America. On the 8th, however, the explanation was furnished in a letter to *The Times* by Mr. WHITEHOUSE, "one of the four original promoters of the Atlantic Telegraph."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE considers himself to have been very unhandily treated by the Board of Directors of the Company, but of the dispute we know nothing beyond his statements. He complains of the studious suppression of his name, and certainly we have hardly seen it in the *business*, although "the first, and every electrical operation between the two countries, have been wholly under his direction." The important facts, however, are, that the force of the Atlantic swell on the west coast of Ireland is sufficient to endanger the thin deep sea cable near the shore; that it requires protection there; that he had to raise and repair the faulty part of the cable prior to the transmission of the Queen's and the President's messages, and thus restore the free inter-communication which had ceased. The sum is, that the defect is in the part most easy to repair, and that it cannot be very difficult to so protect the line as to obviate the present danger, which may be fatal any hour to the electrical communication.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The new Indian Council is constituted, and has held its first sitting, Lord STANLEY presiding.

The Examiner thus speaks of their qualifications:

"Let us see whom we have got. Among the Councillors elected by Directors, we find a millionaire London banker, acquainted with nothing of India but the India House, and two lawyers who knew nothing of India but the Queen's Court of Justice at Calcutta, of which they were lucrative office-bearers. Among the four last nominees of the Crown, two are certainly men of mark, the first of the highest,—Sir John Lawrence, of Punjab renown, and Sir Proby Cautley, the engineer of the Ganges Canal. To counterbalance these, however, there are two, neither of Indian nor any other reputation. One of them, we are told, is a retired merchant, not of Calcutta or Bombay, which have much trade, and where a man might acquire useful mercantile knowledge, but of Madras, where there is little or no trade, and, consequently, where little or nothing can be learnt. In choosing old Indians throughout, the error committed seems to be about as glaring as if we were to come to the conclusion that biased witnesses would make the fairest and ablest judges."

The only hope lies in the fact that Lord STANLEY must account for everything to the House of Commons.

The new Council will cost India about 18,000*l.* for salaries alone; and each councillor will have the patronage of about twenty cadetships.

BOMBARDMENT OF JEDDAH.

As had been anticipated, the bombardment of Jeddah, not immediately on the occurrence of the massacre, but after the Turkish Government had given us satisfactory assurances, and adopted satisfactory measures, is viewed at Constantinople with astonishment and perplexity. The explanation seems to be, that Lord MALMESBURY, perhaps rather too much elated by his success at Naples, was unduly hasty in his measures with a Power which has fulfilled most honourably, towards us, all the duties of an ally. He stated through Mr. FITZGERALD, it will be remembered, to the House of Commons, that a telegraphic despatch had been sent to Malta in anticipation of the Indian mail. The Maltese authorities had also sent the despatch by a special fast steamer to Alexandria; on it went to Cairo and Suez, and to the captain of the *Cyclops*, all "special" Meantime, the counter-instructions, forwarded after communication with the Porte, travelled at the usual speed. Captain PULLEN, therefore, did but fulfil his instructions "to use every means in his power to bring the perpetrators of the horrible outrage to justice—the most forcible and coercive measures if necessary." The issue is happily right enough; and we may hope that the most ample apologies will be made to the Turkish Government for this needless supercession of its authority.

INDIA.

General Sir Hope Grant left Lucknow on the 21st, with a force of about 3,000 men, twelve light guns, and a battering train, for Fyzabad, of which they were to keep possession. They were then to relieve Maun Singh, anxious to join us, but who was shut up in his fort at Shihgunge, besieged by about 20,000 of the rebels. Order seems to have been in a great measure restored in Rohilcund and the Doab. The movement of General Roberts from Nusseerabad on Jeypore relieved the latter place of all apprehension of a visit from the fragments of the Gwalior Contingent. They halted on his approach, and then retired on the large town of Tonk, which they plundered, but without doing any serious amount of mischief. Roberts followed at their heels, but, finding them to be too nimble to be overtaken by the whole column, he detached Brigadier Holmes in pursuit, he himself taking up his quarters for a time in Tonk. The great Mohammedan festival of the Bukri Eed seem to have passed over quietly everywhere. Indore and the Nizam's dominions are now so strengthened with European troops as to occasion no alarm, and throughout Western India we have at present no force in

active operation in the field, though some of the rebellious mountain tribes, with whom we were engaged when the rains set in, will probably require to be taken in hand on the return of the cold weather.

On the 11th the rebels got possession of Tonk, which they plundered of 2,000*l.* worth of property. We were too hard at their heels to permit of further mischief, and on entering the town three days afterwards found the shops open, and the people pursuing their customary avocations, without excitement or alarm. Ajmere had meanwhile been fortified, and the ladies from Nusseerabad placed within its walls in safety.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress of the French left St. Cloud for Biarritz on Wednesday morning. They arrived at Bayonne, where great preparations were made for their reception, at ten at night. They travelled *incog.*, and consequently would be relieved from the trouble of receiving addresses.

It is stated among the political parties in Paris that the Emperor expressed great satisfaction with the manner in which M. de Persigny set forth the views of his Sovereign both on foreign and domestic politics in his speech at St. Etienne. *The Patrie*, in remarking on M. de Persigny's observations on the press, says, "We should like the rights of the press to be, perhaps not extended, but clearly defined; and certainly our desire is not exorbitant."

A letter from Paris says:—"I never remember to have seen greater extravagance or more eccentricity in toilette than during the past few months. At the seaside and various other watering places of the continent, the whole attire of the ladies is not that of sensible women of the nineteenth century, but gives the idea of the fantastic creations of wild girls of sixteen on a frolic."

CHINA.

The terms of the treaty do not appear to be so full and satisfactory as those which, according to a letter from Hong Kong, have been obtained by the English. Both Americans and Russians have "the most favored nation" clauses, which will probably obtain for them everything of importance which we have been at the expense and trouble of obtaining for all nations. Expense we should hardly say, since France is to receive six millions, and we sixteen millions, of dollars, as a compensation for instructing the Chinese in the principles of Free Trade and Religious Liberty; the money to be paid at Canton, and secured upon the revenues of that port.—The telegraphic accounts of attacks of a murderous kind on the Europeans are but too true, and it has been deemed necessary to retaliate by destroying the parts of the city in which they were made. Of the extent to which the seaports are declared open there is yet some doubt; some accounts specifying particular spots others mentioning all. It is expressly stated that the great central river which crosses the whole of China, the Yang tse-Kiang, is thrown quite open to trade; and there seems no reason to doubt that the free teaching of Christianity will be permitted and protected.

The Moniteur of Monday publishes a telegraphic despatch from Baron Gros. He says:—

"Tien-Sin, June 19.

"The wishes of the Emperor are satisfied in China.

"The whole of the vast empire is thrown open to Christianity, and nearly the whole of it to the trade and industry of the west.

"Our diplomatic agents may reside temporarily at Peking.

"Our missionaries are to be admitted everywhere.

"A Chinese Ambassador will be sent to Paris.

"The murderer of the missionary Chappe de Laine will be punished. *The Gazette* of Peking will announce it.

"The laws against Christianity are to be abolished.

"The engagements have all been concluded, and partly signed under the seal of the Imperial Commissioners.

"France and England obtain the most ample concessions."

MR. ROEBUCK ON CHERBOURG.

What is the meaning of Cherbourg? Are they afraid of Russia, of Austria, of Prussia? No. Are they afraid of England? No; not as an invader. What then, does Cherbourg mean? It is a standing menace to England. (Hear, hear.) The press of England is free, thank God—(hear, hear)—and what one man says cannot be imputed to the Government. But is this so with regard to France? Why, sir, I have got in my possession a pamphlet entitled "Cherbourg et d'Angleterre," which is stamped with the approval of the Imperial Government, which does not let a word go forth against itself. They say every word that is said by the French press is imputable to the French Government. What does that pamphlet say? It abuses England—it calls her perfidious—it says we are intent upon enslaving the world—that we are a set of bigots—that we are unworthy the name of men, and that the French people ought to hate us as they hate the ——. To whom do I attribute this? I lay it at the door of the French Emperor. Mark me, I know what I say. I say it on a solemn occasion. The French press is the expression of the Emperor's opinion, and that this appeal to the prejudices that now lie in the minds of the French people against England is a manifestation of the Emperor's opinion. Be you ready then. Get your guns and ships ready, for, depend upon it, he knows in his heart

that Cherbourg is a standing menace. (Applause.) Now, I will tell you what the moral is. I am sent to Parliament as your representative. In the next coming Parliament there will be estimates, and everything that goes to protect England against foreign invasion will receive my hearty support. (Loud cheers.) Sir, I know the position which England holds. She is a shining light to all the nations of the earth. (Hear.) In her fields are peace, and her harvests are gathered in by a people unprotected by bayonets. The law is paramount from the Land's End to John-o-Groats. The Queen travels from one end of the island to the other without anything but a solitary policeman on the train, and he need not be there. (Cheers.) Is not this a striking instance of what popular government may do? I am here to take advantage of the occasion, and to tell you at once that we are a people hated by the despots—(hear hear)—and that requires that all of us should be prepared against the coming evil that certainly will befall us. Depend upon it that that gallant nation that is our nearest neighbour cannot, will not, bear the dreadful burden which is now upon her shoulders. It will lift the burden off, and we standing by will see the terrible explosion. We shall have to be prepared against all coming calamity. And I beg of you as you value your own hearths and your own happiness to support me, your member, when I vindicate before the world England's safety against the world in arms.

THE HARVEST IN ENGLAND.

Owing to the remarkable fine season we have had, we are now in a position to draw something like a close estimate of the harvest of 1858.

The accounts from the different provincial markets, although they somewhat vary, are in their general tenour of a most satisfactory character. Almost all agree that the wheat is of a very superior quality, and that it has been got in in capital condition, the grain being not only large, but also weighing heavy. The crop, on the whole, will be above the average.

Within the last ten days the appearance of blight on the potato leaves has become very general, but as yet the tubers have not been much affected.

The fruit season has been an unusually prolific one. There has been an immense yield of gooseberries, currants, raspberries, plums, and wall fruit. The apple and pear crop will also be very large—in fact, much larger than has occurred for many years past. So great, indeed, has been the growth of some of the earlier fruits, that they have hardly paid for picking and sending to market, many of the large growers in Kent not having realized more than 4*l.* per bushel, after every expense has been paid.

A PREACHER IN BLANK VERSE.—The last thing we should have fancied, is to have heard within the pulpit, echoes of the form and fashion, of Longfellow's "Hiawatha." In the forepart of the season, down at (then not crowded) Rainsgate, an acute Dissenting preacher, to attract a numerous gathering, advertised his fixed intention, twice (p.v.) on the next Sunday, sermons twain then to deliver, in majestic blank verse uttered. And he did it! they who listened, had a weary weary season; season very weary had they, listening to the man who did it; man obese, obese his wit too. To describe we will not venture, how the pump went on, ward working, at each lifting of the handle, dribbling forth its stunted measure. Very painful 'twas to hear it, very pleasant to the speaker; Love was the all-graceful subject; quite unlovely was the treatment. But 'twas with a moral pointed; moral pointed very sharply; sharply pointed to the pocket; and it showed how if our bosoms glowed but with the love he painted, we should prove it by lib'ral coming-down at the collection!—*Athenaeum*.

SECRET BAPTISM AND FORCIBLE ABDUCTION OF A JEWISH CHILD.—The forcible abduction by the Roman Inquisition of a Jewish child six years old, at Bologna, under the pretence of its having been, two years ago, secretly baptized by its Catholic nurse, has created a most painful sensation throughout the Jewish world. Twenty-one Sardinian congregations have addressed a joint and most pathetic appeal to the London Jewish Board of Deputies, soliciting its interference in behalf of the heart-broken family. The board met on Monday last, when it was unanimously resolved to respond to the appeal. A sub-committee of eight was appointed, with Sir Moses Montefiore at its head, to which full power was given to take all necessary steps required by the emergency. The sub-committee resolved to put itself in communication with the Israelitish Central Consistories of France and Holland; to appeal to the press of England; to endeavour to enlist the sympathy of the generous English Government in the cause; and, if needs be, to send a deputation to the Pope.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

The Channel Islands Telegraph is an entire success, and yesterday was the day appointed at Southampton for rejoicing in connection with its opening. There were processions and illuminations, and a congratulatory message was sent off to the Queen, which, we suppose, would catch her on this side of Edinburgh.

MYSTERIES OF THE RUSSIAN COURT.—An extraordinary statement is made in the *St. Petersburg journals*:—In demolishing a wall in the apartments of the Hereditary Grand Duke, in what is called the "Great Palace," in that city, the skeleton of a woman was found still covered with fragments of clothing, which fell to dust on being exposed to the air. There is not the slightest tradition, they add, to show who the woman was, nor why she was closed up in the wall.

LETTER FROM DR. LIVINGSTONE.

The subjoined is an interesting extract of a letter from Dr. Livingstone. It is dated "Zambesi, 25th of June, 1858," and was received by the gentleman to whom it is addressed (Charles Le Braithwaite, Esq., of Kendal), on Saturday Aug. 18th:—

"We reached the southernmost branch of the Zambesi on the 14th (of May), and found the bar much smoother than we anticipated. The breakers were rather boisterous on each side of us, but we entered safely, making signals for her Majesty's ship *Hermes* as to the depth of the water, till she was out of sight on her way to Kilimane, to deliver our credentials to the Portuguese. As we were now in the midst of mangrove swamps, we took quinine, and believing it to be a work of necessity to get away as quickly as possible, the launch was put together. Two days were required to get her into working trim, and we are now threading our way up among the swamps, the launch piloting the *Pearl*. Saw but one native.

"25TH JUNE, ZAMBESI.—I add a few lines to say that after exploring different mouths of the Zambesi, we have at last found a very good bar and harbour, which leads us into the main stream. The water was falling fast, and as we were ordered not to risk the detention of the *Pearl* in the river, we thought it most prudent to let her depart, and landing our house on an island, we put our things there, and now trust to the launch to take us up the country. Captains Gordon and Bedingfield are delighted with the river. The latter says it is quite unlike the rivers on the west coast. We have had no fever, and have ascertained one great fact, if this is to be a highway into the heart of Africa: this time of the year is perfectly safe for Europeans; not a single man of the *Pearl* or *Hermes*, or of the expedition, has been attacked by the disease. You are aware that I left the river at Mazaro (in coming from the interior in 1856), and that we have been indebted for our knowledge of the parts below that to Captain Parker. We went up to Mazaro, and I looked with a thrilling sensation of gratitude on the smooth spot on which I made my last astronomical observation on the Zambesi, and the identical little hut in which I slept. The hippopotami can't bear the steamer at all, the crutiest old bachelor among them goes off pell mell as soon as we come near. We are on good terms with the natives. Will go to Tete next week. No fever yet."

WILL THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE LAST?

The cable having been laid, questions which have for a time been set aside again become prominent. Among the chief of these is the probability of its continuance. Is it likely to last for any considerable time now it is laid? The considerations affecting this question divide themselves into two classes—those which affect the shore ends of the cable, and those which relate to the deep-sea portion. The former of these needs no discussion, because we have already had sufficient experience to prove that, with ordinary precautions, submarine cables run but little risk of injury near the shore and at Valentia there are even fewer sources of danger, we believe, than at many other places, in consequence of the absence of shipping from that part of the coast. We are unacquainted with the nature of the Newfoundland coast at the point at which the cable is landed, but there is no ground for believing it other than well selected. With regard to the deep sea portion of the cable we see no reason for apprehending its destruction. It has already existed for two weeks, and this affords excellent ground for confidence in its durability, at least for a considerable period. It is of course, impossible to predict how long the insulation of the wires may remain intact, after the many forces and novel circumstances to which the cable has been subjected. There are good reasons for believing that the conditions of water low down in deep seas are highly favourable to the durability of a cable. We may confidently believe that the greater part of the Atlantic cable is now surrounded by water which is so still and so low in temperature as to retain it in security for a long time to come.—*The Engineer*.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE AT ASTRAKAN.—Intelligence has been received of the total destruction by explosion of a powder-magazine of the city and seaport of Astrakan on the Caspian. It amounts to a Russian disaster almost equalling the downfall of Sebastopol. At Astrakan for years an arsenal of enormous resources had been in progress, intended as the basis of immense operations against Persia, Bokhara, and the whole Asiatic continent. Steamers of every calibre had their starting-points here, and the Wolga conveyed stores to this depot from every province of the empire. To judge of the warlike paraphernalia piled up here for ulterior objects, it is only necessary to state that the magazine which blew up the place, and killed half the inhabitants, contained 6,000 pounds, that is to say nearly 200,000 pounds of gunpowder. It was the very busiest season of the year for the navigation of that inland sea, and the loss of shipping is fearful.

The German papers contain a rumour that the Queen will pay an official visit to Berlin, to be present at the accouchement of her daughter, the Princess Frederick William.

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