

ceeding to London to promote a bill for the formation of a Board for the examination of ship-masters and mates. A good deal of conversation took place as to the desirableness of such a board, and its probable effect in securing a higher and more uniform degree of nautical skill in the commanders of merchant vessels, and a committee was appointed to act with the Glasgow reputation, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. G. Grant, W. Patten, Rankin, Dnnan Gibb, Whitehead Henderam, Nichol, Greenshields, and Rotheram.

MR PIERCE,

As you have published the proceedings of a meeting held at Newcastle, at 4 o'clock, p. m. on Saturday last, I claim the privilege of your columns, for the purpose of commenting upon what appears by the report, to have been said and done there; and while I trust to the reasons I shall advance, to convince strangers, I feel confident that the names affixed to the proceedings, will be sufficient proof of their fallacy, to the inhabitants of the County.

To follow the proceedings and speeches throughout, and to disprove them in detail, would be a task more needless and difficult. I shall therefore take up the substance of the aspersions against the County meeting, which it appears to be—'That it was opened punctually, and the business despatched speedily;' and the attack upon the Sheriff, viz—'That he should not have dismissed the meeting so hastily.' Now, sir, it is true, that the Sheriff was called to the chair by the public, shortly after the hour appointed in the notice, and that the business of the meeting at once proceeded; but that anything like hurry was displayed by the Sheriff, or any person at the meeting, is false. The resolutions were proposed and seconded in the usual manner, and prefaced by the customary remarks, and so far from haste being apparent, some of the speeches took longer to deliver than the resolution of the 'second meeting' states the whole business to have been despatched in. The Sheriff frequently stated that he would be happy to hear any further remarks on the resolutions, and allowed several minutes to pass in silence for that purpose, before putting any of the resolutions to vote; and the proceedings of the Legislature, on presenting their unanimous address to Sir John, were read to the meeting from the Royal Gazette. If the business was despatched speedily, it was only because there was little to do, and that little was done in an orderly and unanimous manner, and because there were no persons there, who had Electioneering speeches ready written, and to be delivered, tho' foreign to the business of the meeting. But to suppose for the sake of argument, that the business was despatched hastily, does it not manifest a combination of ignorance, and malice, to lay the blame at the Sheriff's door? Could not Mr. Carman as a lawyer, have informed his meeting, that after a County meeting had been called, the Sheriff attended like another member of the community, and with no more power over its proceedings? did he not know, that if the Sheriff was called to the Chair, he was bound either to accept, or decline it? that if he accepted, the business must proceed? and if he declined, another Chairman would at once be named? and whether will he claim ignorance or malice, as his excuse, for not answering, when asked, if the Chairman could prolong a meeting, after it was moved and seconded that he leave the Chair when another was placed in it, and a vote of thanks given to him, as its former occupant? but tho' Mr Carman did not state these facts, the public will at once see their truth, and cogency, and be convinced that the Sheriff acted with independence and impartiality. The equally ungentlemanly and false aspersions on the Sheriff's character, contained in the speeches at that meeting will require no reply, where he or his accusers are known, particularly, as they may come before the County in another shape. Let us now consider, who were the principal voters at this malcontent 4 o'clock assembly. First then, we have an unsuccessful candidate at the last election! who makes a long rambling speech;—says little or nothing, concerning what they pretend to have met for; but wastes much time, in vain efforts to traduce his successful rivals, in order to prepare the field (if not for success) at least for a more respectable defeat, at the next election. Let any person read the speech, and say if this object of the Orator, be not conspicuous in every sentence.

Second on the list, is a disappointed Justice of the Peace! who we have more than once been told, (and by himself too!) Sir John should have made a Judge of the Common Pleas; he calling himself a Senior Magistrate; and perhaps, when in a recent editorial, you expressed your opinion that Mr Williston was overlooked; you were not aware of the fact, that when named as a Magistrate, it was with the understanding that it would be for the district of Bay du Vin, where he then resided; and that it was never dreamt by the Executive, or its advisers, that he would act in the Town. Next in his noted clique, we have too new made Magistrates! who perhaps never would have been such, if Sir John Harvey's want of knowledge of the place, and people on his first landing in the Province; had not been taken advantage of; and so forcibly was this truth impressed on the parties themselves, that one of them seconded the resolution, stating "that

Sir John had done no act to entitle him to an address from this County;" they do not say, however, that he may not yet deserve an address, for undoing. I would remind these Gentlemen of the story of the adder in *Æsop*; and while the public assimilate the fact to the fable, let them profit by the moral, ere they feel its truth,—next, comes a rejected applicant for the Sheriff's office! and lastly, to be noticed, is the Chairman of this meeting; whose excuse for being in such company, may be, that he was trepanned; and who was doubtless placed in the chair, for the purpose of securing one Independent man; but, was it consistent in him, to take the chair of such a meeting, when he was at Newcastle, in time to have attended the County meeting? and after expressing his satisfaction, that the County meeting was over? I have now to remind the public, that on the night prior to the County meeting; a private meeting was held at Chatham; under the cloud of night; to consult, whether or not certain persons should, in a body attend and oppose all measures for an address, and that some of the parties stated, that their intention in going, was to prevent the possibility of any thing being done! and I now submit to the public, if such should be the conduct of a body of men, among whom were three Magistrates and a Lawyer? It will be in the recollection of most persons in the community, that on Sir John Harvey's first coming to Chatham, a certain few persons, were particularly solicitous to obtain his favor; while many others were content, with shewing him that respect, which the sovereign's representative should ever receive, from loyal subjects, and which etiquette demanded; it will also be remembered, who were of the solicitous party, and the cause of so great change, can be no secret, when we consider, that Sir John Harvey was then coming into power, and would have good things at his disposal, but that he is now leaving and nothing can be expected from his favor.

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Chatham, April 2, 1841.

THE GLEANER.

European News.

BY THE BRITISH QUEEN.

From British Papers to the 10th March, ary, received by the Steamer British Queen, at Halifax.

London Morning Post, March 10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr Scholfield gave notice that on the 23d of this month, he would move a resolution to the effect that the imposition of a property tax, instead of the Customs and Excise duties that press heavily on the middle and industrious classes, would be of great public advantage.

On motion of Mr Hume a return was ordered, 'under different heads, of the manner in which the several sums voted for the insurrection in Canada, viz., in 1838, £500,000; in 1839, £647,000; and in 1840, £553,000; amounting in the three years to £1,700,000, were expended, also a return of the number of muskets and other fire arms, of swords, and the quantity and kind of military stores, sent to and landed in Syria since July, 1840; and a return of the number of English, Scotch, and Irish non-commissioned officers and privates in the whole of the British army, in each of the years on the 1st day of January 1830 and 1840, distinguishing the household troops, the cavalry, the artillery, and sappers and miners from regiments of the line.

We have received a second supplement of the Journal de Smyrne of the 19th ult. It contains the Hatti Scheriff of the Porte, despatched to Alexandria on the 14th ult., conferring on Mehemet Ali the Government of Egypt.

The Levant mail of the 1st inst. has arrived at Marseilles.

We have received through this channel the Journal de Smyrne of the 14th and 19th ult., the Echo de l'Orient of the 13th and 14th, and the Oriental Observer of the same dates. The important intelligence from Constantinople of the 18th we give in another place. From the contents of the firman it remains doubtful whether Mehemet Ali will accept the conditions imposed on him by the Porte.

We announced in our columns of Saturday that M. Guizot had proposed to place the Christian population of Syria under the protection of the European Powers, with a Pacha appointed by the Porte.

Letters from Rhodes of the 19th ult. state a serious riot had taken place at Calymnos, in that island, and that several persons had been killed. The Turkish Governor had restored tranquillity, but no explanation is given as to the cause of the disturbance.

The Egyptian army suffered severely in its retreat from Syria, having been four days without water. The men and dogs bore the privations the best. The mortality amongst women, children, and cavalry was very great.

The Manzari Shark of the 19th ult. publishes the annexed intelligence from Aden:—

"Accounts from this place, dated the 10th instant, state everything to be quiet there, and the place rapidly increasing in population and gradually improving. The regenerator of the Faith, as the bigoted old man was pleased to style himself was totally defeated by the Imaun, and Senna taken prisoner and beheaded, which had put down the rebellion to a considerable extent. The Imaun intended in less than a month to attack the seaport towns of Mocha, Hodeida, and Zehrid. He is favourably disposed towards the English. The climate of Aden was at the above date delightful, and the troops were exceedingly healthy. The French had obtained possession of a place called Eyd, on the Abyssinian coast, said to be 88 miles in length and 10 in width. It is supposed to be their intention to form a settlement for commercial purposes."

The Earl of Mountcashel on Monday asked Ministers if the Report of the Committee of Foreign affairs of the Congress of the United States of the 13th February last, (which had reference to the Affair of McLeod), was genuine—as he was inclined to think otherwise, from the high opinion which he entertained of the practical good sense of the people of the United States. Lord Melbourne replied, that he had no doubt of its authenticity.

SHEERNESS, March 8.—The Monarch and Vernon have been ordered to expedite their fitments.—America, it is said, is to be their station.

PORTSMOUTH, March 6.—The Indus and Tweed have gone to Spithead to await orders—destined, it is supposed, for America.

CHINA AND INDIA.

From the Overland Courier of Feb. 1.

The latest intelligence received from China is to the 18th December. At Chusan on the 6th of the preceding month the naval commander in chief and principal plenipotentiary issued a proclamation stating that a truce had been agreed on between the Imperial High Commissioner and himself, in accordance with which the British and Chinese forces were not to pass beyond certain boundaries, it appears from documents subsequently published that the limits within which this truce is to be held binding are confined to the immediate vicinity of Chusan and its dependencies, and that it has no concern whatever with any transactions that may arise in the waters of Canton. The Admiral, accompanied by Captain Elliot, at Tonkoo Bay, near Macao, on the 20th November, and brought with him her Majesty's ships Melville, Wellesley, Blenheim, and Modeste, so that the squadron off Canton now consists of three ships of the line, four frigates, four sloops of war, and four steamers. The Blonde and several smaller vessels have been left at Chusan. The troops at the latter place have suffered dreadfully from sickness, of which a detailed account will be found in a subsequent column. In fact there are no more than 600 men fit for duty. We are however happy to find that fresh provisions have lately been procured in considerable quantities, by which means the more dangerous cases have been diminished and considerable amelioration has taken place in the health of all.

On the 21st November Captain Elliot proceeded from the anchorage at Tonkoo, in the Queen steamer, towards the Bogue for the purpose of delivering a letter addressed to Keshen by the admiral intimating his having arrived at the spot, which had been previously agreed on, for the purpose of adjusting the existing differences. Notwithstanding she had a flag of truce flying, the Queen was fired at by the batteries. This was promptly returned by the steamer's throwing two shells into the fort, which are supposed to have done considerable damage to the Chinese. She, however, returned to Tonkoo without delivering the letter, which was subsequently forwarded through the agency of a mandarin sent by the Chinese authorities, to explain to the admiral that the Queen had been fired on by mistake, and that the act arose from the unauthorised conduct of an inferior officer. His Excellency, however, insisted on a written apology, and threatened, if it were not given, that he would attack the Bogue forts. This threat appears to have had the desired effect, and the requisite atonement has been made.

On the 24th of November her Majesty's ship Blenheim proceeded to the Bogue, and was shortly afterwards followed by the remainder of the squadron with 400 Madras Sepoys. Everything was prepared for an attack on the forts in the event of any unnecessary hesitation on the part of the Chinese in carrying on

the negotiations, it having been suspected that Keshen, the Imperial Commissioner, was purposely delaying his arrival. However, on the 29th of November, this functionary made his public entry into Canton having previously sent an intimation of his approach to the Admiral. On the same day a letter was addressed by Captain Elliot to the merchants and other British subjects resident at Macao, informing them that Rear Admiral the hon. G. Elliot, C. B., had in consequence of his suffering from severe and sudden indisposition, resigned the command of the squadron to Commodore Sir James Gordon Bremer. The Admiral having shifted his flag into the Volage arrived at Singapore on the 17th of December, and left that port for England on the 20th of the same month.

The resignation of the Admiral and consequent resumption of command by Sir James Bremer have been productive of much satisfaction to the mercantile interest in China, it being the general idea that the latter officer is likely to act with more energy and decision than the former. This feeling is, however, considerably lessened by the consideration that Captain Elliot is now the sole Plenipotentiary, and there does not appear to be any one conversant with the state of affairs in China who entertains other than the most contemptible opinion of this functionary's diplomatic abilities.

The accounts which have been received of the proceedings of the Chinese, subsequent to the Admiral's resignation are of a conflicting nature. It appears that the British authorities sent a message to Canton intimating that they would wait until the 17th of December for the arrival of Keshen at the Bogue, and that if he did not make his appearance by that time, they would seize the forts and resort to other hostile measures; for which purpose the squadron had been assembled at the mouth of the Canton river. It was then said that Keshen had sent a requisition desiring the British forces to withdraw from the Bogue, and that he also declined holding any direct communication with the Plenipotentiary; and that all letters were to be addressed to the chief mandarin at Macao. Later accounts state that this is false, and the Keshen and Capt. Elliot have been in direct communication; but that the higher classes of Chinese at Canton are so loud in their expression of indignation at the very idea of such an exalt personage as the Imperial Commissioner condescending to treat personally with barbarians, that Keshen has been induced to conceal the fact, and has even denied to the Chinese that he ever had an interview with Captain Elliot at the mouth of the Peiho river.

One thing, however, is certain; Mr. Staunton was taken from prison on the morning of the 10th of December, and brought to the High Commissioner's residence. There he was most hospitably entertained and having slept there that night, was allowed on the following day to proceed to Macao, at which place he arrived in safety.

This looks like an act of conciliation.

The usual details of Indian intelligence will be found amongst our extracts. Sir James Carnac and family left Bombay on the 21st ultimo in the yacht Prince Regent for Tankaria Bunder, whence they intended to proceed to Baroda, and are expected to return to Bombay about the 10th inst. On the 27th of last month a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Town-hall of this presidency, at which a congratulatory address to her Majesty and Prince Albert was framed, and will be forwarded to England by this day's mail. By the same opportunity a petition will be transmitted to the House of Lords, praying their early consideration of the subject of our present relations with China. It has been signed by all the mercantile community of Bombay, and expresses in firm but temperate language the great detriment which has accrued to the commercial interest at this port from the tardy and indecisive manner in which operations have been carried on in China.

Dost Mahomed is continuing his journey towards the south, and in all probability will arrive at Loodianah about the 10th instant.

The latest intelligence from Lahore states that the party of Shere Sing possess no power and seem much dejected. The Ranees is entirely guided by the advice of the French officers to which the native chiefs at present offer no opposition. It is very probable that the Governor-General will shortly be called on to interfere, in which case it is considered likely that the provinces of Cashmere and Peshawar will either be taken possession of by the British, or made over to their ally, Shah Soojab.