

some quarter or other. Nay, by a corn duty Pledges, professions, solemn declarations, are all cast to the winds; what the Premier designated in 1840 as a measure which none but a madman could think of, the nominal leader of the House of Commons proposes in 1841.

THE BRITISH MAGAZINES FOR MAY.

Tait's Edinburgh Magazine.
FAILURE OF OUR POLICY IN THE
LEVANT.

The consequences of our Oriental policy are beginning to develop themselves. We are entering upon a new scene of folly and passion in which Lord Palmerston has been performing the principal part. The first act began with the signature of the treaty of July, 1840. The diplomatic puppet of England strutted away in the front of the stage in all the pride and dignity of sovereignty; but the strings were pulled, the motions were directed by an unseen arm, stretched out from the north. The perils, the risks, the costs were British;—the success, the triumph, was to be Russian; the seeds were sown by English hands; the harvests are to be culled by Muscovite gatherers. In the name of the integrity of the Ottoman empire, to shatter that empire to its very foundation; in the name of the independence of the Ottoman Empire, to reduce it to the lowest ignominy of vassalage, was the plan and the purpose of the Tzar. To that plan and purpose our cabinet blindly lent itself. It carried out the views and objects of Russia with enthusiastic daring; it trampled upon all constitutional principles: it applied the public revenues, without the sanction of Parliament; it entered into treaties involving peace and war, without communicating them to the Legislature, which was then sitting; and as soon as the Houses of Lords and Commons were prorogued, it sent forth our fleets and armies to destroy the towns, and seize the fortresses of Syria. Our soldiers and sailors obeyed the orders of their commanders. They did their work—horrid work!—promptly and bravely. Little did the people of England know of the causes, less did they think of the consequences of the quarrel. They heard of 'glorious triumphs' and 'splendid victories' of the heroism of Napier and the flight of the Egyptians; and 'the still small voice' of reason and benevolence essayed in vain to make itself heard, amidst the rattle and the thunder of noisy and successful war. But now the loud artillery is silent, and its very echoes are dying away. The dust, the smoke concealed the horrors of the siege, and of the explosions of St. Jean d'Acre, are dispersed; and the consequences of our desperate doings are beginning to present themselves to our view. *

* So much for Egypt,—so much for the 'tender mercies' of our policy,—so much for the development of our plans in that portion of the 'entire Ottoman empire,' which Mehemet Ali is to hold. Now, what is the condition of the countries we have wrested from him? Candia, Arabia, Syria! We found them at peace;—what is their present state? The Greek population of Candia in revolt; the establishment of the Turkish authority is regarded by the Candiot Christians with such abhorrence, that they have already taken up arms against it; five thousand Turkish troops have left Constantinople to subdue 'the insurgents' whose side are the sympathies of the British people? They who rejoiced in the liberation of the Greeks,—they who hailed the triumph of the Cross over the Crescent, in the land of Themistocles,—will pray also for the deliverance of Creta. Arabia! the Holy Cities! No sooner have the troops of Mehemet Ali been withdrawn, than 'a great reformer' has appeared in the desert. He proclaims that 'Mecca is in one of his sleeves, and Medina in the other; and that he will march to the deliverance of Jerusalem.' Will the Torres be able to subdue the dwellers among tents? Can they rescue the Kaaba from 'the regenerators of the faith?' Not they. Arabia will be as certainly freed from the dominion of the Sultan, as Transylvania is; and it is thus we have preserved 'the integrity of the Ottoman empire!' And Syria! unhappy Syria! whose chieftains we have corrupted with our bribes,—whose mountaineers we have armed with our muskets,—whose towns we have destroyed with our artillery,—Syria is fast hastening to that anarchy which pervaded it during the ages of the Ottoman rule. The Druses will not surrender their arms, but will use them for the maintenance of their rule and independence; the Maronites claim, and will obtain, the protection of France and will set Turkish exactions at defiance; the Greek Christians have already made terms with Russia, and will be watched over with paternal kindness by the Muscovite Tzar; the orthodox Catholics have Austria on their side; and our saints will take care of the Protestant missionaries and converts, while they are helping forward a plan for the restoration of Palestine to the Jews, and the advent of the Millennium; and the Mussulmans,—the fanatical Mussulmans,—to whom the establishment of Turkish rule is but the establishment of their title—their rights to oppress,—and the wandering Arabs, and the Anassia, and the Mutualis, with all their passions unchanged,—their domineering and predatory habits,—no longer controlled by any sovereign authority,—does it require the foresight of a profit to announce that 'our glorious and successful Oriental policy' has been only a costly and melancholy failure.

MEMORIAL

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Subscribers, representing the Merchants and Ship Owners of Halifax, Nova Scotia,

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioners feel deep concern at learning that it has been in the contemplation of her Majesty's Government, to make a sudden change in the position of the Colonial Trade, by a proposed reduction of the duty on Baltic, and an increase of the duty on Colonial Timber, as they sincerely believe that such an alteration will be fraught with consequences of the most ruinous kind to the interests of all the British North American Colonies, and injurious to the interests of the Empire at large.

That the Canadas, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, are all largely interested in the manufacture and export of Timber, and that in all respects, the trade and commercial prosperity of the different Provinces are so mutually interwoven by their vicinity and business connections, that any depression or discouragement affecting one or more of the Provinces in a staple of this magnitude, would almost instantaneously be felt throughout the whole extent, in the diminution of credit, the checking of enterprise, and the paralyzing the efforts now successfully going on to increase British capital and influence in this quarter.

That the Timber Trade of these Provinces gives constant employment to large fleets, and forms an extensive nursery for British seamen. That these vessels not only come out to this Continent laden with the manufactures of the United Kingdom, which are exchanged here for Timber, but they also afford the only practicable mode by which emigration to these Provinces is carried on—thus increasing the trade and revenue of the parent State, and filling up rapidly the wilds of this continent with British subjects, whose adherence to the Crown and Nation is secured by every natural tie. That in the event of any material check being given to this branch of Trade, the future emigration would be wholly and exclusively directed to the United States, as few of the class of persons who leave the mother country to settle in America, could find a passage to the Provinces, did not the low terms on which they are carried in the timber ships, enable them to do so.

That a large amount of capital is invested in various ways in this traffic, in mills, wharves, dwellings, and even whole Towns and Villages, built in many places at heavy expense for the exclusive object of preparing and shipping Timber and Deals for Great Britain and Ireland; and from the infant state in which agriculture exists among us, owing to the comparative thinness of our population, and the almost total absence of local manufactures of any kind, these establishments would become reduced in value to a mere nothing, in case of any sudden alteration of the existing scale of duties.

That the Timber Trade had gradually increased in importance in these Colonies, from an early date, and when the subject of a similar reduction of duties on Baltic Timber was agitated in Parliament a few years ago, the magnitude of the interest at stake was then so considerable as to cause the most serious alarm and apprehension to all persons in trade in these Colonies, as well as the houses connected with them in Great Britain; but that it was distinctly understood in the year 1835, that the project of favouring the trade of the Baltic powers at the expense of her Majesty's subjects, was deliberately and finally abandoned after full investigation, the public confidence increased the stability of our Colonial interests,—so that your petitioners feel safe in stating to your honourable House, that at the present time, the amount of British capital engaged in this business, and particularly the permanent investment in buildings, machinery, &c. requisite to its being carried on, are double in amount to what they were in 1835, and that the detriment and damage that would now arise, if the proposed change of duties be adopted, would be infinitely more fatal to our commercial well-being than if it had then been effected.

That the Fisheries of Nova Scotia must also suffer by any decay of the Timber Trade, as the vessels coming here to receive cargoes of timber usually bring out salt at a very low freight, thereby assisting the Fishery more powerfully than any large bounty could do, and as there is now no existing bounty in favour of our Fishery,—and as your petitioners understand it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to allow hereafter foreign fish to enter the markets of the British West Indies on the payment of a small duty, the effect would at this juncture be most severe on the Fishing interests of Nova Scotia.

That your petitioners are confident that the feelings they entertain, and the opinions they express on this subject, are the serious and deliberate views of all the people of Nova Scotia; and they know that in the Province of New Brunswick similar, and even stronger feelings are every where entertained on this matter. That the people of the Provinces in this warmly and most earnestly deprecating the removal of the present protection afforded to their Timber Trade, are free from all motives and intentions of a factious or a political nature, being prompted solely by a certain assurance that such a change must have a most calamitous effect upon the growing commercial

interests of these Provinces; and being also well aware that great trade and reciprocal intercourse, both arising from Commerce and Emigration, which now benefit alike the British Islands, and these distant but equally British communities, would languish and disappear under a system which may perhaps be theoretically right in its general principles, but is wholly inapplicable to the existing condition of these Provinces.

Your petitioners beg your honorable House to believe that these statements are capable of being most distinctly proved and established by a reference to facts and statistical information, such as they doubt not is within the ready access of many of the members of your honorable house, as well as by the evidence of every merchant in Great Britain acquainted with the trade and business of these Colonies. And they would most respectfully represent to your honorable house, that, in a measure like the present, when the interests of so large a body of her Majesty's legal subjects at a distance, are concerned, it will be borne in mind that they are wholly without representation in your honorable house, and that they may be regarded on that account entitled to a degree of kindness and consideration in dealing with their property and prosperity; and that at least time may be afforded to the Provinces, to be fairly and fully heard on a question to them of such vital importance, before a resolution be adopted which appears prompted by a temporary financial difficulty, but will inevitably destroy much of that capital and industry which are the sole sources of permanent revenue and advantage.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honorable house will take the foregoing into consideration, and definitively abandon the proposed measure respecting the duty on Baltic and Colonial Timber, as one at variance with the interests of these valuable and truly loyal Provinces, and calculated to diminish the amount of British shipping, injure the interests of the British manufacturer, and divert emigration from British North America to the United States. And as in duty bound they will ever pray, &c.

George P. Lawson
Stephen Pinney
Thos. Williamson
J. Leander Starr
Samuel B. Smith
J. G. A. Creighton
M. B. Almon
Wm. B. Fairbanks
Joseph Fairbanks
David Allison
Michael Tobin jun.

Chamber of Commerce
Halifax, N. S.

United States.

Boston, May 21.

A Fragment of Wreck.—Captain Davies, of ship Goodwin, at Philadelphia from Liverpool, states that about 15 days ago he passed a piece of a wreck at sea, and the man observing it remarked that it evidently belonged to a steamer. He had at the time no apprehension relative to the President, or he would have picked it up.—Philadelphia Gazette.

Snow was still laying in the woods between Bartlettborough and Berlington, Vt., to the depth of 18 inches on the 15th inst.

The Members of Congress are in motion for this city from distant parts of the Union, to be present at the opening of the Extra session on Monday week.—Wash. pap.

From the N. Y. American of May 19.

The McLeod Case.—Mr. Hall, after citing the authorities in reference to the inadmissibility of relief on habeas corpus, entered at great length into the merits of the principal question. He showed that murder had been confessedly committed, and that the Government of the United States, as the last letter of Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Fox showed, were willing that the matter should be tried before the State Courts; and the demand of Great Britain, in the case of an illegal act committed by her subjects, could have no effect; and to this point he cited Vattel, which proved that the private offence could be proceeded against while the demand for reparation was made by one Government on the other.

He showed that even a slave committing a felony by command of his master is not exempt. He showed that in other instances of similar attacks, the assailants had been forthwith hung; and also instanced the cases of Baker and Greely on our North Eastern frontier, to point out the course of England in analogous cases, who had gone on and tried Americans, not taken on their own acknowledged soil, but on disputed territory, and had imprisoned and sentenced them, pending the reclamation of our Government, and called upon the Government to recognise a precedent, which England could not with decency dispute.

Mr. Spencer, in reply, commenced by declaring that he appeared as counsel for McLeod and not as the District Attorney of the United States. He forfeited, by authority, the position taken by his associate yesterday, and called on the Court to interpose their discretionary power to prevent the occurrence of events, which might occasion a war with England. To a question, however, from the Court, whether the release of McLeod was desired on account of the pending of negotiations between the United States and Great

Britain, he replied that he was not authorized to speak in behalf of the General Government, but that the Court, appreciating the views which he stated, as counsel, must exercise their own discretion. Under the revised statutes associating the Court in the ordering of a nolle prosequi, the power of the Supreme Court was to be regarded rather as executive than as judicial.

Among the Documents submitted to the Court was the following note from Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster, dated March 12, 1841.

'Her Majesty's Government have had under consideration the subject of the arrest and imprisonment of Alexander McLeod, on a pretended charge of arson and murder, and I am directed to make known to the Government of the United States, that the British Government entirely approved of the course pursued by him. I am instructed to demand formally, and in the name of the British Government, the immediate release of Alexander McLeod, for the reason that the transaction was of a public character, planned and executed by persons duly authorized by the Colonial Government, to take such measures as may be necessary for protecting the property and lives of Her Majesty's subjects, and being therefore an act of public duty, they cannot be held responsible to the laws and tribunals of any foreign country.'

Schr. John George, Roundy, arrived at Marblehead on Wednesday from Grand Bank—returned on account of loss of cables and anchors, to avoid coming in contact with ice islands. Capt. Roundy reports that a schooner spoke on the Banks [no date given] had seen a boat apparently full of persons, but failed in all attempts to get to her on account of a fog arising.

Fisheries.—The Newburyport Herald states, that the Mackerel Fishery had so diminished, that its abandonment might be anticipated. In 1831, the catch for Massachusetts was, 953,000 barrels, since which time it has been gradually diminishing. In 1840, the catch was 50,000 barrels. The Cod Fishery had also greatly diminished. It should be recollected, that Brother Jonathan's fishermen brought many fish into market which they did not catch at all, but 'traded' for. Increased vigilance on the shores of the Colonies may have been one cause of the diminution.

Fire.—A recent fire in St. Louis, destroyed six buildings, valued at 70,000 dollars, beside a large amount in goods.

From the N. Y. American.

Case of McLeod.—The motion for the discharge of McLeod, who was brought before the Supreme Court on habeas corpus, was this morning made by his counsel, Messrs. Bradley and Spencer. The return of the Sheriff of Niagara county to the habeas corpus, stating the grounds of McLeod's arrest and detention, were presented. McLeod's affidavit, giving a detail of the Navy Island affair, and capture of the Caroline, and setting forth that the party who boarded her and killed Duffee, acted under orders of their superiors; and a letter from Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster, distinctly avowing the act as that of the British Government, and the correspondence between the British and American Governments, on the subject, were all read in support of motion. The counsel for the prisoner then rested.

The Attorney General, Mr. Hall and District Attorney of Niagara County, Mr. Wood on behalf of the State, opened in reply, and exhibited a demurrer, denying that on the grounds stated in behalf of the prisoner, he was entitled to be discharged; setting forth also that Duffee was killed on shore in the State of New York, and not on board the steamboat, and that his death was not caused during the attempt to capture the boat, but after she was in possession of the captors, who pursued and slew him after he had fled from her; and insisting that the question whether a murder had or had not been committed, could only be decided by the jury, who were judges of the law as well as of the fact.

An intimation was made by the Court that all the grounds of the case should be fully set forth, on the present motion, so that in case of its denial, it would not be necessary on a subsequent motion for change of venue, or for bail, to go over the same ground again or to present any new facts to the Court. On this suggestion the Attorney General asked that the further hearing should stand over till to-morrow, in order that he might prepare further papers in pursuance of this direction of the Court, and it was ordered accordingly.

The McLeod Case.—We learn from the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, that the decision, in this case, will probably not be made until the July term. The question to be decided is, whether he will be discharged, without trial. If the Court decide Yes, that, of course, will be the end of the business, so far as the Courts are concerned; if Nay, then his counsel will take appeal to the Court of Errors [the State Senate] and ultimately, if necessary, to the Supreme Court of the United States.