

West Coast of Africa; the Herald and Orestes are expected immediately.—*Bombay Times*, Dec. 16.

The following we quote from a private letter:

It is ascertained that the demands made by the British Commissioners on the Chinese Government do not include any request for the repayment of the 20,000 chests of opium delivered to Captain Elliot.

A letter of the 12th of October says: 'Some circumstances, and some conversation of the Admiral at Chusan, convince me his views of the conference at or near Canton are not for final settlement, but probably to get out, on amicable terms, the teas of the season, and commence a final adjustment next spring near Peking.'

INDIA.

The intelligence from India is generally pacific, and no event had occurred since the last dates of much political importance. Afghanistan remained tranquil.

An action had occurred in Scinde, on the 1st December, at Kotriah, between 4,000 Delooches, posted among the hills and commanded by Nusseer Khan, 900 Sepoys, 60 irregular horse, and two field pieces, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Marshal. The Sepoys attacked the position, and a desperate defence was made by the Belooches till four of their chiefs and 500 men were slain. Six other chiefs and 132 followers were taken prisoners. Nusseer Khan escaped on foot, but all the baggage, &c. were captured by the British, who only lost one officer and 10 privates; 30 more were wounded.

London, Feb. 8.—The French Journals of Thursday and Friday reached us yesterday. The *Journal des Debats* says:

'The twenty-five ships of the line to be equipped, according to the French budget, offend the English minister's pride, and he regards with anxiety the moment when France, by dint of sacrifices, shall have created a steam fleet. The fortifications of Cherbourg, too, are an encroachment on the naval power of Britain. It is a base jealousy that makes of this minister the inveterate enemy of the French.'

We care very little about the jetty of Cherbourg. But we think it exceedingly natural that our foreign minister should look with some anxiety towards a French steam fleet, in addition to a French sailing fleet of twenty-five sail of the line. Nothing but the most rancorous injustice could construe such natural anxiety into an inveterate enmity of the French name.

Far from answering M. Thier's friends and organs in the same defiant tone, we will merely express the confidence that France will not continue to keep up such a menacing force by sea and land, the consequence of which would be either to force other powers to undergo exorbitant expenses, or to compel them, against their will and polity, into a common league of mutual defence. It is not, and cannot be, the intention of any rational French Government to menace or intimidate Europe, since even in a war of finance and population, two battalions could be always put to meet one French battalion, and two ships to meet her one. What is desirable, is not merely peace with France, but amity; and how can amity be sincere, if soft words are belied by an attitude of defiance?

Some of the French, and even English papers, have spoken of a request made by the British Government to know the intention of the French minister respecting the treaty of commerce, negotiated last year between the countries. We do not know what diplomatic answer has been returned. But we perceive that on a very important point the commission of the French Chamber has modified one of the stipulations of that inchoate treaty. This was, that the duties on English thread should not exceed 10 per cent. Now the commission recommends 12 per cent. The duty fixed on English earthenware imported into France is also greatly increased. These, and other duties, should they be sanctioned by the Chamber, would compel the recommencement of the negotiations, and throw serious obstacles in the way of the conclusion of the treaty.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, February 8.

APPREHENSION OF MR. McLEOD.

Lord Stanley said, that, seeing the noble lord, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in his place, he (Lord S.) should ask that question of which he had given notice. This being a subject of so important a nature, and coming forward at so critical a period, he was compelled to preface the question he was about to put by a short statement of facts; but it should be only such a statement as the rules of the house permitted. He assured the house

that he did mean to go beyond this; but if he should show any tendency to do so, he hoped hon. members would not let him abuse the privilege—(hear, hear.) It would doubtless be in the recollection of the house, that in the latter part of the year 1837, a time when, by the gallantry of the British troops both of the line and of the militia, the rebels had been put down in the Province of Upper Canada, and not a single rebel remained in arms in the whole of that territory,—it would be recollected that at that time a band of organised men, consisting partly of Canadians and partly of American subjects, armed themselves within the frontier of the United States, having procured the arms by seizing upon an arsenal, the property of the United States, and then, in the open day, proceeded to take possession of an island in the Niagara river, this island being the property of her Majesty. This band also transported thither in the open day, arms, the property of the United States, and ammunition and artillery, which were likewise the property of the United States, and reinforcements of men were brought over to make the position good. In that position, and with those means thus obtained, they harassed for a considerable time, the Canadian frontier, which was not more than 600 yards distant, and also boats upon the river. The band were supplied upon more than one occasion, with materials, by a schooner from the American frontier, which was chartered for that purpose. The supplies consisted of arms, ammunition, and reinforcements. During the whole of the day of the 26th of December the schooner had been thus employed, and, in the night of that day, a body of men, under the command of her Majesty's officer, being under the direct orders of Col. McNab, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and commandant of the militia of that province, attacked the schooner while she was moored on the American shore, and captured her. It was impossible, in consequence of the rapidity of the current, to tow the vessel away, so the captors set her on fire and then let her go down the Falls of Niagara. A representation of these proceedings was made by the authorities of the state of New York, and the President of the United States, and at the same time a counter-statement was drawn up by the British authorities in Upper Canada, and transmitted through Mr. Fox, our Minister in the United States, to the Government of that country. In consequence of the conflicting nature of the evidence thus produced, the President entered into communication with Mr. Fox, and forwarded to him a copy of the evidence transmitted from the authorities of New York for the purpose of being laid before her Majesty's Government. These papers were accompanied by a demand of reparation for what the despatch called an outrage on the neutrality of the American territory. A counter-statement from the Canadian authorities containing a strong counter-representation, having been made by her Majesty's Minister at Washington, the whole of the correspondence was in January or February, 1838, transmitted to her Majesty's Government, accompanied by the demand for reparation made by the Government of the United States. But, from that period to the present, no information had been laid before the house by the Foreign office respecting the affair. The Colonial office, in 1838, gave some information to the house on the subject, and after that it furnished various papers, including the proceedings of the House of Assembly, and the Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada, who, in those documents, strongly supported the views of the Canadian authorities, and referred in terms of the highest approbation to the conduct of those who participated in the attack on, and firing the schooner. He believed that since then the public had considered the affair entirely settled between the two countries; but, on the 12th November last, as he understood, a gentleman of the name of McLeod, who had been engaged in the service of her Majesty in Upper Canada as sheriff of a County, and who undoubtedly had taken an active part on several occasions in repelling invasions of the province, but who, however, so far as he (Lord S.) knew, had had nothing whatever to do with the affair of the *Caroline*, was arrested in the state of New York by the command of the local authorities on a charge of murder and arson. He was committed to goal on this charge; for so it appeared the seizure of the *Caroline* was considered, although the act had been done under the orders of the Canadian authorities, and in repelling an invasion of the Canadian territories, and under the directions of a gentleman to whom the command of the military forces was then entrusted. Mr. McLeod was apprehended on this charge, and was about to be tried by a jury of the citizens of New York. He (Lord S.) hoped he was stating these facts correctly. He desired at present to abstain from comments, but if he should misrepresent he hoped the noble lord would correct him. In the meantime Congress met, and the members requested the President to lay before them the communication which the United States Government had had with the British Government on this subject. The President, in complying, laid before the Congress the strong remonstrances which Mr. Fox, as representative of the British Sovereign, had made on the apprehension by the authorities of New York of a British subject, and the proposed trial of a British subject for an offence (if it were an offence) committed under the sanction of British authorities, whose act was at that moment under the consideration of the two govern-

ments, and had been for three years the subject of negotiation. The answer of the President was a refusal to recognise the claim of Mr. McLeod, for these reasons, partly because the federal government had no grounds for interfering with the authorities of the several states, and if they had grounds for interfering this was not a case to exercise any right or authority which such grounds might give them, inasmuch as the question of international right was here deeply involved, which should preclude any interference. Mr. Fox closed this correspondence by expressing in the strongest manner, his deep regret at the view which the President had taken of the matter, and that he (Mr. Fox) was not authorised to express the opinions which her Majesty's Government entertained upon the subject, but on his own part he should enter his protest in the strongest manner that lay in his power against this proceeding, and he would further, without loss of time, lay the whole correspondence before her Majesty's Government. Mr. McLeod was arrested last November, and in the month of February the assizes take place—the present month, and it is this fact, which he (the noble lord) hoped would furnish a sufficient vindication for now interposing in a matter which was calculated to place two great nations in a most serious and critical position—(hear, hear.) It should be considered that at this moment the life of a British subject may be placed in the greatest jeopardy, in consequence of his having acted by the authority of her Majesty's Government, and by the orders of the military authorities, to obey which it was his necessary and bounden duty. The question, then, which he (Lord Stanley) wished to put was this—that, inasmuch as negotiations had commenced upon the subject of the burning of the *Caroline*, since January, 1838, between her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States—he wished to ask, in the first place, whether her Majesty's Government would have any objection to lay on the table the entire of the correspondence which had taken place upon the subject of the destruction of the *Caroline*? and also, whether the despatches had all been received which had been referred to by Mr. Fox in the recent accounts, and particularly that which had been transmitted on the 29th December last announcing the apprehension of Mr. McLeod. He (Lord Stanley) begged to ask further whether her Majesty's Government had taken any steps towards procuring the release of Mr. McLeod from his present confinement? and if so, whether they could lay on the table the nature of those steps, and the correspondence which had passed between the Government of the United States and her Majesty's Ministers.

Viscount Palmerston rose and said, the noble lord had adverted at much length to a subject of extreme interest, and which from the great delicacy of its nature, involved considerations of a grave and serious character to two great countries—(hear.) He, Viscount Palmerston, was sure that this house would think with him that this subject should be touched very lightly and with great delicacy—[hear, hear, from the ministerialists.] With reference to the statement which had just been made by the noble lord, the member for North Lancashire as to the proceedings which had taken place, relating to the subject before them, and the particular circumstances which preceded the apprehension of Mr. McLeod, they were strictly correct. He, Viscount Palmerston, would first answer the question which the noble lord had put to him, before he would state one word in explanation. He thought it would not be expedient in the present state of the question to lay upon the table the correspondence relating to the capture and destruction of the *Caroline*, until that correspondence was brought to a final close—[hear, hear, from the ministerialists.] He begged to inform the noble lord that despatches had been received, enclosing copies of the correspondence which had taken place between Mr. Fox and Mr. Forsyth, the Foreign Minister of the United States Government.—These notes had been already published in the American papers, and he, Viscount Palmerston would, of course, have no objection to lay those documents which had already been published on the table—[laughter.] But this was a departure from what he considered an important rule in regard to international affairs—[hear, hear.]—and one which might operate injuriously to national interests to lay before parliament documents relating to pending discussions. He thought it important to make, with reference to the notice to Mr. Forsyth, one observation. The noble lord had said, that he believed Mr. McLeod was not one of the party by whom the *Caroline* had been attacked. His [Lord Palmerston's] information went precisely to the same conclusion—that he, Mr. McLeod was not a member of the party that was concerned in the destruction of the *Caroline*; but with regard to the ground taken by Mr. Forsyth in replying to Mr. Fox, he [Lord Palmerston] thought it right to say that the American government undoubtedly might have considered this transaction either as a transaction to be dealt with between the two governments, by demands for redress, on the one hand to be granted, or refused on the other, and to be dealt with accordingly; or it might have been considered, as the British authorities consider proceedings between American citizens on the British side of the border, as a matter to be dealt with by the local authorities. But the American Government had chosen the former course, by treating the matter as one to be decided between governments, and this was the ground on which they were entitled to demand

redress from the British government for the acts of its subjects. He was sure the house would think with him, that in a matter of such extreme difficulty, it would be improper for him to enter into any further remarks or observations, and he would therefore content himself with answering the noble lord's questions by stating the important facts which he had then mentioned.

Lord Stanley said that the noble lord who had just sat down had omitted to mention one question which he considered to be one of the deepest interest. That question was, whether the noble lord had taken any steps, and if so what those steps were for the protection and liberation of Mr. McLeod—hear, hear.

Viscount Palmerston said that a case somewhat similar in principle to the present was expected about a year and a half ago, and instructions were sent at that time to Mr. Fox, on which he founded the communication he made to the American authorities. Of course, the house would suppose, he trusted, that her Majesty's government had already sent certain instructions but until the correspondence upon the subject had concluded it was impossible to send any instructions that could be considered final. He hoped that the house would believe that the government would send to Mr. Fox such instructions as they might think it their duty to do so; at the same time he was not prepared to state what the nature of those instructions were.

Mr. Hume said that the noble lord had just made a speech in answer to certain questions which had been put to him by the noble lord, the member for North Lancashire; but he [Mr. Hume] wished to ask the House to suspend their opinion upon the subject until they had the whole of the papers laid before them. He had himself in his possession papers that would explain many things connected with this question, and which, by the bye, were not exactly consistent with the statements which had just been made.

Viscount Palmerston said that he rather thought his hon. friend would find in that correspondence that instructions had been given to Mr. Stevenson to abstain from pressing the subject farther—(hear.) With regard to the letter of Mr. Forsyth, he (Viscount Palmerston) begged leave to say that the case stood thus:—In the case of the American citizens engaged in invading Canada, the American Government disavowed the acts of those citizens, and stated that the British authorities might deal with them as they pleased—(hear, hear); and that there were persons concerned in this undertaking who are not in any degree entitled to the protection of the United States—(hear.) But in the other case they treated the affair of the *Caroline* as one to be considered as that of the Government, and in fact assumed it to be altogether a government transaction, and not to be left on the responsibility of individuals. Until, therefore, the British Government disavowed these persons concerned in the destruction of the *Caroline* in the same manner as the American government had disavowed their citizens in the other case, he conceived that the American Government had adopted an international responsibility in the late detention of Mr. McLeod, and could not therefore change their ground upon the question—hear, hear.

Feb. 9.—Mr. Hume wished to know if the noble Lord has intimated to the American Government their opinion on this case.

Lord Palmerston said that the opinion of the Government had been communicated to the American Ambassador here, and Mr. Fox had no doubt communicated it to the American Government.

Lord Palmerston said he considered the capture of the *Caroline* a perfectly justifiable proceeding, warranted by the necessity of defending her Majesty's territory.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr. O'Connell was sorry that his hon. friend (Mr. Hume) had taken such a course, because he (Mr. O'Connell) thought that upon this subject, at all events there ought to be an unanimity of feeling—(hear, hear.) He thought that every exertion ought to be made to have Mr. McLeod saved, as he had acted under the command of the officers of her Majesty's Government and it was in the strict performance of his duty that he had incurred the danger with which he was threatened—(hear, hear.) Whether these orders had been right or wrong, this Government was bound to give him every protection possible—(cheers from all parts of the house.)

NOTICE.—All persons having any just demands against the Estate of DAVID BROWN, late of Blackville, in the County of Northumberland, lumberer, deceased, are requested to render the same within Three Months from the date hereof, to Carman & Williston, Solicitors; and all persons indebted to the said Estate will make immediate payment to them or to the Subscriber.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN, Administrator with the Will annexed. Miramichi, March 16, 1841.

[P] We are requested to intimate that a Meeting of the Board of Education will take place at the County Clerk's, on Wednesday, the 7th April next, at Eleven o'clock, A. M.