

European News.

BY THE CALEDONIA.

From English Papers to the 4th May.

London Standard, April 27.

'Alexandria, April 7.—' No decisive intelligence had been received from Constantinople. The plague was on the increase, and spreading through Egypt. The Pacha had ordered the sailors to be kept on board the fleet, and had himself retired to the country seat of his son in law. Ibrahim Pacha had shut himself up at his palace at Cairo. Mehemet Ali had laid a tax of 15,000 piastres on the Alexandrian Jews.

'Athens, April 10.—' Affairs in Greece have come to such a pitch that the King must either give a constitution to the people or vacate his throne. An engagement had taken place at Mount Athos between the Turks and the Greek insurgents, who had been joined by a number of the combatants of the revolutionary war. The Greek papers were full of proposals to Europe in behalf of the Candiots.

The Division of Last Night.—Immediately after the division last night Lord John Russell gave directions for summoning a Cabinet Council to-day. The Ministers met at the Foreign Office shortly before two o'clock. All holding seats in the Cabinet were present. The Council remained in deliberation at the time we went to press.

Previous to the meeting of the Cabinet, Lord Melbourne, and Lord John Russell had audiences of her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

The greatest interest exists at the west end of the town to know what decision Ministers will come to. Some think that a dissolution of parliament will be resorted to, others that they will adopt Lord Howick's amendment, and a few (but very few) imagine they will resign up to the present hour, however, nothing for certain is known. Communications between the different public offices this morning have been going on at a rapid rate, and the greatest bustle and activity prevail.

London Atlas, May 1.

Tremendous Fire at Bristol.—At eight o'clock on Wednesday evening the city of Bristol was alarmed at the report that the tank of creosote, kept in the wood yard of the Great Western Railway, had been overheated, that the creosote had caught fire, and that the timber yard near the western terminus was in flames. There were in the yard 100,000 loads of timber, which presented the appearance of a vast sheet of fire of the most vivid description, arising from vast masses of burning timber, and the contents of immense iron tanks of coal tar, &c. The various engines were speedily on the spot, and during the night 40,000 or 50,000 persons assembled from all parts to view the tremendous conflagration; an area containing nearly two acres filled with timber and other combustible materials, was on fire at the same time. In fact, neither the fires in Queen square at the memorable riots, or that of the Devonport dockyard, were nearly so extensive as the present conflagration. All efforts to stem its progress were completely useless until the plan of cutting it off from the remaining timber in the yard was adopted; for which purpose several hundred men and four or five teams of horses were set to work, removing the adjacent timber to a distance, by which means on Thursday morning the fire was got under, and from £15,000 to £20,000 of timber belonging to the Great Western Railway Company, together with the terminus and neighbouring buildings, were saved. We regret to state that the property destroyed (which belongs to the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company), has been estimated at from £18,000 to £20,000. The heat from the fire was so intense, that the neighbouring trees were set on fire, and two of them were burnt completely to the ground.

London Shipping Gazette, May 3.

Greece.—A letter from Athens of the 5th ult., quoted by the Sentinelle of Toulon, affirms that Sir E. Lyons, in consequence of instructions from London, had remitted to the Greek government two notes. One was to demand the payment of the balance due to England by the terms of the loan, and in case of the Greek government not doing so immediately, declaring that Greek ships in British ports would be put under sequestration. The second note was to urge the government to prevent Greek macotents from passing into Candia; and the reply of the Greek government was, that it was impossible to exercise a

sufficient degree of surveillance for this. The answer of the government to the first note is not mentioned, but the demand is asserted to have put the cabinet in a state of great embarrassment.

We understand that in acknowledgment of the eminent public services rendered by Major General Sir G. Arthur during his administration of the Government of Upper Canada, he is about to be raised to the dignity of a baronet.—Globe.

The Budget.—The resolution actually passed by the House of Commons on Friday night was 'that towards making good the supply granted to her Majesty, the sum of £11,000,000 be raised by Exchequer Bills for the service of the year 1841. This resolution is to be reported to the house to-day. The sugar duties are to be considered on Friday.

Lord Cardigan.—We have heard, and we are inclined to consider the report as authentic, that the Secretary at War has so far overcome the scruples of the authorities at the Horse Guards, in regard to his lordship, that they have reluctantly decided that he must take the earliest convenient opportunity of selling out. Mr. Macaulay is said to have convinced Lord Hill that any further protection of his lordship by the military administration of the country cannot fail of being productive of the worst consequences to the discipline and well being of the army; and that unless his lordship, at length, consents to the step which circumstances have so long rendered necessary, a change in the management of the affairs of the army will inevitably be called for, in a tone so imperative as to make a further resistance to public opinion dangerous, if not impossible. The noble earl has consequently received notice to quit; but is to be allowed the grace of having himself originated his retirement. The Sunday flogging affair has proved the last drop of the full cup of official endurance.—United Service Gazette.

London Standard, April 24.

Dinner to Commodore Napier in Manchester.—Commodore Napier arrived at Manchester on Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by Sir Thomas Usher, Capt. Bradley, and Lieut. Johnstone. At four o'clock the gallant Commodore appeared at the town Hall, where he was received by the local authorities of the town with every possible mark of respect. Having bowed politely to the company Sir Charles took his seat on the right of the Mayor, William Neild, Esq., amidst the cheers of the Company.

The Mayor then presented Sir Charles with an address from the town council, congratulating him upon the services he had rendered to his country, and upon his safe return once more to England.

A dinner was given in the evening to the gallant officer, in the large room of the Town Hall. The company comprised about 120 gentlemen. W. Neild, Esq., the Mayor, presided.

London Standard, May 3.

It is positively asserted in the best informed west end circles, that Mr Gordon one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, has resigned his appointment. The reason assigned for the resignation of this confidential functionary, is his irreconcilable hostility to the lately announced budget, and as Mr Gordon is an extensive West India proprietor, the probability is that the ruinous experiment of throwing open the staple produce of the colonies in which his property lies, to foreign competition, is the real motive for the step he is asserted to have taken.

Lord Worsley, one of the members for the county of Lincoln, is understood to have withdrawn his support from Ministers in consequence of their determination to attempt a repeal of the present corn laws.

It is understood that the situation of Surveyor General of the Ordnance, vacant by the death of Sir Ruface Donkin will be filled up by the appointment of Colonel Fox, at present Secretary to the Master General of the Ordnance.

The opinion which we professed early after the first ministerial defeat, and which was then pretty generally disregarded, appears now to be adopted by all, the opinion, namely, that ministers will dissolve the parliament in the course of a few weeks, or perhaps sooner.

Money Market, 12 o'clock.

The British funds opened this morning at the closing on Saturday, but they have since become heavy, from the general opinion entertained by the speculators, that ministers manifestly intended a dissolution of parliament, and which will, of course, call for some considerable sales of stock, in order that candidates may meet the expenses consequent upon a general election. In addition to this, the hint that an income tax may eventu-

ally be resorted to, has a downward influence upon the holders of stock. Consols for money are now 89½, and for account 90; Exchequer bills 12 to 14 pm.

Half past 1.

Owing to the agitation into which the corn trade has been thrown by the announcement of Lord John Russell's intention to propose the substitution of a moderate fixed duty, the corn market was this morning completely stagnant, and no operations entered upon, except by the most needy buyers, who were compelled to supply their immediate wants. This depression has, of course, communicated itself also to the Stock Exchange, where the prices of all kinds of securities, both English and Foreign have given way, although no great business has been transacted in either of the markets, where money has become very scarce.

Awful Colliery Explosion.—Thirty Two Lives Lost!—An explosion, attended by a deplorable sacrifice of human life, and involving an almost inconceivable amount of suffering, occurred at Willington, four miles east of Newcastle a few minutes after one in the afternoon of Monday last.

There were employed in the pit at the time of the explosion 35 men and boys, and the first intimation which those at the bank received of their fellows danger, was a tremendous report, accompanied by a dense volume of smoke. The effect upon the earth for a considerable distance round, is said, in some degree, to have resembled that produced by the shock of an earthquake, the whole surface appearing as it were, to quiver. The noise was heard far in every direction, more especially eastward, the wind at the time blowing strong towards that quarter; and the melancholy tidings were thus proclaimed throughout the whole neighbourhood by the very agency that wrought the mischief.

Without loss of time, and the readiness which, while it bespoke their feelings, displayed their courage, a body of workmen descended and forthwith commenced their melancholy work. The labour, exhausting though it was, was continued unremittingly, until the bodies of the 32 sufferers were recovered.

A plan has been recently suggested the object of which is to do away with transportation to a considerable extent, by compelling felons to work in coal and other mines, subject to certain regulations, apportioning the quantum of labour and length of confinement in the pits to the heinousness of the crime and the conduct of the criminal.

Tipperary.—The country is still in a disturbed state, and outrages are of daily and nightly occurrence. No murders, however, have been committed within these few days. Dublin Evening Packet.

The Steamer President cost £80,000; engines 50 horse power; 2,100. Several at Cork held shares. The commander Lieutenant Roberts, is a married man, with five children, who reside in London; he is a native of the county of Cork and was distinguished by putting an end to the slave trade in a portion of the West of Africa, where he commanded a brig of war.—Limerick Chronicle.

The China Rupture.—A deputation from merchants connected with the China and India Trade, had an interview with Viscount Palmerston, in the course of the week, on the subject of the recent events in China. It would appear, that the deputation rested their complaints mainly upon two points, namely, the inadequacy of the indemnity proposed to be paid by the Chinese Government to this country, and the want of any sufficient security having been provided for the personal safety and independence of British residents in China by the arrangements which Captain Elliott was said to have entered into with the Chinese Plenipotentiary. The answer of Viscount Palmerston was, we hear, to the effect, that as yet he was acquainted only with the principles agreed to between the Plenipotentiaries, namely, that the Emperor was to cede to the British Crown, a territorial possession in China; that an indemnity was to be paid to the British Government; and that the official intercourse between the two countries was, for the future, to be conducted on terms of perfect equality. As yet his Lordship knew nothing beyond the admission of these important principles; and as it was expressly stated, that the details were to be the subject of further negotiation, it necessarily followed, that it was impossible for his Lordship to come to any conclusive opinion as to the acts of the British Plenipotentiary, until in full possession of the details of the further negotiations so alluded to.

Halifax Times, May 18.

The Royal Mail steam Ship Caledonia, arrived Sunday afternoon, in twelve days from Liverpool. The dates by her are from London to the 3rd, and Liverpool to the 4th instant. Their contents are of much importance, and indicative of changes affecting the condition of the Mother Country, and the welfare, perhaps the allegiance of the Colonial dominion in this part of the world.

The Ministry have been twice defeated on Lord Morpeth's Irish Registration Bill—first, on an amendment introduced by Lord Howick, and secondly on a clause which involved the principle of the measure. They still, however, cling to their places, and becoming desperate, have given notice of an intended alteration in the corn laws, by the imposition of a fixed moderate duty, instead of the fluctuating one now in operation. On the popularity of this, together with the contemplated alterations in the timber and sugar duties, by which they flatter themselves they will augment the revenue without adding to but rather lessening the public burthens, they evidently hope, in the event of being forced to a dissolution, which now appears almost inevitable, again to be borne into power.

They have ventured upon a hazardous experiment. In order to gain another million or two, and stop the clamour, nay almost execration which their imbecile policy has brought upon them, they have entered upon a measure which, if carried must alienate the British North American Colonies and West India Islands from their attachment to the parent state. They are upon the point of introducing a policy that will enrich foreigners and strengthen them for aggression, while it it weakens the Colonial dependencies, while under a proper fostering care would supply Great Britain with a commerce infinitely more valuable and likely to continue, than any she can derive from foreign intercourse, and based upon affection and good will. They have proved what we have all along asserted of their characters—that by them the Colonies are regarded as encumbrances, and would willingly be cast off, were it not that in the breasts of the people of England there is an enduring sense of the ruin and dishonor the dismemberment would occasion, which forces them, despite their inclination, to assume a virtue which they have not, and to stay their hands from broader and more comprehensive plans for their destruction. Nor will their policy be more effective to gain their ends than any other of their imbecile contrivances—for it is not too much to assert that the carrying such commercial regulations into effect, will arouse a spirit in the bosom of every Colonist, that will speak in a voice of determined resistance against the wanton sacrifice of their interests. Their unqualified disapprobation may appear sooner than perhaps is anticipated, and while kept within the bounds of loyalty, will certainly be of that nature, that where one soldier is needed now, five will be required to overawe them, and restrain their indignation at their betrayers within its constitutional limits.

This is the point to which such policy tends—this the cost which will have to be balanced against the expediency of raising a million or two at the expense of Colonial interests and affection—this the fruits of Whiggery.

Meetings have already been held in Canada and New Brunswick against the anticipated destruction of Colonial interests. Our Chamber of Commerce have remonstrated on the subject, and we hear that further steps will be taken such as the exigencies of the case may seem to require. The tens of thousands that will be thrown out of employment by the approximation of the differential duties on timber alone—the capital that will be sacrificed—and the establishments that will be ruined—are so many serious considerations for these North American Provinces, which will unite them as one in demanding from the British nation that such injustice shall not be done to them. Nor is the reduction of the duties on foreign sugar of less consequence to our West India merchants and fishermen, and consequently the whole Provincial community; for while the foreign commodity, grown by slave labor, will thereby supplant the produce of our own free sugar Islands, these will become but indifferent markets for the only staples we have to send them, and the Colonial articles of export burthened as usual by the foreigners' tariff, will be superseded by the inferior though cheaper productions of French, Yankee and Norwegian fisheries, the vessels engaged in which commerce will engross the greater portion, if not the whole of the carrying trade. The British provincial merchant will suffer, and the community also; and the West India Islands will have another blow aimed at their pros-