

THE BRITISH PRESS.

Liverpool European, April 19.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

The House of Commons on Monday, the 4th inst. passed the second and third of Sir Robert Peel's financial resolutions. The premier, in reply to a question, declared that ministers would stand or fall by both the income tax and the tariff.

On the 5th the house was engaged in committee on the corn bill, and several amendments were proposed and negatived by large majorities.

On the 8th, when Sir R. Peel moved the order of the day for bringing up the report of the committee on the income tax resolution, Lord John Russell moved, by way of amendment, a resolution, the purport of which was, that the estimated deficiency of income to meet expenditure might be supplied by a judicious arrangement of the duties on corn, sugar, timber and coffee, and a reduction of the various prohibitory and differential duties; and that considering the taxes (nearly 24 millions) in amount, exclusively of the income tax, had been taken off between the termination of the war and the year 1836, and the various other means of supplying the deficiency, the house would deem it not necessary, and therefore not advisable, to renew a tax (viz. on income) inquisitorial, unequal, and hitherto considered as a war reserve. The debate was continued during four days, the speakers being Mr Goulburn, Mr Williams, Sir R. Inglis, Mr Stewart, Mr Palmer, Sir W. Somerville, Capt Hamilton, Mr Shiel, Sir R. Peel, Dr Bowring, Mr Gally Knight, Mr Elphinstone, Sir Walter James, Mr Wallace, Mr Liddell, Mr Wason, Mr C. W. Wynne, Mr Macaulay, Lord Stanley, Mr Labouchere, Lord Francis Egerton, Lord John Russell, Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Mr Phillips, Mr Brotherton, Colonel Wood, Mr Mangles, Mr Granville Vernon, Mr C. Baller, Mr Borthwick, Mr Escott, Mr Parker, Lord Sandon, Sir Charles Napier, Mr Trotter, Mr O'Connell, Lord Eliot, Mr Hawes, Sir James Graham, Mr Baring, Mr Ferraud, and Lord Worsley. The house came to a division on the 12th, when the numbers stood thus—for bringing up the report 308; for the amendment 202, majority 106.

On the 11th the Wigan election committee reported that Mr Bright Crose was not duly elected, and that Mr C. Standish ought to have been returned. The petition for Great Marlow also terminated, Sir W. Clayton, being unseated, and Mr Hampden declared elected. The debate on Mr T. Duncombe's motion, relative to the reception of petitions, was resumed, and after some discussion, rejected by a majority of one, the numbers being—

For the exclusion of petition	227
For its reception	221

Lord Melbourne gave notice on the 12th in the House of Peers, that on going into committee on the corn importation bill, he would move that a fixed duty would be more advantageous than a graduated scale. The exchequer bill was read a second time on the motion of the Duke of Wellington.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Sir R. Peel has got over some of his greatest difficulties, and has proved his government to be one of the strongest that has existed for many years. The Corn Bill has passed the fiery ordeal of opposition, the Income Tax has been virtually carried, and the Tariff has been so altered as to conciliate nearly all the classes who might have expected to be seriously injured by its enactment, whilst, at the same time, its leading features have been carefully preserved. It is supposed that the divisions on its more important details will, on the average, show larger majorities for the government than those on the Income Tax. The attempt of the friends of the late ministers to agitate the masses against Sir Robert Peel's measures has been a decided failure, and seems even to have operated adversely to their views. The inhabitants of some of the most democratic cities in England—Bolton, Le-Moors and Ashton-under-Lyne, for instance—where the utmost distress has prevailed, have addressed the Premier in approval of his policy; and the Chamber of Commerce of Glasgow having passed some resolutions in reference thereto, Sir Robert Peel has replied to them, thanking them for their support, and accepting it as the confirmation of his own convictions in the justice and policy of his general scheme. An interesting debate occurred on Friday in the House of Commons relative to the proposed alteration of the Colonial Custom charges.

The returns of the quarter's revenue, up to the 5th of this month, have been published. There is a small increase; but as some of the Canton ransom money has been brought into account, the increase affords no criterion of the state of the country. Another cause prevents us from judging of the future prospects of trade; it is the delay interposed by the opposition against the adoption of the government plans for regulating our commerce and finances. Let these measures pass, and we might then judge of their probable effect on the national industry and enterprise.

Nothing very material has occurred in foreign affairs. The four great powers, parties to the treaty of December last, for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, have presented a joint note to the French government, calling upon it forthwith to ratify the treaty. No answer has yet been given.

France and England have at length agreed

upon the person who is to be the husband of little Queen Isabella of Spain. They fix upon a Prince of Bavaria, in order that English interests may not be too exclusively consulted by the selection of a Coburg, or French, by that of a member of the Orleans' family. It ought to be added, however, that the consent of Austria, Prussia, and Russia to this arrangement has yet to be procured.

The worst anticipations of the reported disasters in India have been realized. The Cabool force has been destroyed—not figuratively, but literally. Out of an army of 1000 fighting men, and, according to the custom, more than double that number of camp followers, only one European and three natives have escaped to tell the tale. It is true that Sir R. Sale still held out at Jellalabad, and was reported to have collected provisions enough to subsist his detachment until relief should arrive; but as a set off against this gratifying fact, there seems an unaccountable fatality in the conduct of the force despatched to his assistance. Colonel Wild, the commander of it, has been defeated with the loss of 150 men in the attempt to force the Khyber Pass, and his advance is checked for the present. General Pollock, who is on his march to join Colonel Wild, is said to be strongly impressed with the impolicy of immediately making another attack on the Pass, and inclined to take time for consideration, notwithstanding the urgency of General Sale's position. But why take the troops through the Khyber Pass at all? This is a question put by some old Indians, and they quote the late Sir Alexander Burnes's Travels in Bokhara as confirming their views. Sir Alexander, it seems, states that from Peshawur to Cabool there are no fewer than five roads, and he himself travelled by one which altogether avoided the Pass. The predatory habits and treacherous character of the Khyberies induced him to this course, and there is nothing in his account from which one can conclude that the route he took was unfitted for the passage of troops. In addition to the natural difficulties of the ground, the published statements go to show that Colonel Wild's force was ill supplied with artillery. This must have been the fault of the superior authorities, and it is not the first instance we have lately seen of gross mismanagement. It is only a few weeks since we heard of a force having been sent into the field, not deficient of guns certainly, but with guns in such bad condition for service that the use of them was actually dangerous to our own people.

Energy and resolution were perhaps never more required since the commencement of our Indian empire. The prestige of our invincibility is destroyed by the late events in Afghanistan, and as our sway in the East depends altogether on opinion, it is difficult to say how far we may now depend on the faithfulness of many who have hitherto submitted to our dominion. We have seen some strange changes of late. What could have been uniformly better than the conduct of the Sepoys, for instance? yet there has recently been a serious mutiny at Secunderabad, and something very like one in Colonel Wild's corps d'armes.

It was not without reason, that Sir R. Peel, in recapitulating the difficulties of the country, as a defence against the charge of having overrated them, placed the situation of India in the front rank.

In China, too, things are not going on as one could wish, though nothing can have been more exemplary than the conduct of officers and men. But what is in human nature for two or three thousand bayonets to do against the population of an enormous empire. Our men have always beaten the enemy, but a few more victories would destroy them. Their very triumphs must wear them out. Happily the present government lost no time in sending out reinforcements, and Lord Salton is now far advanced on his voyage, with nearly double the amount of troops already there. Still they will have their work to do. The mere *vis inertiae* of the masses opposed to us is in itself a serious obstacle, and military men know well that the more the war is prolonged, the greater is the chance that we shall convert the Chinese into soldiers by the very force of example.

ORIGINAL.

LORD STANLEY, SIR WM. M. G. COLEBROOKE, AND CHIEF JUSTICE CHIPMAN.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

SIR,—I have been for some time puzzled about certain communications, in the penny papers of the Province, referring to some correspondence between Chief Justice Chipman, and Lord Stanley; and from all I can discover in what I read and hear, the great offence of the Chief Justice consists in his having written a letter to Lord Stanley, expressive of his reasons for opposing some of the measures which Sir William introduced for the adoption of our Legislature during the last Session. If this be indeed the cause of such consternation and dissatisfaction, amongst a certain class of persons, who are endeavouring to ingratiate themselves with Sir William, by a blind acquiescence in all his chimerical plans, I confess that I, for one of the inhabitants of this Province, am not displeased that such offence should have been perpetrated by the Chief

Justice; nor do I imagine that any reasonable person who will impartially reflect upon it will complain. And here, Mr. Editor, let us enquire what this offence is, and how brought about. During the sitting of the Legislature, which has been so lately prorogued, Sir William, prompted no doubt by the same speculative spirit which characterizes that class of politicians to which he undoubtedly belongs, introduced to the serious consideration of both branches of the Legislature, many new and untried measures; measures emanating entirely from himself and his would be constitutional advisers, and which, contemplating as they did, such sweeping and radical changes in all our institutions, I may say also in the constitution of our Colony, certainly required some little investigation, not only by those to whom they were immediately propounded, but most especially by the people at large. Such a course, I think, will not be denied by all parties, would seem at least a prudent one, but without at present discussing the merits of these proposed changes, I will advert to the one pursued by Sir William and his advisers, and then ask the people of New Brunswick whether they are prepared to condemn their Chief Justice for an act of manly independence.

The Legislative Council, whose President the Chief Justice is, enrolls amongst its members the following officers of Government, besides himself, viz: the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Surveyor General, the Receiver General, and four Executive Councillors; a fearful phalanx, it must be admitted, if they are to be the gagged instruments of any Governor who may choose to tamper with our liberties. This body was intended, and no doubt should ever be an independent branch of the Legislature—calmly, cautiously, and conscientiously to exercise a sound and fearless enquiry into all matters coming before them in the course of their duty, uninfluenced by popular clamour, and unfettered by Executive command. That such has hitherto been the character of that body, I believe no one will deny; but Mr. Editor, mark the attempt at the utter prostration of such a character during the past Session, when Sir Wm. and his advisers dared, (yes, respectfully I say dared, for it was a bold game) to coerce a majority in that House by the application of the RUSSELL PURGE, and thus, for the purpose of carrying through their ruinous and ill digested plans, to advocate a principle in legislation which never will be borne or tolerated by the people of this province, so long as British feelings have a resting place within its limits;—a principle so palpably repugnant to every sense of liberty as only to require publicity to ensure its universal reprobation. It is this, "That the Lieut. Governor can command and compel all the Officers of Government, and his Executive Councillors in the Legislature, to vote for and advocate his measures, be they good or evil, despite their conscientious and better matured opinion!" 'Tis strange, 'tis passing strange, that in these times of intelligence, any such step should have been hazarded by a Governor of New Brunswick, but nevertheless, 'tis true! Amongst the many new and wild schemes of our Executive during the last session were, the taking the initiating of money grants from the people's representatives, to invest it in the Crown, and the introduction of Municipal Corporations into the Counties of this Province. These two proposed changes were introduced into the Legislative Council by the Lieut. Governor's direction, and the Government Officers and Executive Councillors in that House were CALLED UPON and COMMANDED to support them!!! Can any one, Mr. Editor, who coolly considers the adoption of such a method to force through the Legislature measures new to the country, and not emanating from the Colony, but from a stranger to its wants: I say can any one be surprized that the Chief Justice, the President of the Council, should take the liberty of judging for himself, as to the propriety and expediency of such changes? and if in the exercise of such judgment he should find himself compelled to oppose them, can any one censure him for communicating to his Royal Mistress the reasons upon which he founded his opposition to her representative here? Is the small still voice of conscience and reason to be precluded the precincts of Downing Street, in the same extraordinary manner in which it was sought to be hushed and smothered in our halls of legislation? What! is our Legislative Council to become a shuttle-cock in the hands of Government? Are our Public Officers, and Executive Councillors, to be but the puppets of any Governor, be

he whom he may? Are such officers, nominated and appointed as they ought to be, for their ability and knowledge of the country, to yield a blind and servile support to every measure of the Executive? Are such laws only as may meet the views of a Governor, new to our Province, and the feelings of its people, to be passed by his command, instead of the unbiassed judgment and calm deliberation of a Legislature intimately acquainted with the wants of the country, and the spirit of its inhabitants? No! No! Mr. Editor, they who advise, and he who would venture upon such a violation of every principle which a British subject holds dear, are lamentably ignorant or madly regardless of the stern materials which compose the pith and marrow of New Brunswickers, whether native or adopted. What! the Executive of the Province, by its mere command, to impose taxation upon the people? Bah!—'Tis puerile, and can never be tolerated. But degraded indeed would be our state, if upon such an open attempt upon the liberty of free discussion in our Legislature, no one of our public men had spirit and patriotism enough to lay before the minister of our Sovereign a reason for the faith that's in him. Thank God one has done so, for from what has been rumoured, it would seem that a copy of the Chief Justice's letter was sent by him to Sir William, which copy has given rise to all the discussion concerning its propriety. Rumour also states, that even before the mail closed which conveyed to Lord Stanley the Chief Justice's letter, its contents were known and talked about in Fredericton, among persons who could only have got their information from a perusal of this copy. But, Mr. Editor, I cannot believe this—Sir Wm. is by far too correct a man to commit such a breach of propriety, confidence and decorum, both to Lord Stanley and his correspondent, ever to have shown to Tom, Dick and Harry a private letter, with a copy of which he himself was furnished merely I presume from courtesy, and for his own perusal.

I have already trespassed so much, Mr. Editor, upon your valuable columns, that I must defer to another letter the discussion of the merits of these great and important proposed changes; but in the meantime, I am quite satisfied that "Mr. Oculus" may write till he is blind, and "Master Farmer's Son" may transcribe the whole of "The Pamphlet," and yet the good sense of the people of this Colony will not be blinded by their sophisms. I ought perhaps to hint that "A Farmer's Son" is not of New Brunswick growth, but is the borrowed bantering of an English Radical Sire, dressed in winter clothing, to bear a winter's sojourn, at least so rumour says.

Yours, &c.

A TAX PAYER.

May 2, 1842.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1842.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern mail arrived on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Steamer Caledonia, arrived at Halifax on the afternoon of Tuesday last, in a passage of 14 days. By her we obtained our London papers to the evening of the 18th, and Liverpool to the 19th ult.

Ministers were progressing with the new tariff bill, but had declared their intention to postpone its final passage until the passing through the Commons of the Income tax, which had undergone a first reading—and judging from the large majority ministers had on the occasion—285 to 188—there is every probability that it will be passed.

The intelligence from the manufacturing districts is of the same desponding character as has been obtained for some months past, with no chance of a speedy change for the better. The information respecting the Timber market is also very discouraging, and as it is announced that the new rate of duties will not come into operation until October, there is no prospect of improvement until the fall.