

so that there is some difficulty in saying which is the genuine original thistle. The origin of the national badge itself is thus handed down by tradition:—When the Danes invaded Scotland, it was deemed unwarlike to attack an enemy in the pitch darkness of night, instead of a pitched battle by day; but on one occasion the invaders resolved to avail themselves of this stratagem; and in order to prevent their tramp from being heard, they marched barefooted. They had thus neared the Scottish force unobserved, when a Dane unluckily stepped with his naked foot upon a superbly prickled thistle, and instinctively uttered a cry of pain, which discovered the assault to the Scots, who ran to their arms, and defeated the foe with a terrible slaughter. The thistle was immediately adopted as the insignia of Scotland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 16.

THE BUDGET.

The order of the day for the house resolving itself into a Committee of Ways and Means having been read, the Speaker having left the chair,

Sir ROBERT PEEL rose, and addressed the house as follows:—Sir, as the house has consented to vote those estimates which her Majesty's government have considered it their duty to propose for the chief military establishments of the country, I rise for the purpose of redeeming the pledge which I gave, that I would avail myself of the earliest possible opportunity, consistently with parliamentary usage and public interest, to develop the views of her Majesty's government in reference to the Financial and Commercial policy of the country. I am going to lay before you the truth, the unexaggerated truth; and I do this because I think that, in great financial difficulties, the first step towards improvement is to look them boldly in the face. (Hear.) What is true of individuals, is true of nations. (Hear.) There is no hope of improvement or recovery if once you consent to conceal from yourself the real difficulties with which you have to contend. It is my intention, on the part of her Majesty's government, to undertake the responsibility of proposing that which we think essential to the country. With you will rest the responsibility of adopting or rejecting the measures which we propose; and I venture to make two requests to the house; firstly, to remember that I make my estimates earlier than usual, and consequently under disadvantages which have not been felt by others; and secondly, that you will have the goodness to postpone your judgment until I have laid before you my whole plan, and that you will not judge hastily, by a partial development of my views, nor denounce me as proposing something unreasonable and insulting to the people. Referring to the estimates of last year, events have proved that the estimate of the right hon. gentleman opposite was as nearly correct as it is possible for an estimate to be. (Hear, hear.) I think the right hon. gentleman calculated that the income of the country might be expected to raise the sum of £48,310,000. He calculated the expenditure for the same period; that is, for the year ending the 5th of April, 1843, at £50,731,000. I shall then take the Customs for the year, ending the 5th of April, 1843, at £22,500,000; Excise, £13,450,000; Stamps, £9,100,000; Post Office, £5,000,000; Crown Lands, £1,500,000; Miscellaneous Items of Revenue, £250,000, making a total estimated revenue for the year ending the 5th April, 1843, of £48,350,000. The expenditure £50,812,000, the probable deficiency, £2,569,000. To meet this permanent deficit he would not attempt to increase existing Taxes, nor restore those which pressed on articles of consumption, such as the salt, the leather, and similar Taxes. He would not lay a tax on railroads, nor on gas, nor on any article of necessity, or even luxury, for in the former case it would be oppressive, and in the latter futile. He would propose, for a period to be limited, an Income Tax of not more than 7d. in the pound, or about 3 per cent., from which he would exempt all incomes under £150, and in which he would include not only landed but funded property, whether in the hands of British subjects or of foreigners. He estimated the assessable yearly value of the land at £39,400,000, of houses at £25,000,000, of mines, shares in railways and mines, and other similar property, at £8,400,000; total—72,800,000. From this he would deduct one fourth for the exemption which he proposed to give to all incomes under £150, and then the tax thus far would give him £1,600,000. The occupiers of land would yield a farther sum of £120,000. Next came the income of funded property. The dividend paid in 1841 was £29,400,000, from which he would deduct £1,000,000 in respect of the savings banks; but he must add, upon bank, foreign, and other stocks, £1,500,000, making a total of almost £30,000,000, from which he would deduct one fourth for the incomes under £150 a year; and then the proceeds of this tax would be 646,000l. He now arrived at the incomes of trades and professions, a part of the subject attended with great difficulty. The produce he expected from this source was 1,250,000l. From the income of public offices he calculated upon 155,000l. and the total would be 2,771,000l. With respect to the operation of this impost the view of government was, that it might probably require to be continued for five years; unless in case of such a revival of commercial prosperity, from the

other measures which he was about to propose, as might induce Parliament to take the opportunity of revising the subject; but he would, in the first instance, propose a continuance for three years only. In case of war, he should deem it reasonable that Ireland should bear her proportion of this tax; but during peace, and for a limited period, and in the absence of all machinery in Ireland for collection, he should prefer to raise the quota of that country by other means. He thought he could do so, consistently with the Act of Union, by two modes, the first of which would be a duty of 1s. per gallon upon spirits. He calculated, from this source, to receive 250,000l. The other source to which he looked in Ireland was the stamp duty, from which he expected to obtain 160,000l. In Great Britain, as well as in Ireland, he proposed to reduce the stamps upon charter parties and bills of lading; and it was his wish, indeed, to effect the general equalisation of stamps throughout these kingdoms. With respect to regular absentees from Ireland, having no call of public duty to fix them in England, he proposed to require from them the payment of the same property tax which would be required from other residents in this island. Another resource would be a tax upon Coal exported from this country—a fair impost, when it was considered that the article thus carried abroad was a most important material of our own industry, and a great assistance to that of rival nations. Such a tax would probably yield an income of 200,000l. and would operate, unlike most other taxes, as an encouragement to native industry. The aggregate revenue, then, from all these sources would be 4,380,000l., constituting a considerable surplus, after covering the deficiency on the votes of annual expenditure. The surplus he proposed to apply in relaxing the commercial tariff. He had considered, on each of the numerous articles included, the proportion between the price and the duty. His main principles had been removal of prohibition and reduction in the duties upon raw material. He would also considerably diminish the duties upon articles partially manufactured, and even upon complete manufactures he contemplated that the maximum should not in general exceed 20 per cent. He would forthwith lay upon the table this amended scale of duties, which had been distributed into twenty different heads, and on Monday the paper would be ready for distribution. It would be found that, in about 750 articles, there had been an abatement of duty recommended, and that on about 450 the duty had been left untouched. Treaties were now pending with various nations, in which several of these articles were the subjects of discussion; and such articles, of course, could not be included in the present reductions. The total diminution of revenue occasioned by all the reductions would probably not be more than about 270,000l. On Sugar, he regretted to say, that the present ministers could not offer any reduction; they could not consent to let in the Sugars of Brazil and Cuba without some securities upon the subject of slavery in those plantations; and they thought that to reduce the duty on British sugar without a corresponding reduction upon foreign sugars would be merely to give the British planters a monopoly price, without advantage to the British consumers. The present prospects as to the supply of British sugar were, however, of a highly satisfactory character. With respect to Coffee, of which the consumption had latterly decreased, he would recommend a great reduction of duty, bringing down the rate per pound to 4d. upon British, and 8d. upon foreign coffee. The loss of revenue, after some allowance for increase of consumption, would probably be 171,000l. On the subject of Timber, his measure would be the reverse of that which was brought forward by the late ministry. He would advise a great reduction of duty, which would benefit all classes, from the agriculturalist to the ship-builder; but he would interpose protection to the interests of the Canadas, which he would treat as an integral part of this island, by admitting their Timber at a duty little more than nominal. Accordingly, while he would lower the duty on Foreign Timber to 25s. a load, he would let in the Timber of Canada at a duty of One Shilling. The loss on these reductions in the Timber duty he estimated at 600,000l. There were yet two other reductions which he had to propose,—one upon the export of certain British manufactures, on which he proposed altogether to remit the duty; the other upon stage coaches, the duty upon which, in point of justice as between them and railway carriages, he proposed considerably to diminish. These two heads of reduction would produce a loss of 70,000l. On the whole, these reductions, in addition to the excess of expenditure, would increase the deficit to somewhat more than 3,700,000l.—but the estimated produce of the newly proposed source of income would not only cover this, but leave more than half a million sterling applicable to the contingencies of our distant wars. (Hear, hear.) He had now concluded a long, and he feared, a wearisome statement. He had made his proposals broadly, and without compromise. He had endeavoured to do his part of the duty, and he now called upon the House to discharge theirs. The last half century had comprised two great periods—25 years of war, and 25 of peace. Countless millions, who would spring from our loins, and spread our language over half the world, would ever view with admiration the conduct of England throughout that portion of our

history. He trusted that this British Parliament would follow the noble example which, during all those times, had been furnished by their predecessors: that they would not now sit with folded arms and hope increased revenue loans to meet annually growing deficiencies. The mutiny at the Nore, the Irish rebellion, the disasters of our European war, had not cowed the spirit of their fathers, nor deterred them from submitting to a property tax even of 10 per cent., and he confidently hoped and believed that the present Parliament would not tarnish that name which was the proudest inheritance of the nation, her mainstay against hostile aggression, and the main support of her extended empire.

INDIA.

From the Correspondent of the London Morning Herald.

MALTA, March 27.

The Oriental, which left Alexandria has just arrived here, bringing the Indian mail despatched from Bombay the 1st inst., which reached Suez by the Victoria steamer the 19th and Alexandria the 22d inst.

The Cabool tragedy is over. Of the army, which on the 1st November, mustered from 12,000 to 16,000, some 200 or 300 only survive, in captivity. Not ten men in all have as yet escaped from the enemy. Since the 28th, the dates we last gave, 120 British officers, and from 4,000 to 5,000 fighting men, are known to have perished. One European, and three Sepoy regiments have been utterly swept away.

From the very commencement the troops seem to have suffered from despondency. Of the leaders, the envoy alone seems to have remained to the end firm, undismayed. The convention seems to have been forced upon him by the garrison. The circumstances of his death are unknown to us. He is said to have been cut down, or shot, by a Chazee, or religious fanatic. The convention broke off by his death on the 23d, was renewed on the 25th, and concluded about the 29th. Its terms were in the last degree humiliating. Our sick and wounded, 300, were to be left in charge of the Provisional Government of Cabool. All strongholds with money and munitions of war were to be surrendered. Jellalabad, as well as Cabool was to be evacuated, and the army was to march out under a safe conduct, carrying their ruskets, side arms, and ammunition in their pouches, with some guns. The convention was subscribed on the 4th or 5th by General Elphinstone, Colonel Shelton, Anquetil, and Chambers; and Major Pottinger acting as Political agent. Six Hostages—Captain Walsh, 52d Madras native infantry, Captain Drummond, 3rd Cavalry; Capt. Webb, 38 Madras Native Infantry; Lieut. Atrie, 3d Buffs, A. D. C.; and Lieutenants Conolly and Warburton artillery, made over for the faithful fulfilment of the treaty as regards the abandonment of Afghanistan. The order for the evacuation of Jellalabad was despatched on the 30th but did not reach until 10th January (11 days to travel 90 miles), which gave Sir R. Sale reason to suspect something wrong, and he refused to comply until he received further instructions from Gen. Elphinstone. On the 6th Jan. the army commenced its march, thinned by 64 days of incessant fighting, worn out by fatigue, and scarcity, and short of clothes. Snow all around—having to travel 90 miles of the wildest mountain country in the world. General Elphinstone, Col. Shelton, Captains Froup, Johnstone, Boyd, McKenzie, Lawrence, Meine, Eyre, Anderson, and Waller, are prisoners, with the ladies. Major Griffiths, 87 N. I., and Eng. Souter, 4th, with 11 Europeans, are at Eutoo. Besides the 12 named, there are 9 as hostages or prisoners, at Cabool making, with Brydon, 23 escaped, out of the 125 alive, and with the force of the evacuation. The officers at Cabool are Walsh, Webb, Warburton, Atrie, Conolly, and Drummond, hostages, and Drs. Berwick and Balfour. Uckbar Khan is in the hills, near Jellalabad, trying to raise the tribes and lead them against Sir R. Sale, but, apparently, without much success. Our protegee, the Shah Soojah, was left and has not only been able to maintain himself in the Citadel, but to acquire friends and allies, and draw the Cabool chiefs to his banner. He is suspected to have been at the bottom of the whole of the present insurrection. His son, Sughar Jung, quitted his residence at Candabar to join the insurgents. Uckbar Khan is said to have been negotiating with the Afreedis for maintaining the fort of Ali Musjid against us, in the name and with the money of the King.

Uckbar Khan accompanied the Brigade to the end of their first march, three miles beyond the cantonments and nine miles from the citadel, whence they had started. No sooner had they cleared the cantonments than the populace entered and the flames rose from the buildings they had left. The rear guard was fired upon, and the little baggage they had snatched from them.

A proclamation, meantime, had been sent around amongst the chiefs calling on them to rise and destroy the Kaffirs on their retreat. The pass of Khoord Cabool was attained on the 3rd day's march; the advance was obstinately disputed by the enemy, our troops forced the pass, though with severe loss, but were at length checked at one particularly narrow gorge, where the 37th Native Infantry, and a detachment of her Majesty's 15th behaved most gallantly. The ladies (14), and children, had suffered dreadfully slung in panniers on camels. The heroic lady Sale was wounded by a match lock ball. Captain Sturt her son in law, was killed. Captain Hamilton was wounded, but obliged to be abandoned on the snow, where he must have speedily expired. Uckbar Khan used, in vain, every effort to restrain the Ghazees. The slaughter was fearful, and the pillage universal. Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Boyd had each a child carried away; but the latter, with an European woman and a wounded soldier, were brought back by Uckbar Khan himself, who lamenting his inability to stay the slaughter, proposed, as the only mode of saving the ladies, to take them under his protection; and agreeing to it, they were treated with the utmost respect. Being subsequently withdrawn under charge of the chief, who appears to have permitted their husbands to accompany them. It was said they had gone to Cabool, but by last accounts were at Lughman, 40 miles from Jellalabad, and 50 from Cabool. The officers remain prisoners. The sepoys became benumbed and useless; some deserted to the enemy; many perished of cold; the remainder fell easy victims to their remorseless assailants, who hemmed them in, and cut them down on every side.

Having accomplished 35 miles, they were still 55 from Jellalabad. Guns spiked and abandoned. Here Uckbar Khan made prisoners of Gen. Elphinstone and Brigadier Shelton. The Commander-in-Chief seems now, for the first time, to have suspected treachery. He wrote to Brigadier Anquetil on whom the command devolved. 'March to night, for there is treachery.' At an hour after sunset, on 12th January, the brigade moved up the pass. Of 5,500 men with 6,000 camp followers, who left Cabool six days before, scarce 300 held together. The remains of the 44th refused obedience, and mutinied. When the troopers of the 5th cavalry came up, they were thrown from their horses, on which many of the European soldiers mounted and galloped away. Matters were now utterly hopeless, a few of the officers who survived made off endeavouring to reach Jellalabad 50 miles off. The force here seems to have become literally extinct, the sepoys lay dead in heaps amongst the snow. Some 20 or 25 officers still kept their horses, reached Gundermuck, 22 miles a head of the fatal pass. Here they straggled and separated; six reached Futtibabad, 16 miles further on, where the villagers attacked them. Brydon and Steer, of the 27th native infantry, were here left to their fate; but Dr. Brydon was the only one who ever reached Jellalabad. On the 13th, Capt. Hopkins, Dr. Harpur, and Lieut. Collyer's bodies, were found mangled 12 miles from Sir R. Sale's camp.

Jellalabad.—The force proceeding from Peshawar to relieve Jellalabad, had failed to force the Khyber pass. General Sir R. Sale was likely to hold out for three or four months.

Burmah.—Every thing seems quiet.

BOMBAY, March 1.

Intelligence was last night received by government express, that her Majesty's ship Cambrian, with the new Governor General on board, touched at Madras on the 21st ult., and after remaining a few hours, during which his lordship did not land, sailed directly for Calcutta, where he would arrive about the 1st March. A tangled skein he will have to unravel on his arrival! On the policy which Lord Ellenborough shall adopt at the commencement of his reign depends the existence of our empire in India. If his lordship shall carry out the principles he expressed before leaving England; if he shall determine to withdraw our troops within the Indus, and to abandon future schemes of foreign conquest; if he shall resolve to reverse the policy of