

Durham University, on agricultural chemistry and geology. The work is addressed to practical farmers, many of whom know nothing of scientific chemistry or geology.

News of the Week.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From British Papers to the 19th October, by the Caledonia.

From Charles Willmer's American News Letter, October 19.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

In an hour's time from this the Caledonia will be under weigh for the new world. The intelligence which she carries out is not altogether devoid of interest.

The overland mail from India arrived on Friday week. The intelligence supplied by it as first published, was considered as generally favourable but unimportant. The prisoners of Akbar Khan continued to be kindly treated.

No military movement of consequence appears to have taken place, though some brilliant successes had been obtained by Brigadier Monteath over the troops posted in the Shinwarree Valley, the enemy having been completely put to the rout, and their forts, to the number of thirty five, set fire to and destroyed. In this gallant affair, only three were killed and twenty three wounded on the part of the British. No more light is thrown upon the intentions of the Governor General. General Nott was about to leave Candahar, but his march was understood to be in the direction of Peshawur, where he would be able co-operate more effectually with the army at Jellalabad. It was said that the withdrawal of the order for evacuation had been followed by orders for an immediate advance upon Cabool. The troops are in nearly as bad a condition for retiring as for advancing. Ten thousands camels, at least, would be required for their removal, and there was no probability, before the setting in of the winter, of procuring more than three thousand. In other respects, considering the season of the year, the movement would be, if not impracticable, in the highest degree rash and perilous. The passages of the defiles between Jellalabad and Cabool, a distance of ninety miles, could not be accomplished in less than 10 days under ordinary circumstances: at present it would be doubly difficult, owing to obstructions in some places from the floods, and in others from the barricades of the enemy. Added to which, the soldiers, when the last accounts left, were three months in arrear of pay, with no prospect of any abundant supply of money. Many of the regiments moreover, were extremely deficient in medical stores. No immediate aggressive proceedings, therefore, we may take it for granted, could be in contemplation. The stir that is said to be going on among the troops in all directions, together with the continued preparations for a large army of reserve or observation, convey a strong presumption that some decisive stroke is about shortly to be struck.

Such are the heads of the news as first published, but the London Standard of Friday last gives, on the authority of a private letter, a most alarming statement of the destruction by the Affghans of the 41st Regiment. Rumours of such disasters, however vaguely stated, and however improbable in themselves, receive such ready credence while the public mind is so painfully excited as at present, and occasion such poignant distress to

those who have a nearer interest in the fate of those represented to be cut off, that we feel peculiar pleasure in being enabled from the best informed sources to contradict this painful report. An official letter from the highest authority in Bombay, dated August 28, and professing to give "the latest news" from Candahar, makes no mention of such an occurrence, and from the perfect silence of the Indian press upon the subject, it would seem to be rather an individual fiction than even a current rumour. Its extreme improbability has been ably exposed by our contemporary, and we need only now call attention to the circumstance, that Major Messiter professes to be acting upon orders issued on the receipt of intelligence of which those from whom alone the orders could have emanated know nothing.

During the last ten days the utmost excitement and alarm has prevailed in consequence of the absconding of Mr Edmund Burdekin, late manager of the Manchester Bank. Various and conflicting statements have been freely circulated as to the probable amount which he has carried away, but as yet no accurate idea can be formed.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in the Bank, was held in Manchester on Friday last, a report of which stated that the liabilities by mismanagement, were in round numbers, £890,000.

The news from Canada by the Great Western announcing the appointment of Messrs. Lafontaine and Baldwin to the Attorney-Generalship of East and West Canada, has taken the people by surprise, and among the politicians has caused the utmost excitement. The leading London Journals have been discussing the subject with much freedom, and some of them have made loud denunciations against Sir Charles. We have elsewhere given a letter upon this subject from our London Correspondent, which leads to the inference that Sir Charles has only obeyed orders in the appointments which have called forth such loud denunciations.

Some time ago we announced that the Directors of the Great Western steam ship Company had resolved upon offering the noble steam ship bearing that name for sale, together with the other effects belonging to the Company. This announcement was received with derision by the New York editors in general, and the Journal of Commerce went so far as to pronounce our publication as a silly sheet for making it. We did not deem the attacks made upon us worthy of notice at the time, well knowing that time would prove the accuracy of our statement. We have now to inform our readers that on Monday last the Western was put up for sale by public auction, at Bristol, but the bidding being too low she was bought in by the Company for £40,000, and the Directors were instructed to treat for her sale by private contract. Mr. Cunningham, a large and influential shareholder, expressed on the part of himself and other shareholders, great dissatisfaction with the entire proceedings.

A good deal of public attention has, during the last ten days, been directed against the Chartists taken prisoners during the recent disturbances in the manufacturing districts. Special Commissions have been held in the counties of Chester, Lancaster, and Stafford. The prisoners were mostly convicted, and some have been sentenced to imprisonment, whilst others of the more vile have been transported for various periods. Lord Abinger's charge to the Jury at Liverpool, has formed a topic affording

much controversy by the Press. The Radical prints denounce it in the strongest language, whilst the Conservatives scarcely attempt to defend it. Mr. Cobden made a severe attack upon it at a meeting of the Anti-Corn-Law League at Manchester, last week. Lord Abinger, in his charge, went so far as to lay down principles almost withholding from the people the right of meeting.

Considerable attention is at present arrested in this country to the new branch of trade, which has recently sprung up in consequence of the New English Tariff, in America provisions. A large public sale of provisions took place in this town on the 11th inst., but in consequence of the prices offered not coming up to the holders' estimated value, the greater portion of the American was bought in.

By accounts recently published, it appears there is an immense falling off this year in the shipping employed in the timber trade between Liverpool and the North American Colonies. The amount so employed in the year ending on the 1st of February, 1842, was 174,948 tons, whilst the amount which has arrived since that time is only 49,095 tons. Very little more is expected during the winter months, so that the diminution in shipping will be nearer two thirds than one half, and that of timber in the same proportion. This great falling off has been partly occasioned by the recent change in the timber duties, but still more by the immense importation of 1841, and the cessation of all descriptions of building, owing to the distress of the country. We are glad, however, to learn, that the decrease in the importations is beginning to produce some improvement in prices. The glut of Colonial-built ships still continues, the Brunswick dock being crowded with large vessels of that description, most of which are unsaleable at present at any price; but as the building of ships has almost ceased in the Colonies, they would soon recover some part of their value if trade should at all revive. A free trade in such bulky and necessary articles as corn and sugar would set all these ships afloat again immediately. This is so obvious, that we expect to see the Canadian and New Brunswick merchants zealous free traders in a year or two. Sir Robert Peel has cut up their monopoly, and they cannot do better than call upon him to do the same to all other protected interests.

The news from the Continent continues to possess little interest. In France the principal topics of attention is the question of the Right of Search, and the extraordinary mission of Mr. Ellis to the Brazils, for the purpose of extending British Commerce with that country. The Paris papers cry aloud for the repeal of the Slave treaties of 1831 and 1833, and urge with much vehemence the French government to enter into negotiations with the Brazilian government that shall prevent the successful termination of Mr. Ellis' mission.

Would that we could report a favourable change in the prospects of trade, but unfortunately we have to record the opposite. The winter is now fast drawing in upon us, and still large masses of the laborious population continue out of employ. A return of the quarter's revenue has just been published, which shows a deficiency of nearly seventy thousand pounds, notwithstanding the payment of a million extra from corn, and upwards of three hundred thousand pounds from the Income tax. After making every allowance for the reduction of the timber and other duties, for the paralysis in the wine trade,

produced by the lingering negotiations with Portugal, and for the loss occasioned by the late strike in the manufacturing districts—the fact that there is a decline of £733,448, in the Excise revenue, and that the surplus in the Customs is not more than one fifth of the sum paid on corn, (and which cannot be relied upon in any succeeding year,) is very alarming.

From the manufacturing districts we continue to receive very unsatisfactory reports as to the operations of the factories and mills, while the Liverpool Cotton market remains dull and inactive. During the past fortnight the transactions have been on such a very limited scale as to afford no cope for remark. The late explosion of the Manchester Bank (alluded to above) has tended much to paralyze trade.

The American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool have addressed a memorial to Sir R. Peel, urging the necessity of a reduction of the present enormous duty upon Tobacco. No answer has been, as yet, returned to the memorialists, we believe.

The fall of rain in Bombay during 10 days previous to the departure of the mail had been great. It was stated that the overflow of the Ganges had done considerable injury to the indigo crop.

Since the new tariff came into operation, nearly three thousand five hundred loads of Colonial Timber have been taken out of bond at Bristol.

Germany.—The Congress of the German Commercial League recently assembled at Stuttgart, has raised the duties on mixed worsted and cotton goods from thirty to fifty dollars, and has increased the duties upon hardware, and many other articles. This will very materially effect some departments of the manufacturing industry of the kingdom, and still further paralyze the commerce which is the life blood of English prosperity and greatness. It is not agriculture, but the commerce of the nation which has made her so great, so renowned, so powerful, and therefore every thing which affects the greatest of all interests, is worthy of our especial regard. The German league is every year narrowing the field of British industry, that it may occupy the vacant place with her own manufactures.

Liverpool European, October 19.

CHINA.

The news from China is not, and indeed, could not reasonably be expected to be very important, as the last of the reinforcements from India and England had only just arrived out when the advices came away; and it would probably be about 20th of June before the troops would be concentrated at or in the neighborhood of Chusan, and ready to undertake operations of a more decisive character than those which have recently been carried on. The city of Chapan, the seaport from which the Chinese trade to Japan is carried on, and which were defended by 10,000 men, has been taken by the forces under Sir Hugh Gough, after some loss sustained in subduing a body of Tartars, who had shut themselves up in a building; and, fearing that no quarter would be given by the English, made a very desperate resistance. Generally however the Chinese commanders and troops engaged in this affair showed just as little skill or progress as in any of the previous encounters which have taken place during the war.

With respect to the plan for future operations, nothing to be at all relied upon appears to have transpired at Macao. We see that some of the newspapers state, that, owing to the tardy arrival of reinforcements, the season had become too far advanced for a movement upon Peking; and the operations of the campaign would be confined to the occupation of Nankin, and the interruption of the communication between the northern and southern provinces, by taking possession of certain commanding points on the great canal.

We have, however, received some