

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th March, by the Columbia Steamer.

INDIA.

The army had succeeded in crossing the Sutledge, under the command of General Pollock. The march was hastened, and it is said unnecessarily hastened, that the troops might reach Ferozepore before Christmas, at which place the Governor General would meet them.

In order to secure to themselves the navigation of the Indus, the British government requested the Ameers of Scinde to cede to them Kurachee and Gatta, a long strip of land on the banks of the river, and the towns and forts of Sukkur, Bukkur, and Roree.

The recent victories achieved in Afghan and China have had the effect of tranquillizing the most rebellious portions of the Bundekund districts.

CHINA.

The news from China is most satisfactory. The Emperor has allowed the British, with their families, to reside at Canton, Amoy, Ningpo, Shanghai, and at Fowchowfoo, to build a place in which to repair their ships, and to hold uninterrupted intercourse with the people.

THE LATE HURRICANE.—The following summary is compiled from various accounts of the loss of life and property during the terrible gale of the 13th Jan. a loss which is believed without parallel in the history of our mercantile marine.

Table with 2 columns: Total Vessels, Total Lives. Rows include England and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Coast of France.

Here, then, we have no fewer than 180 vessels and 433 lives lost in one night. These figures too, can only be considered an approximation to the truth, many vessels and lives having, doubtless, been lost of which no account will be obtained.

The total declared value of exports in the year ending January 5, 1842, was £44,609,358; in 1843, £40,738,151; a falling off of £3,871,207.

In 1842, the number of ships entered inwards was 21,853; tonnage, 3,982,129; in 1843, 19,875; tonnage, 3,655,606.

According to parliamentary returns, there were in the navy, on the first of January last, 10,909; officers of all grades, and 19,135 men and boys.

Tuesday night's Gazette contains an order in Council prohibiting her Majesty's subjects from trading at any of the ports of China, except those opened by the late treaty with the Emperor: under a penalty of £100, or three months imprisonment.

The marriage of the Crown Prince of Hanover with the Princess Mary, daughter of the grand Duke of Altedburgh, took place on Saturday, the 18th ult. Queen Victoria has presented to the young couple a splendid silver table service for thirty-six persons and courses.

THE GREAT IRON STEAMER.—The great steamer, the largest vessel ever built, intended to ply between this country and New-York, is now complete, except her decorative part, and she will be enabled to go to sea, it is be-

lieved, in the spring of the present year. The following details respecting her can hardly fail to prove interesting in the United States, where she will soon be an object of wonder.

She will be capable of accommodating 300 first class passengers in fore and after cabins and for carrying from 1500 tons of merchandise and upwards.

Her accommodations will be as perfect as ample space, ingenuity, the fine arts, and the best of taste can produce. She will be appointed and fitted with every invention relating to steamships which the present generation has introduced.

The following are her dimensions, with detailed particulars of the iron used in her construction.

Table with 2 columns: Part, Measurement. Rows include Length, Beam, Draught, Tonnage, Displacement, Engines.

The plates of the keel are one inch thick, and all the plates under water are 5-8 to half an inch thick at the top, except the upper plate, which is 5-8. She is clinker built, and double rivetted throughout; towards the extremities and quite aloft the thicknesses are reduced gradually 7-19ths.

The ribs are framed of angle iron, 6 inches by 3 1-2, by half an inch thick, at the bottom of the vessel, and 7-16ths at the top; the mean distance of the ribs from centre to centre is 14 inches, and all these ribs will be doubled, the distance is then increased to 18 inches and then gradually to 21 inches at the extremities.

The Boiler platform is of plate iron, supported by ten iron Kelsons, of which the centre ones are three feet 3 inches deep; these kelsons are formed like the flooring of iron plates placed on edge.

The hull is divided into five distinct compartments, by means of water tight bulkhead. The decks, five in number, consist of the cargo decks and intimate of iron; and two cabin decks 7 inches thick and an upper deck, 5 inches thick of wood; these are strengthened longitudinally by three courses of wooden upright pillars, 9 inches in diameter, running from the keelson to the uppermost deck.

Her rigging is hermaphrodite with six masts, the whole of which excepting the mainmasts, (which is square rigged,) lowers as an occasion requires, on a level with the deck, being secured at their basis in sockets, hinged of a firm and peculiar construction.

She will be propelled by Smith's patent Archimedean screw, of the proper power and size required by the four engines, of 1200 horse power, which are to work it. These engines are splendid specimens of mechanism, as complete as they can be manufactured and have been placed in the vessel at right angles, purpose of their working to suit her build, and for better distribution of their dead weight.

There are six boilers with four feeders to each. The whole of the above, and indeed every thing connected with her machinery and construction have been manufactured at the Great Western steam ship Company's depots.

The Politician.

Illustrated London News.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES. There are few subjects of more importance to this country, or indeed to any of the countries of Europe, than those which are involved in the substance and purpose of commercial treaties, and the publication of one or two of these diplomatic documents during the present week naturally inclines us to bring them under the reflective consideration of our readers.

The entire question of the value and sacredness of treaties is more than ever opened up to the contemplation of moral philosophy in the present startling position of events in France, upon which all thinking men, all men alive to the confidence and honesty of religious obligation and diplomatic faith, are truly and tremblingly sensitive; less on account of the interests involved, mighty and gigantic as they are, than for the sake of a great principle in which the benefit of all mankind is comprehended—in which brotherhood, fidelity, and all the bonds of faith between the vast family of the entire human race are inevitably and unquestionably merged.

A fairly-conducted and honorably-confirmed treaty may almost be regarded as an oath sworn solemnly by nations before the world. It is ushered into form in a name which the contracting parties would account it blasphemous to take in vain. It is prefaced with some religious aspiration—some appeal to a witness from heaven—some anxious trust for fulfilment in a watching power from above. There is a natural perjury in the abrogation of an unexpired treaty in time of peace.

It was but a few days ago that Guizot, the far-sighted and fide-minded prime minister of France, had upon a question of Christian philanthropy to propound this important truth to his impetuous and unscrupulous opposition. "There are two ways of abrogating treaties—one is by the mutual consent of the contracting parties; the other is by the sword!" This was incontrovertible, and all other abrogations must be at the expense of honorable feeling, religious responsibility, and

national truth. It is lamentable to find a want of this conviction in the headstrong war-party of France; it is still more dreadful that the unprincipled doctrines which that party urges should tend directly to obstruct civilization, and uphold the horrors of slavery—to keep forged fetters for the human race, and to overthrow and bow down all those lofty aspirations after pure and genuine freedom, upon which your French patriots of all times have founded the justice of their revolutions, and their plea of sacred redemption from the blood they dared to shed.

This degrading inconsistency is to be mourned by all moral men; but on the other hand, it is glorious to see the virtuous Guizot standing with energetic dignity in the midst of the storm, and in spite of all the fiery elements of party discord keeping the state vessel bound steadily for the harbour of peace. He may fail and be abandoned by his crew, but such a pilot will be a mark for the veneration of all future time—good, just, courageous, and full of honour, he is gathering the greenest and the brightest laurels that have ever struck their roots downwards among the enduring foundations of the Temple of Fame.

This our humble testimony to the merits of a wise and great minister, who is folding around his shoulders the worthy mantle of the respect and gratitude of Europe, has been evoked from us by the question of "Treaties," and their value as bonds of faith between nations. For it will be observed with gratification, that just as restless and revolutionary France seems ready to incur the crime and odium of despising these signs and compacts of solemn engagements between countries, other powers emphatically express their sense of the inviolability of such engagements by involving in them—a by a mutual interchange of concessions—the very dearest and most urgent interests of the inhabitants of the countries for whom they engage.

The treaty of commerce and navigation between her Majesty and the Emperor of all the Russias must give universal satisfaction. It could not have been published at a more a propitious moment. It strengthens England—it rebukes France—it marks the diplomatic opinion of Russia upon an important point in the balance of affairs in Europe, and it prophesies commercial advantages to this country (which we are not so ungenerous as to wish or believe otherwise than mutual) of the very highest moment in the present crisis of mercantile depression.

The treaty, as we have read it, seems invaluable for the perfect spirit of liberality in which it is framed, and for the business-like and honorable confidence which it implies to exist between the two powers. The reliance is really that of private friends, and displays a fair bargain, without any of the finesse of jealous diplomacy. The treaty is described by a contemporary as being what all treaties ought to be—a specimen of the best sort of reciprocity, likely not only to prove advantageous to the commerce of the two nations, but to confer generally even higher and more important benefits.

Thus we have Russia preserving the balance of power, and weighing in the scale against Gaul—although we must not forget that Sir Robert Peel has indicated a disposition on the part of the Guizot Government (if the abandoned treaty—despising party do not drive it from power) to develop and confirm the commercial treaty so long projected and desired between England and France. Should it be effected, may it never experience the vicissitudes of the slave treaties of 1831 and 1833.

The second publication to which we alluded has respect to China—but it is not the treaty itself—only comprising a series of imperial edicts issued by the Brother of the Sun and Moon to his Celestial subjects and evincing very peculiar constructions of the negotiations to which we have driven him at the point of the sword. The edicts confirm in their spirit all the advantages about to accrue to English commerce from the opening of the Chinese ports and this as a business matter is all we want.

Even the insincere Chinese Emperor is better than Monsieur Thiers and the spurious honour of La jeune France. But in another respect the Imperial edicts are gems. If laughter maketh fat, they should be publically interrupted as a sort of populum for the consumptive. No man could starve under them. They are the purest specimens of the absurd, the humorous, and agreeable we ever pursued. They are not fit for a newspaper; a camle annual or almanac is their legitimate sphere.

The phrases "Respect this!" "Pay an implicit and awe struck obedience!" drop like manna into the gaping mouths of the bewildered subjects of the Emperor. They are told how long peace had made them forget the arts of war, so that the "barbarians" were enabled to make them remember their coming; but now they are to train themselves against the recurrence of any such dilemma; all is, by command of the Emperor, to go on happily till they are so trained; that is, the treaty is to be solemnly complied with until they delude themselves into a belief that they are able to break it. And, in the meanwhile, with regard to the droll official document itself, there is a direction to "Hurry on this edict at more than a rate of 600 le a day," and to order some great functionary to "inform himself of its contents," with the final injunction of "Respect this!"

May we venture to echo his Imperial Majesty, with a request to our readers that, of all articles upon the subject of commercial treaties they will "respect this."

Provincial Legislature:

Extracts from the Journals:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, MARCH 21.

Resolved, That there be granted, to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Adminis-

trator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £200 to be paid to the Managing Committee of the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton, under the control of the Committee, when it shall be certified to the satisfaction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor that the Institution is in an efficient state.

To the Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville, the sum of £200 towards the support of that Institution.

To the Sheriffs of the several Counties in the Province, for executing Writs of Election and returning the Members to serve in General Assembly, the following sums:—

Table with 2 columns: Sheriff, Amount. Rows include Sheriff of Kent, Sheriff of Northumberland, Sheriff of Gloucester, Sheriff of Restigouche.

Mr. Ead, from the Select Committee appointed on the 3rd day of February last, to take into consideration the subject of the illegal occupation of Crown Lands and Indian Reserves, submitted a first Report upon the matters referred to them; and he having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read and is as follows:—

"The committee to whom was referred that part of His Excellency's Speech which relates to the illegal occupation of Crown Lands and Indian Reserves, having attended to that duty, make their first Report:

"That the extensive reservations of Lands heretofore made for the use of the Indians have not by any means realized the humane intentions of Government towards that unfortunate race.

"That seeing that those Reserves have been to a great extent unoccupied by the Indians, although in many cases well adapted for Agricultural purposes, and affording eligible Mill seats, your committee are not surprised to find that Settlers have in several instances entered upon portions of them and made improvements thereon:—Some of these entries have been made with the full concurrence of the Indians, and some, your committee have no doubt, have taken place either absolutely without their permissions unfairly obtained—Your committee do not consider it expedient to discriminate on this point, and are unanimous in the opinion that the claims of all actual Settlers who have made improvements on those Lands ought to be regarded, inasmuch as by these means, not only has the settlement of the country been accelerated, but the Indians themselves have had the advantages of neighbourhoods whose progressive improvement should powerfully stimulate the efforts of any class of humane beings, accessible to the effects of good example.

"Your committee are of opinion, that the period has arrived, when steps should be taken to throw open limited portions of those Reserves for legal Settlement and occupation, and to place the residue under judicious management, in order that tracts which hitherto have been in many cases barriers to the extension of thriving Settlements, and in others, the resort of lawless depredators, may become sources of revenue, available alike for the encouragement of the industrious and relief of the infirm of the Indian Population, as well as the seats of thriving Agricultural Settlements, and with a view to the attainment of those desirable objects, they recommend, that all the Indian Reserves be surveyed under the superintendence of the Indian Commissioners for the Counties in which they are respectively appointed; that such portions as it may be desirable from their natural advantages, and the expressed wishes of the Indians to appropriate for Indian Villages, be reserved to a sufficient extent in each case to afford ample space for Village, Pasture, and Wood Lots; and that the residue be laid off into lots, generally of from 50 to 100 acres each, and in such manner as may be best suited to the formation of Settlements, regard being had to the occupancy of actual settlers as much as possible on the same lots, whenever it can be done without materially injuring the whole.

"That the Indian commissioners then proceed to value the improvements made by actual settlers on the different lots, and report such valuation to the Executive Government, recommending what lots they may think it advisable to offer for sale, and the price at which such lots should be offered, and also what lots they may think it advisable to lease, with the estimated annual rent;—the lots for lease to be confirmed principally to Meadow lots.

"That the Executive Government be requested to order that such lots be offered for sale at the upset price recommended, and under the condition of immediate actual settlement by the respective purchasers; that no person be allowed to become the purchaser of more than two hundred acres, that he be required to pay the purchase money to the Receiver General in five instalments, the first or one fifth on the day of sale, and the residue in four equal yearly payments with interest, and that the purchaser of another persons improvements be required to pay in addition the estimated value of those improvements within thirty days after the day of sale, or produce a certificate from the previous occupant that he has been satisfied for his improvements. A Ticket of Location to issue to the purchaser on payment of the first instalment and valuation of the improvements (if an improved lot) and a Grant to issue on payment of the last instalment, provided the purchaser or his family be actually residing on the land, or have a Mill or Mills in actual operation thereon. A Ticket not to authorise the settler to cut Timber or Lumber on the land without the special permission of the Executive Government.

"That the Meadow lots be leased annually at Auction at some Public place in the County by the commissioners, the years rent to be paid to the purchaser on the day of sale, and to be remitted by them to the Receiver General with an account of sales.

"That all monies received for the sale or