

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th April, received by the Britannia, Steamer.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, March 27.

OCCUPATION OF OTAHEITE.

The Marquis of Lansdowne wished to put a question on a subject which had been the cause of great anxiety—he must say, of very natural anxiety—to a most numerous and respectable class of persons in this country: he meant those persons who were connected with that group of islands in the Pacific, the principal of which was Otaheite, and which island recently, under a treaty, had been occupied, and authority exercised there by the French. For many years past, a very great improvement in the civilization and religious instruction of the inhabitants of these islands, amounting, he believed, to a population of 150,000, had been occasioned by persons, who, from benevolent and religious motives, had taken up their residences there, and who, having acquired a considerable influence over the natives—that influence had now extended so far as to have induced the inhabitants entirely to change their habits of life—to introduce education, to found schools, which were now numerous there, and in every other respect greatly to benefit the condition of these inhabitants. He was not one of those who viewed with jealousy, with any unnecessary jealousy at least, any attempt on the part of the French Government to extend its system of colonization. The question, therefore, which he wished to put to his noble friend was, whether he had received any explanations and assurances which would satisfy him that English subjects already settled there, or having occasion hereafter to settle in those regions, would obtain from the French authority to be exercised there, that degree of protection which was justly their due, and that they would not be subjected to any unjust treatment, or, above all things, to expulsion from those islands? (hear, hear).

The Earl of Aberdeen said that her Majesty's Government had certainly received intelligence of the events to which the noble marquis had just referred, but he was not sufficiently informed of the precise grounds upon which the French Government had acted, or of complaints made against the authorities in those islands which had led to the convention, to be able to give any explanation upon the subject. He entirely agreed with the noble marquis, in not being one of those who looked with apprehension to the establishment of the French in those seas (hear, hear). He did not apprehend that our commercial or political interests would be affected by it. On the contrary, he thought he could perceive reasons which induced him to view that establishment with satisfaction, and from it to anticipate advantageous results. He was ready to admit to the noble marquis, that those who had been the means of civilizing and converting the natives of those islands, from idolatry to Christianity, ought to receive the utmost attention at the hands of Her Majesty's Government; and as soon as he was informed of the occupation (occupation it was not, for the French had not occupied the island, for, as he understood the convention was for a protectorship to be exercised by the French King, without the island being occupied by a French force)—as soon as he was informed of the facts, he lost no time in making representations to Paris on the subject, and he was happy to say those representations were met with the most unqualified assurance, that every degree of protection and encouragement would be afforded to the British missionaries residing in those islands (hear, hear).

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 27.

EXTRAVAGANT SALARIES OF AMBASSADORS.

On the vote for £110,000 for defraying the charges under civil contingencies being proposed, Mr. Williams said, on looking over the items of this vote there appeared to him to be many charges which ought not to appear, or be paid for out of the public money. He particularly called their attention to the immense amount of the cost of the foreign ambassadors. When he compared what they cost this country, and the amount paid by the United States of America, the contrast was most striking. The cost of four Foreign Ministers, their salaries and their pensions, amounted to £205,000 this year, and the whole number of persons employed in our foreign embassies was only twenty six. The United States of America employ twenty two in their foreign embassies, and the whole cost was only £28,000 a year. The difference was perfectly absurd and monstrous. Every one admitted that the embassies of the United States were conducted as well as any nation in the world. The cost this year of the Charge d'Affaires to Wirtemberg was £3,237. The cost of our Minister to Saxony was £3,302 this year, and that of the Minister to Tuscany was £3,265. The ministers from this country to these petty states cost very nearly twice as much as the ministers of the United States to this country, France, Russia, Prussia, and Constantinople. No one could shew that it was necessary to have a minister at these petty states at all. If a minister were required, the Consul would be quite sufficient. There was another item which he objected to in this vote, namely, the charge incurred by the Earl of Wilton, in going to the court of Saxony to present the king of that country with the Order of the Garter. The amount of this charge was £1,117. Was it not a reflection upon the nobility of this country, that not one could be found

to convey from her Majesty a mark of honor to a foreign King, without being a charge upon the country? It was a disgrace to the nobility. The charge to Amsterdam was £53, whilst the ordinary passage money was only 2l. for each person. There had been upwards of 15,000l. expended in the embassy to Constantinople, and again for defraying the expenses of Sir Charles Bagot's passage to Canada, a sum of 1,691l. was charged. The first item under this charge was 911l. for the conveyance of his luggage, and a sum of 500l. was further paid for a steam vessel to meet him when he reached Canada. If there had been the least attention paid to the public expenditure, such items as those would never be allowed to appear in the papers of that house. The hon. member objected to several other items, amongst the rest, to a sum of 500l. for altering the arms of the Prince of Wales, who, having large revenues of his own as Duke of Cornwall, should have paid for the altering of his arms. He should move the reduction of the vote now before the house by the amount of the items he had enumerated.

CHARTIST'S ADDRESS.

Brother Chartists—The great political truths which have been agitated during the last half century have at length aroused the degraded and insulted white slaves of England to a sense of duty to themselves, their children, and their country. Tens of thousands have flung down their implements of labour. Your taskmasters tremble at your energy, and expecting masses eagerly watch this the great crisis of our cause. Labour must no longer be the common prey of masters and rulers. Nature, God, and reason have condemned this inequality, and in the thunder of a people's voice it must perish forever. The Charter would remove by universal will, expressed in universal suffrage, the heavy load of taxes which now crush the existence of the laborer, and cripple the efforts of commerce; that it would give cheap government as well as cheap food, high wages as well as low taxes, bring happiness to the hearth stone, plenty to the table, protection to the old, education to the young, permanent prosperity to the country; long continued protective political power to labour, and peace, blessed peace, to exhausted humanity, and approving nations; therefore it is that we have solemnly sworn, and one and all declared, that the golden opportunity now within our grasp shall not pass away fruitless, that the chance of centuries afforded to us by a wise and all-seeing God shall not be lost; but that we now do universally resolve never to resume labour until labour's grievances are destroyed, and protection secured for ourselves, our suffering wives, and helpless children, by the enactment of the People's Charter. Englishmen! the blood of your brothers reddens the streets of Preston and Blackburn, and the murderers thirst for more. Be firm, be courageous, be men. * * * We have made the cast for liberty, and we must stand, like men, the hazard of the die. Let none despair. Let all be cool and watchful, and like the bridemaids in the parable, keep your lamps burning; and let continued resolution be like a beacon to guide those who are now hastening far and wide to follow your memorable example. Brethren, we rely upon your firmness; cowardice, treachery, or womanly fear would cast our cause back for half a century. Let no man, woman, or child break down the solemn pledge; and if they do, may the curse of the poor and starving pursue them—they deserve slavery who would madly court it.

ARRIVAL OF MORE OF THE CHINESE RANSOM.—Her Majesty's ship Blonde, Captain Sir T. Bouchier, has arrived from China, having on board Sycee silver to the amount of 3,000,000 dollars. The Blonde is the third ship that has brought to this country a freight of this description. Mr. J. W. Cooper, of her Majesty's Treasury, who has received the whole of the Treasure brought over by her Majesty's ship Modeste and Columbine, on the two previous occasions, was directed by their Lordships to proceed to Portsmouth to receive the amount now brought by the Blonde. The silver was packed in 523 cases, some of them containing 20,000 dollars each, and weighing each half-a-ton. The unloading was a task of considerable difficulty, the weight of the metal and the motion of the ship having so severely tried the strength of the packages, that a large number of them required repair. This was so successfully accomplished, that not the slightest loss took place during the transfer. On Wednesday morning one half of the whole amount left Portsmouth at eight o'clock, by the Southampton Railway. It arrived at the Vauxhall terminus shortly after one o'clock. On its arrival it was transferred to waggons, which started under the escort of a party of the 75th Regiment, for the Royal Mint, where it was safely lodged. Her Majesty's ship Herald, having on board silver to the amount of nearly two Million dollars more, is daily expected at Portsmouth from China, and when this sum is received, it will complete the first instalment of the ransom, payable under the late treaty with the Emperor of China.

EARTHQUAKES IN ENGLAND.

It is exactly 899 years since the first earthquake is recorded to have taken place in this country, it having happened at Worcester and Derby in 1043. Four similar visitations are said to have fallen on England during the following half century. An earthquake, that was generally felt throughout the country occurred in 1090, and was followed by a scarcity of food. In 1190 the county of Somerset suffered from a like cause; and St. Michael's-on-the-Hill, without Glasbury, was thrown down by shocks that were also felt throughout the country in 1247. Earthquakes were experienced in England during each of the three succeeding years—a remarkable succession of

such evils! The greatest earthquake ever known in this country occurred in 1318; and in April, 1580, another caused great damage in various directions. It lasted only one minute; but the shock was so severe that many churches and houses were much shattered, and many lives were lost. According to the quaint phraseology of Stowe—'The great clocke belle in the Palace of Westminster stroke of itself against the hammer with shaking, as divers clockes and belles in the city and elsewhere did the like.' This earthquake extended into many parts of England; and in Kent there were three distinct shocks that caused much damage. In 1583 one occurred in the county of Dorset, that removed a considerable piece of ground. Earthquakes were felt at London and several other places in Britain in March, 1749, and in 1750, and gave rise to the publication by Dr. Stukely, in which he attributed the phenomena, not to vapours or fermentations generated in the bowels of the earth, but to electricity. On one of these occasions it is stated that 'a sound was observed to roll from the Thames to Temple Bar, just as the electrical snap precedes the shock.' In 1750, the same counties now visited, suffered from an earthquake that caused much damage in Liverpool, Chester, Manchester, &c.; and in the beginning of 1761 great alarm was excited throughout the metropolis and its neighborhood by two shocks, on February 8, and March 8. In 1786, earthquakes occurred in different parts of the north of England: In Westmoreland in 1790; in the counties of Bedford, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, &c., in March, 1792; at Shaftesbury and Salisbury in September, 1793, &c. The above are but a few of the earthquakes that are recorded to have visited England.

Beyond the limits of these volcanic regions, all countries are subject to slight tremors at distant intervals of time. Slight shocks have frequently been felt in the British Isles, in France, Germany, and other parts of northern Europe; but these countries cannot be considered as constituting parts of either the southern European, or of the Icelandic volcanic regions. In many instances these tremors appear to be mere vibrations, produced mechanically, through the external crust of the globe, and originating in some great convulsion in an adjoining volcanic. Such were the agitations experienced in these islands and over a considerable portion of Europe during the great Lisbon earthquake. In other instances, however, these agitations appear to be independent of any such great convulsions.

The Politician.

The British Press.

Newcastle Northern Advertiser, March 30.

THE most important subject discussed in Parliament last week was perhaps the Boundary Question, or rather the Ashburton Treaty Question, which occurred on Tuesday. This was a subject long reserved by Lord Palmerston for discussion—long threatened by him as a grand anti-ministerial measure when occasion should serve, and finally brought forward at the earliest period after his narrow escape from full detection at the Afghan crisis, which the state of his lordship's nerves permitted—and we must say he acquitted himself to a wonder. Lord Palmerston made a speech of three hours, which he occupied by going into the minute details of the question—details which his late official position and his present anxiety to strike an effectual blow at the ministry, which had a month before shielded him from ruin, enabled him entirely to command. This speech was extremely able as a parliamentary speech, but was characterized throughout by its unfairness. It began unfairly, as it was founded on a motion by the ex-foreign Secretary, for a production of all the papers and correspondence between Lord Ashburton and Mr. Webster—a motion which, as Sir Robert Peel observed, no man knew better than Lord Palmerston, could not be granted, and which the former characterized as being far from straightforward: The speech in question was studiously evasive of all the weak points in the policy of the orator himself, and adroitly dwelt upon the real sacrifice which has unquestionably been made of our rightful claims by the diplomatic unfitness of Lord Ashburton. Sir Robert and others, but more effectually, we think, Sir Howard Douglas, the late Governor of New Brunswick, clearly showed that the uniform want of principle exhibited by Lord Palmerston during the last ten years in his transactions with America, which alone incited the Americans to play the successful game they did, was the cause of all the complications, and the cause of the final treaty which they declared was then unavoidable. In this latter view of the actual treaty being unavoidable, we are very far from concurring, considering as we do, that Lord Ashburton was completely over-reached—he was first laid on his back by the unprincipled acts of Lord Palmerston during his whole administration, and then suffered himself to be robbed by the equally unprincipled Americans.

The Colonial Press.

St. John New Brunswick, April 27.

REDUCTION OF THE CIVIL LIST. Another matter of great importance, also neglected until it could no longer be deferred, was the address for a reduction of the Civil List. This address was also carried up to His Excellency at the last hour to be forwarded. After stating the surrender of the Casual and Territorial Revenues for a permanent Civil List of 14,500l. per annum, it sets forth that at the time the arrangement was effected, this Pro-

vince exercised jurisdiction over the whole of what was then called the Disputed Territory. That by the Treaty of Washington a conventional boundary has been established, which relinquishes a great part, and by far the most valuable portion of the territory; and although the inhabitants of New Brunswick feel deep regret at such cession, they did not complain of an arrangement which the general interests of the Empire seemed to require. The Assembly humbly submit however, that as so large a portion of the Casual and Territorial Revenues have been cut off, that it would be proper and just to reduce the amount agreed to be paid annually for the support of the Civil Government of the Province; and the Assembly also state it as their opinion, that a salary of 600l. per annum is an adequate maximum salary for the principal subordinate ministerial officers of the Government. Urging also the necessity and importance in a new country of exercising principles of economy, not inconsistent with a due regard to the public service, the Assembly submit a scale of duties which they conceive will liberally provide for the various officers and services charged on the Civil List; and they pray, that on a review of all the circumstances of the case, Her Majesty will be pleased to reduce the amount now paid for the Civil List to 12,500l., which they conceive will more than adequately provide for the efficient administration of the Government.

The following is the proposed scale of salaries, inclusive of all fees, in New Brunswick currency:

The Lieutenant Governor	£3,500
Private Secretary	250
Chief Justice, besides travelling expenses allowed by law	1,000
Three Puisne Judges, besides travelling expenses, 900l. each	2,700
Provincial Secretary, including Registrar and clerk of the Crown in Chancery, For Clerks and contingencies of the Secretary's Office, not exceeding	500
The Attorney General	500
The Solicitor General	200
The Surveyor General	600
The Auditor General and Clerk	500
The Receiver General (to be discontinued on a vacancy)	300
Donation to King's College	1,111
	£11,761

Leaving a surplus, subject to rules adopted with regard to the surplus at present accruing, of 739

£12,500

It cannot be denied, that the above salaries are liberal, and are really more than the Province can at present bear. We are advocates of economy, but not for that pitiful economy which would deprive an efficient public officer of fair remuneration for his services, without which no government can ever be well conducted. We had hoped that a greater reduction would have been asked for—because some of the above sums ought to be reduced—and had the draft of this address been prepared and published early in the Session, the sentiments of the people would have been expressed on the subject, and some points would have been suggested, which seems to have escaped the attention of that fragment of the Assembly, which remains to transact all great public matters, after a large portion of the idlers, "the jobbers and the grabbers" had fled to their homes, after having gained the r. several ends.

In our next we shall notice the Address relative to the composition of the Legislative Council, with some other important matters, all handled together at the close, after the manner of the glorious Assembly of New Brunswick!

South American News.

Boston Notion, April 22.

FROM CAMPEACHY.—From Campeachy, we have news up to the 25th; we learn that the soldiers and citizens of Campeachy were in high spirits, and wanted nothing so much as Com. Moore.

The gun boats of Campeachy were seen 20 miles out at sea on the 26th ult.

The Mexicans still held the heights, and bombarded Campeachy daily, without much injury.

The Mexican fleet was anchored off Point Desoacaeta. They had landed reinforcement of 300 men, on the 18th of March, who marched towards Merida. On the 10th, 2500 left Campeachy to give them battle. On the 27th of March, the Campeachians meant to attack Lerma by land and water.

From Campeachy.—From the New Orleans Picayune of the 6th, we have advices from the seat of war up to the 30th.

The Mexican fleet landed a large body of troops at Tilshac on the 26th and 27th March, after having previously visited Selina, which place was burnt by the Mexican soldiers. The first place of action was expected to be Sisal, off which the Mexican fleet was hourly expected. A body of Yutacan troops, numbering some 4,500, had been retained to meet the Mexicans.

A brisk action occurred in the neighbourhood of Campeachy on the 26th of March, in which the Mexicans sustained a considerable loss. The Campeachians, after a three hours' fight, retired in good order, without effecting any thing.

The cannonading continued upon the city from the Mexican batteries, but little damage has been done so far.

Deserters from the Mexican camp were continually joining the Yutacans.

The brig Coral, for New Orleans, passed Sisal on the 29th ult., supposed to be a prize to the Mexican Squadron. A French frigate arrived and anchored off Campeachy on the 14th.