

## European News.

## IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIL.

The Postmaster at Dorchester having very kindly forwarded a portion of our British papers by the first October steamer, to Richibucto, they were obligingly sent from thence by Messrs. Chilton and Holderness, and received at our office on Monday evening.

The name of the steamer we believe, is the Acadia, but her length of passage, or the day on which she arrived at Halifax, we have not ascertained. The news is not very important; but to put our readers in possession of the intelligence thus obtained at as early a date as possible, we publish a half sheet to-day, which contains all the information worth extracting.

London Mercantile Gazette, October 1.

*Dreadful Colliery Explosion in the Little Pit, at Haswell. Ninety-five lives lost.*

Sunderland, September 30.—The melancholy intelligence I communicated yesterday, respecting a report of an explosion at Haswell Colliery, has proved to be too true. It appears that 95 persons are known to have suffered, that number of bodies having been brought up out of the pit. I have not yet learned how many were in the pit altogether, but it is reported about 100. The following are all the particulars which have yet transpired.

The quiet little village of Haswell was thrown into the greatest alarm on Saturday afternoon last, about four o'clock, in consequence of an explosion in the above pit, where women and children were seen running in all directions screaming and crying, and almost frantic at the sad news. This dreadful catastrophe has called from time into eternity, no fewer than 95 human beings. I understand the pit is the property of Taylor & Co, and is situated near South Hetton, and about 11 miles from Sunderland. As the pit was well ventilated, it is not known as yet, how the accident occurred. At the time mentioned, a loud report was heard by the men at the mouth of the pit, and by all persons about a mile round about, a strong vibration was felt at the time, and several houses in the vicinity shook at the moment; many imagined it to be the shock of an earthquake.

As it was evident that some serious event had happened below, every thing that human aid could invent was done to save the lives of 95 human beings that were known to be in the pit at the time of the explosion; but alas! the work of destruction was done—all were dead! The viewers quickly descended the pit, and, by the aid of some others who went with them, they were enabled to bring the unfortunate bodies to bank. They were all dreadfully burnt; indeed, many it was impossible to discover their faces at all; some with their heads and hands nearly burnt to a cinder. There were 4 horses in the pit at the time, all of which were burnt to death.

Three men were saved—they were at the bottom of the shaft when the explosion occurred.

*Profits of Timber on Estates.*—The late Mr Fleming, of Hampshire.—This gentleman was one of the largest landed proprietors in the county, owning at his death 15,000 acres, and so richly wooded has it always been, that he is supposed to cut no less than £300,000 worth of timber, from first to last, and yet left the whole as full as the land will bear.

*Ships of War Building.*—The following is the official list of the ships of war that are being built at the different royal dockyards on the 1st October, 1844. Many of them are in a very advanced state, and will be launched in the ensuing spring, and a number of artisans are busily at work in the various arsenals in completing them with all expedition.—At Chatham—The Active, 36 guns; Arab 16; Bulldog, sloop steamer; Calypso, 20; Challenge, 18; Chesapeake, 36; Coquette, 20; Crescy, 80; Dispatch, 16; Elk, 16; Heron, 15; Irresistible, 80; Kangaroo, 16; Majestic, 80; Mars, 80; Raleigh 50; and Severn 50. At Deptford—The Spitfire, steam vessel. At Davenport.—The Aboakir, 90; Amethyst 26; Avenger, steam frigate; Creole 26; Exmouth 90; Flora 36; Liffey, 50; Niobe, 26; St. Jean d'Acre 90; Sans Pareil 84; and Thetis 36. At Pembroke—The Algiers, 90 guns; Arethusa, 50; Atalanta 16; Britomart 10; Brunswick 80; Camilla 18; Colossus 80; Conflict, steam frigate; Constance 50; Desperate steam frigate; Jægon, de Inflexible steam sloop; King-

fisher 12; Liberty 16; Lion 80; Mariner 16; Martin 16; Squirrel 16; Sybille 36; Victoria 110; and Windsor Castle 110. At Portsmouth—The Centaur, steam frigate; Dauntless, steam frigate; Marlborough 110; Prince of Wales 110; Princess Royal 90; Royal Frederick 110; Royal Sovereign 110; Scourge, steam sloop; and Shannon 50. At Sheerness—Alarm 26; Dart 3; and Fury, steam sloop; At Woolwich—Agamemnon 80; Amphion 36; Gladiator, steam frigate; Hannibal 90; Hound 6; Niger steam frigate; Odin steam frigate; Royal Albert 120; Sampson, steam frigate; Spynx, steam sloop; and Terrible steam frigate. Miscellaneous. At Blackwall—The Harpy, steamer; Myrmidon, Torch, and Trident, steam vessels. At Bombay—The Goshawk 12; Madras 80; Malacca 26; and Zebra 16. At Glasgow—The Bloodhound, Jackall, and Lizzard, steam vessels. At Poplar—The Grapple steamer, and Recruit brig of war. The number of ships of war composing the British navy, either in commission, ordinary, or building, is 681, carrying from 1 to 120 guns each.

Liverpool Mail, September 28.

*A Scene in the East.*—We have been favoured with the following extract of a letter, dated Jassy 1st September, 1844:—"We have had a dreadful conflagration in Jassy, which has been making a sal- amander of me for the last ten or twelve days. We have been living in fire, and, during the heat of summer, it was a visitant by no means welcome. Two hundred and forty seven houses were burnt in my quarter alone, and my house had a narrow escape. The account has been carried by some as far as one thousand houses, which is exaggerated. The circumstances were appalling. Nothing can be conveyed, by description, to those who have not witnessed these kinds of conflagrations. They spread with a frightful rapidity, conducted by the combustible material of which a great part of the city is built, and by the universal roofs of shingle. The wind was blowing a simoon at one time, and in the afternoon a thunder-storm, charged with all the electric matter collected during weeks of drought, hovered in a black, dense mass in the distance, that gave one to see the effect of the fire still blazing, and throwing up its white volumes of smoke and glares of flame, mingling with the black cloud, and then lightnings; when the storm assumed the character of a whirlwind, lit up the streams of flame in every direction, and confounded the dust with the smoke issuing in all directions.

The inhabitants, in the most dreadful consternation, were flying with their effects, when they could not know where to turn, and blocking up the streets. Day was converted almost to night. I could not see my hand before my face and knew nothing, but that the danger was imminent and might engulf me in a moment, for the fire seemed around the hundreds and thousands running in very direction. I could not return to my house for my retreat was intercepted. In the meantime, the fire was raging with dreadful violence and rapidity, and the rain fell. This lasted for some time, when the clouds burst and poured their torrents down. Then, and then only, was an interval of some security felt. It lasted during the night, and left protection to those who had a roof to shelter them.

The fire approached on one side to me, about three houses distant, and their courts, or fifty or sixty paces, and on the other side about thirty paces. The wind might at any moment have turned and destroyed the property. A mile in breadth and a mile and a half in length have disappeared almost. Three churches, and some of the mansions of the Bozards, are the same imposing ruin, and the chimneys of the others stand alone, like blackened columns, to commemorate the disaster for the rest of the buildings which have been burnt.

London Times, October 1.

We have been favoured with two private letters from Tahiti to the 24th of April last, detailing the particulars of the affray between the French and natives, of which only partial accounts have hitherto appeared. The following are extracts from the letters, which are addressed to a gentleman holding an official situation in this country:—

TAHITI, April 24.

I wrote you on the 25th ult. by the Favourite, English whaler. The Eagle leaves to-morrow for the United States, and I avail myself of the opportunity of furnishing you with a report of the doings at Tahiti, in the hope of your publishing to the world some of the most atrocious cruel calamities possible to be inflicted

upon an unfortunate and defenceless people. In my last I related some of the causes which led the natives of these islands to stand up for their country and liberties. Denounced and outlawed by the invaders, driven to a last dire extremity, they assembled to the number of about 1,000, preferring death from the guns of their enemies to dragging out a weary existence as miserable slaves. The French, thirsting for blood, intent upon nothing but the destruction of all who had the spirit not to submit to their infamous conduct, pursued them; and the result has been a bloody battle, of which I shall proceed to give you some particulars; and, as it took place at a place called Mahaena, let it be chronicled in history as "The Battle of Mahaena."

The French war steamer Phaeton and the frigate Uranie, 64 guns, came to anchor in the harbour of Papeeti, the former having the greater part of the wounded on board, last night, and the latter this day, bringing intelligence of a desperate engagement between 800 marines, soldiers, and artillery, of the French forces in the Pacific, and about 1,000 Tahitians. Both parties suffered severely, but the Tahitians remain masters of the field of battle. The Tahitians had shown considerable judgment in the selection of their encampment; where nature had failed to supply a defence, large embankments of sand and earth were raised, with deep trenches on either side. In their rear was a thick and almost impenetrable bush, in case of their being compelled to retreat. On their fortification were mounted 6 guns, and altogether it was well calculated to stand a regular siege. The lines of defence extended about 300 yards, a solid embankment of earth and sand, supported inside with large logs of wood, cut into lengths of about six feet, the earth being on a level with the tops of the logs on the outside, and about 10 feet thick.

About 5 o'clock on the morning of the 18th the French commenced landing, protected by the guns of the steamer and frigate; and as there was some difficulty in this, it was past 10 before they were in motion for the attack, with a number of field-pieces, and led on by Governor Bruat in person. An individual of the name of Henry, a son of a missionary here, and who is indebted to the natives of the island entirely for his subsistence, pointed out to the French a path by which they could reach a hill which commanded part of the encampment: and, although a strong party with muskets could do little damage by being in possession of this spot yet when a few field-pieces were stationed there the havoc was great. When the main body of the French saw that this spot had been gained, and which the Tahitians neglected to defend, the attack commenced, and the slaughter. The struggle that ensued was dreadful, the Tahitians fighting man to man with their spears against the bayonets of the French soldiers (for not above one half of Tahitians had fire arms.) Their desperation and mortal hatred of the French spoke volumes. Had they been armed with muskets, not a Frenchman would have been left to tell the tale; however, as it is, their noble efforts to carry the day, has earned for them a character of nobleness of purpose, and no want of resolution to carry it into effect. When the least opportunity offered the thundering broadsides of the Uranie, and long guns of the steamer, never ceased to assist in the fierce conflict. Grape shot and shells were abundant as hail in December, still the contest was maintained; the trenches were strewn with the dead. Wounded on the part of the Tahitians, there were none; for, infuriated to a degree, they fought as if a spirit possessed them. One man, without so much as a stick in his hand, after being mortally wounded with a bullet, picked up a stone, and aimed it at Governor Bruat who barely avoided it, he reeled and fell a lifeless corpse.

The guns on the hill had continued to tell fearfully in the ranks of the brave Tahitians, and a retreat of a few yards into the wood in their rear was advisable. Thither they marched, and the French, glad no doubt, to purchase a respite on any terms, judged it by no means prudent to pursue where to contest would have been so unequal for them; and here ends the second battle between the Tahitians and French. The French have suffered severely, at the very lowest, I should say, 100 men; while on the other side it is almost impossible to ascertain their loss; but as they only acted on the defensive throughout, it may reasonably be presumed that the loss on both sides is about equal. One of the French gentlemen high in office, told me that the loss in landing was great, and that many of the soldiers' muskets were rendered useless except with the bayonet.

April 25.

I wrote you a few days ago, expecting that the Eagle would have sailed ere now; something, however, has detained her, and I avail myself of this opportunity of giving you further particulars of the late unfortunate collision between the French and the natives. Instead of the Tahitians being compelled to retreat, it turns out to have been merely a manoeuvre on the part of the natives to draw their enemies further into their power: and with regard to the natives, having suffered such severe loss, it turns out that they have not lost above 80 men; while the loss on the part of the French is allowed to be at the very least 120. In fact, from the nature of the ground, the strong defences of the encampment, and their determined opposition, it could not have turned out otherwise. When the Tahitians retired they expected the enemy to pursue, instead of which they threw a little sand over the bodies of their unfortunate companions, piled up the bodies of their enemies, and in great haste made the best of their way to their ships. Many who were mortally wounded they took with them, but before they had reached the vessel these were no more. They filled one large double canoe and one of their boats with the bodies, and sank them out at sea. Somehow this had not been well managed, for ever since the coast, for upwards of twenty miles has been strewn with bodies, upwards of sixty having been counted by an Englishman who resides in that part of the island. The frigate Uranie was in such a hurry to get away that they cut the chain of one of their best anchors, leaving a buoy at it. This buoy rope the natives have since cut, and in consequence the anchor is lost. Governor Bruat has entirely failed in his endeavours to conciliate the natives—they will not listen to his proposals. I think he at least sees the propriety of pursuing a different policy towards the Tahitians, but it is too late. His murderous thirst may be satiated. The honour and glory of France, may, in his estimation, have received an addition, but he has stirred up a deadly feeling of hatred which never will be effaced. You will have heard of the circumstances attending the banishment of our much respected British consul, Mr Pritchard, from Tahiti. His amiable family left a few days ago for Amiard; even his lady was subjected to the insults of the bad sample of French in Tahiti. His property has been sold at a mere nothing, and if ever a person had a claim upon the government of a country for the unwarrantable acts of her subjects, this is one.

Nearly all the missionaries have left the island. Had it not been for their exertions and influence over the natives, Tahiti would have been the scene of bloodshed long ago.

London Shipping Gazette, Oct. 2.

From Lisbon we learn the downfall of the Cabral administration is close at hand.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 24th ult. The Madrid Gazette of that date publishes an official article, announcing the re-establishment of peace between Spain and Morocco.

Letters from Bologna of the 24th ult. state that the utmost anarchy and confusion pervaded the Legation. Every day fresh accounts of robberies, murders incendiary fires, and collisions between the people and the military, reached from every part of the province; no less than five assaults occurred in the streets of Bologna during the night of the 22d.

The advices by the overland mail are read with great interest in the city. Business appears to be gradually reviving, and the merchants seem, at least to hope that the long continued depression is passing away.

## INDIA AND CHINA.

The Indian mail to the 27th of August has arrived, bringing letters and papers from Bombay to that date. The intelligence which they communicate, though not of a striking nature, is of some interest. From Calcutta it relates principally to the present and late Governor General.

Sir Henry Hardinge arrived there at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 23d of July, and was immediately sworn into his high office. His first act was to continue Mr Bird as Governor of Bengal. On the next and subsequent days he held levees and durbars, and has thus far gained golden opinions from all parties, although there are some who appear to doubt his future proceedings, as being nearly connected with Lord Ellenborough. The most extraordinary criticisms continue to be made on that noble lord and his acts, which have been characterized as the re-