

## European News.

From British Papers to the 6th April, received by the Caledonia Steamer.

London Times, April 5.

The American Packet, the Caledonia, which has been detained till this morning, will carry out the distinct and emphatic declaration of the British Government on the subject of the Oregon territory, which was received last night with the strong and unanimous satisfaction of both Houses of Parliament. When the interests and dignity of the country, and the preservation of the dominions of the Crown, are really at stake, there is no equivocation in the language of the Government to foreign Powers, and no semblance of weakness or hesitation in any political party. Lord Palmerston may abuse Lord Ashburton for acceding to the very same conditions which he had himself not only accepted but urged upon the cabinet of Washington; and Lord John Russell may boast that his last official act was to sanction the rejection of a proposal in a negotiation which turns out to have been a mere provisional arrangement; but these attempts to depreciate the satisfactory adjustment of a former dispute, which the Whigs had been unable to settle in 10 years of negotiation, are only proofs that the tricks of party have no effect whatever on the honest convictions of the country. We are justly proud that on the Oregon question, as well as on that of the north-eastern boundary, the British Government has uniformly shown its moderation as well as its firmness on our side. It is impossible not to deplore, on the other hand, that ill-regulated, overbearing, and aggressive spirit of the American democracy, which overlooks the real present interest of the two nations in the Oregon territory—that, namely, of letting it alone for another half-century at least, or deciding the matter by arbitration, before any local national interests have sprung up there too powerful to be so disposed of. But, since the Americans, and even the President of the United States, are determined that this question shall not be allowed to rest any longer—since they have rejected the proposal of an arbitration, and ostentatiously announce claims and measures utterly inconsistent with the system of joint occupation, or the equitable recognition of any concurrent rights at all, it is fit that they be warned in the most explicit manner that their pretensions amount, if acted upon, to the clearest *casus belli* which has ever yet arisen between Great Britain and the American Union. In this case the strong determination and convictions which were expressed last night are not those of particular statesmen, or of the present Ministers, but of the British Parliament and of the country. If the question was to be determined by the arguments used in such discussions—that is to say, by a reference to geographical facts, to discoveries, to history, to treaties, and to occupation—the case on behalf of the British claim, as it was ably stated by Lord John Russell, is complete; and it is only in consequence of admissions made with too much laxity on some former occasions—especially in the interpretation of the treaty of Ghent—that any concurrent right can be admitted to exist in the United States to any portion of the territory. But from the character of the recent foreign policy of the Americans, and the extraordinary declarations of Mr Polk, it is evident that no argument will produce any effect; and we can scarcely anticipate that a government so constituted and directed will even take a dispassionate or correct survey of the frightful and inevitable consequences of its extravagant references of diplomatic questions to popular clamour. According to all ordinary political calculations, and assuming that Mr Polk's inaugural address was the manifesto of a government, and not mere declamation for the hustings, the President already finds himself and the Union placed in presence of two wars, for the avowed purpose of territorial aggrandizement, and in direct violation of the whole policy of America from Gen. Washington to Mr Webster. The one with Mexico is so imminent, that we are awaiting with anxiety the next arrivals from that country; the other with Great Britain is more remote, but also more inevitable, if the menaces of the Americans are anything but mere vapouring and bluster. Under these circumstances, a statesman of ordinary caution would direct the public attention not only to the passions and objects which were likely to cause these warlike and wicked contests, but to the consequences which must attend them. The United States government is very apt to provoke

quarrels, but it is very ill-prepared to carry them on. The same democratic folly which makes them arrogant in the cabinet, makes them habitually feeble in all that constitutes a nation's strength in the field.

Amidst the clamour against the commercial policy of the Government, and in spite of the somewhat premature assertions of its inevitable failure, we are happy to announce the welcome fact that the Norwegian Diet has just acceded to the propositions laid before it by the King relative to a considerable reduction in the duties on British manufactured goods. We are, as yet, unable to mention either the precise number of articles included in these propositions, or the exact amount of reduction on each, but we can state on the very best authority that the duties on cottons, woollens, and hardware, have been lowered at the rate of from 33 to 35 per cent; and that further reductions on other articles are in contemplation to a very considerable amount. At a time when other nations, as Prussia, are obstinately maintaining, or even increasing, their protective enactments, too much praise cannot be given both to the Monarch who had the courage to propose, and to the representatives of a people who had the wisdom to adopt, reductions on so large a scale; nor assuredly should the thanks of the Government be wanting to the Minister (Sir T. Cartwright) who conducted the negotiation which has led to so happy a result.

Liverpool Chronicle, April 5.

We do not recollect for many years such active and formidable preparations being made to equip a powerful fleet by the government of this country. In all directions the note of preparation is heard. At our own door, one of the most magnificent iron steam frigates that has yet been seen, will very speedily be launched on the waters of the Mersey. In all her Majesty's dockyards an almost unprecedented number of artisans are employed, in strengthening and completing our ocean bulwarks. No money is spared, no skill unencouraged, no talent rejected, no improvement unheeded, by which the naval force and armaments of England shall be in a position to meet the world in arms.

And we must confess that the government have not made these preparations one hour too soon. Not that anything of a hostile nature need be apprehended from European states, at present. The increasing power of the great republic of North America, however, its aggressive acts, and its ambitious and aggrandising views, cannot be concealed from the observation of reflecting or inquiring men; nor ought they to be treated with a silent shrug or contemptuous apathy, by the boldest or least sensitive of Her Majesty's subjects. The statesmen of America do not conceal that the annexation of Texas will be a "step towards Mexico." The new President of the Union, in a premeditated speech, in which every word must have been well and cautiously weighed—and the meaning of every doubtful word solved by a reference to Johnson's Dictionary—this gentleman is pleased to tell the British government that negotiation respecting the Oregon territory is a mere farce—that the republicans have "a clear and unquestionable right" to it, and that whatever may be the result of the negotiation, he and his fellow citizens are fully and fixedly resolved to take possession of the soil, and establish thereon republican laws and republican institutions, such as prevail in the United States.

The Rev. Joseph Wolff.—We have much pleasure in announcing the safe arrival at Malta, on the 25th of March, in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam ship Duke of Cornwall, of this intrepid and noble minded traveller, who expected to leave again in the same vessel, for Southampton, on the following day. The envoy to England of the King of Bockhara appears to have taken upon himself to alter his destination; for after receiving at Constantinople a pretty broad hint that our gracious Sovereign, could not receive the ambassador of an assassin, he has, it is reported, left on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Accounts from Rome state that further political arrests have been effected at Ravenna, by order of the military commission. The number of persons now in the prisons of that city for political offences amounts to 100, about 20 of whom belong to the first families in the province. Among them are Counts Cappi, Gamba, Vicari, MM. Delavalle, Camerano, &c. Some of the prisoners are to be sent to St. Leo, and others to Ferrara.

Diocese of New Brunswick.—Consequent upon the erection of New Brunswick into an independent bishoprick, un-

der the new episcopal superintendence of the Right Rev. Dr. Medley, the bishop elect, a cathedral is to be forthwith commenced at St. John's, the architectural preparations for which have been intrusted to Mr Frank Wills, of Exeter. The cathedral will pretend to nothing more than a large parish church. The plan has been adopted from the Church of St. Mary, Snettisham, Norfolk, which is a specimen of the present decorated architecture.

Egypt.—We have advices from Alexandria to the 20th of March. The Pasha returned to Cairo, from Upper Egypt, on the 11th. Ibrahim Pasha had been seized with serious illness while travelling in the Delta. Mr Galloway, of London, had submitted his plan for a railway from Cairo to Suez; capital £350,000; length of line 88 miles; the work to be completed in 18 months.

The majority obtained by the Ministers on the Maynooth grant has been a topic of conversation in London. Few politicians had thought it would have been so large.

A great deal of interest was felt as to the result of the debate in the House of Commons on the subject of the Oregon territory, but the question had not been opened when the post left.

We hear that it is the intention of Her Majesty and Prince Albert to visit Liverpool early in July, on her way to Ireland, prior to which the royal pair will remain a day or two at Knowsley, with the Earl of Derby. The recent visit of Lord Stanley to Knowsley, was to communicate this interesting fact to his noble father. Who can doubt the reception of the royal visitors in Liverpool?

Discovery of a Treasure.—Extract of a letter from Madras dated Feb. 22:—"A Spanish schooner, fishing, &c., among the shoals in the China Sea, discovered a chain cable over the coral reef on the East London shoal, and on a close examination a sextant and a chronometer, and close to these articles what first appeared lead, but turned out to be Sycee silver; and 150,000 dollars' worth of the precious metal was found and put on board the schooner, when the skipper most honorably proceeded to Macao or Canton, and there delivered the whole of the treasure to the insurance-office, who gave the noble-minded Spaniard 50,000 rupees. It was conjectured in China that the bullion was part of the cargo of the Christina, as she sailed two years ago for China, and has never been heard of since. The names and numbers on the sextant and chronometer may afford a clue to the identity of the ship and captain."

From the Halifax Morning Post.

Naval and Military Intelligence.—Sir Francis Austin, Commander-in-chief on the West India and North American station, rehoisted his flag on board the Vindictive, 50, Captain Michael Seymour, with the customary salutes, on the 19th March. Sir Francis, family and suite embarked the same day, and sailed on the following day for Bermuda, where the Vice Admiral expected to find the illustrious with the flag of Sir Charles Adam.

A large number of vessels of War were fitting out at the different Dockyards and seamen were in demand. Among those of the line at present being brought forward for commission is the Hibernia, 120, intended for the Flag of the Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean.

The squadron on the West India and North American command will require considerable augmentation this year—there being but five or six men of war at present on the station. Some of these have served their full time and two or three of the number have been ordered to the Mediterranean. We shall therefore have the new list of ships as well as a new Admiral.

The Apollo, 46, Troop Ship, with Artillery drafts for the Regiments serving in these Colonies, was to sail for this Port about the 6th of April. She may therefore be looked for about the first week in May.

## INDIA.

The dates by the overland mail from Bombay are—Bombay, March 1; Madras, Feb. 21; Calcutta, Feb. 19; Lahore, Feb. 9; Scinde, Feb. 20; Singapore, Jan. 26, and China, Jan. 14.

The present mail brings little news from the East. The China intelligence is almost entirely commercial, and is not of a very favourable nature, trade having at the date of the last advices, exhibited great dullness at every port. Another instalment of the money payable under the treaty was about to be made over to us. When the next became due, Chusan would have to be delivered up.

India was thoroughly tranquil, the campaign in the Kholapore and Sawent Warree territories having terminated, and the forces engaged in it being in progress to their respective cantonments. The military authorities were employed in trying the captured rebels, of whom a great number remained in our hands. Lall Gheer Ghosoon, a noted ringleader, had been hanged; and another, for whose capture a heavy reward had been offered, was expected to be soon taken. Colonel Outram had been appointed resident of Sattarab.

The expedition undertaken by the Governor of Scinde against the predatory tribes which infested the territories of our ally, the Khan of Khelat, had been attended, so far as known, by no results of importance. Our troops had penetrated to the mountains, but, with one or two slight exceptions, had failed in overtaking any of the robbers. It was expected the affair would turn out a complete failure. The remnant of the 78th Highlanders—a mere skeleton of a regiment—was expected shortly at Bombay, when it would be decided whether the men should be sent to the Deccan, the Cape of Good Hope, or England.

Confusion continued to reign paramount in the Punjab. A collision between the troops of the State and Rajah Goolab Sing, the chief Jumboo, was daily looked for, and this would probably produce great bloodshed. The Governor-General, as a preventive measure, had strengthened all the military posts on the north-west frontier, and this was by some people thought to portend invasion.

## SWITZERLAND.

The Journal des Debats of Thursday mentions having received, at a late hour on Wednesday evening, accounts from Switzerland, announcing that on the 1st instant the free corps of Argau, reinforced by the volunteers of the Radical cantons and the refugees from Lucerne, to the number of 4,000 men, had entered the territory of this last canton. They had marched through Surzee—a small town within five leagues of Lucerne, near Lake Sempacher—and probably took possession of Lucerne, which had only 2,000 men to oppose to them. At Basle, the men from 18 to 55 years of age had been incorporated into a civic guard, for the purpose of protecting the city and maintaining order; but, at Berne, the proclamation against the free corps, instead of checking the movement, had tended, on the contrary, to rouse the people, and create the greatest agitation throughout the canton. The malcontents had seized on two pieces of artillery at Nidau, and in Soleure considerable excitement likewise prevailed. It would appear that Lucerne was not in a condition to resist the invaders, but it was apprehended that the small cantons, such as Schwyz, Uri, and Unterwalden would repair to its assistance, which would render the success of the Radicals very doubtful. A letter from Arau of the 30th ult., also published by the Journal des Debats, states that the number of refugees from Lucerne amounted on the 28th to about 2,000, of whom 1,500 were armed and a great number dressed in military uniforms. "The Government of Argau," says the writer, "would have been overturned, if it had adopted the energetic measures recommended by the Vorort, since the militia would not have responded to the appeal. Under these circumstances, the Council of State thought proper to assemble the Grand Council, which to-day invited the Vorort to convoke the Federal Diet, immediately; but it is to be presumed that the convocation will come too late. The moment it became known that the Government was throwing difficulties in the way of the refugees, free corps formed themselves in every direction. The most remote cantons have joined in the movement. To-day 50 men arrived here by the mail or in private carriages from Schaffhausen; others from St. Gall, the Grisons, Glaris, Zurich, and Berne; a numerous body is marching from Basle country, and in Argau and Soleure there is not a village that has not sent at least 10 combatants. This evening all the free corps will have met at Zougne, and probably commence operations during the night. To-morrow morning, or at latest towards noon, they will be at the Gates of Lucerne. No very serious resistance is expected, unless the small cantons interfere. Even so, they will not be able to fight it out, but there will be much bloodshed. Should they not repair to the assistance of the Government of Lucerne, it is very probable that on Wednesday all will be over."

The Constitutionnel contains a letter from Zurich of the 30th ult., stating that a number of the officers and soldiers called under arms by the Government of Lucerne had either refused to obey the call