

new costume. The Pacha has also reduced his fine flowing beard to about a band's breadth from the chin, conforming himself in this respect to the Constantinople fashion and the precepts of Koran. This alteration in dress is considered by some as an improvement, as making the Turks and Arabs more similar in appearance to Europeans, and bringing them in closer contact with European civilisation. His Highness Ibrahim Pacha is living quietly at his palace on the Nile, near Cairo, pursuing his favourite occupation of the direction of farms, selling the produce yielded by them, and thereby accumulating money. His Highness still talks about his travels in Europe, and now that he has had time to ponder quietly over what he has seen, and compare the impressions made upon him by the different countries he has seen, it is very satisfactory to Englishmen to hear his Highness pass the warmest eulogiums on Great Britain, its institutions and its industry. His Highness has said that England is far advanced of the other powers and is making rapid strides onwards, whilst the latter are very slow in their progress. Researches are being still carried on in various parts of Egypt for fossil mines, and some small quantities of an inferior quality of Coal have been discovered in the upper country, near to the town of Keneh. The reports of the English engineers employed in these researches are not favourable. However, since Ibrahim Pacha's return from England, he has taken great interest in them, and Mehemet Ali evinces great anxiety for success, so that the works are being pushed on with vigour. The opinion expressed by many geologists is, however, that the soil of Egypt and the surrounding desert is not adapted for the formation of coal, and that this fossil will never be found in sufficient quantity to defray the expenses of working it.

SYRIA.—Throughout Syria great interest seems to have been taken in Mehemet Ali's visit to Constantinople, which the natives connected in their minds with his return to power in that country, an event which to all appearances would be hailed with pleasure by Christians, Moslems, and Jews. The present system of government in the mountains, carried out as recommended by the European powers, does not seem to act satisfactorily. 10,000 Russian Jews were expected to arrive in the Holy Land to settle there. This number will add about a third to the present Jewish population in Syria and Palestine. Great preparations were being made to give unusual splendour to the caravan of pilgrims which is to start at the end of this month from Damascus for Mecca, and the mother of the Shah of Persia was expected to accompany it. The Sultan has sent out from Constantinople engineers and workmen to rebuild and repair the different caravansaries and fortresses on the Hadj, or Pilgrim road, from Damascus to Mecca. It was reported at Beyrout that the Pacha of Jerusalem had by treachery, as usual, seized upon the persons of the principal chiefs in his district, and amongst others the famous Sheik Abou Gosh, who has for a long period given so much trouble to the Turkish government.

PROCEEDINGS AT BORNEO.

During the last year Borneo has been the scene of much intrigue and many murderous events.

In order to understand what has lately taken place, it will be necessary to call to mind, that in the month of August of the last year the Sultan of Borneo (who at that time made many professions of friendship and regard toward the English) was assisted by the forces of the British squadron, under the command of his Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, in chastising a rebellious rajah named Pangeran Yusof. This rajah had established himself in a house (if a mat roof and a cane floor stuck upon piles, can be so called) near to the Sultan's dwelling, and had assumed, it appears unwarrantable authority. Pangeran Yusof and his followers were driven out of the town, which was also built upon piles actually in the river Brune, chased over neighbouring hills, their guns all taken, and their houses burnt by the force of the squadron. A few months after the squadron had left the coast, Yusof and his party re-appeared off the town and endeavoured to reinstate themselves. To prevent this Budruddeen (a relative of the Sultan), at the head of the Sultan's warriors, gave battle to Yusof, entirely routed his party, and killed the rebellious chief himself.

Budruddeen was a much more liberal and enlightened man than Malay chiefs usually are. He was anxious to encourage trade with the English; and was de-

sirous of promoting a good feeling between them and his own people.

The Sultan unfortunately is a weak old man, and was incapable of appreciating the value of Budruddeen's character. He listened to the artful tales of an adopted son, Tuam Pangeran Hassim, who had married Pangeran Yusof's daughter, and now sought to revenge his Father-in-law's death. To accomplish his purpose he persuaded the imbecile Sultan that Budruddeen had allied himself to the English from motives of personal aggrandisement, and that his interests were therefore directly opposed to the welfare of the Sultan. In these barbarous countries to be suspected and to suffer death are almost synonymous. Either by Hassim's order, or at his instigation, poor Budruddeen was murdered, and thirteen of his relations or immediate followers.

A favourite slave or servant of Budruddeen, named Jappa escaped the slaughter and being aware of the friendship which had existed between his master and Mr. Brooke, of Sarawa, he travelled inland from the town of Borneo to that settlement to convey to Mr. Brooke the melancholy intelligence. These facts were made known by Mr. Brooke to his Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, on the arrival of her Majesty's ship Agincourt in the straits of Malacca from Madeira at the beginning of last month.

In consequence of these representations the Admiral accompanied by Mr. Brooke and the squadron under his command, proceeded to Borneo; and on the 6th of this month her Majesty's ships Agincourt Iris, Hazard, and Royalist, together with her Majesty's steamer Spiteful, and hon. company's steamer Phlegion, anchored at the mouth of the river Brune.

The Sultan as was afterwards ascertained, was aware of the approach of the squadron, five days before they dropped anchor in the river, and suspected the purpose of their coming. Shortly after the arrival of the squadron in the Brune, a letter from the Sultan arrived on board the flag ship, conveying his compliments to the admiral, and a request that he would believe nothing that he might have heard from the slave Jappa, insinuating that this same Jappa was neither more or less than a lying scoundrel.

The bearers of this letter, for enveloped in several folds of yellow satin it was escorted by a numerous guard, came in one of the Sultan's boats bearing a large scarlet umbrella, the symbol of Malay royalty. The bearers ought to have been persons of some consideration, but it was soon discovered that they were all worthless and reckless characters. One of them a Beagal man, having certainly the most unprepossessing countenance imaginable, was recognized by Mr. Brooke as the individual who was supposed to have murdered Budruddeen, and who had been undoubtedly commissioned by the Sultan to procure if possible his (Mr. Brooke's) head. After this discovery the mission was not treated with much respect, and the worthies were kept prisoners on board the Agincourt for a day and a half. In the meantime the admiral proceeded to return an answer to the Sultan in propria persona.

On the 8th instant the Spiteful and Phlegion steamers towed the Hazard and Royalist respectively, together with the boats of the squadron, up the river Brune; and with the exception of the Hazard which grounded off Palo Cheriman, they anchored in the midst of the town of Borneo. The river and town were defended with nine forts, mounting generally about four guns each. The forts on the Cheriman and Airang were in an unfinished state and offered no resistance. The fire was first opened upon the Phlegion as she neared Palo Boorgo, from the three forts at the back of the island, which was promptly answered by the two steamers and quickly silenced. The Phlegion, on account of her small draught of water, led the way, and as she entered the town itself, was received with a very smart fire from two forts or batteries situated on the side of the hill immediately behind the Sultan's residence. A shot passed through one of her paddle boxes and killed one of the crew, carried away the leg of a second, and wounded several others, and narrowly missed damaging the steam chest. All opposition was very soon silenced by the guns of the two steamers, with very little loss or damage on our part. Possession of these forts was immediately taken by the gun boats. Twenty-three brass guns were taken; the others were spiked.

The Sultan and all the inhabitants had quitted the town; and our vessels remained quietly at anchor in the midst of deserted houses.

The object then was to gain possession of the Sultan or oblige him by some

means or other to punish those of his chiefs who had advised and accomplished the murder of Budruddeen and his party. For this purpose a boat expedition was fitted out, and despatched from the town, two Malay prisoners undertaking to act as pilots. It was however, so far unsuccessful that no persons were made prisoners, who appeared to have been implicated with the Sultan in the murder. The boats therefore returned after having chased some chiefs from place to place for four or five days. By this time nearly all the inhabitants had returned to the town, and the chiefs who were of Budruddeen's party (including two of Budruddeen's brothers) entered into conference with the admiral and Mr. Brooke as to the best means of proceeding.

Some native prahus (war boats) were then sent in search of the Sultan or his ministers. After two or three days absence, they returned to the town, having captured Banglema Syak and his son, and another chief called Banglema Dowd. It appears that these men were generals or chief warriors of the Sultan and had command of the forts which fired on the steamers as they advanced up the river. The day after their arrival at Borneo, these three captives were executed by order (it is believed) of Budruddeen's brother, Muda Mahomet. The war boats belonging to Muda Mahomet are now in search of Haji Sarman, who was the Sultan's prime minister and consequently the adviser of the death of Budruddeen and his friends. They make no doubt of catching him soon, when he will most probably lose his head.

Such is the state of affairs at present in Borneo. The steamers have all just joined the squadron (20th of July) at the mouth of the river. What the next movements of the squadron may be, is not yet known. Our first illustration refers to the attack of the lower forts on the river which opened fire on the H. E. I. C. steamer Phlegion, with several gun-boats of the fleet in tow. Both forts after a sharp resistance were taken and destroyed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Kaffir War.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope to the 21st of July have reached us by the steamer Phoenix, which arrived in the Mersey on Monday. These accounts are unimportant. No engagements of moment had taken place on the frontier up to that date. The operations of the Kaffirs were confined entirely to petty depredations upon cattle and supplies. In one of these affairs a very enterprising settler, named Nourse, lost his life. Supplies for the troops were being landed at the mouth of the Fish River.

According to the "Commercial Advertiser," there appeared every prospect of the proposed harbour of refuge being constructed. A favourable reply had been received from the home government by the Governor.

The following details gives the latest intelligence from the frontier.—An express arrived on Wednesday from port Beaufort, with the mournful intelligence of the death of Mr. Gordon Nourse, one of the most intelligent, enterprising, and high-spirited residents on this frontier. The facts of the case, as detailed in a communication with the lieutenant-governor (Colonel Hare) to the officer commanding at Graham's Town are to the following purport:—

"On the evening of the 5th instant, a small party of the kaffirs having succeeded in capturing a herd of about 100 head of cattle while grazing near the Gualo Post, the residence of the deceased, were immediately followed by him and a few others. The marauders were overtaken in the kloof, and the cattle were recaptured, with the loss of four of the enemy, who were shot. Mr. Nourse had nearly reached the end of the kloof when a ball, fired with fatal precision by a lurking Kaffir, stretched him lifeless and also one of his companions, as we understand, a man of color.

Saturday.—We have received the following communication from Fort Beaufort, dated the 7th instant:—

Bodies of Caffres, consisting of from ten to twenty, continue to infest this part of the frontier, and whenever they can succeed in driving off flocks or herds by stealth they do so, avoiding, however a combat, either to capture, or for the protection of what they may have stolen. In these forays several horrible murders have been committed by these cowardly assassins on herdsmen in the vicinity of this place. Last week they shot two Fingoes while herding cattle near Macomo's kraal, and, not satisfied with killing the poor fellows, they tormented one of them by flaying his face while he

was yet alive. The other escaped them mortally wounded, and has died since. The day after this Field Captain Loxton was ordered out with his Hotteatot corps on escort duty, and on his return home at daybreak of the 2nd instant, he discovered the traces of a flock of sheep which the Caffres were attempting to drive across a drift on the Kat River, near Blinkwater Post, but who, on hearing the approach of his men, had taken shelter in the bush with the sheep. On being followed into the thicket the Caffres retreated leaving 490 sheep in the hands of the pursuing party.

IRELAND.

A crisis is at hand in Ireland. The County Presentment Courts are displaying signs of the times. In Ireland we have unprofitable enterprise—works which those who present them declare to be so—authoritatively enjoined upon, and passively decreed by, the landed proprietors. At a meeting of the magistrates and cess-payers of Broadford, in the county of Clare, it was resolved:

That while we strongly protest against that portion of the Treasury minute which intimates that the unfinished works which had been undertaken under the 1st of Victoria shall be completed under the 16th of Victoria (thereby saddling the county, as we conceive, most unjustly, with a burden which the government had in the first instance undertaken to discharge), we adopt these works (under protest at this injustice) solely on the ground of the numerous and urgent calls for immediate relief and employment which have been detailed to us; and being assured by the county surveyor that these works can be more promptly entered on than any other works. That we hereby collectively and individually declare our willingness to come forward, and assist the government in every reasonable measure, to meet the impending calamity. That we consider the making advances by government for the employing of occupiers on their own holdings as a measure which cannot fail in giving the most extended relief and remunerative return, and that we hereby declare our willingness to make our properties liable for such advances as may appear necessary for the improvement of the land. We are willing to be taxed—to be taxed heavily: all we claim is, that we be taxed justly. To tax us for unproductive labour, we consider unjust; if taxed for labour that will not only afford relief to the destitute, but must make a speedy profitable return, we not only cannot complain, but will cheerfully assent to the imposition. That in consequence of the shortness of the barley and the oat crops, the present high prices of those grains in the market, and the fact that they must constitute the chief food of the people for the next twelve months, we beg to impress on the government the necessity of taking immediate steps to stop distillation from grain.

The magistrates and gentry of Newmarket-on-Fergus, also in the county of Clare, resolved in like manner.—

That without a total confiscation of property, it will be found impossible to provide the required amount of employment for the destitute poor of the country, in the repair and construction of roads, the cost of which must become a charge, on the lands, according to the provisions of the 10th Victoria, c. 107.; and therefore it becomes a matter of the deepest importance that government should give the most liberal and effective aid to every remunerative work of either a public or private nature, which may be suggested to them as calculated to give extensive employment to the people.

At a meeting of the magistrates held in Cavan, Mr. Alex. Sanderson, vice-lieutenant, in the chair, at which were also present Lord Farnham, Mr. J. Young, D.L.M.P., Mr. R. Burrows, D.L., Mr. T. L. Clements, Mr. H. C. Butler, Mr. G. M. Knipe, Mr. H. T. Kilbe, Mr. R. Erskine, Mr. Abraham Brush, Mr. John E. Vernon, Mr. F. Fitzpatrick, Mr. John Kilmore, &c., the following resolutions were agreed upon:—

That while the meeting deem it right applications should be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant, praising his excellency to direct the holding of extraordinary presentment sessions in the different baronies of the county, under the 10th Victoria, chap. 107., they are of opinion that the employment which can be so provided is by no means adequate to the existing emergency, that the works generally proposed to be undertaken are unnecessary and unproductive; they add nothing to the resources of the country, and impose a very heavy and almost ruinous amount of obligation on the cess-payers. Resolved.—This meeting consider it of the highest importance that the attention of Government and the county should be