

European News:

From British Papers to the 4th December received by the steamer Acadia.

London Pictorial Times, Nov. 29.

THE LATE DISASTROUS FIGHT IN NEW ZEALAND.

The following additional particulars of this melancholy affair are taken from the "Sydney Star" of the 1st of August. After publishing the despatches from Colonel Despard, the "Star" continues:—

The names of the killed and wounded of the non-commissioned officers as yet known are as follows:—

The 58th Regiment.—Killed: Sergeants Halliday, Morrow, and A. Wilson; Corporal William Stewart; Privates Davis, Claxton, Pouchett, Goodrum, Fisher, Norton, Reynolds, Payne, Sutton, Doherty, Leech, Molloy, and Anderson. Two sergeants and 33 rank and file wounded.

The 99th Regiment.—Killed: Grenadiers Todd, Martin, Moran, J. Hill, Watson, Pope, Macgrath, Maber, Noble, Hughes, Eaton, Hicken, Mosely, Stocks, and Heath. Wounded: Crane, Dowse, Edmonds, Farren, R. Hughes, Spencer, Swan, M'Cormack, T. Marien, Bridges, Crawley, Mark, Comiers, Duncan, Flynn, and Murray. Ensign O'Reilly's wound is of a very serious nature, being in the elbow, and if amputation is avoided, the power of bending it is destroyed. Lieutenant Johnson had an excessively narrow escape; a ball struck the peak of his cap, the edge of which caused it to glance off; Major McPherson's wound is in the fleshy part of the thigh, and it is rather singular that Captain Grant had only a moment before he was shot struck off with his sword the head of a New Zealander. His death occurred just as he was entering the second palisade, and it is singular that before the action he had a presentiment that he would be shot.

Now let us come to the dreadful commentaries that are to be added to the Colonel's despatch, which we take from an Auckland paper. The gallant leader of the brave grenadiers of the 58th regiment, Captain Grant, was killed, and afterwards roasted and eaten by the natives. Another of the wounded, one of the 99th regiment, who fell into the natives' hands, was actually roasted alive, his cries being distinctly heard in the camp. (This horrible story is not confirmed in the original account, and is entirely at variance with the humane character Heki has hitherto manifested.) Lieutenant Phillipotts, of the Hazard, was killed in endeavouring to force the inner works of the pah, and scalped by the natives; his body was, however, obtained afterwards by Archdeacon Williams; an eye glass and a small portion of his hair were the only relics that could be found of him. Lieutenant Beattie, who led the forlorn hope, had died of the wounds he had received. The chief Nopera, or Noble, of the Rarawa tribe, who had joined the staunch ally of the British, Waka, had his wife surprised and taken prisoner by some of Heki's party, and then most barbarously murdered by them, and her body cut in pieces.

By the 10th of the month, some guns and ammunition having been got from her Majesty's ship Hazard, then, and then only, it seems that a hill was discovered which overlooked the fortress; and then, after so much blood had been spilt, so many barbarities and atrocities at which the life blood curdles within us, was the cannon got to where it ought to have been before a shot was fired, and the pah taken. This we gain from a private letter, dated the 10th, which states,—"On Wednesday (the day before yesterday) we found a way of getting our large guns to the top of the hill, not far distant from the pah, and firing down upon them into the deep holes they had made in the ground to shelter themselves, a number of them were destroyed, and in the night, which was dark, they evacuated the place, and had gone away two hours before we knew of it, and they were then too far off to follow them in a country where there is nothing but continued wood and no roads." The account further adds, that four pieces of cannon had been taken, the contents, with some potatoes, of the pah, and that Heki's colours have been secured; and a postscript dated the 14th, three days before the Velocity's sailing, announces the troops having returned to Waimate, the missionary station, where they were tolerably housed and comfortable.

To this may be added a private communication, giving an account of the two pabs:—

Waimate, July 16.

"We had the opportunity afforded us of observing how well skilled these savages are in the science of defence; their stronghold was a perfect warren—houses under ground, a triple row of stout fencing, strong enough to resist six-pound shots, two of which were found sticking in one of them, the space between the fences deeply trenched, affording shelter to the defenders, and also the means of firing low and with correct aim. Another pah near this place was destroyed by the light companies of both regiments, accompanied by forty of the 96th and the friendly natives. No lives were lost on either side; a house fell into our hands, an old woman, and an abundance of potatoes.

The late accounts also give an account of the manner in which Heki received the wound that prevented him from being present at the late battle. It seems that a few days previous to the arrival of the troops at Koororika, Heki made a sudden attack on the tribe of the friendly chief Waka, in which he was completely vanquished—his general and some of his troops being killed, and he narrowly escaped being taken prisoner himself. It is gratifying to add that the previous account given of the remains of Captain Grant being burnt, is totally incorrect, as they were subsequently found and un-mutilated.

We may expect further intelligence of the war by an early arrival, and we earnestly hope that the executive will by this time be convinced that the day for half measures has passed, and that a force commensurate with the claims and exigencies of the service must be forthwith raised and draughted into the unfortunate colony. Until an adequate number of troops, well equipped and duly appointed with the munitions of war, shall be brought in contact with the insurgents, there can be no hope of effectually quelling them. Our country can never endure the disgrace of being foiled by rebellious barbarians; the islanders must be reduced into submission, and with as little delay as the necessary arrangements will admit of. In this colony a force competent to assure us a successful termination of the campaign might be raised in an exceedingly short time by a proclamation of indulgence; if all military convicts were forthwith pardoned and draughted into the regiments, and all prisoners enlisting be assured of a ticket-of-leave, all tickets-of-leave of a conditional pardon, and all others of the governor's intercession for a free pardon, a numerous and effective battalion might be raised almost immediately, without the expense of one shilling bounty money, and there are now many young gentlemen of good family who would gladly volunteer their services on receiving subordinate commissions in the colonial service.

From the Singapore Free Press.

THE BORNEO PIRATES.

Singapore, Sept. 25.—The Ariel, from Sarawak, brings the intelligence that the admiral and his fleet have left Borneo and gone to China or Manilla, leaving the Cruiser at Sarawak, which may be expected here shortly, with Captain Bethune, C. B., &c.

During his stay on the coast of Borneo the admiral has been very active. After visiting Sarawak, on his arrival at Borneo from this, his Excellency and fleet proceeded to Borneo Proper, where he anchored, and went up to the town with the steamers Pluto, Vixen, and Nemesis, and a body of marines. The surrender of the Pangeran Usuf was demanded from the Sultan on account of his having detained a British subject in slavery. The Sultan said he had no power to compel his surrender, though he was ready to give every assistance. Usuf refused to give himself up, and commenced making defensive preparations. The steamers took up positions, and the Vixen fired a shot over his dwelling house to which he replied by firing at her. The steamers then opened their fire, and in 10 minutes his house was completely riddled, on which he and his followers made a precipitate retreat into the jungle, and the house was taken possession of. About 20 brass guns was seized, two of which were retained by the Admiral to be sold for the benefit of two men who had been kept in slavery by Usuf, and the rest were presented to the Sultan. The populace then plundered the house in a very effectual manner. After the admiral's departure Usuf, assisted by the Kadayans or country people, made an attempt to re-establish himself in the capital, and seized upon a commanding position near the town; he was, however, met by the Pangeran Badreddeen who defeated him in an action, and a second time compelled him to flight.

The victors followed up their advantage by pursuing him up the river, where they captured his whole establishment, wives, children, slaves, and treasure, Usuf himself only escaping down the river with five or six followers. Orders were however, sent by the Sultan along the coast, warning the Rajahs and people from giving him shelter, and when the fleet visited Borneo on its return, an expedition was being fitted out by the Sultan to pursue him so that his evil influences may be looked upon as at an end, and his days numbered.

The fleet from Borneo proceeded to Labuan, where the steamers wooded, and the admiral with all his force then went to Meluda Bay, where the large men of war anchored, and the brigs, steamers, and gun-boats, with the marines, ran up the bay. On the 18th, the force anchored off Sheriff Osman's river, and on the same afternoon 24 boats, containing in all 550 men, seamen and marines inclusive, under the command of Captain Talbot, proceeded to the mouth of the river, where they anchored for the night. The next morning they proceeded up the river, and came upon the pirates' position about 9 o'clock. It was found to consist of three forts, of which two mounted eleven heavy ship's guns, and was moreover, protected by a most formidable boom bound round with ships' cables' so that altogether the preparations and means of defence were of a most complete and deadly nature. After a short parley which produced no result, the attack was commenced; but so perfect were the defences, and determined the opposition of the enemy, that it was fully 50 minutes before a passage could be forced through the boom. As soon as the pirates saw the British boats coming through the opening they fled in all directions, but with heavy punishment. The forts and town were destroyed and the guns brought away, and an immense quantity of property of all sorts was burned. The loss on the side of the British force was—6 killed and 15 wounded, two mortally. Mr. Gibbons, mate of the Wolverine, a young officer of great promise, was the only officer killed. The loss of the enemy was very severe, many leading men being killed. It was reported, from a source worthy of credit, that Sheriff Osman had received a severe wound, which may, perhaps, rid the coast of a daring and too successful chief. Several Sheriffs and Pangerans from Saluk and Llanon were found among the slain: these latter pirates are said to have fought with great courage.

Amongst the spoil which was taken possession of was the bell of the Bremen vessel Wilhelm Ludwig, wrecked some years ago on the coast of Borneo, with the cables, boats, and furniture of more than one European vessel.

The fleet then sailed to Palambangan, where the Cruiser separated from the fleet, returning to Sarawak; while the admiral and his squadron, on the 26th ult., sailed for China or Manilla.

Too much credit cannot be awarded to the admiral for the vigour of his proceedings on the coast of Borneo, which have struck terror into the hearts of the boldest pirates; and if the course be only persevered in of an expedition paying a visit to Borneo every now and then, inflicting chastisement where merited, we may hope to see piracy effectually crushed on that coast, and that fine island—brought into frequent communion with the rest of the world by means of the British settlements upon it, and the steamers which will ere long pay periodical visits to her shores—become as well known for peaceful qualities and her thousand now almost neglected sources of commerce, as she has heretofore been for her piratical and lawless denizens, the terror and scourge of the peaceful navigator.

United States News.

United States.—The war speeches in Congress begin to come on.—In the senate, on Monday the 15th, General Cass delivered himself at great length in support of the following Resolutions, instructing the naval and military Committee to inquire into the condition of the means of national defence.

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the Navy of the United States, and into the quantity and condition of the navy supplies now on hand, and whether an increase of them is not necessary to the efficient operations of the navy, and to its preservation and augmentation; and, generally, into the capacity for defending our coast and our commerce, and for any service the exigencies of the country may probably require.

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the national fortifications and their armaments and whether other defensive works are necessary; and into the condition and quantity of the military supplies; and into the state of the means possessed by the government for the defence of the country.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the present condition of that great branch of the public service, and into the state of the militia laws; and that they be further instructed to report such changes in the existing system as will give more experience and efficiency to that arm of defence, and will place it in the best condition for protecting the country, should it be exposed to foreign invasion.

Mr. Cass supported the resolutions on the ground that a crisis is fast approaching, in the intercourse between Great Britain and the United States, which demands the serious consideration, and may require the active co-operation of the whole American people.

Mr. Allen addressed the Senate in support of the resolutions, and was followed by Mr. Archer, who opposed them on the ground of the incalculable mischief that would accrue to the United States from their discussion. If the resolutions were pressed, he should, however, vote for them.—The debate was here suspended, and was resumed on the following day by Mr. Miles, who advocated the adoption of the resolutions, and expressed his belief that there would be no war. He believed that the President would not refuse the offer of the 49th parallel, if made by Great Britain. He believed that if Great Britain found that she could get no more, she would come forward and accept that offer.

Mr. Crittenden would vote for the resolutions. The distinguished Senator from Michigan (Gen. Cass) had, with due deliberation, declared war was inevitable. If so, we should not content ourselves with mere enquiries, but prepare.

Mr. Cass—My private opinion, if gentlemen wish it, is that war is almost inevitable. What I said in my remarks yesterday was that, if we give the year's notice, and Great Britain should persist in the assertion of her claim, practically, there must be war.

Mr. Crittenden—When did Great Britain ever recede? Does the gentleman believe that all things will so happen that war will be inevitable at the expiration of a year's notice? Arbitration may ensue.

Mr. Cass—In my opinion Great Britain will insist upon exclusive jurisdiction, after the year's notice, which will be war.

Mr. Crittenden—Many events may happen between this and the year's notice that would produce war. The case supposed by the Senator would be war; so if Great Britain should take possession of New York or Charleston, it would be war. But, said Mr. C., I do not believe it will result in war. If war however, should ensue, he hoped it would find the whole country resolved and united.

Mr. Webster regretted the introduction of these resolutions, because they created an unnecessary alarm, which would especially strike those who were connected with the seaboard. He could not believe that war was to come; when he looked at the state of things, and what was recommended, he could not believe that the President expected any war.

Oregon Settlers.—Mr. Atchison submitted resolutions of inquiry as to the expediency of establishing a territorial government over Oregon; erecting block-houses and stockade forts for the protection of emigrants and settlers, from the frontier to Fremont's Pass in the Rocky Mountains, and through the Territory to the Mouth of Columbia river; organizing companies of mounted riflemen to protect emigrants on their way to, and citizens resident in, the territory; granting lands to actual settlers; organizing and equipping the militia of Oregon; extending the laws of the U. States over the territory; regulating intercourse with the Indians in the territory, and establishing a mail-route to the city of Oregon.

This was merely submitted but will be referred, after debate, to various committees.

These resolutions will excite a debate not less interesting than that which took place on Mr. Cass's resolutions, and perhaps more important. They contemplate a direct and immediate infraction of the Convention of 1827, in so far as they propose the grant of lands in fee to settlers. It will be remembered that one of the strongest and earliest of Mr. Calhoun's objections to the Occupation bill was urged in regard to this feature.