

INDIA AND CHINA.

We have received, by our ordinary bi-monthly express from Marseilles, our despatches in anticipation of the Bombay mail of the 15th November.

The point of most interest is the departure of the Governor General from Agra, on the 29th of October, and his quick movements (although it was given out that he was proceeding slowly) whereby he was to arrive at Delhi on the 15th November—that is, many days prior to the time when he was expected there. The affairs in the Punjab have not lost their interest, although no late atrocity is recorded. The situation is most extraordinary; the troops have murdered all the Prime Ministers or Wuzers, as well as all the Kings that do not act as they please. The boy-King Dhuleep is represented as being no favorite with them. His mother, who is said to be at once a "Messalina," and a "Faustina," has contrived to keep the soldiers at bay since the death of her brother, Jowahir Singh, although she has had no prime minister, for Gholab Singh, whom the soldiers wished to promote for his wealth, to that most dangerous post, and then to plunder and to butcher him, as they did his brothers and his nephew, has contrived to gain his mountain fortress of Jamoo, where he has formally refused their invitation. Tej Singh, the late governor of Peshawur, has also declined the honor. Rumour said that the Queen-mother intended to give the place to Rujah Lall, her principal paramour, but this report has not been confirmed. On the other hand, we hear that she, having offered to abandon the throne for herself and her son, on condition of having a jaghire secured to both for their lives, and not having gained her object, after the feast of the Dussera, paid some small sums to the troops, and then contrived to take herself and her son off to the fortress of Umritur, where it was supposed she would remain until after the feast of the Dewallee had passed over. That festival took place at the end of October.

In the meantime there have been, as it is confidently stated, new and stringent terms offered to the Lahore government by the Governor General; but no one can tell what guarantee can be offered by any person in that country for the observation of any stipulations, or for the preservation of internal or even external tranquillity and order for one week, or even one day. The turbulent and licentious soldiers govern as they choose, and no one can resist them. It would not surprise us to hear of the flight of the Queen-mother, and of her son, to the British camp for protection. The great difficulty, in such a case, would be to escape with impunity, for the soldiers would not hesitate to sacrifice both mother and son to their fury.

The British army remains collected on the frontiers of the Punjab, and will speedily be ready to march on Lahore, if necessary. There is nothing positive known of the fate of Peshora Singh, who was, as it now appears, aided in his late attempt to hold Attock by Dhost Mahomed and the Affghans, who intended, if Peshora was successful, to seize Peshawur.

Prince Waldemar, of Prussia, who was at Umballa, on the 4th of November, was about to proceed to Ludiana and Ferozepore; but his return to the former place was expected, as it is said that the invasion of the Punjab will be begun thence.

From Scinde we learn that all is tranquil there. Sir Charles Napier was preparing to move from Kurachee to Hyderabad, on a tour, it was said, into the province of Cutch-Booj, but there were not wanting speculators who imagine, if an invasion of the Punjab be required, that he will lead the vanguard.

At Indore some confusion has arisen in consequence of a conspiracy to assassinate the prime minister; but the plot was discovered and frustrated, and the conspirators punished.

In Gwallior a scheme was concocted to destroy the influence of Tarah Bacc, which has been foiled.

In Oude there are some schemes at work to prove that intrigues are ever alive in an Indian court.

The Nizam's dominions continue in the same miserable state. The soldiers are without pay, and threaten to do mischief. The Revenues of the state are farmed out, and speculation and disorder are the necessary results.

In other parts of India tranquillity prevails although apprehensions are general of a great scarcity of grain and of water in various districts during the next six months, in consequence of the deficiency of the late monsoon.

From Burmah the news of the dethronement

of Tharawaddie has been confirmed. He had become mad, and had been guilty of the most wanton acts of cruelty; he was, therefore, deposed, as his brother had been previously, and a Regent appointed in the person of his youngest son, Shoadoongemtha, under the guardianship of Mekkarameng and Kyewoongyee. Mekkarameng, the uncle of the Regent, is said to be a man of talents, and is a member of the Asiatic society. The removal from power of Tharawaddie, in whose family madness is said to be hereditary, is hailed with satisfaction by the Burmese.

ANOTHER OVERLAND MAIL.

Since the foregoing was set in type, we have other files of Indian papers in anticipation of the Overland mail of December 1:—

The dates are—Bombay, Dec. 1; Calcutta, Nov. 21; Madras, Nov. 22. There is nothing from China later than reached us by the last mail. The news from India is highly important. The prospect of a collision between the British and Sikh troops was becoming every day more imminent. The latter had commenced their march towards the Sutlej, with the view of repelling the anticipated aggression. Meantime, strong measures of defence had been adopted at Ferozepore; and as the governor general has upwards of 50,000 troops at his disposal, any attempt on the part of the enemy to precipitate hostilities can hardly fail to be attended by their overwhelming defeat. The Sikh army had been arranged in three divisions; one commanded by Sirdar Tej, (the late governor of Peshawur), another by Rajah Lall, and a third by Sirdar Jewun. The affairs of the government continued to be administered by the Ranees. Goolab Singh was still at Jamoo. Scinde was perfectly quiet, and the troops generally healthy.

The British Press.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The first Message of President Polk to Congress, has created, as may be readily supposed, a greater amount of attention in England than any similar document from the head of the American Union has done for years. Public feeling was directed to the Message long before it arrived, its tone, hostile or otherwise, formed abundant scope for conjecture in the press, and even during the exciting time of the Ministerial crisis, journalists, overwhelmed with the importance of our relations with the United States, stepped aside to discuss the question, even in the absence of the President's views. Well, the Message came to hand in the ordinary course, by the ship "Sea," which made an excellent passage. It was generally understood, we may state in this place, that the steamer which left Boston on the 1st of December, conveyed a copy of the Message to Mr. M'Lane, the American minister, but if the fact were so, care was successfully taken that neither the spirit or the substance of the Message transpired.

We have given elsewhere the spirit of the English press on this important document. Our transatlantic readers will be struck by the absence of all irritation in the remarks of the great organs of opinions in this country relative to the Message; and this reluctance to avoid giving offence, arises altogether from the praise-worthy desire to heal, rather than to foment, the cause of difference between us and the United States respecting Oregon. Some of the articles we have given, are able and comprehensive views of the question at issue, argued, of course, with an allowable amount of national feeling and prejudice, but presenting, on the whole, a just and generous standard of reason and logic.

One cause, perhaps, why the Message has agreeably disappointed expectation here is, the well-timed observations in which it indulges respecting a liberal tariff. If the Oregon is the bane, the proposed reduction of the tariff is the antidote in the new President's message to Congress. The style of the document has elicited praise; and although Mr. Polk has been saubbed by European publicists, as a *novel homme*, he has given proof, in this much criticized document, of the possession of literary powers that command respect, if they do not always force conviction.

Since the Message came to hand, another arrival has brought us the correspondence laid before Congress between the British and American ministers on the subject of the Oregon. The misfortune of such documents is, that they are too voluminous for the perusal of the great

world. The London Times has devoted a series of articles to the consideration of this correspondence, more particularly with reference to the two points upon which Mr. Buchanan insists, namely, first, the title arising from prior occupancy, and, secondly, the cession of the Spanish claim to the United States. The paper in question endeavours to show that the maintenance of these two rights is incompatible; that if one is correct, the other cannot be sustained. "The prior occupation, and the after cession, may be cited as distinct facts, but they cannot confer one title. Two bad titles can no more make a good one, than two affirmatives can make a negative." We should like to have presented our readers with these articles, as they are considered in this country to be able, if not unanswerable expostions of this subject, but as they appeared only a day or two preceding the sailing of the steamer, when our columns were crowded with the statistical information, to which we had previously pledged ourselves, we are reluctantly compelled to forego the pleasure.

Upon the whole, then, if the Message has not given all the satisfaction in England, which the friends and well-wishers of America desire, it has its favorable point—that of Free Trade; and the pending triumph of Free Trade principles, will, in all probability, be accompanied by a satisfactory adjustment of that bone of contention—the Oregon. Polk and Peel agree as to the necessity of the first—why not of the last alternative?

London Shipping Gazette.

We have already said that the Message of the American President is fully as warlike and imperious as the public were led to expect; and, should the American Congress identify itself with the sentiments it enunciates, the Union must henceforth expect to be engaged in constant warfare. Mr. Polk has fearlessly thrown down the gauntlet to the whole of Europe, and challenged its several nations to the contest. The whole continent of America he maintains, must stand politically isolated from the rest of the world; and he fairly warns the European powers, one and all, that he, the President of the United States, had a rod in pickle for them should they dare to meddle with the land of Columbus:—

"The rapid extension of our settlements over our territories heretofore unoccupied; the addition of new states to our confederacy; the expansion of free principles; and our rising greatness as a nation; are attracting the powers of Europe; and lately the doctrine has been broached of a balance of power on this continent, to check our advancement. The United States, sincerely desirous of preserving relations of good understanding with all nations, cannot in silence permit any European interference on the North American continent, and should any such interference be attempted will be ready to resist it at all hazards."

So says Mr. Polk. And again:—

"The people of the United States cannot view with indifference attempts of European powers to interfere with the independent action of the Nations on this continent."

Now, if the people of the United States claim for themselves or their countrymen any such extravagant pretensions as the exclusion of European nations from a proper control over the political concerns of the American states, the sooner the nations of Europe undeceive them, and nip such arrogant assumptions in the bud, the better. We should hope, however, that this new code of political philosophy, this *jus gentium*, belongs exclusively to Mr. Polk; and that the Congress of the Union will not identify themselves or their country with it. A casual reader of such language might suppose that Mr. Polk had entirely forgotten that Great Britain possessed any portion of the American continent; and, that it was through this forgetfulness he had overlooked the natural inference, that possessing and occupying a considerable portion of it, England could claim some little right to participate in that universal dominion which Mr. Polk seems to think belongs exclusively to the United States; some distinct and immediate interest in preserving a "balance of power" in North America, at least. We accuse the President of no such error, no such treacherous menacing; on the contrary, we believe that when he was concocting his new law of nations, his mind was vividly impressed with the harassing reflection that the United States had the British Colonies for their northern, and Mexico for their southern boundary; and that he wanted clearly to demonstrate that neither Great Britain nor Mexico should be permitted to retain this proximity one moment after it was possible to eject them. With all this apparent visionary notions, too, we imagine Mr. Polk

must have been fully sensible that the annexation of Texas to the union was both morally and politically unjustifiable; and he therefore endeavours to lay down some general principle as an apology for his ambition. America belongs to the Americans, and Europeans have no right to intermeddle with it; such is his maxim; and acting upon it, he rates both France and England very angrily for having attempted to prevent this annexation; France in particular—"the country which has a common interest with us (says Mr. Polk) in maintaining the freedom of the seas;" while he rejoices that "the tranquil and pervading influence of the American principle of self-government was sufficient to defeat the purposes of British and French interference."

THE FRENCH PRESS.

The "Constitutionnel," M. Thiers' organ, says that it thinks Mr. Polk is quite disposed for war with England, and that had it not been that he believed the Senate would be against him, he would have spoken much more violently than he has done. It seizes his remarks on the conduct of France in the Texas affair, to address reproaches to M. Guizot. The "Courrier Francais" says that the Message is very warlike in form, but very peaceable at bottom—it barks loudly, but has no intention to bite. This journal also turns the Presidential flight about France into an attack on the ministry. The "Presse" finds the Message menacing, but does not anticipate war. It thinks that both countries will make concessions, and that those of England will be the greater of the two. The republican "National" defends the United States against the onslaught of the "Debate," and assures the Americans that they have the sympathies of France, and that England is the "common enemy" of France and the United States. "L'Esprit Public" thinks that the Message has not obtained the attention that its importance demands; that, in fact, it is almost a declaration of war; that it will, at all events, render negotiations very difficult, and that it is very probable, if the Senate carries out the President's views, which is not certain, that in a year's time England and the States will be fighting. The "Reforme," a republican newspaper, admires the President's firmness. The "Siecle" finds the Message peaceable in tone, but thinks that the President is desirous for war, and that its subdued expressions have been imposed upon him in spite of himself. It regrets the violence of some parts as not *convenable*, and thinks that France should have been exempted from the defiance thrown out to Europe. "La Patrie," which is an opposition journal, protests against the importance which some newspapers appear to attach to the American alliance. "We wish to keep good relations with the United States," it says, "but we don't forget that so far our natural allies, the Americans, have accepted our assistance when they wanted it, but left us to shift for ourselves when we needed theirs, and so it would be again. They were compelled, indeed, by Napoleon, to adopt his system for neutral powers against the English, but for so doing we had to pay 25,000,000 francs. Such is all we have gained from the American alliance. If the United States were at war with England, oh, then, they would be delighted to possess our alliance; but, if we were at war with England, they would remain strictly neutral." This very advantageous system of making alliances is not at all suited to the taste of the "Patrie," and accordingly it thinks (notwithstanding its general opposition to the Government) that the French ministry acted wisely in the Texas affair. Such are the opinions of the French press on the President's Message. You see that they are, as I described them, insignificant. In private society opinions are pretty much to the same effect; but, from all I have heard, the tone of the message is censured. Violence is always unbecoming, even in a strong government, and in Europe is never employed. In the United States it may be considered necessary; but if the Government of the States supposes that it causes fear, or creates respect on the European continent, it deserves itself most strangely. On the other questions dwelt upon in the long-winded message of the President, the newspapers say nothing. The proposed reduction of the tariff, however, affords them great pleasure, as it will be most beneficial to French commerce generally, and especially to the wine countries, which have long been in need of better markets for their produce than they at present possess.