

The speech of Mr. Webster, in the senate, in favour of the 49 degree, with the navigation of the Columbia for a specific time, has been much noticed and freely commented on. We drew attention in our paper by the Great Western, to the advocacy for a similar compromise in the last number of the Quarterly Review. Such an arrangement would, we are convinced, satisfy the respectable and right-thinking classes in both countries. In England it would be received joyously; as it would put an end to what is really abhorrent to the popular mind—the possibility of a rupture with the United States.

Business of every description continues to experience the deadening effects of the present stagnation. Money for commercial purposes is scarce, and none but first class paper stands the least chance of being discounted.

In Railway matters Government is at length determined to take the bull by the horns. A bill is to be brought in after the recess, to enable companies which have not got their acts to perform the solemnities of dissolution with becoming effect. The evil has thus worked its own cure, after having entailed incalculable misery on bankrupt thousands. The intention of Government is good; and the details of the bill will test whether the design is equal to the intention. It is a difficult task to wind up satisfactorily the scores and hundreds of the ephemeral speculations of last year, without injustice to the original allottees, or to the present holders of the scrip, or to the thousand-and-one intermediate persons through whose hands the same scrip during the excitement of speculation, passed.

FRANCE.—Attempt to Kill the King of the French.—The following intelligence has been received from Folkestone by means of the electric telegraph:—

About half-past five o'clock on Thursday, as the King was returning from his drive in the forest of Fontainebleau, a man, seated upon the wall, fired at his Majesty. Providence preserved the King's life. The Queen, Princess Adelaide, Duchess of Nemours and the Prince and Princess of Salerno were in the carriage with the King. Three balls cut the fringes of the char-a-banc—no one was struck—a piece of wadding was picked up by the Queen. The assassin was immediately arrested, his name is Leconate. He is an old general guardian of the forest of Fontainebleau.—*Journal des Debats* of Friday.

IRELAND.

We have still to record the receipt of alarming intelligence from the sister country, giving the details of the approaching famine, which has already made its appearance in several parts of the country, bringing with it a train of diseases, the results of which it is exceedingly painful to contemplate. Meetings are being held in various parts to devise means to arrest the progress of the evil, and procure work and food for these starving peasantry.—A meeting of the citizens of Waterford was held on the 7th inst., the mayor in the chair, to adopt the measures to meet the existing destitution in the borough. A local relief committee was appointed. During the proceedings, the following observations were made by the Rev. Mr. Sheehan:—"There was no never such destitution in the city as there is at present. Show me a mason, a carpenter, or any other tradesman employed. The artisans have no employment, and consequently are in a state of destitution. I took the trouble of examining the reports of the Fanning Institution, and I found that in March, 1843, potatoes of the best quality were sold at 2d per stone; in 1844, at 4d; in 1845, at 3d; and now, this year, they are so high as 7d to 8d by retail, and it is by retail that the poor buy them. As there is no employment, and prices so very high, there must be extreme destitution."—Committees have been formed at Ballyduff, Killeker, and Baileborough, County Cavan. Accounts pour in upon us daily of the increasing distress. In many places there are no potatoes left—in none will the fast-perishing root be found after May.—A Castlebar paper has the following, headed Famine in Mayo:—"This gaunt and long-dreaded scourge has at last broken forth. We have been written to from several parts of this extensive country, by gentlemen upon whose veracity we place the most implicit reliance, giving the most awful accounts of the sufferings of the people at this early period of the year. Even at Turlough, in the immediate neighbourhood of this town, many families are at this moment we learn, without food; and the wretched sufferers are, in vain, endeavouring to get provisions in time, that their children may not die! At the market of Castlebar on Saturday

last, provisions, which hitherto were considered reasonable, rose to an alarming height—potatoes from 2½d. to 5d. per stone, and oatmeal from 13s. to 16s. per cwt."

A great riot has taken place at Clonmel, in which an attack was made on some mills and shops in that town and neighbourhood, and several of them plundered by the mob. A meeting was held in the Court-house of Clonmel—Capt. Osborne, J. P., in the chair. A subscription list was entered into and over £500 subscribed, for the purpose of giving employment to the inhabitants and its vicinity alone.

United States News.

From the Halifax Times.

The royal mail steamship Caledonia arrived on Sunday last, in 45 hours from Boston. She takes from this in all 83 passengers to England. The news is not important, and is in substance as follows:—

News from the Army.—The U. S. steamer Col. Harney, arrived at New Orleans on the 20th, bringing news from Brazos Santiago to the 20th. Gen. Taylor's forces are opposite Metamoraz. His advanced guard were warned to retire, but he continued his march, took position within reach of the Mexican batteries, on the 23rd ult., and planted four 18 pounders, which command the city. On the 11th Ampudia arrived at Metamoraz, and sent a written notice to retire beyond the Nuecas. The General replied that his orders were to occupy his present position, and he should repel any attempt to cross the river, assuring Ampudia that he had no hostile intentions, but his sole purpose was to prevent any encroachment upon our territory. General Taylor, however, fell back with his forces, but still commands the town with his 18 pounders. Nothing was further done, and Ampudia sent to the city of Mexico for orders. Ampudia sent out from San Luis with 2000 men, but his ranks were reduced by desertion and mutiny to 1000 when he arrived at Metamoraz, and with all the commands at present, they cannot muster 5000 very poor soldiers. We cannot perceive how a fight is to grow out of the present position of the forces. If Paredes sends positive orders to cross the river and attack the Americans, General Taylor will fall back until they are all over, and will retreat so as to advance; and if they are caught in that trap, the whole Mexican force will be captured. We apprehend, however, that they will have more prudence than to venture across the river.—*New York Sun*.

The French paper at Mexico reports the blockade of Mazatlan by U. S. forces, and deplores the dissensions of the country. It exclaims—"Great God! how sad is the spectacle before us."

Texas papers to the 18th instant have come to hand. The Legislature had under consideration a Resolution proposing the sale of public lands to the United States for an adequate consideration, to enable Texas to pay her debts.

A correspondent of the Union, writing from Havana, concludes his letter thus:

"I have this moment heard that General Almonte is determined to return to Mexico, and that he is anxious to have the ex-president return with him. If this be so, the time has arrived, in the opinion of General Almonte, for the restoration of Santa Anna; in any event I am sure both these individuals are determined that there shall be no radical change of the Mexican government; none, certainly, that shall exclude Santa Anna from being its actual head."

Deserters shot.—Rumours of Mexican wealth and treasure had induced some of the U. S. soldiers on the frontiers to desert, but General Taylor put a stop to the movement by shooting two or three during their progress across the Rio Grande.

THE NEW "EASTERN BOUNDARY" QUESTION.

The Boston Mail of the 17th, has the following observations on the Maine complaint in reference to the duty imposed by the British Government on timber shipped at St. John:—

"A good deal of disquietude is felt by the people on account of the export duty of 20 cents per ton levied by the province of New Brunswick upon all timber floated down the St. John river, in contravention of the spirit if not the very letter of the Ashburton treaty. By that treaty, the citizens of Maine residing on that river and its tributaries, are allowed to float down their timber, and enjoy the general navigation of the river, on the same terms

with British subjects. At that time the lumbermen of New Brunswick paid a stumpage duty to the provincial government of 20 cents per ton; but they complained that the free navigation of the river, enjoyed by the Maine lumbermen, with no stumpage tax to pay, gave them an advantage, and the stumpage tax was changed to an export duty, which applies of course only to Maine lumber, because other lumber is not exported to any great extent. This is clearly a fraud upon the intent of the treaty, and may, with the other causes of collision, yet involve the two countries in a war. An appeal has been made, we believe, to the British Government, but without any satisfactory result. Three-fourths of the revenue derived from timber duties by New Brunswick, are paid on timber cut in the State of Maine, and as the forests near the sea coast recede before the constant application of the woodman's axe, the disproportion will continue to increase. It seems to us that the British government, which boasts so much of its justice, and the good faith with which it maintains its treaty stipulations, should be ashamed of this petty fraud. It seems to us that a government professing so much, should give the most enlarged and liberal construction to its treaties with other powers, instead of haggling upon terms which, however indefinitely expressed, cannot but be perfectly well understood in their spirit and bearing, by the meanest capacity. The discontent which this small folly is creating in the minds of the people of Maine towards their British provincial neighbours, if not appeased by a juster sense of right on the part of the British government, may yet render nugatory all the benefits arising from the peaceful settlement of the Eastern Boundary question.

From the Brooklyn Star, April 24.

Another Riot at the South Ferry.—Men Wounded—and a number reported missing—Last evening, just at dusk, as the Germans employed by the Atlantic Dock company were returning from their work to go to their homes, they were attacked by a number of men, and very much injured. The citizens of the neighbourhood were first aroused by the cry of murder. The Germans were observed running to the south ferry boat, which was then in, for their lives. The ferry master observed five or six of them with their faces much bruised, and one man in particular holding his hands to the back of his head, which seemed to be fractured. It is reported that the man died on reaching the opposite side of the river. A man was taken into Mr Quirk's drugg store; we could not learn the extent of his injuries; another named Christian Bisset was taken into Dr. Chapman's, on State street, having his skull badly fractured, where he received every attention by Drs. Chapman and Moriarty; he was removed by his friends this morning to No. 155 Stanton street, New York, where he has a wife and several children. It is the opinion of the Doctors that he will not recover. This man was found lying among the curb and other stones in Anderson's yard, Columbia st., near Atlantic.

Another report is that at least twenty or thirty women have been over from the city of New York this morning inquiring of the contractors for their husbands. Two hundred and sixty are employed upon the work. At the roll call this morning there were at least thirty of the men missing.

The Deputy Sheriff, was on the spot at the time of the outbreak, and seized one of the rioters, who was rescued by his countrymen.

One or two military companies were called out last evening under the alarm of the riot.

The District Attorney was early on the spot this morning making inquiries, and using the utmost activity in obtaining witnesses.

Several indictments have been found by the Grand Jury against the earlier rioters, and others will probably grow out of the disturbance.

WEST INDIES.

Earthquake in the West Indies.—The Philadelphia American says—by way of Havana we have received from the town of Cuba. On the 23rd ult., about half past 7 in the morning, after a calm, sultry night, low rumbling sounds were heard. Suddenly the ground shook violently, causing the greatest consternation. The people rushed into the streets for safety. The first shock lasted one or two minutes, and after a lapse of five minutes, the ground was again violently shaken. It was a solemn moment: in every direction the affrighted inhabitants might be seen on their knees, calling on

God to save them, expecting every moment to be swallowed up. Several lighter shocks were felt during the forenoon, but it is believed no lives were lost. Several buildings were thrown down and very many cracked. In the evening mass was said in all the churches for their deliverance from death.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Newcastle Post Office March, 1846.

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anderson Johnstone | M'Lean Niel         |
| Auckland James     | M'Isaac John        |
| Bannerman Joseph   | M'Arthur Charles    |
| Baxton Jeremiah    | M'Tavish Duncan     |
| Coakley John       | M'Kendrick Duncan   |
| Cain John          | Murphy James        |
| Carr Charles       | M'Lenan John        |
| Cromwell Asa       | M'Cormick John      |
| Cowie Andrew       | M'Cormick Mary      |
| Campbell Marshall  | M'Mahon Richard     |
| Cushman Isaac      | M'Donald Angus      |
| Croker Harriet     | M'Kerron Donald     |
| Dunn Martin        | M'Phee Alex         |
| Dumme John         | Orsin Edward        |
| Dalton Edward      | O'Donnell James     |
| Davidson Wm        | O'Hindley Ronald    |
| Dalton Wm          | O'Brien Mary C.     |
| Emerson Robert     | Ridout Henry        |
| Egan Barbara       | Ryan William        |
| Gillaspie Robert   | Russell Alex.       |
| Gorman Bernard     | Redmond Thomas      |
| Gowan John         | Sherwood William    |
| Harrigan Denis     | Stuart John         |
| Harper James       | Squire Anthony      |
| Johnson Nancy      | Spaulding Nathaniel |
| Kelly John         | Simpson William     |
| Kehoe James        | Smith Stephen       |
| Lewis John         | Sturgeon Peter      |
| Looney John        | Towzer Jere         |
| Lynch Edward       | Wright Francis      |
| M'Graw Margaret    | Waltling John       |
| M'Gregor Thomas    | Waters James        |
| M'Kendrick Michael | Waters Jonathan     |

HUGH MORELL, Post Master.

Sheriff's Sale:

On SATURDAY, 26th September next, in front of Hamilton's Hotel, Newcastle, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock, p. m., will be Sold at Public Auction:

All the Real Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Claim and Demand of NICHOLAS MUSRAL, late of the Parish of Glenelg, in the county of Northumberland, deceased; or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy an Execution issued out of the Supreme Court, and now in my hands, at the suit of Mr JAMES JOHNSON, against the said Nicholas Musral.

J. M. JOHNSON, Sheriff of Northumberland. Sheriff's Office, Northumberland, 19th March, 1846.

Auctioneer.

The subscriber being now an Auctioneer for the County of Northumberland, begs leave to solicit a share of public patronage. He expects from Dublin in a few days, a large assortment of CATHOLIC and other BOOKS, highly important and interesting; also MOONEY'S

Celebrated History of Ireland,

From 1300 years before Christ, to 1845. As but a few copies are expected, an early application only will secure one.

M. CRANNEY, Miramichi, 24th April, 1846.

NOTICE,

ALL persons indebted to the Subscriber for transactions at his Store in Chatham, are hereby informed that he has placed their Notes and Accounts in the hands of GEORGE KERR, Esquire, Attorney at Law, for Collection; and they are requested to call and pay Mr Kerr without delay, otherwise legal steps will be adopted to enforce payment. JOSEPH RUSSELL, Chatham, 17th April, 1846.

The subscriber also offers For Sale that TRACT OF LAND, lying on both sides of the Post Road, leading from Chatham to Richibucto, and adjoining the rear of the Lands formerly owned by the Joint Stock Company, comprising about 30 acres, about 10 of which are cleared. This property is advantageously situated for persons residing in Chatham. For terms and other particulars, apply at the office of Mr Kerr. JOSEPH RUSSELL.

Mail Stage,

Between CHATHAM & DALHOUSIE

THIS STAGE will leave Chatham every Monday morning after the arrival of the Southern mail, and arrive at Dalhousie on Tuesday morning. It will leave Dalhousie every Thursday at 8 A. M. and arrive in Chatham on the morning of Friday.

The subscriber pledges himself to keep on this line a comfortable

COVERED STAGE,

good Horses, experienced Drivers, and will always drive at not less than six miles per hour, when the roads will permit. All luggage must be at the risk of the owners.

In consequence of the shortness of the time allowed by the Post Office Department, Passengers will please to be punctual to the time of starting. Passengers can book their names at Layton's Hotel, Chatham, and at M'Gregor's Dalhousie. WILLIAM JOHNSON, Chatham, April 14, 1846.