

Both these difficulties are completely obviated in Hong Kong; and every substantially built house and warehouse, together with the property in them, were insured against fire, when I left the island. One Chinaman had, in March last, completed buildings for the storage of property collected from the different ports on the coast on which upwards of \$40,000 had been laid out; and, what is more, they were already well filled."

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Examiner.

ENGLAND'S LOVE OF PEACE AND READINESS FOR WAR.

There is not a country in the world so desirous of peace as England, and that there is none better prepared for war the brilliant campaign on the Sutlej most strikingly shows. —It is clear that our arms have not rusted in peace, and that the service was never in a higher state of efficiency. And this observation does not apply merely to the forces in a part of our immense empire. Wherever our soldiers and sailors have been put to the trial, the same prowess has been manifested with the same glorious and rapid success. In China, in Syria, in Scinde, and in the retrieval of the Afghan disasters, they have proved themselves irresistible: and it has been one career of triumph. There has been no protracted wars; no barren campaigns; England has only had to stretch out her arm to strike, and the foe has been crushed. We have seen gigantic Russia opposed for two years by feeble Turkey, we have seen her defied and repulsed by the petty robber chief of Khiva, and bending her power for years against the Circassians, who have held her at arm's length, often defeating her, and in her small successes, leaving her little to boast.—France in Algeria presents another example. Whole armies have been absorbed there. A deluge of blood has been wasted like water spilt in the desert. It is the vain labour of the Danaides, with this difference, that the sieves are to be filled with blood. The task is for ever to begin again; victory and disaster taking their turns without end; Abd-el-Kader crushed for ever one day, and making head again the next. Yet in Algeria France has a terrible school. It has been described as the soldier mill, into which three men are put and ground into one doughy warrior. It might be supposed that there was nothing that such an army could not effect, but yet they effect nothing—nothing decisive. True, they have an elusive enemy to deal with, and when they beat the Arabs it is like threshing water.

We do not deny the peculiar difficulties, though we have a notion that if England had chosen to encounter them, she could have found better methods of coping with them; but let the cause of the failure of the French be what it may, there stands the example, of her long losses and miscarriages in comparison with England's instant successes wherever the power of her arms has been put forth. Let it be that England makes better choice of her objects; that she does not involve herself in schemes of conquest beyond her strength; such explanation is praise enough; which assigns to her the armed wisdom of which Palles was the type. Whatever the occasions are, there are always the conduct and courage to meet them; and the sword is not long out of the scabbard, nor ingloriously returned to it. Proportionate indeed to the reluctance with which it is drawn, is the dazzling rapidity with which it performs its task.

And most satisfactory it is to note that no love of war, no lust for conquest, grows out of these successes. The nation, proud as it is for its triumphs, prize them most as securities for future peace, not as an encouragement to war; the public is never more pacific in its dispositions and aspirations than at the successful termination of hostilities. It is not for vainglorious boast that we have made the comparison between the rapid achievements of England and the protracted wars and imperfect successes of other powers. The lesson we would note is this; that the country whose interests and whose disposition is most strongly pacific, is, nevertheless, the best prepared for war, and the promptest and most successful in vindicating her cause by arms whenever she is compelled to it. As England has no love for war, so, when she is in it, she is happily able to make short work of it. Other people are as brave, but somehow or other they have not the same knack of giving effect to their bravery,

at least, so it appears in the comparisons they have presented within the last twenty years.

We often join in the grumbings at the management of the navy, but maintaining still that there are occasions and opportunities of improvement, it is our thorough conviction that the two services were never in a higher state of efficiency; and that never was there in them so many able and zealous men devoted to their professions and thoroughly skilled in them. The last example of what they can do we rate of inestimable value, not only as regards the peace and safety of the Indian empire, but as it must tend to discourage the propensity of war in other parts of the world. England has her share of faults; she is overbearing and proud, and much too proud for vulgar bluster; but people who have drawn false inferences from her disdaining to play the braggart, will have learnt to correct their mistake on seeing how she acquits herself when reluctantly forced into quarrel—the might she exerts with such wondrous ease—the mettle that works miracles, like that of the heroes who marched to the Sikh *tete de pont*, vomiting the fire of two tiers of admirably served cannon, as if in parade order, halting to close up their ranks when rent by the storm of round shot and grape, and toiling through nearly a mile of heavy sand, as if they had nothing to do with the disadvantages of the ground, and that shot and shell were nothing to them except as they deranged the correctness of the line. Rich as are our annals of war in all circumstances of conduct and bravery, we question whether they present any equal to that gallant exploit in which the native troops so largely and so gloriously shared.

THE FRENCH PRESS.

From the Paris La Presse.

THE LATE VICTORIES IN INDIA.

The conquest of the Panjab is the most important event in Indian history since the fall of the empire of Mysore: it is the completion of the gigantic work commenced by Clive just a century ago, and followed up by Hastings, Wellesley, and their successors with such persevering skill. England, mistress of the Ganges and the Indus, reaches the natural limits of her empire from east to west. On the north, the Himalayas scarcely restrain by their barrier of 8000 metres this covetous genius, always ready to overflow its boundaries. If, however, the policy of England be carried on in conformity with wise principles, she will not go beyond; and this seems to be the gist of Sir Robert Peel's words in concluding his speech to the House of Commons with the expression of a hope that henceforth peace will no more be disturbed in India, which, probably, means that England for some time hence will not seek a quarrel with anybody.

Whatever may be the prejudices of individual politics, it is impossible not to admire this great destiny of the English people, bursting in its irresistible expansion, the last barriers which are opposed by the lethargy of the East to European activity. By it, it must be hoped that trade will, at no distant period, resume its ancient routes through the massive continent of Asia, intercepted for 800 years by the savage suspicions of Islamism.

Of the right of nation and equity have often to complain of the means employed by England to attain her object, it is only just to admit that no nation more extensively fulfils its providential mission. In one and the same year she opens to herself China, establishes herself in Borneo, and crosses the old sea. The conquest of the globe, commenced in the 16th century by Spain and Portugal, is completed in the 19th century by England! Is it not time for France to have her turn?

GENERAL SIR HARRY SMITH.

Sir Harry Smith is descended from an ancient family, that has been settled for the last two centuries at Whittlesea (Isle of Ely). In 1805 he was, under the auspices of the late General Sir William Stewart, appointed to a second lieutenancy in the Rifle Brigade (then the 95th). To enumerate his services would be to name almost every battle that has since been fought by British troops in every part of the globe, for he has more practical experience in war, and has passed through more fire, perhaps, than any man living.

Those only who have served under a good and an indifferent staff officer, can estimate the immense value of the former, and Smith was one of the very best, for his heart and soul were in his duty. His light, wiry frame rendered him insensible to fatigue, and no matter what battle

or march might have occupied the day or night, or what elementary war might be raging Smith was never to be found off his horse until he saw every man in his brigade housed, if cover could possibly be had. His devotion to their comfort was repaid by their affection, which was shown in a manner most gratifying to him when, in 1827, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, he was appointed Deputy Adjutant General in the West Indies; the voluntary attendance of every officer and soldier, from the Governor downwards, made his embarkation triumphal.

Sir Harry Smith served with the Rifle Brigade at the siege and taking of Monte Video, under Sir S. Anson; and at the assault upon Buenos Ayres, under Brigadier General Crauford. Employed with troops in Spain under Sir John Moore, from the battle of Vimiera to the embarkation of the troops at Corunna. Embarked for the Peninsula under Major General Crauford in 1809; was seriously wounded in the action upon the Coa bridge, near Almeida.—Commanded a company in the pursuit of Massena from the Lines at Lisbon; at the actions of Redinha, Condeixa, and Foz d'Arouche.

Appointed Brigade Major to the 2nd Light Brigade in the Light Division, and was present in the action of Sabugal, battle of Fuentes d'Onor, siege and storm of Badajoz, battles of Salamanca and Vittoria, attack of the heights of Vera, and passage of the Bidassoa, battle of Sarre, attack upon the position of St. Jean de Luz and heights of Arcangues, battle of Orthes, affair at Tarbes, and battle of Toulouse. Appointed assistant adjutant general to the troops under Major General Ross, destined against Washington, and was present at the battle of Bladensburg and destruction of Washington. Brought home despatches, and went out again immediately under Sir Edward Pakenham, and was present at the attack upon the enemy's lines at New Orleans. After the death of Sir Edward, he was appointed military secretary to Sir John Lambert, commanding the army, and was present at the siege and taking of Fort Bowyer. Appointed assistant quarter master general to the 6th division of the army under the Duke of Wellington, and was present at the battle of Waterloo. He was appointed a K. C. B. for the action of Maharajpore, in which battle he was present as adjutant general.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATAM, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1846.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ARRIVAL AND CLOSING OF THE SEVERAL MAILS, AT THE POST OFFICE, CHATAM.

TIME OF ARRIVAL.—Monday.—Nova Scotia, St. John, Fredericton, Dorchester, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Petticoe, Richibucto, 6 A. M.

Tuesday.—Newcastle and Douglastown, 5 A. M.

Thursday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, Petticoe, Richibucto, 6 A. M.

Friday.—St. John, Fredericton, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Newcastle, South West, 6 A. M. Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8 A. M.

Saturday.—Newcastle, Douglastown, 5 A. M. Shippagan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabasintac, 3 P. M., every fortnight.

TIME OF CLOSING.—Monday, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Fredericton, Newcastle, South West, Douglastown, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8 A. M. Shippagan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabasintac, every fortnight, 8 A. M. Nova Scotia, Saint John, Dorchester, Richibucto, Petticoe, 9 P. M.

Thursday.—Newcastle, Douglastown, and 8 A. M.

Friday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, St. John, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Richibucto, Petticoe, 9 P. M.

N.B.—Letters will be forwarded upon the payment of a fee of "six pence," and Newspapers "one penny" each, if posted within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the closing of the respective mails at this Office.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The Royal Mail Steamer Cambria, in a fine passage of 12 days, arrived at Halifax on the afternoon of yesterday week. The mail was received here on Monday, but the papers do not contain any intelligence of moment; had it been otherwise, we should have issued a half sheet on Tuesday.

We have copied some extracts, which will be found under the proper head.

OREGON QUESTION.—The following letters from Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Paken-

ham, our Minister at Washington, approving of his recent conduct in this important controversy, appears in the English papers.

Foreign Office, March 4, 1846.

Sir,—I have much satisfaction in conveying to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government, of the steps which, as reported in your Despatch of the 29th January, you took, and of the letter which you addressed to the Secretary of State, for the purpose of ascertaining clearly and authoritatively whether the United States government would be disposed to admit the application of the principle of an arbitration in the Oregon question on any other terms than those which they have already rejected.

In thus acting, you have, in the most judicious and satisfactory manner, anticipated the instructions which I was preparing to forward to you on this subject.

We have now nothing to do but to await Mr. Buchanan's reply to your appeal to him, although I collect from your despatch that your proposal will certainly be refused. Should that reply, however, be of such a nature as to give any ground of hope that the matter in dispute may be brought to an amicable issue by means of direct negotiation, I shall gladly avail myself of such an opening. If not, it will then be for her Majesty's Government to consider what measures it may be expedient to adopt, in order to meet any emergency that may arise.

ABERDEEN.

Foreign Office, March 3, Six p. m. 1846.

Sir,—Since my preceding despatch of this day's date was written, I have received your despatch of the 5th February, with its inclosure, by which you put me in possession of the final rejection by the United States government of our proposal of a reference of the Oregon question to arbitration.

There is, of course, no time before the departure of the mail of this evening, for the consideration of so serious a question as that which is involved in the President's decision as now announced.

ABERDEEN.

It appears that both Houses of Congress have at length come to an understanding on this subject, and passed the following Resolution, which had previously been prepared by a committee of conference, composed of members from both houses.

"With a view, that steps be taken for the abrogation of the said convention of the sixth August, 1827, in the mode prescribed in its second article, and that the attention of governments of both countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to the adoption of all proper measures for a speedy and amicable adjustment of the difficulties and disputes in respect to said territory—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and is hereby authorised, at his discretion, to give to the British Government the notice required by its said second article for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal, writes as follows:

"I gather that, when the President gives the notice, or before, he will offer to make or receive an overture for a compromise on 49, and the Straits of Fuca, and the free navigation of the Columbia river for a limited time. There is reason to believe that the British Government will readily and immediately agree to a treaty on these terms. The 54 party is completely paralysed, and the President goes with the 49's."

The following is the latest intelligence from Washington on this all-engrossing subject, copied from the New York Sun, received at Halifax by the steamer Caledonia, from Boston.

"Washington, April 27.—The Oregon notice has been signed by the President, to whom is entrusted the duty of forwarding it to England, at his discretion. It is understood that the British Government informed our Minister at London, that they would not consider the giving of the notice a cause of war, and Mr. Pakenham is prepared with an ultimatum, offering a boundary along the 49th parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia river, down that river to a point opposite the southern extremity of Puget's Sound, thence through Puget's Sound and De Fuca's Straits to the Pacific. England to have the navigation of the Columbia river. This ultimatum will not be accepted by the United States Government. Mr. Pakenham may be expected to call for his passports, when it is rejected, and after considerable bluster and excitement, with a view of intimidating us into territorial or commercial concessions, they will send over Sir Henry Pottinger to offer the 49th parallel to the sea, the free navigation of the Columbia to be open to England for ten years. This is Sir Robert Peel's diplomacy. It is conjectured, however, that the President and Senate may anticipate this last proposition, and offer it to Mr. Pakenham before he leaves. He will not refuse it. Such is the prospect ahead."

THE LATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The Saint John Courier of Saturday last contains the following paragraph.