

News of the Week.

INDIA.

The Bombardment before the Storming of Delhi.—The following are extracts from a letter from a young officer in the Guides:

Camp before Delhi, Sept. 11.—After returning from Nudjughur things went on as quietly even until the arrival of the siege train from Ferozopore, and large reinforcements, consisting chiefly of the force of the Cashmere Rajah, Runbeer Singh. I do not think they will be of much assistance in the fighting line. People at home seem to have a very vague idea as to the strength of Delhi, and also think that the gallant Willoughby blew up the whole of their Magazines. This is a great mistake, he only blew up a small one, and the mutineers, have as many guns, ammunition, and stores, as they could possibly wish for. There were no breaching guns at Meerut, and the first siege train which came from Loodiana was only enough to enable our small force to hold its own on the ridge. If we had suffered any reverses here the whole of India would have been up; and knowing this I think our Generals would have been mad to have risked such a possibility until they had a sufficient force and material, which they were sure could not have been withstood. I think that handful of men who first came down here deserve the greatest possible praise for the splendid way in which they have repeatedly resisted the attacks of numerous enemies, who have been disciplined and armed by us, and consequently are only inferior in courage to the Europeans and Sikhs. They have one sort of courage, though, which is of great use to them at this time—I mean that of being able to serve guns behind walls.

You ought to see how the Moree bastion is knocked to pieces, and how our right advanced battery pours salvo after salvo of round shot into it, and yet they stick to their guns in splendid style. It is reported that the first day our right advanced battery opened, one hundred and fifty of their gunners alone were killed. This battery, together with the left advanced battery, which was employed in pounding the guns at the Cashmere-gate, where the assault is to be made, were opened on the 8th. We had a heavy loss on that day, as the batteries were very imperfectly made.

All our other batteries were to have been finished yesterday, but somehow or other they were not. I do not know much about this myself, but the engineers seem to be very hard worked; the artillery are particularly so, and now, poor fellows, they have to live in batteries, as there is no one to relieve them. I think they have fully upheld the honour of their branch of the service throughout this campaign. The infantry, too have been very much worked, and I will defy any officer to realize what a private has gone through and goes through daily. 32 new guns have, I believe, been opened to-day, and it is hoped by to-morrow the whole of them, 50 or 60 in number, besides the mortars, will be in full play; so that in a week at the utmost we may expect to be in the imperial city, which for three months and a half has defied us. I pity all the innocent people in it, for undoubtedly, they will share the same fate as the guilty. It is to be hoped that the women and children will be spared, but I am pretty sure none of the men will.

Yesterday morning it was reported that the enemy had come out to attack our working parties and batteries, so the whole of our regiment was ordered out, and we remained the whole day in a broiling sun in a road called the Gorge, leading to the Cashmere-gate.—The field officer of the day was written to at 12 to send us back, as the enemy had gone; but we did not get the order till 5, and then only because S—wrote to know what we were to do. I was a victim of another mistake the other day, being kept out on picket at Azadpore (such a vile place) for two days instead of one; my table attendant had bolted a few days before, so I was nearly starved to death. The enemy came across the canal in force that day, and I was momentarily expecting to be attacked; in the evening I was relieved, and the next day I heard that they had built up the aqueduct over the canal, which had been blown up by us a long time ago; we have since destroyed it again, but in a very loose way. I am happy to say that all this roughing agrees with me wonderfully, and I am in excellent health, though there has been a good deal of cholera and fever going on in camp.

I was at the observatory two days ago, with L—, watching the firing from the different batteries. This is close to Hindoo Rao's, where we had a heavy battery pitching into the Moree. The hole in the wall between the Moree and Lahore-gate was firing occasionally at Hindoo Rao's, but they kept making bad shots, and three of them came through the arch of the observatory, a little to the left of where we were sitting on a box; we were partly behind a traverse, but I had no idea that a round shot was so close until I saw L— bob, and then I went down too. After this, whenever I saw the smoke at the hole in the wall, I took the precaution of bobbing, and before long 'whish' came the shot again through the arch.

Soon after a number of fellows foolishly went up to the top of the building, thus drawing the fire upon us from the Cashmere battery, for on a sudden a horrible rushing noise was heard in that direction, and a great tall fellow of 6 feet 6 inches tumbled over me, and remained there until the danger was past; the shot pitched

into the battery below and bounded up, hitting the masonry at our feet and sending the dirt over us. I fancy this sort of escape is pretty common, but this was not wonderful. As the sun had by this time gone down we thought it prudent to beat a retreat towards the Mosque and Flagstaff Tower. This latter place is nearly always crowded with spectators, being tolerably safe from the enemy's fire. If you want to see well, however, the observatory is the place, though one has to keep a sharp look out for any stray shot or shell. The enemy are very fond of firing rockets, which are pretty, but do not do much harm; ours are a complete failure."

Government have received telegraphic advices a fortnight later.

Delhi, which fell into our hands on the 20th Sept., was entirely occupied on the 21st, and the whole of the enemy expelled. In the assault of the 14th, 61 officers and 1,178 men—being one-third of the storming force—killed and wounded. Gen. Nicholson had died of his wounds on the 21st. The old King, said to be 70 years of age, surrendered to Capt. Hodgson and his cavalry, about fifteen miles south of Delhi. He was accompanied by his chief wife. Their lives were spared.

Two of his sons and a grandson, also captured by Capt. Hodgson, about five miles from Delhi, were shot on the spot, and their bodies brought to the city and exposed at the police office. Two moveable columns were dispatched from Delhi on the 23rd, in pursuit of the enemy. By accounts from Agra, one column appears to have reached the neighbourhood of Alleghur, and the other that of Muttra on the 28th of September. Gen. Havelock with 2,500 men, crossed the Ganges from Cawnpore, Sept. 19, and relieved Lucknow Residency on the 25th, just as it was ready to be blown up by its besiegers. On the 25th the enemy's entrenchments were stormed, and on the 29th a large part of the city was taken—460 killed and wounded. Gen. Neil was killed.

UNITED STATES.

The Weather—Heavy Gales and Snow Storms.

During the past week the weather has been very variable. On Thursday and Monday nights we had heavy showers, both accompanied with sharp lightning, and the latter with thunder. Until yesterday, the atmosphere was generally mild and agreeable, with occasionally a cold snap, but yesterday was a real winter's day—clear, cold and cloudless.

In Western New York and on the great Lakes, there have been tremendous snow storms, accompanied with terrific gales. Much damage has been done to the shipping on Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, several valuable cargoes of grain probably lost, together with many lives. On the land, the railroad trains have been blocked up, and travel, which had recovered from the effects of the great freshets in central New York, has been brought nearly to a stand still, between Buffalo and the East.

On Lake Michigan the gale was terribly severe, and several grain vessels belonging to Chicago and Cleveland have been lost.

A dispatch from Cincinnati reports the burning of Steamer Rainbow, when ten miles above Napoleon, on the 21st inst., with the loss of about seventy-five lives. She had 347 passengers on board, including a large number of boatmen on the deck. The fire is attributed to incendiaryism on the part of the deck passengers. We have but few particulars. When first discovered, the boat was run ashore, where she burnt to the water's edge. All her books and papers were destroyed, so that no list of the lost can be furnished.

Important from Mexico.—The telegraph has already notified us of the quasi-revolution in Mexico, in the making Comonfort Dictator.

A circular was issued from the Ministry of Justice on the 30th ult., formally declaring all decisions of the ecclesiastical courts, null and void in civil and criminal matters, in conformity with the 13th article of the constitution which denies to them all jurisdiction in the same. The civil ecclesiastical powers are henceforth in all things distinct.

A despatch dated city of Mexico, November 5, says:

The country continues in a state of disorganization, although there are no features of news which are not contained in the regular edition of the Extraordinary of yesterday.

The latest express from the South brought the intelligence that the Government forces, which so recently entered Cuernavaca, in triumph, had been completely routed near that place, and the revolutionists left in complete possession.

The government is authorized to acquire, by extraordinary means the sum of \$5,000,000; to increase the army to 15,000 men; to cede the right of way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, but without the right to alienate any portion of the public territory; to employ as many as 20,000 men of the National Guard, according to the exigencies of the public service; and to place in communities the forces that may be considered necessary, to the defence of the independence and preservation of public peace. These are the most important features of the bill.

The ravages of the Indians in all parts of the Republic are reported as greater than ever and there is apparently no improvement in the general social condition of the country. Depredations of bandits and robbers are reported on every side. Rumours of another Santa Anna expedition on the coast were again in circulation, but nothing seems to have been known.

Cast of the Utah Expedition.—From the following statement of the New York Courier &

Enquirer, the Utah expedition ought to be an effective one:

Not less than four millions of dollars have been expended in the commissary and quartermaster's departments of this expedition. The other expenses, thus far incurred, may be moderately estimated at two millions; so that the amount of appropriations thus far consumed in the enterprise is not less than six millions of dollars.

Heavy Snow Storms.—Chicago, Nov. 19.—We were visited with a very heavy snow storm last night, and several vessels are reported ashore.

Buffalo, Nov. 19.—Severe gales have been blowing here from the S. W. all day, accompanied with flurries of snow.

New York, Nov. 19.—It commenced raining here about seven o'clock, but afterwards changed to snow. It is now snowing hard, and the wind blowing a heavy gale.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—On Saturday, the 7th, shortly after the departure of the Niagara, the suspension of Messrs. Dennistoun & Co., one of the largest firms connected with the American trade in Great Britain, was announced. Their liabilities are estimated at something like £2,000,000 sterling. The head establishment of the house is in Glasgow, and there are branches in London and Liverpool, New York and New Orleans, and Melbourne, Australia; but the Melbourne firm is not compromised. The almost total cessation of remittances from America was the cause of the suspension. The private property of the partners is of great magnitude, and it is presumed the embarrassment will be but temporary.

It transpired that the liabilities of Messrs. Naylor, Nickers & Co., instead of amounting to a million sterling, did not exceed half that sum; that the stock of iron held by the firm in England and America is worth £270,000, and that every debt owing to them in America, is of a character on which any sound and prudent house might have implicitly relied.

On Monday, the 9th, the Bank of England raised its rate of discount from 9 to 10 per cent.

The Western Bank of Scotland at Glasgow, with a paid up capital of £1,500,000 and deposits supposed to amount to £6,000,000 sterling, closed its doors on the 9th. This Bank did an immense business in Glasgow, and had about 100 branches scattered over Scotland. The suspension caused great dismay, but as the proprietary numbers many very wealthy men, no eventual loss is feared. The Bank had an active connection with America and with American houses in Glasgow.

At a meeting of the shareholders of Borough Bank of Liverpool it was resolved to register the Bank under the Joint Stock Banking Companies act, and to hold a subsequent meeting to consider the propriety of winding up the affairs of the Bank.

A rumor prevailed in Liverpool on Wednesday, that the Bank of France had stopped payment, but it turned out to be merely a rise in the rate of discount.

The City of Glasgow Bank, at Glasgow, stopped payment this morning.

The Telegraph Cable.—The work of taking the Atlantic cable out of the Agamemnon, as well as the Niagara, had been completed. The cable is coiled in water-tight apartments, so as to admit of its being submitted to a variety of tests under water. During the whole of the winter, Mr Whitehouse, the Chief Electrician of the company, is to be engaged in experiments of a most interesting nature upon the cable, so as to ascertain not only its electric capabilities, but the rate at which each signal can be transmitted, and the effect which the different periods of the day, the temperature and state of the atmosphere have upon its conductivity. The attempt to lay the cable next year is to be made at the end of June or beginning of July; and it has been determined to resort to the plan originally contemplated—namely, to commence the submerging process in the middle of the Atlantic, the two vessels engaged sailing respectively for the shores of Newfoundland and Ireland. Three thousand miles of cable are to be coiled on the vessels, instead of two thousand six hundred, as in the first attempt, and the manufacture of the additional quantity has been commenced by Messrs. Glass & Elliot. The construction of the new paying-out machines has been intrusted to Messrs. Easton & Amos.

FRANCE.—The *Patrie* says that the French Government have under their consideration the modification of the law of interest of 1807.

The Directors of the Bank of France had had an audience with the Emperor, for the purpose of proposing a duty of 3 per cent on the exportation of the precious metals, are to be allowed to raise the rate of discount to 8 per cent. The proposition, it is said, was not accepted.

The French Government is understood to have approved of the conduct of its Minister at Constantinople in refusing to hold any intercourse with Redshid Pasha.

Court festivities were continued at Compaigne and a good deal of murmuring was heard in Paris that such should be the case during the severe commercial crisis.

Advices from the French manufacturing districts announces a complete stagnation in business.

RUSSIA.—A Russian War Steamer has been lost in the Caspian Sea. The captain, three Lieutenants, and 18 seamen were drowned.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

We were not a little surprised and disappointed when this mail arrived here yesterday afternoon, to learn that it did not bring the British mail, brought out by the Steamer America, which the telegraph informed us arrived at Halifax at 6 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday last—the same hour at which the mails are despatched from that city for this quarter. Could not the Courier be delayed a short time, or could not an express overtake before it reached Truro? We presume it was sent to Windsor, and from there across the Bay to St. John. The inhabitants of that city procured their mail in good time, but as for the people of the North—they must wait—they are not of sufficient importance for their interests to be looked after. Well, if the merchants are satisfied it is scarcely worth our while to grumble. Our subscribers will only have to wait a WEEK for a detailed report of the news.

We are indebted to the Westmorland Times for the following lengthy Telegraph report of the intelligence received by the Steamer at Halifax.

HALIFAX, December 2.

The America from Liverpool arrived at 6 o'clock this morning.

Monetary Crisis.—On Wednesday, 18th, applications at the Bank for discount increased rather than diminished, and list of failures was seriously extended. New suspensions included E. Sieveking & Son, in Swedish trade—liabilities about half a million sterling; Allan, Smith & Co. in Denmark trade—liabilities £100,000 stg.; Gorrison, Huffel & Co., general merchants, in consequence of American difficulties—liabilities about \$600,000 stg.; S. Tendsen & Johnson, Merchants—liabilities £40,000; Brocklesby & Wessels, corn importers, £40,000. The probability of further advance in bank rate was discussed, but large gold arrivals were regarded as likely to render such step unnecessary.

Funds were firm throughout the day. On Thursday, 19th ult., the Times says there was a decided amendment in all mercantile quarters not a single failure was reported, and some special causes of anxiety were removed. Same paper remarks, it is understood that the application which has been made within the last few days by a leading American house to Bank of England for large advance of securities furnished from private resources of the firm, has been most satisfactorily met and that all accommodation required will be fully granted. According to rumour, the requirements of the firm in question, one of the most eminent in the American trade, were nearly a million sterling, and according to the Daily News, the assistance received from the Bank after a long deliberation of the Directors, will, it is expected, enable the firm promptly to comply with the conditions under which the advances were made.

The pressure for money at the Bank was undiminished, indeed some authorities say it was more intense than ever, but the meeting of the Bank Directors broke up without making any advance in the rates of discount. Loans on Government securities were in active demand at ten per cent. At Hamburg, rate of discount receded to 8½. Private letters from Paris describe a better feeling there; some of American Houses were beginning to get remittances, and situation of Bank of France was improving.—At other continental cities there are indications of an approaching tendency to a revival of confidence. A large and very influential meeting had been held at Glasgow, for the purpose of expressing confidence in Scotch Banks; it was resolved to accept notes of the suspended Banks as currency.

Shipment of Silver to East, by Mail of 20th, only £318,000. Stoppage of Wolverhampton Bank caused many failures in the Iron districts representing in the aggregate a large sum.

London.—Commercial daily list of Friday evening says:—discount market has in some measure become more settled; timely assistance afforded by Bank of England has arrested the dire distress which otherwise would have occurred; we cannot quote rates lower than 10 or 12 per cent., which continues to be demanded, there is however, better feeling in all monetary departments, and good bills cease to be rejected; we confidently look forward to the day when confidence will be re-established.—Scott and Co., Queenstown, suspended, liabilities £100,000 to £200,000.

Very Latest.—By telegraph to Liverpool.—London, 21st.—Times' city article, Friday evening, the funds have been very steady to-day, and have closed at advance of ¼ per cent. Confirmation of statement made yesterday that advance required upon ample security on important American House would be fully granted. Absence of further serious failures during day, the only suspension mentioned being that of a firm of whose ultimate solvency there is apparently not the slightest doubt, a further improvement in foreign exchanges and prospect of about half a million of Australian gold being forthwith taken to Bank, and also of a considerable arrival by the Persia from York, all assisting to impart firmness. In foreign exchanges this afternoon rates for Amsterdam and Hamburg were rather higher, but Paris was about the same as last post. Rate of discount