

The Politician.

From Bombay to Bushire and Bassaro. By William Ashton Shepherd.

COMMERCIAL RESOURCES OF PERSIA.

We know of no country with more undeveloped resources, of one which would more readily repay English enterprise, than Persia; both in natural productions, such as gold, silver, sulphur, nitre, &c.; gems, such as pearls, diamonds, sapphires, turquoises, &c.; silks and wools, which make such rich dress fabrics, and carpets of unrivalled beauty, thousands of which never pass their shores; many vegetable productions of a fibrous and convertible nature; fine grains, especially barley and wheat; besides, horses, camels, and sheep, in abundance and perfection, yielding the wool that forms the above mentioned carpets; wines, fruits, and valuable drugs. All these, even in this present state of neglect and uncultivation, abound, produced in different localities, and spread over a large extent of country, but wanting concentration, the means of secure transit, and an available market. In days of yore, when resources of civilisation had not reached by two or three centuries our present advancement, a flourishing colony of Portuguese, at Hormuz, was established; and Karak, as we shall presently find, from a poor fishing port of two hundred souls, became an important Danish settlement of eleven thousand; of these, not a trace remains, except their ruined forts and some traditions. Such a country seems to ask for cultivation and development; for which ends it requires concentration, means of a secure transit, and a certain market; all of which it would find in railways, English factories, and European trade; and it is devoutly to be wished, that all these may be obtained and established by peaceful negotiation without the aid of cannon. The anchors are away, the paddles are beating the waters, and we are fast approaching the Island of Karak, slightly raised in the centre, looking pleasantly green, though treeless and showing a very fair beach, whereon the turtle love to bask. It is about twelve miles in length, and half of that number in width, abounding in grapes, melons, and many kinds of vegetables, and feeding some few head of cattle; it is also abundantly supplied with water, and inhabited principally by Arab pilots and fishermen, who live within the old fort, built in 1753 by the Dutch Baron Kniphhausen, under whom the Island became a flourishing settlement, and in the course of eleven years had a population of twelve thousand souls. Beyond the several caves cut in the rocks that served for the tomb of the Ghebers, or ancient fire worshippers, is a tomb erected in the year 1652 over the body of the celebrated Mahomedan Saint, Meer Hunniffa, and the ruins of a village destroyed in the year 1814 by the Wahabee Arabs. Karak is said to have been originally a Danish settlement, and the fair complexions and red beards of the fishermen and pilots may infirmly confirm the tradition of their origin. It was taken possession of by the East India Company in 1833, at the time that the Shah of Persia was paying more attention to Herat than was agreeable to the town or to the merchant princes, by whom it was held until the year 1841. The spot then selected for encampment will in all probability, be again occupied by the present expedition, and is on the south-east side of the Island. All firewood and provisions must be obtained from the Main, with the exception of such goats and sheep as the small island of Kargis in close proximity, can afford. The commissariat might be well supplied from the Arabian coast,—that portion of it under the Turkish Government, at the entrance of the Bassaro River,—where cattle, sheep, and corn are to be had in abundance, and cheaply; and might easily be carried thence by the smaller steamers of the Indian navy. Karak, which may be considered a healthy and pleasant island, possesses pearl oyster banks that have been for years unworked, and that for fineness and abundance would rival these of Barhen. It is situated in lat. 29° 15' 20" N., and lon. 50° 13' 50" E.; distance from Bushire about fifteen miles, whose governor it now acknowledges.

News of the Week.

UNITED STATES.

Walker Capitulated.—The telegraph brings authentic intelligence of the termination of the filibustering force in Nicaragua. Gen. Walker capitulated on the first day of the present month to Captain Davis, commanding the U. S. sloop-of-war, St. Mary's, and with his staff and 260 men, the remains of his army, were brought to Panama by the steamer Mariposa, whence they proceeded by the Grenada to Havana and by the Empire City to New Orleans, arriving at the last named port yesterday. It is stated that the Costa Ricans were not mentioned in the articles of capitulation, but no other facts in the history are stated. We must wait a few days for all particulars.

While rejoicing that this desperate adventure has at least terminated, we can scarcely refrain from expressing a regret that the chief mover in it has escaped the destruction into which he led so many unfortunate and unsuspecting men who were induced to become his followers; and that he is again let loose in the United States to plan new schemes of violence against other

powers with which the nation is at peace.—The prosecuting officers of the Government will fail in their duty, if they overlook the flagrant breaches of our neutrality laws, which have been committed in his support during the last year. If Walker can claim the protection of the government of the United States, he is certainly amenable to its laws.

The government of New Granada has ceded an Island in the Bay of Panama to England, in the settlement of the McIntosh claim, which had nearly caused a war between the two nations.

Supposed Murder of Judge Cunningham.—A letter in the New York Daily Times, dated Lawrence, K. T., May 18, says: "There has been a prevalent rumor for a day or two, that Judge Cunningham is killed. He left Kansas City three weeks ago for his court, at Fort Scott, and has not been heard from since. He was the only free-state judge in Kansas, and it is well known that he has been somewhat obnoxious to the pro-slavery men since his appointment."

Recapture of Children stolen by Mormons.—Some two months since it was stated that several children had been kidnapped at New Orleans by Mormons, who started for Texas to intercept the Salt Lake trail. The father, H. H. McLean, was absent in California at the time, but he returned and started in pursuit. Mr. McLean writes from Fort Gibson that he has intercepted the party, taken the children by force arrested Elder Pratt on the charge of stealing the clothes on the children's backs.—The deluded mother and wife was with the children, and she was placed in charge of the United States authorities.

New York, May 21, 1857.—Some new and important facts have come to light since the acquittal of Mrs. Cunningham. Among others it is asserted that Dr. Burdell was a large owner in a female gambling house in this city, one of the worst dens of infamy and crime; that he was on bad terms with the keeper, who had threatened him; that since the murder of Dr. Burdell, this gaming house has been closed; that the keeper and servants have disappeared, and cannot be found; and it is said that at the proper time it will be found out where Dr. Burdell passed the latter part of that last fatal day of his life, now so mysteriously hid.

Our city is in a state of semi-anarchy. The fear of collision between what is called the Albany Police, and Mayor Wood's Police, is taking strength every hour. It was rumoured to-day, in several sections of the city, that the two bodies had come in actual conflict. But the blow has not yet been struck. In three of the police stations, some of Mayor Wood's captains and officers have yielded, and gone over to Mr. Draper and new commission; and in the station houses a conflict of authority is going on. In the meantime, Mayor Wood and Mr. Justice Russell, the majority of the old board of commissioners, are trying and dismissing the revolting and refractory captains; and the new board recreated themselves yesterday in calling before them Geo. W. Matson—the old chief of police—who did not come, and in his absence, trying him; but the new commission thought it best to suspend sentence for the present.

Our people just at this moment do not seem to be very law abiding. The Excise Committee as it is termed, came to New York yesterday. Their business under the new liquor law, is to grant licenses to such as shall apply and bring the requisite qualifications. According to this new law, no one can sell one spoonful of liquor without crime, unless licensed by this Excise Committee. We have in New York six thousand grog shops. In good faith, the hall should have been crowded with applicants, anxious to continue the trade. But not one single application for license was made. The fact is, that the liquor dealers have combined to resist and defy the law. Frequent meetings of the Liquor Dealers' Association are held. But as the assembly meets in secret, no one can know outside exactly what is done. But it is generally understood that the sale of liquor is to be continued openly by the high and the low—and that a fund of \$300,000 is in the treasury and that the present state of things is in accordance with a resolution to test the new law to the utmost.—*Extract of a letter to the Boston Journal.*

CANADA.

With the present progress of Parliamentary business (says the Leader) it will be safe to assume that the Session cannot run many days into the month of June. From all we see we feel justified in assuming that the prorogation must take place about the 3rd of the next month. We hope this may be the case; for His Excellency the Governor General, who is about to pay a visit to England, is known to be anxious to patronize the Canadian line of steamers; and to enable him to realize this very proper preference, it would be necessary for His Excellency to start on the 4th proximo.

The Toronto Leader of Thursday says:—The House went into committee on the estimates last night about nine o'clock, and with that business spirit which has characterized it during the whole of the present session, went through every item by midnight. The statements and explanations of the financial minister were lucid and satisfactory. The Colonist complains of this haste as unseemly, and says the House was thin, only 30 or 40 members being present.

Wheat in Canada.—A gentleman who has just returned from a somewhat extensive trip through Upper Canada, informs the Rochester Democrat that nothing can exceed the promise

of the Wheat crop there, and unless some evil befall it, there will be an unusually bountiful harvest the present season. This is good news to bread customers.

Destructive Fire at Montreal, May 23.—A large and destructive fire broke out here at 4 o'clock this P. M. We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Bristow, of the Montreal Argus, for the following particulars:—It originated in Mulligan's Caledonian Hotel, corner of Grey Nun and Wellington streets. It communicated to the adjoining buildings in the latter street, and destroyed two brick dwelling houses, when it was checked by a plentiful supply of water. Unfortunately, some particles of burning wood from the houses on fire were blown some two hundred and fifty yards to the shed occupied by the Royal Mail Line of steamers, and to the large wooden Ship Chandlery Store, occupied by F. O. Mullins, both of which were destroyed. The quantity of combustible materials of every description in the latter place carried the fire to the store of Mr. Logan, which, although substantially built, and constructed with every security against fire, was totally consumed. We are unable to judge what quantity of property may have been stored in the last named building. It was considerable.—Fortunately, however, the bulk of the spring arrivals of the late firm of Campbell and Williamson have not yet reached. The property destroyed in Mr. Mullins' store, we hear, was partly, if not fully covered by insurance. As the water works do not extend to Common Street, the only supply obtained was from the river, where it was pumped with great zeal, the firemen doing good service. The military also lent some aid, working with a will that did them infinite credit. The ships in the harbour were for some time in imminent danger; the Anglo-Saxon and others were promptly removed from the wharf.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal.—The foundation stone of Christ's Church Cathedral and Parish Church was laid on Thursday afternoon with the usual ceremonies and service, in the presence of a vast concourse of persons who thronged the wide area, the windows and house-tops of the adjacent buildings, by Francis Fulford, Lord Bishop of Montreal.

The building is estimated to cost, exclusive of Organ, Clock and Bells, £32,200, of which sum £13,000 will have to be raised by subscriptions in the diocese, the balance available being the insurances received on the burned Church, and the proceeds of that portion of its site disposed of.

It is from the plans of the late Frank Willis Esq., of Gothic design and cruciform shape, having a central spire 210 feet in height, and will accommodate 1400 persons.—Mr. Scott is entrusted with carrying out the plans of the late Architect.

The situation is on Union Avenue, Beaver Hall, sufficiently elevated to make it when finished a prominent feature in the landscape.—*Montreal Commercial Advertiser.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Melancholy Accident.—A most melancholy event transpired on the St. John river, at the Negro Brook Rapid, near the mouth of the Allegash river last Wednesday morning, May 6th, about seven o'clock. A number of men having been discharged from the employ of Mr. Samuel Brayley, eleven of them got into a batteau and proceeded on Tuesday down to the mouth of the Alle ash, where they remained all night intending next day to proceed to Fort Kent, and there await further employment, or otherwise return to their homes. On the following morning they continued their course until they came to Negro Brook rapid, and finding that they had come in a somewhat dangerous place, the man in the stern cried out to the one in the bow to put out into the stream, but he seemed to take no particular heed, and he cried again and again, but he still did not regard until, finding the peril in which they were involved, the man in the stern suddenly seemed to become paralyzed, and used no effort to free them from danger, and the batteau struck with great force a large stick lodged in the rapid; the side of the batteau was knocked in, and the whole of them were precipitated into the water and, melancholy to relate, five of them found a watery grave. Four swam to the shore, and two clung to the batteau, and were rescued by their companions. The bodies of the unfortunate men have not been heard of since, and will not probably be found until the freshest subsidies. The following are the names of the missing ones with their actual or supposed late places of residence. Owen McCormack, Maria, Bonaventure County, Canada; John Hall, New Richmond County, Canada; David Taylor, Restigouche, N. B. Edward Grant, Old Town, Maine; Joseph Quillett, Old Town, Maine.—When drowned McCormack was clothed in grey homespun trousers, blue satinette frock and belt over, and is supposed to have had about \$135 in his pocket; Hall was dressed in a black reefing jacket, and had on a pair of white overalls, and had about \$120 in his pocket; Grant was dressed in a homespun shirt and overalls and had only a small amount of money with him, together with an order of S. Brayley's for the amount due him; Taylor was dressed in a yellow oil-skin coat, and satinette pantaloons, and had about £30 in his pocket; Quillett (a Frenchman) was dressed in a red shirt and overalls, and had but a small amount of money with him.—*Christian Visitor.*

The Steamer Westmorland is again on the route to Dorchester, the Bend, &c. She has a new Engine, and has been thoroughly refitted so as to be now one of the fastest and safest boats plying in the Bay of Fundy.—*St. John Freeman.*

We understand that the Government have engaged the Steamer Rosebud for the mail service between Shediac and Summerside, for the present season. We consider this the most important improvement on our great highway that has been effected for some years past. The great traffic must be between P. E. Island and New Brunswick, via the Shediac Railroad, which is expected to be opened in another month. We are pleased to see that our Island Steamer—the Rosebud—has at last met with some encouragement from our Government.—*Charlottetown Monitor, May 23.*

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—Paris.—The news from France is of an important kind:—The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia is about closing his visit; and his Majesty the King of Bavaria has succeeded the Imperial Duke. When the latter went to Vincennes, they showed him some portable iron embrasures for protecting the gunners. "You borrowed that idea from us Russians," said the Duke. The officer on duty respectfully admitted that the French Engineers had found it behind the ramparts of the Greg Mamelon. The Duke did not appear much delighted with this reply, which reminds one of Lord Dudley's rejoinder to the Countess d'Appony, at Vienna. "How badly all you Englishmen speak French," said the Austrian Lady. "Ah," said Lord D., "but you must remember that we have not had the advantage of having our capital twice occupied by a French army."

RUSSIA.—St. Petersburg. The Imperial family remain at their summer residence, in excellent health. The Empress is going on, after her confinement, as well as could be wished. Of political intelligence, the papers are completely barren. From the Crimea we learn that twenty-four ships of the sunken fleet have already been raised in the harbour of Sebastopol. The American company is straining every nerve to fulfil its engagements, and hopes to raise the ships still remaining under water.—The steamer Kherston, one of those already raised, is plying as she used to do, in the Black Sea, before the war.

On occasion of his birthday the Emperor issued a further amnesty, extending his pardon and mercy still further than that published at the time of his coronation.

AUSTRIA.—The suicide of Baron Rietzenstein has produced a great sensation at Vienna. This officer was in the Imperial Guard, and had received orders to repair to Buda, where the guard figured at the entry of the Emperor and Empress. On the following day the Baron disappeared. A letter, found with his will, stated that unfortunate speculations on the Bourse had driven him to commit suicide.—His body was found floating in the Danube.

PRUSSIA.—Berlin.—The betrothal of Prince Frederick William of Prussia, with the Princess Royal of England is published in the *Staats Anzeiger* (official Gazette) of the 17th, as a piece of most gratifying intelligence.

Prince Napoleon's Visit.—It is stated, in quarters generally well informed, that one object of Prince Napoleon's visit, has been to arrange a meeting of sovereigns, to take place at Dresden, or Aix-la-Chapelle. Another account states that the Prince's visit is connected with a matrimonial view—to ask of the King of Prussia (as head of the family), the hand of the Princess Hohenzollern, who is yet under twenty years of age.

NEUCHÂTEL.—The Prussian ambassador in Paris, has received such final instructions on the Neuchâtel question as will enable him to sign the convention proposed by the allied representatives. This, it is hoped, will be done in a day or two. The compensation clause was only retained so long, in order to induce Switzerland to other concessions, but when it was found they could not be obtained, his Majesty struck out the compensation as unworthy his dignity.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.—Constantinople.—Accounts come down to the 16th. The treaty of peace between Persia and England, was ratified on the 14th of April, at Teheran, and forwarded on the 17th to Bagdad.

Advices from Circassia of the 19th April, state that Mehemet Bey has removed his head quarters to Sipsouh. Sefer Pacha has 40,000 naibs under his orders, and, in consequence of the adhesion of different tribes, Mehemet Bey could assemble 80,800. Accounts from Mesopotamia of the 5th state that the revolt of the Kurds has been quelled.

Accounts from Constantinople state that the mountaineers, under the orders of the son of Schamy, are said to have repulsed a body of 4000 Russians near Shalish.

Syria.—The son of the former Emir of Beyrout, Emir Bechir, has expired, it is supposed from poison. The Arabs in the neighbourhood of Damascus have revolted, but, in a conflict between them and some regular troops, 180 of them were killed. Admiral Ponet has saved the steamer Arcadia, laden with a thousand pilgrims, bound for Jerusalem.

PERSIA.—The summary of the Bombay Times contains copious details of the proceedings in the Persian Gulf, with the treaty of Mohammedah; and also the news of the Treaty of Peace with Persia having been accepted.

The Bengal papers are filled with particulars of the mutiny of the 19th regiment, Native Infantry, which ended in the disbandment of that corps, and the spread of disaffection to the 34th Regiment, Native Infantry. Every precaution had been taken by the authorities; and there was no fear that any evil would arise from these outbursts.