

## The Politician.

## BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Weekly Times.

## MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

There are two points on which we believe the people of this country are all but unanimous—first, that we shall always have a military establishment sufficient for national defence in the event of an attempt at invasion, and for the protection of our colonial possessions; and next, that our army shall be kept in such a state of efficiency and preparation as to avert the recurrence of disasters like those which dimmed the brightness of victory in the late war. The maintenance of a large army in time of peace causes an abstraction of useful labour from productive industry, and an unnecessary drain on the pecuniary resources of the country. It has been found that states which habitually and systematically keep up vast standing armies, although they may be able to bring a larger number of men into the field on the outbreak of hostilities, are usually incapable of the exertions and sacrifices incident to a prolonged contest. We need only point to the late war, in which we saw the army that cost the Czar Nicholas twenty years and countless treasure to create and to organise, broken in two campaigns, and the country, exhausted by previous efforts, unable to repair the losses. We saw also, that France with her immense standing army was seriously embarrassed after two years of war, when England was only beginning to put out her strength. We are singularly favored by our free institutions and our insular position. We do not require a military force, as in some foreign countries for the preservation of internal order, and it is no longer necessary to maintain a large garrison in Ireland. As regards other nations, we need not maintain an army larger than is necessary to guard against sudden and unexpected attacks. The navy is our great bulwark, but we should be imprudent if we were to place our sole reliance on our naval means. Steam has to a great extent made a bridge that unites us more closely with the rest of Europe, and places us in some of the conditions of a continental power. The late war showed how rapidly large numbers of armed men may be conveyed by sea. The Crimea is five thousand miles distant from England, and three thousand from France, yet it was found possible to transport a force of between three and four hundred thousand men and some eighty thousand horses to the seat of war in less than six months. The rapidity with which the allied armies and their accumulated stores were brought home on the conclusion of peace was still more remarkable. It would be possible to embark twenty thousand men at Cherbourg and to convey them to an undefended point of our coast almost before we could have notice. For these reasons we must always have a military force sufficient to meet sudden danger and to crush an incipient invasion. Furthermore, we ought not to throw out of our calculations the possibility of actual warfare; and we shall always do well in remembering the warning of General Williams—"Woe to the nation that neglects the military art." We are a free and a rich people. The despots who wield the fleets and armies of Europe detest our political system, and would gladly make any sacrifice for its destruction. Our manufacturing and commercial prosperity, and our stores of wealth, excite envy and attract cupidity. If we desire peace, we must be prepared for war; and we shall best avert attack by showing that we have the power of effectual resistance. Looking to all the circumstances, we entirely concur with Lord Palmerston, that while on the one hand we should take care that our military establishment is not numerically larger than is really required for the emergencies of the time; on the other hand, having, as we ought to have, a comparatively small military establishment, it ought to be so organised as to be capable of speedy and great enlargement, and to contain within it those elements of science which are becoming every year more necessary for military establishments. The general plan sketched by the Premier is directed less to the augmentation of the numerical force of the army than to the increase of its efficiency, and to the supply of deficiencies which were severely felt at the commencement of the late war. There is no increase proposed in the Infantry of the line, but the Cavalry, the Artillery, and the Engineers are to have an addition to their numbers. This is a reasonable and economical arrangement; for an infantry soldier may be made in a few months, while it takes, we believe, nearly two years to train a cavalry man, and in the Artillery and Engineers a much longer period of instruction is necessary. Success in modern war depends materially on the efficiency of the artillery of an army, and an untrained artillery is of little use in the field. The engineers require more scientific knowledge, skill, and experience than any other corps in the service, and they are as useful in peace as they are necessary in war. As neither the one nor the other corps can be improvised on the outbreak of war, it is most desirable to keep them permanently in a state of efficiency. The want of means of land transport and of skilled hospital attendants caused much suffering in the early part of the late war. To provide against this in the future, two new corps have been formed—one the Field Train, and the other the Hospital Staff. The total increase proposed with respect to

numbers is a little short of seven thousand officers and men, and the increase of charge upon the land force as compared with the year before the war, amounts to six hundred and thirty-six thousand pounds. Another large item of expenditure is for fortifying our dockyards and arsenals, and for the protection of some of our commercial ports and certain exposed parts of our coasts, where it would be possible for an adventurous enemy to effect a landing. As these are purely defensive measures of the first necessity, it would be unpatriotic to grumble at the cost. If it be possible, as is alleged, for a small army to shell Portsmouth, Plymouth, Sheerness, and Pembroke from the land side, that is clearly a state of things which ought not to be permitted to continue. If our naval resources in these dockyards were destroyed, we should be left comparatively defenceless, and we can only hope that the measures proposed by the Government will be effective for their purpose. After fortifications come barracks, and improved accommodation for our soldiers. In the forthcoming discussion on the details of the estimates we trust that strict inquiry will be made on this head, and that a check will be imposed on the tendency of all Governments to cumber the soil with unnecessary buildings for the benefit of contractors. With this saving clause we cannot object to anything intended for the promotion of the physical and intellectual improvement of our soldiers. Lord Palmerston promises the construction of sufficient barrack accommodation for all the troops retained at home; that the married men shall be provided for separately from the rest of their comrades, and that the men shall have places of recreation, reading-rooms and libraries. The clothing of the army has been greatly improved at a comparatively small additional cost to the country, and care is also to be taken of the education of the soldiers. Improvements in small arms are to be continued; and it is expected that before long the Enfield rifle will be in the hands not only of the infantry of the line, but also of the militia, who are now armed with the old "Brown Bess." The manufacture of heavy ordnance will be proceeded with actively, until our ships and forts are provided with guns as great as any that can be brought against them. These are the general heads of our military expenditure for the year, as stated by the Premier on Monday evening. There is a considerable reduction as compared with the last year of the war, and as excess over the year which preceded hostilities with Russia. Lord Palmerston explains that part of the excess is on account of unexecuted contracts, and other temporary causes, and he expects that "the greater portion of the aggregate excess beyond the estimates of the year 1852-3 will cease during the present year." We may, therefore, take it that the Government regard the sum of seven millions and a-half as the lowest amount to which the army estimates can safely be reduced in time of peace.

## News of the Week.

## EUROPE.

## FOUR DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

New York, July 20.—We have four days later news from Europe, brought by the steamships Vanderbilt and Atlantic, both of which arrived at this port from Southampton and Liverpool respectively, during yesterday. The Vanderbilt left Southampton at eight o'clock in the evening of the 8th inst., and arrived off the light ship at an early hour yesterday morning, where she was detained by a dense fog for some time, and finally reached her dock about noon, bringing us London papers dated on her day of sailing. During the last six days of the passage the Vanderbilt ran through such a heavy fog that no observation could be taken on board. The Atlantic left Liverpool about eleven o'clock on the morning of the 8th inst., and arrived here at six o'clock yesterday evening, with files of European papers dated from 4th to 7th July. Cotton had slightly advanced in the Liverpool market, which was animated and firm. Flour had declined, owing, no doubt, to the prospects of an excellent harvest in Europe. Sugar was again lower, and the demand both for that article and molasses was entirely suspended in Liverpool on the 7th inst. In the London money market consols ranged from 92 3-8 to 92 1-2. The market was considerably depressed in consequence of the announcement of the defeat of the government candidates at the elections in the city of Paris. This event is, in fact, the great feature of the news. The second series of elections, which included a contest in the third, fourth, and seventh districts of Paris, commenced on Sunday morning, July 5th, and terminated next day in the return of General Cavaignac, and M. M. Thibaut, Lanquetin and Varen, the nominees of Napoleon. It is evident from the tone of the London press that the triumph of the republicans is regarded as a very serious matter with respect to the position and future prospects of the Emperor. His Imperial Majesty was preparing for a visit to England. Count de Morny had been named President of the Legislative body of France.

The English Parliament was still engaged in the consideration of the new proposition for re-opening the African slave trade, and the Palmerston cabinet had almost acknowledged that it would be impossible, under the plan of the 'free labor' supply, to avoid the horrors of the barbarous original traffic. However, it would likely be tried, although the famous Napoleon contract with the M. M. Regis had been officially

condemned by the Colonial Council of the important sugar producing colony of Martinique. Members objected to the principle of the movement in toto, and none with more vehemence than an honorable gentleman of African descent. As the Emperor's contract was, however, perfected, eight hundred negroes (instead of thousands) would be taken by the colonists on trial.

Mr Roebuck's motion for the abolition of the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland was rejected in the House of Commons, on the 7th inst., by 266 votes against 151. The Times, of the subsequent day, in a leading editorial, denounces the court at Dublin as a spurious thing, a bad imitation and a downright imposture.

In the House of Commons, the government was twice defeated upon motions to amend the pending Probate bill.

In reply to an inquiry, Lord Palmerston announced the opposition of the government to the projected Suez canal.

During a horticultural fête at Shrewsbury, a bridge, supported on boats, by means of which the grounds were reached, gave way, and a dozen or more persons were drowned.

The Earl of Mornington has died very suddenly, but a coroner's jury found that it was from natural causes. The Earl's life was insured for about a quarter of a million sterling.

The British Administrative Reform Association, after a feeble existence of three years, and an expenditure of about £50,000, has ceased to exist.

The work of shipping the sub-marine telegraph cable was going briskly forward on board the Niagara and the Agamemnon. Upon the latter they were taking in fifty-four miles in every twenty-four hours, working day and night, and up to Monday evening, the 6th inst., they had got 669 miles on board. The whole was expected to be on board the Agamemnon by the 20th of July, so that by the 25th that vessel would be on her way to Cork to join the Niagara.

The revolution on the Italian frontier was ended, but the States still remained very quiet. It was said that the movement was aimed chiefly against the King of Naples and the Pope. In the Turin Chamber of Deputies it was proclaimed that Mazzini and an English lady were the chief instigators of the revolt. The lady had been banished.

Insurrectionary movements, murders and robberies were very frequent in the south of Spain, and reports were current in Madrid with respect to a revolt among the artillerymen at Malaga. The mail between Seville and Madrid had been stopped by a large body of armed men.

Advices from Constantinople state that a Russian steamship flying the British flag had entered the Circassian ports of Ghelenjik and Soudjac Kaleh, and seized the merchandise found in several vessels.

It was expected that the silk crop of Europe would be very deficient. The drain of Silver to the East still continued.

ITALY.—The Disturbances in Italy.—The Liverpool Mercury gives the following summary of the latest news from Italy:

The recent attempts at insurrection in Italy are now stated to have been the work of Mazzini and the Republican party; and most of the London journals condemn this fiery chief for his mad attempts, which serve to bring the cause of Italian independence into disrepute, to strengthen the hands of the despots, and to shed uselessly human blood. One writer (the Paris correspondent of the Morning Post) affirms that Mazzini is nothing but an agent of Austria, whose hand he discerns in the movement. The loss of life in the triple outbreak has been larger than was at first supposed. According to a dispatch of the 3rd from Naples, two engagements took place on the frontier of Calabria between the insurgents and royal troops, in the first of which the insurgents had one hundred men killed, and in the second thirty. At that date the insurrection is said to have been completely put down at all points. At Genoa only one man was killed—a sergeant, who was on duty at Fort Diamante when it was suddenly seized by a band of fifty men, nearly all of whom were afterwards captured by the soldiery, and many of whom proved to be foreigners.

At Leghorn the movement seems to have been of a more serious character. On the night of the 30th June several armed men attacked the principal guardhouse of the town, but were repulsed. Another party attacked a second guardhouse, but were likewise unsuccessful. At the same time, several isolated Carabineers were stabbed. The disturbance recommenced on the following morning, and continued during the day. When the steam packet Giorgio sailed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 1st July, the firing of musketry was still heard. The gates were closed, the inhabitants were in consternation, and the shops were shut. The insurgents who were taken prisoners were instantly shot in the streets. A detachment of troops of the line, who were stationed in the square, having received some shots from the window of a house, took possession of the house, in which they found ten individuals, three of whom were bayoneted, and the other seven shot. An artillery officer who was attacked in the street, having captured one of his assailants, handed him over to the soldiers and he was shot on the spot. On the 3rd inst., Leghorn is described as tranquil.

It is further said that the Sardinian and Neapolitan governments had been apprised a month since by the French police that such a movement was in contemplation by the Mazzinians.

CHINA.—Famine in China.—The 'Friend of China' of May 9, received by the last overland mail, says that the famine prevailing in that country exceeds all the oldest living man has ever witnessed. The rebels are making progress, the capital of the province of Kwang Si, Kwei-Lung, having fallen into their hands. In the province of Kwangtung, the famine is so severe that even the women are forming themselves in bands of robbers, and have seized the sword and gone forth plundering in order to obtain sustenance.

RUSSIA.—The Belgian correspondent of the London Times says the most prominent feature of the new Russian tariff is the admission of iron of almost all kinds at a duty, while formerly it was prohibited, cotton goods are all reduced considerably, and in some cases to one fourth of the former duty; linen, however, only to about one-half. The duty of raw sugar is lowered, and refined sugar, formerly prohibited, now enters at five roubles per rood.

The Russian papers announce the discovery of extensive fields of coal, and strata of iron, the latter in the Crimea.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times says that Mr Seymour, the American Minister, is recalled.

PERSIA.—Advices from Teheran report that Mr Murray, the British Minister, had demanded that a regiment of the Indian army should accompany him on his entree into Teheran, which demand the Persian government has refused to submit to.

No later advices from India.

The elections for the new Belgian Chamber were progressing favorably for the liberal party.

The shipments of specie to the east from France, amounted to £1,637,266 for the present year. From England the shipments have averaged about a million and a half per month. The flow of gold into the Bank of England continued active.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times says that the insurrection in Naples is put down. Two engagements between the insurgents and the royal troops are stated to have taken place on the frontiers of Calabria.

Trade was quiet in Paris. Accurate information as to the silk crop states the result at half a crop in the south of France. Some localities will give 75 per cent. A decline in the price of corn is apparent. The harvest in France and Italy are most promising.

## Arrival of the "Circassian" at Newfoundland.

St. John's, N. F., July 22.

The steamer Circassian, Capt. Powell, from Liverpool, 11th inst., arrived at this port at 4 1-2 o'clock this afternoon.

The steamer Asia, for New York, sailed from Liverpool the same day the Circassian left.

The English House of Lords have defeated the Jewish Oaths Bill by 34 majority.

Naples is tranquil.

There have been further slight disturbances in Spain.

A slave vessel, named the Adams Gray, of New Orleans, has been captured and condemned, at Sierra Leone.

In Parliament the government have asked for half a million pounds each, on account of the Chinese and Persian wars.

Notice has been given of a resolution to continue the present duty on tea and sugar, for two years from next April.

Thackeray has been nominated for Parliament from Oxford.

Lord Palmerston promises a government surveillance in regard to the supply of free negroes to the French West Indies.

The submarine cable is expected to be all on board the Niagara by the 20th of July.

The French "Assemblée Nationale" has been suspended for two months, in consequence of an election article.

The Bank of France returns show a loss of specie.

At the second election in France, Madenez, and some opposition candidates were returned.

Disturbances have occurred at Uzeria, Spain, but suppressed.

The Spanish Cortez have passed a gag law on the press.

There have been no further demonstrations at Naples. The details of the outbreak show a considerable loss of life.

Mazzini has escaped from Italy.

The King of Prussia is on a visit to the Emperor of Austria.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

The Great Gig Race.—About a quarter of an hour before the time appointed for starting, the Halifax Gig—the Wide Awake,—glided up the harbor, took her position off the Pyramus. It was some time before the Neptune, the St. John boat, made her appearance; but she was at length brought out by her crew from a boat shed of the Dock Yard, and carefully launched. She flitted about for some time in the basin formed by the Pyramus, Indus, and the projecting points of the Dock Yard shore, affording spectators some chance to see what kind of an article she was. It was obvious to every one that the Neptune could with no more propriety be called a "Gig" than a "Whale Boat." Judging merely from seeing her at some yards distance, in the water, we should say that she was a sort of cross between a Thames wherry and an Esquimaux canoe.—She was covered in, with the exception of the space in which the rowers sat, with canvass, or some other lighter substance; was "built" outside the very light framework, as we were informed, of mahogany, veneering; and was so