

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Weekly Times of May 3.
THE INSURRECTION AT SARAWAK.

Sir James Brooke's letter, which we print in another column, will do much to alter our preconceived notions respecting the people of the central flowery nation. It has been the custom to regard the Chinese as a patient, industrious, ingenious people, given to the cultivation of learning according to their own lights; timid, retiring, generally shy of intercourse with foreigners, and the reverse of warlike. Accounts reached us of cruelties perpetrated on missionaries, and of wholesale massacres directed by miscreants of the Yeh class; but we regarded these as exceptional acts, due to the superstition of the priests or the tyranny of a Government notoriously careless of human life in a country where the population habitually exceeds the means of subsistence. We apportioned our blame, horror, and detestation to the usurping Tartars, and we gave all our pity to a mild, unresisting, and suffering people.—The Chinese race, who cannot find room for their numbers on the soil of China, and who cover the rivers with their floating dwellings, have been for a long time throwing out swarms which have migrated to the British settlements in the Indian Archipelago, to the islands of the Pacific, to California, to Australia, and even to the West Indies. British Colonists have welcomed them as useful and peaceful labourers, never dreaming that any harm was to be dreaded from people outwardly so patient and humble. The result is that a large Chinese population exists in many of our colonies and settlements, which, since the rupture at Canton, has in some places become an element of danger.—It has been discovered that these people so laborious and so penurious, who appeared solely intent on the accumulation of dollars, can under certain conditions, become as ferocious and murderous as they are cunning and designing. We have now the testimony of facts and of a competent witness, that they are deformed by all the worst vices of the Asiatic character. Sir James Brooke states that wherever there is a Chinaman there is the conceit of supremacy and the desire of dominion; and wherever they are associated in bodies, this lust of rule grows stronger. At Sarawak there was a large Chinese community, numbering about five thousand souls. They thought themselves strong enough to upset the Government, and to take possession of the settlement for themselves.—Their project was not of sudden growth, but had been long entertained and slowly matured. They were in communication with their fellow countrymen at Singapore and elsewhere, and they appeared to have imbibed some peculiar ideas of British power and policy. We cannot suppose that they had read the recent debates in our Parliament, or that they were familiar with the speeches of Mr Cobden and Mr Bright, or with the publications of the Peace Society; yet they were possessed with the opinion that "the murder of Sarawak officers and the Sarawak Rajah would be a matter of supreme indifference to the British nation, provided that trade was continued, and cottons sold." This is a practical satire on a certain class of politicians amongst us, but not of us, which would be amusing, but for the tragical result. If we did not know the obstinacy of the men who seek to place what they conceive to be the interests of commerce and manufactures, above every consideration of national honour and dignity, we should hope that the transactions at Sarawak would teach them a useful lesson. These are the men who would hand our colonies over to the first invader, and who would not care to see liberty perish from the face of the earth, so long as they could secure low customs' tariffs. We shall not be surprised even now to hear them denouncing Rajah Brooke, and maintaining the right of the Chinese residents to revolutionise Sarawak on commercial principles.—But to return—acting on their view of British policy, the Chinese considered that their object would be obtained by the destruction of the existing Government. Their plan was to murder Sir James Brooke and his officers, but to preserve the other Europeans for the purpose of carrying on trade. They only desired to change the Government, and to obtain power, but otherwise to make as little change as possible. It is probable that the Chinese at Sarawak had heard an exaggerated version of the transactions at Canton—that the British had been defeated, and that they were unable to make head against the forces of Yeh. Sir James Brooke has ascertained that an emissary from the leader of the Chinese rebellion had arrived at Sarawak, and this person may have given the signal for insurrection. On the night of the 17th of February, the Chinese, in great numbers, descended the river in boats to Kuchin, the seat of Rajah Brooke's Government, and succeeded in surprising the forts. They surrounded the house of the Rajah, and his escape was almost miraculous. For the details of murder, plunder, and incendiarism, we refer to the powerful narrative of Sir James Brooke. The Chinese adhered to their original purpose, and they spared the lives of the Bishop and the other Europeans, while they expressed their resolution to exterminate all the officers of the company. They were perfectly successful in the first part of their plan, but, as Sir James remarks, they forgot the native element, and "the feelings and ferocity of the native population." When the Chinese appeared completely victorious, and the Rajah reduced to the

last extremity, had no hope except in procuring a Malay force from Sakarran, a steamer belonging to the company hove in sight. He boarded her and at once returned to Kuchin.—He drove the Chinese out of the town, recovered some arms and ammunition, and with characteristic energy raised and armed the Malays and Dyaks, who pay him an implicit allegiance. Then began a terrible retaliation. The Chinese were driven into the jungle, and hunted like wild beasts. Upwards of a thousand were killed, and double that number perished of starvation in the jungle. Out of a population of five thousand, not two thousand escaped, and of these half the number was composed of women and children. Their settlement was destroyed, and "not a roof-tree left to cover their dastard heads in the country." For the future it was intended not to allow the Chinese to be associated in companies, and to keep them in strict subjection.

All must admire the promptness, the courage, and the ready resources of Sir James Brooke.—He eminently possesses the qualities necessary for ruling rude and barbarous tribes. At the same time, we cannot read of the extermination of thousands, in which many innocent may have perished with the guilty, without a feeling of horror and compassion. There are cases, however, in which we must make our feelings subordinate to our judgment. It is but right to assume that Rajah Brooke was not animated by mere revenge or a lust for carnage. He knew the people with whom he had to deal, and he says the lesson was not too severe for the occasion. We have no doubt that it will strike terror throughout the Archipelago, and it will probably obviate the necessity for similar bloodshed elsewhere. We, too, may learn a lesson from the transactions at Borneo. It is clear that the Chinese regard us as a pitiful set of traders, who will submit to any amount of insult and outrage for permission to sell opium and cottons. We must remove that impression and make them feel our power before we can hope for permanent peace or security to life and property in the China seas. The insurrection at Sarawak throws a new light on the conduct of Yeh at Canton.

From the London Weekly Times.
MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

The Brothers Peel have ceased to be members of her of Majesty's Government. We do not know why the good humoured, although open-mouthed and indiscreet, Sir Robert has resigned his seat at the Board of Admiralty, and we could have better spared a better man. It may be that he apprehends a visit from the Grand Duke Constantine, and does not like to come into official contact with the High Admiral of Russia. We do not believe that the Prince de Ligne is coming over as Belgian ambassador, and we attach as little credit to the rumour that Sir Robert retires in obedience to a suggestion from the Premier. Lord Palmerston is not a stern and rigid chief, but good-tempered and easy with his colleagues and subordinates while they obey orders, and give him his own way. Neither do we think that he has thrown up office through sympathy for Mr Frederick; for although he is, no doubt, united to that young model of official propriety by ties of natural affection, we doubt whether there is any community of sentiment between the brothers. The fact probably is, that Sir Robert Peel felt trammelled in a ministerial position which conferred neither dignity nor influence. His fortune makes him independent of salary; he has not the statesman's ambition or the qualities necessary to command in the Senate; and he may indulge in a natural wish for full liberty to follow his own erratic fancies. The resignation of Mr Frederick Peel is not voluntary. The electors of Bury declined the honour of being represented by him, and he would have little chance in any but a nomination borough, even if there were any place open to him. No seat, no Under-Secretaryship, and so the services of Mr Frederick Peel are lost to the Department of War.—We cannot affect a sorrow that we do not feel at the political extinction of this gentleman, which we sincerely hope may prove more than temporary. He was cradled and swathed in red tape, and he is the very impersonation of routine. He sat in Parliament some eight years, and has been in office, with a short interval, since 1851. He had his father's name, and the reputation of a studious youth, to recommend him; but during his brief public career he has not exhibited one spark of genius, or any sign of administrative capacity. No one could hear him without pain going through the ordinary routine of proposing the army estimates, and none who have witnessed it can ever forget the cool and rapid impertinence of his replies to questions put to him across the House. We have always wondered how the Ministry contrived to drag on with such a dead weight, and cannot doubt that Lord Palmerston is sincerely grateful to the electors of Bury for having relieved him of his Under-Secretary for War. Mr Peel is to be sworn in of the Privy Council, and he will carry with him into private life the title of Right Honourable. An empty dignity is the fitting reward for his official services.

Sir John Ramsden succeeds Mr Peel in the War Department. This appointment is in every respect satisfactory. Sir John is a young man of large property, gifted with popular sympathies and liberal tendencies. In the last Parliament he achieved considerable success, and he is regarded as a rising politician. He is a pledged Reformer, and he has given proof of his sincerity by recording his vote in favour of the ballot. It has been noticed to his credit that,

although possessed of extensive property in Huddersfield, he has never attempted to avail himself of the influence which may be supposed to attach to the circumstance in his own favour, and he has strictly abstained from using it to the advantage or disadvantage of any candidate for the borough. Sir John Ramsden entered upon political life with the advantages and many of the opinions of the late Sir William Molesworth, and he bids fair to run as honourable a career, we hope not to be so prematurely closed.

Other changes are spoken of as in prospect. It must be confessed that Lord Cranworth, however learned as a lawyer, has proved a failure as Lord Chancellor. Many candidates are named as desirous of taking his place. Lord Campbell, who once filled the office of Lord Chancellor in Ireland, and who now enjoys the dignity of Lord Chief Justice of England, is said to be desirous of ending his political life on the wool-sack. Another rumour designates Vice-Chancellor Sir Page Wood as the successor of Lord Cranworth. It is not possible to select any lawyer who would be more acceptable to the profession and the public. Sir Page Wood is distinguished amongst our equity judges for the extent and soundness of his learning, and for amenity and patience rare even on the bench of justice. But Sir Richard Bethal interposes his claim as Attorney-General. Sir Richard is an able lawyer, and his fee-book bears golden testimony to the public appreciation of his talents as an advocate. We should prefer, however, to see something like progressive promotion. Sir Page Wood is a more able lawyer, and has proved himself an accomplished judge. Why not elevate the tried man to the Chancellorship, and give the untried man an opportunity of proving himself in the lesser but still important post of Vice-Chancellor?—Whoever may be his successor however, all law reformers will be glad to see the retirement of Lord Cranworth from a responsibility, and from duties more onerous than he can bear or discharge.

It is said also that Lord Panmure desires to be relieved of the cares of the War Department, which he reluctantly undertook, and Mr Sidney Herbert is designated as his successor.—Mr Herbert's ability is beyond question, and his talents would be a welcome aid to a Ministry more than ordinarily weak in debating power; but there is much for which he needs the public forgiveness.

Communications.

MY FADED FLOWER.

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God endureth forever."
—Holy Scripture.

I had a flower—a tiny flower,
Of graceful form and brilliant hue—
I loved to watch its buds unfold,
And oft its modest beauties view.

I loved it! 'twas affection's gift,
And could a joyous thrill impart—
Breathing of friendship warm and true,
From the deep fountain of the heart.

But ah! like all of hope and joy,
Too long on earthly treasure stay'd,
I loved, only to mourn my loss,
To see it bloom,—then droop, and fade!

It stirr'd sad memories in my soul,
Recalling happy days of yore;
When kindred hearts were link'd in love,
Hearts, that now throb on earth no more!

A while they bloom'd in beauty here,
The fairest in home's genial bower,
Shedding love's fragrance round their path,
Then wither'd—like my faded flower!

But though the grass so soon must fade,
The flow'ret wither and decay;
Though death must sever dearest ties,
And cherish'd dreams must pass away;

There is one hope on which to rest,
One guide to make our path secure:
One promise, that when all else fail,
The Word of God shall still endure!

THERESE.

Chatham.

DEATHS.

On Sunday, the 17th inst., MARY, the beloved wife of Mr Donald M'Donald, of Chatham, aged 50 years.

At Cocaigne, on the 16th inst., after a lingering illness, Mr JOHN KELLY, in the 46th year of his age, leaving a widow and five children to mourn their loss.

On Friday, the 15th inst., at the Mill Cove, below Douglastown, Mrs JANET M'DIARMID, in the 73rd year of her age, leaving a large circle of relations and friends to mourn their loss. "Her end was peace."

BOWSER'S HOTEL.

ARRIVALS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Robert Morrow, Liverpool; Isaac N. Anderson, St. John; Ora Patten, New Hampshire; James Allen, Pietou; L. P. W. DesBrisay, M. P. P., Richibucto; Mr Mitchell, Mount Desert.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1857.

TERMS.—New Subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old Subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 15s. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Full Moon 7th 1h 1m P. M. HIGH WATER.			
31 S. Whit Sunday.	11 45		
1 M JUNE.	0 3 1	1	1
2 T. Riot in London 1780.	1 31	1	59
3 W.	2 29	2	56
4 Th.	3 24	3	31
5 F.	4 12	4	24
6 S. Betham died 1832.	4 44	5	15

The above Tides having been calculated with regard to the moon's horizontal parallax and angular distance from the sun, will be found to be correct, due allowance being made at times for high winds and freshets. For Richibucto, subtract, 2h30m—Bathurst, 2h45m—Dalhousie, 2h50m from the above.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

A Correspondent in Dalhousie has furnished us with the following item of news:

"VERDANCY AND VILLANY.—About a fortnight ago a Canadian from Quebec appeared, via the Metis Road, giving out that he was Agent for the 'St. Lawrence and Chaleur Bay land and lumber Company.' He engaged a number of men at liberal wages, and passing down towards Nouvelle, Presto, he became a man of thousands, to be expended by the Government (through him) in the way of roads and bridges; and more hiring took place. Arrived at Nouvelle "Proteus," blazed forth as Inspector-General of Schools for Canada East; gave his name as M. St. John, and accounted for his shabby attire by stating that his two trunks and a valise had been shipped on board a vessel, to be landed at Carleton. M. Joseph Rouseau, an active, industrious *habitant*, gave him accommodation in his house, no doubt feeling flattered by the patronage of an individual so distingue! His own room was placed at the disposal of M. St. John, any other apartment being considered by honest Joseph as too mean for a personage of such importance. In this room was a small box containing gold, silver, and paper money, the savings of M. Rouseau, considered perfectly safe in the vicinity of the 'illustrious stranger.' A week passed on, checks for large amounts could not be cashed in the neighbourhood; M. St. J. borrows a trifle from M. Rouseau; but the checks must be cashed *somewhere*, and M. Rouseau takes the 'illustrious' in a boat to Dalhousie for that purpose. Landed on the beach, M. St. John suddenly recollects that important papers are wanting, and innocent, unsuspecting M. Rouseau is despatched to bring them. St. John gives Rouseau a key which is to open a trunk, which *must* have arrived by this time at Carleton, in a certain compartment of the same he is to find the wished for papers, which are to be brought with the utmost speed. In the absence of said trunks, M. St. John could not cut a figure as regards the outward man, at all compatible with his standing; but honest Jo had come to the rescue, and fitted out the stranger in a complete suit of his own, just finished for travel to Halifax on business of importance; but Jo is at a loss for a respectable pair of boots, these he borrows from a friend; thus equipped M. St. John is in Dalhousie, and his purveyor goes for despatches, which with the trunks and valise which 'must have arrived' are 'baseless as a vision.' M. St. John changes gold pieces, and rapidly retreats to Campbellton; thence crosses to the Metis road (again hiring men) and vanishes into the depths of the forest, whence he will probably emerge at some unknown point near Quebec, leaving Joseph Rouseau in the meantime to mourn over the loss of between fifty and sixty pounds, abstracted from the little box in the 'best bedroom,' a span new suit of clothes—including hat—and the neat pair of borrowed boots: his reflections on human nature may be imagined—not described. The hired men have an easy time of it (if they get paid); but the schools must have lost greatly by the 'sudden taking off.' One thing is certain that M. St. John is a villain of thorough dye, and that hospitable Rouseau will in future be less credulous, and less verdant."

Our Correspondent furnishes the following items of local news:

"On Sunday afternoon, 24th inst., two young men, Sligar and Doucette, both between 20 and 30 years of age, put off from Jacquette River in a whale boat to put a pilot (the father of Sligar) on board a brig coming up the Bay. They left the vessel in the evening on their return to the shore, a strong breeze blowing at the time from the eastward, which increased to a heavy squall which lasted for some time. The young men have not since been seen, and from the fact of the boat being found next day in the bay, bottom up, and split from stem to stern, and one of the masts and a sail belonging to her on the rocks at Heron Island, there can be no doubt of their being both drowned."