

## News of the Week.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

ENGLAND.—*Hospitality to American Officers.*—Colonel Eyre, and the officers of the Artillery at Portsmouth have invited Captain Hartstein and the other officers of the Resolute to dine with them on any day most convenient to them during their sojourn at Portsmouth. A deputation waited upon Chevalier Pappalardo, the American consul, from the inhabitants of Portsmouth, to invite the crew of the Resolute to a dinner, to be given on the day after that given by the mayor and corporation to the officers. The deputation were afterwards presented to Captain Hartstein, on board the Resolute by the consul, when Captain Hartstein expressed his warmest pleasure at such a mark of hospitality, and gave his cordial consent to the acceptance of the invitation, saying at the same time he felt sure that any mark of respect shown to the American people would be as warmly appreciated on the other side of the Atlantic as it could be tendered by the people on this.

*More Terrific Gales on the Coast.*—The terrific gales at the end of last week, prepared the underwriters for another catalogue of disasters along the coast. Unhappily, their forebodings were too truly verified, for advices from the various ports throughout the kingdom added many catastrophes to the already long list of casualties which had been received in the early part of the week. It is some years since the havoc has been so general on all parts of the coast as during the recent fearful weather. For the last eight or ten days there has been a succession of southwesterly gales, at times increasing to the violence of a hurricane. The principal ports are crowded with shipping, either to make good the damage which they had sustained, or to take shelter from the fury of the gales. There have been numerous losses on the coast, the ill-fated vessels, in some instances having gone down, is feared with all hands.

A fearful gale, at times amounting to a hurricane, accompanied by heavy rain, thunder and lightning, swept the western portions of the Channel throughout the whole of Thursday night week. The wind ranged from S. S. W. to S. W. Some large ships outward bound, which had got one hundred miles and more to the westward of Scilly, were driven back with fearful impetuosity, with loss of sails and spars, &c. Amongst them was the Indian and Cape Royal mail steamer, Ireland, which left Dartmouth with the mails and passengers in the course of the week. In her way down Channel she encountered the full force of the storm, the sea making a complete breach over her.—At length she sustained damage to her machinery, and succeeded in putting back to Plymouth. She is reported to have had a very severe trial, and her safe return is a matter of much congratulation. Numerous ships have put into Plymouth Sound, Falmouth and Penzance, with bulwarks washed away and other serious damage.

A sad loss is believed to have occurred in the Channel, near the entrance to Plymouth Sound. The foremost of a vessel carried away by the deck, was seen near Boosain, and on Wembey beach was found the foreyard of the same vessel, and in the vicinity the topsail-yard and bulwarks. Near the Eddystone were picked up several iron-bound square deal cases, supposed to contain British manufactured goods, and some casks of foreign brands (ship stores) were washed upon Cawsand beach. The wreck and stores are supposed to have belonged to a vessel which, it is feared, foundered during the gale, with all on board. Another fatal loss is supposed to have happened on the rocks to the eastward of Scilly. A washboard, painted white, with several pieces of cabin wood, apparently all new, have been washed ashore, and some casks of palm oil have been picked up in the neighbourhood. Near Weymouth a fine Dutch barque, named the Petronella, Captain Lowers, bound to Ghent, was driven ashore during the heavy gale. It appears that the unfortunate ship had had a tedious voyage from Akyab, the provisions had run short, and for some time the crew had been living on a very short allowance. The scurvy set in, the poor fellows could scarcely work, and when the ship got into the thick of the storm she readily fell a sacrifice. The coast-guard were on the spot and succeeded in landing the captain and eight of the hands. The captain, however, and one of the hands expired from the effect of their disease and their exposure while on the wreck. The mate and another seaman were found dead on board, and two others are missing, so that only four of the ship's company have been spared.

Intelligence of additional disasters along the Welsh and North-West coast, during the late gales, have been received. On the south-east coast of Ireland great destruction of property took place. A fine large American ship J. L. Warner, bound to New Orleans, from Liverpool, was driven ashore on Tacumshane strand near Wexford. Her masts were cut away, in the hope of saving her. At length her cables parted, and she struck. Providentially the crew was preserved. Another large sized ship, name at present not ascertained, was driven ashore, during the gale in Ballycotton Bay, with only her mizenmast standing. Nothing has been heard of the crew. Another large American ship, C. S. Fletcher, from Cardiff to New Orleans, went on the rocks near Crookhaven, and became a wreck. The gale appears to have continued along the northern

and eastern coast, and several ships report losing each a hand, who were aloft, overboard.—The casualties are numerous, but not so serious as in other parts.

Such extensive damage to steam-ships by storms as has been experienced during the last three weeks has never been known before.—Scarcely a steamer has been able to withstand the recent storms. Even Cunard's and Croskey's gigantic Atlantic steamers have been worsted in their encounters with their December gales, and have turned back disabled and discomfited. The fury of the gales has been felt all over the Mediterranean, over a great portion of the Atlantic, and in the seas surrounding the British Isles. Some conception of the force of the sea may be formed from the fact that as the Australian mail steamer European was coming from the Clyde to Southampton Water, a sea washed over her, and with such force that it lifted up a spare screw, weighing nine tons, that was on board, and which in falling went through the deck.

FRANCE.—*Naval Expedition to China.*—A Paris letter says that the naval expedition to China is exciting great sensation in the foreign diplomatic circles in that city. An attempt is made to disguise its political and commercial import. Rear Admiral Rigault de Genouilly is simply to interfere, it is said, by force, if necessary, for protection of the native Catholics in China.

ITALY.—Letters from Turin state that at the opening of the Piedmontese parliament, a bill will be presented for a loan of 59,600,000 of livres. The Sardinian Government, it is said, has determined to undertake at its own cost, the difficult task of cutting through Mont Cenis, in order to unite the Victor Emmanuel Railway with the French lines.

Lombardy.—According to intelligence which has reached Paris, the Emperor of Austria has not yet decided on visiting Milan. His Majesty is said to be much disappointed with his reception in Italy, and complains of false representations having been made to him as to public feeling in Venice and Lombardy.

NAPLES AND THE SICILIES.—*Attempt on the King's life.*—Some further particulars by letter have reached us relative to this affair. A correspondent of the 9th says:—

The ceremony of benediction had just concluded, and the troops were defiling, when, as the 4th division of Chasseurs were passing, a soldier named Cgesilao Milano, of San Benedetto, Cosenza, darted out of the ranks as if to present a petition. He then made a thrust with his bayonet at his Majesty, who backed his horse and the bayonet, grazing the side of the king, struck against the pistol holster, and was bent. The man slipped and fell. Captain Latour, of the Huzzars, riding up; nearly crushed the man, whilst another captain colared him. The King said 'Consign him to the gendarmes;' and he was taken off the ground in a Cab. At the moment, his Majesty turned deadly pale, and passed his hand secretly over the spot which was touched, and then beckoned to his son, the Duke of Calabria, who was immediately behind him. I say the King beckoned to him and ordered him not to move. He then waved his hand to her majesty in assurance of his safety. In fact, his Majesty displayed the most wonderful sang froid, and thus prevented the occurrence of great misfortunes.

In the evening, General Nunziante, Prefect of Police, and Lieut-General Lecca, were called upon to interrogate the man, who demanded paper, saying that he would write his deposition. It was as follows:—

'For six years I have cherished a hatred against Ferdinand II. I belong to the class of insurgents in Calabria in the year 1848. It was my intention to purge the earth of this monster. I have not the slightest intention of revealing the names of my brethren who conspired like me to rid the world of this tyrant; but the occasion will come when their daggers will avenge all.'

The court-martial was held at 11 o'clock this morning, and the prisoner was sentenced to be hanged, that being the punishment assigned to regicides. Agecilio Milano is twenty-six years and four months old, is a handsome looking man, and has been in the army six months. Up to this time he has communicated with no one, not even with the orderly soldier who, according to military custom, has been appointed to watch over him. Indeed, he has been regarded rather as a devotee. All is perfectly tranquil.

Other letters, to the 13th, state that on that day, Milano, the soldier who attempted to kill the King, has been hanged. It is alleged against him that he was an insurgent in 1848, was amnestied in 1852, and entered the army by means of forged papers. Another Correspondent gives a few other details: 'The soldier who attempted to kill the King, was a Calabrian, and had studied in a college for priests. It appears that so far back as 1848 he resolved to kill the King in consequence of the sufferings which Calabria endured, and of the wrongs done to the man's own family. To effect his purpose he abandoned his religious career, and ten months ago enlisted in the army. The King was saved by the resistance of a coat of mail (*una maglia di ferro*) which he always wears. The shock was so violent that it caused the soldier to fall backwards, but he immediately jumped up to recover his weapon; it was then that he was seized.'

IRELAND.—*Funerals of Father Mathew.*—The streets of the city and the roads leading to the cemetery were (says the Cork Examiner) lined by thousands of anxious spectators and as the head of the procession slowly appeared in sight a like anxiety and excitement were exhibited

to obtain a glimpse of the coffin of one who in town and country had won the dearest affections of the people. For hours before the procession left the chapel the graveyard was being rapidly filled, and when the cortege entered the cemetery there could not positively have been less than from 40,000 to 50,000 persons present. Every ally and avenue of this beautiful burial-ground was filled with people; and as the coffin was borne into the yard every head was uncovered, and many a face was suffused with tears.

*The Paris Conference.*—Austria is the only Power that signed the Treaty of Paris which has not named a representative at the Conference. It is generally thought that M. de Hubner will represent the Cabinet of Vienna.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.—By the Journal de Constantinople we learn that a Persian proclamation has been issued, accepting the war declared by England. The same authority states that the English have already taken possession of the Isles of Ormus and Karrack.—The Russian troops are concentrated on the Araxes.

Letters have been received which allege that the Russian intervention will be carried into effect as soon as Prince Bariatinski, the Governor-General of the Caucasus, shall have been officially informed of the disembarkation of the English at Bushire.

The Austrian Gazette contains a letter from St. Petersburg, remarking on the events now passing in Persia. Its correspondent says:—

The influence of Russia on the Asiatic population is greater than that of any other Power; her prestige has been increased by the taking of Kars; and Persia, after the event completely turned to the side of Russia. In the war which has just broken out between England and the Shah, the latter has followed the strategic counsels of his powerful neighbor. Russia will not long content herself with a semi-passive part, or remain an idle spectator of the present struggle. At the beginning of November orders were given at St. Petersburg to assemble a *corps d'armee* of 40,000 men on the Persian frontier. That fact is positive, whatever may be said to the contrary. It is on account of these measures that the Porte has lately formed near Erzeroum *corps d'observation* of nearly 30,000 men, commanded by Ismail Pasha, in order to protect the basin of the Euphrates and watch over the frontier of Persia. It is also for that reason that the troops stationed in Poland have not been again brought to their former strength.

TURKEY.—*The seizure of Turkish Boats by the Russians.*—The Journal de Constantinople gives the following details of the seizure of the Turkish boats by the Russians, which was briefly mentioned by telegraph: A merchant vessel, under Turkish colours, and eighteen large barges, laden with merchandise, left Trebizond with their papers all regular, and signed by the Russian consul. They arrived on the 19th November at Soudouk-Kale, of which the Russian General Philipson took possession on the 22nd with several thousand men, driving out the Circassians. During the conflict which took place all the merchandise belonging to the boats was pillaged and taken away. The general declared to the Turks that justice should be done them, and for that purpose he sent all the boats to Kertch, with an escort of soldiers more numerous than the sailors belonging to them, in order that the governor of the town should examine into the affair. The boats stopped at Anapa, where it is said, the Turks were badly treated, and even imprisoned until their departure. On leaving Anapa for Kertch the Turks appear to have overpowered their escort, for instead of going to Kertch they reached Trebizond minus their merchandise, but bringing the Russian soldiers with them in triumph. This mystification would be amusing were not serious interests at stake. The Turks naturally claim an indemnity for the merchandise stolen from them, and also complain of a flagrant violation of the law of nations. How the affair will terminate it is impossible to say, but already occupies the diplomatic world, and may give rise to serious complications. The English are as furious at it as the Turks, and regret that their squadron in the Black Sea had not been enforced.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX.—*The Fire on New Year's Day.*—The City on New Year's Day, lulled into security, and engaged in the festivities of that happy season—many of its inhabitants taking their pleasure at a distance of miles from home—others paying the accustomed visits to friends—and every dwelling as open to strangers as the hearts of its inmates—was startled from its pleasurable sensations, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, by an alarm of fire. We were not more than a quarter of an hour in reaching the scene of disaster, where the sad spectacle presented itself of flames bursting forth from buildings on both sides of Hollis street. The fire had originated in the property owned by Nicholas Vass, Esq., and occupied above as an haberdashery store by Mr Donohoe, and below as a Restaurant by Mr Stewart. The cause of the fire is still a mystery. The building whence it broke forth had at its east and southern side a stone wall—and the intense heat confined without any chance of escape except north and west, reflected across the streets in those directions with overpowering intensity, catching St. Matthew's Church (Church of Scotland) on the west side, and Harrington's grocery store on the north. St. Matthew's, 90 years old, and dry as dust, burnt like tinder, and was soon wrapped in flames, which burst through

its windows, and wreathed and revelled around its steeple to the topmost height, which finally succumbed to the devouring element, and fell with a tremendous crash in the midst of the burning edifice. Some articles of church furniture and the books of the Church are all that were saved. In the cellar underneath, rented by Mr Harrington, was a large stock of groceries and combustible material, which was partly saved, and partly shared the fate of the Church. From this point, notwithstanding the great exertions of the congregated thousands, the flames progressed on both sides of Hollis street, south, consuming on the lower side the premises occupied by Messrs Kirk & Co. as a steam press office, the butcher's shop adjoining, the tailoring establishment of Messrs Mellreith & Farquharson, several lawyers' offices next, the grocery and tailoring establishment of Mr. John Mellreith, and were then stayed by partially pulling down the premises adjoining the office of H. Pryer, Esq. On the western side the burning Church caught the contiguous buildings up the hill, sweeping round the block and destroying the office of James Stewart, Esq. and the Probate office, the shop next, and the grocery and paint shop belonging to Mrs. Studley, the dispensary, a house owned by the Rev. Mr. Townsend, until the fire reached the *Christian Messenger* office, lately removed to this block, which was pulled down, and thus a stop was in this quarter made to its ravages. Along Hollis street, west side, the fire from the church communicated to the adjacent houses, which were speedily wrapped in flames, and all consumed, until its progress was interrupted by the brick building owned by Mr. W. Langley, and occupied as a drug store and a dwelling.—The brick and stone walls bounding the wooden buildings proved an effectual impediment to spread of the conflagration, preventing it from embracing east of the building where the fire originated, which were, however, in great danger, and saving the remainder of the block, at the corner of which stood St. Matthew's Church. We have said nothing yet of Harrington's Grocery store, which we mentioned as having caught fire on the opposite side of the street north of Vass's property. Happily for that building and that block, the wind veered a little east of north, and the former escaped with partial damage, although the heat was so great that this was accomplished with much difficulty. The proprietors of several of the neighbouring stores and dwellings deemed it advisable to remove their effects. Water proved very scarce during the extremity of the fire, or perhaps some of the houses might have been saved by the desperate exertions of the firemen, aided by the military, whose presence and efforts, and example upon the occasion cannot be too thankfully remembered.

A good deal of confusion and loss will probably be occasioned by the hasty removal of household stuff and other effects. We have heard of several instances of this nature which deserve the commiseration of a feeling public. The *Colonist* printing office, although not burnt, was in much danger, and as sudden removals of such establishments make no improvement in their condition, we fear it will be some time ere our contemporary will get his establishment again in working order. The *Chronicle* office next door, had all ready for an exit, but luckily there was no occasion. Two printing offices have been totally destroyed—the Steam Press of Messrs Kirk & Co., and the office of the *Christian Messenger*.

On the west side of Granville street several parties deemed it necessary to remove their stock, and some have met with loss in so doing. We hope, however, that it is only partial and to no great amount.

So disastrous a fire as this has been scarcely remembered in Halifax. The loss of property, we think, cannot be estimated at less than thirty or forty thousand pounds. Insurance was effected on much of what has been consumed, both in the New York and Halifax offices. The Church, we hear, was well insured. Mr. Harrington, partially. Some, however, we learn, have suffered a total loss, and, among the rest, Miss Boland, the daughter of the unfortunate Missionary of Newfoundland, the Misses McKie, Mrs. Studley, Mrs. Carman. It is to be hoped that some measures will be adopted to relieve a portion of the distress occasioned by this melancholy deprivation.

It is with much pleasure we have to record, that our citizens went to work with a will at the engines, and that there was more lack of water than strength to apply it. The military, also, deserve special thanks for their valuable exertions. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor was present at the scene, and the Mayor did his utmost to give system and efficiency to the exertions made to restrain the raging element.

We regret to learn that the Fire Engine belonging to the 62d Regt. was consumed by the flames.

The appearance of Hollis and Granville streets, beyond the range of fire, from the quantity of goods and utensils of all descriptions, deposited on each side, suggested the idea of a town that had been sacked; and the sentries in charge, of some attention on the part of the enemy to the security of the collected plunder.

Since writing the above, we learn that several benevolent individuals have opened a subscription to the relief of special cases of distress occasioned by the fire; if anything should be done it should be generally by a fund to be divided among the sufferers in such way as a Committee may direct. There is nothing to prevent individuals bestowing their bounty on whom they please; but when the public are