

## CONFLAGRATION AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—SUMMARY PUNISHMENT.

On the 24th September, at half-past three in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out at Pera, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Galata Serail. The wind, which was high at the time, increased to a hurricane, and in a few minutes the fire had extended itself over a considerable portion of Pera. At five o'clock it had gained the houses near the new British Palace on the one side, and Baluk Bazar on the other, a distance of 50 houses in a straight line. At six, the alarm was given that the fire had broken out in the very common of Pera, in the direction of the small burying ground, a considerable distance from the original seat of the conflagration itself. Fortunately for us the wind turned to the east, and the fire was thrown towards an open space in the Picolo Campo. At half-past six it was announced that another fire had broken out in a Turkish quarter at Orta Kuey, and thus the surplus of the spectators, firemen, and water carriers, were attracted towards that direction. At half-past ten the fire was entirely mastered on all sides, having consumed upwards of 250 large houses, inhabited by the elite of our Perote families. Sixteen of these were large stone mansions, which had consequently become the depot of furniture and goods. The British chapel, and several outhouses appertaining to the new palace were consumed. In all, it is calculated the loss of property must exceed a million sterling. Several persons perished on the occasion, among others, it is said, a young Englishman, who had remained in a house with the hope of saving some important papers belonging to a person who was himself absent in the country. It is likewise said that three villains, who were caught by Fetti Abmet Pacha profiting by the misfortune to rob the unfortunate sufferers whose houses were taking fire, were by his orders thrown into the fire and burnt.—*Correspondent of the M. Herald.*

**SOCIETY ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC.**—Letters of May 17th have been received, announcing the official declaration of the independence of the Society (or Leeward) Islands. Her Britannic Majesty's ship *Grampus*, Captain H. B. Martin, arrived at Borabora on the 4th of May. On the 15th the French steamer *Gasendi* brought back the native adherents of the French from Tahiti. They were allowed to land in peace, and they are now repairing to their respective localities in the settlement to rebuild their houses. The steamer brought the official documents from Admiral Sir G. Seymour, conveying the final decision of the French and English Governments. The Chief, Tapoa, who accompanied Pomare to Tahiti, is still there, but is expected to return shortly to his own land. Those who went over to the French are again the subjects of Tapoa. They all attend chapel with their children, about one hundred in number, and, perhaps, a ninth or tenth of the whole population. After being landed, the French authorities gave up all claim to the island.

**Pensions to Dr. Chalmers' Widow and Daughters.**—Her Majesty, "in consideration of the piety, eloquence, and learning of the late Dr. Chalmers," has granted a pension of £50 a year to his widow, and £25 a year to each of his five daughters. The warrant is dated on the 11th inst., and the payments, "to commence from the 1st of July last," are to be paid in trust to the Rev. Dr. W. Hanna.

**EDUCATION OF THE POOR.—MUNIFICENT BEQUEST.**—At a time when every intelligent person should be alive to the fact that the Christian Education of the children of the poor, forms the only true basis of social improvement, and furnishes the most powerful antidote to the present demoralized condition of the lower orders, it will be gratifying to the philanthropic and benevolent, to be informed that our respected townsman, the late James Alexander, Esquire, of Hermitage, Merchant in Glasgow, has bequeathed the residue of his large fortune, amounting to, from £50,000 to £60,000, to endow an hospital for the education, the clothing, and, if necessary, the support of poor children of both sexes in this City.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

**TESTIMONIAL TO SIR HARRY SMITH.**—The citizens of Glasgow lately invited this distinguished officer to a public entertainment; but as he was unable to comply with the invitation, in consequence of his limited stay in this country, and numerous engagements that could not stand over, it was resolved to present Sir Harry with a token of their regard in the shape of a piece of plate. The result is, that a splendid epergne or centre piece, to the value of upwards of £450, bearing an appropriate inscription, has been transmitted to the gallant officer, by whom it has been duly acknowledged.—*Witness.*

**DENBOG.**—The Rev. Andrew Halket, who had been supplying for some months the place of the respected minister of this Parish, removed a few weeks ago to Brechin, to which important charge he has recently been appointed. During his residence in Denbog, Mr. Halket had given the greatest satisfaction by his pulpit ministrations, and so much had he commended himself to the esteem of the congregation, that they unanimously resolved to present him with a parting memorial of their affection and regard. Accordingly a public meeting was held in the school room on the 30th instant, which the Rev. Gentleman was invited to attend, when Mr. Moodie, one of the elders, in the name of the inhabitants of the Parish, requested his acceptance of a handsome piece of silver plate, with the following inscription, "Presented by the Parishioners of Denbog, to the Rev. Andrew Halket, as a token of their attachment and respect, and in appreciation of his edifying ministrations during his sojourn among them.—October, 1847." In the course of his re-

marks, Mr. Moodie bore testimony to the cordial unanimity which had characterised the whole of the proceedings connected with the subscription, and assured Mr. H., that he had the warmest wishes of the entire congregation for his health and happiness in his new sphere of labour. Mr. Halket, in a suitable reply, expressed his acknowledgments, and after bidding all an affectionate farewell, concluded the meeting with prayer.—*Fife Herald.*

**REMARKABLE PRECAUTIONS FOR LOUIS PHILIPPE'S PROTECTION.**—One of the saddest circumstances which exist in this country, is the extraordinary precaution which it is considered necessary to take for the safety of the King. There are, for example, five large barracks, each occupied by regiments of elite, in the immediate vicinity of the Tuileries, and eighteen guard-houses, each of which is continually occupied day and night by a troop of ready-armed men, surrounding the palace. The palace itself is occupied by 250 national guards of the infantry battalions, and by twenty five men of a regiment of horse. There are, besides, 350 soldiers of the line and a troop of 50 men of a cavalry regiment. At nine o'clock at night a detachment, composed of four companies, takes its station in the centre of the palace, and remains all night with loaded arms; 80 sentinels, with loaded arms, keep watch in and around the palace during the night; besides which patrols and detachments visit every part of the palace and the gardens every half hour; 55 of the attendants in the gardens, and of the domestics of the royal household, mount guard in the royal apartments during every night, armed with double barrelled guns. In addition to all this multitude, there is a number of police agents, aides-de-camp, adjutants, &c., continually on duty. A secret passage leads from the palace to one of the nearest barracks, and some of the guard houses are provided with ladders to enable the soldiers to enter the palace and gardens at any moment.—*French Correspondent of the Edinburgh Review.*

From the New York Spectator, October 30.

**THE BURDEN OF IMMIGRATION.**—The report of the "Commissioners of Emigration" to the Legislature, published a fortnight since, is a very interesting document, and if we do not transfer it entire to our columns, it is not because it would occupy two or three of them, but because we believe it possible, by condensation and arrangement, to present in a more salient view the points which constitute its interest for the people of the city and state; these points being first the immensity of the burden thrown so suddenly and unexpectedly upon our hands; second, the immensity of resources with which the exigency was met, and finally the zeal, energy, good judgment and success with which those resources were applied by the commissioners to whom, in a fortunate hour, the great and important work was committed.

The commission was established by an Act of the Legislature, passed on the 5th of May, 1847, and the commissioners entered upon the performance of their duties on the 8th. At that time the torrent of immigration was swelling, and its fearful companion, disease, was already exciting alarm for the future, as well as severely taxing the ordinary provisions for its encounter, created and kept up to meet only the ordinary demand of several preceding years. The Marine Hospital at Staten Island, the only prepared receptacle for immigrant disease, was crowded with patients, and already it has been found necessary to provide temporary wooden buildings, adequate to the reception of 128 persons.

Such was the state of things when the commissioners began their work. Their first act was the happy selection of a most active, judicious and energetic general agent in the person of Robert Taylor, Esq., who, as one of the police magistrates, had deserved and gained the confidence of the community. He entered upon his duties on the 8th of May. The next thing to be done was to make immediate provision for the immense and daily increasing mass of destitution, suffering and pestilence borne hither by every breeze that swept across the Atlantic, young men, women and children—perishing scarcely less of hunger than of sickness—were instantly to be received and cared for, not in scores and hundreds only, but in thousands.

The first and most promptly available resource was the Alms House establishment, with its hospitals, &c., and here an arrangement was promptly made for the reception of the sick and destitute, at the rate of one dollar each per week, for the latter, and a dollar and a half for the former—the expense to be defrayed, of course, by the commissioners. But this resource availed for only a few days; so early as the 19th of May the commissioners were notified that the Alms House and hospitals were groaning under the burden cast upon them, and that the influx must be stopped. On the next day they made arrangements for the immediate erection of wooden buildings at Staten Island, six hundred feet in length. On the 22nd the charges at the Alms House were raised by the addition of fifty cents each per week.

On the 25th of May the commissioners took on lease the three large buildings known as the "Long Island Farms," which were capable of accommodating some hundreds of convalescent patients; beds, bedding, and other necessities were rapidly placed in them, and a physician was appointed, but before any of the patients could be transferred thither, the buildings were destroyed by a mob, actuated by groundless fear of contagion. This was on the night of May 26. To add to the embarrassment of the commissioners, at this moment they were notified from the Alms House, that after the 31st of May no cases of ship fever would be received there unless the patients were strictly chargeable to the city authorities for