

RED INDIANS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Report of W. E. Cormack's Journey, in search of the Red Indians in Newfoundland.—Read before the Benthick Institution at St. John's Newfoundland.

PURSUANT to special summons, a meeting of this Institution was held at St. John's on the 12th day of January, 1829; the Hon. A. W. Desbarres, Vice Patron, in the Chair. The Honorable Chairman stated, that the primary motive which led to the formation of the Institution, was the desire of opening a communication with, and promoting the civilization of the Red Indians of Newfoundland, and of procuring, if possible, an authentic history of that unhappy race of people, in order that their language, customs, and pursuits might be contrasted with those of other tribes of Indians and nations; that, in following up the chief object of the Institution, it was anticipated that much information would be obtained respecting the natural productions of the Island; the interior of which is less known than any other of the British Provinces, &c. &c. An excellent President, keeping in view all these objects, had permitted nothing worthy of search to escape his scrutiny, and consequently a very wide field of information was now introduced to their notice, all apparently highly interesting and useful to society, if properly cultivated. He was aware of their very natural anxiety to hear from the President an outline of his recent expedition, and he would occupy their attention further only by observing, that the purposes of the Institution would be best accomplished by taking into consideration the different subjects recommended to them in the President's report, and passing such resolutions as might be considered necessary to govern the future proceedings of the Institution. The President, W. E. Cormack, Esq. then laid the following statement before the meeting:—

Having so recently returned, I will now only lay before you a brief outline of my expedition in search of the Benthicks, or Red Indians, and my remarks respecting its primary object. A detailed report of the journey will be prepared and submitted to the Institution, whenever I shall have leisure to arrange the other interesting materials which have been collected.

My party consisted of three Indians, whom I procured from among the other different tribes, viz. an intelligent and able man from the Abenaki tribe, from Canada, an elderly Mountaineer, from Labrador, and an adventurous young Micmac, a native of this Island, together with myself. It was difficult to obtain men fit for the purpose, and the trouble attending on this prevented my entering on the expedition a month earlier in the season. It was my intention to have commenced our search at White Bay, which is nearer the northern extremity of the Island, than where we did, and to have travelled southward. But the weather not permitting to carry my party thither by water, after several days' delay, I unwillingly changed my line of route.

On the 31st of October, 1828, we entered the country at the mouth of the River Exploits, on the north side of what is called the Northern Arm. We took a north-westerly direction, to lead us to Hall's Bay, which place we reached through an almost uninterrupted forest, over a hilly country, in eight days. This tract comprehends the country interior from New Bay, Badger Bay, Seal Bay, &c. these being minor Bays included in Green or Notre Dame Bay, at the North east part of the island, and well known to have been always heretofore the summer residence of the Red Indians.

On the fourth day after our departure, at the east end of Badger Bay, Great Lake, at a portage known by the name of Indian Path, we found traces made by the Red Indians evidently in the spring or summer of the preceding year. Their party had had two canoes; and here was a canoe rest, on which the dubs of red ochre, and the roots of trees used to fasten or tie it together, appeared fresh. A canoe rest is simply a large beam supported horizontally, about five feet from the ground by perpendicular posts. A party with two canoes, when descending from the interior to the one canoe resting, bottom up, on this kind of frame, to protect it from injury by the weather, until their return. Among other things which lay scattered about here, were a spear-shaft, eight feet in length, recently made and ochred, parts of old canoes, fragments of their skin dresses, &c. For some distance around, the trunks of many of the birch, and of that species of spruce pine, called here the Var, (*Pinus Balsamifera*), had been rinded; these people using the inner part of the bark of that kind of tree for food. Some of the cuts in the trees with the axe, were evidently made the preceding year. Besides these we were aided by other encouraging signs. The traces left by the Red Indians are so peculiar, that we were confident those we saw here were made by them.

This spot has been a favorite place of settlement with these people. It is situated at the commencement of a portage, which forms a communication by a path between the sea-coast at Badger Bay, about eight miles to the north-east, and a chain of lakes extending westerly and southerly from hence, and discharging themselves by a rivulet into the river Exploits, about thirty miles from its mouth. A path also leads from this place to the lakes, near the Bay to the Eastward. Here are the remains of four of their wigwags, where the vestiges of eight or ten winter wigwags, tecks or wigwags, each intended to contain from six to eighteen or twenty people, are distinctly seen close together. Besides these, there are the remains of a number of summer wigwags. Every winter wigwag has close by it a small square-mouthed or oblong pit, dug into the earth, about four feet deep, to preserve their stores in. Some of these pits were lined with birch rind. We discovered also in this village the remains of a vapour bath. The method used to raise the steam, was by pouring water on large stones made very hot for the purpose, in an open air, by burning a quantity of wood around them; after this process, the ashes were removed, and a hemispherical frame work, closely covered with skins, to exclude the external air, was fixed over the stones. The patient then crept in under the skins, taking with him a birch-rind bucket of water, and a small piece of soap, and, by pouring on the stones, enabled him to raise the steam at pleasure.

At Hall's Bay we got no useful information from the three (and only) English families settled there. Indeed we could hardly have expected any; for these and such people, have been the unchecked and ruthless destroyers of the tribe, the remnant of which we were in search of. After sleeping one night in a house, we again struck into the country to the Westward.

In five days we were on the high lands south of White Bay, and in sight of the highlands east of the Bay of Islands, on the west coast of Newfoundland. The country south and west of us was low and flat, consisting of marshes, extending in southerly direction more than thirty miles. In this direction lies the famous Red Indian's Lake. It winter had commenced pretty severely in the interior. The country was every where covered with snow, and, for some days past, we had walked over the small ponds on the ice. The summits of the hills on which we stood had snow on them, in some places, many feet deep. The deer were migrating from the rugged and dreary mountains in the north, to the low and mossy barrens, and, as if any of the Red Indians had been at White Bay during the past summer, they might be at

Since my return, I learn from the captive Red Indian woman, *Shannandithit*, that the vapour bath affections, which were the cause of the death of three Red Indian females, who were taken by hunger, to some English furrier, about five years ago, in Notre Dame Bay. She is the only one of that tribe in the hands of the English, and the only one that has ever lived so long among them. It appears extraordinary, and it is to be regretted, that this woman has not been taken care of, and not noticed before in a manner which the peculiar and interesting circumstances connected with her tribe and herself would have led us to expect.

that time stationed about the borders of the low part of country before us, at the *deer passes*, or were employed somewhere else in the interior killing deer for winter provision. At these passes, which are particular places in the migration lines of path, such as the extreme ends of and straight in many of the large lakes—the foot of valleys between high or rugged mountains—fords in the large rivers, and the like—the Indians kill great numbers of deer with very little trouble, during the migrations. We looked out for two days from the summits of the hills adjacent, trying to discover the smoke from the camps of the Red Indians—but in vain. These hills command a very extensive view of the country in every direction.

We now determined to proceed towards the Red Indian's Lake, sanguine that, at that known rendezvous, we would find the objects of our search.

Travelling over such a country, except when winter has fully set in, is truly laborious. In about ten days we got a glimpse of this beautifully majestic and splendid sheet of water. The ravages of fire which we saw in the woods for the last two days indicated that man had been here. We looked down on the lake, from the hills at the northern extremity, with feelings of anxiety and admiration. No canoe could be discovered moving on its placid surface, in the distance. We were the first Europeans to discover moving on its placid surface, in the distance. We were the first Europeans to discover moving on its placid surface, in the distance.

We spent several melancholy days wandering on the borders of the east end of the lake, surveying the various remains of what we now contemplated to have been an unoffending and cruelly extirpated people. At several places, by the margin of the lake, are small clusters of summer and winter wigwags in ruins. One difference, among others, between the Benthick wigwags and those of other Indians, is that in most of the former there are small hollows, like nests, dug in the earth around the fire place, one for each person to sit in. These hollows are generally so close together, and also so close to the fire place, and to the sides of the wigwag, that I think it probable these people have been accustomed to sleep in a sitting position. There was one wooden building constructed for drying and smoking venison in, still perfect, also a small log house, in a dilapidated condition, which we took to have been a store house. The wreck of a large handsome birch rind canoe, about twenty-two feet in length, containing a few new and certain articles, used to be thrown up among the bushes at the beach. We supposed that the violence of a storm had rent it in the way it was found, and that the people who were in it had perished; for the iron nails, of which there was no want, all remained in it. Had there been any survivors, nails being much prized by these people, they never having held intercourse with Europeans, such an article would have been taken out for use again.

All the birch trees in the vicinity of the lake had been rinded, and many of them of the spruce pine, called here *Pinus Balsamifera*, had been rinded. The bark taken off, to use the inner part for food, as noticed before.

Their wooden repositories for the deer are what are in the most perfect state of preservation. These are of different constructions, it would appear, according to the rank of the persons occupying them. Some were built with square poles, the roof covered with rinds of trees, and in every way well secured against the weather inside, and the intrusion of wild beasts, there were two grown persons laid out at full length on the floor, the bodies wrapped round with deer-skins. One of these bodies appeared to have been placed here not long after five or six years. We thought there were children laid in here also. On first opening this building, by removing the posts which formed the frame, our curiosity was raised to the highest pitch, but when we added to our surprise, was the discovery of a white dead seal, containing a skeleton neatly shrouded in white muslin, and a long pipe of conjecture how such a thing existed here, the idea of *Mary March* occurred to one of the party, and the whole mystery was at once explained.

It should be remarked here, that *Mary March*, so called from the name of the month in which she was taken, was the Red Indian female who was captured and carried away by force from this place by an armed party of English people, nine or ten in number, who came up here in the month of March, 1721. The local government authorities at that time did not foresee the result of offering a reward to *bring a Red Indian to them*. Her husband was cruelly shot after nobly making several attempts, single-handed, to rescue her from the captors, in defiance of their fire-arms and fixed bayonets. His tribe built this cemetery for him, on the foundation of his own wigwag, and his body is one of those now in it. The following winter, Captain Buchan was sent to the River Exploits, by order of the local government of Newfoundland, in the winter of 1810, to endeavour to form a friendly intercourse with the Red Indians, and to take back this woman to the Lake same time, to open a friendly intercourse with her tribe; but she died on board Capt. Buchan's vessel, at the mouth of the river. Capt. B. however, took up her body to the Lake, and, not meeting with any of her people, left it where they were afterwards likely to meet with it. It appears the Indians were this winter encamped on the banks of the River Exploits, and observed Capt. Buchan's party passing up the river on the 29th of November, we were again returned to the mouth of the River Exploits, in thirty days after our departure from thence, after having made a complete circuit of about two hundred miles in the Red Indian territory.

I have now stated generally the result of my excursion, as it respects the present, entering into a detail of the materials collected on this, as well as on my excursion at the River Exploits, two years ago, and on other occasions, but in a position of a general knowledge of the natural country and productions of Newfoundland; and, as a member of an institution formed to protect the aboriginal inhabitants of the country in which we live, and to prosecute inquiry into the moral character of man in his primitive state, I can, at this nothing vague, that we do not already possess more information concerning these people than has been obtained during the two centuries and a half in which Newfoundland has been in the possession of Europeans. But it is to be lamented that now when we have taken the cause of a barbarously treated people, so few should remain to reap the benefit of our plans for their civilization. The intention and its supporters will agree with me, that after the unfortunate circumstances attending our past encounters between the Europeans and the Red Indians, it is best now to employ Indians belonging to other tribes to be the medium of beginning the intercourse we have in view; and, indeed, I have already chosen three of the most intelligent men from among the others met with in Newfoundland to follow up my search.

In conclusion, I congratulate the institution on the acquisition of several ingenious articles, the manufacture of the Benthicks, some of which we had the good fortune to collect on our recent excursion: models of their canoes, bows and arrows, spears of different kinds, &c. and also a complete dress worn by that people. Their mode of kindling fire is not only original, but, as far as we at present know, is peculiar to their tribe. These articles, together with a short vocabulary of their language, consisting of from 200 to 300

words, which I have been enabled to collect, prove that the Benthicks to be a distinct tribe from any hitherto discovered in North America. One remarkable characteristic of their language, in which it resembles that of Europe more than any other Indian languages do, with which we have had an opportunity of comparing it,—is its abundance in diphthongs. In my detailed report, I would propose to have plates of these articles, and also of the like articles used by other tribes of Indians, that a comparative idea may be formed of them; and when the Indian female *Shannandithit* arrives at St. John's, I would recommend that a correct likeness of her be taken, and be preserved in the records of the Institution. One of the specimens of mineralogy which we found on our excursion, was a block of what is called *Labrador Felspar*, nearly 4 feet in length, by about three feet in breadth and thickness. This is the largest piece of that beautiful rock yet discovered anywhere. Our subsistence in the interior was entirely animal food, deer and beavers, which we shot.

The measures recommended in the President's report be agreed to; and that the three men, Indians of the Canadian and Mountaineer tribes, be placed upon the establishment of this Institution, to be employed under the immediate direction and control of the President; and that they be allowed for their services such a sum of money as the President may consider a fair and reasonable compensation. That it be the endeavour of this Institution to collect every useful information respecting the natural productions and resources of this island, and from time to time, to publish the same in its reports; that the instruction of *Shannandithit* would be much accelerated by bringing her to St. John's, &c. That the proceedings of the Institution since its establishment, be laid before H. Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, by the President on his arrival in England.

(Signed) A. W. DES BARRES, Chairman and Vice-Patron.

(From the Newfoundland Public Ledger, June 12.)

On Saturday night, the 6th instant, at the Hospital *Shannandithit*, the female Indian, one of the Aborigines of this Island. She died of consumption, a disease which seems to have been remarkably prevalent among her tribe, and which has unfortunately been fatal to all who have fallen into the hands of the Settlers. Since the death of Mr. Cormack from the Island, this poor woman has had an asylum afforded her in the house of James Simms, Esquire, Attorney-General, where every attention has been paid to her wants and comfort; and, under the professional advice of Dr. Carson, who has most kindly and liberally attended her for many months past, it was hoped that her health might have been re-established. Lately, however, her disease had become daily more formidable, and her strength had mentally declined, and a short time since it was deemed advisable to send her to the Hospital, where her sudden decease has but too soon fulfilled the fears that were entertained for her. With *Shannandithit* has probably expired nearly the last of the Native Indians of the Island; indeed, it is considered doubtful by some whether any of them now survive. It is certainly a matter of regret that those individuals who have interested themselves most to support the cause of science and humanity, by the civilization of these Indians, should have so unfortunately fallen by this sudden termination of their hopes. They have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that their object has been to mitigate the sufferings of humanity, and that, at least, they have "endeavored" to pay a portion of that immense debt which is due from the European settlers of Newfoundland to these unfortunate Indians, who have been so long oppressed and persecuted, and are, finally, almost exterminated.

There were other old remains of different kinds peculiar to these people met with about the lake. One night we encamped on the foundation of an old Red Indian wigwag, on the extremity of a point of land which juts into the lake, and exposed to the view of the whole country around. A large fire at night is the first thing which strikes the eye, and when the fire is blown up at times, it is considered doubtful by some whether any of them now survive. It is certainly a matter of regret that those individuals who have interested themselves most to support the cause of science and humanity, by the civilization of these Indians, should have so unfortunately fallen by this sudden termination of their hopes. They have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that their object has been to mitigate the sufferings of humanity, and that, at least, they have "endeavored" to pay a portion of that immense debt which is due from the European settlers of Newfoundland to these unfortunate Indians, who have been so long oppressed and persecuted, and are, finally, almost exterminated.

THE CANADAS.

[From Captain Hall's Travels.]

Before taking a final leave of the British North American Provinces, I think it right to say a few words in answer to two questions that have frequently been put to me both in America, and at home.

Of what use are these Colonies to England? Of what use is England to the Colonies?

What would be the result of the questions sent contemplate, and might probably carry me beyond my depth; for I had not a full opportunity of examining this important topic on the spot. The following sketch however, may help to direct the enquiries of persons who have leisure to pursue the subject further.

In order to show that the Colonies in question are of great value to England in a maritime and commercial point of view, it is only necessary to mention the fact, that in the year 1828, out of the several ports of the United Kingdom, (strictly 2,094,357) upwards of four hundred thousand tons, (strictly, 400,841) or more than one fifth of the whole, (were from the North American Colonies, and exclusively British.)

At present, we enjoy not only the privilege of supplying the Provinces with English goods, but through them, it is generally believed, a large and increasing quantity of our manufactures is introduced into the United States. It is utterly impossible, indeed, for the Government of that country, or that of England, to prevent, or even seriously to check, such importations, as long as British vessels have free access to the Ports of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Canada.

Independently of this extensive outlet for the manufactured goods of England, the intercourse carried on between these Colonies and Great-Britain employed in the year 1828, no fewer than eighteen thousand seven hundred and fourteen seamen.

In the same year, 1828, the total amount of British shipping employed in trading with the United States was but little more than eighty thousand, (strictly, 80,158) and the number of seamen employed was three thousand six hundred and forty-six: So that our trade with the North American Colonies alone, occupied five times as much tonnage, and more than five times as many British seamen, as the whole intercourse which we enjoyed in our own ships with the United States.

I know that it has been often urged, that the export of British Goods to the United States is infinitely greater now than it was to the Colonies before they revolted—and so undoubtedly it is.—But we must make a stand on this position, omit two considerations.

Judging from the progress made by Nova-Scotia, Canada, and other remaining Provinces, since they have been admitted to a thorough commercial companionship with the Mother Country, it is no more than fair to infer, that if the old Colonies, now forming the United States, had been originally treated in the same liberal spirit, they might never have deemed it their interest to withdraw from their allegiance. At this hour, therefore, they might have been, if not equally populous, perhaps more prosperous than they now are. Such, at least, is my deliberate opinion, after having visited both countries.

The other consideration which people are apt to forget, is, that however great the mere export of our goods to the United States may be, every art is used by that country to discourage their carriage by British shipping. In spite of the doctrine of reciprocity, I could very seldom discover any encouragement in the forests of masts at New-York. What is our case, I do not exactly know—such is the fact, and the documents just quoted show the result.

A similar, or rather a much greater loss, of some of our largest and best of our nurseries for seamen, would therefore inevitably be sustained by the defection of these Colonies. And I have no hesitation in expressing my belief, that this one loss alone outweighs by many degrees, the whole expenses incurred by us in maintaining the Provinces.

It seems to be a pretty general opinion, that there are only two alternatives for the Provinces in question—one is, to remain in connection with the Mother Country,—the other to merge into the Mare Magna of the American Confederation. The probability of their forming themselves into a separate, independent nation, is seldom dwelt upon, and hardly to be contemplated.

The maritime resources of the United States at present are limited, by climate and other circumstances, almost exclusively to those parts of the ocean which lie on the Atlantic coast, to the northward and eastward of the Delaware; and although these are no doubt very important, and daily increasing, they are inconsiderable in comparison with those furnished by the coasts of the British Provinces. The American maritime line does not embrace one third of the distance that ours occupies; it possesses no single port or bay—not even New-York—to compare in a naval point of view, with Halifax, and various other harbours of British North America, into which the largest line of battle ship can sail at all times of the year, and at all times of tide. It must also be recollected, that the climate of the Southern States is not suited to the production of hardy seamen; while the western section of the country, where the population is making the greatest strides, brings forward few of the essential attributes of a navy.

The fishermen, and other thorough bred seamen, who crowd the shores of the British Provincial line of coast, are, numerically speaking, considerably greater than those of the American shore alluded to. And I have the best authority for stating, that these men are not only eminently loyal to England, but heartily desirous of maintaining the union inviolate. Indeed, both they, and their superiors in riches and station in the Colonies, have abundant reason, as I shall endeavour to show by and by, for being sincere in these professions.

The idea, that the United States can obtain possession of these Provinces by conquest, against the will of the Inhabitants, is totally out of the question. If the Colonists had substantial reason to be dissatisfied with the mother country, such a contingency might perhaps begin to be thought of; but as long as they are treated as they have been for some years past, they must continue to be fully as impregnable as any part of the parent State. Besides which, the genius and practical structure of the American government are such, as to render the country entirely unfit to engage in offensive hostile enterprises. The Militia of the Colonies, even upon the assistance of regular troops as that of their neighbours; and when fighting on their own soil, they would be equally difficult to subdue. With a small additional assistance, therefore, from us, and supposing the Colonists to be thoroughly loyal, which I believe they are, and an certain they have good reason to be, any chance of foreign conquest is altogether visionary. Every day that the present friendly Colonial policy is persevered in, they will find more and more reason to be staunch and true to themselves, and to be dissatisfied more reason to rejoice that they are not independent, but independent—a term which, if we analyze it closely, we shall commonly find a great misnomer.

If, however, we suppose the British Colonies added to the American Union, the whole face of the maritime affairs of that Republic would at once be changed. I do not now ask whether such a change would, or would not, be for the better, as respects either of the parties concerned on that side of the water; but there can be little doubt it would be a matter of serious consequence to England, to find the naval resources of the United States trebled, if not quadrupled, at a blow, while our own would be diminished, not only in the same ratio, certainly to an amount which, I am sure, if stated fairly, would induce many persons, who at present think lightly of the Colonies, to consider them as much more important possessions than they now are supposed to be.

We must never forget that the "cheap defence of nations" is not to be balanced like a merchant's account—so many pounds debtor, and so many pounds creditor. We must look deeper into our transactions, and not think alone of what we expend, but of what we keep. And who is bold enough to say, that if the sake of a comparatively trivial saving of money, we relinquish these foundations of the wooden walls which is presently the safeguard of our Island. Besides all these considerations, I may just hint in passing, that the tenure by which we hold the West India Islands, which employ nearly three hundred thousand tons of British shipping, and fifteen thousand seamen annually, would be greatly weakened by the abstraction of those northern Provinces, from which their chief supplies are derived. Neither do I say any thing of the Newfoundland or Labrador fisheries, those prolific nurseries of seamen; because their advantages are now shared by the Americans and the French. Yet it should not be forgotten, that if the British provinces were to become members of the American Union, it is more than doubtful whether these important maritime advantages would be any longer shared by foreign nations.

I shall only further observe, on this point, that the British provinces are now emerging from a state of infancy, or rather of youth, and their numbers are rapidly increasing—and that their demand for English goods are more than keeping pace with the increase of numbers, in consequence of their more enlarged taste and greater desire for refinements which have been fostered under a good Government, and which may be expected to expand still more rapidly under the wise changes recently introduced into the Colonial administration. These five constant employments to whole fleets of British ships, affording a vent for British manufactures of almost boundless extent and tend to bind all parties more closely together.

The benefit arising to England from having so ready an outlet for her surplus population as these Colonies afford, is so familiar to every one, that it is indeed not to be dwelt upon. Whatever be its amount, one thing is clear,—the advantage of emigration is more than equally shared by the Colonies. It would certainly be a source of mortification to us, to see all our emigrating fellow citizens relinquish their allegiance, and become members of another country. At present, however, we have the satisfaction to think that the great body of the emigrants who leave our shores do not only remain loyal and true to us in the provinces, but become a source of wealth and political strength to those important outworks of the Empire—redundant, as they may be called in the language of fortifications,—by which the traveller finds the bestagers are kept at a respectable distance from the citadel.

Under judicious management, therefore, on the part of the mother country, these important Colonies, which are becoming more and more every day, may not only be made more useful, as nominal dependencies, but in a negative point of view,—as politically detached from the United States,—even still more valuable to us.

Parliamentary Paper, ordered to be printed on the 3rd May, 1829, No. 197.

NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBERS having formed a connexion will transact business under the firm of D. & L. E. P. SMITH, At the Store on the South Market Wharf, recently occupied by Mr. B. F. MARSH.

DANIEL SMITH, LEWIS E. P. SMITH. Saint John, 19th September, 1829.

SUGAR! SUGAR!!

28 HOGSHEADS of superior quality; per Charles Fox on Trinidad. 7 Hogsheads Single and Double Refined Loaf SUGAR—per Norah from London. JOHN HAMMOND, St. John, Sept. 5.

A SITUATION is wanted in a respectable Mercantile Office, by a Young Man, who is well acquainted with City business, and who can furnish unquestionable reference. Apply at the Office of this Paper. Sept. 19, 1829.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1829.

Bank of New-Brunswick.

Director next week, J. Johnston, Esq. DISCOUNT DAY, THURSDAY. Hours of business, from 10 to 3. Bills for Discount, must be lodged with the Cashier before 3 o'clock on TUESDAY.

Marine Insurance Office.

Committee of Directors for the ensuing week: JOHN V. THURGOOD, THOMAS BARLOW, H. JOHNSTON, Junr. Office Hours.—From Twelve to Three.

LATE AND IMPORTANT.—The arrival of the Halifax Mail, this morning, puts us in possession of European dates to the 19th ult. brought by the *Brig CLYDE*, which arrived at Halifax from Greenock, on Tuesday evening last, in 32 days. The accounts received, are extremely important, as will be seen by the hasty extracts we have given underneath. The RUSSIANS have battled the Balkan, and are pushing on with great force towards the plains of Adrianople. A regular Battle may ere long be expected, because the TURKS have now no alternative, but to oppose with their whole strength the invaders, or allow them to overrun the country. The fate of the present war, rests on the result of this first meeting; and should Russia conquer, no doubt is entertained but Great-Britain and Austria, and to which may now be added France, long jealous of Russia, will strike in as parties, the moment that Turkey appears in imminent danger. No wonder the Sultan appears so averse to negotiation, on the basis laid down by Russia, while he is acquainted with the favorable disposition of the European Powers, and knows they stand ready to defend his Empire. He has a right to stand up for equitable terms—particularly as his safety depends upon it.

BERLIN, Aug. 9. The State Gazette of this date is nearly filled by the report sent by Gen. Paskevitch to the Emperor of Russia, with the detail of the victory over the Seraskier of Erzeroum, who had 30,000 men under his command, and over Hagki Pacha, who had 20,000 men. This latter corps was totally defeated and dispersed.

GLASCOW, August 19. More detailed accounts from the Russian movements and victories in Armenia have been received, which show that these have been most decided and important. The Turkish Armies in that quarter have been defeated and dispersed; and Gen. Paskevitch is an officer too wise and decided to suffer them to rally at pleasure. All accounts from the theatre of war, to the south of the Danube, represent the advanced divisions of the Russian army as being safe across the Balkan. Most important accounts may speedily be expected from that quarter. The measures and movements of the Russian armies appear most judicious and decided. In the meantime the Sultan continues his resolves to resist, and turns a deaf ear to all counsel and remonstrance, both with regard to Russia and to Greece. It is on his obstinacy, and the obstinacy, and ignorance of his people, that we ground our anticipations of the ruin of his empire.

The recent change in the French Ministry has drawn from what is called the Liberal part of the French Press, the most violent tirades and accusations, and the writers distinctly set down the change as proceeding from the intrigues and the influence of Great-Britain, in order to injure and to trample upon the interests and the power of France. Prince Polignac is understood to have similar views regarding European politics in general to those entertained by the British Cabinet. Beyond this, we believe, there is neither British influence nor intrigue in the change. In fact, the French papers know this well, but they take the course which they do, in order to kindle the hatred and resentment of the French nation against us, that they may forward the ambitious schemes which we firmly believe France has, and will never cease to have, in view.

We are much misinformed, and greatly mistake the political aspect of matters in Europe, if we are not on the eye of most important events in all our relations with the Powers of Europe. In short we are to have WAR,—war, in which one half of Europe will be arrayed against the other half! War, in which Great Britain and France, and it is added, Austria are to support Turkey, and oppose Russia, in all probability with Prussia joined as her friend. Austria, however, we think, will join against the Ottoman, and come in for a share of the spoil. We have been told that we shall very shortly have a declaration from the French Government on these important subjects.

August 19. It now appears certain that a portion of the Russian army has crossed the Balkan, and reached the commencement of the great plain of Thrace. Report says that they there mean to halt, and try the effect of negotiation. It is more likely, however, that they will halt only until the approach of reinforcements. A regular battle, may ere long be expected, because the TURKS have now no alternative but to oppose their whole strength against the invaders, or allow them to overrun the country. On the result of this first meeting will hinge the fate of the war. Should the TURKS prevail, the Russians who have crossed the Balkan must be annihilated in attempting to repass that barrier; and should the Russians prevail, Great Britain assuredly, and France and Austria in all likelihood, will instantly strike in to aid the Turks and preserve from ruin their Empire. We regard the latter case as most likely to occur, and therefore look forward to a general European war as at no great distance. That war, should it actually happen, will produce strange events within the different States engaged in it. But as these events are certain to occur at any rate, it matters little by what means they are precipitated.

The Sultan is loudly blamed for his obstinacy in resisting all overtures for Peace; but this, when viewed in its proper light, is just another proof of his great sagacity. He has not yet been offered Peace upon any terms which he could accept with honour, and he knows that so long as he resists these, he enjoys the sympathy which always flows generously and largely towards the oppressed, while at the same time the existence of his empire is guaranteed by the interest of the Great Powers of Europe. His reliance upon this guarantee, will yet bear him unsubdued through the present crisis.

SPAIN.—The London Literary Gazette, gives a very flattering statement of the present condition of Spain and its future prospects.