

# THE FRIEND OF CHINA

## AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

VOL. V. No. 35.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, MAY 2ND 1846.

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### FOR ENGLAND, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, CEYLON, AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS.

**THE** Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Ship **BRAGANZA**, will leave this for the above places on Tuesday, the 26th of May.

Cargo will be received on board until Noon, and Specie until 4 P. M., of Monday the 25th.

This Route affords an opportunity of visiting SINGAPORE and PENANG, remaining a short time at CEYLON, and thence proceeding to ENGLAND by Overland Conveyance through EGYPT in 54 days, to MADRAS in 30 days, and CALCUTTA in 34 days, from the date of leaving CHINA. Steamers belonging to the H. E. I. Company, and Bombay Steam Navigation Company, are also understood to ply, the former between COLOMBO and the latter between GALLE, and BOMBAY, thus affording Passengers 3 much more speedy means of reaching the latter place than is otherwise obtainable.

Arrangements are made in the Steamers throughout for the convenience of Native Merchants of India proceeding as Passengers; certain accommodation is also reserved in the Calcutta Steamers for Passengers from China joining the **SWAZ** line at GALLE, to secure which it is requisite that a Notice of at least Two Months be given to the Company's Agent here.

Cargo, Parcels, &c. may be forwarded to ENGLAND by the above Vessel with the same despatch as H. M. Mails; and Specie, SILK, or other Goods nearly the same at by sailing vessels, the rate of Insurance having been reduced by several Offices in favour of the Company's Steamers.

Until further notice the Rates of Freight will be:—

FOR MEASUREMENTS GOODS.

TO SOUTHAMPTON, per Ton of 40

Cubic Feet.....\$120 Sp.

And for SPECIE.

To MADRAS and CALCUTTA.....2 percent.

CEYLON.....1 1/2 "

SINGAPORE and PENANG.....1 "

No Goods can be received for Overland Transit unless packed in non-susceptible Coverings as Wood, Matting, Tarred Cloth &c. and the Contents and Value of each Package either marked on the outside, or declared in Writing at the time of Shipment.

Further particulars regarding the Rates of Freight and Passage may be obtained by application at the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong.

J. A. OLDING, Agent.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1846.

TO LET.

A House in Pottinger Street opposite the R. C. Church and next to Mr Shorttred, apply to

BUSH & Co.

Victoria, 6th March 1846.

TO LET.

TWO Convenient Houses in Gough Street, with Verandahs, each containing nine Rooms, exclusive of outhouses, equipt of

ROWLAND REES.

Pottinger Street.

Victoria, 6th December, 1845.

TO LET.

A House in Gough Street. Apply to

JOHN CARR.

Victoria, 29th April, 1846.

TO LET.

A Bungalow in Queen's Road, opposite the Albany Godowns, consisting of Six Rooms well ventilated below, with detached Offices and Stables complete. Apply to

TURNER & Co.

Hongkong, March 2nd, 1846.

TO LET.

THREE Houses situate in Wellington Street, commanding a fine view of the Bay. Early possession can be given. For further particulars apply to

R. OSWALD.

Victoria, 27th February, 1846.

TO LET.

A HOUSE on Queen's Road, containing twelve rooms, with godowns. Apply to

ARCH: MELVILLE.

Victoria 14th April, 1846.

TO LET.

TWO Houses on the south side of Gough Street. Apply to

GEO. STRACHAN.

TO LET.

SEVERAL convenient tenements situated in Wellington and Stanley Streets; at \$ 15 per month. Apply to

BURD, LANGE & Co.

Queen's Road, March 27th, 1846.

TO LET.

THAT commodious House, lately occupied by Mr. Gabriel as the British Hotel) situate in Stanley and Graham Streets. For particulars apply to

C. MARKWICK.

Auctioneer.

### FOR SALE.

MARINE Lot No. 64 Situated between the lots of Messrs. MACVICAR & Co. and FRANKLIN JAMESON Esq., measures 200 feet sea frontage, and altogether is a very desirable lot. For further particulars apply to

FLETCHER & Co.—Hongkong, or DIROM, GRAY & Co.—Canton, Victoria, 1st July, 1845.

### NOTICE.

THE Commercial Business of the undersigned will from this date be continued, under the style of "Senn Van Basel & Co."

M. J. SENN VAN BASEL.

Canton, March 14, 1846.

### NOTICE.

MR. GEORGE PERKINS is this day admitted a partner in our firm.

RUSSELL & Co.

Canton, 27th March 1846.

### FOR SALE.

MADEIRA in Pipes, Hogsheads and quarter Casks from the well known House of Stoddart & Co. Port in Cases of 3 dozen each

Hodgson and Abbots Pale Ale in Hogsheads.

Apply to DENT & Co.

### NOTICE.

THE undersigned have received authority from the Directors of the Imperial Fire Insurance Office of London, to issue Policies on the New Buildings at Canton.

MACVICAR & Co.

Victoria, 28rd January, 1846.

### NOTICE.

GOLD PENS. Agents at

Shing... London.

BLINKIN, RAWSON & Co.

Victoria, 22d April 1846.

### FOR SALE.—AT the Godowns of Messrs

Blenkin, Rawson & Co., Burton Ale in Hhds, from Worthington and Robinson.

Hongkong, 15th January 1846.

### FOR SALE.

AT the Godowns of Messrs Blenkin, Rawson & Co. Alsop's Pale Ale in bottle; Barley's Porter in bottle, Superior Sherry, Madeira, and Port, in wood and bottle.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1846.

### FOR SALE.

THE undermentioned Wines from the House of Gledastates, King & Co. London.

Port in cases of 3 dozen

Madaira " " 3 "

Champagne " " 1 "

Apply to

LINDSAY & Co.

Victoria, 26th January, 1846.

### FOR SALE.

WEBSTER, Gordon, Comart & Co.'s superior Madeira, in Hhds, quarter and half quarter casks, and in cases.

FLETCHER & Co.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1846.

### FOR SALE.

MR. ROGER JACOB is authorized to sign our firm by procuration.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Victoria, 26th December, 1845.

### NOTICE.

MR. HENRY LIND is authorized to Sign for our Firm by Procuration.

R. OSWALD & Co.

Victoria, Hongkong, 27th February, 1846.

### NOTICE.

MR. WILLIAM WARD BROWN is authorized to sign for our Firm by procuration.

HEGAN & Co.

1st January, 1846.

### FOR SALE.

BLANDY'S Madeira, in half pipes, hhd's, and quarter casks. Apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

Victoria, 10th April 1846.

### NOTICE.

MR. JOSEPH L. ROBERTS is a partner in our firm.

AEGUISHINE, HEARD & Co.

Canton, 29th March, 1846.

### NOTICE.

DILLS on London, drawn under Messrs Barling Brothers & Co's Credits, in sums to suit purchasers, for sale by

J. N. A. GRISWOLD.

Canton, March 5th 1846.

### FOR SALE.

MADEIRA in Pipes and Hhds. Also, Superior Malmsay in quarter casks. Apply to

BELL & Co. of Canton, or here, to the Board of Trade.

Victoria, 29th April, 1846.

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Month	1844	1845	Month	1844	1845
Jan	18	13	Jan	18	13
Feb	20	14	Feb	20	14
Mar	22	15	Mar	22	15
Apr	21	16	Apr	21	16
May	16	20	May	16	20
Jun	17	29	Jun	17	29
Jul	10	20	Jul	10	20
Aug	18	20	Aug	18	20
Sep	19	20	Sep	19	20
Oct	10	20	Oct	10	20
Nov	20	20	Nov	20	20
Dec	20	20	Dec	20	20

1844. EXPORTS OF CANTON.		1845.	
\$1,793,360	British	\$ 20,374,016	
5,696,177	American	7,929,864	
1,830,130	French	63,010	
372,188	Dutch	634,583	
9,009	Belgian	11,709	
153,688	Danish	179,514	
192,888	Swedish	419,973	
7,322	German	219,973	
	Portuguese	153,688	
	Locheis		
	Miscell. flags		
\$ 25,813,949	Total 1844.	Total 1845	\$ 30,588,496

THE FATE OF MUNGO PARK.

At the Geographical Society's meeting, London, last week, a letter from Mr. Duncan was read, dated "Cape Coast, October 4, 1845." Mr. Duncan states that though the King of Ashantee had refused him permission to pass through his dominions, he had been enabled to penetrate into the interior by another route. Being at Wuydah, he had ingratiated himself into the favour of Safoo, the King of the Congo, a Portuguese slaveholder, who had established there between forty and fifty years, and whose influence with the King of Dahomey was paramount. This gentleman obtained for Mr. Duncan an invitation from the King to visit him, and a promise of his protection. He accordingly prepared suitable presents for the King and his courtiers, and started on the 6th of June. Having arrived on the 10th, he presented himself to the King in his life-guard uniform, and was most graciously received. At the King's desire he went through the sword exercise at gallop, which greatly astonished and interested the monarch, who, in return, on the following day, showed him a review of 6000 female troops, whose arms, accoutrements, and performance, the traveller says, were truly surprising. Mr. Duncan remained at Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, till the 17th, when the King, having had the road cleared for him for more than a hundred miles, gave him an escort of a hundred men, and permission to travel over any part of his dominions he pleased. Every where the traveller found provisions in abundance, all ready provided for him, and ready cooked. Mr. Duncan having been informed of the existence in the interior of persons who could give him information respecting Mungo Park, proceeded to large towns named Adfoola, in 13 degrees 6 minutes North, and 1 degree 3 minutes East. There was a large market, with articles from the Mediterranean, and others from Bornou. At this place he found a fine looking Bournouse, who spoke Spanish, and who told him he had been twenty-one years a slave in Bahia, to the firm of Busby and Johnson, of Liverpool. He also met a Tripoli merchant, he had seen at Egga, when on the Niger expedition. Amal Fatama was, it appears, the principal cause of Park's death. Having complained to the King or chief of Yaouri that Park had discharged him without paying him his full wages, Park was interrogated upon the subject, and, of course, indignantly denied the charge, whereupon an attempt was made to detain the canoe, which was at the time moored to the bank with a post of rope. Park said Mr. Duncan's informant, out of the hands of one of the people attempting to detain the canoe; this was the commencement of the affray which ended in Park's death. The old priest, Terasso Wea, further stated, that about four years ago, a white man from Constantinople, came in search of Park's papers; that he, the priest, saw the person purchase at a high price, a long the tube, with large sheets of paper, which was the property of the King, he declared the price too little, and made a rash demand upon the poor merchant. The books, it appears, were distributed into different hands; many were cut up and sold as amulets, and some were carried to Bussa, where they remained a long time. This priest had been more than twenty times to Timbuctoo, which he described as not so large as Adfoola, and not only as a great exchange mart for goods, in consequence of the facilities for transport afforded by thirty tributary streams, which enter the Niger within one league of Timbuctoo. From Adfoola Mr. Duncan was obliged to return. He received, on his way back, the same kind attentions from the King of the Dahomey.

The returns exhibit the following results.

Gross amount of trade in 1844,	\$48,357,193
Do. " 1845,	44,820,337
Increase in 1845,	\$ 1,272,049

Imports	1844, \$17,843,249
Do.	1845, 13,062,812
Increase in Imports	\$ 3,780,438

Exports	1844, \$25,513,949
Do.	1845, 30,586,426
Increase in exports	\$ 5,052,477

Thus the gross amount of traffic is greater in 1845 than the previous year to the extent of \$1,272,049; the exports having increased \$5,052,477, and imports fallen of \$3,780,438. A glance at the two short tabular statements will show the amount of the trade of the different foreign countries at the port of Canton in 1844 and 1845; but we must wait for the Shanghai returns before we more critically analyse the entire foreign trade of China for the past and the previous years. If that return is not already in the hands of the Superintendent of trade, we must believe that the Gentlemen of the Consulate at Shanghai are but negligent servants; and if it is in the possession of the Superintendent of British trade, we submit that a document of such importance to those engaged in the commerce he is appointed to protect, should at once be made public. Last year the Shanghai returns were published on the 12th March; and this year, it was particularly desirable that they should have been published as early as possible.

In the annual chronological and statistical table of the *Britannia*, for the year 1845, appears the following paragraph.

Letters from Hongkong announce the "growing prosperity of the country. Land which was leased at \$20 per annum on the "colony being first founded is now leased at \$240 per annum, and a house which was erected at a cost of \$1,000 lets at \$750 per year."

This statement is put forward to deceive people at home; and perhaps it has done so to some extent. We take it for granted that the letter in question is the production of an official; though he may not have the hardihood to avow it. Let the writer take the trouble of referring to the books of the land office, and he will find that one third of the leases sold at the land sales have never been taken up—and that other leases upon which ground rent was paid, have been allowed to lapse to the Crown. The culpable neglect of the government, which resulted in a melancholy loss of life, also raised rents to enormous rates for a year or two, but this was inseparable from the demand for wood, which the supply; but how is it now? Houses which a year ago could have been rented at \$100 a month will not bring \$50, and so far from the demand increasing it is getting less. In this very issue, there appears an intimation of the removal of another firm to Canton. Disguise it as they may, the truth will ultimately prevail, and the fabricators of such statements be brought to light.

THE THREE YEARS' HOT WATER.  
(From the Examiner.)

A REWARD should be offered for the discovery of any person of sane mind who prefers Sir Robert Peel's plan of gradual change to the total and immediate abolition of the Corn Laws. This is a part of the project which all agree in condemning and rejecting. Not a single voice has been raised for it. Even in the agricultural mind there is no fully responsive to this most unwelcome proposal. It is, indeed, felt that there is no kindness in lengthening out an operation.

"If we were done when 'his done, then 'were well."

We trust Sir Robert Peel will not be found tenacious of the mere part of his plan because it is the feature distinguishing it from Lord Russell's proposal. It is surely better to adopt a rival's views than to dissatisfy the whole country.

But unfortunately Sir Robert Peel has confessed his repugnance to taking the right course when it happens to be in the wake of Lord John Russell. Lord Radnor has well remarked on this absurd illiberalism in his speech on the Ministerial explanation.

"On the 25th of November the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, still entertaining the same opinion (as to the opening of the ports and the alteration of the Corn Laws), and wishing to introduce the same measure, found himself precluded from doing so, because his noble friend, the noble lord the member for London, had that appeared to him (Lord Radnor) to be an inconceivable thing, that because a man thought that is certain thing ought to be done, yet it was not to be done because another was of the same opinion. It seemed to him very much like a spoiled child—[a laugh]—who said, 'You tell me I ought to do it, but I won't do it.' [Hear, hear.] Yet that was precisely the conduct of the Government."

By the way, it has never been explained how it happened that Lord John Russell's letter, written at Edinburgh on the 22d of November, and not published in London till the 27th, could have so influenced Sir Robert Peel's decision in the Cabinet held on the 25th. Forward as the *Times* always is, the letter did not appear in its columns till the 27th, and supposing its contents to have been known in the City the day before, it would yet have been prior was in any way embarrassed by finding Lord John Russell taking the same view. But the discrepancy is probably explained. Perhaps the dispatch of Lord Russell fell under the auspices of a probable estimate of Foot's way through the track.

It may comfort Sir Robert Peel's pride to be no copyist of Lord John's plan, but he has to reflect that in this instance originality will be attended with some painful penalties, not only to the country, but to himself supposing him to contemplate continuance in office. During the three years of existence the agriculturists will be fighting with hatters round their necks. They will hope to the last that they may be able to defeat the intention, and their fiercest resentments will be burning against the Minister destroying them by inches, according to their notions. Indeed, if we were factious enough to wish to see the Government of Sir Robert Peel exposed to the most rancorous hostility, we could desire nothing finer for that end than the three years of uncertainties, unsettlement, fear, and resentment.

There are oblivion and forgiveness for supposed injuries done, but there is no oblivion, no forgiveness, for apprehended injuries to be done. Of what is past men will say, "Bygones are bygones, what's done can't be helped, and it's useless to quarrel more about it;" but so long as the dreaded event is in prospect the vindictive feelings are kept in full glow.

If it be Sir Robert Peel's ambition to be the most vituperated and abhorred man in the world, he will adhere to his three years' change. During the interval he will have to encounter the animosities of men fighting in despair, and at the end of the time he will have justly to answer for more hardships and embarrassments than would now result from the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws. It is putting troubles out at interests.

And there is another consideration which ought not to be overlooked. Whatever goes amiss during the three years of imperfect, lopsided trial of free trade, will be attributed to the principle, though really referable to the insufficiency of its application, and the cause will thus be prejudiced, and perhaps retarded; for it is possible in such case that the monopolists might recover their ascendancy, favoured by the notion that the experiment had failed, which in truth had not a fair and full trial.

We repeat what we have often said—make choice of your principles, and go through with it; adhere to protection, or adopt free trade; but do not put the one on its probation with the clogs of the other, marring the experiment, and misleading the public mind as to the cause of any failure.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVALS.

- APRIL
- 20, *Dhur*, Cumberland, Calcutta.
- SAILED.
- APRIL
- 22, *Island Queen*, Priestman, Bombay.
  - 29, *Colin* (Sp), Uribita, Manila.
  - 29, *H. C. Str. Pluto*, Lieut. Ayr, Canton.
  - 29, *Jumetjee Jejeebhoy*, Connor, Siam.
  - 30, *Zephyr*, Mann, East Coast.

REPORTS. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, McGregor, London.

- SHIPS LOADING AT WHAMPOA.
- Zenobia*, Kenny, New York.
- VESSELS IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.
- H. M. S. *Vesta*, Captain Talbot.
  - H. M. S. *Dadalus*, Captain MacQuhrie.
  - H. M. S. *Yulore*, Captain Macleod.
  - H. M. T. S. *Alligator*, Master Commanding King.
  - H. M. T. S. *Saphire*, Master Commanding Fnoch.
  - H. M. S. *Mindee*, 2nd Master in charge Osmer, Hospital and Store Ship.

- SHIPPING AT WHAMPOA.
- Albion* (Sve.), Liggedahl, Bush and Co
  - Anita*, King, Dent and Co
  - Devil*, Farley, Hansen
  - Earl Powis*, Mossop, Fischer, Willis and Co
  - Governor Doherty*, Wilson, P. F. Cama and Co
  - Hebrides*, Melville, J. Matheson and Co
  - Jason Corrie*, D. & M. Rustomjee and Co
  - Melbe* (Fr), Durand, Remywan and Co
  - Mazden*, Chapp, C. G. Langranza
  - Prince of Waterloo*, Birch, Order
  - Rob Roy*, Francis, Turner and Co
  - Sarah*, Watt, Gilman and Co
  - Shah Allum*, Dumayne, J. D. Rustomjee
  - Shah John Byng*, Forbes, J. Matheson and Co
  - Wild Irish Girl*, Buckton, Captain

- VESSELS AT MACAO.
- Amelia* (Fr), J. A. Duran, Jr
  - Falcon*, Bellamy, J. Matheson and Co
  - Harrier*, C. Spoojee Langrah
  - Isabella Robertson*, Kelly, F. J. de Paiva
  - Lady Hayes*, Langley, J. Matheson and Co
  - Lynx*, J. A. Duran
  - Unica* (Sp), A. Heard and Co
  - Vizir* (Sp), Bordenove, J. Salda
  - Vieira*, Milne, J. Matheson and Co

- AMERICAN AT WHAMPOA AND MACAO.
- U. S. S. *Columbus*, Commodore A. Biddle.
  - U. S. S. *Vincennes*, Captain Paulding.
  - Don Juan*, Harding, Augustine Heard and Co
  - John G. Carter* (Am), Benjamin, Russell and Co
  - New Lintin*, Chase, Russell and Co
  - Douglas*, Sumner, Wetmore and Co
  - Temple*, Kenny, J. N. A. Griswold

NOTICE.

New advertisements will be received, until 4 O'Clock, on the evenings previous to publication, viz: Tuesdays and Fridays.

LATEST DATES.

England	Feb. 24	Batavia	April 1
United States	Jan. 31	Singapore	April 10
Cebu	Mar. 19	Manila	March 29
Bombay	Mar. 15	Chusan	April 11
Madras	Mar. 14	Shanghai	April 1
Sydney	Jan. 24		

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, MAY 2nd, 1845

We are pleased to learn that at length measures are about being taken for the suppression of piracy in the Canton river and among the neighbouring islands. The entrances to the harbour of Hongkong have of late been the favorite cruising ground of these dangerous characters, and it is to be hoped that they will now be obliged to seek another station for their lawless pursuits.

Mr. Lena has been appointed to the command of two gun boats, and we think the charge could not have been intrusted to a better person. With much experience of the navigation among the islands, he has a perfect knowledge of the native character and habits, and will be less liable to be deceived by appearances than a stranger would be, who in other respects was quite qualified for the duty.

Mr. Lena has served the public for many years, and has the reputation of being active, attentive, and enterprising, and we wish him every success in his new appointment.

H. M. Superintendent of Trade has published tables of the entire foreign trade of Canton for the year 1845. The tables are drawn up by Mr. Macgregor, British Consul at that port, and specify the description of commodities imported and exported; stating where from, and to whence; giving in columns the particulars and gross amount of the trade of the several commercial countries with Canton.

Until the Consular returns for Shanghai are made public, it is impossible to compare the trade of 1845 with that of the previous year, as Shanghai has increased enormously as a market for manufactured goods—in cotton shirtings alone probably not less than 600,000 pieces were added to the import of 1844, the importations of these goods at Canton being upwards of three hundred thousand pieces less in 1845 than in 1844. We will publish the tables in our next paper, and in the meantime we condense the particulars, giving a brief summary of the total amount of the trade of the port but in contrast with the previous year, we can draw no correct conclusions as to the trade of China until the returns of Shanghai are before us.

1844. IMPORTS OF CANTON. 1845.

\$ 13,609,340	British	\$ 10,899,244	
1,820,170	American	2,485,048	
1,828,828	French	8,816	
481,708	Dutch	77,751	
11,939	Belgian	15,871	
1,053	Swedish	114,217	
1,843	German	143,539	
	Miscell. flags	25,452	
	Locheis	620,080	
	Belgian		
\$ 18,609,340	Total 1844.	Total 1845	\$ 14,062,811

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, MAY 2nd, 1845

We are pleased to learn that at length measures are about being taken for the suppression of piracy in the Canton river and among the neighbouring islands. The entrances to the harbour of Hongkong have of late been the favorite cruising ground of these dangerous characters, and it is to be hoped that they will now be obliged to seek another station for their lawless pursuits.

Mr. Lena has been appointed to the command of two gun boats, and we think the charge could not have been intrusted to a better person. With much experience of the navigation among the islands, he has a perfect knowledge of the native character and habits, and will be less liable to be deceived by appearances than a stranger would be, who in other respects was quite qualified for the duty.

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1844. EXPORTS OF CANTON. 1845.

\$ 17,933,360	British	\$ 20,374,016	
5,696,177	American	7,929,864	
1,830,130	French	63,010	
372,188	Dutch	634,583	
9,009	Belgian	11,709	
153,688	Danish	179,514	
192,888	Swedish	419,973	
7,322	German	219,973	
	Portuguese	153,688	
	Locheis		
	Miscell. flags		
\$ 25,813,949	Total 1844.	Total 1845	\$ 30,588,496

The returns exhibit the following results. Gross amount of trade in 1844, \$48,357,193. Do. " 1845, 44,820,337. Increase in 1845, \$ 1,272,049. Imports 1844, \$17,843,249. Do. 1845, 13,062,812. Decrease in Imports \$ 3,780,438. Exports 1844, \$25,513,949. Do. 1845, 30,586,426. Increase in exports \$ 5,052,477. Thus the gross amount of traffic is greater in 1845 than the previous year to the extent of \$1,272,049; the exports having increased \$5,052,477, and imports fallen of \$3,780,438. A glance at the two short tabular statements will show the amount of the trade of the different foreign countries at the port of Canton in 1844 and 1845; but we must wait for the Shanghai returns before we more critically analyse the entire foreign trade of China for the past and the previous years. If that return is not already in the hands of the Superintendent of trade, we must believe that the Gentlemen of the Consulate at Shanghai are but negligent servants; and if it is in the possession of the Superintendent of British trade, we submit that a document of such importance to those engaged in the commerce he is appointed to protect, should at once be made public. Last year the Shanghai returns were published on the 12th March; and this year, it was particularly desirable that they should have been published as early as possible. In the annual chronological and statistical table of the *Britannia*, for the year 1845, appears the following paragraph. Letters from Hongkong announce the "growing prosperity of the country. Land which was leased at \$20 per annum on the "colony being first founded is now leased at \$240 per annum, and a house which was erected at a cost of \$1,000 lets at \$750 per year." This statement is put forward to deceive people at home; and perhaps it has done so to some extent. We take it for granted that the letter in question is the production of an official; though he may not have the hardihood to avow it. Let the writer take the trouble of referring to the books of the land office, and he will find that one third of the leases sold at the land sales have never been taken up—and that other leases upon which ground rent was paid, have been allowed to lapse to the Crown. The culpable neglect of the government, which resulted in a melancholy loss of life, also raised rents to enormous rates for a year or two, but this was inseparable from the demand for wood, which the supply; but how is it now? Houses which a year ago could have been rented at \$100 a month will not bring \$50, and so far from the demand increasing it is getting less. In this very issue, there appears an intimation of the removal of another firm to Canton. Disguise it as they may, the truth will ultimately prevail, and the fabricators of such statements be brought to light. It is one of the grievances of which we complain, that the correspondence of the Governor with the colonial Office is not made public. Were the despatches such as could bear scrutiny, His Excellency has full power to print them, and his declining to do so, warrants the suspicion, that they mis-represent the state of affairs in the colony. It has pleased Her Majesty's government to saddle us with an establishment, not one member of which probably feels the slightest interest in the prosperity of the place. The needy spendthrift has an opportunity of securing a livelihood at colonial expense—the miser may wish to amass pelf—or the worn out Soldier, who in his best days was never fit for a civil appointment, is desirous of providing for his family—they have some interest, and they are thrust upon colonies, where too often they are only remarkable for their idle prodigality. We speak quite generally, and we grieve to echo an old colonial complaint; and we grieve to confess, that in our opinion, the present government is in one year has done more to injure the place than five years of good management may suffice to counter-act. Sanguine minds may look for a change in the measures of the Executive—we are none—the members are morally blind—they are perfectly ignorant of the established usages of British colonies—ignorant of the most common, and proverbial truths of the civil polity of their country—and only fit to rule over the wretched herds of the east, who know no power except that of the sword. Of men who would introduce the barbarous punishments of China into a Christian country, we can say nothing more severe, than simply to state the fact. Such a blot cannot be washed out; it will stain their names so long as they are remembered in China.

FOR MACAO.

THE Steamer CORSAIR will leave for the above place at 10 O'clock on this Night, and from thence to Canton on Tuesday Morning.

For Freight or Passage, apply to W. H. FRANKLYN, Agent.

TO LET.

THE Bungalow in Caine's Road lately occupied by C. Hughes Esq. containing Drawing, Dining and Sitting Rooms; six Bed rooms with dressing and Bathing rooms attached. Servants out offices and Stabling complete. Rent only \$50 per month. Apply to F. SPRING, Ravensbury Cottage, Staunton Street.

TO LET.

THE spacious and convenient two storied House Corner of Wellington and D'Aguilar Streets, formerly occupied by the Supreme Court; has good fire, gas and water, and convenient mercantile Offices. Rate extremely moderate. For further particulars apply to F. SPRING, Ravensbury Cottage, Staunton Street.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned have removed from Hongkong to Canton. REISS & Co.

Canton, 1st May 1846.

JUST received and for sale, a few cases of superior Pale Ale, (Bass's) DRINKER & HEYL, Victoria, May 1st, 1846.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

ON Monday 4th instant at 11 O'clock A. M., will be sold without reserve at the sale rooms of the subscribers.

300 Bolts Canvas, 300 Casks Sherry Wine, Gin, Claret and Cordials in cases, Butter in Kegs, Porter in Bottle, Stationery, Glass Ware &c. &c. DRINKER & HEYL, Auctioneers.

Victoria, May 1st, 1846.

C. MARKWICK

WILL Sell by PUBLIC AUCTION on this day Saturday 2nd May, 1846, at 11 O'clock A. M., at the Godowns of Messrs Lindsay & Co. on account of the Underwriters. Six Bales Grey Shirtings, more or less damaged by Sea Water.

Terms of Sale, Cash, on delivery.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

MR. H. FRANKLYN will sell by Public Auction on Tuesday evening next 5th May at 8 o'clock at 1/2 past 8 o'clock precisely. A quantity of superior mahogany furniture, consisting of Couches, Chiffoniers, Tables &c. &c.

Also a small parcel of Wines, consisting of Sherry, Port, Hock, Champagne, &c. &c. Terms, Cash on delivery.

Hongkong, 1st May 1846.

SODA WATER

AND CRATED LEMONADE, TO be obtained at the manufactory of the undersigned.

SMITH & BRIMELOW, No 1 and 2 Woosnam's Buildings, corner of Pottinger Street.

SMITH & BRIMELOW have received ex Pre class, a quantity of Zebu Chocolate in suitable packages which they offer for sale.

1 & 2 Woosnam's Buildings, Queen's Road, 31st March 1846.

A CARD.

R. A. BRINE, Shipping General and Commission Agent and Auctioneer, CUSAN.

DEGS to acquaint the merchants and others of China &c. &c. that he has commenced business in the above capacity; and in soliciting their patronage, assures them, that his best endeavours on all occasions shall be to promote their interest.

From his long experience in mercantile houses, his having been two and a half years on the island, and doing business on moderate charges, he trusts to insure success.

Respectable reference can be given if required. Chosen, 3rd April 1846.

FOR SALE.

ONE Bay Manila Soney, suitable for a Lady or Gentleman; apply to G. DEWAR, at Mr MacKENZIE'S Brook Cottage, West Point, 9th April 1846.

BRITISH HOTEL,

KEYING HOUSE, Queen's Road, Victoria.

MICHAEL GABRIEL has the honour to announce to his friends and the public, that he has taken those spacious and commodious premises known as Keying House where he intends to carry on the business of a Hotel keeper, and he begs to assure those parties who may be pleased to patronize his new establishment, that nothing shall be wanting on his part to insure to them the greatest comfort and attention.

Billiards can be engaged in airy and spacious rooms with a water frontage, at the following rates, viz. Day Games . . . . . Rupee. Night do. . . . . do.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned begs to inform parties indebted to him, to pay the same as early as possible; claims on those residing in China, not paid, or arrangements made to do so, up to the end of next May, and those in Europe, &c., up to the end of next August, (after giving due notice in the Newspapers of Names and particulars); will be put up for sale by Public Auction, and sold off to the highest bidders.

Those who have established on the East Coast of China, or elsewhere, or have left China, since 1839, are requested to send their address, and their accounts will be forwarded to them without delay. JNO. SMITH

Macao, 18th February, 1846.

FOR SALE.—By the undersigned.

Champaigne, Hock, Beer, and Stout, all of the first quality. EDWARD NEWMAN, Victoria 7th October, 1845.

NOTICE.

WE the undersigned have formed a Partnership for the transaction of a General Agency, Auction and Commission business at Victoria Hongkong, under the Firm of DRINKER & HEYL.

S. DRINKER, Wx. S. HEYL, Victoria, March 2nd 1846.

FOR SALE.

A very superior Soda Water Fountain complete; to be sold at Public Auction (unless disposed of at private sale), on Saturday the 1st of May, by the undersigned. DRINKER & HEYL

Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

BOOTS! BOOTS!! BOOTS!!!

THE Subscribers have just received and offer for Sale, a large assortment of highly finished Dress and Waterproof Boots, Half Boots, Shoes and Gaiter Boots. DRINKER & HEYL, Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

NOTICE.

DRINKER & HEYL, offer for sale, at their Stores, superior Port, Sherry, Madeira, and Claret Wines, Peppermint, and Cherry Cordials, Beer and Porter in Wood and bottles, Wine Bitters, Choice Butter in Kegs, Neats Tongues, Tobacco, Cigars, Old No. 3 and 4 Manila Cords, Paint Oil, and Turpentine in cans, Bright Varnish, Ravens Duck, &c. &c. Victoria, 4th February, 1846.

GOLD PENS.

JUST Received, and for sale, a few superior Gold Pens, in Silver Cases.

ALSO An Invoice of Stationery, consisting of Plain and Ruled Letter Paper, Plain and Ruled Foolscap, and Account Current, Account Sales, Office, Envelopes, and Blotting Paper, Quills Lead Pencils, Parallel Rulers, Office Inkstands, &c. &c. DRINKER & HEYL, Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

FOR SALE.

BY the undersigned, a few cases of superior Port, Pattinger Street, Victoria, 19th November, 1845.

McEWEN & Co.

GENERAL Commission and Shipping Agents Wine Beer and Spirit Merchants. And Auctioneers Queens Road & Chalmers Hong. Supply Ships, Families and foreign residents at the consular ports, with all descriptions of Stores; Salt provisions, Wine, Beer and Spirits upon moderate terms.

Also dry and convenient storage for goods. Victoria, 1st January, 1846.

BILLS OF LADING FOR THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

FOR sale at this office, four forms of bills of lading for goods of specie shipped by P. & O. Company's Steam packets. 1st for goods deliverable at London; 2nd for goods deliverable at Southampton; 3rd for goods deliverable at Suez; 4th for goods deliverable at intermediate ports. They are printed after the Company's forms on Bank post.

Office "Friend of China" } 25th October, 1845. } cent act (Victoria & S) for sale at this office.

Office "Friend of China," } Victoria, 10th October, 1845. }

LINGUISTS REPORTS AND NAVY BILLS or sale at this Office.

Office Friend of China, 28th Dec., 1844.

THE PAST YEAR REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED.

LEGISLATION AND FINANCE. (Concluded from last paper)

Debates on railway legislation occupied much attention in the early part of the session. A feeling prevailed among a party in the House that some more impartial, experienced, and inexpensive tribunal for deciding on railway bills than committees of the House might be constituted. But the Premier, who carried with him a large majority of the House, expressed his reluctance to seeing railway legislation taken out of the hands of Parliament; and it was therefore resolved to persist in the former system, and to constitute a number of railway committees to whom bills might be referred.

The railway department of the Board of Trade, and the objects for which it was constituted. It made elaborate reports, but it did not

become in any degree a guide or an authority with committees. Those boards of legislation naturally close to them, for the consideration of the bills before them unfettered by the conclusions of any previous tribunals; and thus the labours of the Board of Trade, however honest (and some doubts were thrown on its impartiality), or however able (and some question was made of its judgment) came eventually to be entirely disregarded. The committees took their own course, and the House acted on its own impressions. An immense sum was expended in feeling counsel and in rewarding witnesses, and in the end a great number of bills were passed, authorising the employment of £37,000,000 of the session.

The great questions of the session were the endowment of Maynooth College and the establishment of three Irish colleges for secular education. When the Minister's plan became known, a determined opposition to it arose in the country. In London great meetings were held at Exeter-hall, and in Covent Garden Theatre, and the measure condemned in the strongest terms, as an endorsement by the state of the Popish religion. In the House of Commons a strong party opposed the Minister, but as he had the support of a party, about one half, whole of the Conservative members, and the votes of the Whigs, with a few exceptions, his majority was carried, on the 15th of April by 221 to 176, and that majority was not materially altered in subsequent divisions. The debate was memorable for an emphatic declaration, made by Sir James Graham, that concession had reached its limits; but this declaration the right hon. baronet took no opportunity of entirely retracting. No man living could have seen a change of opinion with more courage than Sir James Graham. He was not to view words as words merely, and to think that their meaning is of very little consequence so long as they can be made to suit the convenience of him who employs them. The bill met with no effective resistance in the Lords. It was dragged through the House by the Duke of Wellington, and finally passed, on the 16th of June, by 181 to 50.

The conduct of the repeal party in reference to it was characteristic. They depreciated and sneered at it, but they lost no opportunity of supporting it by their votes, and of giving it all the aid in their power. The bill passed in opposition to the voice of the country; 10,000 petitions were presented against it, with upwards of 1,200,000 signatures; in favour of it there were only 82 petitions, with 77,000 signatures.

The Irish Colleges Bill was introduced by Sir J. Graham on the 9th of May. Its object was to establish three colleges for secular education in Ireland, to be wholly independent of all religious instruction. Sir R. H. Inglis stamped its character at once in declaring it as a gigantic scheme of godless education. The measure was carried against all opposition, the third reading in the Commons passing by 177 to 120.

Lord Ashley succeeded in carrying one measure of humanity. His bill for the protection of women and children in retail trade was received with a modified shape the sanction of the Government. It is now like the noble Lord's Mines and Collieries Act, placed on the statute-book, and will undoubtedly lead to other and better measures of a like kind. When the principle of humane legislation is once recognised, its operation cannot be limited to the narrow bounds of a few partial enactments.

The Commissioners to inquire into the state of the country were appointed by the Government. Sir J. Graham finally abandoned his Medical Bill, and other Government measures as the session advanced were thrown over.

THE MINISTRY.

Throughout the session the Government always commanded powerful majorities, yet it was in some degree placed in a false position. It had sometimes a majority of its own supporters voting against it, and relied for its existence entirely on the votes of the Opposition. This was the case with the Maynooth Bill, and, though no actual rupture in the Conservative party appeared, it was yet evident that the elements of union which bound them together were fast giving way. The cheers, loud and long continued, which followed Mr. Disraeli's attack on the Premier were bad signs of his popularity in the House. It was generally admitted that the phrase an "organised hypocrisy" expressed the character of his system.

The agricultural party had for some time viewed his conduct with regard to the tariff and agricultural produce with suspicion, and they were the more induced to oppose trifling alterations from a conviction that they were intended to lead to measures of greater magnitude. Whether this policy of the agricultural members were or were not wise, it had the effect of fretting the Premier, and it was probably during the session that he began to calculate his chances of success, should he attempt to defy the agriculturalists, and throw himself into the arms of the Opposition for support. But during the session his declarations were not of a kind to impair the confidence reposed in him. He met Mr. Villiers's motion with a decided negative, on the ground that it would lead to ruinous changes, and he suffered the members of his Administration to commit themselves to support of the corn laws yet more deeply. Sir J. Graham pointed to the general prosperity of the country as proof that the corn laws could not be injurious; while Mr. Sidney Herbert, both at his election for Wilts in February, and in the course of a debate in the House, pledged himself that no alteration in the existing law was intended.

The first announcement the country received of his course was in a contemplation was from the Times newspaper of Dec. 4. That journal announced in the most positive terms that the Parliament would meet early in January, and that the Duke of Wellington in one House, and Sir Robert Peel in the other, would move the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws. It was understood that the Times received its information from a Cabinet Minister, and that the Premier was a consenting party. But at the time the announcement appeared an incredible, notwithstanding the high character of the journal in which it ap-

peared, and the improbability that it could be derived in so important a matter, the statement was strongly doubted, though a feeling prevailed "that there must be something in it." On the evening of the following day, the Standard, in an article headed "Atrocious Fabrication of the Times," announced, in the highest authority, that the whole statement was false; that Parliament would meet little, if at all, before the usual time; that the Cabinet had come to no decision on the corn laws. This contradiction, it is now no secret, came from the Premier's own lips. For the moment it restored confidence; but frequent Cabinet Councils soon showed that some subject of the highest moment was in the air. On the 12th of December the whole of the Ministers tendered their resignations to Her Majesty, and the Conservative Government was no more. Sir Robert Peel had failed to reconcile his colleagues to the change he proposed of a total repeal of the corn laws. Lord Stanley was a resolute opponent of the measure, while the Duke of Wellington regarded it with suspicion and dislike.

The Queen immediately sent for Lord John Russell. "The noble lord" was found by the Queen's messenger at an Edinburgh hotel. He arrived in town on the 11th of December, and immediately hastened to her Majesty at Osborne-house. Being accepted the charge of constructing a Ministry, he braced some time for consideration. He first communicated to Earl Grey, and at that nobleman's suggestion consented to the admission of Mr. Cobden into the Ministry. The rest of the League had several interviews with Earl Grey, and it is understood that the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade was destined for him. From the first, however, Lord John Russell seems to have taken a true view of his position, and to have considered his case hopeless unless he could rely on the support of the Peel party. He addressed a communication to the Queen to that effect, and her Majesty replied "immediately" he took exception. The Whig leader argued forcibly that, if the measure was to pass, the change had better take effect at once, as it could never be made at a more favourable time, and any delay would prevent that arrangement between the different parties interested in the soil which it was desirable should take place at once. Sir Robert Peel still, however, made it the condition of his support that the change should not be immediate, or perhaps it would be more correct to say that he declined giving any pledge one way or the other. Hampered with this obstacle, and foreseeing a strong opposition to any plan he might propose, Lord John Russell was not perplexed by a division among his own party. Earl Grey, after having had his own way to a great extent in all the preliminary arrangements, objected to the appointment of Lord Palmerston as Foreign Secretary. This declined Lord John Russell on declining the construction of a Cabinet. He had accepted the charge on the 16th of December. He finally refused to join the Cabinet, and the Queen again sent for Sir Robert Peel.

The chief difficulty of the right hon. baronet was now to secure the support of the Duke of Wellington. He wrote to his grace, informing him of Lord John Russell's failure, stating that the Queen and the country were without a Ministry, and announcing the intention of his own party to take office. He immediately and earnestly represented to every political consideration. He gave in his adhesion to the Cabinet, and it was once more reconstructed on the old model, Lord Stanley alone retiring.

Up to the close of the year the nature of the plan the Premier would propose remained in doubt. It was not generally believed that it would be a measure of total repeal, though that course seemed the only one open to him. Those whose judgment was most to be relied on conceived that the probable result would be for a partial repeal of the corn laws, a comprehensive revival of local and personal taxation as would relieve the land from the burdens it now bears, and enable the home grower to compete on something like equal terms with the foreign grower. Such a measure would have been fair in principle, and might have been carried with little opposition. It would have made a settlement of the whole question. But the Premier had determined on a sacrifice, and had marked the victim. Connected with the manufacturing interest by birth, by prejudices, and by feeling, he resolved on throwing himself wholly on it for support. He had, perhaps, never forgotten the threats which were used towards him at agricultural meetings, nor the sentiments indicated by the turned down glasses at farmers' dinners when his health was proposed. Or, perhaps, looking at his position with a politician, he might conceive that, as any change it suited him to propose would meet with the opposition of the Protectionists, he ought to take the wiser and bolder course of ensuring the support of one great party in the country, while casting himself completely free from the interests that had hitherto secured by him. It is yet uncertain to what extent the secured parliamentary majorities before he decided on the course he pursued, and how far in 1841 he reproached his opponents with their forward measures they could not carry. In announcing a vote of want of confidence in them, he said, addressing the Treasury bench—

"You ask me if I will pursue the course that I did when a colleague of Mr. Huskisson? But he applied his principles in a very different manner to you—sincerely and cautiously, and with the power and means of effectually carrying them out."—May 18, 1841.

Sir Robert Peel has himself told us that he is not the same man now as in 1841. But it is yet to be seen whether he has renounced his opinion that it is necessary for a Minister, before bringing forward his measures, to make sure he has the power of carrying them into effect.

THE ANTI CORN LAW LEAGUE.

The history of any body the operations of which are continually of the character most necessarily to be kept in view. The Anti-Corn Law League commenced its exertions in its existence with very little prospect of succeeding in its objects. The minds

for a mass of new corn-law... his necessity to appear to the trial of which he had solemnly pledged himself. When any of the ultra Free-traders in the House brought forward a motion for the total repeal of the corn duties the Minister always opposed it. Even Sir Robert Peel, under such circumstances, was believed to be firm in opposing the League. No great assemblies to the effect of the above have since taken place. The object of the League was to attract all assemblies, many of them people who would have met as willingly to repeal the national creed. His orators were, as from the commencement, a heavy cotton spinner, a smart cotton-printer, a Socinian preacher, with an occasional Scotch Lord. In the month of March last a great meeting was held at Manchester, when pure democracy was incited by more than one of the speakers. Several other meetings similar in opinion were addressed, and a proposal warmly advocated for the purchasing up of freeholds, so as to create a constituency throughout the kingdom which would return a democratic Parliament—means by Mr. Bright, the Quaker, anticipated, they should be able to "roll the aristocracy in the dust." Their principal project for adding to their £100,000 fund, and at the same time drawing public attention to their cause, was, however, the formation of a bazaar, to be held in Covent-garden Theatre, for the exhibition of English manufactures. This exhibition, after an infinity of preliminary announcements, was opened on the 6th of May. It consisted of stalls of articles supplied by different towns and cities, and presided over by the free trade ladies of those localities, but instead of an exhibition of English art, as was proposed to make it, the bazaar consisted chiefly of articles marked at exorbitant prices, but such as were exhibited in the tradesmen's windows of the metropolis. A great part of it also was made up of those nondescript commodities which seem to have been originally designed solely for the stalls of fancy bargains. They are never seen in any other position. The excesses of this bazaar, viz. in filling up the theatre, paying doorkeepers, and printing, were afterwards set down in the accounts of the League at the enormous sum of £5,712 13s. 4d.!!! When Mr. Villiers's annual mission came before the House in June, Sir Robert Peel was as firmly opposed as ever to the doctrines of the Anti-Corn-law League. He declared that he would give his motion his decided opposition, "on the ground of its prejudicial effect on Ireland and on the colonies, and in the course of his speech used these words—"Social and moral relations between landlord and tenant have grown up under the corn-law which it is impossible to overlook." After this on Wednesday, the 18th of June, an aggregate meeting of the League was held, at which Mr. Cobden threatened that the corn-law would be repealed with Palace-yard filled with fanning machines, which language taken in conjunction with threats of turning out the hands in autumn, was very significant. At several elections the League was peculiarly unfortunate. In July, on the death of the Attorney-General, Sir John Lubbock, contested Election against Sir John Duckworth, but was beaten by a considerable majority. This was chiefly followed by the election for London, on the 14th of the same month, where Mr. Sturt's Adair opposed Sir Fitzroy Kelly, but was appointed Solicitor-General, but without success. The most signal defeat, however, was sustained on the 13th of August, when Mr. Bright and Mr. Sturt were elected, and every exertion had been made, on the part of the League, for Mr. George Hudson, the railway speculator, was elected by a large majority. It was at this meeting the League was pursuing the plan of harassing the Conservative electors by notices of objection to the registration, issued by wholesale, without reference to the truth of any such objections, and usually signed by worthless persons, obtained to do so for a small amount of money. At the Warwickshire session it appeared that a League agent had by a person named Worthington, stolen his money by the distribution of such notices, and the wretched old man, being unable to get through the work, employed a neighbour to assist him, and then swore in court that they were all in his own handwriting. Such were some of the smaller incidents of the great scheme of the Anti-Corn-law League. The principal remaining incident of the League's history for the year is the determination adopted to raise a fund of £250,000. This fund was proposed to be raised on the eve of an expected election, and of its intended purpose there can be very little doubt. It appeared, by the League accounts, that they had raised, since the commencement, £122,508 1s. and had in hand, at the end of the year, only £12,038 11s. 7d. Of the new fund, £50,000 was promised to one day in Manchester, on an agreement that only twenty per cent. would be immediately called for. In the strange and sudden Ministerial changes, the League declared in their journal that they would support Lord John Russell's Ministry only on the ground of a total repeal of the corn-laws. When Sir R. Peel's scheme was announced, the League denounced it as likely to make two parties, but they have now resolved, notwithstanding all previous pledges to support the Premier's compromise.

It only remains that we speak of the exertions made by the League to swamp the county constituency. For this end, they divided England and Wales into thirteen electoral districts, and appointed an agent of their own to superintend their registration proceedings in each of these districts. These agents issued advertisements in all the different counties, in which they invited persons who desired a county franchise to call at the League office of district. One of these advertisements will serve as a sample of the whole—

"NORTH LANCASHIRE.—  
"QUALIFY! QUALIFY! QUALIFY!  
"FREE-TRADERS desirous of procuring Qualifications for North Lancashire, are informed that they can be obtained for £33 and upwards each, yielding from 63 to 74 per cent.  
"Applications may be made to Mr. Moorhouse, League Rooms, 4, Oldspade, Preston."  
Bright qualifications were expensively produced to any extent. A freehold field in the neigh-

bourhood of some great manufactory was purchased, and on this field a number of cottages were raised, each one equal in value to a 40s. rent. Operatives were encouraged to buy these, by a part of the purchase-money being advanced on mortgage. The League had unlimited command of funds, and thus its management they were enabled to give to the roll of counties by hundreds or thousands. Mr. Cobden, at a meeting at Manchester, boasted that in this way the League had made certain counties as safe as pocket boroughs. This scandalous abuse of the representative principle met with its rebuke, and no attention from the Government. The League was suffered to proceed as it liked. It was playing Sir Robert Peel's own game, and he now welcomes it as his most efficient and able ally.

DOMESTIC HISTORY.

It is seldom that there has been more difference of opinion on a plain question of fact than has prevailed as to the result of the late harvest. By some it has been described as extremely abundant; by others as extremely defective. The truth is, that in regard to quantity the yield of all kinds of grain has been an average, but that the quality is somewhat inferior to that of ordinary years. This much is certain, that though a very trifling amount of foreign corn has been admitted, our markets have been well supplied. It would seem, too, that the stack-yards of our farmers still look well, and give the promise of well holding out until the next harvest. Green crops of all kinds have been abundant. In one species only of agricultural produce has there been a deficiency—the potato. The failure of the potato crop when viewed as a ground for corn-law repeal can be seen only as a pretence, and as a very flimsy one besides. The average price of corn has not throughout the year risen to 60s. per quarter. At that price, though comparatively high, it is certain that the people of this kingdom have been abundantly supplied and amply fed.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISE has been one of the most remarkable features of the year. When railways were first commenced in this country they were regarded with great suspicion, and capital to complete even the most advantageous lines was found with great difficulty. But during the last few years the extent of traffic published, all showing a marked increase in the receipts, has made an impression on the public mind, and held out a prospect of large and certain returns. Speculation, which advanced rapidly, but still with some discretion and steadiness, in 1842-44, took a wild and eccentric direction in 1845. To check it, the Legislature enacted that, before petitions for bills could be presented to Parliament, ten per cent. on the estimated capital should be lodged with the Accountant-General. This provision had a directly opposite effect to that intended. Companies felt themselves authorised to raise ten per cent. on their capital at once, besides the trifling subscriptions allowed by the Joint-stock Act; and that a greater temptation was offered to the cupidity of promoters, solicitors, attorneys, agents, and all other interested in getting schemes off the ground. Parliament had ceased its sittings, railway schemes were brought forward by hundreds. Every project, however wild, visionary, or knavish, had its weekly organs of agit for its scrip. The most enterprising was not to be confined to England, but to encircle the globe. As there was no agent to secure to each promoter a right in his line from the time when the first feasible scheme was no

ed to £170,000, 4000 schemes projected, whose entire value amounted to £23,000,000. The most capital feature of this gigantic speculation, was, that, while every one perceived its hollowess, every one seemed bent on taking part in it, and no success was a project announced than its scrip was eagerly sought, and pushed up to a premium. The total amount now vested with the Accountant-General, on account of deposits, is estimated at £14,000,000, or 15,000,000, a prodigious sum, though not half that which it was at one time supposed could be placed in his hands. The Church during the year has had its trials. But, wherever congregations have resolutely resisted the introduction of obnoxious novelties, they have never failed in effecting their removal. It has been most unfortunate for the church, that at a time when she has been most destitute of aid. For years past it has been perfectly apparent, that the whole of tracterian teaching and observance was towards Rome; during the year as many as thirty colleges of the Church of England have chosen to discard the obligation of their vows, and to go over to Popery.

IRELAND.

The past year has exhibited Irish politics, if not in a new aspect, at least in one which they have not assumed for a lengthened period. The efforts of the Legislature have been something like those which it used in the time of Charles II. towards that country. They have consisted of practical condonance, or what has been called with more truth than elegance, "the pesting of Popery," and have been received by the people much in the same spirit as such measures were received at the time to which we refer.

The commencement of 1845 finds the repeal agitation giving way to minor questions of ecclesiastical principle. "The splendid phantom" of Mr. Sheil had no so much attention as the working of a charitable Bequest Bill. The Romish dignitaries who had been invited to attend the Commissioners for the distribution of such endowments as the Legislature might here, for what the English had once called "superstition taxes," were assailed on all sides with great violence. Those who understood their offence and those who did not were equally warned, and a schism was imminent amongst the Irish Papists. Their bishops had been divided into the peaceful and a militant party. Those who composed the former, Drs. Grolly, Murray, and Devany, were of the bequest commission; those who composed the latter, headed by Mr. H. Romish Archbishop of Tuam, started the commission with violence at repeal dinners, and in interminable letters to the Minister. In their dilemma an appeal

was made to the Vatican, but appeals to the Vatican of late in Ireland carry out the adage, that "when men ask advice they ought to say approval." The party whom the Pope favours, they are the others, the others immediately dissent, that temporal power is not a authority. Pressed by the violence of the attacks of his brethren, the Romish Primate published a rescript from the Propaganda, dated 15th of October, 1844, cursing the clergy and bishops (non nomine etiam episcoporum) for "not abstaining from secular affairs, and fostering political prejudices." The bill also approved of the charitable Bequest Act. But as the bill was referred to the Repeal Association by the Romish Catholic bishops; and some of the agitators warned the Holy See to "beware that the cry of 'No Popery!' did not soon come from the opposite side in Ireland." In the meantime the agitation was on the decrease. The state prosecutions had stopped the monster meetings, and the spirit of the peasantry was sinking from hope deferred. The principal object of the agitation was a club called the "82 Club," founded to catch brazen young men fond of tawdry uniforms; and the duties of which were to consist of annual balls and dinners, at which latter they were to drink to the "Independence of Ireland." But, as the agitation waned, agrarian disturbances were renewed. While Mr. O'Connell was daily promising the people "repeal in three months," they were contented to leave the landlords alive till the power of a general ballot was obtained; but, when the vision began to disappear, they betook themselves again to the force practice of bloodshed. By the end of January the Irish papers were again filled with accounts of outrage throughout the south and west. An attempt of the Government to obtain valuable information on the state of the country, by issuing a commission of inquiry (the chairman of which was the Earl of Devon), formed the principal subject of attack and derision at Convent-hall at the beginning of the year. The Queen's speech at the opening of the Parliament made a reference to Irish education, which was followed by proposals to make a grant of £25,000 a year to the Popish College of Maynooth, and to found in Ireland three provincial colleges, with an income of £40,000 a year, each being £2,000 per annum more than it paid to the University of London. The proposals were warmly assented to, and a great exhibition of political foolishness was evinced. The Irish Romantics accepted the Maynooth grant, stating in the words of Mr. O'Connell, that "they would take all they could get, and hurra for repeal." An opposition was raised to the colleges similar to that to the Bequest Bill. This opposition looked at first exceedingly formidable, and the Premier attempted to stay it in his usual manner. He appointed a Popish committee, of no literary eminence or public reputation, to be the promoters of the Galway College. The result was the usual. The committee were assailed, and the opposition still continued. The northern college, situated at Belfast, was intended principally for the education of the people of the Church of Scotland in Ulster. Since the passing, however, of the Dissenters' Chapels Bills, to secure the Socinians in the chapels of the orthodox Presbyterians, which they had seized, the General Assembly of the Presbyterians had looked with anxiety on all Ministerial measures, and the Belfast College promises to be as great a failure as that of Galway. Outrage continued to increase, and the efforts of Mr. Stue to "pacify" are invariably followed by an increase of murders. It penetrated even to the northern province, where a new Captain Ross was appointed to the county of Londonderry, and a plentiful abuse of the Minister formed the occupation of the repeal party. The act for suppressing Orange processions not having been renewed by the Minister, the Orangemen of the north, according to ancient custom, assembled in some districts on the 12th of July, to commemorate the victory of Aghrim. In all districts but one, in which processions took place they went in pairs, by the city of Armagh, however, the Romish Catholics, assisted by a large number of intercept certain Orange lodges in their return to the city, and a collision ensued, in which one man lost his life. It fully appeared from the evidence that the Roman Catholic party were the aggressors. Nevertheless, however, that the Government had thought right to abandon the Processions Act, and therefore legalize processions, they, by a certain ambiguity which has characterised all their actions, chose to punish, by what is at the best an extreme exercise of the prerogative, those who attended these ceremonies. Commodore Watson, a gentleman of property in the county of Down, was dismissed the commission of the peace for attending a procession, his presence at which was a great cause of its peaceable progress and conclusion. Several gentlemen of great rank and high character resigned their commissions, in consequence of this foolish and unprincipled act of the Government, which, by becoming a precedent, allowed the Marquis of Downshire and others to do so in sympathy with Mr. Watson, and approve of his conduct without question. Several dinners were given by the Orangemen in Belfast, Lisburn, and elsewhere, in honour of those who were dismissed, or had resigned, and the feeling of disgust with, and hostility to, the Government, on the part of the Irish Protestants, was completed. Baron Heytesbury, the Lord Lieutenant, seldom interfered openly in public affairs. He held few levees, and was ignorant of the unpopularity of a Minister) were ill attended. Mr. O'Connell in autumn retired to Derrynane, and a rare spectacle was exhibited in Ireland of agitation by the Protestants. A great meeting, presided over by Lord George Loftus, took place in August in a field near Enniskillen, at which the Protestant nobility, gentry, and yeomanry, to the number of about 85,000, proceeded against the pro-Popery proposals of the Government. The Ministry were roused by this meeting to a faint resistance, which served only to irritate instead of intimidating. Captain Archibald, a gentleman in the highest rank of the Irish commoners, and of a family greatly respected by the Orangemen, was dismissed from the commission of the peace. In September a general election of Protestants was decided upon by the British Lords of Ulster, which is still progressing. Monster meetings were had in October at Thurles, Mayo, and Killybegs, but the enthusiasm

of the people had fallen. The new direction of "nationality" was towards midnight market, which cause it was maintained with a frightful increase of speed ever since. While, however, the Irish peasantry were thus employed, and while their efforts were engaged in discussing imaginary grievances, it pleased Heaven to afflict the country with the most awful calamities—a blight of the crops on which the people chiefly depend for subsistence. Like all Irish events, this was greatly exaggerated at first; but whether for its own awful character, or the assurances looked upon promises of it, the Irish potato rot will make 1845 memorable.

INDIA.

A new possession will have been forced on England this year. The Punjab, the richest and most fertile district of Hindostan, after being long disturbed by intestine revolution, has thrown its disorganised soldiery on the British frontier. Since the murder of Herra Singh on the 18th of December last, and the subsequent revolution, it has become apparent that no authority existed at Lahore to restrain the reckless spirit of the Sikh troops. The event has actually occurred has long been foreseen; and, since the commencement of the year, the Governor-General has concentrated a powerful force on the frontiers of Lahore, and has lately proceeded thither in person; but he carefully refrained from any act of hostility, and merely kept his troops assembled as a guard against invasion. The Sikh chiefs attributed this moderation to fear. They assailed their followers, and invaded the British territory in 1845. A battle ensued, in which they were defeated, and the Governor-General has now formally annexed the Punjab to the British empire. The acquisition is of priceless value, and it throws into our hands. We must take it, or be liable to constant invasion.

FOREIGN POWERS.

Our relations with the United States have assumed a serious aspect during the past year. The accession of Mr. Polk and his party to office has been signalled by a profession of hostility to this country, which not all the prudence of the British Government may be sufficient to prevent breaking forth in some act of outrage. The year began with a passage of a bill through the House of Representatives for establishing the government of the United States in the Oregon territory, on the pretext of affording to the States' settlers the benefit and protection of the laws of their country. This measure was carried by 140 to 50. It was next warmly debated in the Senate, but did not pass that session. In the Senate there was a Conservative majority; and, when the bill for the annexation of Texas came before it in March, the measure was rejected by 27 to 25. On the 23rd of March Mr. Polk commenced his presidential message. His message was extremely arrogant, and he expressed his determination not to surrender or compromise the "clear and unquestionable right" of the States to the territory in dispute. On the message reaching this country it excited great attention, and Lord John Russell brought the subject before Parliament; Sir R. Peel, with great firmness, declared that England was not aware of her territorial rights. The question of a satisfactory treaty with Texas which had languished previous to the presidency of Mr. Polk now received a new impulse from his democratic vigour. A bill for the annexation was under his auspices brought into the Representatives, rapidly passed by a large majority, and then sent to the Senate. This time it was not rejected. It passed the Senate by a majority of two, and with great clerical was soon carried into practical operation. The question of the Oregon territory immediately became the position of that of Texas annexation, and it was soon found that the Representatives were ready to pass the most violent resolutions for at once seizing the territory. The Senate, less reckless, holds for the moment the ruthless spirit of the more popular branch of the Legislature in check by a majority of one or two.

France has been advancing during the year in every element of material prosperity. Her revenue and trade continue to increase, but the surplus income has not been more than swallowed up by the additions made to the military and civil services of the country. In August the war, after a lull, has broken out with greater intensity than before. The massacre of the Dahra caves—the most horrible act recorded in the annals of civilization—has been promptly followed by a general rising of the Arab tribes, and the reappearance of the formidable Abd-el-Kader. On the 16th of September he cut a squadron of French cavalry to pieces, riding over and sabring them almost to a man; and this daring exploit was followed by others of an equally daring and successful character. The army has been largely increased; Marshal Bugeaud is with it in person; yet the insurrection still spreads.

Russia has been equally unfortunate in her war with the Circassians. Gen. Woronzow commenced the campaign by calling on the "rebels" to submit, and by explaining to them the hopelessness of resistance. He finished it by a retreat, after some sanguinary conflicts, in which he lost 10,000 men. The Emperor has been travelling to and fro with rapidity over the Continent. Italy has seen the spectacle of the Empress of the largest empire of the globe languishing in health, and seeking in change of air and scene that health which is richly afforded to the peasant girls who crowd to see her, and regard with pity her wasted form. Spain presents a singular appearance at the present moment. After years of licence, the nation is submitted to a vigorous authority of a successful soldier, who gives us a new constitution, and new laws at pleasure, and seems to be establishing the structure of Government on a solid basis. Spain is reconciled to the Pope, and only wants the marriage of her Queen to settle down into a state of perfect repose.

Thirty years have now elapsed since the GENERAL PEACE of Europe, and yet there seems no probability of its disturbance. Nations have profited by the happy truth that they are made prosperous and happy, not by the conquest of war, but by the labours of industry, the progress of the arts and sciences that civilize mankind, and by the peaceful labours that bless and enrich them.

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