

lemnly argued in the Court of Queen's Bench.

In answer to an inquiry by Mr. Bonham Carter, as to the assistance which might be afforded to emigration by the co-operation of the local legislatures in Australia in facilitating the recovery of loans advanced in England,

Sir J. PAKINGTON, admitting the importance of the subject, to which he had given his attention, doubted whether any action of Colonial legislation could remove the existing difficulty.

INDIA.

Bombay, May 22.—It is now generally understood that nothing more will be attempted in Burmah till after the rains; that, contrary to the original expectation, the whole force will remain in the country, for the most part, in all likelihood, on board the shipping, and that the war will be resumed with double vigour the moment the season permits. Amidst the apprehensions experienced of the unhealthiness of the Delta of the Irrawaddy, and the melancholy recollections of our former losses from disease, it must be remembered that the position in which matters now stand is nearly as unlike as possible to what it was in 1825, and that it by no means follows, from the mortality which then occurred, that our troops in Rangoon should suffer more during the approaching rains than they usually do during the wet season anywhere in new or inappropriate quarters. Should it prove otherwise, and pestilence begin to threaten us, the fleet which bore the army to Rangoon could in a few days carry it beyond the reach of malaria. The demand for the immediate despatch of ordnance stores and supplies

has been so heavy as to over-tax the resources of Calcutta, and Madras has been applied to. Bombay will, it is said, be called on to provide some 5,000 men, and our soldiers are eager for the fray. If the same determination of purpose and energy of spirit which now actuate our councils remain, there is every reason to believe that three months after the renewal of hostilities the war will be concluded, and a treaty dictated by us, signed by the Golden-Footed Monarch in his capital, seceding from the Crown of Burmah for ever an ample slice of his dominions. The calamity of the annexation of the whole peninsula from Chittagong to Penang, had we but a just claim and fought in an honest quarrel such as now, seems a much less calamitous and greatly less unhappy accident than it appears to be considered at home. An increase of five or six millions clear to our revenue—of probably twice as much more to the value of our commerce—of eight or ten millions to the number of our subjects, and a fifth or sixth to the area of our dominions—is one of those misfortunes Englishmen in the East could submit to with patriotic fortitude and Christian resignation, especially in the case of a country with a magnificent seacoast and line-of-shipping ports all around, and one of the most defensible frontiers that can be imagined. We speak, of course, of such a possibility only in the event of our having law and justice on our side; should it be found that our dominions were becoming too extensive, we might surrender the burning plains of Scinde, which draw from us half a million a year, for the peninsula

bounded by the hills of Assam and Straits of Malacca, presenting the advantages enumerated. We have had no intelligence from the seat of war for the past fortnight, and we in reality looked for none. Admiral Austen left Calcutta on the 3rd instant, in the screw steamer *Rattler*, after a sojourn of a fortnight at the capital.

Disturbances still continue along the north-west frontier, where warlike arrangements on an extensive scale are in progress, notwithstanding the near approach of the season when out-of-door occupations of all kinds cease. A force, consisting of Baldwin's Troop of Horse Artillery, a detail of Foot Artillery with two heavy howitzers, 600 rank and file of Her Majesty's 32nd Regiment, 600 rank and file of the 66th Ghorkas, and the 2nd Irregular Cavalry, were under orders to march to Nowshera on the morning of the 7th inst. This was in addition to the troops already in the field; they were to be provided with pontoons, to enable them to cross the rivers, if necessary, or lesser streams swollen by the melting of the snows. Various forts had been attacked or captured in the Hazara country; operations were still in progress, and it was hoped that they would in a week or two have closed auspiciously.

In the *Calcutta Englishman* we find the annexed extract from a letter from the Deccan:—"I think the Nizam will shuffle out of his difficulty. If he were to be treated with common justice, it would be found that he owes us nothing. During the last fifty years the Madras Commissariat at Secunderabad has wrongfully received

and appropriated all the duties on liquors, &c., denominated the 'abkarry,' producing, one year with another, a lac per annum. So we may get out of the scrape, but the contingent will be reduced, horse, foot, and excessive staff." As our contemporary remarks, this is certainly something new to us. If the fifty lacs of rupees here stated to have been already received by us have in reality been unjustly taken from the revenues of the Nizam, the balance due to us by his Highness will be reduced very materially, if balance due to us there be any at all.

The vacant berth of Resident in the Persian Gulf has been conferred on the Assistant Resident, Captain A. B. Kemball, who is, it is said, to be succeeded by Lieutenant Disbrowe of the 1st Fusiliers.

The Guicowar's treasury is said to have run dry. He has applied for a loan of half a million sterling for the payment of the arrears of his troops, but the Baroda bankers have declined unless under the British guarantee. Our Government have at present rather more than enough of Baroda politics on their hands, and decline increasing the number of their responsibilities. A memorial has just gone home from another British subject, one Baba Furkey, on the subject of the tyranny and oppression from which he has suffered through our means in connexion with Baroda; and it is hoped that this will furnish an additional reason for making a full and clear exposure of the whole atrocious system that has for a quarter of a century prevailed at this most corrupt of capitals. Of course our local governments, in this, as in most other matters—the filling up

of appointments always excepted—stands still.

The Government of India has bestowed a donation of £2,000 on Dr. O'Shaughnessy, in acknowledgment of his services in the construction of the electric telegraph; the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce has followed with a similar acknowledgment of more moderate amount; the Trade Association had led the way in doing justice to his merits. The officers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have presented a handsome piece of plate to Mr. Piddington, for the invaluable service he has conferred on navigation as one of the first cyclonologists of the age. His merits in this way have been fully recognized by the Admiralty at home, and by most governments and meteorologists throughout the world. Empty commendation has hitherto been the sole reward of a man who, had he received a tithe of the property saved through his means, would have had a princely fortune; Government never bestows good appointments on men of merit—they seem to think intelligence and excellence their own reward, and that the good things of the State should be reserved for those destitute of either. The case of Dr. O'Shaughnessy is an exception, and a very rare one, to a general rule almost uniformly adhered to.

A correspondent of the Bengal *Hurkaru* gives the following string of rumours prevalent in the City of Palaces on the 10th May:—"There were various reports and conjectures current in the bazaar yesterday. One was to the effect that the 5 per cent. siccas was to be paid off *instanter*. The

other, that a new 4 per cent. Company's was to be opened, inviting subscriptions in half cash and half in the 4 per cent. siccas, so as to convert all Government securities into one denomination of coin—namely, Company's rupees. The third was, that the coffers of the Treasury have not been so full for many, many years (with about fifteen crores), and spoke volumes in favour of Lord Dalhousie's highly prosperous administration, that there were more than ample funds to provide against all contingencies of the Burmese war." And the *Hurkaru* of the 12th states that money was so plentiful in the bazaar, that loans on the deposit of Company's paper, leaving a very moderate margin, might be obtained from respectable shroffs at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At Calcutta the markets for imports and country produce continued very dull. In the money market there was something like a glut. Not much doing in exchange, which had an upward tendency. The quotations for first-class credits, at six months' sight, were 2s. to 2s. $0\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rupee. Freights, sugar to London, on first-class British vessels, £3 5s. to £3 7s. 6d.; on American bottoms, 5s. to 10s. lower. Trade at Bombay has been done to a moderate extent only, and the port may now be considered closed for coasting vessels. The money-market continues extremely easy.

CHINA.

Our advices from Hong Kong are to the 24th of April.

After the departure of the Governor last month, Major-General Jervois, the Lieutenant-

Governor, by virtue of the charter and of the Royal commission, assumed the joint offices of Governor of Hong Kong and superintendent of trade; but the mail from England, which arrived on the 11th, brought a special commission appointing Dr. Bowring, consul at Canton, to discharge the duties of superintendent of trade during the absence of Sir George Bonham.

The *Boletim do Governo* of the 21st February contains the estimated revenue and expenditure of Macao for the financial year of 1852-3, showing 34,192 taels as the expected revenue, and 68,975 the expenditure, the deficit being 34,783 taels, equal to about £10,000. But the military is a charge on the settlement.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Extract from a letter from the Honourable John Morphett, dated Adelaide, 3rd February, 1852:—

“We hope that an act passed by the Council to legalize the stamping of bullion by the Government, and making it a legal tender, will do some good, as it will put into circulation £40,000 worth of gold now here, brought by South Australians, and will give such value and currency to the Port Phillip gold that all that may in future be raised by South Australian diggers will come here for employment.

“You will recollect the state of the Colony in 1841 and 1842; well, it is like that: worse, in that more people are going; but better, in that at that time we imported flour at £70 per ton, now we export it, and shall have a good market at Melbourne. I am very hopeful for the future, when we have got through this crisis. We

have had a capital clip of wool, a splendid harvest, and the Burra never was in so good a state—out of debt, with £80,000 worth of ore at grass; and the Patent Copper Company have fuel enough at the works to keep the furnaces alight all the winter. Notwithstanding this, from the financial state, prices of Burras under £70.”

The Honourable Colonel Butterworth, C.B., Governor of Malacca and Singapore, was on a visit to Adelaide for the benefit of his health.

An overland escort was to be established between Adelaide and Mount Alexander.

ADELAIDE, March 11. — The latest papers contain no commercial quotations. The following are for the month of February:—Wheat, 4s. to 4s. 3d. per bushel; flour, £12 to £12 5s. per ton; barley (English), 3s. per bushel; Cape barley, 2s. per bushel; bran, 9d. per bushel; pollard, 10d.; hay, £1 10s. to £2 5s. per ton; potatoes, 6s. per cwt.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Of recent arrivals the *Vimeira*, from Sydney, brings the latest news, her advices coming down to the 12th of March.

Mr. Robert Douglas publishes the result of an experiment in cotton-growing. He says the cost of labour in preparing the ground, picking the cotton, &c., for one acre, was £5; the produce was 920 lbs. gross of cotton, and the seed, which, at 2½d. per lb., amounted to £9 11s. 8d., which left £4 11s. 8d. profit on the acre.

Copper ore was being smelted at the Summerhill mines, and it was supposed that the ore was impregnated with gold, so as to

render it of much higher value than was at first anticipated.

A screw-propeller, built entirely at Sydney, had commenced running, the first vessel of the kind ever seen on the waters of Port Jackson.

The statistical returns for the year 1850 show that there were 10,037 births in the Colony during that period, of which 5,100 were males, and 4,937 females. The total number of births during ten years was 81,285, of which 41,291 were males, and 39,994 females. The number of marriages in the year was 2,825; in the ten years, 20,591. The amount of coin in the Colony was £670,900.

VICTORIA.

The news from this Colony is to the 2nd of March, up to which date we have files of the *Melbourne Argus*. The intelligence, so far as it relates to the success of the gold-diggers, is most satisfactory. Notwithstanding the prevalence of drought and dispersion of the miners, the quantity of gold received in the city by the Government escort appeared to increase rather than diminish, having in the last week of our advices amounted to upwards of 32,000 ounces. A second escort had been established, consisting of "a two-horse dray," a provision for safety and expedition which had brought considerable ridicule upon the Government. Disease at the diggings appears to be less serious, although we still observe cases of death from dysentery.

Provisions were plentiful and cheap, as in the neighbouring Colony of New South Wales; and it does not appear that any serious injury has as yet been experienced by flockowners and agriculturists. The value of gold shipped to England since the discovery of the auriferous wealth is stated to amount to one million and a quarter in pounds sterling, and this valuation is at the moderate estimate of £3 5s. an ounce.

WEST INDIES.

The *Magdalena*, which arrived at Southampton on the 21st June, brings 107 passengers, among whom are—Mr. F. Chatfield, late Chargé d'Affaires of Central America; Mr. Berkeley, late colonial secretary at Honduras; the Bishop of Antigua, &c., and on freight—silver, value £90,552, and gold, value £39,728, received across the Isthmus, ex steamer *Lima*, from South Pacific—total, 651,399 dollars; from California, £68,264, or 341,319 dollars; from Carthagena, £27,123, or 135,614 dollars; from Jamaica, 3,000 dollars; from Havana, 14,800 dollars; from other parts of the West Indies, 28,000 dollars; the total value being 1,176,732 dollars, or £235,200 sterling, of which 497,492 dollars is in silver, and 679,240 dollars in gold. The freight list also comprises—pearls, value £520, 105 serons cochineal, 21 serons indigo, 92 cases cigars, 119 bales tobacco, 6 casks coffee, 31 bales sarsaparilla, 3 cases tortoiseshell, 4 packages succades, 205 packages sundries.