

ble, and that his reception by the people was decidedly friendly.

On this report, the commodore seems to have urged an attack on Prome; but though the season was highly favourable to naval enterprise, from the abundance of water in the river, it was anything but favourable for the troops, so that his plan was overruled.

The commodore, however, was apparently discontented with no other occupation than that of keeping the river clear, and exploring its navigable channels, and determined, without any co-operation, to make a dash, sailor fashion. Accordingly, five small steamers were despatched, under the command of Captain Tarlton, R.N. About twenty-five miles below Prome, the little squadron was opposed by a heavy battery on shore, but this was soon silenced, and the steamers proceeded on their way. On arriving near Prome, the squadron had to pass a formidable fortification which completely commands the river. Here Bundoola, the son of the great General Bundoola, of the former Burmese war, had collected a force of 10,000 men. As soon as the steamers came within range, the guns of the fortification opened upon them, and the fire was returned; but the pilots pointed out an eastern channel, made by a long island opposite to the Burmese position, and through this the steamers proceeded unmolested to the city, where they found a number of guns, but no soldiers! Men, women, and children, crowded down to the river; and Captain Tarlton, perceiving their confidence, sent his boat ashore, and told the people that he intended to remove the guns and military stores. No opposition

was offered; and the inhabitants themselves at once aided him in spiking eighteen large iron guns, and throwing them into the river; at the same time helping him to remove nine brass guns, some of them 44-pounders, on board the steamers. After this, he destroyed all the powder and military stores, but left the inhabitants of the city unmolested. This was accomplished during a stay of two days only, and without the loss of a man, forming, certainly, one of the most singular achievements on record, whether from its daring, or from the co-operation of those whom military usages consider as "the enemy."

Having accomplished all that he considered requisite, Captain Tarlton set out on his return to Rangoon, and on his way down the river, found the Burmese general, Bundoola, who must have been napping, with a large number of war boats and state barges, transporting his army to the left bank of the river, evidently with the intention of marching to the protection of Prome. His troops, on the approach of the steamers, were found in confused masses, in boats, stretched along either side of the river. A storm of shot and shells from the steamers left them no time for reflection and astonishment, but spread dismay amongst the Burmese ranks, the men composing which took to their heels as fast as possible, whilst those in the boats jumped overboard. Between forty and fifty boats containing warlike stores were captured and destroyed. The general's state barge, standard, and two gold umbrellas were also taken, together with twenty prisoners. Though the loss of the Burmese must have been severe,

we did not lose a man, the casualties consisting in wounded only, and these were as follows:—Lieutenant Elliot, Royal Marines, Assistant-Surgeon Morgan of the *Fox*, and Mr. Hunter of the Indian Army, severely wounded; Mr. Brayer, mate of the Indian Navy, slightly wounded. Twenty-eight guns were taken. This occurred on the 10th of July. Taking the affair as a whole, a more gallant achievement does not grace the records of the Navy.

The exploit, including the stay of two days at the city, only occupied nine days in all, and triumphantly confirms the navigable capacities of the Irrawaddy, in the rainy season, as well as the feasibility of bringing the war to a conclusion by a rapid advance on the capital. The rain had risen eighteen feet, and a further rise was expected, and not the least doubt exists in the mind of the naval authorities that the largest steamer in the force would find no insurmountable difficulty in steaming up to Ava itself. Hence the achievement of Captain Tarlton appears to have created dissatisfaction, for apparent as is now the way to the capital, it would not be in conformity with military tactics for General Godwin to advance until he had received sufficient reinforcements to enable him to garrison Rangoon, Bassein, Pegu, and Martaban. Were, however, a still more powerful flotilla despatched at once to Ava, there is no question but that the capital itself would succumb as readily as did Prome, and from the same cause—hatred of the native government, and a desire to our rule. But, unfortunately, the navy cannot retain its conquests, having no available force to secure them.

We can readily conceive that in military eyes this naval dash is considered an "untoward event" as showing what might be done had the military force been efficient for all purposes. But it is not efficient, though that is no fault of General Godwin, who in every thing has shown himself a general of the first order. It is said by some, that the purport of Lord Dalhousie's visit was to add the weight of his personal remonstrances against General Godwin's plan of waiting for the fine weather, and to urge an immediate advance on the arrival of reinforcements. This is likely enough, and it may yet be fatal to General Godwin's reputation if he do not follow up rapidly a course which Captain Tarlton has shown to be perfectly easy. Military commanders have a great dislike to be led by naval ones, but it is not easy to see how General Godwin can hesitate to follow the example set him. After such an achievement, a prolonged march on the capital, after the waters of the river have subsided, would subject him to severe criticism, and the more so, should any disasters arise from sickness or the reverses of war.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Bombay Times* reports that the works on the Egyptian railway are proceeding rapidly.

#### CEYLON.

Our advices from Ceylon are to the 14th of August.

The event of the month has been the opening of council on the 4th ult., by his excellency Sir George Anderson. His excellency's speech indicates a healthy state of the public finances.

## AUSTRALIA.

Table of dates of advices.—South Australia (Adelaide), May 7; Victoria (Melbourne), May 29; New South Wales, June 3; Cape of Good Hope, August 3.

MELBOURNE.—The accounts received from Melbourne to the end of May are very favourable. From Mount Alexander, Ballarat, and other diggings, the news was cheering in the extreme. Fresh discoveries are daily being made. Among the latest are the diggings at the Anaki Hills, about twenty miles from Geelong. On May 24th, the escort from Mount Alexander brought into Melbourne no less than 31,478 ounces of gold, the result of a week's diggings. This exceeds by some 8,000 ounces any weekly quantity received yet. A railway from Mount Alexander to Melbourne was about to be constructed. Immigration proceeded at a most astounding ratio. Hundreds were arriving daily by vessels from the sister Colonies—California, and elsewhere—every ship being literally crowded with passengers eager to labour at the diggings. The total quantity of gold exported from Port Phillip or Victoria, up to the 22nd May, was 32 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. 8 oz., value £2,333,908.

SYDNEY.—The news from Sydney of the out-turn of the mines was of the most cheerful character. Gold in abundance was being obtained from the bed of the Turon—58 ounces were taken by one gentleman in a day, and a private letter notices that two others were getting it by shovels-full. Total exported to May 13, £1,429,882.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—On

May 13th a successful Tasmanian obtained a nugget which weighed 3 lbs. 4 oz. It was found imbedded in clay and quartz, in a gully between Forest and Fryer's Creeks. It was a rich and massive specimen, and sold for £120 1s. 8d.

RAILWAYS.—The Government *Gazette* of May 26th contains a notice, stating that it is intended to apply to the Legislative Council for an act to incorporate a company to be known as the Melbourne and Mount Alexander Railway Company, the association to be invested with full powers to borrow money, and acquire and hold lands, and compulsorily purchase the same for the purpose of constructing the railroad.

TRANSPORTATION.—The anti-transportation movement is not overlooked; the agitation, indeed, is stronger than ever, and there appears to be but one feeling in the Colony on the subject. The Legislative Council of Victoria has reiterated the desire of the Colonists that convict importation shall cease. The petition agreed to at a monster meeting held at Melbourne on April 2nd was couched in the most determined language, going so far as to declare that should the imperial government persist in forcing convicts on the new Colony through Van Diemen's Land, it must inevitably drive them to seek refuge from such heartless tyranny and oppression in national independence.

PRODUCE.—When it appears that the amounts brought in to be sent by escort to Melbourne for the weeks ending respectively the 11th, 18th, and 25th of June

were 80,000, 91,000, and 105,000 ounces, making an average of 92,000 ounces per week, or about £370,000 sterling, it may be supposed that the attraction must be such as almost to preclude the possibility of crews being retained by any precautions, however stringent. A striking fact in connection with the present information is, that the yield appears to have increased with enormous rapidity week by week, so that it is impossible to conjecture, unless some sudden and unlooked for check should be experienced, what will be the limit of the supply when the number of adventurers shall be swollen, as it will be in the course of a short time, by the emigrants daily arriving not only from Europe, but also from the adjoining Colonies, and even from Canada and the United States. Indeed, the totals now given appear astounding, showing, as they do, from the Mount Alexander mines alone, a rate of production little short of £20,000,000 per annum.

IMPROVEMENTS. — In contemplating the riches of the country, it must be recollected that, although the New South Wales mines are likely to be neglected, owing to the want of population caused by the drain to Mount Alexander, the last intelligence regarding them is very favourable, and that they appear to offer an unlimited field whenever the increase of competition resulting from immigration shall lead the colonists to consider moderate earnings to be worth looking after. It is difficult, however, to form an opinion as to when that period may arrive. Hitherto it has been supposed that the labours at Mount Alexander could be carried

on with great success only during the winter season, but if its deposits should with any degree of permanency offer the rewards now presented, there can be little doubt that before the next dry season methods of irrigation will be devised, whatever may be the outlay required for them, and that hence the receipts from that singular locality will be more or less continuous.

PROGRESS. — The Melbourne and Geelong papers notice with elation the rapid strides the Colony is making. The extensive properties of Messrs. Cullan and Edols, at Geelong, were sold by public auction, and brought remarkably high prices, as a few items will show. A lot of 48 feet on Yarra-street, depth 99 feet along Little Fyan's-street, £2 2s. per foot; 65 feet on Maylop-street, nearly opposite the theatre, by depth 78 and 90 feet, £11 per foot; 17 acres, 2 roods, 19 perches, fenced, with house, slaughter-house, &c., adjoining the estate and mansion of J. F. Strachan, £5,200; business premises in Corio-street, £4,100. In Melbourne property is valued at about 15 per cent. higher, so that intending Colonists may gather from the above, that good plots of ground are not a whit less valuable than English soil.

#### CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The following is from the monthly summary of the *Cape Town Mail* of August 3:—

“ After eighteen months of harassing and destructive warfare between the British Government and the Kaffir tribes, during which the inhabitants of this colony have been exposed to an untold amount of sufferings and loss, it would be a grateful task



to have to report the cessation of hostilities, or even such an approximation to a satisfactory termination of the war as would enable the frontier colonists to return to their deserted homesteads, and resume the peaceful occupations of husbandry and trade. With grief, however, we still have to record the continuance of this miserable struggle. The scene of contest is not yet even removed from the ruined district which bore the brunt of the first outbreak. The chiefs Sandilli and Macomo, with the remnant of their tribes, although repeatedly and gallantly attacked by the troops and burghers, still hold possession of their impregnable fastnesses in the Amatolas and the Waterkloof, while marauding bands of 'loose Kaffirs,' with their Hottentot rebel allies, still roam in detached parties, carrying terror and devastation throughout the open country; and even within the last few days attacking herds and sweeping off cattle within sight of Graham's Town, the metropolis of the eastern districts.

"An enumeration of the various encounters which have taken place during the month, within the Colony, between the predatory bands of the enemy, and the scattered farmers of the frontier districts, would present a distressing picture of ruinous disasters, manfully but ineffectually struggled against. At this moment life and property are scarcely anywhere secure within 100 miles of Kaffir land, except in the immediate vicinity of military posts. Productive industry, within that wide space, is everywhere paralyzed; and the inhabitants of the best portion of the

eastern province are reduced to the misery of seeing their once fertile lands thrown out of cultivation, their valuable flocks of the finest wool-bearing sheep in the world plundered, driven about and destroyed,—their labourers dispersed, and either enticed away to join the savage enemy on one side, or be embodied in scarcely less savage bands of irregular levies on the other,—while their families are kept in continual alarm, liable at any moment to be huddled together in lagers, or exposed to all the demoralization of crowded camps."

On the 20th of July General Cathcart issued a circular, which has naturally become the subject of pointed comments both in the Colony and at home. General Cathcart represents how England has derived nothing but the seaport of Simon's Bay in return for all the blood, treasure, and hard service, expended in defence of the Colony; so that it was not selfish advantage, but "national pride," and mainly "benevolent sympathy," that had actuated her in making the great sacrifices she has made in these wars. He admits, indeed, that "the protection of certain Colonists who were encouraged by the British Government on the Eastern frontier upwards of thirty years ago might to a certain extent be considered an obligation; but such obligations have their limits;" and he significantly intimates that "grants of better land elsewhere, where sheep and oxen can feed in security, or pecuniary compensation, far less expensive than a succession of Kaffir wars, would provide amply and equitably for any such claims."