

# BRITISH AND AMERICAN NEWS.

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## BUENOS AYRES.

We give elsewhere a summary of the news received from England direct by the last packet. There are four days later date by the way of Madeira. The following are the chief items of intelligence. On the 13th Lord John Russell was to bring in the bill for the abolition of the office of Viceroy of Ireland. It was reported that as soon as that measure passed, there would be a partial change of ministry, Sir James Graham and some of his friends coming into the Cabinet. The Earl of Clarendon, it was said, would succeed Lord Palmerston in the Foreign Office. The advices from Paris to the 7th represented that capital as enjoying tranquillity and a revival of the retail trade, which had been so much depressed in consequence of the election of the 26th of April. The committee on the electoral reform had concluded their labours, and would present their report on the 18th, when the government were to demand its preferential discussion. The bill, if carried, will deal a heavy blow to the universal suffrage, reducing the number of electors about one-third. If the government succeeded in this measure, it was understood they would introduce another law for the object of extending for a specified term of office to ten years, and to restrict for a like period the legislative functions of the Assembly. The adoption of either of these measures would, it was confidently believed, provoke armed resistance; but things had come to such a pass that the government seemed to be convinced that it was impossible to avoid a crisis. Great preparations had been made to meet the threatened outbreak, and there would be little room to doubt of the final triumph of order, had not socialism, it is to be feared, undermined to a considerable extent the fidelity of the army.

According to the Rio Janeiro *Journal do Comercio*, the British government has finally contracted with the West India Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of the mails to Brazil and the River Plate in paddle-steamers.

This company's vessels are generally of 1800 tons burden and 450 horse power. One of them will have Southampton every month, and call at Madeira, Pernambuco, Cape de Verde, Pernambuco and Bahia, performing the voyage to Rio Janeiro in 24 or 25 days. The voyage to Pernambuco is calculated not to exceed 18 or 19 days, including all the stoppages.

From Rio Janeiro to the River Plate there will be a special line composed of steamers of less power.

The company were desirous that their steamers should call at Lisbon, but the admiralty would not consent to that stoppage. It was thought expedient, therefore, that the company should establish a small steamer between that capital and Madeira, in order to connect the Brazil line with the chief commercial ports of Portugal.

The company were making great exertions to commence the conveyance of the mails in August or September, and the screw-steamers *Edin*, belonging to them, was shortly to leave for Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio Janeiro, with one of the directors on board, in order to conclude the necessary preliminary arrangements in all these ports.

## POLITICAL.

The success of the Socialist candidate for Paris is the leading political incident of the week. It was a fair starting point. Neither party was taken by surprise. The personal influence of the candidates were little or nothing, and—the socialist won. It was fairly realistic what Socialism means, the election has rather a somber moral. It is either of immense importance, or of none at all; for Socialism cannot form any definite measure under the present French constitution; it must either overturn it, or be quiet. It has no half-measure to carry. The majority in provinces to the numbers was not a large one, but the preponderance of Socialism in the city is an alarming symptom. The result is partly accounted for by the absence of the Legitimists, and even of some of the Conservatives, from the contest, and the disinclination of many who are far from adopting Socialism in principle with the present state of things. If, too, it is remembered that this is an universal suffrage election,—that all the factious and dissatisfied spirits are sure to vote, but not so apt to fight—while many Moderates who did not choose to vote would nevertheless take up arms if either were seriously threatened—the danger may not be so imminent after all. Still it exists, and in no small degree. An actual Socialist Assembly in France would be the greatest accolade such a country has yet endured amidst all her multitudinous expeditions.

The left Parliament has adjourned, having, it is said, done its work. It separates under considerable doubt whether Prussia intends to keep its faith with Germany, or support the national Germanic movement depends altogether on the simple exercise of a single power.

A case of different kind is mooted in Spain, where one of the ordinary temperance riots, which were in the stage drawing-room—was raging up the back stairs and down the front between the King and the Ministry. The Queen, after the proper stage fashion, nets Navarez on the stairs afterwards, and majestically bid him to "walk off." The Minister walks off accordingly.

**SOCIAL.**

A Prince was added to the Royal Family early on Wednesday morning.

The proceeding Parliament have been of great social interest. On Monday night the discussion on the savings banks, and that on Tuesday on the public affairs, called forth many speeches of great interest. The latter debate, especially, was conducted with peculiar spirit. We have alluded to both elsewhere at full length.

A disgraceful fact was brought before the notice of the House on both these days. A sinecure office—Regentship of the bishopric of Canterbury—is under a peculiar system in the gift of the Archbishop. They have the power of making three sinecures, but that if the holder should die, the Archbishop, who is his successor and his successor is appointed, the Archbishop has still the power of nominating the third in succession. As the sinecure in question is worth £1000 a year, and is a sinecure, it is to archiepiscopal descendants. Dr. Moore has invited nominated his two sons, and Dr. Sutton his grandson. A Moore is a sinecure, and a Sutton in reversion. To the third reversion, vacant for some years, Dr. Howley, from conscientious scruples, refused to nominate. The present Archbishop has supplied his predecessor's want of capacity by nominating his own son. To take advantage of the piety of a predecessor by seizing a sinecure, and a sinecure of mammon, which, for that piety, could never have been vacant—in the face, too, of present feelings on the subject—was a shame and a scandal. Fortunately, Lord John Russell intended that the sinecure, as such, was in process of abolition, so that the Archbishop will only have disgraced himself for nothing.

On Monday, the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill was read a second time in the Commons. This measure is for the abolition of the office of the committee of last year, which proposed three paid commissioners to attend properly the business of the House, and three unpaid clerical men. The bill provides for two paid commissioners—one a layman, and two assistants—three unpaid clerical men—and one of them a layman. These twelvemonths have been amongst the clerical commissions and episcopal committee, so that their task will not be an

easy one. But the bill will probably be so far altered in committee, that comment on its present condition is out of place.

On Wednesday, a useful measure passed a stage in the House, which enables tenants to lay out money on their landlords' property, and to secure at the same time a corresponding benefit to themselves. Mr. Ricardo failed in his attempt on the next question of "railway traffic," which the legislature are sure to shrink whenever brought fully before them. Our commercial interests abhor legislative almost as much as executive interference.

Thursday evening was occupied in the Lords with Protectionist's grievances, and in the Commons with the progress of that most useful measure for the extension of the County Courts. Of this, when complete, we shall give a full analysis.

Friday occupied the attention of the Legislature last night to the exclusion of all other topics. The Payment of Advances, the Parliamentary Voters, and the Irish Chancery Reform Bill, were severely carried to an advanced stage towards completion. The last measure excited a lively debate and many personalities among the legal and official members of the House. Ultimately it passed through committee with no material curtailment of its provisions.

Sir G. Grey promised a Government measure to give practical efficacy to the Factory Act of 1847. By the new bill the manufacturers are allowed to employ only sixteen six and six on five days in the week, and between six and two on Saturdays. The hours during which work will be possible are thus arranged so as to render the rotary system, which has heretofore so much censured, totally impossible.

The Bishop of Exeter has declared by his refusal to the Petition of Canterbury, that though he refuses to obey motions, he intends to offer no opposition to the institution of Mr. Gorham by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It would be of little use if he did. Notwithstanding this, the Bishop is asking the Common Pleas for the very identical relief to prevent the Ecclesiastical Courts from instituting what the Queen's Bench refused him the other day.

The Common Pleas, very judiciously, will give no answer till they have consulted the Queen's Bench. What a pity the jurisdiction of the County Courts is not yet sufficient to admit the case being brought before them in all matters of all other modes of redress to the wronged party.

**ACCOMMODATION OF HER MAJESTY.**

On Wednesday morning, at twenty minutes after eight o'clock, the Queen was safely delivered of a Prince at Buckingham Palace.

In the room with her Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Dr. Loock, and Mrs. Lilly. The usually usual, and in its course adjoining were the other medical attendants—Sir James Clark and Dr. Ferguson—and the Ministers and Officers of State summoned on the occasion.

The Privy Counsellors present were—The Duke of Wellington, Sir George Grey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Lord John Russell, the Duke of Norfolk, and the Marquis of Breadalbane.

The fact of the birth of the Queen's heir was issued on Friday morning—

"The Queen has passed an excellent night."

"Her Majesty and the infant Prince are going on favorably."

Her Majesty has signified her pleasure that the young Prince should be named Arthur, in order to testify her esteem for his Grace the Duke of Wellington. Prince Albert waited upon the noble duke and conveyed to him the wishes of her Majesty.

The news from the north-west frontier of India, though far from satisfactory, cannot as yet be said to justify any serious apprehensions.

Mr. Hamilton has been arrested, "has not made with rose-water," and the process by which the mountaineers, among whom our last consul was seized, are to be transferred from brigands and out-throats to orderly neighbours, as, we fear, very unlikely to prove an exception to the rule. The present mail undoubtedly confirms the suspicion stated in our correspondent's former letter, that the retroitory expedition into the Kohat hills had been of doubtful

ful issue. But the quarrel is still confined to a tribe contemptible in numbers, and rendered yet more insignificant by their local isolation. That the task of restoring them and of opening communications may prove tedious, is likely enough. But no present cause is shown for fearing that our position in which we are now engaged will or that a few weeks of vigorous action will not place us out of danger of the assistance—so familiar to late years—of a paltry squabble left to lie over through a whole hot season, and so frustrating our aims.

Discontents, however, even to the smallest extent, is happily rare enough in our Eastern warfare to invent even an incident like the present with a disagreeable import. Our readers may therefore, desire to be put in possession of the few facts that have, up to this time, transpired in the subject. The Government, they may remember, had endeavoured to raise a regiment in the Peshwar province, by levying a tax of two rupees a man upon sale. The "ignominious" of fiscal burdens, which has been charged against a people more civilized than the most mountainous tribes, was fired by this early appearance of civilization in the persons of the taxgatherers. So very characteristically, they conceived in their fiercer anger, before being seen, they were ready in the passes, but not without achieving their purpose. They forced the passage from Peshwar to Kohat; and to understand what was secured, it is necessary to form some idea of the road thus vainly attempted to be secured. Kohat lies little more than 30 miles to the west of Peshwar. The two valleys are separated by a range of mountains traversed by a pass some ten or twelve miles long. This gorge is commanded, at the Kohat extremity, by a hill crowned by a tower, in which was placed a small garrison for the purpose of keeping open the communications with Peshwar. It had greatly excited the rebel leaders; and their triumph was yet further enhanced when they heard that the British troops were about to attend the expedition. No sooner, therefore, had the British troops returned to Peshwar, leaving a small force under Captain Cok, behind them at Kohat, than the tower in the pass became the object of renewed hostilities. On ascertaining the danger with which it was threatened, the British Government was succeeded in relieving the garrison. This done, he returned to Kohat. Two thousand of the rebels, however, under their chief, Khau, immediately re-commenced the attack, and in a more systematic manner. Advancing within a few miles of Peshwar, they broke regular breastworks, they contrived to cut off the only supply of water to which the beleaguered garrison had recourse, and the probability of holding the post was now despaired of. Captain Cok, compelled to withdraw the garrison, was at length, on the 3d of March, obliged to do so by the help of a friendly tribe whose services he had secured. The Afereedes, it would, on gaining their object, dispersed. But the command of the pass in case of their hands, all communications between Kohat and Peshwar are closed.

This, it is confessed, is but a lamentable result; and it is rendered yet more unsatisfactory by the approach of the hot season. The Afereedes, however, are but few in number; and the simple, though simple, means of crowning their heights (a pretension said, by the way, to have been neglected by Sir C. Campbell) is all that is wanted at any time in our power. Of course the proverbial disadvantage of dealing with barbarians in such a manner, "as you would have them made with rose-water," and the process by which the mountaineers, among whom our last consul was seized, are to be transferred from brigands and out-throats to orderly neighbours, as, we fear, very unlikely to prove an exception to the rule. The present mail undoubtedly confirms the suspicion stated in our correspondent's former letter, that the retroitory expedition into the Kohat hills had been of doubtful





