

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

France.—The liberty of the press is still the subject of discussion in the French papers, and numerous petitions have been preferred against the proposed restriction. The French ladies engaged in the book-selling business, have sent in a petition concluding with the following words—"The official journal informs us that the proposed law is a law of love and justice. Save us gentlemen! preserve us from the justice and love of the count de Peyronnet."

The editor of the *Courier Francais* has been fined 300 francs, and sentenced to 15 days imprisonment, for expressing himself rather too freely upon the subject of the proposed law.

Spain.—A manifesto has been issued from the war department to the commanders of the provinces respecting the affairs of Portugal, it is entirely of a pacific nature, and speaks of the "magnanimous king of England." It is stated that the French government had withdrawn the Swiss regiments from Madrid.

Portugal.—Some difficulties exist between the Portuguese government & Lord Beresford, and it is said that he is about relinquishing the idea of taking the command of the Portuguese army, previous to his departure on his return to England.

A branch of the apostolic junta is said to sit nightly in Lisbon, and to contribute its subscription to the grand collection made on the part of the church in Spain and the rest of the kingdom, to resist the constitution.

Many broils have occurred between the British soldiers and the Portuguese, and ten of the former had been assassinated.

The better opinion is, that the cause of the Portuguese rebels is desperate. The marquis of Chaves, defeated, has been compelled to withdraw to the frontiers, and must soon retreat into Spain.

The Spanish army was moving upon the Portuguese frontier, and the oxen and mules, &c. on the Portuguese side of the line, has been purchased up and driven into Spain.

The details of the surrender of the fort of Almeida have been received at Madrid. It was effected without bloodshed, the whole of the garrison have declared for the king Miguel, to whom they took the oath, on the 20th of December. The garrison forms at this moment a part of the division commanded by brigadier Magesa.

Netherlands.—A dreadful mortality is raging at Groningen.

Greece.—As usual, our accounts from Greece are vague and contradictory, but from what we see in the foreign extracts, we incline to the belief that their prospects are brightening; they are stated to be "joyful and filled with hope."

The Greek frigate *Hope*, now called the "Deceatur Millinois," arrived at Napoli on the 6th Dec. She was received with great enthusiasm. Miaulis took command of her, and the *Lousou* G. Zette says, that gallant admiral had already, accompanied by the rest of the flotilla, attacked the Egyptian fleet, and captured several vessels laden with ammunition.

The same paper states that M. Eynard has received by way of Ancona a letter from Spizzia, of Dec. 24, which confirms the complete defeat of Redshad Pacha, and the deliverance of all Upper Greece, from Attica to Thessaly. Karaiskaki, and the other Greek commanders at the head of a numerous army, are in pursuit of the barbarians.

Another column of Rumelioti had entered the Morea, marching against Ibrahim Pacha, who being beaten at every point, had been obliged to quit the plateau of Tripolizza, and to retreat of Modon.

Letters from Marseilles says that Lord Cochrane is at St. Tropez, arming a brig of 400 tons, and making active preparations to join the Greeks, with a considerable amount of funds.

A letter is mentioned from Lord Chichester to the Greek government, in which he says, that the time is approaching when he will come to their relief, and that he may be expected in the Morea in the month of March.

The editor of the *Baltimore Patriot* has been favored with the following interesting extract of a letter from a gentleman in Europe, (who has the best means of acquiring the most correct information,) to his friend in Baltimore, dated 26th January. Whether his predictions are well founded or not must soon be realized:

"My unconquerable persuasion is, that war must break out ere long, and that France and England must be parties. Every effort will be made by England to involve us some way or other. I know, that a policy to this effect has been agreed on

and laid down in England several years ago, as the policy to be observed with respect to us, whenever any new war should occur. There was a policy adopted then, and it will be followed, not to allow us to enjoy a profitable neutrality, and to become the factors of the world. They will move every spring to deprive us of another term of progressive, unexampled prosperity. They will not allow a renewal of Jonathan's thrifty, nourishing system of paddling his own canoe, and picking up grists all over the mill ponds of the world, and of effecting in some twenty years, what other nations have required centuries to accomplish. I tell you, my good friend, I know this. England will have enough on her hands in Europe, and I shall not be surprised, if, under her present pressure, she may be in earnest in accommodating every cause of difference with the United States: indeed, I have some reason to believe that she will.

"There must be war—all Europe is alive for it—especially the French: they are indignant at Mr. Canning's audacious language in his afterwards subdued and mitigated speech. The English are detested every where on the Continent, and no where more than in Portugal. The Portuguese ask the British officers, what the devil brought you here? Who wants the English to be meddling in our affairs? You may be assured that the Portuguese neither understand nor want Don Pedro's Constitution. The English are as well aware of that as are the French or Spaniards. Again, I say, there will be war."

From Niles Weekly Register.

It is impossible that Great Britain can support her present systems of taxation, except at the cost of the people of other nations, with whom she shall exchange articles produced by scientific power for others produced by manual labor, which will average as fifty to an hundred against one in her favor—nay, that she cannot freely receive grain, butter, cheese and other articles of food, without hazarding the destruction of her systems; and her artificial means are so far extended, that attempts to equalize the burthens on her people to the reasonable ability possessed to bear them, would be not less dangerous than a perseverance in exacting from "the mouth of labor" the last crumb that it can possibly spare, without actual starvation. And this must needs be the condition of the laboring class, when the well known fact is, that taxes equal to one hundred dollars a year are demanded and collected for every adult male in the kingdom, princes and nobles, and priests and paupers, pensioners, soldiers, and other non-producing or uselessly employed persons excepted. And as other nations introduce and make use of scientific power, the "opercatives" in Great Britain will be more and more pinched for food, until there shall be a general struggle for existence—but until it shall be general, the bayonets of the soldiery will continue the starving wretches of the rightfulness of empty bellies and a want of food for waiting children! However, unless there should be some pretty extensive wars, to cast many tens of thousands of persons, on the continent of Europe, from the producing into the consuming class, it is perfectly evident that the foreign consumption of British goods must either be more and more reduced, or the price of them exceedingly lessened, and either will tend to the same consequence—which is, that the British laborers must work more and live upon less than heretofore; but to us either of these seems almost impossible. Take the following, from a late number of the *London Courier*, as a sample of the state of those unfortunate people. It is a letter from a "respectable clergyman" at Blackburn, written on the 1st January last, and is a fair representation of the misery of the laboring classes—toiling 16 hours in a day to make articles for the clothing of others and yet possessed of nothing but rags to cover their own nakedness!

"Having been appointed one of the committee for the distribution of relief in this district, I have thought it right personally to visit every house, and see the situation of every family—an afflicting duty, it is true but one which, as the curate of the parish, had I not been thus officially called upon I must feel I was bound to perform. And this is the real state of those by whom I am surrounded.

"Here are numbers of our fellow creatures, reduced, by circumstances over which they had no controul, to the very lowest condition in which it is possible for human nature to exist. Englishmen and women toiling from day break till midnight, without intermission, except on the Sabbath; and with all their labor unable to obtain sufficient for their families to live upon. And what is food which all their labour cannot procure? A little meal, a little flour, a few potatoes, and little milk as a luxury. Incredible tho' it appear, I know it to be

true, that whole families of eight and ten souls are now existing upon the porridge of meal or flour, generally eaten twice a day; and even with this they dare not satisfy the cravings of hunger. Formerly, no cottage was without a bread-flake, or a place to hang their oaten cakes upon, which any member might go to as he had occasion. Now, it is a luxury to have a baking of oaten bread; a luxury which very few families can indulge in! It is almost superfluous to add, that butcher's meat is not to be thought of except it has been overkept, and is sold at a low price.

"But to describe the state of their clothing is simply impossible. When I speak of rags and shreds of garments, I cannot convey an idea of the truth. No one who has not witnessed an assemblage of four or five hundred emaciated, squallid objects, begging praying, in the most moving language, for a few articles of apparel, can form a notion of it. I am sure no man of common humanity can witness it without feeling his heart moved with compassion.

"But this is not all. It cannot be expected that a body of people, thus fed and thus clothed, should be in a healthy condition. Disease has already commenced its work in many parts.

"There is no exaggeration in this statement. I declare what I have seen; and I consider with anguish, that the same statement might be given, from many other places, where the distress is equally great."

There are cases of person and families, such as are described in the preceding letter, every where—but in most countries they are of such as will not labor or cannot obtain employment; and some are so debased as seemingly to prefer want of food and abundance of filth, with laziness, to plenty and comfort, with industry. These exceptions, however have no relation to the case of the British laboring poor—they do work 16 hours a day, and yet cannot earn enough to supply themselves with food! THERE MUST BE AN END OF THESE THINGS.

Georgia.—The Secretary of War has directed the Indian Agent to procure of the Creeks the strip of "pine barrens," about which Gov. Troup has wrought himself into such a rage—and there is hope that this unpleasant affair will soon be finally settled.

State Seminary Lands.—It will be recollected that an act was passed at the late session of the General Assembly of this State, for selling the two townships of land in Gibson and Monroe counties, reserved for the support of a State Seminary. As this is a measure of some moment to our State, we will give an abstract of the act:

James Smith is appointed Commissioner for the township in Gibson county, and James Borland for that in Monroe county. They are to be sworn faithfully to perform their duties, and severally to give bond, with approved sureties, in the penalty of fifty thousand dollars. They are to divide the lands, by half quarter sections, into first, second, and third rate, and to deposit a plat thereof with the Records of the respective counties. None of these lands are to be sold for less than \$3 50 per acre for first rate, \$2 25 for second rate, and \$1 25 for third rate.

The lands are to be sold at public auction: the sales to commence, in Gibson county, on the first Monday in September next, and in Monroe county, on the first Monday in October next, and to continue not more than two weeks.

The land will be sold in tracts of half quarter sections; one-fourth of the purchase money to be paid at the time of sale, and the balance to remain on interest for ten years, at the option of the purchaser; the interest to be punctually paid in advance for each year, or, if neglected for two successive years, the land will be forfeited to the State. The Commissioners are to receive the money, and to give certificates, which are to be recorded; and

when the whole is paid, the Recorder is to give a final certificate, which will entitle the purchaser, his heirs or assigns, to receive a patent from the State.

The Commissioners are to make quarterly reports of their accounts, and to pay over money to the State Treasury when so directed by the Treasurer.

All lands which shall not be sold at the first sales shall be publicly sold, by direction of the Treasurer, in like manner and upon the same terms as above. Three sections, contiguous to the Seminary, are reserved from sale. Those tracts which may remain unsold are to be let on yearly leases. The Commissioners are severally to receive, as a compensation, two per centum upon all money they pay over to the Treasury.

Such are the features of the act—and among the most important is that which gives a credit to the purchaser. The U. States has had a very sufficient experience of the relative merits of the two systems which have been successively adopted for the disposal of the public lands. The first allowed a credit, and has been productive of much disappointment, both to the nation and to individuals: a variety of laws have been passed to relieve the purchasers, and to secure the heavy debts due to the United States. The cash system has been found much superior to the other, more productive to the nation, and more beneficial to purchasers. We fear that, since we have adopted the former system, we shall reap some of its pernicious consequences; and that our statute books will display frequent and necessary acts for the relief of purchasers. We wish, however, that our anticipations may not be realized; for the interest of education and the honor of human nature alike demand a sale of the townships.

The Rail Road.—The Legislature of Maryland have incorporated a Company to make a Rail Road from Baltimore to the Ohio river. A law confirming the incorporation has passed both Houses of the Virginia Legislature, almost unanimously. It was expected that a similar act would be obtained of Pennsylvania. The Roads were to be opened at Baltimore on the 20th inst. and it was anticipated that all the shares would be taken on the same day. The stock is divided into thirty thousand shares of \$100 each, ten thousand of which are reserved for subscription by the state, five thousand by the city of Baltimore, and fifteen thousand are to be taken by individuals. A resolution had already passed one branch of the City Council, directing a subscription for the five thousand shares. This project has been adopted in great haste, but we hope its novelty constitutes the least of its merits. We say "God speed" to the enterprise.

The navigation of Lake Erie commenced in the early part of this month, between Sandusky and Detroit.

Edward Tiffin has been appointed by the President of the United States, Surveyor General of Public Lands in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan territory.

Duelling!—Gen. Saunders, of North Carolina, on the 27th ult. requested Mr. Wright, of Ohio, an able and zealous defender of the administration, to favor him with an interview for the settlement of their differences, "in the mode usual among gentlemen!" Mr. Wright very properly declined the disgraceful and barbarous method of settling disputes—and apprehend he will stand as high in the estimation of men of sense, as if he had met the gallant General on the field of blood. It was but a short time before, that Mr. M'Duffie challenged Mr. Metcalf, of Kentucky, who accepted the challenge, and chose to fight with rifles. The inveterate antagonist of Cumming quailed before the backwoodsman, and "backed out." Such scenes cannot be spoken of in terms of severe reprehension. They are unworthy of gentlemen and legislators; but deeply disgraceful to the character of our public councils. The *New York American* has the following: