

ALARMING NEWS FROM THE ARMY.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 13, 1847.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: The enclosed slip will give you the details of the unpleasant rumors and reports from the army received here last night. I have seen and conversed with several of the passengers, but can obtain nothing more definite. A perfect panic appears to have prevailed at the Brasos and Matamoros, and all kinds of rumors circulated and credited. From all I can sift out by inquiries this morning, from every source, I think, though a great battle has possibly, and even probably, been fought, that the chances are against its having taken place, particularly as Santa Anna had a much safer game to play by coming down upon the Rio Grande. It is acknowledged that the information is through Mexican sources, as there does not appear to have been any direct information from Gen. TAYLOR's army. If SANTA ANNA has attacked him, I should fear for the result, as, under the circumstances of the case, he never would have done it except with great superiority of force. One thing I have no doubt of, and that is, of Santa Anna's appearance, and in large force, in the neighborhood of Saltillo, and with a view to offensive operations, but whether on the main body of the army or on the line of posts in the rear, remains to be seen.

FROM THE N. O. COMMERCIAL BULLETIN OF MARCH 13. Advance of Santa Anna with 15,000 to 20,000 men—Report of great battle at Saltillo—American loss 2,000 men—Mexican loss 4,000 to 5,000—Retreat of Gen. Taylor—His precarious situation—Alarm on the Rio Grande.

The schooner Cinderella arrived late evening from the Brasos, which she left on the 5th instant. Though the officer sent on board for her mail, the officer, in the absence of the captain, who had landed, refused to deliver it. By a passenger, however, we have received the few lines which will be found below from our correspondent, which is the latest by her, and with it the extract which we also give from the Matamoros flag of the 3d. The publication of this paper was suspended some weeks since, and the present is sent to us in manuscript, and we presume is a copy of a slip issued from the office in consequence of the rumors. The gentleman who handed us the letter does not agree with our correspondent that a battle had not been fought, but says that Gen. Taylor's communications with the Rio Grande are cut off, and that they are at present entirely dependent on Mexicans for all their information; that they are fortifying Brassos Island, Point Isabel, Matamoros, and every other point, in the best manner they could. By other passengers we learn that the battles took place on the 21st and 22d of February, and that the loss on our side was 2,000 men and that of the Mexicans 4,000 to 5,000, that the whole country was swarming with Mexicans, and no one doubted the fact that they had appeared in large force—report said 15,000 to 20,000 men; that a great battle had been fought, in which our army had been worsted and obliged to fall back; and that the most intense anxiety was felt for their safety. The extent of the loss on both sides might be, and probably was, exaggerated.

Our previous formed opinions were against the idea that Santa Anna would attack Saltillo, and though the present accounts are not so desperate as to warrant full belief that a battle had taken place, we must confess the probabilities appear greatly in favor of it. Still, however, this may not have been the case, and Santa Anna's plans may be directed upon the posts in the rear of Gen. Taylor, and on the Rio Grande, with a view of cutting off his communications and supplies, as being a more certain and less dangerous plan than to attempt to fight him, or to drive him from his fortified position. We most sincerely trust that the present reports are greatly exaggerated, but the most painful anxiety will exist until we have further advices.

The following is the brief note above referred to by the Bulletin: BRASOS, SANTIAGO, (TEXAS), MARCH 5, 1847. To the Editor of the Bulletin. The various rumors from the army of battles fought and Gen. Taylor falling back turn out untrue. This is the last news, and it is nearer official than any thing we have received. It is supposed a train had been cut off, but beyond that nothing is certain.

LATER AND AUTHENTIC.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 14, 1847.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: We have one day's later advices from the Rio Grande. Nothing new, but the information is rather more consistent and definite, and I think gives a more favorable appearance to affairs there. Gen. TAYLOR evidently has his hands full, and, if he gets out of the scrape at all, can only do it by the most desperate fighting against a vast superiority of force. The whole valley of the Rio Grande is threatened, and I think with a very great prospect that every thing that has been gained there, and all the fruits of former operations and victories, will be lost, and worse than lost, if our army is overwhelmed and captured.

I have never yet spoken to an officer on the subject who did not lament at the stupidity of the plan to attempt entering Mexico by the frontier of the Rio Grande, with a march of eleven hundred miles to the capital, through an impracticable country, instead of moving through and from Vera Cruz, on a better road, and less than three hundred miles distance. If the forces and money that have been employed on the Rio Grande had been directed on Vera Cruz, the results would have been far more efficient and important.

You will find enclosed a slip that gives the most condensed and latest information. The movement of SANTA ANNA on the Rio Grande has been expected by the best informed persons ever since it was left in such a defenceless situation as glaringly to invite attack. He leaves Vera Cruz to the protection of the comita, and you will see, by the result, that he could not have left it in more efficient and powerful hands.

Every thing connected with this war is truly heart-sickening. Its whole conduct has been vacillating and blundering on the part of the Administration, and the present prospect for our poor fellows there is disheartening in the extreme—yellow fever in one quarter and overwhelming numbers in another. If old Zack gets out of this scrape he will deserve a triple wreath. The most feverish and intense anxiety is felt here for later news. Various messengers have been stationed at the Balize, with orders to come up by a special steambot soon as any thing further arrives.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 15, 1847.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: I have but a few minutes for the way-mail. The city is full of rumors, said to be brought by vessels below, and one, which is generally credited, that Matamoros has been actually taken. I have ascertained, to my entire satisfaction, that such is not the case; at least, that no such advice is now in the city, as I have seen a gentleman who left there on the 7th, and there is nothing, and can be nothing later. He tells me it will be rather a difficult task to take it. He, however, further informs me that a letter was received there on the 4th from Camargo, which states that pretty certain advices had been received of the capture of Col. Morgan's command,

valled were brought through by Mexicans, and were of the most contradictory character. To enable us to distinguish what is known to be true from what is merely rumor, and thus to correct as far as possible the exaggerated reports in circulation, Dr. Jarvis has at our request furnished us with the following memoranda of events during the month of February of which he was personally cognizant:

Memoranda of Dr. Jarvis.

Left Monterey on morning of the 3d of February for Matamoros. At that time no apprehension or expectation of the approach of Santa Anna towards Saltillo was entertained, either by us or the Mexicans, so far as we could learn from the latter. A large force of cavalry was known, however, to be in front of General Taylor, which of course was made known by their capture of the detachment of Arkansas and Kentucky cavalry advanced beyond San Incarnacion. The force of cavalry on this side of the Sierra Madre under command of Gen. Urrea, estimated at from six to eight thousand, was said to be at Victoria, and part as far towards Matamoros as Mont Morales, when I left the former place. They were, in fact, in Victoria at the time our troops marched to that place in January last, and returned to Tula as an advance brigade under Gen. Quitman entered the town. They were supposed to be acting as a corps of observation, and a belief was entertained that they would seize the first favorable opportunity to strike our line of communication between Camargo and Monterey, and capture such trains as should happen to be on the road at the time. Gen. Taylor must have apprehended some intentions of this kind, for on my arrival at Matamoros I found them fortifying the plaza of that place in consequence of orders just received from Gen. Taylor to guard against the sudden attack of the whole or part of his force.

I left Camargo on the morning of the 26th of February to return to Monterey, in company with a train of 70 wagons, laden with supplies, and escorted by a company of Kentucky cavalry, under command of Capt. T. F. Marshall, and a detachment of 20 men belonging to the 2d Dragoons. We had not proceeded five miles when an order arrived for our return, in consequence of instructions just received by express, which passed us on the road, directed to the Quartermaster at Camargo from the Quartermaster at Monterey, which were received from Col. Whiting, Assistant Quartermaster General at the headquarters of Gen. Taylor, directing, for the future, that all trains be stopped, as certain information had been received that a large force of the enemy's cavalry, say four or five thousand, was in or near China, and that Caldeira was already occupied by them. These last particulars are contained in a hasty note from the Quartermaster at Monterey, dated February 23d, and terminating it with the remark, "look out." With Col. Whiting's instructions also came the order of Gen. Taylor dated Agua Nueva, February 21, the last one received up to the time of my leaving Camargo, March 2. This order is doubtless the despatch of Gen. Taylor calling for reinforcements, alluded to by Capt. Montgomery in his note, as mentioned to him by Col. Whiting.

On the morning of the 27th another express arrived at Camargo from the Quartermaster at Monterey, stating, in a note, that he had sent one off the day before, but apprehended that he may have been cut off, and as he understood from Col. Whiting that there were important despatches from General Taylor calling for reinforcements, he had sent another to advise of this fact.

About 2 o'clock the same day another express arrived with a note from the same officer, dated Monterey, 11 o'clock A. M., February 23d, saying an express had just arrived from Saltillo bringing information that Santa Anna sent a summons to Gen. Taylor demanding his surrender. The General told him to come and take him. Santa Anna stated that he had twenty thousand men, and that if Taylor did not surrender he would cut him in pieces. The note concludes: "The express which left after dark last night says that Taylor was giving the Mexicans hell."

This may be considered the last official communication received, all the subsequent information being derived from the Mexicans. I might here remark, that a note was received from the postmaster at Monterey, at the same time with the last communication of Capt. Montgomery, which gives the additional particulars that Gen. Taylor had fallen back from Agua Nueva to Saltillo, which I should infer also from notes of Capt. M., although he does not distinctly say so. The Mexicans say he lost six pieces of cannon at the former place. He moreover states that Gen. Marshall had gone to the pass of Los Muertos with a view of fortifying it, and large quantities of ammunition had been dispatched from Monterey to Saltillo.

The detachments of the 3d Ohio regiment, under Col. Morgan and Lieut. Col. Irving—the former having seven companies at Seralvo, and the latter three at Marino—was greatly feared at Camargo, had been cut off by a large force of three thousand men, who are said to have occupied the latter place on the afternoon of the 23d. Lieut. Col. Irving, in obedience to general order No. 11, is said to have left Marino the morning of the same day it was occupied by the enemy, marching towards Seralvo, with a view of forming a junction with Col. Morgan, and then proceeding to Monterey. Col. Morgan left Seralvo on the 24th, having destroyed, in obedience to the endorsement on the same general order, all such provisions and supplies as he could not carry with him. He must of consequence have encountered the enemy in his route, as they had already, as we have seen above, occupied in force Marino, lying between him and Monterey.

Moreover, a train of 120 wagons, which left Camargo about the 15th or 17th, laden with provisions, clothing, &c., is said to have been attacked on the 24th, at or near Maron, lying between Seralvo and Marino, and, with the escort, captured. This intelligence was brought in by an American or Mexican mule-driver, who was with the train, and escaped at the time of its capture. He says the Mexicans charged at the same time both the front and rear of the train. After the firing (which was of short duration) ceased, he cautiously ventured from out of the chaparral, with a view of finding some of his comrades. He discovered the Mexicans busily engaged in unharassing the mules from the wagons, and seeing none of his own party, made his way back, carefully avoiding the road to Camargo.

A hundred Mexican stories were in circulation at Camargo when I left in reference to the battle going on between Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna. They say it has already continued three days, with considerable loss on our side, but such greater on that of the Mexicans. Subsequent accounts represent Gen. Taylor as having fallen back on Monterey. The day I left Camargo a letter was received from the Alcalde of Mier, saying that the Mexican troops had entered that town, twenty-four miles distant from the former place, and had made him prisoner in consequence of his endeavoring to secure stores left behind in his charge when Lieut. Col. McCook evacuated the place. Col. Curtis intended to march with his regiment to Monterey the moment Col. Drake with the 3d Indiana regiment arrived from Matamoros to relieve him. The latter officer was awaiting the arrival of the Mississippi regiment, which I met on the river, a short distance below Matamoros, on its way up. This regiment and six companies of the Virginia regiment, under Lieut. Col. Randolph, which arrived at Camargo the day I left that place, are the only volunteer regiments arrived on the Rio Grande, and the other regiments that had arrived having been sent below to Llobos. From what source Gen. Taylor is to expect relief it is impossible to say. Every soldier, and in fact double or thrice the number that now constitute the garrisons at the different posts, are actually necessary for their defence, and not one can be spared. Information can hardly reach Gen. Scott in time for him to march a division to his relief.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 15, 1847.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: I have but a few minutes for the way-mail. The city is full of rumors, said to be brought by vessels below, and one, which is generally credited, that Matamoros has been actually taken. I have ascertained, to my entire satisfaction, that such is not the case; at least, that no such advice is now in the city, as I have seen a gentleman who left there on the 7th, and there is nothing, and can be nothing later. He tells me it will be rather a difficult task to take it. He, however, further informs me that a letter was received there on the 4th from Camargo, which states that pretty certain advices had been received of the capture of Col. Morgan's command,

and that Gen. URREA was between Monterey and the pass of Rinconada with 6,000 cavalry, who had cut off Gen. TAYLOR from retreating on Monterey. That there was no doubt there had been a severe battle, and the belief was that Gen. T. had abandoned Saltillo and fallen back on the pass. Nothing, as you will see, positive; but the prospects are by no means brighter for the gallant TAYLOR.

The public property and stores on the Rio Grande, at the Brasos, Matamoros, and Camargo, it is said, amount to six or seven millions of dollars, besides immense quantities of private merchandise; and for the protection of this line there are probably from fifteen to eighteen hundred men, scattered in detachments, the strongest of which does not exceed 700! I have no time for comments.

Whatever the circumstances under which the General is really placed, it is plain that they are deemed highly critical by the American commander at Camargo, (Col. CURTIS, of the Ohio volunteers), as well as the entire aspect of things west of the Rio Bravo; for it appears that he deems the emergency so threatening and imminent as to authorize him to call on the Government for an instant reinforcement of fifty thousand volunteers for the defence of our conquests beyond the river. The following is a copy of his letter:

HEADQUARTERS, CAMARGO, MARCH 2, 1847. SIR: I send an officer to Headquarters, at Washington, making a requisition on the President of the United States for fifty thousand six months volunteers. All communication has for several days been cut off between this place and the army above, and I see no adequate prospect of its being restored. I request you, therefore, to call up ten thousand men of this character of troops, and I anticipate they will be recognised under the call of the President.

As fast as any considerable force can be accumulated, let them be forwarded to Brasos Santiago. All troops, as far as practicable, should be armed before leaving the United States, and the officers commanding companies should take in charge ammunition enough to distribute, in case of emergency, forty rounds at least.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, SAMUEL R. CURTIS, Col. Com'g. To the Governor of Louisiana.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

By the way of Tampico the New Orleans Picayune has dates from the city of Mexico to the 27th of February, being fourteen days later than the papers previously received.

On the night of the 26th of February a select portion of the National Guard made its first essay at an independence. The regiments known as the "Independence" and "Chalchicomula," the battalion of "Victoria," and a part of the bodies of "Mina," of "Zapadores," and of "Chalchicomula," under the orders of Gen. D. Marias Peni y Barragan, proclaimed a "Plan," the details of which it is not necessary to publish. The last article acknowledges Santa Anna as the general-in-chief of the army.

The Government had at its disposition to oppose this revolutionary attempt 800 troops in the citadel, the 6th Permanent Infantry, the squadron of Pajaca, and those bodies of the National Guard not in favor of the pronunciamiento. Gen. Canizales, as commander-in-chief, was preparing to attack the revolutionary forces with a column of 1,000 men. He issued at once the following proclamation:

The General-in-Chief, appointed against the Insurrection of this Capital. Companions in arms: A portion of the National Guard has risen against the Republic at the very moment when its fate is to be decided on the frontier. While our army encounters dangers, treason and cowardice seek ascendancy in proclaiming anarchy by which to work a pernicious destiny for Mexico. Order has just been re-established, and now disorder is proclaimed. Scarcely is the monarchical faction overthrown before it again raises its head. It is necessary to reinforce Vera Cruz, and these mercenaries, who are afraid to present themselves before the foreign enemy, have the audacity to provoke a fratricidal war. It is our duty to strangle the attempt in its cradle, and you are now exhorted to the discharge of your duty by your sincere friend, VALENTIN CANALIZO.

MEXICO, FEBRUARY 27, 1847.

We know not (says the Picayune) the issue of this revolutionary attempt, but incline to the opinion that it will be successful. Mr. Kendall writes that it has succeeded, and that Gen. Salas is in power. He finds his statement on reports at Tampico. Our papers are not late enough to verify them. The administration of Farias has long been tottering, and has in all probability succumbed.

The latest movement of Santa Anna's force is indicated in a number of *El Republicano* of the 25th ultimo. It is published as very important. It is a letter from San Luis Potosi, dated February 26th, which announces the receipt of intelligence by a captain who had just arrived, "that the Yankees had abandoned Agua Nueva, which point they had fortified, retreating upon Saltillo. Our active Gen. Santa Anna has cut off their retreat upon Monterey, by interposing between Monterey and Saltillo Generals Minon and Torrejon."

A letter is published from Santa Anna, dated the 17th of February, from San Salvador, at 10 o'clock A. M., in which he says that General Taylor was in force at Agua Nueva, twenty leagues distant, and preparing for a general action, with seven or eight thousand troops, and with more than twenty pieces of artillery. He announces his own intention to fight him on the 21st, and adds: "By the time this letter reaches you there will have been a great action fought, the result of which will be of incalculable consequence to the country." He represents his troops to be full of enthusiasm.

In regard to the advance of Santa Anna, we find two letters dated from Matula, February 10th. They announce that the army would be moving on the 13th for Saltillo. A post script to one of the letters, written on the evening of that day, adds that orders had been issued for the whole army to move at daylight the following morning, and Santa Anna with it.

A letter from Central, dated the 11th of February, is to the following effect:

"The army has been organized by dividing the infantry into three bodies. The vanguard is under the command of Pacheco, the centre under Lombardini, and the rear-guard under Vasquez. The cavalry follows under its former organization. The division from Tula is incorporated already in the rear-guard, with its artillery.

"According to all the reports the road is without water, and the inhabitants, since they have gone off to the mountains and carried with them their goods.

"We are suffering from typhus, and have left the road scattered with the sick. The loss by this cause is incomparably more than by desertion—by which we have lost but few.

"The enemy, it appears, is fortifying at Agua Nueva, and has secured the road of the Rio Grande. It may be his design to receive us by the Pass of El Camero, where we shall have to march two days without water, and then to fight us. This is dreadful."

The Mexican Government has learned through its Consul at Havana of the expedition of General Scott upon Vera Cruz. Troops were accordingly ordered by the Government to march at once from the capital Vera Cruz, but, as it chanced, the body designated for this duty, and which was to have moved on the 26th under Canalizo and La Vega, was involved to a great extent in the revolt which broke out the following day.

Vera Cruz has been fortified by digging a ditch around it, and, under the direction of Gov. Soto, families have abandoned the city and moved into the interior.

D. Antonio Vizecaino has been appointed Secretary of War, Canalizo resuming an active military command.

The regiment of Jalisco is said to have deserted in a body, and other signs of insubordination are mentioned in the papers.

GREAT FIRE AT SAKONVILLE.—The two large Carpet Factories at Sakonville, recently purchased by the Water Commissioners for the city of Boston, from Mr. Knight, and extensively known as Knight's Factories, took fire last week and were entirely destroyed, together with most of the stock and valuable machinery. The value of the buildings and machinery was about \$40,000.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ENGLAND.

ENGLAND, FEBRUARY 23, 1847.

The great and overwhelming subject throughout the British isles is the scarcity and consequently high price of breadstuffs of every description, the dreadful state of the mass of the people in Ireland and in the Highlands of Scotland, and the prospect before us between this time and the next harvest. We seem to have nothing to look to or to depend upon but the supplies which you can send us. Nearly all continental Europe appears to be suffering under a similar calamity. The exportation of grain of any kind has been prohibited by France, Belgium, and several of the Italian States, and we have now a strong rumor that Russia has issued an edict to the same effect. If this latter be the case, God help us, for the supplies from Odessa and the ports on the Black Sea have hitherto done much to keep our markets supplied. If these be cut off, it will not only have a terrible effect upon our position, but it will indicate a fear of a scarcity in Russia, and thus throw the greater part of the continent of Europe, as well as Great Britain, upon your surplus produce; and, although I have never entertained a doubt but that you could supply all our wants, I am apprehensive that this demand upon you would be more than you could meet. The amount of the deficiency in Great Britain and Ireland has been thus estimated:

Loss in potato crop, occasioning an increased consumption of breadstuffs of 48,000,000 bush. Deficiency of oat and bean crops, amounting to one-fifth, or 32,000,000 " Deficiency in barley crop, one-fourth, or 12,000,000 " To this must be added the average on the last seven years of the importation of grain from foreign countries 48,000,000 " 140,000,000 " Supposed on hand at last harvest 48,000,000 "

Foreign grain required 92,000,000 " This, you will perceive, is very nearly double the quantity usually needed.

Great fears are entertained respecting the next potato crop, and this for two reasons: one is, that the early potatoes raised by artificial means in the neighborhood of London are all more or less tainted; the other is, that there is a deficiency of potatoes for seed for the next crop. There certainly will not be any in this country, and Government have applied to the principal seedsmen in London to make inquiries abroad. The answer received is, that none can be supplied from France, Russia, or the continent of Europe, or from the Azores; their only hope is that some may be found in Bermuda. This seems a very shallow hope. Cobbett made a remarkable assertion some twenty years ago respecting the potato. He said: "I shall not live to see it, but depend upon it, that in not more than twenty years hence that vile weed (the potato) will be worn out."

There appears to be a disorder among the turnips of this season something analogous to that among the potatoes. I heard a farmer say, a few days ago, that more than half his turnips were diseased and worthless. Some agriculturists have gone so far as to say that the growing crops of wheat have been injured by the severe weather which occurred during the early part of this month. This is a gloomy picture, certainly; aggravated no doubt, in part, by men's fears, and partly, I am afraid, from motives of self-interest, in order to raise present prices. The absolute ascertained reality is bad enough, and will prove as great a drain upon our resources as the Mexican war will upon yours. The consumption of breadstuffs per month is calculated as being twelve millions of bushels, and the importation of the necessary quantity from abroad will give employment to one million seven hundred and twenty-five thousand tons of shipping.

There has been an interesting discussion in the "Economist" lately, respecting East India cotton. The question, "Can India supply the quality of cotton wanted for English manufactures?" is answered in the affirmative. That it can be produced in sufficient quantity is also confidently asserted; but the question upon which the whole subject depends, viz. "Can it be supplied at a remunerative price?" is answered very decidedly in the negative. The reasons why it cannot be stated to be: that it cannot be obtained sufficiently clean at such a price; the burden of a very heavy land tax, and the want of good roads from the interior to the shipping ports. The question respecting supplies of cotton from the East Indies will be discussed in Parliament in a few days, when new light will be thrown upon the subject. The consumption of cotton in Great Britain has increased four hundred per cent. since 1821. The manufactures of England consumed last year— Cotton 614,000,000 lbs. Wool and worsted, of which 209,000,000 of pounds were produced in England 260,000,000 " Silk 6,058,653 " Flax 177,329,736 "

Some curious facts have been stated in Parliament during the late discussions upon the bill for limiting the hours of working in factories; among which one of the most striking is, that ten hours' labor every day is necessary to pay for expense of capital, &c.; that, if it stopped there, the manufacturer would not receive any profit, and that one and a half or two hours' labor more is required to make the business sufficiently profitable to induce him to carry it on. So much for this leading article of your exports. It does not appear in any degree probable that we can for a long time, perhaps never, be independent of you for this all-important raw material. Again, take tobacco. There were imported last year into Great Britain 37,610,000 pounds of this article, of which 36,615,985 pounds were from the United States. There is no probability of our ever doing without your assistance for our supply of this article. If you have to supply us with breadstuffs, cotton, and tobacco, you must buy something of us in return, but will your demands keep pace with our necessities? We hope they will, for payment in hard cash is our wish.

Something must be done in extension of our trade in one direction or other, for there has been a great falling off in our shipments of manufactured goods to China in the year 1846. Our exports of woollen goods to China, in 1846, amounted to £137,143 less than they did in 1845, and the shipments of plain calicoes were 39,329,846 yards less in 1846 than in 1845.

The increase of British exports during the last thirty years has been much more than is commonly imagined, and the error has arisen from a non-observance of the difference between the official and the real value of the article exported. The real value of exports is their value at the current market prices. The official value is that which arises from estimating them according to prices fixed so far back as 1696, and is, therefore, of no use in any respect, excepting so far as affording a correct view of the fluctuations in the quantities of exports. Now, combining both these calculations, we get a correct view of the export trade. Thus, the declared or real value of exports of British and Colonial produce and manufactures— For 1815, was £45,494,219 For 1846, was 60,111,084 Excess of 1846 14,616,865

Being an increase of about 33 per cent. over the exports of 1815, and certainly no very great increase for a period of thirty-one years. But, if we look at the official values for those two years, we find— That for 1815 to be £34,207,253 That for 1846 to be 150,879,986 Excess of 1846 116,672,733

Or an increase of 341 per cent. over 1815; or, in other words, nearly four and a half times as many goods are afforded in 1846 for sixty millions sterling as were sold in 1815 for forty-five millions; the great improvements in machinery, division of labor, &c. having enabled the British manufacturer thus to realize satisfactory profits at one-fourth of the price for his productions, and thereby retain the market of the world.

There is no doubt but that business and trade and commerce of every description have increased in England during the last thirty years at a very great rate, but it is a very curious statistical fact that this increased business has been done, and is now doing, with a very diminished circulating medium. The quantity of specie in circulation has no doubt very much increased, but nothing in proportion to the diminution of bank notes. From official returns just published of the circulation of bank notes on the 12th December last, I have selected the banks, both stock companies and private, in the counties of Lincoln, Cambridge, Derby, Huntingdon, Nottingham, and North-

ampton, and I find that their united circulation was £1,011,809. Now, in 1814, the circulation of the banks in the two principal towns of Lincolnshire was at least one million sterling, very nearly equal to the present paper circulation of the above named six counties, and the entire amount was four or five times as much as it is at this time. There is no doubt but that the present is much the healthier and safer state of things, but a very curious statistical fact is developed, which might lead to useful conclusions, if traced in all its bearings and relations. Banking is, however, still a very profitable business. I have it from the best authority that the profits of a private bank in the manufacturing districts amounted last year to £130,000, or more than half a million of dollars. The annual accumulation of capital in England is prodigious, and is variously estimated at from thirty to fifty millions sterling. It certainly is not below the former sum. The annual mineral produce of the kingdom is estimated at twenty-five millions sterling, nearly the whole of which may be said to be created by labor. Of this amount coal constitutes £9,100,000 and iron £8,400,000; the remainder is copper, lead, tin, salt, manganese, &c.

The great increase of mortality in England is a subject of very painful contemplation and inquiry. Great exertions will be made in Parliament to obtain a system of sanitary regulations which may remedy this rapidly increasing calamity. The returns of the Registrar General for the three months ending with the year 1846 show that in forty-five cities and towns (including London) the deaths, which in the corresponding three months of 1845 were 39,583, amounted in 1846 to 43,804, an increase of 431 per cent. It is a singular fact that the increase was less in London and its surrounding districts than in any other of the forty-five places. The list was not limited to close-built, crowded, manufacturing towns, but included such healthy localities as Brighton, Oxford, Bedford, Exeter, York, Carlisle, Winchester, Colchester, Wrexham, Holywell, Goucester, &c. Yet, with this fearfully increasing mortality, the population of the United Kingdom is also increasing at the rate of eight hundred per day! The daily births exceed the daily deaths by 1,056, and the surplus of 256 is supposed to be the average number of emigrants. The emigration into England from Scotland and Ireland was, from 1831 to 1841, about 57,000 annually. This dread of the increase of population is not by any means of modern origin. I have now before me a pamphlet printed more than two hundred years ago, in which the propriety of colonizing the then British provinces in North America was urged as a necessary means of keeping down the superabundant population of England. It is there stated that there were at that time three times as many carpenters, bricklayers, tailors, and artisans of every kind as could be employed; yet England has come on ever since, has increased her population at least five-fold, and never, except under particular visitations like the present one, has her population approached the danger of famine. Improved agricultural skill and increased industry have supplied the increasing demands, and it is now confidently asserted that the adoption of the improvements suggested by Liebig and others in their writings upon agricultural chemistry, would increase the produce of the kingdom from one third to one-half in amount.

The revenue for the past year has proved very productive, and the finances of the country, but for the distress in Ireland and the consequent expense thrown upon England, would have been in a highly satisfactory position. It is gratifying to find among the items of the annual statement that the post-office revenue increased during the last year £85,000. The amount of official postage paid during 1846 by the Government offices was £121,817 7s.

Parliament has now been in session five weeks. The great thing hitherto accomplished has been the defeat of Lord George Bentinck's motion respecting the completion of Irish railroads by the advance of sixteen millions of English capital. The triumph of Ministers on this occasion has been the triumph of the country, and has given universal satisfaction. Lord John Russell will have an arduous session of it, but it is generally understood that he will have the support of Sir Robert Peel upon all leading questions, and a general election, which cannot be far off, will give him additional strength. There does not appear to be any organized opposition to the Administration. Lord George Bentinck's motion was merely an ad captivandum one, to win over the Irish members to the ranks of opposition, which most signally failed through Lord John Russell's prompt and decided conduct.

The distress in Ireland is of a most extensive and horrible description. Famine, so far as depends upon their own means of support, is almost universal. The Government of England and the people at large are doing all they can to mitigate the sufferings of the Irish people, but it is to be feared that thousands must perish through absolute destitution, before any aid can reach them, in remote parts of the country. Scotland, excepting in the Highlands and in the Islands, has an average crop; but, in these sections of the country, the distress has been very great, and many, it is feared, have perished through hunger.

There is much dissatisfaction in England respecting the new poor law system, and great efforts will be made in Parliament to remodel it to a considerable extent, if not to repeal it altogether. A Liverpool paper of this day (February 23d) states that a respectable inhabitant of that town had, in one hour, twenty-six applications for relief at his door, and, in the whole day, nearly two hundred. Such is the fearful extent of pauperism! Yet the manufacturers are busily employed, the agriculturists luxuriating in exorbitant prices for their produce, every ton of shipping in requisition, and capital of every kind receiving ample remuneration for its employment. I am truly desirous to attribute the increase of pauperism to a temporary cause, for I can see nothing in the general condition of English affairs which is calculated to lead to such a result. I am constrained to say, however, that I saw more of human destitution and suffering in London and its neighborhood in six weeks than I witnessed in the United States in twenty-five years. If you can send us breadstuffs sufficient to supply our wants until harvest, and Providence should make that harvest an abundant one, this temporary cloud will be dispersed, and all classes of people here be made comfortable. I foresee, in this present state of things, an issue which will bind the United States and England closer together than probably any thing else could have done; and it will be well for the world should it prove so, for elements of discord are many, powerful, and active in continental Europe. England need not be in part in these squabbles, nor is she disposed to do so; her policy is peace, and she will sedulously pursue it.

France is suffering from a deficiency of food, and from the existence of strong party political disagreements. Her moneyed institutions are all wrong, and the Bank of France weak and in bad credit. Russia and Austria are full of ambitious projects, fatal, it is to be feared, to the peace of the continent. Prussia appears to be leaning towards a liberal and enlightened policy, and no longer ranges herself alongside the two Emperors. She has lately strongly protested against the Spanish and French alliance. She has also, at last, granted a constitution to her people, which, although it may not be all that is wanted, but most probably only a very small portion of it, is yet a beginning, and is the first boon which the people of any part of Germany have received from their rulers for a century. May it prove the happy beginning of a series of regenerating measures in the political condition of the country—the grain of mustard seed, destined hereafter to furnish shelter and shade, security, happiness, and political and religious liberty to the sixty millions of people now inhabiting Germany in the thirty-nine independent states into which she is at present politically divided.

Spain and Portugal are still torn with intestine commotions, and new elements of strife appear to be coming into play, rife with misery and suffering to those desolated countries. The Pope is steadily pursuing a liberal and therefore enlightened policy. May he not be living before his time! The old cry of "A King for Greece" is reviving. Ohio is weary of his elevation, and the crown of that classic land will again be offered to some stripling of royalty in continental Europe.

FEBRUARY 24th.—The report of the Russian ports being closed against the exportation of grain is contradicted. It appears to have originated from some regulations made re-pecting the transit of grain from Russia on the Prussian and German frontiers. This cause for apprehension of increasing scarcity of food is, therefore, happily removed. The enlightened Grand Sultan of Turkey is steadily advancing in his social and political reformation; he has lately abolished the slave market in Constantinople. He appears to be much dissatisfied with the conduct of France in the reception which that court gave to the Bey of Tunis, as being calculated to cause insubordination to Turkish authority. He also views with jealousy the attempts which the French are making to extend their conquests in Africa. The Bey of Tunis has

abolished slavery in his dominions, and Ibrahim Pacha of Egypt has, since his return from Europe, liberated all his own slaves. Thus arbitrary and absolute power sometimes produces good; but it is amusing to hear the well-meaning but very ill informed anti-slavery people here quote these facts as examples for the United States, and wonder that what can be accomplished in Mahometan Turkey and Tunis, cannot be also done in Christian America!—a sufficient proof that when the abolitionists of England talk about slavery in the United States they are meddling with that of which they literally know nothing.

The greatest attention is now being paid in England to statistical information. The organization of the Board of Trade had already done much, but information is still wanting upon many important points; the principal one is, the annual agricultural produce of the country. Much surprise has been expressed by my friends that, considering the great extent of the poverty, even an approximation to the truth upon this subject could be obtained in the United States. The Government will endeavor to remedy the existing deficiency in this respect here, for the future. The East India Company, alive to the importance of statistical information, have just established a bureau for the collection of East India statistics, and the result will be highly serviceable.

There does not seem to be much doing here in literature. Bulwer has published a defence of his "Lucretia" from the charge of an immoral tendency. A majority of the press say that he has made the business rather worse than better. The most decided hit of