NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Considering that there are principles involved in the Mexican War vastly more important than the question whether the existing slave population of the United States ought to be confined within this or that degree of latitude, we have never introduced to our readers the question of the Wilmot Proviso (so called) as one of any present consequence in the discussion of the merits of that war. It will be time enough to deal with that question when there is any ground within the limits of the United States for it to stand upon. There are more important questions first to be adjusted.

It is because the writer of the subjoined article substantially concurs in this opinion of ours, that we admit the subject of "the Wilmot Proviso" to our columns, at the time present, on any other ground than its having entered into the Debates and proceedings of the last Congress, and so reported for this paper.

The writer of the following Letter is a gentleman of great political sagacity and experience in public affairs, and withal a truly patriotic Whig statesman.

TO THE EDITORS.

The Wilmot Proviso—the Whig Party—and the next Presidential Election.

I desire to submit to the Whigs a few remarks on these three subjects, as connected with each other. I select your paper as having the most extensive circulation, and with the hope that they will be copied into the leading Whig papers throughout the Union.

I regret extremely the course taken by some of the most respectable Whig papers at the North, in making the *Wilmot Proviso* the *test question* at the next Presidential election. Do they not see that if this issue be made by the North it must of necessity be made by the South? Are they not already authoritatively advised that it is *the issue* now most desired by our opponents of the South? I refer them to Mr. Calhoun's letter of the 27th June last. He looks to this issue, and justly, as one that will absorb all other political considerations—as one that will unite the people of the slaveholding States as one man. And such, most unquestionably, will be the effect. With this issue there will be neither Whig nor Tory there. Such, however, will not be its effect at the North. Though both the parties should adopt the issue, yet it will not effect their union. Its effect on the election I will notice in a subsequent paragraph.

To the Whigs of the North I unhesitatingly say that the Wilmot proviso is *per se* of no practical value. It will not prevent any State from establishing slavery *after its admission into the Union.* The Legislature of Maine has proposed that the anti-slavery provision of the ordinance of 1787 should be extended to all territory hereafter acquired. This will give the Wilmot proviso its most effective form. Now, admitting for the moment the justness of the analogy, I put the question, If the State of Ohio should to-morrow establish slavery, what power in the United States *would* nullify the act? The argument of Ohio would be that the basis of popular government is that the sovereign power rests in the people of the State—the living people—to be exercised by a majority; and that an inherent prerogative of that sovereignty is to determine the political condition of its people; and that, to every extent, that sovereignty, where not restricted by the Constitution of the United States, now remains, in perfect equality, in the people of each State *in* the Union. What power, who would ask, had the State of Virginia and the Continental Congress, before there was an inhabitant in that State, to determine for all time the political condition of its future population? She might put a question of peculiar pungency to the North: Had that ordinance, instead of prohibiting slavery, *established* it, must it have endured forever in Ohio?

The South, questioning the justness of the analogy, may put the still more stringent questions: From what clause in the constitution does Congress derive the power to limit the sovereignty of a State, *when in the Union*, to determine the political condition of its people forever? In the Territories of the United States Congress may prohibit slavery—up to the moment of admission into the Union. They may even refuse to admit a State under a constitution that establishes slavery. But, when a State *is admitted* into the Union, the question recurs, What power has Congress over the sovereignty of that State to determine or restrict the political condition of its people?

Against such arguments, however you or I may appreciate them, with what hope could an appeal be made to the Supreme Court—composed, as it is, of a majority of slaveholders—to nullify slavery established in the State of Buena Vista, or Matamoros, or Vera Cruz, &c., in violation of the Wilmot proviso? By what act could Congress nullify it? And if it could, is there any hope that it would nullify it? What can be hoped against an even vote in the Senate, or from a new growth of principles in the House of Representatives?

I repeat, then, that the Wilmot proviso is of no practical value in preventing the extension of slavery. I go further. It is not only useless but vicious, as it takes the place of an issue both effective and expedient—of an issue that will *per se* prevent the extension of slavery, and on which the Whigs in every State in the Union may unite; and on which, if presented as the grand issue, they will unite.

NO MEXICAN TERRITORY!

Let this be the issue. Let this be the motto inscribed on the Whig banner, and victory is certain.

I now state what I deem will be the certain results of the next Presidential election under the two issues.

The whole number of electoral votes will be 290—necessary for a choice 146.

Under the Wilmot proviso issue, the Northern Whig candidate will be very certain not to have a single vote from a slaveholding State, and to get only 94 votes from other States and the Loco candidate 75, while the Southern candidate will obtain 121—the entire vote of the slaveholding States. The election will then devolve on the House of Representatives voting by States. Of the 30 States, the Southern candidate will start with 15, the Whig with 7, and the Loco with 8 States, (or 7 and one State divided.) In this probable state of things the election of the Southern candidate is certain.

Under the *No-Mexican-territory issue*, the Whig candidate, judging from the last State elections, would have 154 against 136, (probably 173 to 117.)

If such be the probable results, will the Whigs hesitate which issue to adopt? Let us, then, abandon that *shadow* of an issue, the Wilmot proviso, and take the *substantial*—the effective issue of "*No Mexican territory.*"

In the mean time, is it wise to precipitate nominations of candidates for the Presidency? Will it not be best to submit the nomination to an *unpledged* Convention on the 4th of July, 1848?

I have not brought into the consideration the action of the third party; but, if we may judge from the past, it will probably enure to the defeat of either issue. E.

Remarkable Escape.—A gentleman who arrived from the Eastward this morning informed us of the following fact: As a schooner (name not ascertained) was passing down the Connecticut river on Wednesday afternoon, she was struck by lightning and her mainmast shivered to pieces. The vessel was heavily laden with powder, from Harford, bound to New York, and packed away on her deck were no less than one thousand kegs of that combustible material, and the lightning passed within *four inches* of one of these kegs, but fortunately did no harm.—*New York Express.*

A Life Saved.—While the steamer Ontario was on her way from the head of the lake to Canandaigua, on the 26th of August, Mr. George Shea by an accident fell into the water while the boat was under way, and being unable to swim, came near drowning. Mr. Isaac Webster, of Canandaigua, perceiving his perilous condition, plunged from the deck of the steamer into the lake, swam to Mr. Shea, and, though twice drawn under by the drowning man, he succeeded in keeping hold of him until the boats came to his assistance and rescued them both. Such noble and humane conduct is deserving of all praise. The passengers passed resolutions and made Mr. W. a present to show their appreciation of his conduct.
[*Rochester Democrat.*

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ENGLAND.

London, August 14, 1847.

The general election is over, at least so nearly so that its history may be written, and its character ascertained. Its character was one of decorum and quietness, very little of the usual elements of party strife were called into play, old party watchwords and party names were forgotten, and very few new ones were made use of. The Protectionists have not abated one jot of their displeasure towards Sir Robert Peel, but they appear to have no unkind feelings towards Lord John Russell. Many of them, with Lord G. Bentinck and Mr. D'Israeli at their head, speak of the Administration with respect, and hint at giving to it their *measured* support. Nearly all say that they wish "the experiment" of a repeal of the corn laws to receive a fair trial, evidently thinking that the peculiar circumstances of the last harvest, and the very amply remunerating prices which the farmer received for his produce, did not test the question, but that an abundant harvest, low prices, and unlimited importation will teach the agriculturists that Sir Robert Peel's policy is a bad one, and rouse them up from John o' Groat's House to the Land's End in favor of a protecting duty. As your venerable neighbor of the "Union" used to say, "*nous verrons!*"

The education question, under the mangement of intolerant dissenters, lost Mr. Roebuck his seat at Bath, and the Free Church business and his own unpopular manners threw Mr. Macaulay over the fence at Edinburgh. Radicalism, Chartism, and some other amiable *isms* unseated Hobhouse, Hawes, Fox, and Fielden at Nottingham, Lambeth, the Tower Hamlets, and Oldham. On the contrary, free trade returned Mr. Cobden without opposition for the largest constituency in the kingdom, the West riding of Yorkshire; and Mr. Villiers and Mr. William Browne also without opposition, for the *next* largest county constituency, that of South Lancashire. The party division of the new House will vary very little from the following:

	Whigs.	Peel.	Protectionists.
From 188 cities, boroughs, &c. in England	187	53	85
From English counties	40	15	89
From Wales	14	4	11
From Scotland	33	10	10
From Ireland	65	7	33
	339	89	228

You will hence perceive that the Whigs do little more than outnumber the two sections of the Conservatives, and could these two sections be brought together they would leave Lord John Russell without a majority to be depended upon. His real strength, however, and an unconquerable strength it is, consists in the perfect *political* hatred which these two sections have of each other. Fire and water, oil and vinegar, the "National Intelligencer" and the "Union," may enter into combinations and coalitions, but the Peelites and the Protectionists never can; they will each and sometimes both agree with the Administration upon particular questions; scarcely any question is likely to arise which will not receive the support of many of these two parties. Lord John Russell must skilfully avail himself of their aid, keep upon good terms with both, but avoid all sorts of entangling alliances with either. The Whig party has Chartists and Repealers in its ranks; they will be troublesome, but not unmanageable.

The Whigs elected from cities and boroughs of England represent	250,710	electors.
Those from the English counties	166,320	do
Those from Wales	16,850	do
Those from Scotland	50,260	do
Those from Ireland	65,920	do
	550,060	do
The Peelites from the cities and boroughs of England represent	56,530	electors.
Those from the English counties	18,720	do
Those from Wales	5,700	do
Those from Scotland	20,150	do
Those from Ireland	11,450	do
	112,550	do
The Protectionists from English cities and boroughs represent	86,437	electors.
Those from English counties	244,743	do
Those from Wales	25,170	do
Those from Scotland	16,300	do
Those from Ireland	31,600	do
	404,250	do

It is a singular fact that the city of London and the metropolitan districts, and the towns of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Leeds, contain as large a population as seventeen of the *purely* agricultural counties, viz. Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk, Sussex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland, Hertfordshire, Dorsetshire, Rutland, the North riding of Yorkshire, the East riding of Yorkshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Westmoreland, and Northamptonshire. The area of the metropolis and the other four towns is about the same as that of the smallest of the seventeen counties—Rutland, viz. 96,000 acres—and they return 24 members to Parliament. Of those just elected, 21 are Whigs, the remaining 3 friends of Sir Robert Peel. The seventeen counties contain about ten millions of acres, or about one-third of all England, and are equal in population to all Scotland, with nineteen millions of acres of surface. These seventeen counties return 49 members, of whom 9 are Whigs, 1 a friend of Sir Robert Peel, and the remaining 39 stanch uncompromising Protectionists and anti-progress men. These statistics may serve to give you some idea of the sort of materials of which the new House of Commons is composed, and the different classes of society and interests, of which the three sections of it are composed.

Again, take a comparative view of the representative system of government as practised in the three countries of most importance in the world, in a commercial, political, and moral view, viz. England, the United States, and France.

In Great Britain, a population of 26,711,059 in 1840 contained 1,066,860 electors, or about one person in every twenty-five had a vote.

In the United States, a population of 17,063,258 in 1840 gave 2,403,485 votes at the Presidential election, or about one in every seven had a vote.

In France, a population of 35,000,000 contains about 200,000 electors, or very nearly one in every one hundred and seventy-five have a vote!

Comment is unnecessary, nor is the statement made for the purpose of any invidious comparison, but merely as an interesting fact.

The reform in the constitution of the House of Commons which was effected some years ago by Lord Grey, Lord John Russell, and their friends, was an extremely useful measure, removing many of the grosser anomalies, absurdities, and abuses. A striking fact or two will show, however, that much has yet to be done before the people of England have a full, fair, and equitable representation.

The Metropolis, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Leeds contain 131,604 electors, and return twenty-four members.

The seventeen counties enumerated before contain an aggregate of 115,257 freeholders, and return forty-nine members, besides the representatives of the cities and towns situated in these counties.

The boroughs of Abingdon, Cockermouth, Harwich, Knaresbro', Marlboro', Marlow, Richmond, Ripon, Tavistock, Thetford, Wells, and Wycomb contain together 3,411 electors, and return twenty-four members!

The result, therefore, is—

That in one case, 131,604 electors return 24 members.
In another ..... 115,257 electors return 49 members.
And in a third.. 3,411 electors return 24 members.

Your intelligent readers will draw their own conclusions. There are great difficulties, however, in the way of legislation upon this subject, and it is not very probable that any attempt at further reform at present would receive the support of any influential political party either in or out of Parliament. The first objects of the new Parliament will probably be the further developments of the principles of free trade, finance, sanitary reform, and national education. Lord John Russell is also pledged to a consideration of the entire subject of taxation; the question of the continuance of the property tax will be again before Parliament, and there will be long discussions about the substitution of *direct* taxation for excise and custom duties. George Thompson and others of that clique will have much to say about universal suffrage, annual Parliaments, and vote by ballot; and Baron Rothschild's appearance as a member will lead to a discussion and a repeal of Jewish disabilities. "The march of liberal opinions," says Jerrold, "has not been arrested; 'thought never rests, but silently, and under unexpected forms, pursues its course of due and regular development—appearing openly at intervals in 'an advanced condition, and moulding outward policies and institutions into harmony with itself. 'The new Parliament will have, in one form or 'other, to deal with the political philosophy of the 'age—not as a physical power, appealing to the 'sword, but as a moral power, supported by reason and public opinion." Mr. Jerrold goes on to say that "we stand upon the verge of a constitutional revolution." The signs of this are not, I think, very evident at present. On the contrary, there are a great many *practical* men in the new Parliament, and the few *speculative* ones who have been elected to it will make long and tedious speeches upon the various *panaceas* which they recommend for the removal of social and political evil, and there it will end; and common sense and practical utility will quietly proceed with their good work.

A much more vital subject, at the present moment, than even the new Parliament, is the harvest, and the news respecting it is most cheering from France, Belgium, Prussia, the Black Sea, and from every part of Europe and Asia, whilst the uniform testimony of England, Ireland, and Scotland is, that the crops were never known to be finer, or likely to be gathered in more successfully. The weather has been singularly fine and seasonable, although attended with some extraordinary sudden variations in temperature. Thus, on the 1st inst., the thermometer stood at its highest point in the sun at 114 deg., whilst during the preceding night it had been as low as 59 deg.; on the 5th, the highest point in the sun was 77 deg., and on the 10th, 70. The lowest point on the latter day 53. The highest point in the shade on the 1st instant was 87, on the 10th it was 66. This is a great degree of heat for this season of the year in this latitude. An immense quantity of foreign grain is now lying on board vessels in the London docks, the wharves and warehouses being so crowded as scarcely to allow room to land it.

The bad effects of imprudent speculations in grain have lately been very apparent, and failures to the amount of nearly £1,500,000 have been already announced at Mark Lane. No doubt large fortunes have been made as well as lost; but it is to be feared that the wild spirit of what was literally gambling in bread caused many a poor man to suffer through the diminished size of his loaf during the last eight months.

It scarcely seems reconcileable to reason that, notwithstanding the great increase of railroad travelling, the income derived from turnpike roads has increased since railroads were introduced; and another striking fact is, that the post horse duties are also increasing, the produce in England and Wales for 1845 having been £169,873, and in 1846 £172,621. It was quite refreshing to observe the other day an advertisement stating that "two coaches would shortly commence running between Cambridge and London." The *novelty* of the thing may possibly give them success.

There is what is called on 'Change a "*great tightness* in the money market," which is ascribed to various causes. "The Times" thinks it and all similar conditions of the market are to be attributed to the railroad mania. There is so much good reasoning in the following extract from this paper that I cannot refrain from giving it to you *in extenso*:

"In wha do our circumstances differ at the present moment from the prospect they presented at the commencement of the year, except that the stock of bullion, upon the holding out of which must depend our safety, is now 9,000,000*l.*, and it was then 15,000,000*l.*? We have, it is true, the certainty almost of an average harvest; but, setting aside the probability that an importation of food must to a greater or less extent take place in 1848, there would be no better prospect of monetary security. It is not the fact of a corn importation that will explain an increase in the consumption of sugar in the first six months of 1847 to the extent of 530,000 cwts. over that of 1846. It is not the pressure of famine and indigence that will explain an increase during the like period in the consumption of brandy of 135,000 gallons, of rum to the extent of 365,000 gallons, of coffee 2,000,000 lbs., and of tea, cocoa, tobacco, &c. in something like the same proportion—to say nothing of the importation of 117,000 extra cwts. of meat, and of 107,000 cwts. of butter and cheese. These are more or less luxuries, and it is usually one consequence of a food pressure to induce an economy which shuts them out, and which, by causing the masses to be content almost with bread alone, soon produces a reaction. It is not a deficient harvest, or the dread of it, which sends up the price of iron to a point at which the United States and other countries decline to take it of us. It has not been the food question which has caused us to allow our stocks of raw material to be so reduced (even while the rate of money was only three per cent.) that now the slightest demand for our manufactures causes a rise in their price which at once checks foreigners from buying. Again, it is not this cause which sends money up to five and a half per cent. at a time when general business is contracted, and when the circulation may be termed full. The fact that none of these things will furnish the explanation stares us plainly in the face, and there is hardly a person who does not know in his conscience the real cause of our present state. But we are a nation of shareholders, from the highest to the lowest, and we all keep from each other the secret of our ruin.

"The battle is clearly, as we have all along proclaimed it, one of life or death between railways and trade. It is useless to attempt disguise. One or the other must fall. Firm after firm will be beaten down, and the sacrifices of the past week will prove only the forerunners of what are yet to come. Merchants may bid seven per cent. for money, (and there are not many branches of business that can long sustain that rate,) but with the temptation of permanent security 'as good as Exchequer bills,' it will be snatched from them by railway companies at five per cent. In desperation they may bid a higher rate, and the railways, prevented temporarily from flooding the market with debentures, will then snatch from their grasp the capital they seek by making calls that cannot be resisted. Keep the rate of money on securities at some reasonable point above five per cent. permanently, to prevent the companies from issuing debentures, and to tire them of making calls, they will still evade your attempts, for the debentures which were unmarketable at five per cent., when they were for a cumbrous 1,000*l.*, are then reduced to 500*l.* to suit a new class of customers, afterwards to be brought down to 100*l.*, and eventually to any denomination, and for any period, that may suffice to attract whatever portion of the public may yet remain with means, however small, of which they may be drained.

"Perhaps it may be urged that a considerable number of the public have already discovered, now that money for long periods is worth seven per cent., that investments in railway debentures, at four and a half and five per cent., to be paid off in three or five years, when Consols may be again at 95, are not so desirable as they were represented; but still it is only when this feeling can be made general that an effective suspension can be hoped for. Meanwhile calls cannot be resisted, and these, we may be sure, will be remorselessly made (no matter though mercantile houses break down hour by hour) until the public, as sooner or later they will, shall denounce the madness with one voice."

A report from the select committee on commercial relations with China has just been published. It is a document of great interest. I will endeavor to summarize some of its most important statements. It appears that the British trade with China has been for some time past in a very unsatisfactory state, and by no means realizing the magnificent ideas which had been formed respecting the effects of a free intercourse with that vast and important market.

	1845.	1846.
The exports of cotton manufactures were	£1,735,141	£1,246,518
Those of woollen	539,223	439,668

On a great proportion of the trade for the same years, the loss taken both ways, that is, on the manufactures sent out and on the tea brought home in payment, has been from thirty-five to forty per cent. Some of the manufacturers have abandoned the trade altogether, and much of the tea lately sent home has been sent on Chinese account, the English merchant declining to run the risk of the venture. This state of trade is said not to arise from any want of demand in China for British manufactures, or from the increasing competition of other nations, but simply from the *difficulty of finding* a return.

The bulk of the Chinese trading transactions is with England, British India, and the United States. The imports into China in 1845 were as follows:

From all countries		$20,396,784
In English ships	$16,073,682	
In American ships	2,909,669	
		18,983,351
Leaving for all other countries only		$1,413,433

To this amount of imports must be added the sum of $23,000,000, the estimated value of 38,000 chests of opium, all brought on British or American account and from British India.

The exports from China for the same year amounted to		$36,931,000
For England and British India	$26,697,321	
For the United States	8,261,772	
		34,959,093
Leaving for all other countries only		$1,971,907

The returns for 1846 are not yet completed; so far as they go they indicate the same results. What then was the state of the Chinese trade for the year 1845?

The imports were, as have been stated	$20,396,784
Add the cost of opium sold on British or American account	23,000,000
Making together, to be paid for either by exports or by cash	43,396,784
The exports we have stated at	36,931,000
Leaving as a balance against the country and to be provided for	$6,465,784

This has to be paid for in silver; the unrecognised nature of the opium trade requires a prompt settlement, and this absorbs the silver to the great inconvenience of the general traffic of the Chinese. Tea and silk form the bulk of the exports from China, and unless the demand for these in Europe and America can be increased, and the import of foreign goods and the consumption is not diminished, the question is, how long can the Chinese sustain this annual drain of from £1,500,000 to £2,000,000 of silver?

England and the United States are the principal consumers of Chinese tea and silks, and it is evident that the advantages which were so naturally expected from commercial intercourse with a civilized empire of three hundred millions of people, will be practically limited by the extent to which those countries are willing or able to consume the two principal products of the soil of China. The exports of silk from China are steadily on the increase, the amount to England in 1846 being in value £1,211,245. This article is not liable to any heavy taxation either in England or the United States, and its increased demand will keep pace with the growing wealth and luxury of those nations, and progressively become an element of greater importance in the adjustment of national accounts. This will, however, be a slow operation, and it is to *tea* and to its increased consumption only that England must look for the means of maintaining or, if possible, extending its trade with this vast empire. This increased consumption can only be caused either by an increase of our population or by a reduction in its price. Since the former would be too slow an operation to reach the emergency of the case, the latter means must be looked to, and this reduction of price can only, say the committee, be produced by a reduction of the import duty upon it, which duty now ranges from 200 to 350 per cent. upon its first cost: that first cost being only from 8d. to 10d. per pound in the ports of China, no possible reduction of that cost would effect any purpose.

Now, the revenue derived from tea during the last year amounted to £5,110,897, and it is too large an item in the income of the country to be lightly dealt with. That the consumption of tea has not reached its *maximum*, and that its not having approximated more nearly to it has been occasioned by its high price, is evident, say the committee, from the following considerations: In England, under existing duties, the average annual consumption is only one pound ten ounces per head; in the Isle of Man, under lower duties, it is two pounds ten ounces; in Jersey and Guernsey four pounds four ounces, and in Newfoundland and Australia much larger. Again, the consumption of coffee and cocoa, the duty upon which has been reduced from 1s. to 4d. and 2d. per pound respectively, has increased the former 500, the latter 1,000 per cent.; whilst tea, the duty upon which has remained, with only a slight alteration, has only increased in consumption 130 per cent.; yet even this increased consumption amounts to 24,000,000 pounds. The committee believe that the cultivation of tea in China may be indefinitely extended. After going very elaborately into all the arguments usually adduced, the committee recommend a considerable reduction in the duty on tea at the earliest practicable period. This, they say, "is desirable in itself, 'with a view to the comforts and social habits of 'the people, as involving but a temporary loss to 'the revenue, and as essential to the extension of 'our trade with China, nay, even to its maintenance 'at the point which it has already reached." The committee appear to repudiate the idea of an *ad valorem* duty on tea, and recommend a *single fixed duty* upon tea of all qualities as attended with the least commercial inconvenience, and as having a greater tendency to draw a better article into consumption, as they say has been the case in many other similar cases of taxation.

The provisions of the treaty have been, say the Commissioners, all honorably carried out by the Chinese, except at Canton, where difficulties have arisen, which are to be attributed more to the turbulent character of the people, and the weakness of a remote Government, than from the want of good faith on the part of the ruling powers.

The port of Shanghai appears to be the most formidable rival to Canton. It furnished 16,000 out of the 20,000 bales of silk, and 10,000,000 out of the 57,000,000 pounds of tea, last year furnished to the British market.

The next in importance is Amoy, which purchased last year near £500,000 sterling of opium and British manufactures, and paid for nearly the whole in silver.

With Ningpo and Foochowpoo the trade has hitherto been very trifling. The opium trade, however, already flourishes at the latter place, and is attended with its usual demoralizing influences on the people, and embarrassing effects upon the monetary condition of the place.

Scientific surveys have been made of the coast and some of the harbors, which are recommended to be continued, and also the fixing of buoys, beacons, and moorings.

The committee urge the establishment of a post office by steamboats from Hong-Kong both to Canton and the northern ports.

Very little commercial advantage appears to have been hitherto derived from Hong-Kong; its position is said to be against it.

The remainder of the report is occupied with recommendations of alterations in the political, commercial, and judicial forms by which the British colony at Hong-Kong is regulated, and concludes with a general suggestion that a union of firmness and decision with a studious respect for the feelings and rights of the natives will be the best means of establishing that mutual confidence and respect which can alone lead to the happiness and prosperity of the colony, and the successful progress of British commerce with the Chinese Empire.

August 16.—"The Times" of this morning takes up the subject of the tea-duties, as suggested by the important report upon the China trade which I have herein attempted to analyze. "Tea," says the Times, "is the only important article which yet re'mains subjected to the old scale of taxation." "If it 'could be shown that the natural result of leaving 'the duty on tea untouched would be to maintain 'the duty derived from it, and that our export trade 'with China, on the present system, was an in'creasing trade, then, for a while at least, let it 'stand." The report of the committee upon this subject tends strongly to prove the reverse, and thence "it follows that a consideration of the duty 'on tea, with a view to its immediate reduction, 'must be one of the earliest acts of the new Par'liament." It appears that all the expectations respecting the great development of the China trade, after the breaking up of the East India Company's monopoly, have so far ended in disappointment that the trade, so far as relates to British manufactured goods, is a diminishing one, and that it has been, and is now, attended with great loss. How this is to be remedied will be for the new Parliament to determine. It will best be accomplished by a reduction of the duty on tea to that happy point which shall lead to the *maximum* consumption of that article, combined with the *minimum* reduction of the revenue.

Perhaps some of your readers may say, What has all this parade of figures and observation about England, China, and the tea trade to do with us? Probably a good deal more than is at first evident. Does it not prove the necessity of *keeping your tea untaxed*, in order that it may afford a cheap beverage, lead to an extension of your trade with China, and of course to a further demand for your manufactured goods? Can you not, with your rapidly increasing population, keep up a more than in proportion rapidly increasing demand for the staple article of China, and produce thereby an increased demand for your cotton and other manufactures?

There is another subject alluded to in this report which meets with a response from your side of the water, where the same conclusion has been come to, and this is, that a reduction of the duty upon articles of consumption does not diminish the revenue, because the increased consumption of the cheaper article more than makes good the difference. This may be true with respect to England, upon some of the leading articles, such as coffee, sugar, spirituous liquors, &c., and it may be also as far as respects tea. I will not say that it is not the same in the United States, but I deny that it has yet been proved to be so. The members elected to the new Parliament who are friendly to protection and the corn laws, say the experiment of the repeal of those laws has not yet been fairly tested; that the bad harvest of last year, and the consequent high price of agricultural produce enabled the farmer to do without protection, and saved the agricultural interest from ruin. Well, be it so; but has not the high prices which your agriculturists have also received for their produce enabled them to be much greater consumers of articles paying duty, and thereby increased the revenue, than they will be able to be under ordinary prices? I think Mr. Walker and the friends of your new tariff are exulting too soon. Let them, like our corn-law protectionists, abide the test of another year.

August 18.

The Committee on the China Trade state that the amount of manufactured goods imported by China from the United States is about £170,000, say $800,000. Does this agree with your official reports? The money market continues very tight, and business on the corn market almost at a stand still, owing to the want of confidence which the late failures have occasioned. The last failure there (that of Giles & Son, one of the oldest and most respectable houses on the market) is said to be for at least £500,000! This state of the money market is not limited to London. The last accounts from the Amsterdam Bourse state that public securities of all countries were much depressed there in consequence of the scarcity of money. Some of the leading railway lines are making very unsatisfactory dividends. The London and Northwestern line, and the Blackwall Railway, are among the number. There is no absolute opposition to or interference with these lines to cause a diminished receipt; but Parliament, by sanctioning the principle of competition, has compelled a great reduction of fares, and that has produced the same effect. And there has also been a considerable falling off in the number of passengers; the scarcity of money has materially diminished the locomotive tendency. Railway speculation has been too much stimulated, and there is now more than a proportional reaction. Government is much blamed by the Times and other leading journals for having unduly encouraged opposing lines, and thereby forced a too great reduction of fares. There has not been a proper attention paid to the ratio which should have been maintained between the amount and extent of new undertakings and the available resources of the country. "Railways," says the Times, "brought 'employment to the people and wealth to the Ex'chequer. Peel spread all his sails to the breeze. 'Russell trifled with the danger. The railway 'Titans were furious at the thought of control. 'The great companies saw nothing but triumph in 'the competition with a crowd of petty upstarts. 'They were the first to denounce and decry every 'attempt at a public system. They laughed at 'estimates of the national capabilities. Premiers, 'Parliament, and Directors were thus all of one 'mind. The companies were content to stand or 'fall in their private capacity. They have made 'their own bed, and now they must lie upon it."

London is certainly not one of the *sweetest* places under the sun. Every one's olfactory nerves, excepting those who, never breathing the sweet country air, have become insensible to the odors of the city, must painfully convince them that there is abundant need of some means being promptly applied for the cleansing this mighty aggregate of uncleanness. The removal of Smithfield and the other markets, or, at least, the establishment of very stringent regulations, would do much. But the civic authorities of London will oppose this measure, and, against all the arguments which can be adduced in favor of health and comfort, they parade the following statement:

The city derives from Leadenhall, Newgate, Smithfield, Farringdon, and Billingsgate Markets a gross annual income of	£18,204 17
The expenditure is only	8,879 04
Leaving a yearly profit of	£9,325 13

Can any one wish for a more unanswerable reason for continuing the present system? Let me add, whilst upon the subject, the following statement of the sheep and cattle driven through the crowded streets of London to Smithfield Market during the year 1844, and some idea will be formed of the inconvenience and danger to which the citizens are subjected by this nuisance:

Sheep in Smithfield, 1844		1,609,130
Oxen and cows,	do	186,191
Calves,	do	19,011

So much for the statistics of the shambles.

Turning from home affairs, if we look abroad, we shall find Russia writhing under great defeats and discomfitures in the Caucasus. A more important rumor than this even, connected with Russia, is derived from late French and German papers. The Emperor Nicholas is said to have serious thoughts of abdicating the throne, wishing for retirement and repose, the effects of failing health. Other rumors are afloat, which it would be injudicious to give currency to. The *Cologne Gazette* says: "Something extraordinary must be in pre'paration at St. Petersburgh. It is certain that the 'most distinguished of the Russian diplomatists 'now at Foreign Courts have been convoked thither 'for the ensuing month."

From Prussia the principal news is that the Crown has not assented to any thing which the late Prussian Diet recommended, nor did the Diet agree with any of the recommendations of the Crown. So that, literally, nothing was done by the convocation of that body, enlightened and patriotic as its members were. The mere assembling together of such a body was a great triumph of liberal principles, and an evidence of *progress*. The King has, however, done something by the issuing an edict prohibiting lotteries in Prussia—not only those which may have their origin in that country, but the dealing in tickets of any foreign lotteries: a breach of the edict subjects the offender to very severe penalties.

The King of Bavaria has shown his good sense by giving strict orders to the proper authorities to watch that no speculator shall attempt to buy up the new corn beforehand in order to keep up the price.

The fact that *Austrian* troops entered Ferrara with all the pomp and circumstance of war just at the very nick of time to co-operate with an antiliberal movement in Rome, tells a too plain tale of the feelings and designs of that prince of intriguers Metternich and his *fatuous* Emperor. It is their policy to put down all approaches to an imitation of the liberal proceedings of Pius IX. by the strong argument of "whiskered pandours and fierce hussars." A man must hold a charmed life who long escapes from such perils as the Pontiff appears to be surrounded with.

Fresh insurrectionary movements have taken place in the north of Spain, where the Carlists appear to be in great power. The King of the French is said to be angry with Switzerland, on account of the existence of what he holds to be *radicalism* in that country, forgetting that it was a good deal through the operation of that same now reprobated radicalism that he obtained his present regal station. Meanwhile the state of trade in Paris is most deplorable. It is estimated that about one-third of the shops, stores, lumber-yards, workshops, and apartments in Paris are now vacant, in consequence of the distress which pervades the whole population. A loan of 350,000,000 francs has been authorized to be raised in France, and the finances of the country are much disordered. Other public men are said to have been concerned in acts of bribery and corruption such as have lately been brought home to M. Teste and his companions: even brave old *Soult* has not escaped some terrible imputations. Of Portugal little can be said, because little but rumors are known. It is to be hoped, however, and indeed it seems probable, that she is settling down into quietness and peace.

The Pope is steadily proceeding with his reforms, and this in the face of and in opposition to nearly all his former allies. Sardinia is favorable to him, and Tuscany is following in his footsteps. "If 'ever England," says the Times, "wished to do a 'noble and generous deed, now is the time for it. 'It is not physical force or a demonstration of it 'that is necessary; a *moral* support is all that is 'wanted. The presence of a British Envoy in 'Rome would suffice. It would show that there is 'sympathy somewhere for the great work which is 'going on at Rome—ay, and sympathy somewhere 'where there is power to act in case of need." Greece is yet in *statu quo* with respect to Turkey. This miserable country seems a prey to intestine commotions, and the horrid butcheries which have lately been perpetrated there exceed in atrocity all that has hitherto been recorded of civil war in the most barbarous ages.

In Literature there is but little to notice. Mr. Glegg's "Story of the Battle of Waterloo" is really, after the thousand and one books that have been written about the same story, a very interesting and amusing publication. It will be just the book for some of your publishers of cheap literature to reprint for 25 cents and sell thousands of copies of. We have also *our* cheap literature. Can you beat this? Shakspeare's plays for one penny each! President Wayland's "Elements of Moral Science" has been reprinted here; the author is said by the "*Critic*" "to have done more to refute infidelity 'than even Bishop Butler, for he meets his antago'nists on their *own* ground, and thence proceeds to 'prove that it is identical with his own."

Nothing new in Theatricals. Weather now wet, and threatening a continuation of rain.

Manufactures in Cincinnati—*Using up the Whole Hog.*—In proof of the progress of the arts through the whole extent of this country, we extract the following from a Cincinnati paper:

"We saw yesterday at the Drug and Chemical establishment of George H. Bates & Co. a crystalized pyramid of *Prussiate of Potash*, that can be considered in no other light than a scientific, mechanical, Cincinnati curiosity. It is two and a half feet in height and eight and a half inches in diameter, with a base of fifteen inches, weighing one hundred pounds. It rises in rough, irregular layers, each layer having the most perfect and finished edge imaginable. No sculptor or artist with keenest tools could make finer work. The color is a beautiful orange. This article of commerce is made extensively by these gentlemen and exported east for the use of dyers and others. It may be curious and instructive to the reader to know that Prussiate of Potash is made of potash, old shoes, hoofs of cattle, woollen rags, and all refuse animal matter. But the main thing used by them is the refuse of the hogs killed in this vicinity, viz. the hoofs, hair, blood, and cracklings or scraps of lard, so there is nothing left of the hog after he passes the hands of our population."

Caution against leaning out of Railroad Windows.—A passenger in the four o'clock train from Jersey city yesterday afternoon, put his head out of the car while crossing the bridge over the Passaic, thinking he saw a man in the river, when it was caught by a beam connected with the frame-work of the draw, which terribly lacerated his face. It seems almost a miracle that the whole head was not taken off.—*Newark Adv.*

MANUFACTURE OF BARRELS AT OSWEGO.

Barrel-making, it appears from the Oswego Times, forms no inconsiderable item of the mechanical business of Oswego and vicinity. Probably from 600,000 to 800,000 barrels will be required to supply the Oswego mills this year; and the amount of money that will be paid out for this article alone will not probably fall much short of $250,000. The number of workmen employed is, of course, very large.

The application of machinery to barrel-making, within the last few years, has been very successfully undertaken. We see it mentioned in the papers that a machine has been invented, and is now in successful operation in Albany, that will make 7,000 hogshead staves in ten hours.

Mr. Wentworth, of Oswego, has his business so perfected by "labor-saving machines" that we apprehend the old way of making barrels will not very successfully compete with him. In one shop his staves are cut and dressed by machinery, propelled by a steam engine. The staves are cut from the block at the rate of 8,000 a day. The steaming process is done by the steam from the engine. After the staves are cut they are sawed by two buzz saws, all of one length, and then dressed and jointed in a very expeditious manner on a large wheel, into which knives are inserted. The stave is then fit for use. Six men will cut and dress 8,000 in a day. In another shop the barrels are put together. The establishment turns out from 1,000 to 1,500 barrels weekly, and gives employment to about thirty-five operatives.—*Hunt's Mer. Magazine.*

Fishes Tamed by a Child.—In a quarter of the town of Hingham, known as Rockynook, there is a pond where a little girl not six years old, who resides near the bank, has tamed the fishes to a remarkable degree. She began by throwing crumbs in the water. Gradually the fishes learned to distinguish her footsteps, and darted to the edge whenever she approached; and now they will actually feed out of her hand, and allow her to touch their scaly sides. A venerable turtle is among her regular pensioners. The control of Van Amburgh over his wild beasts is not more surprising than that which this little girl has attained over her finny playmates. Visiters have been attracted from a distance of several miles to the spectacle she exhibits. The fishes will have nothing to do with any one but their tried friend. They will trust no one else, let him come with provender ever so tempting. Even fishes are not so cold-blooded but they will recognise the law of kindness, and yield to its all-embracing power.—*Bost. Trans.*

The amount of specie brought by the Caledonia, on her last trip, is stated at $215,592. Quite a falling off.