inflicted. This statement showed satisfactorily that the military authorities had kept the practice within due bounds. Not only had the infliction of the punishment been reduced, but a great diminution had taken place in the number of lashes. Since he had been in office there had not been a single sentence of this kind confirmed by her Majesty, and he believed the same was the case in 1841. He did not see how it would be possible to discriminate between times of peace and of war.

Col. RAWDON should oppose the motion of the hon. member for Wickham, because he was persuaded that the abolition of corporal punishment would be destructive of the discipline of the army, and prejudicial to the interests of the service generally. Holding this opinion, it would not be manly on his part if he had not avowed it. The hon. and gallant officer then adverted to the evidence of the Duke of Wellington, given before the commission which had sat on the subject, and showed that after seven or eight years' consideration, the Duke of Wellington had been unable to recommend any substitute for corporal punishment. They ought, in the consideration of this case, to consult the interests of the well-conducted soldiers; and it should not be forgotten that by imprisonment they lessened the number of men to do the duty, and consequently increased the duty of the well-conducted men. The great object of punishment was to deter others from the commission of crime; but, in the case of imprisonment, the crime and the criminal were alike forgotten.

The house then divided, and there appeared—For the motion, 59; against it, 187. Majority against the clause, 128. The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

Chronicle & Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1842.

Arrival of the British Queen.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The Steam Ship British Queen, Captain Keane, arrived at New York on Friday morning last, from Antwerp via England, having sailed from the latter place on the 7th ult.

The proceedings in Parliament during the 3 days which intervened between the sailing of the Acadia and the Queen, are of little interest.

We are indebted to Mr. Charles Wilmer of Liverpool, for English papers forwarded by the Queen, from one of which, the London Evening Chronicle, we extract the following news from India and China. Mr. Wilmer is indefatigable in his exertions to forward the latest papers by the Atlantic steam-ships, as we receive through him London papers of the day on which the vessel sails from Liverpool.

We have just received our Overland Despatches. The dates are, China, 15th February, Ceylon, 22d March; Madras, 26th March; Calcutta, 23d March; Bombay, 1st April; Agra, 27th March; Alexandria, 22d April; and Beyrout, 11th April.

China.—Tuayo, Tsikiee, and Fungwa, three cities near Ningpo, had been taken, and preparations were making for an attack on Nankin, which a rogue report asserted to have been already taken.

Affghanistan.—General Sale maintained his position at Jellalabad, and General Nott at Candahar, until General Pollock waited reinforcements, daily expected, to force the Kyber pass.

Scinde was quiet.

Cutch in the same miserably distracted state.

Burmah offered no news of importance.

Ceylon.—A trifling insurrection at Kandi had excited some alarm, but proved nothing serious.

Calcutta.—The only novelty was that Lord Ellenborough had assumed the government on the 26th February. Different opinions were entertained of his policy, which was generally expected to be warlike and decisive.

Alexandria.—No political news, the Pasha being still in the Delta.

Syria.—Seven chiefs of the Druses had been inveigled to a pretended conference, and thence sent prisoners to Beyrout, whence they were about to be sent to Constantinople. The country generally was quiet.

The following is the letter of our Bombay correspondent:—

CHINA AND INDIA.

BOMBAY, April 1.

There have been several arrivals from China since the departure of the last mail, but the news is, comparatively of an unimportant nature. The force to the northward has not remained entirely quiescent, having seized, and occupied, temporarily, three cities in the neighborhood of Ningpo, called Tuyao, Tsikee, and Tungwa, which had been garrisoned by order of the Chinese government, with the view of annoying the British troops. An attempt, though a very poor one, was made to defend Tuyao; but the other two cities were found quite deserted. No casualty occurred on the British side, while 75 to 100 Chinese were killed or wounded. The Wellesley, which arrived at Hongkong on the 4th February from Chusan, brought a report that the town of Hong-chow-foo was to be attacked as soon as the troop ship Jupiter (which vessel she spoke a few hours after leaving Tinghae,) should come in. This movement, it was supposed, was for the purpose of dispersing the Tartar troops assembled there. Preparations, too, had been made for assaulting Nankin, the river leading to it having been surveyed, and marked with buoys for the passage of the steamers.

Sir Henry Pottinger arrived at HongKong on the 1st February in her Majesty's ship Blenheim. He found the Chinese still actively engaged in repairing and rebuilding the fortifications around Canton, though there did not appear any likelihood of their recommencing hostilities. It is understood that he had resolved on deferring to a future period the chastisement they so richly deserve for their insolent violation of the treaty concluded by Captain Elliot; and this determination, whatever opinion may be entertained of its policy after the explicit determination made on the arrival of Admiral Parker's expedition, that any attempt to repair the defences would be followed by an immediate resumption of hostilities, has, at any rate, had one good effect, for the merchants, relieved of their apprehensions concerning the probable stoppage of boats, have begun to speculate more freely, and the markets are visibly improving. Should the river below Whampoa be obstructed, however, or our ships there molested, hostile measures will necessarily have to be resorted to.

The natives of the northern part of China, although (as may be inferred from their behaviour during the above operations, and previously at Ningpo and Chusan) they make but poor soldiers, appear to be more careless of human life, and more cunning in cruelty than their countrymen of the southern districts. Sixty-five of the principal merchants of Ningpo have, it seems, been murdered for "holding traitorous communication with the barbarians," and a messenger who was sent to Hong-chow-foo with a chop, has been seized and strangled; we learn, too, from the late accounts, that the body of Captain Stead, of the "Pestonjee Bomanjee," who was murdered so cruelly last year, was given to the soldiery for a target; and that the mate of a brig, who fell into their hands, was tortured by having the flesh stripped from his arms—which melancholy facts had been verified by the exhumation of the bodies. The heads of these victims to Chinese atrocity were cut off before buried, and fixed over the gates of Chinghae. The Tartar General Yuchia, who drowned himself after his defeat at that place, appears to have been the contriver of these cruelties, which were perpetrated in his presence, and, doubtless, for his amusement.

The money demanded for the ransom of Ningpo has not yet been paid, and though the promises of the Mandarins have been plentiful and plausible enough, there does not seem to be much chance of obtaining it. Mr. Gutzlaff has been negotiating on the subject with the principal merchants, but matters have not apparently, been satisfactorily settled. The subjoined extract from a letter from a Ningpo correspondent of the *Bengal Hurkaru*, alludes to the measures taken with the view of securing the ransom:—

"As there seemed no hopes of getting any money out of the government, it was determined that the merchants of Ningpo should be made to pay one million of dollars, before any trade was allowed at Ningpo. Various meetings were held by Mr. Gutzlaff with the principal merchants, and in order to induce them to the measure, a duty of five per cent. was levied on all imports, and ten per cent. on exports, exclusive of a buy by way of ransom on each cargo, of ten per cent. Mr. Gutzlaff had great [illegible] of being able to procure the ransom, but the merchants seemed to have been hoaxing him up [illegible] of the most [illegible] of dollars [illegible] goods which [illegible] the city. [illegible] port, some hundreds of miles [illegible] will be [illegible]

[illegible]

It would appear that while Sir H. Pottinger was at Chusan, commissioners were sent to him by the Emperor, for the purpose of opening a negotiation, but the plenipotentiary refused to receive them, declaring his resolution to treat only with his Celestial Majesty in *propria persona*.

All is quiet at Amoy; the troops have not been in any way disturbed in their occupation of Kou-lung-soo and the inhabitants generally appear well disposed towards their "barbarian" neighbors. A striking instance of their friendliness, indeed, has occurred, which is the more remarkable, as it contrasts so strongly with the behaviour of some other Chinese under similar cases. I allude to the treatment of a soldier, who, having gone over to Amoy, was induced, by the kindness of those whom he met with to remain there four or five days, when he was brought back by his hospitable acquaintances. The officers at Ko-lung-soo have established horse races, for the purpose of beguiling the time, which, in the present pacific state of affairs, hangs somewhat heavily on their hands. A report had reached the island that the Grand Canal had overflowed its banks, and inundated the surrounding country.

Sir Henry Pottinger has decided on discontinuing the seizure of junks in the Canton river, and has given directions accordingly; and he has also determined on discharging the transports, and placing the troops in the barracks building at Hong Kong for their reception. Report says that he expressed himself highly dissatisfied with the manner in which matters had been managed in his absence; and, indeed, there was considerable cause for displeasure, but he will no doubt make arrangements, ere he leaves, for the prevention of farther errors. The buildings on Hong-Kong are progressing rapidly.

The local government of Canton have, it seems, applied to the Hong-Kong merchants for assistance in carrying out their scheme of fortifying the "provincial city," but whether the latter will be able to comply with the demand, which is to the extent of eight or ten lacs of dollars (which is about £250,000,) is yet doubtful. The extreme scarcity of the broken dollars, at present the only currency, still occasions much inconvenience to parties engaged in trade; and a meeting of British merchants has been [illegible] on a private letter:—

"The meeting, or a part of it, came to the resolution of rendering Mexican dollars and syce legal at par (if the hong merchants would agree to take the former at par among themselves, and try to induce all parties to come in to this resolution;) at the same time several persons came to the resolution of declining to accept bills for the current dollars, unless the holders would consent to take payment which due in Mexican or Syce at the rate of the day."

We do not hear anything of further levies of "stout and valiant troops" for the extermination of the English, but those redoutable warriors which the Mandarins have available are frequently, it appears, exercised in the use of the deadly weapons of war, so that they may be dexterous and expert when called upon to act. The Emperor, too, has lost nothing of his fervority, but continues, through the medium of his *Pekin Gazette*, to thunder forth his denunciations against the "barbarians," who, he says, were "defeated at Amoy, and are hemmed in at Ningpo as fish in a net, to be destroyed at his pleasure,"—these would really think his Majesty were (erasing his pardon) an arrant fool. If these be facts, what will our victories resemble?

The Mandarins have taken some European sailors into their service, at fifty dollars a month, for the purpose of teaching the Chinese soldiers the gun exercise. You heard by last mail of the engagement of some Dutch engineers, and there is little question that if the war continues much longer the Chinese will gain the assistance of a good many foreigners, and soon—for they are a quick and clever people—improve by this means, their knowledge of the art of war.

The Commander of the French frigate Erigone, Captain Cecille, has been to Canton, where he was well received by the authorities, and enjoyed, it is said the honor of an interview with the Viceroy, and other great men.

A rumor, for [illegible] burst so wildly over Cabool. A month has passed away, and we have received no intelligence of any important event. General Sale still holds Jellalabad. Shah Soojah maintains his position in Cabool—Ghuzni and Kelat-i-Ghilzie are safe—General Nott has no fears for Candahar. Thus, in the main, affairs present the same aspect as at the date of our last advices—a fact most extraordinary, when we consider the momentous nature of the recent occurrences, and the apprehensions to which the naturally gave rise. The Affghans appear either to have consummated their revenge, and satisfied their bloodthirstiness, by the massacre in the passes, or to have quarrelled among themselves, and broken up into small parties, each insufficient in itself, to undertake any considerable operation; for the only collision any considerable since the destruction of the Cabool army has been a comparatively insignificant one at Jellalabad. An earthquake had slightly injured the fortifications, and the damage sustained having been greatly exaggerated, Akbar Khan came down upon the fort with a small force, confident no doubt, of an easy victory, in which, however, he was greatly mistaken, as General Sale repulsed him without difficulty. Three officers are reported to have been ransomed; eight who were supposed to have fallen, to appear to be living, and in confinement, and two to have escaped and reached Peshawur. Some European and native soldiers, and camp followers, too, have arrived, it seems, at Jellalabad and Peshawur; so that, making every allowance for the possible inaccuracy of the reports—and some of them have been authenticated—our loss, though most appalling, has not been quite so extensive as was at first feared.—General Pollock remains at the mouth of the Kyber pass, waiting for the last brigade, which, escaped the river Sutlej on the 5th March, and will soon join him.

It is very strange, and much to be regretted, that now that the Affghans appear to be relaxing in their efforts against us, and are less vigilant in endeavoring to intercept our correspondence, so little information of a trustworthy nature should come to hand. Of the state of affairs at Jellalabad, at Cabool, and at Peshawur, the intelligence throughout the month has been contradictory and confused, often, indeed, obviously made up of mere reports, exhibiting the most unaccountable discrepancies, and seldom appearing accurate enough to be relied on without corroboration.

Not the least puzzling portion of the mystery which yet hangs around the recent proceedings in Affghanistan is the nature of the conduct Shah Soojah has seen fit to pursue; for as very strange and irreconcilable are the accounts received, that the journals of India are divided in opinion on the question, which is at present merely one of facts. It would seem that on the 28th of January a council was held at Jellalabad to take into consideration some proposals which had been made to General Sale by his Affghan Majesty. The terms of these did not transpire, but it was known that the matter was "referred back again to Cabool." One letter states that the Shah wrote "enquiring what the views of Sir R. Sale might be, and affirming that he would not be able to keep his followers much longer quiet, and that if he received no assistance he must retire to Loodiana." Other accounts represent him as asking for money, and saying that he had "no need of troops." Whatever his wants may have been, his applications seems to have resulted unsuccessfully, for we hear of no further correspondence on the subject.

On the 15th February, Akbar Khan encamped with a force of 2,000 men on the bank of the river opposite to Jellalabad. The general, however, feared nothing from his approach, as he had recently added considerably to his stock of provision, and the walls of the fortress were in good order, and the ditch around them completed. A few days after the encampment of the rebel chief, the earthquake I have alluded to (and which was likewise felt severely at Peshawur, Meerut, and other places) came on, and shook down two of the bastions, and some portion of the walls. The buildings in the town sustained considerable damage, and some of them fell to pieces. General Sale, Captain Mounsey, and Captain McGregor are stated, amongst others to have had very narrow escapes. "The unlikely wind," says the proverb, "blows nobody good;" and so we may presume, thought Akbar Khan, who, he perceived the defenceless condition of the fortress; for on the very next day he marched to the attack, elated at the prospect before him. Fortune, however, he was undeceived. "General Sale," says a correspondent from General Pollock's camp, "sent out the 13th, and cut off the whole of the cavalry, and some guns, and a good number of the enemy were cut up. It was a short and bloody conflict, no less than [illegible] killed and wounded, [illegible] and the loss [illegible] could not be [illegible]." [illegible] appears to have arisen from an attempt on the part of Akbar Khan to [illegible] parties.

About this time, however, [illegible] 3,000 [illegible] which had dissented against the proposition of [illegible] Cabool [illegible] money, [illegible] Akbar Khan [illegible] Peshawur [illegible] Cabool [illegible] Shah Soojah [illegible] Peshawur [illegible] Cabul [illegible] Peshawur [illegible] Cabul [illegible] Peshawur [illegible] Cabul