

Foreign Intelligence.

The packet ship Napoleon, captain Smith, in thirty days from Liverpool, has arrived at New York. The editors of the Commercial Advertiser have received by this conveyance, London papers to the 25th, and Liverpool to the 26th of August, both inclusive.

THE ENGLISH CROPS.—The accounts of the weather, and the harvest, are much more favourable than at our last advices, and it is now said that excepting in Scotland there will be an average crop. In Yorkshire, the wheat crop is estimated at about six bushels the acre less than last year, but the oats, barley and beans were above the average crop. In Lincolnshire, the damage of the great rains has been chiefly confined to low and marshy lands. The weather was favourable at the last dates. The wheat in Cornwall, and the country round about, was very fine, and the weather fine for getting it in. The potato crop is also very fine. New wheat has been already sold in the market for \$1 20 the stone of 14 lb.—oats for \$1 20 the stone, and potatoes for 2d.

In Sweden, it is said, the harvest is so uncommonly fine, that the farmers in East Gothland, one of the most fertile provinces, can now hardly obtain five dollars per ton for rye—hay is cheaper than it had been for the last twenty years.

They were writing with deep anxiety in England to learn the fate of Choumra. The place is looked upon as the last hold of Turkish power, and of course when it falls, the fate of Constantinople is thought to be decided. Reports had come in from various sources that Choumra was captured, but advices from Brussels and Paris, received on the 25th, showed conclusively that the Russians had made no important advances; on the contrary the Turks claimed the advantage in several engagements, and were beginning to entertain some hope of resistance.

It is stated from Brussels, August 22, that news from the Russian army in Turkey had been received from the 23d to the 27th of July.

The head quarters of his Imperial Majesty, and of the second corps of the army were, on the 26th, in the camp near the village of Bataktyk, not far from Scoumla. On the same day they were removed to the heights which the advanced posts of the seven corps had occupied in the battle of the 20th. We were then within cannon shot of the fortress. The enemy does not make any resistance.

Leut. N. Zakow reports, that on the 26th, the Turkish attacks the right wing of the corps besieging Varna, but that they were repulsed with great loss.

Liverpool, August 26.

The harvest in this country is nearly brought to a close, and we have reason to believe, that on the whole crops have sustained little injury from the weather.

The Grand Vizier had spent a few days at Adrianople, where he was about leaving the people en masse. He was surrounded every where by the soldiers, and the ages of fifteen to six years, arms themselves, and into the army for the defence of the Turkish dominions.

The city of Constantinople, in three days, furnished a contingent of 100,000 men. There is no doubt, says the Smyrna paper, of a most obstinate and bloody resistance on the part of the Turks. The people follow implicitly the impulse of the police, and resign themselves to every event.

Many European families have left Adrianople and some have reached Smyrna. All Roumelia is in arms, and it is said, if the Turks risk a general battle it will take place before the walls of Adrianople. They do not mean to expose themselves to the organized masses of the Russians. A partizan warfare is to be waged against the Russians.

Piracies appeared to be nearly suppressed—only one piratical vessel having been detected in the last four or five months, which was a Greek brig of about 200 tons and 10 guns, which had been taken in the bay of Salonica, with goods to the value of \$100,000, and carried into Smyrna by an Austrian vessel.

A letter from Moscow announces that the fortress of Baidak had been taken by storm, by the troops of Gen. Paskewitch.

POWER OF ENGLAND.

The editors of the New York Morning Courier have presented the following concise and judicious view of the immense dominion held by the government of Great Britain over various portions of the habitable globe, which they have taken the pains to collate from a celebrated publication of the Abbe de Pradt.

Some four years ago, the Abbe de Pradt published a comparison between the power of England and Russia, in which he recommended the latter powers of Europe to choose the more potent of the former. To these mighty rivals he gives the future dominion of all Europe, and throws France and Austria, with all their power, into the rank of secondary states. At the present crisis

of foreign affairs, the Abbe's estimate of the power of England is worthy of the deepest attention. He first places her strength in her population, as compared with her extent and her insular situation, which protects her from the incursions of her enemies. During the great commotions of Europe, when hostile legions occupied again and again the capitals of the nations, England, while taking an active part in all great continental operations, was carrying on manufactures in her well guarded island-home, gathering into her hands the commerce of the globe. She prospered on the troubles of Europe, and she has lost by its pacification, for the continental powers have been able to turn their attention to manufactures and agriculture.

The Abbe justly considers the most admirable feature in the finances of England to consist in this—that they do not depend upon mines of gold and silver, but upon the industry of her people. The history of the world offers ample proof that true, solid, national wealth does not consist in the possession of diamonds, gems, and precious metals. During the uninterrupted period of war from 1801 to 1815, the revenue of England remained steady (at a mean ratio) 62,500,000, and had she possessed the same advantages in extent and population with France, her annual income would have been 150,000,000.

Austria with twice the population of England, and with three times her number of acres, not only raises an average revenue of \$13,000,000; while Spain, with her richer soil, and a population nearly equal, could not, when in possession of the land of silver and gold, raise more than 7,000,000, per annum. So much for natural causes. In England the imposts on the soil amount to one-eleventh of the government expenses; in France they form one third, and in other European states the proportion is yet greater. The produce of the English Custom House is greater than that of all the other Custom Houses in Europe.

Look again at the chain of insular and military posts with which England has girded the earth. In her North American colonies, the port of Halifax is both a naval and military station. Amongst the Bahamas she has a strong post at New Providence, and by her possession of Trinidad she commands the entrance of Orinoko. In fact she possesses all the means of defence and attack in the American Archipelago. In the South Atlantic is St. Helena, which England has selected and occupied, says M. D. Pradt, "as a sort of stepping stone between America and Africa, between Europe and Asia," a place of anchorage and refreshment for vessels returning from India and for all traders in the southern seas. She has possession of the Cape of Good Hope, of New Holland, and of other stations in the vast Southern Archipelago. In Europe, she watches every sea. Gibraltar, the key of the Mediterranean, is hers; by the possession of Malta, she checks Italy, Africa and the Levant. From Corfu she can open or close the Atlantic, and blockade when she pleases the only three ports in the possession of Austria, viz. Venice, Trieste, and Fiume.

From the Isle of Jersey she can intercept the navigation of France; from Heligoland she commands the mouth of the Elbe and the Weser, and holds Sweden, Denmark and Russia, in check. In fact she has her stations of observation every where on the globe, and the communication between them is easy and safe.

Shumla and the Balkan Mountains. When waiting for the next intelligence from the seat of war, our readers might perhaps like to see an account from an authentic writer, lately returned from the places he describes, of the fortified town against which the Russians are now turning the principal strength of their army, and of the stupendous natural defences which lie beyond it. The journey from Constantinople, by Dr. Walsh, is a most convenient work for the journalists of the day, as it furnishes them with a great deal of information, not to be derived from any other source, respecting the nature of the country over which the Russian armies have passed, or are preparing to pass, and of the character of the races by whom it is peopled. The following is his description of the hitherto inexpugnable Turkish post of Shumla, lying at the foot of the immense and lofty ridge of the Balkan Mountains.

"Our way lay over a hill which commanded the whole country, and I stopped on the summit at sunrise to view it. Bound us lay the vast ridge of the Balkan, which we had passed, presenting a more inaccessible face at this side than at the other, running along the horizon in a right line like a vast wall which ascended to the clouds. The ancients had such an idea of the height of this ridge, that Pomponius Mela affirms the Euxine and Adriatic could be seen from it at the same time, and Pliny says it was six miles high. Herodotus (VI. colibus passuum)—higher than the chain of the Andes and Himalaya. It is there one of the most remarkable that Herodotus should have taken no notice

of it, though it must have presented so formidable an obstruction to the army of Darius. The mountain Hæmus is so called from the blood of the Typhon, because he had ascended it as the nearest way to scale Heaven, and Jupiter had there struck him down. The length of the chain is not less remarkable than the height, extending for five hundred miles—one end resting on the Gulf of Venice, and the other on the Black Sea. The chain is now called the Balkan, which signifies a difficult defile, and it is properly divided into high and low; the latter advancing forward on each side, like outworks before the great natural rampart.

"The town of Shumla lies in an angle of a valley, formed by two ridges of those low mountains; they are the last branch of them at this side, and their extreme termination. If, therefore, the whole breadth of this immense chain be taken, it may be said to extend from Fakh to Shumla, thirty-two hours or ninety six miles, the country beyond these places being all level plain, and between them all mountains; the lofty ridges, however, extend only from Haidhos to Topeniza, nine hours or twenty seven miles.

"The mountains about Shumla form a semicircular amphitheatre, on the sides of which, the gardens and plantations extend to the summit of the hill, overhanging the town with a very rich and beautiful prospect. Below, at the extremity of the ridges, an immense plain begins, which extends to the Danube on the north, and the Black Sea on the east. Here are seen the towns, Sc. of Varna, between two head lands, distant eighteen hours or fifty-four miles. To this port, all who wish to avoid the difficulties of the Balkan, hire a vessel from Constantinople, and thence come to Shumla. In fact, it appeared as if the country from the Danube to the Propontis, was originally a dead flat surface, when by some convulsion of nature this ridge of mountains was thrown up, which divided the country like a vast wall running from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. The part of the plain lying on the south of the ridge, was formerly called Thrace, and is now Romelia, the part on the north was formerly called Macedonia, and now Bulgaria.

"Shumla is a very large and populous town, containing about 60,000 inhabitants. It is divided into two parts, the Turkish and Christian. The Turkish is the upper part. It is filled with mosques, whose domes and minarets are covered with burnished plates, which glitter in the sun with dazzling splendour; so that when the sun shone bright I could not look at the town. Here is, besides, an extraordinary novelty in a Turkish town—a large town clock; it tells the hours by a bell, which is heard all over the city, and regulates the times of the inhabitants, instead of the muezzins crying the hour from the minarets. This extraordinary innovation, and approximation to European manners, was introduced some years ago by a Basha, who had been a prisoner in Russia; he there acquired a taste for bells; and on his return brought with him a striking clock, which he erected in Shumla. The improvement, however, has not yet proceeded beyond this northern frontier. I have never seen or heard of any other town clock in the Turkish dominions, except at Athens, presented by Lord Elgin, as some remuneration for the dilapidation of the Parthenon.

"Detached by an interval from this upper town, is a smaller, called Warish, which extends into the plain. Within its limits the Rayas, or Jew and Christian population, reside, separate from the rest, like the district called Irish towns, in Ireland, the original inhabitants of both having been laid under the same interdiction by their conquerors. In this district are about 300 houses inhabited by Jews, Armenians and Greeks, who have each a place of worship. It is here the most celebrated tinmen and braziers in the Turkish empire, reside, who supply Constantinople with their manufacture, and cover their own mosques with tin and copper, which looks so glittering. Shumla has some irregular fortifications standing. We entered the town across a deep fosse; and, through ramparts of clay, by which the Russians were repulsed in their last invasion of Turkey; their main body had advanced from Rasgrad to this place, while their Cossacks pushed across the mountains as far as Burgaz. They were, however, obliged to retreat without taking the town.

"As a military station, Shumla seems to have been of great importance to the Turkish empire. It is on the point at which all the roads leading from the fortresses on the Danube concentrate. Its fortresses would be weak and contemptible in the hands of European troops, but are a very efficient defence when manned by Turks. They consist of earthen ramparts, and brick walls, in some places flanked by strong built watch towers, each capable of holding eight or ten 'tophelees,' or musqueteers. They stretch for three miles in length and one in breadth, over a round intersected with valleys, and the extent and irregularities of the surface prevent the possibility of their being invested. It is here the Turks form their entrenchment camp in their

contests, and the Russians have always found it impregnable. Twice they have advanced as far as Shumla, and have been repulsed without being able to advance further."

From the National Intelligencer.

The Baltimore Marylander—which, we must do it the justice to say, is one of the most ably conducted papers in the United States—as an antidote to the perversions with which the Combination Presses have sounded of the sentiments of President ADAMS, touching the merits and the conduct of the war of 1812, has republished the whole of the admirable letter addressed by Mr. Adams to Hon. H. C. Otis, in 1808, in reply to a letter of Mr. Pickens, which all who are old enough, well remember. We are obliged to the Marylander for endeavoring to make the present generation in his state better acquainted than they appear to be with the real character of John Quincy Adams, against whom, be it remembered, no man can produce any charge affecting, in any manner, his honor, his public integrity, or his private morals; whilst the evidences of his patriotic devotion and public services abound on the pages of our history. Of these evidences, the letter to which we refer is one to which his friends and supporters may turn with pride and pleasure. We agree with the Marylander, "that it is among the most eloquent defences of human and national rights, which was ever penned by man." We wish we had room for the whole of it. As we have not, however, we will give our readers a relish, by copying entire the concluding paragraphs, the whole of which occupies eight or ten columns.

"If any statesman can point out another alternative, I am ready to hear him, and, for any practicable expedient, lend him every possible assistance. But let not that expedient be submission to trade under British licenses and British taxation. We are told that even under these restrictions we may yet trade to the British dominions, to Africa, and China, and with the colonies of France, Spain, and Holland. I ask not how much of this trade would be left, when our intercourse with the whole continent of Europe being cut off, would leave us no means of purchase, and no market for sale? I ask not what trade we could enjoy with the colonies of nations with which we should be at war? I ask not how long Britain would leave open to us avenues of trade, which, even in these very Orders of Council, she boasts of having open as a special indulgence. I we yield the principle, we abandon all pretence to national sovereignty. To yearn for the fragments of trade which might be left, would be to pine for the crumbs of commercial servitude. The boon, which we should humiliate ourselves to accept from British bounty, would soon be withdrawn. Submission never yet set boundaries to encroachment. From pleading for half the empire, we should sink into supplicants for life—we should supply a vain want. If we must fall, let us fall freemen—let us maintain, let it be in defence of our rights.

"To conclude, sir, I am not sensible of any necessity for the extraordinary interference of the commercial states to control the general councils of the nation. If any interference could, at this critical extremity of our affairs, have a kindly effect upon our common welfare, it would be interference to promote union, and not division—to urge mutual confidence, and not universal distrust; to strengthen the arm, and not to relax the sinews of the nation. Our suffering and our dangers, though differing, perhaps, in degree, are universal in extent. As their causes are justly chargeable, so their removal is dependent upon ourselves, and upon others. But while the spirit of independence shall continue to beat in unison with the pulses of the nation, no danger will be truly formidable. Our duties are to prepare with concentrated energy, for those which threaten us, to meet them without dismay, and to rely for their issue upon Heaven.

"I am, with great respect, &c.  
"JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.  
"Hon. HARRISON RAY OTIS."

Huntsville, (Alab.) Sept. 5.  
METEOR.—On the 31st of August at fifteen minutes past ten o'clock, a number of the citizens, while seated before their doors, on the east side of the public square, were thrown into a stupor of astonishment on finding all the objects around them, streets and houses, suddenly illuminated with the dazzling effulgence of noon-day. Their gaze was instantaneously concentrated upon what appeared to the naked eye, a blazing serpent, of about twenty feet in extent and three in breadth, gliding through the air from east to south, its first appearance at an elevation of nearly fifty degrees. Its motion was gentle and undulating, graceful, terrific and sublime. It finally disappeared in shade unperceived and softening into shade, after confounding their gaping curiosity for upwards of ten minutes. We have not been so fortunate as to witness this truly grand, although common phenomenon, "of struggling night and day malignant mixed," but it was described

to us by two gentlemen of unimpeachable credibility, who saw it "sweeping glories and its force divine," as being in shape and motion of the exact similitude of a serpent. This is extremely probable; but in those, whose amazement at the scene enforced the belief of its being a real serpent it is propositious. That it was a meteor there should be no doubt, because we know that the fact of the fires of rearing meteors having the power of re-collecting their scattered elements, tallies with frequent observation. The Newtonian, and generally adopted theory, in explaining their causes is simply thus:—From the constant heat of the sun, sulphur and other combustible substances, emit exhalations which cause an incalcescence upon mixing with the nitrogen of the atmosphere, and from the sulphur and nitre being thus melted, a flame bursts forth which illuminates, if the exhalations be copious, that part of the heavens, with a considerable stream of light. In the ignition of gun powder, it is precisely the same experiment, being composed of coal, sulphur and nitre. The coal presently takes fire by the smallest spark, by which the sulphur and nitre are melted and burst into flame, just as they do in the heavens.

From the Baltimore Gazette.

On Tuesday last, we were edified by a spectacle which a few centuries ago would have been a case of public interest; but which, at the present period, is deprived of its awful and mysterious circumstances, and it is only a matter of amusement—the trial of a witch!

We are our own opinions to be consulted, we would say, that the only witches who exercise their power over us, are the passions of the bright eyes, the cheeks, and hour forms, who assail us with their power in the streets, haunt our imagination by day, and our dreams at night—but, the opinion of the world is against us, and in the words of the law, communis error factus jus.

The old woman, who was the subject of this charge, possessed all the requisites to constitute a witch, being very old, very ugly, and, withal, of the colour by the common consent of Christendom assigned to the potentate of the lower world.

We at first supposed, that the learned magistrate would have dispensed with oral testimony, and subjected the heinous criminal to the ordeal by water, according to the universal practice of our ancestors, by tying a large stone around her neck, and throwing her into a pool of deep water—if she sunk, she should be declared innocent—and if she swam, or floated, she should be adjudged guilty, and burnt.

But, he commenced by examining the witnesses to the fact—one of whom testified that she had "the biggest peas and the most desired vegetables that the market could afford; but that the witch put her spells upon the weggables and the people in the market, and she could not sell nothing." Several other witnesses proved similar facts, and the witness of the district, a man about six feet six in his stockings, having first used the precautions against witchcraft, which tradition informs us are omnipotent in such cases, testified that on Saturday evening the accused "threw salt, and other spells on the pavement, and bewitched the whole market." On being examined as to his belief in her power, he shook his head very knowingly and mysteriously, and said that "such things had been done, and might be done; and at all events, it was a breach of the peace."

The magistrate expressed his opinion, that from the clear and undisputed testimony in the case, he was not at liberty to dispute the fact; but, as he knew of no law, whether of the state or corporation, to prohibit any person from throwing salt on the pavement, he must discharge the prisoner—and the witnesses retired, complaining bitterly, that an example was not made of such a notorious witch.

A heavy stage coach, running between Manchester and Carlisle, in Scotland, was struck with lightning when about two miles from the town of Burton. The off leader and the two wheel horses were killed, but the numerous passengers escaped without injury, excepting a female who sat behind the driver with an umbrella spread to shelter herself and others from the rain. It is supposed the umbrella, as a conductor, saved the passengers from instant death. The umbrella was torn in pieces—the woman's bonnet scattered, and her dress scorched in many places. The lightning made a wound in her leg of several inches in length, but although she bled profusely she was not considered dangerously wounded.

It is stated in the Baltimore American that there is at present a great scarcity of mechanics, and, indeed, of laborers generally, in Baltimore. Bricklayers are getting wages as high as \$1 75 a day; and there are not enough of them to be found for the buildings now in progress. This circumstance may be worth the attention of mechanics and workmen at a distance.