The Cambridge Chronicle.

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TERMS.

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POETRY.

SPEAK NO ILL.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

Nay, speak no ill!—a kindly word
Can never leave a sting behind.
And, oh! to breathe each tale we've heard,
Is far below a noble mind.
Full oft a bitter seed is sown,
By choosing thus the kinder plan;
For if but little good be known,
Sull let us speak the best we can.

Give me the heart that fain would hide—
Would fain another's fault efface;
How can it pleasnre human pride,
To prove humanity but base?
No! let us reach a higher mood,
A nobler estimate of man;
Be earnest in the search for good,
And speak of all the best we can.

Then speak no ill—but lenient be
To others' failings as your own;
If you're the first a fault to see,
Be not the first to make it known.
For life is but a passing day,
No lip may tell how brief its span;
Then, oh, the little time we stay,
Let's speak of all the best we can.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

A young man of eighteen, a student in a university, took a walk one day with a professor, who was commonly called the student's friend, such was his kindness to the poung men whose office it was to instruct.

While they were now walking toget her, and the professor was seeking to lead the conversation to grave subjects, they saw a pair of old shoes laying in their path, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who was at work in a field close by, and who had nearly finished his day's work.

The young student turned to the professor, saying: "let us play this man a trick, we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes, and watch to see his perplexity when he can not find them."

"My dear friend," answered the professor, "we must never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of this poor man. Put a dollar into each shoe; then we will hide ourselves."

The student did so, and then placed himself with the professor behind the bushes close by, through which they could easily watch the laborer, and see whatever wonder or joy he might express.

The poor man had soon finished his work, and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While putting on the coat he slipped one foot into one of the shoes: but feeling something hard he stooped down, and found the dollar. Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his countenance; he gazed upon the dollar, turned it around, and looked again and again. then he looked around him on all sides, but could see no one. Now he put the money in his pocket and proceeded to put on the other shoe; but how great was his astonishment when he found the other dollar! His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom this timely bounty from some unknown hand would save from perishing.

The young man stood there deeply affected, and the tears filled his eyes.

"Now," said the professor, "are you not much better pleased than if you had played your intended trick."

"Oh! dearest sir," answered the youth, "you have taught me a lesson now that I will never forget. I feel now the truth of the words I never before understood—"it is better to give than to receive."

We should never approach the poor but with the wish to do them good.

It is a fair step towards happiness and virtue to delight in the company and conversation of good men, and where these cannot be had, it is best to keep no company at all.

CONUNDRUM.

WHY is a youth's chin like a crow's tail? Because it grows *down*.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ONE MONTH LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP CAMBRIA AT BOSTON.

GREAT CHANGE IN THE COMMERCIAL POLICY OF ENGLAND—SIR ROBERT PEEL'S FINANCIAL SCHEMES—IMPORTANT REDUCTIONS IN DUTIES ON AMERICAN PRODUCE—PROPOSITION FOR THE REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS—IMPROVEMENT IN THE COTTON MARKET—TIGHTNESS IN THE MONEY MARKET—LOSS OF AN AMERICAN VESSEL, &c., &c., &c.

The steamer Cambria arrived at Boston on Wednesday night, with one month's later news from Europe. It was received in New York in 7 hours afterwards by the Herald express, ahead of the Halifax express and all others, and in Philadelphia by the U. S. Gazette, in advance of its contemporaries.

The news by the Cambria is of the highest importance, both in a political and commercial point of view.

The meeting of Parliament, and the Queen's speech, and the remarks of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell in relation to the foreign affaires of Great Britain, particularly with the U. States, give a very favorable complexion to the Oregon question. *Sir Robert and Lord John condemn the course pursued by Mr. Pakenham on the Oregon question, particularly his refusal of the offer of Mr. Buchanan, without submitting it to the consideration of his government*

Lord John Russell is decidedly opposed to the increase of the army and navy of G. Britain, and says that the only need of any increase is the increase in the possessions of that government.

The reduction of duties on American produce proposed by Sir Robert Peel, meets with much favor, and is expected to increase the business of the manufacturing districts very much.

The accounts of the various markets are of the most favorable character, and cannot but have a very favorable effect upon the prices of American produce in our markets.

The London money market was rather tight, and the quotations for stocks tended downwards.

Lord Morpeth has given his name to a document prepared by the Peace Society, recommending addresses from merchants and other classes in this country, to similar classes in the United States, in favor of perpetual amity, and the reference of all points of misunderstanding to the arbitration of disinterested nations.

DREADFUL SHIPWRECKS. Recent accounts bring tidings of dreadful shipwrecks. The Montreal, a trader between London and Quebec, was lost on the 14th January, near Cape Chat, and every soul on board perished. The Saxon, an American packet, bound to London from Boston, is believed to have foundered on the 17th, on a reef of rocks called the Ledges, near Red Head. The Laurel, of Quebec, was lost off the coast of Newfoundland, by coming in contact with a field of ice; happily, the crew were saved. The ship Cambridge, from Liverpool, took off the crew, thirty two persons, from the Lord Lynedoch, in a sinking state. Lloyd's books record the loss of the City of Shirass, in the Mindora Sea, with forty persons drowned; the wreck of an East Indiaman, and other calamities.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY. It is currently rumored in military circles, that the army will be increased 14,000 men, by the addition of two companies to each infantry, and two troops to each cavalry regiment.—Three commissioned officers, a captain, and two subalterns, will be appointed to each of these companies and troops.

(From Wilmer & Smith's European Times, Feb. 4.)

The steamship Cambria, commanded by our excellent and esteemed friend, Captain Judkins, takes out to day the most important and gratifying intelligence that ever left the shores of Great Britain. Sir Robert Peel—England's powerful and brilliant Minister—has developed his future commercial policy. It is at once simple and comprehensive; and under its operation the exchange of commodities between this country (England) and the United States will be carried to an extent, and will be mutually productive of advantages, greater, to quote not irreverently, the words of the sacred volume—"than the eye hath yet seen, or the heart hath conceived." The new scheme embraces, with a full sense of their importance, the principles of free trade—repudiate all protection for commerce, manufactures and agriculture; admits corn, duty free, at the end of three years, with a scale, in the interim, which will probably oscilliate between four and six shillings per quarter, and at once admits Indian corn and buckwheat free of all duty whatever

Great Britain, at the present moment, is in a blaze of excitement, men talk and think of nothing else; they have set their hearts upon securing the great fiscal scheme, for the regeneration of the country, which the Premier has laid before Parliament, and they desire to curtail the period fixed for the total extinction of the corn laws. The friends of peace and progression, on this side of the water, hope—earnestly and sincerely hope—that the new policy will bind America to us by the ties of amity, brotherhood and interest, and that the miserable squaboling about a barren waste will give way to more liberal, civilized and comprehensive views.

The immediate effects of the new tariff on the most prominent articles of American exports we have noticed elsewhere. Altogether the subject in its phases, is the most important that ever crossed the Atlantic since the introduction of ocean navigation; and all that is now wanting is for the Government and people of the United States to meet us in a kindred spirit, and in the true spirit of commerce and of friendship, forget the past, and run a generous race of mutual happiness and prosperity for the future.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT. The sessions of Parliament were opened by the Queen in person, with the following address:

My Lords and Gentlemen:

It gives me great satisfaction to meet you in Parliament, and to have the opportunity of recurring to your assistance and advice. I continue to receive from my allies, and from other Foreign Powers, the strongest assurance of the desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with this country. I rejoice that in concert with the Emperor of Russia, and through the success of our joint mediation, I have been enabled to adjust the differences which had long prevailed between the Ottoman Porte and the King of Persia, and had seriously endangered the tranquility of the East. For several years a desolating and sanguinary warfare has afflicted the States of the Rio de la Plata. The commerce of all nations has been interrupted, and acts of barbarity have been committed, unknown to the practice of a civilized people. In conjunction with the King of the French, I am endeavoring to effect a pacification of those States. The Convention concluded with France in the course of last year, for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, is about to be carried into immediate execution by the active co-operation of the two Powers on the coast of Africa.

It is my desire that our present union, and the good understanding which so happily exists between us, may always be employed to promote the interests of humanity, and to secure the peace of the world. I regret that the conflicting claims of Great Britain and the United States in respect to the territory on the North Western Coast of America, although they have been made the subject of repeated negotiation, still remain unsettled. You may be assured that no effort consistent with national honor shall be wanting on my part to bring this question to an early and peaceful termination.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons—The Estimates for the year will be laid before you at an early period. Although I am deeply sensible of the importance of enforcing economy in all branches of the expenditure, yet I have been compelled, by a due regard to the exigencies of the public service and to the state of our Naval and Military Establishments, to propose some increase in the estimates which provide for their efficiency.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—I have observed with deep regret, the very frequent instances in which the crime of deliberate assassination has been of late committed in Ireland. It will be your duty to consider whether any measures can be devised calculated to give increased protection to life, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of so dreadful a crime. I have to lament that, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop in several parts of the United Kingdom, there will be a deficient supply of an article of food which forms the chief subsistence of great numbers of my people. The disease by which the plant has been affected, has prevailed to the utmost extent in Ireland. I have adopted all such precautions as it was in my power to adopt for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings which may be caused by this calamity, and I shall confidently rely on your co operation in devising such other means for effecting the same benevolent purpose, as may require the sanction of the Legislature.

I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measnres which you have presented to me from time to time, calculated to extend Commerce, and to stimulate domestic skill and industry, by the repeal of prohibitory, and the relaxation of protective, duties.—The prosperous state of the Revenue, the increased demand for labor, and the general improvement which has taken place in the internal condition of the country, are strong testimonies in favor of the course you have pursued. I recommend you to take into your early consideration whether the principles in which you have acted may not with advantage be yet more extensively applied, whether it may not be in your power, after a careful review of the existing duties upon many articles, the produce or manufacture of other countries to make such further reductions and remissions as may tend to insure the continuance of the great benefits to which I have adverted, and by enlarging our commercial intercourse, to strengthen the bonds of amity with Foreign Powers.

Any measure which you may adopt for affecting these great objects will, I am convinced, be accompanied by such precautions as shall prevent permanent loss to the revenue, or injurious results to any of the great interests of the country. I have full reliance on your just and dispassionate consideration of matters so deeply affecting the public welfare. It is my earnest prayer that with the blessings of Divine Providence on your councils, you may be enabled to promote friendly feelings between different classes of my subjects, provide additional security for the continuance of peace, and to maintain contentment and happiness at home, by increasing the comforts of the great body of my people.

The Queen emphasised the portions of the speech which referred to the continuance of peace and to the reduction of the tariff.

Her Majesty having concluded her address, rose from the throne, and quitted the House with the same state.

The Earl of Home moved the address in a brief speech in which he glanced at the most of the topics touched upon in the speech from the throne. He concluded with reading the words of the address which merely echoed the speech.

Lord De Ros seconded the address, and expressed a hope that our pacific relations with America would not be disturbed by the Oregon dispute.

The Oregon Question. Sir Robert Peel, in the House of Commons on the 23rd ult., in reply to a question of Mr. Hume, said—

I never entertained the slightest apprehension that any contrast between the language employed in her Majesty's speech in reference to those unfortunate disputes that still prevail between this country and America, and that which has been used by the Chief Magistrate of the United States, would have been made in this House. I never thought that that could have been mistaken or misrepresented. We have no hesitation in announcing our sincere desire, for the interest of this country, for the interests of the United States, and for the interests of the civilized world, in continuing to strain every effort which is consistent with national honor. for the purpose of amicably terminating those disputes. (Hear.)

I never had any apprehension that our intentions or language would be misrepresented; and the speech which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hume,) the uniform and consistent advocate for the strictest economy, has just made confirms me that my inticipations will not be disappointed. (Cheers.) And if any proposal which her Majesty's Government may feel it to be their duty to make for the maintenance of essential rights, or of the national honor, shall be responded to and supported by this House, then let me not be mistaken. I think it would be the greatest misfortune if a contest about the Oregon between two such powers as England and the United States could not, by the exercise of moderation and good sense, be brought to a perfectly honoryble and satisfactory conclusion. (Cheers.)

PEEL'S FINANCIAL SCHEME.

We point to our readers the most striking features in the plan for the fiscal regeneration of the country, which Sir Robert Peel, in a four hour's speech, introduced in the House of Commons on the 27th January.—In that speech he took an elaborate review of the fiscal condition of the country, and announced the reduction of duty on a number of articles which press upon the commercial and agricultural interests. He impressed upon the manufactures the necessity of preparing for the advent of free trade, by giving up whatever limited amount of protection they now enjoy from foreign competition in the shape of prohibitory duties; and the duties so imposed he announced his intention of reducing to a nominal amount. But this appeal to the manufacturers is useless; they have long since publicly repudiated the benefits of all protecting duties; have declared that they seek for no aid beyond free scope for the exercise of their talents in the open markets of the world; and have often said in substance to the agriculturist "do thou likewise." The timber duties are to undergo a revision, but into the details of the change he did not enter, reserving it for another day.

For the reduction on tallow, on paper hangings, on soap and candles, on boots and shoes, on foreign spirits, on cloves and other seeds, on provisions, (fresh and salted) on vegetables, on foreign made carriages, we must refer to our ample report of the speech itself in another column. We can do little more than indicate in this place *currente calamo*, the primary heads of the cheme. Sugar—that great article of Colonial produce, which next to the corn laws, has been most virulently assailed on account of the tenacity to which the Minister has clung in screening it from competition—is still to be more or less protected. Slave grown sugar he still regarded as an abomination; but the duty on foreign free lobor sugar is to be reduced 3s 6d. per cent. The Corn laws he proposes to abolish totally and unconditionally, on the first of Febuary, 1849, and in the meantime a modified sliding scale is to be substituted for the one at present in existence.

For instance, when the price of corn is under 38s., the duty will be 10s.; when above 48s and under 40s., 9s., and so on, the duty declining 1s., with a rise in the price of a permanent duty of 4s. is to take place, in order to propitiate the landlord class, sums of money are to be advanced by government for the improvement af agriculture. The law of settlement is to be altered, so that, after a servitude or residence of five years in a manufacturing district, the peasant who has leff the plough for the factory must receive parochial aid, if he require it, form the place of his adoption, not the place of his nativity; the same with regard to his children and his widow. Moreover, the high way rates are to be remodelled on a plan which is to save tug at the agricultural purse; and various other charges, hitherte paid out of the country rates such as the expenses of convicted prisoners, of prosecutions at sessions, the education of work house children, &c., are to be paid in future by the State.

In a word, the new scheme is as near an approximation to the principles of free trade as can be safely consistent with the policy of a country which has its credit to support, and the interests of an overwhelming national debt to pay. Sir Robert Feel has acknowledged the principle that duties ought to be levied for reveuue and not for protection, and his future policy, it is clear, will be directed to that end. But it would be too much to assume that he can carry out the new course of action ton which he has now entered without a struggle too, with the powerful interests which believe themselves to be jeopardised. The protectionists are boiling with fury, and the language recently held in the House of Lords by the Dukes of Richmond and Buckingham, indicate the fierce passion which sway the breasts of British landlords towards the most clear-headed, practical statesman of his age.

Looking at the question in every point of view, taking into account the present position of parties, the advent of a new election, the flush of triumph which mantels the cheeks of the Free traders, the gloom and anger which reign in the faces of the Protectionists—viewing the state of the registry, the condition of the food market, our relations with the United States, the absence of an excitement except on the great question of free trade—we arrive at the conclusion, not only that Sir Robert Peel will pass his new tariff triumphantly, but that he will do it in the PRESENT PARLIAMENT!

UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The European Times of the 4th inst. says.—"The commercial intelligence which goes out by this packet is necessarily of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind. A state of transition is, of all others, the most unfavorable for the requirements of trade; for the uncertainty which precedes the change unhinges the operations alike of buyer and seller, of exporter and importer.

The new policy of the United States, as indicated in the report of the American Secretary of the Treasury, has commanded much attention in the British Parliament. Sir Robert Peel spoke highly of the report in the great speech in which he introduced the new Tariff, and subsequently, at the request of Lord Monteagle, the government consented to reprint the document,, and place it on the tables of both houses of Parliament—an honor which was probably never awarded to any similar document before. All these facts prove the desire which the British government has to make our future relations with the United States as imicable and business like as possible.

Markets, as we before stated, are all more or less affected by the Premier's financial expose, and business can hardly be expeeted to resume its healthy tone, until it is known whether the measure will pass or be rejected—whether there will be a dissolution of Parliament this year or next.

The intelligence which has come to hand from the United states shows the angry discussions which have taken place in congress; but the cotton market has not been touched by it. Pacific people here, connected by business relations with America, express wonder that Mr. John Quincy Adams, the steady and consistent friend of peace, should have shown the effects of age, on an other wise vigorous intellect, by pandering to the prejudices and policy of the war party. Not with standing the bluster which is uttered in Congress, people here cannot bring themselves seriously to contemplate a war about the Oregon, it appears too absurd for sirious attention.

Nevertheless, it is in the power of hasty and intemberate people to precipitate matters beyond the possibility of redemption. The mention of the Oregon dispute in the British Parliament consists strictly with the warfare of America Senators and members of the House of Representatives. Sturdy Republicans might take, in this respect, an example of forebearance and gentlemanly deportment from the speeches of Hume, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord John Russell, on the second night of the session.

FRANCE. M. Guizot has noticed the remarks of Mr. Polk's message relative to war and Texas.

M. Guizot had accordingly felt surprised at the language used by the President in his message and he had considered it his duty to claim in reply for France an entire independence of action—He next examined the commercial reasons which had induced France, to recognize the independence of Texas in 1838, and rendered her anxious to maintain it in 1845. The political considerations had been of a still greater weight. There were at present, he said, three powerful nations intent on aggrandizing beyond measure their territories—England, Russia and the U. States.

France was not extending her dominions. In Africa she had made a conquest it was her interest and honor to preserve, but the bounds of which she would not overstep. It was of the highest importance to France that those three nations should balance each other's power, and that none of them should obtain a preponderating influence. She was consequently interested in protecting the independence of the American States.

DISASTER TO THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA. The French papers gave an account of a horrid disaster which overtook a detachment of the French army in the province of Constantine. In the midst of a large plain, the column was overtaken by a heavy fall of snow, which continued two days, in which the poor fellows were obliged to bivouac. Some of them not having tasted food for two days fell victims to the severity of the weather. By the celamity more than 100 lives, it was said, have been lost

ALTERATION OF DUTIES ON AMERICAN PRODUCE

Our American readers will find, on a reference to another column, that the British Ministry proposes to make important reductions on many of the articles exported from America to England. We hope to see a similar spirit manifested by the Cabinet at Washington. The alterations comprise:—

	PREVIOUS DUTY	REDUCED TO
Bacon	14s per cwt.	Free
Beef, fresh,	8s do	Free
Beef, salted,	8s do	Free
Hay	16s per load	Free
Hides	2s per lb.	Free
Meat	8s per cwt.	Free
Pork	8s do.	Free
Buchwheat	———	1s per quarter
Candles—Tallow	10s per cwt.	5s per cwt.
Cheese	10s 6d do.	5s do.
Clocks	20 per cent	10 per cent
Hams	14s per cwt.	7s per cwt.
Hops	90s do.	45s do
Indian Corn	heavy duty	1s per quar.
Rice	6s per cwt	1s do.
Tallow	3s 2d per cwt.	1s per cwt.

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