

At the hour named a burst of smoke, dark and thick, rolled from our left of the building; it was followed by another; the heavy sound arrived, the stones were shot into the air and to the sea; the explosions of the extreme right and the centre mingled at little interval into one drifting cloud, which veiled the destruction below.

The light of the sun played beautifully on the mass of smoke, of which the lower part lay long and heavily on its victim. The breeze passing it away over the remains of the town, showed that a low line of ruin was all that remained of the pride of Fort Nicholas, and one standing menace of the harbour lay buried under its waters.

The state of the docks has been given in detail in my letters. They are all destroyed, whilst the earth surrounding them is shaken into cracks; basin, docks, masses of broken granite, capstans, gates, beams of iron, and of timber are tumbled into one mass of destruction.

I have, &c.,

W. J. CODRINGTON,
General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c. &c. &c.

Buckingham Palace, February 12, 1856.

This day had audience of Her Majesty;

The Baron de Hochschild, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the King of Sweden and Norway, accompanied by the Count Björnstierna, Chamberlain of His Swedish and Norwegian Majesty, to deliver a letter from his Sovereign, announcing that He had conferred His Order of the Seraphim upon His Royal Highness Prince Albert:

To which he was introduced by the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies.

Whitehall, February 19, 1856.

The Queen has been pleased to give and grant unto Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Her Majesty's royal licence and permission that he may accept and wear the Grand Cross of the Military Order of Savoy, which the King of Sardinia hath been pleased to confer upon him, as a mark of His Majesty's approbation of his eminent services before the enemy during the present war, and that he may enjoy all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging.

The Queen has also been pleased to give and grant unto Lieutenant-General Sir Richard England, G.C.B., Her Majesty's royal licence and permission that he may accept and wear the Imperial Order of the Medjidie of the First Class; unto Lieutenant-Colonel John Lintorn Arabin Simmons, C.B., and Major John Hardman Burke, Her Majesty's royal licence and permission that they may accept and wear the Third Class of the same Order, which the Sultan hath been pleased to confer upon them respectively, as a mark of His Imperial Majesty's approbation of their distinguished services before the enemy during the present war, and that they may enjoy all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging.

Whitehall, February 14, 1856.

The Queen has been pleased to grant unto Shallcross-Fitzherbert Jacson, of Newton Hall, in the parish of Shilbottle, and of Hauxley, in the parish of Warkworth, both in the county of Northumberland, Esquire, only surviving son and heir of Shallcross Jacson, late of Newton Bank, in the county palatine of Chester, deceased, by Frances, his wife, daughter of Joseph Cook, late of Newton Hall aforesaid, Clerk, deceased, and sister of Samuel-Edward Widdrington (formerly Samuel-Edward Cook), late of Newton Hall and Hauxley aforesaid, Esquire, a Commander in the Royal Navy, and Knight of the Royal Portuguese Military Order of the Tower and Sword, deceased, Her royal licence and authority that he and his issue may, in compliance with a proviso contained in the last will and testament of his maternal uncle the said Samuel-Edward Widdrington, take and henceforth use the surname of Widdrington only, in lieu and instead of his and their present surname of Jacson, and that he and they may bear the arms of Widdrington only; such arms being first duly exemplified according to the laws of arms, and recorded in the Herald's Office, otherwise the said royal licence and permission to be void and of none effect:

And also to command that the said royal concession and declaration be registered in Her Majesty's College of Arms.

Whitehall, February 15, 1856.

The Queen has been pleased to grant unto Sir Lionel Pilkington, of Chevet Hall, in the county of York, and of Butterton, in the county of Stafford, Baronet, third and youngest but now only surviving son and heir of Sir William Pilkington, late of Chevet Hall aforesaid, Baronet, by Dame Mary Milborne-Swinnerton Pilkington, his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Swinnerton, late of Butterton aforesaid, Esquire, all deceased, Her royal licence and authority that he and his issue may, in compliance with clause or proviso contained in an indenture of settlement, bearing date the seventh day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, take, use, and bear the surnames of Milborne and Swinnerton only, and that he may be called Sir Lionel Milborne-Swinnerton, Baronet, and that he and his issue may bear the arms of Swinnerton of Butterton and Milborne quarterly with his and their family arms; such arms being first duly exemplified according to the laws of arms and recorded in the Herald's Office, otherwise the said royal licence and permission to be void and of none effect:

And also to command that the said royal concession and declaration be registered in Her Majesty's College of Arms.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
February 15, 1856.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, enclosing copy of a law (of which the following is a translation), authorizing the Greek Government to grant to any Company powers to establish a railway from Athens to the Piræus.

ART. I.—The Government is authorized to concede by royal ordinance the right of establish-