

of the city. He afterwards retired with a small suite into Syria.

To be continued.

Miscellaneous.

ARCTIC LAND EXPEDITION, IN SEARCH OF CAPTAIN ROSS, &c.

The object of this expedition will be to penetrate across the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company to the shores of the Arctic Sea, primarily to rescue, or at least ascertain the fate of Captain Ross, who, it is well known, has not been heard of since he sailed in a steam-boat, three years ago, with the view of thus effecting a north-west passage to the Pacific; and subordinate to this object, to extend our knowledge of those shores, in particular to endeavour to fill up the interval between Cape Turnagain (the north-eastern limits of Sir John Franklin's discoveries) and the Straits of the Hecla and Fury, where Sir Edward Parry was stopped by the ice, when attempting to penetrate to the westward along the coast; or, should these prove, as some imagine, merely the entrance of an inlet, to determine where else is situated the north-eastern extremity of the American Continent.

The hopes entertained by Captain Ross's friends, that he and his companions are still alive, and may be extricated from their critical position, by efforts yet made for their relief, are founded, partly on the extent of his preparations, which were calculated to meet his wants for three years—partly on the amount of stores which, it is presumed, he would find untouched, in the wreck of the *Floxy*, abandoned by Sir Edward Parry, in 1825—and partly on an account (given by Hearne, and quoted by Mr. Barrow, in his *Chronological History of Arctic Voyages*, pp. 275—8) of the fate of the crews of two Hudson Bay vessels, which were cast on shore on Marble Island in 1719, and of whom it was ascertained, in 1769, that some survived nearly three years.

If, then, it is argued, severe as the sufferings of these poor people were, they could prolong their existence at all, for nearly three years, on Marble Island, which is a bare granite rock, with scarcely any local resources, whatever, it is not probable that Captain Ross's difficulties, even supposing that he was wrecked the first year of his departure, may not yet have been overwhelming? If they could thus survive, also, with only a moderate stock of supplies in their ships, fitted out, as these necessarily were, after the manner of the last century, may not his party be furnished amply in comparison? And even the character of the country seems to require that some search should be made for them—that 19 British seamen, embarked in the most disinterestedly spirited enterprise of the day, should not be lightly given up to their fate; especially when, by the same means, the discoveries of Franklin and Parry may be connected, and a series of expeditions be, as it were, completed, which, in so far as they have gone, reflect the highest honour on the British skill and enterprise, and have left, in truth, little more than the blank here contemplated to be filled up, in order to complete our knowledge of the outline of the American coast.

These views have been, therefore, lately brought under the consideration of his Majesty's government, and sanguine hopes are entertained that it may be induced to subscribe £2000 towards carrying them into effect. The Hudson's Bay Company has also, with great liberality, consented to provide boats and provisions for the party gratuitously; and has already forwarded the requisite orders for this purpose. Captain Back, R.N. one of Sir John Franklin's companions, in both his journeys, has volunteered to conduct the expedition, the plan of which was originally sketched by Dr. Richardson, and carefully revised and reconsidered by both these officers.—The party will be forwarded early in February next to New York, whence it will proceed, by way of Montreal, to Great Slave Lake, and descend the Fish River as early in the season as possible, probably in August. It will afterwards act as Captain Back's judgment and the circumstances in which he may find himself placed, shall direct; but, at least, two seasons will be requisite to execute the service in any degree satisfactorily. And, in every case, the scale of operations, their extent, continuance and ultimate success, will mainly depend on the means placed at his command.

Subscriptions towards the Arctic Land Expedition are accordingly now in the course of being received by some principal bankers in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin; and the amount, whatever it may be, will be placed under the sole authority of a committee of noble and gentlemen, of whom a most respectable list is already in circulation, as having, with the exception, Sir George Cockburn, G.C.B. as their chairman, signified their willingness to accept the trust. Men of all descriptions must wish well to the undertaking, for science must gain by it, and humanity may; nor will difficulties be nicely weighed, probably, even by the least sanguine, when the certain prize is knowledge, and the contingent, human life.

Previous to Sir Thomas Denman being appointed Attorney-General, the King was said what such an appointment would

be offensive to his Majesty; he replied, that he had forgiven, and almost forgotten the allusion in question, and that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see a man of Sir T. Denman's talent and character raised to such a station. On the decease of Lord Tenterden, Sir T. Denman was immediately mentioned to the King, as a fit successor to that judge. His Majesty not only consented to the appointment, but was pleased to accompany that consent with some very kind expressions of satisfaction and confidence, and also took an opportunity of repeating them, in a more direct manner to Sir Thomas himself.

The number of conservatives (about a third of them, at least, may be considered as ministerialists) that will be chosen into the new Parliament is estimated at 150: the ministerial lists give only 136. The extreme radical members will be very few; the independent reformers very many. For all the purposes of "the Bill" the ministers will have an overwhelming majority, the greatest perhaps, that any ministry ever enjoyed.

The sound of the hammer, hatchet, and the saw never ceases at Plymouth Dock-yard, in which the workmen are not allowed a moment's respite from morning till night. The artisans work double tides; that is, they perform two days' labour in one; and even the Sabbath sabbies no holiday for them, for not only is the night made joint labor with the day, but Sunday, no longer divided from the week, has ceased to be a day of rest in Plymouth Dock-yard. The most extraordinary activity also prevails at Portsmouth and the other dock-yards.

The diabolical practice of incendiarism has again commenced in Kent and Sussex. Several destructive conflagrations have recently occurred in both counties.

It is understood that Governor Sterling, of the Swan River settlement, is expected daily, to arrive in England. The object of his visit here is, to represent, on the part of the colonists, the actual situation of the colony, and the policy of the British Government making some advances to the colonists.

Captain Hiram Covel, master of the barque Alliance, just returned to Newport, R.I. from the Pacific Ocean, states, that, on the 7th of May, 1831, in lat. 4 deg. 37 min. N., long. 163 deg. 40 min. W. he discovered a group of fourteen islands, not laid down on any chart. They were all inhabited and the natives spoke the Spanish language. He called them the Covel Group.

The ex-royal family of France entertain confident hopes of a third restoration. Charles X. has lately adopted, for his armorial bearing, a fallen oak, from the root of which issues a luxuriant shoot, over them is the device, "Pouissant debout!" The Duke d'Angouleme, in his reply to the officers who waited upon him, at Spandau, made use of the following expression: "I am but a poor fugitive now, gentlemen, we shall, however meet in better times, and then you will need no further pass-word, than that you formed part of the garrison of Spandau."

It is said that the King of Prussia is ill of the disease called hydrothorax, (dropsy of the chest). This disease proceeds slowly in its destructive course, but at his age, it must be regarded as attended with danger. The death of the King of Prussia would be, under present circumstances, a fatal event. The moderation of this prince is well known, and the accession to the throne of the prince royal, who is well known for his devotion to the system of Russia, must occasion a considerable change in the policy of Europe.

The Diet of Frankfort, in one of their last sittings, have issued a declaration, that, if a French army were to pass the Rhine and the Meuse, they would consider it a declaration of war against Germany. This must be considered as a mere matter of form, knowing, as we do, that the French have solemnly pledged themselves to confine their operations to the siege of the citadel of Antwerp.

The activity observable in the French dock-yards surpasses even that in our own. The number of ships of war, which will be on the stocks, by the present year (1832) will be 70. Amongst these, 21 ships of the line, 27 frigates, 5 corvettes, and 5 steam-vessels.

The accounts from Spain have caused considerable animation among all parties connected with that country. It is firmly hoped, that the progress of knowledge will now have a powerful co-operator in the cause of true liberty; and that that kingdom may, once more, be restored to her place in the scale of nation.—An insurrection, in favor of Don Carlos, was projected at Madrid, on the 8th of December. Information, however, respecting it was conveyed to the Queen, and such preparations made, that nothing was done by the conspirators. Twelve monks and the prior of a convent were arrested, and the Duke del Infantado, to whom is attributed a project for restoring the Inquisition, is ordered out of the kingdom.

DREADFUL CONCUSSION.—The Talavera 74, Captain Brown, and the French frigate Calypso, brought to at the Nore, on Tuesday last, to repair the damages they had sustained by running aboard of each other in the North Sea, at half-past ten o'clock on Saturday night. It appears that, as the Talavera was on a wind, taking up her station, the Calypso mistook her for a Dutch man-of-war, and, having cleared for action, crossed her bows, when the Talavera struck the Calypso just at the gang-way, and with such force as to break 50 of her timbers, 20 knees, and 12 beams. The shock was so violent, that the side, opposite to that which was struck, was so forced by the beams, as to cause it to round out, whilst the side, on which she was struck rounded inwards, causing her to make three feet water in the hour. The damage sustained by the Talavera is the loss of the whole of the knee of the head. The Calypso was taken up to Chatham on Wednesday, to be docked to-day. The Talavera was taken into Sheerness on Wednesday, into the basin on Thursday, and was docked yesterday. She will be ready for sea in ten days. In the confusion of running foul, several men, in their fright, exchanged ships, fearing their own was going down.

WEST INDIES.—The *St. Vincent's Gazette* contains the report of the Committee appointed to frame a new Slave Act, in which are introduced forty-seven of the clauses of the Order in Council. Instead of a protector, with unlimited powers and an expensive establishment, as contemplated by the Order, a Police Magistrate, with a salary is to be appointed. The leading features of the amendments recommended are all the clauses respecting baptism, marriage, and attendance on divine service. Sunday markets in towns are to be abolished, and labour on that day prohibited; the cart-whip is to be put down, and the punishment of adult females to cease; the clauses respecting provisions, clothing, and the hours of labour, are to be modified in their details; the rule for freedom, for the non-separation of families, and the evidence clauses, are fully incorporated, and a plan for the compulsory sale of slaves has been devised for the consideration of the Legislature. Many penal clauses have been omitted in the Slave Act; and the Committee express a hope that in due time the law for the government of the slave will be equalized with that of the free man.

Sir Wm. Abraham Chatterton, Bart. of Castle Mahon, has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cork City.

Legislature of Newfoundland.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Saturday, Jan. 19.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a letter received by him from Charles Cozens, Esq., Member for Conception Bay, acknowledging the receipt of the order of the House commanding his attendance, and praying that a few days' leave of absence might be granted to him before taking his seat.

A short discussion ensued, when, on motion of Mr. P. BROWN, the following resolution was carried.—That the House will not admit any further delay, but that Charles Cozens, Esq., be ordered to take his seat on Wednesday next.

The order of the day having been read, it was thereupon, on motion, resolved.—That the Bill to provide for the performance of Quarantine, and more effectually to provide against the introduction of Contagious or Infectious Diseases, and the spreading thereof in this Island, be read a second time on Saturday the 26th instant.

Mr. HOYLES, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill to prevent dangerous quantities of Gunpowder being kept within the town of St. John's; and the same was thereupon read a first and second time.

It was then resolved that the Bill be committed on Monday next.

House adjourned.

Monday, 21.

CHARLES COZENS, Esq. member for Conception Bay, took the oath, and his seat.

On motion, it was resolved, that the House do to-morrow take into consideration the Petition of Hugh A. Emerson, Esq., complaining of an undue Election for the district of Bonavista.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, resolved, That the House require to be informed what are the duties performed by His Majesty's Attorney-General, for the salary of £450 paid to that officer;—also, what specific Fees are payable for extra duties beyond those performed for the salary before named;—also, that this House require a detailed account of what his fees would have amounted to, during the past year, if they had not been commuted for the sum of £250.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, it was also resolved.—That a Committee be appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and request that his Excellency will be pleased to direct that there be laid before this House copies of all the Tables of Fees now taken in the different Courts of Law.—Also copies of the former and present commissions of the Justices of the Peace, for the district of St. John's.

Ordered, that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bennett be a Committee to wait on his Excellency with copies of the foregoing Petitions.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the consideration of the bill for preventing dangerous quantities of gunpowder being kept within the town of St. John's.

Mr. KOUGH took the Chair of the Committee.

The Speaker having resumed the Chair, The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the bill

and had made several amendments thereto, which they had directed him to report to the House;

The said amendments were then read a first and second time, and upon the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the House.

House adjourned to Wednesday.

Wednesday, 23.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Hon. Mr. Secretary Crowdy, transmitting, by command of his Excellency the Governor, in pursuance of the resolution of the 14th inst., the following documents, viz.—A return of the details of Public Expenditure in 1831, under the following heads:—the Courts; Fuel and Light; Gaol Expenses; Making and Repairing Public Roads; Repairs and preservation of Public Buildings; Repairs of Bridges and Government Fences; and other incidental charges.

Ordered, that the said Papers do lie on the table.

Mr. THOMAS reported from the Committee appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor with copies of the Resolutions of yesterday, that his Excellency was pleased to say he should cause the information and documents required to be laid before the House.

On motion resolved that Mr. Emerson's Petition, complaining of an undue Election for Bonavista, be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The bill for preventing dangerous quantities of gunpowder being kept within the town of St. John's, was read a third time,—and thereupon, on motion of Mr. Thomas, it was resolved that the said bill be re-committed to a Committee of the whole House.

It was then resolved, that the House do to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider of Ways and Means.

House adjourned till to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Thursday, 24.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Hon. Mr. Secretary Crowdy, in explanation of Lord Goderich's despatch, on the subject of the salary of T. Hyde Villiers, Esq. agent for the colony,—ordered to lie on the table.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, on the consideration of Ways and Means.—Mr. Hoyles in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER having resumed the Chair, the Chairman reported from the committee that they had come to the following Resolutions:—

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of the committee that a duty of 6d. Sterling, per gallon, be levied on all Spirits, the produce of Great Britain or her Colonies, imported into this Island.

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this committee that a duty of 1s. 6d. Sterling, per gallon, be levied on Champagne, Burgundy, Claret, Hock, and all other Wines imported into this Island, whose value in this market (exclusive of this duty) shall exceed the sum of 8s. Sterling, per gallon.

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this committee that a duty of 1s. Sterling, per gallon, be levied on Port, Madeira, Sherry, and all other Wines imported into this Island whose value, as aforesaid, shall exceed 5s. Sterling per gallon.

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this committee, that a duty of 9d. Sterling, per gallon, be levied on Fayal Madeira, Marsala, Malaga Sherry, Figuerra Port, Teneriffe, and all other Wines imported into this Island whose value, as aforesaid, shall exceed 2s. 6d. Sterling per gallon.

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this committee, that a duty of 6d. Sterling, per gallon, be levied on Catalonia, Benecario, Common Fayal, Cargo Claret, and other Wines imported into this Island whose value, as aforesaid, shall not exceed the sum of 2s. 6d. Sterling, per gallon.

Resolved.—That with a view to prevent imposition in the value of Wines not named and which pay a duty according to their value, in this market, it shall and may be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer, or the proper officer to be appointed for that purpose, (on a suspicion that such Wines have been undervalued for duty) to add 10 per centum to the value of such Wines, as stated in the Bill of Entry made at the Custom House by the importer thereof, or his agent, and to take such Wines, for the use of the Island, at such said value, with 10 per cent. added thereon.

Resolved.—That it is most desirable these duties should be collected in the same manner, and under a like authority, as the present Imperial duties are now collected.

The Chairman then moved for leave to sit again on the consideration of Ways and Means—which the House agreed to.

The above resolutions were read throughout a first and second time, and, upon the question being severally put thereon, agreed to.

It was then ordered that Mr. Thomas, Mr. Hoyles, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Kough be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill, or Bills, for carrying into effect the foregoing resolutions of the Committee of Ways and Means.