

Nantes, in which the Duchess promises them that, if they would declare in favour of Henry V., the seat of Government should be fixed at Nantes during the whole of the duration of the Regency. The Duchess occupies, in the Castle, the apartments of the Colonel of Artillery."

Holland.

The London Times of Nov. 23, in speaking of the expected War on the Continent, says—

The accounts received yesterday from Holland to [Friday, 20th.] taken in connexion with those from Antwerp of the same date, afford us the melancholy assurance that the Dutch Government has resolved upon warlike resistance, and that as the French army was ready to commence operations, almost immediate bloodshed has become inevitable. The order of the day of General Chasse to the garrison which he commands, dated the 17th, the order of the commandant of Breela on the 18th, and the decree of King William, dated the 19th, for calling out the 2d and 3d bans of the sedentary National Guards, established beyond a doubt that the Government of Holland has thrown down the gauntlet to France and England, and means to tempt the favours of victory against these powerful nations.

The same paper adds, the letters from Antwerp, by the Brussels mail, were delivered yesterday; and the mail-boat Sir Edward Banks arrived in the river, with accounts of Tuesday from Amsterdam and from the Hague. There remains little to be gleaned, however, from either arrival beyond what is made known through the public channels of information. The point chiefly worthy of notice in the private letters from Antwerp, is the care taken by Marshal Gerard to avoid making the attack on the citadel in any way an affair between the Dutch and the Belgians, pursuant, no doubt, to his instructions, and the tenor of the convention, which placed the execution of the decisions of the Conference in the hands of England and France only. Marshal Gerard was engaged, in the first instance, in endeavouring to establish by agreement with General Chasse a neutrality for the city of Antwerp, and in the event of his failing in that, it was understood that the Belgian troops were to be withdrawn from Antwerp, and their place supplied by 10,000 men from the French army. All the Belgian posts throughout the whole line surrounding the citadel had been previously relieved by the French troops. The total amount of the French force before Antwerp was about 55,000 men, of which 12,500 were cavalry. It is to be inferred from the tenor of all the private letters from Antwerp, that not the least expectation remained of the city being quietly surrendered by Gen. Chasse. From the side of the Hague all the accounts are, in that respect, of a still more decided character. Of the intentions of Gen. Chasse, after the issuing his proclamation, no doubt can now be entertained, and the Government measures of calling out the second and third ban of the army, which will produce, it is said, about 80,000 men, has the appearance of least that the Dutch apprehend an invasion of their territory as soon as Antwerp shall have fallen. They affect to believe, and the impression is carefully spread abroad, that the Allies are not sincere in professing to confine their views to the reduction of the citadel of Antwerp, but that it will eventually be followed up by the entry of the French army into Holland itself. In this view of the case, the Dutch Government would not only appear to have a complete justification to its subjects for the retention of the strong hold, but to establish an absolute necessity for it. This is very material to be understood for a judgment in the final issue of this question. It shows that Holland carefully adheres to her previous declarations of solely adopting measures of a defensive character, and that there is no likelihood of her taking, unsupported, the desperate step of an entry into the Belgian territory. In the same spirit, there has been an entire abstinence from all acts of retaliation on the French and English for the embargo laid on Dutch vessels. Even the order for British ships to leave the Dutch ports has received a further extension of three days, and in the event of their returning, there is to be, not a detention, but, simply a consideration whether or not they shall be allowed to enter.

Italy.

Letters from Italy agree in saying that a plot had been formed at Rome, and that it was intended to blow up the country-house where the Pope spent the latter part of October.

Portugal.

Don Miguel is attempting to include the English and French merchants in a war, by imposing on the Lisbon merchants: both the English and French Consuls have protested against this measure, as contrary to the treaties with their respective Courts.—Great dissensions are said to prevail in his Councils, and Bastos, the most violent of the Apostolical faction, is likely to retire in

disgust, and his place supplied by the Duke de Cadaval.

St. JOHN'S JANUARY 25, 1833.

Legislature of Newfoundland.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Monday, Jan. 14.

Mr. BROWN presented a petition from Port-de-Grave, stating that distress prevailed there to an alarming extent, and praying for relief. He knew that the House had no funds at its disposal, but he hoped that would be no objection to the appointment of a Committee, to wait on his Excellency the Governor, to request his Excellency would take the petition into consideration, and adopt such measures as he might deem expedient for the relief of the sufferers. The gentlemen who had signed the petition were most respectable, and would not have done so, had they not been satisfied the statements therein were strictly true.

Mr. PACK supported the prayer of the petition, and hoped his Excellency would be applied to in the same manner as was done with respect to the Brigus petition. He thought the failure of the potato crop was a serious misfortune to that place as well as to other parts of the Bay, and that the petitioners were fully justified in the step they had taken.

Committee appointed composed of the members for Conception Bay.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on the state of the Colony.

Mr. THOMAS, when he entered the House, was commenting on several of the items in the Estimates which had been laid before the House by his Excellency the Governor. The House should be supplied with the details before they could go into business satisfactorily, and nothing should be voted until a considerable curtailment had taken place.

Mr. KENT thought they would not do their duty as honest representatives of the people if they imposed a shilling of taxation, until they were satisfied the present revenues were insufficient for the purposes of the Colony. He thought the most obnoxious charge on the estimates, was that for the support of a minister of an Established Church, and he knew not by what authority it was introduced.—[The hon. member here read a letter, which he had received from the Right Rev. Dr. Fleming, requesting him (Mr. K.) to inform the House, that as the small sum which his predecessors and himself had been in the habit of receiving from Government, for attendance on the Military Hospital, and other duties connected with the army, was he understood, in future intended to be drawn from the revenues of the Island, he begged to decline its acceptance.] Mr. Kent said his Lordship's sentiments were such as every honest man would respond to, and were alike creditable to his disinterestedness and to his desire to promote the public good. He (Mr. K.) would be prepared, when the estimates were fairly before the House, to scrutinize them most rigidly.

The SPEAKER thought the documents received from his Excellency were most important to ground their future proceedings on. He agreed, almost on every point in what had fallen from the previous speakers, as to the excessive expenditure; but before he went into the business more minutely, he should know what the whole of the revenues applicable to the general purposes of the Island actually were. His voice should never be raised, for giving an exclusive preference to any church establishment. He admired the sentiments of the Roman Catholic Bishop, and thought Government were bound to remunerate him more amply for the laborious duties he had to perform. He (the Speaker) would be prepared at another time to go more into detail.

Mr. PACK most cordially agreed in all the sentiments of the hon. members which he then heard with so much satisfaction. He would never sanction a farthing additional duty until he was satisfied the present revenues were insufficient.

Mr. BROWN, when the proper time arrived, would go into each item of the estimates, as carefully as if his own property was involved in them: and would never consent to vote a shilling to any officer until the House was furnished with returns of all fees received in the several offices.

Mr. KOUCH did not regret the conversation, as it would shew the public the disposition of the House to reduce the expenditure as low as possible. He would be the strenuous advocate of a most rigid economy.

Mr. BENNETT was much with the disposition for economy which had manifested itself in the course of the debate, and he cordially coincided in the sentiments and opinions of all the speakers on the subject.

The Committee adjourned to sit again. The House having resumed, Mr. THOMAS moved for the returns of detailed accounts of certain items specified, and the expenses of the quarantine establishment in 1832.

The House adjourned.

Thursday, 17.

Mr. THOMAS presented a petition from the inhabitants of Belle Isle, setting forth that they had, by some error, been omitted to be included in any one of the districts into

which the Island had been divided, and requesting that they may be permitted to form a part of the constituency of the country, and be included in the district of St. John's. The petition was read and laid on the table.

Mr. PACK, one of the members for Conception Bay, regretted to observe that one of the members for that district had neglected to take his seat, and moved that the Speaker do issue an order to Charles Cozens, Esq., member for Conception Bay, that he attend and take his seat in the House on Saturday next. Carried.

Mr. MURPHY expressed a hope, that under the circumstances in which Mr. Cozens was placed, he (the hon. member for Conception Bay) would be treated with as much courtesy and indulgence as the rules of the House would admit.

Adjourned—to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

Friday, 18.

Mr. THOMAS rose to move for the appointment of a Solicitor to the House, to prepare such bills as may occasionally be brought before it; and that such remuneration should be awarded for his services as the House may deem fit. It must occur that many acts would pass during the present session, and in the early stage of the proceedings of the House, it could not be expected that hon. gentlemen were acquainted with the forms incident to the preparation of the bills.

Mr. KENT opposed the motion, on the ground that it went to multiply offices, and to increase the expenses of the house. He thought the good sense of the house would dictate to them every thing that was essential in the framing of such bill, without recourse being had to the assistance of a person especially appointed. He thought also that it would be a bad precedent; and if the house were inexperienced now, it would acquire sufficient experience in a very little time. Besides the house had not determined whether they or the government had the power of appointing their officers. Such appointment, too, may have a tendency to compromise the independence of the house. Hon. members may, perhaps, sympathise in the political opinion of the solicitor, and indirectly derive that advantage which would enable them to come into the house upon unfair grounds.

Mr. BENNETT, according as he did in the resolution proposed by the hon. mover, rose to make a few observations. The hon. gentleman who opposed the motion had observed that sound sense was all that was necessary to be contained in the bills which might be laid before that house; but he (the hon. member for Fogo) thought that in order to make that sound sense available for all its purposes, it should be thrown into an efficient form by some individual professionally qualified to do so. Feeling his own incompetency, he (the hon. member) would be glad of an opportunity to appeal to that individual, trusting that the house would not make an improper choice. In what respects, the hon. gentleman inquired, could the precedent be considered a bad one?—There was, he believed, a solicitor appointed to every similar institution in the other colonies—not in all observed an hon. member—well then in most of them; and he would be sorry for bills to go forward to the other house in an unprepared state. As to political opinions, was it to be supposed that hon. gentlemen would come there to introduce political opinions in these mere forms? He (the hon. gentleman) came there to exercise his best judgment in the decisions of the house; but he desired to have that judgment clothed in an equally efficient form.

Mr. KENT explained. Mr. KOUCH was of opinion that to deny the appointment of such an officer would be to neutralize the services of many of the members. There were, he believed, few hon. members in that house, who were competent to throw the bills which may come before the house into their proper and parliamentary shape. For himself he would shrink from such a task. He had taken the same view of the appointment of a solicitor to the house as the hon. member for Fogo had done. If a solicitor were to attempt to mix up his individual political opinion in any bill which the hon. member might see occasion to introduce, he would leave him the parchment for his pains, and apply to the hon. house for redress. It was to be remembered that the Council, to whom the bills passed in that house were to be referred, were lawyers of the first magnitude, and it was necessary that such bills should be presented in their proper shape. The hon. member cordially supported the motion.

Mr. THOMAS was now more than ever convinced of the propriety of the office. They had seen acts upon acts passed in the Imperial Parliament which had required innumerable acts to amend them, although the most eminent lawyers had been employed to construct them. With respect to lawyers generally, he trusted that he should never see that house filled with them; for he did not believe that, as a body, they would promote its peace; but that it would compromise the independence of the house to appoint a solicitor to it, he could not concede to the hon. gentleman who had opposed the measure; nor could he perceive that political opinions

were likely to be introduced through the medium of those necessary forms which it was proper that bills should undergo. If a solicitor were to alter a bill which he had been required to prepare, did the hon. member suppose that the house did not possess sufficient intelligence to detect it? There was, besides, another observation on which he entirely differed from the hon. member for St. John's—namely, that because their right of appointing their own officers had not yet been strictly defined, it would be wrong to proceed to the appointment of a solicitor. He (Mr. Thomas) thought otherwise. It would go to show the tone of feeling in that house with regard to such right. As great many acts must pass in the course of the present session, he thought the house should be immediately prepared with a proper person to draft the bills which may be presented. The hon. gentleman pressed the motion, which was carried.

After some discussion as to the mode of proceeding to the election of such officer,

Mr. HOYLES, in order to spare the time of the House, moved that Mr. W. B. Row be appointed solicitor to the hon. house.

Mr. T. BENNETT seconded the nomination.

Mr. KENT proposed as an amendment that Mr. Charles Simms be appointed to the office of solicitor.

Mr. PACK seconded the amendment; when upon a division of the house, the amendment was carried by a majority of one.

Mr. BROWN moved for leave to bring in a bill for restraining any person concerned in any contract, agreement, or commission, made for the public service, or holding any office or place of emolument under government, from sitting and voting as a member of the Assembly of this island.

The bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be laid on the table.

Upon the motion of Mr. KOUCH the house resolved itself into a Committee for taking into consideration that part of the Governor's message that related to the police of the colony. Mr. HOYLES in the Chair.

Mr. KOUCH presumed that St. John's, forming as it did the largest individual portion of the attention of the House. The police of St. John's was quite inefficient for the purposes for which it was created. He (the hon. member) did not mean to detract from the character of the police magistrates, who were both able and willing to do their duty; it was the system of which he complained. Houses and premises were invaded, larcenies, and almost every species of misdemeanor, were committed, and yet no punishments were inflicted, because, through the want of a sufficient police, the perpetrators of these acts remained undiscovered. But had as the system was in that respect, it was to be lamented that there was no suitable provision made for the prevention of fire. Indeed there was an entire absence of all order and organization; and at this early stage of the proceedings of the House, the hon. member hoped the subject would be taken into consideration. It had occupied some of his attention, and he (the hon. member) thought that the town might be divided into four districts, each having a fire company; but it would be useless to go into detail, unless a power were created to enforce the observance of the regulations which may be laid down. He hoped that some hon. member would shortly bring in a bill to effect so salutary a purpose.

Mr. HOYLES had previously signified his intention to bring in a bill for the regulation of fire-companies.

Mr. THOMAS had previously moved for a report of the present state of the police establishments, without which, he thought, nothing could be advantageously done.

Mr. KOUCH thought that that part of the report referred to in his Excellency's message had been completely answered. The hon. member's object was to prevent the House being constantly adjourned day after day, without doing anything. The House would not be at a future time, in a much better situation to consider the subject than it was then.

Mr. HOYLES observed that one part of the Quarantine Bill, if passed into an act, would go effectually to meet that part of the ordinary police regulations which related to the removal of nuisances.

Mr. BENNETT thought the House not competent to go into the subject in Committee. A bill should be introduced to meet it.

Mr. THOMAS thought that the returns previously moved for had not been answered. If the magistrates had not the power to perform such duties as ought to devolve upon them, the House should immediately create that power—not only for the town of St. John's, but for the other parts of the island. But he (the hon. member) believed that they had the power to perform these duties, and ought to perform them. If they had not the power, let it be shewn, and the house would invest them with it. He (the hon. member) hoped the house would not be long without the returns upon that head. He hoped, for the sake of the magistrates, that they would be able to show that they did not possess such necessary powers, and that they would in that case immediately apply for them.

Mr. KENT concurred in what had fallen from his hon. colleague, Mr. KOUCH, that