

General Intelligence.

UPPER CANADA.

The eclipse of the sun which will take place on the 18th of July, will be visible in Canada. It will commence about seven o'clock, and last for two hours.

The comet now visible passed its perihelion, or point of orbit nearest the sun, on the 16th ult. at a distance from the sun of twenty-nine millions of miles. It is now receding from the sun and approaching the earth. It will be nearest the earth on the 12th of July, and will then be distant from us forty-two millions of miles. The comet was brightest on the 6th of July. It is now moving rapidly towards the south and east, but will continue visible until the beginning of August.—*Leader*.

The *Hamilton Spectator* says:—"No positive arrangements have been made here for the Prince, but the Government we believe, are in treaty with the proprietors of the Royal Hotel, for such accommodations as will be necessary. His Royal Highness will proceed direct from Toronto to Sarnia, from thence to London, and be in this city on the 15th, 16th and probably the 17th of September. His stay at Niagara Falls will be contingent on the visit here; but, we believe, it is certain that he will reach Hamilton by the time named."

LOWER CANADA.

The Anglo-Saxon, (Captain Altam) it will be seen, made the passage from Derry to Quebec in 9 days, 3 hours, and from Derry to the Telegraph Station at Farther Point in 8 days and 19 hours. This is the shortest time on record from land to land. It is upwards of 3 days, or 27 hours ahead of the Great Eastern—and proves still more clearly how immeasurably superior in point of speed our Line is to that of any other Atlantic line afloat. Yet, we are treated with contempt, when we ask for fair-play at the hands of the Imperial Treasury.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

In the *Quebec Chronicle* we find what we presume something approaching to an official announcement of the programme to be observed on the arrival of the Prince of Wales. Nearly everything, the *Chronicle* says, has been left to the Canadian authorities, who have just received official information that the Prince will sail on the 10th July. He will proceed in the first place to St. John's Newfoundland, thence to Halifax, and from there will go to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, arriving in the St. Lawrence about the 6th or 7th of August.

With reference to the Prince's reception at Quebec, the *Chronicle* says: The steamers *Victoria* and *Lady Head* will be sent down the river in the quasi capacity of Pilot boats. Accompanying this convoy, there will be in all probability a number of volunteer boats, including some of the best river steamers. In this city one entire wing of the Parliament House is set apart for the Prince and his most immediate attendants. And it may as well be stated in this place, as part of the etiquette observed towards royalty, that there will be the same observance of privacy in dinner invitations as at Windsor or Osborne. So that one of the rooms of Parliament, the Assembly Room, will be the Royal Dining Room for the time—and subject entirely to the control of the Household accompanying the Prince. Of course we are not in Canada entirely accustomed to these things. But we believe it is the only way in which what is probably a State visit, can be carried out in harmony with the observance of the Imperial Court. Apart from the formality of select invitations to dinner, or of a public levee, the Prince, it is supposed, will naturally do at Quebec as he would do at home. He will see the interesting sights of the neighbourhood without being obliged to travel in perpetual State. At the Governor's residence, he will naturally occupy more of the position of a private guest than that of Prince of Wales—precisely as he might be a guest at the house of any nobleman or gentleman at home. The object, in short, will be, as far as Quebec is concerned, that while his visit will be attended by certain ceremonies essentially of a State character, to make the display harmonize as far as possible with the habits and tastes of a well bred gentleman; to leave the Prince, as much as may be, to select his own mode of enjoying his visit, neither impeded by any superabundance of officious zeal, nor made miserable by incessant worship.

From Quebec the Prince will proceed by lake or river boat to Montreal, where accommodations will be provided for him in the house now occupied by the Commander of the Forces. At Montreal, the grand ceremonial of the opening of the bridge will take place, after which the Prince will go to Ottawa, where he will remain for several days. From Ottawa the royal party will go up the Bay of Quinté to Belleville, and from there by special train to Toronto, and eventually westward to Hamilton, London, and Sarnia. These are the general features of the arrangements so far as they have been decided upon, and the Commissioner of Public Works, who has almost exclusive charge of them, is busily engaged in perfecting them.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—PARLIAMENT.—On Friday, June 15th, the Marquis of Westmeath withdrew his bill on furious driving, the Lord Chancellor remarking that the present enactments were quite sufficient. The Bill on the Union of Benefices was past. In the House of Commons there was a debate on the bill for selling goods on Sunday, which was adjourned for a fortnight, on the question of privilege—the fines to be levied under the act being appropriated to the payment of police and the bill being consequently a money bill.

On Monday, June 18th, Lord Lyttelton asked the Government whether it was proposed to bring in any measure founded on the admirable reports of the Cathedral Commission of 1852, or of the Select Committee on Spiritual Destitution of 1858. The Duke of Newcastle said that the recommendations of the commissioners would render necessary a new code of ecclesiastical legislation, and that although he could not pledge himself to any definite measures the subject would retain full consideration. In the House of Commons there were several discussions on various subjects connected with the public service, the only important one being that which was begun by Mr. Edwin James, who called attention to the enlistment of troops in Ireland for the Pope's army, which raised the question of the subscriptions for Garibaldi.

On Tuesday, June 19th, the Church Rates Abolition Bill came up in the House of Lords. Lord Lytton, (better known as Sir B. Hall,) moved the second reading, in a speech which reviewed the Parliamentary history of the question. The Duke of Marlborough proposed an amendment for its rejection, and showed the fallacy of building an argument on the petitions which had been sent up against church-rates. "Church-rates were defended by Magna Charta, and they should not be abandoned." The Earl of Derby said that if there had been an absence of conciliation, it had been not on the part of the supporters of the church-rates, but of the supporters of total abolition. The Archbishop of Canterbury also supported the amendment, and the bill was lost by a vote of 31 to 128. On the same evening in the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone in answer to Mr. Ayrton said that there were still two important votes of supply to be taken, one for the fortification of the country, and the other for the war with China. Mr. Lindsay made a successful motion for the establishment of harbours of refuge.

On Wednesday, June 20th, Lord Raynham's bill for the amendment of previous acts relating to aggravated assaults on women and children, was lost by a large majority.

On Thursday, June 21st, Sir Charles Wood obtained leave, notwithstanding the strong remonstrances of Lord Stanley, to bring in a bill to abolish the India local army, and to amalgamate it with the Queen's army. We learn by the *Palestine*, that before its departure the Select Committee has reported on the action of the Upper House in reference to the paper duty bill. "The committee has not yet acted with much spirit in the vindication of the privilege of the House of Commons."

The Prince of Wales was to leave on the 10th inst., for Canada, and it is said that after the long vacation he will continue his residence in Oxford, being so delighted with that University that it is doubtful whether he will now enter as originally proposed, at Cambridge.

It is said that Lord Clyde will be gazetted a Field Marshal on his return to England.

The Great Keston was advertised to sail on Saturday, the 16th of June. Workmen were engaged on her up to five o'clock on the forenoon of that day, and before they could be disembarked, the weather, which had been stormy since noon, became thick and hazy, so that it was felt by the pilot that it would be dangerous to attempt taking so large a vessel through the intricate channel of the Solent in the uncertain light of the evening. She lay, therefore, at her moorings in Southampton water till Sunday morning. Steam was admitted into the cylinders of the paddle engines about ten minutes past eight; shortly after the order was given, "easy ahead with the screw," and the Great Eastern steamed slowly out on her first voyage to sea. On Thursday, June 28th, she reached the Lightship at Sandy Hook, thus making the run in spite of the long route taken, the loss of time by encountering the Gulf Stream, and the delay from fog, in eleven days, two hours, one minute, including the difference of time. The distance run by the ship was 2,242 miles, deducting the loss of time from fog, this gives a speed of about thirteen knots, proving that with a clear bottom and a full pressure of steam, she would overrun Brunel's estimate of fourteen and a half knots an hour for a long run. Though the passage, all things considered, was decidedly fine, it was still sufficiently checked to settle the important point of the Great Eastern being the most comfortable passenger ship in the world. Her movements in a sea way are so long, slight and easy that no inconvenience is produced. Sea sickness may be considered as annihilated, and all the attendant discomforts of a sea passage reduced to a minimum. It is said very positively that after staying long enough in New York to satisfy the admiring curiosity of the crowds who daily throng to see her, she will visit Portland.

FRANCE.—At a recent Council of Ministers, M. Thouvenot, Minister for Foreign Affairs, read the circular note which the French Government is about to address to the Powers who have signed the final act of Vienna, in order to demand their recognition of the new settlement of the French frontiers, resulting from the accomplished fact of the annexation of Savoy and Nice to France. This note summarily recalls the circumstances under which the annexation was accomplished—viz., the spontaneous session of these provinces by the King of Sardinia, and the free expression of the wishes of the inhabitants by universal suffrage. M. Thouvenot expresses his confidence that such an act accomplished in conformity with the generally admitted principles of public right and international law, will obtain the adhesion of all Europe.

Prince Jerome Bonaparte, uncle of the Emperor, is dead.

GERMANY.—According to reliable information the final conference between the Prince Regent and the German Sovereign, before their departure, has brought about a decisive agreement on those questions which refer to the relations of Germany with foreign countries.

ITALY.—Advices from Rome state that Piedmont had promised to prevent an invasion of the Papal frontier, unless such invasion was in consequence of a declaration of war by any Power. This declaration of Piedmont was said to have been communicated to the Pope. They also state that an official dispatch had been received from Naples giving details of the capture of the two steamers with Garibaldians by the Neapolitan frigate *Fulminante*. These steamers, which displayed the Sardinian and American flags, had on board 25,000 muskets, thirty-two cannons, 2,000,000 pounds of powder, and a considerable sum of money. The American Ambassador has demanded the restoration of the two steamers and their 800 passengers who were captured by the Neapolitan frigate *Fulminante*, as they had passports for Malta. Mr. Elliot, the English Ambassador, has supported this demand. It is asserted that the king has dismissed Lanza, Letizia, and three other generals of Sicily, and has exiled them to the island of Ischia. Advices from Naples to the 16th inst. deny the disembarkation of Garibaldians in Calabria, but state that the Government has sent reinforcements thither.

The King of Naples is said to have consented at length to liberal propositions and an alliance with Sardinia: but it is evidently too late.

Garibaldi is still at Palermo, organising and consolidating his forces. The evacuation of Palermo continues, but Messina is being fortified. A hundred more dead bodies have been discovered in the ruins of the houses of Palermo which were destroyed by the bombardment. It is said that the damage done to the city by the Royal troops amounts to ten millions sterling.