

the state of siege of Vienna and Prague, and the Russian troops continue to evacuate Wallachia, the Edict parliament proceedings have ceased much talk, and a European Congress is talked of. The armaments of Russia and its provinces are so extensive, that it is thought Nicholas has some important movement in view. Letters from Athens state that the Greek question is further from adjustment than ever. Indeed great fears are entertained that hostilities would again commence.

New York, May 18, 6 P. M.

The steamship *City of Glasgow* sailed to-day with 100 passengers, a large cargo, and a good freight list for Glasgow.

There is no additional political or other foreign news by the *Hebronia*, worth sending over the wires.

The southern papers received to-day contain some further details of the news from Texas. Another attempt has been made to seize the United States mail between Rio Grande City and Pecos. Capt Ford had taken a post at the well with a company of Rangers, with a view of protecting the people against the Indians.

The New Orleans *Bee* of the 10th, has the following additional news from the city of Mexico to the 26th ult. Congress was busily engaged with financial affairs. A tax of \$30,000 imposed on the commerce of the capital has excited great discontent and energetic protest. The senate have not yet sanctioned the law. The Tax of 5 per cent, on foreign merchandise is maintained, and that on foreign liquors is increased to 10 per cent. Rigorous measures have been adopted, with a view to prevent smuggling. A Steamboat had been placed on Lake Chalco.

A horrible fire occurred at the Isle Becoran, the most important commercial place in Yucatan, on the 18th March; handbills had been placarded for some days previous, announcing that the town would be fired in the principal street. The loss is estimated at three million dollars. A large number of families immediately left for Campeachy. This is the second fire which has recently desolated Yucatan.

Washington May 18.

The Spanish Minister, Don Calvion de la Barea, has demanded the interference of the Government to prevent the arming of men, and the fitting out of expeditions against Cuba. The Minister is convinced that the rumors in the main are true, that vessels have been fitted out, and five or six hundred men are engaged to the expedition, to rendezvous at Chagres and the Island of Libos. General Taylor has responded to the call of the Minister, by forwarding despatches to the Gulf squadron, to see that the flag of the country is not violated. There is more than 700 miles of the coast exposed and it is by no means impossible that a landing will be effected, though the whole seems as a fortress.

INTERESTING INTELLIGENCE FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Another California in the Pacific—Further Discoveries of Gold—the Excitement among the Australians.—Our advices from South Australia are to the 15th of January. Adelaide papers of the 12th are received. The Colony was somewhat excited by the further discoveries of gold, which had checked emigration to California, and started two joint-stock companies for the washing and streaming of gold; one is advertised as the South Australian Gold Company, with a capital of £25,000, in five thousand shares of £5 each, and a direction composed of some of the most respectable men in the Colony. They have purchased and paid for one thousand six hundred and thirty-eight acres of land, and taken four hundred more on lease, which gives the command of twenty miles of water courses, open for immediate operations. Specimens of the most satisfactory nature have been obtained, and the analysis of the gold shows a purity equal to ninety six per cent. Another Company is advertised, in the South Australian *Gazette*, as the Onkaparinga Gold Company; the prospectus was to appear the next week.

It appears that gold has been found in small quantities, from time to time, by various parties in South Australia. For nearly two years past the process of exploration has been going on silently and cautiously, and the result is in the formation of these Companies, backed by some of the best names in the Colony, who guarantee the sober reality of what has hitherto been only a dream, "that gold exists in large quantities in the soil and alluvial deposits made by the rivers of South Australia." There are great expectations that both Companies will be eminently successful, and that the Colony will be greatly enriched by these discoveries. The disposition which existed for emigrating to California had quite abated, and parties who had engaged passages were forfiling their passage money, being convinced that they were going to a distance to seek that which was to be found at the door.

The whole line of the Onkaparinga is said to exhibit auriferous deposits, on which river the Australian Gold Company had secured various sections. In some parts it was expected that Gold in large quantities will be found.—N. Y. Tribune.

FOUR AMERICAN VESSELS LOADING WITH SUGAR, &c., AT CUBA, FOR MONTREAL.—The following is an extract from a private letter from Montreal:—"A Montreal merchant, just returned from Cuba, left four American vessels there, loading sugar and Molasses for Montreal; others were expecting to load shortly. These articles will, therefore, be cheap in Montreal, and we would advise our merchants to contract the New York purchases. After discharging at Montreal, these vessels will take round lumber for the Southern States. Several vessels from New York, with cargoes of sugar, are likewise sailing for Montreal for loads of lumber. Freight from New York to Montreal range from 3s 2d a \$1. The Montreal route will therefore be the cheaper way for goods to Upper Canada.—Colonist.

SIR J. FRANKLIN.—Under date of Feb. 23, 1850, the Rev. George Loomis, Chaplain to Seamen at Canton, China, writes to the office of the American Seamen's Friend Society, New York:—"Report is current here that Sir John Franklin has made the North-West passage, and is safe." May it prove true.—Pilot.

TOWN OF DUNDAS.—By the census roll for 1850, we perceive that the total population of Dundas is 2362; occupied houses, 177; unoccupied, 16; schools, 5; mills, 10; merchants' shops, 22. The population is divided thus: English, 228; Scotch, 566; Irish, 563; French Canadian, 11; British Canadian, 1000; Germans, 7; Americans, 126; other countries, 8; which embraces the following religious denominations: Church of England, 510; Church of Scotland, 175; Church of Rome, 595; Free Presbyterian Church of Canada, 332; United Presbyterian Church of Canada, 332; United Presbyterian Church of Canada, 131; British Wesleyans, 24; Canadian Wesleyans, 305; Canadian Wesleyan New Connection Church, 4; Episcopal Methodists, 5; Baptists, 118; Independents, 11; Quakers, 8; Methodists, 6; other denominations, 18; no creed, 20.—Dundas Warber.

ROYAL SWINDLING.—King Ferdinand, of Naples, with the royal view of replenishing his exhausted exchequer, issued a proclamation declaring Messina a free port. Those who were shaple enough to believe the word of a king, entered the port and stored their commodities; but when they attempted to sell or export them, they were politely informed that his august majesty had changed his royal mind, and would tax every cent's worth of foreign produce in the port. The merchants remonstrated, but in vain; they even asked permission to withdraw their goods and depart as they had entered, but this was also denied.

His Majesty would not allow anything that had entered Messina agreeably to his proclamation, to be either withdrawn or sold, without first paying an enormous duty of over 100 per cent, on its value. Among those who have been thus entrapped and swindled, are several merchants of this city, some of whom have paid the duties under protest. We understand that they have represented their case to our government, and claim its protection against the outrageous proceeding of the royal robber.—Boston Atlas.

GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD.—The Corporation of Hamilton have adopted the following resolution by a large majority—three members only voting against it.

Moved by Ald. Baker, seconded by Ald. Ford.—Whereas the construction of the Great Western Railroad would undoubtedly prove generally beneficial to the Western section of this Province, and most peculiarly so to the growing prosperity of this city; and whereas it is manifestly an enterprise of too great magnitude for successful completion by means of individual subscription alone: be it therefore resolved, that His Worship the Mayor is hereby authorized to memorialize the Provincial Parliament, either in amendment of the charter of the Great Western Co. or otherwise, to empower the various Municipal bodies interested in the completion of the said work to subscribe towards its final accomplishment, as may seem advisable; and also to sanction the issue of Debentures for said purpose, without the imposition of the special tax provided by Act 12th Vic. 81; and further, that this Council hereby affirms its readiness to respond promptly to the spirit of the resolutions passed at the public meeting of the citizens on the 22nd ult. whenever such Legislative sanction is attained—believing with the citizens at large that the immediate commencement and speedy erection of so important a work can alone be ensured by a united and determined effort on the part of those who are locally interested.

Navigation Laws.

We copy the following letter from the secretary of the Treasury to the Honorable E. G. Spaulding, in relation to the position of American Vessels that had been sold to British subjects, and subsequently re-sold by the latter to the former:—

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
April 23, 1850.

SIR:—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from B. Trowbridge, Esq., to yourselves under date of the 11th instant, propounding certain inquiries in relation to our navigation and revenue laws, on which information is desired. It is asked whether a vessel built in the United States, registered under our laws, and owned by a citizen of the United States, if sold to a British subject, registered in Canada, and purchased by an American citizen, can afterwards be regarded as a vessel of the United States under her own register? I have to state, in reply, that an American vessel thus sold to a British subject, cannot, on being purchased by an American citizen, be registered as a vessel of the United States; but must be regarded as a foreign vessel, and liable to foreign tonnage duties in our ports, and not entitled to the American flag. The provisions of the law on the subject will be found in the Act of Congress of the 27th of June, 1797, entitled "An Act in Addition to an Act concerning the registering and recording of ships and vessels." In reference to the use by such a vessel of the certificate of her original American registry, after the purchase of her from a British subject by a citizen of the United States, I will refer you to the provisions of the 7th and 16th sections of the registering and recording Act of 31st December, 1792, from which you will perceive that on sale to a foreigner, the American register is required, under heavy penalties, to be surrendered to the Collector of the District.

To the question, whether a foreign (British) vessel, or a vessel once registered under our laws, but which having been sold to a foreigner, has been purchased, and is now owned, by a citizen of the United States, can take on board a cargo at one of our ports, land the same in Canada, then re-land it on board and land it in the United States, free of duty—I have to state, in reply, that if a vessel and cargo are entered at the foreign port, and the cargo landed, the voyage is regarded as terminated; and if the same merchandise is subsequently shipped on board and imported into the United States, such return is regarded as a new importation, and the merchandise so imported, if of foreign growth, production, or manufacture, will be liable to duty; but if of the growth, production, or manufacture of the United States, on which no drawback, bounty, or allowance has been paid, and is identified as such in the words prescribed in the 45th section of the gene-

ral collection law of 2nd March, 1799, it will be admitted free of duty.

The foregoing is believed substantially to answer the inquiries of your correspondent, as they are understood.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. M. MARSH,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Hon. E. G. Spaulding.

Destructive Fire.—Supposed Incendiarism.

At a quarter past 12 o'clock this morning, the watchman on Yonge Street saw fire bursting from an empty house on Adelaide Street, adjoining the tavern, north-east corner of Yonge and Adelaide Streets. It spread rapidly east and west, and although assistance was promptly on the spot, the whole of the adjoining wooden houses, as far as the Bay Horse tavern, were destroyed.

In consequence of the lamentable scarcity of water, the water works yielded only a supply for one hydrant at a time, the fire, after threatening the house at the south side of Adelaide Street, was carried by a change of wind across Yonge Street;—even a moderate supply of water would have easily checked it, but there was scarcely any for half an hour, and in consequence, the whole block of buildings from Ketchum's corner to Temperance Street, has been consumed: [except Mr. Stone's Saddlery and the establishment of E. Lawson Esq. Ed. Watchman.]

East side of Yonge Street:—Mr. Pilman, of the Windsor Tavern, lost all his furniture, goods, &c. probable loss £300. We have not heard of any insurance. The house belonged to Widow Roberts—worth about £300. The next, a frame house occupied by Mr. Roberts, cabinet-maker, as a dwelling and warehouse, nearly total loss—insured for £200—probable loss about £800. Mr. Lafferty, grocer, lost nearly all his goods—about £700—insured for £250. Mr. Little, shoe-maker, lost considerably in stock, &c.—no insurance. Mr. Swan, barber, saved most of his furniture and goods from the flames, but afterwards found that a great portion of those that had been saved, was missing. Mr. Burns, boot and shoe-maker, lost nearly all his stock, furniture, &c.—probable loss £150. Mr. Billings, watch-maker, lost nearly everything—no insurance. A house belonging to Mr. Robinson, occupied by John Schmidt, as a grocery store, and insured by the latter for £200—loss estimated at £500. Mr. Gilding, grocer, lost nearly all his goods—probable loss £150—no insurance. Mr. Alexander, cabinet maker, nearly total loss—no insurance. Mr. Carmichael, cooper, lost nearly all his stock, furniture &c.—loss about £200—no insurance. Close & McCausland's paint-shop, in rear of Alexander's, was also destroyed.

West side of Yonge Street:—Mr. Jessie Ketchum, jr., 5 stores, all destroyed—insured for £600—loss, about £1000. The shops were occupied respectively by Mr. Simpson, grocer, Mr. Hardy, watch-maker, Mr. Drouillard, cigar manufacturer, Mr. Webb, boot and shoe maker, Mr. McMorris, do. Considerable loss in stock and furniture in all the stores, —no insurance. Mr. Tyner and Mr. Neil, C Love —the former insured for £650: [An error—£600 insurance: total loss £900.—Ed. Watchman.]—Daily Patriot.

POSTSCRIPT.

Tuesday, May 21, 1850.

The late period at which the *Watchman* appears this morning, is the result of the "pying" of one of the "forms" when going to press.

Opening of the Provincial Parliament.

On Tuesday last, at 3 P. M. His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Council in the Parliament building. The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, and that House being present, His Excellency opened the third Session of the Provincial Parliament, of the Province of Canada, with the following Speech from the Throne:

S P E E C H .

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I deeply regret to have to announce to you the death of the Queen Dowager, a Princess whose many virtues endeared Her to all classes of Her Majesty's Subjects.

The occurrences of the past year, and the necessity which had arisen for providing suitable accommodation for Parliament while in Session, having imposed on me the duty of considering, during the recess, the important subject embraced in the Address of the House of Assembly of last Session, relating to the places for holding the future Meetings of the legislature, I have deemed it, after full deliberation, advisable to give effect to the prayer of that address by summoning you to meet at this place.

The important changes recently made in the Imperial Navigation Law, and the improvements effected in the Provincial Canals, will, I trust, tend to promote materially the Commercial interests of the Province, and to attract to the route of the St. Lawrence a considerable portion of emigration from Europe to this Continent.

It affords me much gratification to be enabled to inform you, that recent advices from England indicate a marked improvement in the value of Canadian securities in the British market. Your delibera-

tions, will I feel satisfied, have a tendency to encourage the reviving confidence.

I am very sensible of the great importance to these colonies of placing the trade between the British North American Provinces, on the most unrestricted footing. I have been in communication, during the recess, upon this subject, with the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and with the Governor of Newfoundland. I recommend to your consideration the expediency of giving such powers to this Government as may enable it to meet the advances of the sister colonies in a liberal spirit.

The Act passed last Session for the establishment of reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States, in certain articles the natural products of each has not yet come into operation. I am informed that a corresponding measure is now under the consideration of the Congress of the United States.

By an Act passed during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament the entire control of the internal Ports in British North America is vested in the Provincial authorities. Whatever further action on the part of the Canadian Legislature may be necessary in order to secure for the inhabitants of these Provinces the benefit of a cheap and uniform postage rate, you will, I feel confident, be prepared to adopt.

The expediency of effecting an increase in the Parliamentary Representation of the Province, will probably again engage your attention.

A measure will be submitted for your consideration founded on the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct, discipline and management of the Provincial Penitentiary. The increasing wealth and population of the Province, and the growing aversion to capital punishment, renders it highly important that the system of discipline established in the Provincial Penitentiary and Gaols should be made as far as possible effectual for the prevention of crime, and the reformation of offenders.

I shall lay before you communications from Her Majesty's Commissioners, for the promotion of the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, to be held in London, in 1851, which have been transmitted to me by the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. I venture to express the hope that Canadian Industry and produce will be fittingly represented on that interesting occasion.

In pursuance of the Act of last Session, the practice and proceedings in the Court of Chancery in Upper Canada have been placed upon an improved footing calculated to facilitate the business of the Court, and lessen expense to suitors. I shall direct copies of the rules which have been promulgated for this purpose, to be laid before you.

I would recommend as of an analogous and perhaps even equal importance the consideration of the jurisdiction and practice of the Inferior Courts in that part of the Province with a view to the extension of their sphere of usefulness, and the lessening as much as possible the expense of litigation.

The regulation of Municipalities, and the construction of Gaols and Court Houses in Lower Canada, and the laws for the election and return of Jurors, and those for the Assessment of property for local purposes in Upper Canada, are among the subjects which will doubtless engage your attention.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I shall direct the public accounts, with the estimates for the year, to be laid before you.

I recommend to your attention an enquiry into the Revenue and Expenditure of the Province.

I rely on your readiness to grant the supplies which are necessary for the public service, and for the maintenance of the Provincial credit.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

I have deemed it to be my duty in the exercise of the Prerogative with which I am entrusted, to mark Her Majesty's disapprobation of the course taken by persons holding Commissions at the pleasure of the Crown who have formally avowed the desire to bring about the separation of this Province from the Empire of which it is a part.

The views put forward by these persons and by those who act with them, do not, I have reason to believe, find favor with any considerable portion of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects.

The great majority of the People of the Province have given at this juncture proofs not to be mistaken of loyalty to the Queen, and attachment to the connection with Great Britain.

They look to their own Parliament for the redress of grievances which may be proved to exist, and for the adoption of such measures of improvement as may be calculated to promote their happiness and prosperity.

I feel assured that the confidence placed by them in the wisdom of Parliament will be justified by your acts: and that, while you deal unsparingly with abuses, you will not barter away for novelties, rights dear to British subjects nor abandon those principles of good faith, morality, and constitutional freedom, the strict adherence to which, has enabled Great Britain, with God's blessing, to pass unscathed through many perils.

From the Globe.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY MAY 14.

After the usual routine business and appointment of Committees had been proceeded with, the Hon. Mr. Ferguson gave notice, that at an early day, he should request that the House be put in possession of any measure which the Executive might have in contemplation, with reference to the Library. He would most cheerfully lend his aid on so important a subject, or be prepared himself with a proposition, should the members of the Government have none which they were disposed to recommend.

The Hon. House having decided that 500 copies of the Governor General's speech should be printed, and that it should be taken into consideration on Thursday, the Hon. Mr. De Blaquiere gave notice, that as soon as the speech should have been disposed of, he should conceive it his duty, before the House proceeded to other business, to move that they would take into consideration the following resolution which he would then read:—"That an