UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Extracts from Speeches on the Oregon question.

IN SENATE.—Mr. Haywood, of North Carolina, said he rose merely to submit a motion that the subject [the power of the President to conclude Treaties, with reference to the settlement of the Oregon question by negotiation,] should be made the special order for a given day.—After having given a great deal of attention to the subject, he had arrived at the conviction that it did not become the Senate to interfere in the matter at present. He had a reasonable confidence in the President, and inasmuch as the Constitution conferred on him the power of conducting the negotiations, therefore, until he saw proper to call in the aid of the Senate, or until the Senate thought it incumbent on them to advise him to surrender all negotiations, and the subject should be transferred to the Senate legitimately, and the Executive should have washed his hands of it, he thought the Senate would be doing improperly to interfere in the matter. Until then he should oppose all proceedings which should have the effect either of censuring or of lauding the President pending the negotiations.

Mr. J. M. Clayton, of Delaware, assured the Senator from North Carolina that his motion should receive at least one other vote besides his own. He fully concurred with him that it ought to be so disposed of, and that it was highly improper for the Senate to proceed to the discussion of the matter, except in Executive session, while negotiations were going on. He trusted the Senator would either modify the motion which he had proposed, or else submit a proposition to remove the subject from the Legislative to the Executive records. He would not object to the discussion of it there, for that was the appropriate place; but he regretted every effort, every attempt that was made to discuss the question at this crisis before the country, especially if it were the object of any person on that floor to prepare the hearts of the people for war." The Executive was entitled to the initiative in all these matters, and it did not become the Senate to assume it. It was the duty of the Senate, when negotiations were opened, or were expected to be opened, to wait until the President informed them whether he had made a Treaty, and, if so, until he had presented the treaty to them. It must be manifest to every one that, whether they decided for the forty-ninth parallel or for the whole of Oregon, it would be a prejudging of the question. If they should act upon these resolutions before the Executive had acted and had recommended action to them, it would be assuming the initiative, which did not belong to them under the Constitution of the United States. Put the case that the resolutions were voted down and the amendments substituted, what would be their position? A majority would have said or recommended a settlement of the question by the parallel of forty-nine. And suppose that the President could obtain better terms; or suppose, in the exercise of his discretion in conducting the negotiations, he should determine to accept forty-eight degrees twenty minutes as the boundary, taking half of Oregon, would it not be involving the matter in difficulty and embarrassment? Let the question, therefore, come from the President, for on him devolved the whole responsibility. It did not become the Senate, at present, to express an opinion; they should leave the matter where the Constitution had placed it.

Mr. Hannegan said, that he entertained the most profound respect for the opinions of the distinguished Senator from Delaware, but it certainly seemed to him strange to hear from a gentleman of his learning and experience the declaration that the Senate had no right to assume the initiative under any state of facts. It seemed to him that the Representatives of the sovereign States of this Union have a right to take the initiative upon any question involving a right to American territory. It seemed to him that there could be no power behind which they were bound to conceal or to hide themselves until the strings should be pulled and then allowed to proceed to action.

The Senator from Delaware said it would be interfering with negotiations. What negotiations? Had not the President in his message informed them that there was no proposition now pending; that the last proposition from this Government had met with a cavalier rejection, and had been instantly withdrawn? Had not the President told them that the negotiations, for the present, at any rate, were at an end? Negotiations could now only be resumed by an offer from the British Government, for he felt assured, from the high and manly ground assumed by the President in his message, that he at least would not renew them. The President now called upon the Senate to aid him in the settlement of the question, and published to the world the entire diplomatic correspondence upon the subject, thereby showing conclusively that negotiations had ended.

The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. Calhoun, had told them that he was as warm a friend of Oregon as any man that could be found in the country. Doubtless he so believed; but, if he were a true mother, he would not be willing to cut the child in two, and give away one half. Look at the map of Oregon; the whole control of the north Pacific lies above the forty-ninth parallel—the whole maritime control, every harbour worth possessing. And yet he would give it away.

The Senator declares (continued Mr. Hannegan) that he has always been the devoted friend of Oregon. He congratulates himself upon the fact, and I am sorry to see that a portion of the press of the country has iterated and reiterated, in relation to his views, that beautiful expression embodying the Fabian policy, and used, I believe, by Lord Chatham, "A wise and masterly inactivity." I must say that I regret to see this policy so highly lauded in connexion with this question. I respect the talents as well as the high standing which that distinguished Senator occupies among the members of the human family, but I have, I confess, little admiration for the course which the Senator pursues, upon this question. Had the bill to which the Senator alluded passed through Congress and become a law, Oregon would have been ours; twenty thousand rifles would have secured it; but you refused to act; you held back, when you might, despite every hazard, have secured your right.

The masses were waiting in expectation of your movement; they were waiting in the expectation that the Government would back them; but they waited in vain, and this is the result of your "wise and masterly inactivity." I assure you I say this in no unkindness; I say it sorrowfully; for I lament its results. Sir, I was about to say, and I do not know whether it be out of place at this time, that the precipitancy of the Senator in relation to Texas presents a remarkable contrast to his "wise and masterly inactivity" in relation to Oregon. I charge no improper motives upon any Senator, and least of all upon the distinguished Senator from South Carolina; but it appears to me that when a question of territorial acquisition arises upon the Northwest there is not the same readiness on the part of Southern gentlemen to participate. Precipitancy, the Senator says, in relation to Texas, was wise, but not so in the case of Oregon. Heaven knows there has been time enough for maturing plans; it is now time for action. The two countries stand front to front; and, my life on it, if it were a question with Mexico, this would be the golden moment; if it were for the acquisition of Cuba, or some possessions further still amid the burning regions of Panama, it would be the golden moment. Sir, I hope a majority in this Senate will not reject these resolutions. They assert only what the President has asserted, and no more.

Mr. CALHOUN said he was no greater advocate for the acquisition of territory in the South than in the North. The honorable senator was perfectly aware of his sentiments upon this subject. Whilst he was a member of Mr. Monroe's Cabinet he had always been averse to disturb the possession of Spain in Cuba; he was so now; he would be the last man to make such a movement. When the proper time should arrive, and this subject be brought up for discussion, he thought he would be able to show, beyond all doubt, that the reasons which governed him upon the Texas question, governed him also upon this question; and that if there were any difference between the Senator and himself, it was only as to the means to be employed in effecting the same result.

Mr. Allen said, however willing, he did not want any discussion which should precede the bill, but was in favor of such discussion as would secure our rights in Oregon to the Pacific ocean. He did not know whether these resolutions contained the true analysis of the power of the constitution, but he rose merely to say that he would lend his agency to no proposition bearing on this question, but such as provided for giving the notice to Great Britain, and to extend the jurisdiction of this country over Oregon. War had been spoken of. If it was meant that there existed a party in the country who desired war for the sake of war, it described a party with whom he (Mr A.) had no connexion. It was, therefore, with regret he heard from the authoritative lips of the eminent Senator from South Carolina—and he would not stop at *eminent*, in consideration of his acknowledged standing in the country—but if there was any class in the country who desired war for the sake of war; or, if those who wished for all Oregon were to be considered lovers of war because they cover with their affections the valor of their country—if that be a war party, the honorable Senator would find many who belonged to it, for it was a party that embraced nine-tenths of the country. They would not be thwarted in the prosecution of their rights by Great Britain. He (Mr. A.) had heard this war-cry before; it was loud and long enough to induce this Senate to ratify a treaty, which gave away a part of their territory, though this Senate actually declared that it belonged to this country; but the cry of British force was raised! There were men who calculated, by dollars and cents, how much they would lose in their mercantile pursuits; and it was by the cry of "war," from such men as these that Great Britain had been able to encroach upon them, and had made the sound of her cannon spatter the spray at Niagara. Insult had been offered, and yet Lord Ashburton had never compensated them by an apology. He (Mr. A.) would ask, were they to be insulted for ever on this subject by Great Britain? If they acted in a manner to neglect the interests of the country, and not protect the national honor, he (Mr. A.) would denounce it as a war party, that sought to intimidate them in the discharge of their duty. He rose in reference to this war-cry. It was only the Banks that raised it—it was an artificial war-cry, that emanated from the Eastern States.

Mr. Haywood said—The cry of war was raised—not that any party apprehended such a calamity; but the scene was to be enacted before the world by the Senate of the United States. He (Mr. H.) would have no part in it. The President had informed the Senate in relation to the question now before them, and the cry of war was immediately raised; but if honorable senators called that war which, holds that this Senate should take the jurisdiction out of the hands of the President, he would say "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." But until they got the jurisdiction, he protested against the Senate taking the jurisdiction out of the President's hands, and undertaking to manage their foreign relations. They would, by such a course, be pushing this body before the President in disposing of the foreign affairs of the country. He protested against transferring the power of the President to the Senate. He protested against it on the part of his constituency in North Carolina. These constant persevering efforts to take from the hands of the President what legitimately belonged to him as to their foreign affairs would have a bad effect; and if he wished to call up reminiscences which were familiar to them all, they would show such an occurrence as would say to all that what was done *ex necessitate* already, had proved to them that it would have no salutary effect. He distinctly objected to going on with this discussion upon their foreign relations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. Douglas said he hoped that his honorable friend from South Carolina (Mr. Holmes,) would display the same vigor and resolution, and would show himself as brave and as fearless on this Oregon question, as he had done on the subject of Texas. He trusted the gentleman was as willing to look Great Britain in the face as he had done Mexico.—It would be remembered that great apprehension had been entertained last year about our getting into war—but then it was a war with Mexico; and who could forget how brave—yea, how furious that honorable gentleman had then been, how ready he was to defy Mexico, ay, and Britain and France both, but now he shrank appalled. For Mr. D.'s own part, he felt just the same now as he had done then. He was not for making any of these differences in our feelings towards foreign powers.—But if gentlemen did feel apprehensions, he would take the liberty to tell them that if they wanted to avoid war with England, the very best way was to prepare to give her the very best fight we have on hand. First, let us give her notice that the joint occupancy must cease; then let us go on to build our forts and stockades, to increase our army and navy, and to prepare a Territorial bill, ready to go into operation as soon as the twelve months' notice shall have expired. His word for it, Great Britain was awake to the fact that if she got into a fight about Oregon, away would go the Canadas. For one, he felt assured that if the House would act without talking [A voice; What are you doing? A laugh] or would talk only to act, we should have no war.

Mr. Holmes said he would frankly confess, that whatever might have been his bravery on former occasions, he did feel on this Oregon question greatly and deeply alarmed. He was not afraid to acknowledge that he did feel apprehension at the thought of seeing the interest which he represented in that House plunged into a conflict with Great Britain. He would put it to the gentlemen who advocated the bill reported by the honorable gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Douglas) whether it would not be better, first to pass, if they could pass, the bill giving notice of the joint occupancy before they took measures to prepare for war. One thing, however, he could tell gentlemen—that if the Oregon bill did pass, they would not find him backing out. He was well convinced that there was a part of that House which earnestly desired war, and hoped to render it inevitable; but when we are brought to that point, said Mr. H., instead of voting to raise two or five regiments—two regiments of riflemen or five regiments of infantry—*he would at once introduce a resolution crediting the Executive with twenty millions of dollars to provide for the defence of the country.* If the House should pass the bill, they need not expect to avoid the issue.—But, before we went on to arrange our forces, he would say to the gentleman, (Mr Douglass) who, as a lawyer, *knew perfectly well that the notice proposed would produce war*, why terminate the joint occupancy? And, if we did, must we not at the end of twelve months enforce our alleged rights in that territory? And must we not drive Great Britain beyond the latitude of forty-nine? And had not the gentleman watched the perseverance and tenacity with which Great Britain had insisted upon her supposed rights not to be driven beyond forty-nine?——

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll here called Mr. Holmes to order. He did it with reluctance, but these remarks were certainly out of order, and the honorable gentleman from S. C. must excuse him if he added, that they were injuriously out of order.

Mr Holmes said he did not wish to be out of order, and would abstain from further remark.

Mr. Ingersoll said—He was neither for a war of aggression nor a peace of submission. He was not friendly to that 'wise and masterly inactivity' which had been announced by a highly distinguished gentlemen, (Mr. Calhoun) in another branch of this Capitol; nor had he (Mr. I.) any idea that we were to wait one minute longer than until our faith shall be cleared by the joint occupancy. He was not of opinion that war was then to ensue. He scarcely thought it possible. It was impossible, in his judgment, that war, under such circumstances, could ensue, without some strange spirit of rapacity on the one side or some still stranger spirit of mismanagement on the other. For, as the gentleman from Massachusetts had said, there was no right of joint occupancy there. He (Mr. I.) was aware that his accidental friend, the Chairman of the Committee on the Territories, (Mr. Douglas) had, in the very front of his bill, used the words 'termination of the joint occupation,' and in the very last section and line of the bill, the same unfortunate confession had been made. Why was this? For, (Mr. I. repeated) as the gentleman from Massachusetts, who was the father of this twin—for he begat it himself when Secretary of State—had said, there is no such thing as joint occupation.

During the negotiations in the year 1818—negotiations on the part of Mr. Adams as Secretary of State, and Mr. Rush as Minister to England—the term joint occupation were never used. But, in the year 1826, in the protocol to the sixth conference between Mr. Gallatin and the British plenipotentiaries, these words, 'joint occupation,' for the first time, stole into the negotiations.

But, in his opinion, there was no occasion for any fear of war. There were already seven thousand settlers there with American sympathies, American arms, and American hearts. These seven thousand settlers had built a village which contained seventy good houses and five or six mills. They raised grain, potatoes, and other means of subsistence, and were living there in peace and quietness.

"Let us compromise while we can; our government had its foundation in compromise. Men's very existence rested on it. Whilst, therefore, he was a compromiser, and willing to make great sacrifices to avoid war, yet he believed that, if he were to surrender the north of the 49th parallel, we should loose by far the best half of that magnificent territory. We should give up a country having the latitude, the soil, and the climate of England, with a million times more and better timber, and possessing advantages vastly greater. He flattered himself that two years would not elapse before the Chinese and the Japanese—sober, industrious and excellent people—would be attracted there to settle. It was only a short voyage across the Pacific ocean. Millions of those starving workmen, who, in point of sobriety, industry, and capacity, were among the best in the world—workmen from every side of the Pacific—men able to outwork the English—would flock there. He said again, therefore, that whilst he was a compromiser, and whilst nothing on his part should be done to precipitate the result, yet he had no idea that a war could probably grow out of this matter. We should not make a war, and it was not possible that England should.

Mr. Winthrop, of Boston, said,—He had no hesitation in saying, and saying here openly, under all the responsibilities which might result from such a declaration, that he held this country would be bound to accept to-morrow as good an offer as themselves had proposed at three different times; and he held that it was an impeachment of his honourable colleague, that it was an impeachment of Mr. Monroe, of Mr. Gallatin, and of all those great and good men who had examined the question, who knew the history of our title, and who felt as much patriotism as any gentleman on this floor, who had offered this 49th degree of latitude, including the navigation of the Columbia river—was an impeachment of all of them to say that no line which the United States can accept can be offered, until that very line has been offered again. And with reference to this navigation of the Columbia river, which was made so much of by all the friends of Oregon, as to which the President says he cannot for a moment tolerate the idea that any other nation should be allowed to penetrate our territory, why, it was a fact not doubted, and to bring out which he wished to offer a resolution of inquiry, that the Columbia river is not navigable at the point where the line of 49 degrees strikes it, so that no navigation whatever is to be ceded in such a case. He held that our government, under all the circumstances which would attend a breach of our pacific relations with Great Britain, was bound to accept a line as favourable from Great Britain as we ourselves had three times offered.—He held that the title was of such a character, and such were the circumstances connected with this question, from the first moment we heard of Oregon, that there had been so many concessions, so many compromises and contentions on both sides, that at this moment we could not, with any face—or with any faith, he had almost said—assume this extreme position; and that we were bound, by the principles of good faith, of civilization, and of Christmity, to make it a matter of negotiation, of compromise, and of amicable adjustment—and of arbitration, if necessary.

Mr Rhett, of South Carolina, said:—"Give this notice, and go on and fight was the inevitable consequence. The fight would begin for Oregon, but gentlemen might be very sure that those who were not in that region would soon see the absurdity of such a contest; they could soon contrive to patch up their local difficulties, and leave the two Governments to fight it out. In such a fight, who did not know that the handful of Americans now in Oregon must quickly be overpowered by a nation which had entrenched themselves in forts, and had the absolute control of all the innumerable Indians in that country? Gentlemen say they are ready to fight. No doubt. But whom were they to fight to get Oregon? Why, the people in Canada, and the people in Nova-Scotia, and the people in New-Brunswick. But how could that get Oregon? There was but one way in which we could even get it by force, and that was to crush the power of Great Britain, and beat her into the dust. We must first tear down her magnificent and mighty empire, and put her whole vast power under our foot; then we might take it, but not before.

Did any man doubt what was the spirit of that people? Could we not tell it from the spirit that beat in the bosom of us, their children? The spirit of both nations was the same, and when they went to war, it would be no little war. As the Duke of Wellington had once well said in Parliament, "No war with the United States can be a little war." It must be a mighty struggle. The commerce of both nations covered the world, and they possessed more power than any of the nations in the world. Some gentlemen, however, seemed to look upon a general war, involving all the civilized nations of the earth, as a matter highly expedient and desirable, because it would soon become war between opposing systems of government—which meant, as he understood it, that republicanism and the principles of American liberty would be arrayed on one side, and the tyrannies of the old world on the other."

NEW-YORK, January 10.

The Oregon question, which carries with it the chances of peace or war, is still the theme which fills every mind and occupies every tongue. The debates in Congress acquire a new, and an intensity of interest daily, and daily the subject seems to become more complex and embarrassing. It is certain that the bill which took place last week, in consequence of the pacific course of Mr. Calhoun, has been disturbed by the warlike speeches of Mr. Adams, and others.

On the 5th, Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, in the House of Representatives, from the Committee of Foreign Relations, brought forward the long expected resolution, for giving the year's notice to Great Britain to terminate the treaty of joint occupancy. It was to the following effect:—

"Resolved, (the Senate concurring,) That the President of the United States forthwith cause notice to be given to the Government of Great Britain that the convention between the United States and Great Britain concerning the territory of Oregon, of the 6th of August, 1827, signed at London, shall be annulled and abrogated twelve months after the expiration of the said term of notice, conformably to the 2d article of the said convention of the 6th of August, 1827."

It appears that, in the committee from which this resolution emanated, there was a difference of opinion as to the propriety of its adoption; and, in consequence, Mr. Gildart Davis, one of the dissentients, appeared with a counter resolution, which he was authorized to make on behalf of the minority. This counter-resolution was to the following purport:—

"Resolved, That the question whether a notice to terminate the convention between the United States of America and Great Britain, of October, 1818, and continued in force by the convention of August, 1827, ought to be given, is not a matter for the decision of Congress; and upon it this House at present refrains from the expression of any opinion."

Mr. Ingersoll then moved, which he was directed to do by the Committee of Foreign Relations, that the resolution be taken up for consideration on the first Monday in February. On this motion a very interesting debate arose and continued throughout the day, when an adjournment took place. In the course of this day's debate a very remarkable speech was made by Mr. Geddings, of Ohio, in which he announced his change of opinion. On a former occasion, he said, he had been opposed to giving the notice to Great Britain, but since then, the Union had been changed in its essential elements, [by the admission of Texas] and a slave-holding oligarchy now holds the entire direction of the government. The southern portion of the Union, he averred, now hold the balance of power in the United States. Under these circumstances, he continued:—

"I am led to the conclusion, to the irresistible conclusion, that war, with all its horrors and its devastation of public morals, is infinitely preferable to a supine inactive submission to the slave-holding power, that is to control this nation, if left in its present situation. I wish to be distinctly understood that I have seen enough of war to form an opinion of its effects, its miseries, and the extent of its curse. Yet sir, *I greatly prefer them*, for a few years, to the quiet apathy which has already subjected us to a change of the Government formed by our fathers."

"Let no one say that I desire a slave insurrection; but, sir, I doubt not that hundreds of thousands of honest and patriotic hearts will laugh at your calamity and mock when your fear cometh. No, sir; should a servile insurrection take place—should massacre and blood mark the footsteps of those who have for ages been oppressed, my prayer to God shall be that *justice—stern, unyielding, and unalterable justice, may be awarded to the master and to the slave.*"

Other parts of his speech were even more emphatic and startling. Mr. Geddings is one of the party called Abolitionists, who sees in the admission of Texas into the Union, an additional permanency given to the slave system of this country; and he considers this so great an evil that he prefers war to the continuance of peace—as war would break up this slave system or neutralize it, either by a slave insurrection promoted by British invasion, or by the conquest and annexation to the Northern portion of the Union of some of the British Provinces. Such is the purport of his speech as we understand it. In addition to this, it is affirmed by a portion of the press, that the moving cause of Mr. Adams's warlike oration was the same Abolition sentiment, and that he and Mr. Geddings acted with a perfect understanding of each other's views. We know not how far this may be true, but if the supposition be well founded, it follows that the war party has received an accession of strength by the adhesion of the Anti-Slavery portion of the country. Under such circumstances it is difficult to say how matters will terminate.

But the peace party is not idle. Mr. Winthrop, of Boston, Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, Mr. Yancy, of Alabama—have made powerful speeches in favour of moderation, and the resumption of friendly negotiations. The speeches are long, and we regret that we can only give skeletons of them. That the members of the Southern part of the confederacy are ranging themselves under the banner of Mr. Calhoun, is sufficiently apparent; and that Mr. Calhoun is the advocate of peace, is certain. But the strength of the parties has not yet been tested by any decisive vote, and we therefore can give no opinion as to results.

Among many extraordinary things said in Congress, Mr. Owen stated, that when American settlers went over to Oregon, and settled north of the Columbia, they were immediately bought off by the Hudson's Bay Company. One poor man, he averred, was cruelly bought off with $800!! If this could be proved, how many would flock thither to endure the like persecution!—*N. Y. Albion.*

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll said he was instructed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to move that the resolution forgiving notice to Great Britain, be committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and made the special order of the day for the first Monday in February next.

Voices: "Oh not so long!—to-morrow—to-day—immediately!"

The resolution having been reported without a title, the Clerk gave it as a title, "Resolution for giving notice to Great Britain of the termination of the joint occupation of Oregon."

Mr. Ingersoll. Oh, no: not *joint occupation.*—There is nothing about *joint* occupation in the resolution. Strike that out as fast as you can, and put in "to annul and abrogate the convention between the United States and Great Britain."

On a division, the vote for postponing the consideration of the resolution to the first Monday of February, was 102—against postponing, 89.

As two-thirds did not vote in the affirmative, the question was lost, and the resolution was not made the special order for the first Monday in February.

SENATE.—Mr. Allen offered the following amended resolution from the Committee on Foreign Relations, and gave notice that early in the next week he should move the Senate to assign a particular day for considering it:

A Joint Resolution to annul and abrogate the convention of the sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, between the United States of America and Great Britain, relative to the country westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, in virtue of the second article of the convention of the sixth of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, between the United States of America and Great Britain, relative to the country westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains, the United States of America do now think fit to annul and abrogate that convention, and the said convention is hereby accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated: Provided, That this resolution shall take effect after the expiration of the term of twelve months from the day on which due notice shall have been given to Great Britain of the passage of this resolution. And the President of the United States is hereby authorized and required to give such notice, and also, at the expiration of said convention, to issue his proclamation setting forth that fact.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Committee of Ways and Means reported the usual appropriation bills for the Army, Navy, Indian Department, and Diplomatic Expenses for the year ending June 30, 1847.

Mr. Giles, of Maryland, took the floor and addressed the committee in favor of the notice, and asserting the right of the United States to all Oregon and the policy of taking and keeping it.

Mr. Levins got the floor next. He considered this a question of National Independence. Our rights had been established so strongly that the most devoted slave to foreign interests would not question it. But he did not wish to go for a title beyond the principle asserted by Mr. Monroe, that this country is consecrated to freedom, and that no European colonization would be permitted.

FROM WASHINGTON.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Express, under date of 11th inst. says:—"A resolution was yesterday adopted in the House of Representatives, calling upon the Naval Committee and Secretary of the Navy to furnish the House with the necessary information respecting the available maritime defences of the country in case of invasion. The object is to find out what defences may be procured upon the sea-board, numerical and other, independently of the regular Naval service of the country.—There are several indications in Congress and at the Executive end of the city, that a growing interest is felt in these defences. Mr. Adams is almost the only man in Congress who opposes additional means of war with the giving of the notice. The general determination, however, appears to be to follow up the notice with our increased defences upon the sea-coast and upon the Lakes."

WAR WITH ENGLAND.—When we raise our voices in Tammany Hall, or in the Capitol, at Washington, for battle with England, for our own interests we should remember that that nation, at the present moment, is at peace with all the world—on terms of the closest friendship, we may presume, with all the monarchies of Europe.—was never more prosperous—never more tranquil, internally and externally—and never so well prepared to wage a vigorous war. The ridiculous argument, sometimes put forth, that Ireland's discontent will prove an insurmountable difficulty to her success in waging a war with the United States, after what the world has witnessed of Irish valor, bravery, and devoted loyalty in the cause of England, during the last fifty years, is too silly for serious consideration. Why, Daniel O'Connell himself, the idol of the Irish nation, than whom a more dutiful subject Queen Victoria cannot boast, only a year ago vauntingly declared, in course of some remarks upon the Oregon question, that, were it necessary for England to chastise the Yankees, her Queen would find none of her subjects entering the service more enthusiastically or more devotedly than those of Ireland. And the fawning 'Liberator' spoke the truth, in that instance. Throughout all those wide spread dominions that own her sway, none have so readily responded to the war summons of England as the sons of St. Patrick.—*New York Express.*

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.—When we saw Mr. Calhoun, a leading member of the Democratic majority in the Senate, availing himself of the earliest opportunity after taking his seat to declare himself for peace, we felt justified in congratulating our readers on the fact of so important an accession to the body of those legislators who think that peace may yet be preserved with honor, and who are not, at any rate, disposed to incur the hazards and horrors of war until all efforts for a pacific and honorable adjustment of the dispute shall be exhausted."

We cannot, even now that the course of the debate in the House has unsealed our eyes, and shown us how near we stand to the edge of a precipice, persuade ourselves that a majority in either House of Congress would, all things else being equal, prefer war to peace; but we must confess our apprehensions that the tone of the debate in the house of Representatives, connected, as it must be, in the estimation of all the foreign world, with the claim to "the whole of Oregon," set up in the President's message, cannot but be of the worst augury for the maintenance of peace.

We desire therefore to recall any expressions of *confidence* which we have heretofore felt ourselves authorised to use in regard to the peaceful termination of this Oregon dispute; hoping, at the same time, that counsels wiser than those which now seem in the ascendant may yet advert the dire catastrophe of war.—[National Intelligencer.

Political Manœuvering.—President Polk is ambitious of being again elected to the Presidency and is so manœuvering as to secure the requisite influence. John C. Calhoun seems bent on counteracting the ambitious views of the President, and is playing a deep game on the Oregon Question with that view. Polk is for war—Calhoun for peace. Polk's advocates and supporters say that if he gives up to England a particle of Oregon his party will throw him overboard, war or no war.

Mr Calhoun understands Mr Polk's position and is taking auvantage of it. Since the great debate he has expressed his opinion that four fifths of the people of the South are opposed to any steps of a warlike character.

LEGISLATURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, January 10.

Speech of Lord Falkland on opening the Legislature of Nova Scotia:—

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The necessity which exists for devising means to alleviate the distress and privation to which there is too much reason to apprehend that a portion of the rural population of this Province will shortly be exposed, in consequence of the almost general failure of the potatoe crop, joined to a desire to consult the convenience of many amongst you, has induced me to call you together at an earlier period of the year than I have hitherto done; and I feel every confidence that you will readily afford me the best advice and assistance you can give to enable me to meet a conjuncture of unforeseen difficulty.

It is gratifying to me to be able to state that the harvest, with the exception of the potatoe crop, has been in most parts of the Province rather more than usually abundant.

I regret, however to inform you that the fisheries have been less productive than for several years past, although the decrease is not to be attributed to causes likely to be permanent in their nature, or calculated to excite anxiety for the future success of this branch of industry.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The public accounts, and the estimates for the expences of the current year, shall be submitted to you with the least possible delay.

Assurred of the generous sympathy of the people of Nova Scotia for their suffering fellow subjects in Canada, I did not hesitate, on the occasion of the late extensive fires at Quebec, to appropriate a portion of our abundant resources to the relief of those who had been visited by such dire calamity, convinced that, in so doing, I but anticipated the wishes of those whom you represent, and that the measure would meet with your approbation and concurrence.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I am happy to acquaint you that the public revenue still continues in a prosperous state.

I have received from the Governor of Barbadoes a letter expressive of his grateful appreciation of your liberality in granting four thousand dollars for the succour of those amongst the population of Bridgetown who were reduced to distress and destitution by the conflagration which took place there in February last; and a copy of a joint resolution, passed by the Council and Assembly of that Island, which I am sure you will be proud to place on your Journals.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to instruct me to signify to the Provincial Parliament Her Majesty's willingness to relinquish the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown in the Colony in exchange for a Civil List on certain conditions, of which I shall hereafter apprize you.

I have the pleasure to state that a correspondence, in which I have been recently engaged with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has terminated happily for the interests of this Country, which are so deeply involved in the protection of the fisheries on its Coasts—further privileges sought by the American Government, the concession of which would have affected the prosperity of Nova Scotia, having been withheld by Her Majesty.

I strongly recommend to your favourable and deliberate consideration a project for the construction of a railroad from Halifax to Quebec and Montreal, which has lately much engaged the public attention and the execution of which, should it turn out to be practicable under present circumstances, cannot be otherwise than beneficial in its consequences to the British North American Colonies, by facilitating their intercourse with each other, and affording at all seasons an outlet through British Ports for the productions of the British Canadian dominions. I have thought it necessary to address Her Majesty's Government on the subject of this great enterprise; and I have endeavoured to obtain such statistical and other information as may assist your deliberations, both as to the feasibility of the contemplated work, and the extent to which pecuniary aid should be afforded to promote the undertaking, should you deem it expedient to apply to that purpose any part of the public income. The information thus collected shall be imparted to you at the first convenient opportunity.

I have been unable to carry into effect the intentions of the Act passed during the last Session, entitled an Act relating to the funded debt of the Province, but I must remind you that it will be necessary to make provision for the immediate liquidation of that portion of it borrowed in 1836, payable in doubloons, early in the present year; and I rely on your bestowing on this, as on all other matters of deep public concern, that grave and dispassionate consideration which their importance so imperatively demands.

The Hon. the Solicitor General presented, by command of His Excellency, Despatches relative to the Post Office, the opening of sundry Ports, &c.

Wednesday, January 14.—The Hon. the Solicitor General, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table sundry Despatches from the Home Government, among which was one from Lord Stanley intimating that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury had agreed to renew the lease of the Mining Association, granting them power to raise 26,000 chaldrons of coals per annum, instead of 20,000 as heretofore, for the sum of £3,000 stg., all above that quantity being paid for at the rate of two shillings, currency, per chaldron.

On motion of Mr. Doyle, a Committee was appointed to prepare an Address to Her Majesty praying that the sole prerequisite to Members of Assembly taking their seats shall, hereafter, be their taking the oath of allegiance.

The Hon. the Attorney General, in introducing a Bill to relieve the distress caused by the failure of the potatoe crop, entered at some length into its objects—the mitigation of existing destitution and providing the requisite supply of seed for the ensuing season. He also alluded to the scarcity, resulting from a like cause, in the mother country, and the hostile attitude of the United States, as urgent reasons for the immediate consideration of the subjects, and the adoption of such measures of precaution and relief as might be judged necessary.

The Hon. the Attorney General also laid on the table, by command, Despatches relative to the permission craved by the American Government for its subjects to fish upon the shores of this Province, the concession of which was prevented through the representations of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

POST OFFICE.—The despatches submitted to the Legislature, place the veto of the Postmaster General upon all the suggestions of the House of Assembly in reference to alterations in the management of this department.

Heir to the Throne of Congo.—A fresh notability has arrived at the Court of Lisbon, in the person of his Highness Prince Nicholas Rose Water of Sardonia, heir to the throne of Congo. He is in his eighteenth year, and jet black. His visit to Portugal is to kiss the hand of her most faithful Majesty, and finish his education, the most friendly relations having subsisted between the two Courts ever since the reign of Don John II., in the fifteenth century. The Prince, with his suite, consisting of a Portuguese chaplain and tutor, and three attendants, disembarked under a grand salute, and was at once conveyed to the palace in one of the Queen's carriages, and presented to their Majesties by the Minister of Marine. He did not open his lips during the audience, everything was spoken by the chaplain. He is lodged at the Braganza Hotel. In the time of the great King Manuel, the sons of the King of Congo visited Lisbon, and were lodged in the monastery of Belem.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.—In the Irish Court of Chancery, on Friday, the Very Rev. Dr. Renehan, president of Maynooth College, was sworn into office before the Chancellor.

RAPID TRAVELLING.—A lady breakfasted in Edinburgh, on Monday morning at seven o'clock, and reached her residence, four miles from Sligo, at half-past eight on Tuesday morning, by the *Rambler*, steamer, for this port: thus accomplishing a journey, of 66 miles by land and 246 miles by sea, in the space of 25½ hours.—*Sligo Journal.*

We congratulate the Leaguers upon the certainty that the ports will not be opened, as the stock of provisions in Great Britain is amply sufficient; and the deficiency in Ireland is not likely to proceed to an extent calling for any violent remedy.—*Standard.*

THE JEWS.—The Hebrews of Goldberg in Prussian Silesia, have been permitted to erect a new Gothic synagogue, with a tower containing two large bells and a clock, things hitherto forbidden to that persuasion in Germany.

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1846.

The English January Mail, which will probably bring important intelligence on the Oregon question, and interesting and spirited remarks by the London press on President Polk's Message, not having arrived yesterday, may certainly be expected to reach this city on Thursday next, the Steamer (the Hibernia,) being now sixteen days from Liverpool.

In the preceding columns we have given extracts from a number of the Speeches in both houses of the United States Congress, on the all-engrossing topic of the day—the Oregon question. Several of the Speeches will be found sufficiently supercilious, vain and presumptuous; and ostentatiously assert, that in case of war, Canada, and all British America will fall to their lot!!!

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor left this city for Fredericton, on Thursday morning. The object of His Excellency's visit to St. John, (says the Courier,) "is said to have been to arrange preliminaries for the formation of a new Cabinet, prior to the opening of the Legislature. Several rumours are abroad as to what has really been effected, the most probable of which is that the four Councillors who retired from the Government last Session will again take their places, the course having previously been made clear for them by the retirement of the present leaders of the Administration."

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Friday last, W. Watts, Esq. delivered his third and concluding lecture on the *Colonies of the British Empire*, in which he gave a satisfactory and lucid statement of the rise, progress, and present state of the principal West Indian Islands, Guiana, Honduras, and the North American Provinces.—A statement has been made in some quarter, that Mr. Watts delivered sentiments incompatible with the character of a sound British subject. It behoves us, and it behoves all who love justice, to lift our voice against this groundless accusation. Of the British Constitution, Mr. Watts spoke in the highest terms,—in terms that indicated a high patriotic feeling: and all his reasoning had the tendency of fostering, in every Colonist, an attachment to the Parent State, and of producing in every mind, a desire to be, not only in name, but in deed and in truth, true British Colonists.

Last evening, P. Stubs, Esq., delivered a very satisfactory lecture on the history of *Rail Roads*, which he illustrated by diagrams and the action of a model loco-motive upon a model railroad. In the exhibition of the latter, he was assisted by Mr. Pratt, an ingenious Engineer, who applied to the loco-motive two pairs of guide wheels, by which it was enabled to course its rounds on the circular rail road with ease and expedition. The guide wheels, we were led to understand, are the latest improvement, and due to the ingenuity of Mr. Prosser.

The Rev. Mr. Brooke, of Fredericton, will lecture next Friday evening, on *Poetry*, and next Monday evening, on *Eloquence.*

In addition to the Lectures announced in the Programme, the public are to be favoured with the following:—Mr. Owen, on "Music, with Illustrations," 13th February; and Mr. Deuchar, on "Etiquette," 20th of February.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The award of the Arbitrators in the case of the Mayor and Corporation of the City of St. John, against John R. Partelow, Esq., late Chamberlain of the City, was made on Saturday last, at one o'clock, after a protracted investigation of upwards of a month. It will be perceived that the Arbitrators have decided in Mr. Partelow's favour, (exclusively of the amount of the Bonds,) for the sum of £360 3s. 6d.—The following is the Award, which we copy from yesterday's Herald:—

AWARD.

Now we the said JAMES TAYLOR, ASA COY, and DANIEL HANNINGTON, having taken upon ourselves the burthen of the said Arbitration, and having heard and maturely weighed and considered the several allegations, vouchers and proofs in difference respectively, do in the pursuance of said submission, make and publish this our award of and concerning the said premises, in manner following, that is to say:

We do award, arbitrate, and determine that the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, or their successors, shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said JOHN R. PARTELOW, his Executors