

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales leaves Sindingham on Sunday for Windsor.

Very great excitement has been caused by the damages demanded by the representatives of the United States at the Geneva Conference against Great Britain, the consequent claims growing out of the Alabama difficulty, would amount to the full cost of the war between the Northern and Southern States for three years and a half, and would, it is stated be equal to £6,000,000, or more than France had to pay her German conquerors.

The Imperial Parliament met on Tuesday the 6th inst., the Royal Speech merely notices the Washington Treaty and Alabama claims as follows:—

"The arbitrators appointed pursuant to the Treaty of Washington for the purpose of amicably settling the Alabama claims held their first meeting at Geneva. Cases were laid before the arbitrators on behalf of each party to the treaty. In the case so submitted by America large claims were included which were understood on my part not to be within the province of the arbitrators on this subject. I have caused a friendly communication to be made to the Government of the United States."

Mr. Disraeli severely criticised the apathy of the Government on this question, as well as the action of the Commissioners in allowing such a palpable blunder as the clause in the treaty admitting those claims to be inserted, and concluded his speech in the following significant paragraph:—

"The American claims were greater than those which would follow total conquest; preposterous and impracticable, and if admitted would be fatal to the power and honour of England. Yet, said Mr. Disraeli sneeringly, the whole subject is disposed of in one brief paragraph of the Royal speech."

Mr. Gladstone's reply is characteristic of the man and party and shows to what depths of National degradation they are prepared to lead the English people.

"Mr. Gladstone said the Treaty of Washington itself shows that England is ready to make every restitution short of national power to establish friendly relations and set an example to other nations from henceforth. The Government, said the Premier, is ready to explain everything in connection with the treaty, but he said he admitted it had unwittingly made a mistake. The paragraph in the treaty is only a fair and unimpeachable interpretation of the treaty. He could, if he desired, refer to the preposterous character of the American demands, which, of itself, proved their absurdity, for they were such as no people in the last extremity of war, or in the lowest depths of national misfortune, with the spirit of the people of England in their hearts, would ever submit to. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone concluded by saying the government would maintain the position it had taken firmly, though in a friendly way."

The discussion in the House of Commons shows that the gravity of the question is not thoroughly realised there, and that the public men of the day are so lost to all sense of shame as to allow the miserable Charlatans whose imbecility brought all this

disgrace on the National honor to hold office.

The artful Yankees have managed to set all Europe against England, they got their bill of indictment as they call it, translated into the European languages and scattered broadcast over the country with the following result:—

"The Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung says that the attempt of England to forestall European judgment and gain opinion in her favor, is as foolish as it is absurd. The Zeitung contrasts the silence and moderation of the American press with the ill considered clamour of the English."

The Vienna *Revue Free Press* says England assumes to be a party and a judge at one and the same time.

"The *Memorial Diplomatique* says the question of the American claims for indirect damages against Great Britain is not a novelty, as it was distinctly formulated in the protocol of the Treaty of Washington without the protest of the British Commissioners."

With very few exceptions the English Press have acted with little judgment in this matter, instead of at once directing public opinion to the criminality of the ministry, they have been playing the very game the Yankees desired, the following extract shows that very little knowledge of the terms and bearing of the Treaty obtained in England at the very time the journal from which it was taken loftily disposed of the question of Canadian interests as affected by that remarkable effort of British diplomacy by the oracular utterance that in considering the interests of great powers, smaller states must of necessity suffer, and scouting the idea of according any recompense to Canada for the outrages suffered at the hands of those very Yankees, and in singing *Jo-Pan* of triumph over the *entente cordiale* established between John and Jonathan, entirely forgot that the latter had a keen eye on the surplus savings of Manchester, and was determined to bring in a little bill which would deplete the purses of the cotton lords to an extent that would even make John Bright swear, the extract speaks for itself.

"The *Times* says that England declines to stand on the defensive against the claims of America for indirect damages, the withdrawal of which she understood to be the condition of the whole arrangement."

It has been assumed both in Canada and Great Britain that the United States Counsel by introducing their "bill of indictment," only meant to produce a little sensation and that it was all merely for effect.

As near neighbors we have carefully watched our cousins across the line of 45 degrees and are well assured that their movements diplomatically are never without an adequate object, the whole history of British Treaty making with them has been one long blunder, the treaty of 1783 led to the war of 1812, that of 1818 led to the Washington muddle, and if the outcrop of that arrangement will be worse than conquest, an appeal to the sword will follow

it as surely as Gladstone is prime minister of England to its shame and confusion.

The Washington Cabinet hold firmly to their claims, which are as they say founded in truth and justice, and will not withdraw them, it is evident England like ancient Pistol will have to eat her loek, and she deserves it.

The English ship *Elizabeth Fry* from New Orleans laden with 31,000 bales of cotton was burned to the waters edge off Savannah, crew saved.

Revolution is rife as usual in Mexico. What excites the outer political world produces merely a ripple in Canadian social life—deeply interested in this "Washington Treaty," the people await in grim expectation for the action to be taken by the mother country, convinced that while Whig Radicalism governs the Empire, nothing to its honor or profit will be devised, but resolutely resolved to permit no tampering with their interests or allegiance, and ready to strike a blow for both when occasion serves. Gladstone's followers and I come, and his admirers here who are very few, need not reckon on the ratification of the Washington Treaty by the Canadian Parliament.

Advices from Manitoba state that great indignation was expressed in both houses of the Local Legislature by the action of the House of Assembly of Ontario offering a reward for the apprehension of Louis Riel, late President of the Provisional Government, for the alleged murder of Thomas Scott at Fort Garry, in March 1870.

From British Columbia we learn that the members for the Local House of Assembly have been elected, there are also great rumours of large gold products.

The only important event in France is confined to newspaper prosecutions, and an attempt to assassinate M. Thiers.

Spain has sent large reinforcement to Cuba.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope represent that the colony was crowded with strangers. Murders and robberies were of daily occurrence, and the residents, whose patience was exhausted, had taken the law into their own hands, and were executing summary justice on offenders. A request has been made for an additional police force and the next steamer will take out a reinforcement of trained men.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Friday last, decided to report the Bill ratifying the fishery clauses of the Treaty of Washington, but it will not be debated, it is said, until the middle of next month. Secretaries Fish and Boutwell appeared before the Committee and gave their views upon the question. The former vehemently opposing the coupling of the Bill providing for giving a bounty to American fishermen with the Treaty Bill, contending that such a course would give Canadian fishermen just cause of complaint, and might endanger the ratification of the Treaty