

PARLIAMENTARY.

Monday, April 26th.

A message was received from His Excellency with despatch from Colonial office, relating to the Governor General's salary.

Hon. Mr. Ross asked the House for an appropriation of \$100,000, and laid on the table a statement of unprovided-for expenditure, amounting to about \$100,000.

After a number of questions had been put and answered:—

Hon. Mr. GALT moved address to His Excellency for correspondence with the Imperial Government, relating to the outlay incurred by Canada in the defence of the frontier of the United States in 1861. He (Mr. Galt) said he would propose to add to his motion—"copies of Orders in Council and correspondence with the United States Government." He did not deem it necessary to apologize to the House for bringing the matter before it, for he thought it would be generally conceded that the recent extraordinary action of the United States Senate made it incumbent upon the House to take up the matter. He did not propose to refer at length to Senator Chandler's motion upon which the action of the Senate was based; but that motion had given him an opportunity to call attention to the very unfriendly and unneighbourly doings of Congress. He would not do justice to the great mass of the American people, if he supposed for one moment that they would entertain or encourage the propositions in Chandler's resolutions. So far as Great Britain was concerned, we might dismiss from our mind any apprehension that she would, for one moment, entertain the proposition. (Cheers.) The proposition might not, after all, be of much importance or worthy of serious attention, but when taken in connexion with a much more important event which had recently occurred in the Senate of the United States—the rejection of the "Alabama" treaty—it became necessary to view it as part of the studied policy of the Republic. Personally, he very much regretted that the treaty—which seemed to him to be a just, fair and honorable mode of settlement—had not been accepted, for by its rejection the agitation of a very sore subject would be kept alive. (Hear, hear.) He thought that a ventilation of the whole subject in a moderate and temperate tone, might be the means of doing good. It would not be out of place to refer to the conduct of Canada during a very critical period of American history—to the friendly and neighbourly feeling which we had displayed. It was not our place to attempt to shirk our duty and responsibilities as part of the Empire, while expressing our friendly actions to our neighbours, but still we might point out to those neighbours our past record. With respect to the troubles on the frontier, the correspondence, &c., would satisfactorily disclose that no part of the blame rested upon Canada. Although our laws permitted asylum in the country to the refugees from the republic, what was our course as a people—we assumed certain responsibilities for which we were not legally and perhaps not morally bound. It would be found by the correspondence that our material aid and sympathy was given to the North. They drew upon our country, practically, for supplies of men and material. No such aid as was given to the North was given to the South. He mentioned this simply as a fact. He then said that complaints were frequently made to our Government, during the war, of movements, or intended movements, of Southerners in Canada; but he did not intend to draw attention to these. He would simply content

himself with referring to one or two cases. The Government received information of an intended raid upon Johnson's Island, for the purpose of liberating prisoners, and immediately took measures to prevent the success of the movement. (Hear, hear.) He then adverted to the St. Alban's raid, and said the Government of Canada had done on that occasion even more than it could be reasonably expected to do. The United States Government complained that similar outrages or affairs might occur, and the Canadian Government at once placed a very considerable Volunteer force along the frontier. All these measures involved considerable expense,—not for our own protection,—the Militia expenditure had increased from a mere bagatelle to something like \$500,000, and the people bore the taxation without a murmur. Then, again, when the world was horrified at assassination of Lincoln the Canadian Legislature amended the Alien Act, so that persons who could not give a good account of themselves might be placed under arrest. In fact, the correspondence would show that during the whole course of the war, Canada had exhibited its friendliness to the United States. Nothing at all could be laid to our charge, unless it be the independent utterance of the press, which was sometimes unfriendly to the North; but the independence of the press was something which we had reason to be proud of, and which we must preserve. While on this part of his subject he might just advert to the fact that not a Canadian subject was so far as he knew, concerned in any outrage against the United States. This, he thought, was an important fact. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) With respect to the course of the United States, it was no doubt true that the press of that country had spoken violently of Canada, and threatened all manners of castigation. The intercourse between the two countries was rendered difficult by the action of the United States, and our trade relations—notwithstanding the efforts of individuals to restore former facilities—were embarrassed. When the war ceased the American people determined to view the course of Great Britain as hostile, and to that determination might be attributed, in a great measure, the present complications. Then again, after the close of war, we witnessed the breaking out of the Fenian excitement, and the arming and drilling of men in all the cities of the North. It was well known in the States, and by the authorities there, that this armed demonstration was aimed at the peace of England and hostile to Canada. The clearly avowed object was to have a campaign in Canada. The United States was not content to countenance a movement which very considerably increased our taxation, but actually encouraged the invasion of the sanctity of our soil. It is true that repressive measures were adopted on the other side; but no thanks were due to the United States that the movement was not successful—to the men of the Western peninsula belonged the credit of hauling the invaders back from our soil. (Cheers.) What should we say to such conduct as that on the part of our neighbors? Month after month armed men were allowed, openly, to parade the public streets of United States cities; and our expenditure for Militia purposes swelled from about \$1,000 to upwards of \$2,000,000.—(Cheers.) This money could have been expended to great advantage in works of public utility and benefit. These expenditures would, he thought, constitute at least moral claims against the United States. (Cheers.) With regard to the "Alabama" question, he for one did not wish to see the dispute prolonged; it was a source of irritation, which should as much as

possible be avoided, but still the Americans should have their attention called to these matters. The American people, generally, were ignorant, and attributed to us acts and deeds for which we were not responsible. They were totally ignorant of our political system, and persisted in thinking that England continued to elect all our officeholders.—(Laughter.) It was not necessary to prolong his speech. He had made out a case for the jurisdiction of the papers. The course of the United States, since the close of the war, had been most unfriendly. They had erected barriers to commercial intercourse, imposed additional restrictions, with a view, no doubt, of making our position unpleasant. (Hear, hear.) Our course had not been one of retaliation. While deploring the course they had taken, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had not been actuated by retaliatory feeling. We might have taken advantage of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty to exclude American vessels from our waters, but we had refrained from doing so. Referring to the renewal of negotiations for reciprocity, he said he doubted very much, after the rejection of the "Alabama" treaty, that our neighbours would bring themselves to listen to any propositions for that purpose. On the whole subject, so far as he could see and learn from others, it was the policy of the United States in rejecting the treaty, to bring about the humiliation of England &c., (hear, hear.) but England, he was certain, would not recede from the just and honourable stand she had taken up by any threats of reprisal or retaliation; and it would be the duty of this country to stand by the Empire. (Cheers.) The position of Canada might be unpleasant, and embarrassing, but it was our duty to make the best of our circumstances and position. He then said that the tone of some of the leading men of England was generally favorable to our assumption of national independence; and that if that should be the policy of England it would be a wise and generous one. (Cheers.) He then said that the vast dominion which would be placed in our hands, he hoped, in a few days, would increase our power and add to our responsibilities, and that it would be our duty to pursue a friendly policy to the United States, while exercising the duty to ourselves of governing wisely. He concluded amid loud cheers.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT had pleasure in seconding the motion. He believed that no people were more interested in the maintenance of friendly relations with the United States than those of Great Britain. He reviewed the unfriendly course of the United States during and since the war, was of opinion that the object had been to force Canada into the Union; but he thought the House should emphatically repudiate any intentions on the part of the country of being coerced.

Hon. Col. GRAY thought the motion would give the House an opportunity to define the position of the country. The member for Sherbrooke had disposed of Senator Chandler's resolutions, and in a very few words, but he was hardly disposed to let it go so lightly scathed. He proposed to enquire into the natural sequence of the resolutions of Mr. Chandler, and to the amusement of the House submitted certain resolutions which Mr. Chandler or some other Anglo-phobe might be tempted to submit to Congress in the event of Great Britain agreeing to the transference of British North America in liquidation of the Alabama Claims.

The imaginary resolutions were as follows:—
"And be it further resolved, that as
as England shall have satisfactorily arranged the Alabama claims by the surrender of G