

Lower House should have the privilege of franking letters to any part of the British Dominion, as now enjoyed by the Legislative Council.

Monday and Tuesday were occupied in passing the Address, and in reading Despatches on various subjects. It is generally thought that the House will adjourn over to some time in January.

On Thursday the House was pretty full. The Atty. General moved a Resolution authorizing the Lieut. Governor to transmit £2000 Sterling in aid of the Fund for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers, seamen or marines, who may have fallen, or yet may fall, in the present war. We wish the sum were twice as large, and think it ought to have been so, an proposition to the grant from Canada. The motion was seconded in a very neat, feeling, and appropriate speech by Mr. Johnston, and passed unanimously. The House then proceeded to discuss Mr. Johnston's resolutions, introduced on a previous day, protesting against the terms of the Reciprocity Treaty.

The Attorney General spoke strongly against the adoption of these Resolutions, and described the Treaty as a valuable boon to the Colonies, altho' admitting that he did not like the mode in which it had been conceived. The Hon. Mr. Johnston replied with much effect, defending his resolutions, and showing their harmony with the previous action of the Legislature. Mr. Howe followed in a warm and energetic denunciation of the Treaty and its consequences—expressing his fears that trouble would come of it—especially that part which permits American fishermen to occupy our shores—which in his opinion will inevitably lead to serious collision between our people and theirs.—The Hon. gentleman did not mislead matters, and gave it as his opinion that we are required to give up all and get nothing in return worth having—and that 'ere long Jonathan will have us all as part and parcel of the great Republic.

Mr. H. Wilkins put some questions, in the Socratic mode, to the Attorney General, as to the right of the Imperial Government to abrogate by Treaty, what they had confirmed and established by Statute. The answer given was, that this could not be done except by a repealing Act on the part of the British Parliament.

The debate seems likely to continue some days—and after all it is presumed the Treaty must be sanctioned.

The Legislative Council is more full than usual at this early period of the Session—14 or 15 members being present. They have little, however, to do, until the Lower House shall dispose of the matters before them.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, Halifax, December 2, 1854.

At 2 o'clock, p. m., His Excellency Colonel Sir John Gaspard LeMarchant, Knight Commander of the Orders of Saint Ferdinand and of Charles the Tenth of Spain, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova-Scotia, and its Dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c. &c., came to the Council Chamber, attended as usual, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's command, to let the House of Assembly know, "It is His Excellency's will and pleasure they attend him immediately in this House"—who, being come with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with a Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

SPRUCH.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentleman of the House of Assembly:

A Treaty between Her Majesty and the Government of the United States has recently been concluded, and Laws necessary to its operation have been passed by Congress, and by the Legislature of Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

I shall direct copies of the Treaty, of Correspondence in relation thereto, and of the Laws referred to, to be laid before you.

Should you, concurring with the other Colonial Legislatures, approve the provisions of the Treaty as adapted, in your judgments, to promote the Commercial, Agricultural, and general interests of this Province, I shall gladly consent in any measure which you may think to give them effect here.

I have felt it my duty to summon you to meet at an earlier period than usual, but in regard for the public welfare, will, I am persuaded, induce you cheerfully to submit to personal inconvenience.

Reports of Commissioners entrusted with the conduct of Public Works will be laid before you, and I trust that the monies placed by the Legislature at their disposal will be found to have been judiciously expended. I anticipate, with pleasure, a considerable increase of Revenue.

A bountiful harvest has rewarded the labors of the husbandman. The Fisheries, though not altogether successful, have been of the whole remunerative, and many indications are offered of a prosperous condition of the people.

Our fervent gratitude is due to the Almighty for exemption from an epidemic that produced great mortality in our sister Colonies, and for the blessings of contentment and peace vouchsafed to us.

Having myself of your liberal Grants, I have imported into this Province Stock selected in accordance with the regulations, and as the object thus contemplated by you is of great public interest, I recom-

mend its further advancement by such means as you may, in the present season, think proper to adopt.

A prominent event of the year has been the "Provincial Exhibition," manifesting the capabilities of the country, and furnished by its gratifying success a powerful stimulus to public spirit, and industrial energies.

Education, though always liberally supported by large Grants, is still defective. Your wisdom will, I hope, be enabled to devise such improvement of the existing system as the resources of the Province will warrant, and public opinion will sustain.

A Correspondence which has taken place during the recess, in conformity with your concurrent resolutions, on the subject of the Mines and Minerals of Nova-Scotia, will be submitted for your consideration.

I regret to inform you that, during my absence from Halifax on a tour of duty to the West, Government House was so materially injured by fire that it has been ever since uninhabitable. This will, I fear, involve the necessity of considerable expense to the Province.

To the Rear Admiral commanding on this station our thanks are due for the promptitude and zeal with which he invariably co-operated with my Government in the public service of prohibition of the Fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The public Accounts, with the Estimate for the ensuing year, will be submitted for your inspection with the least possible delay.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

A measure will be submitted to you for further simplifying and improving the practice of the Courts of Common Law, and for introducing changes in Law of Evidence, approved by the experience of the Parent State.

Reports of the Supervisors of Great Roads, and of the Wardens of the River Fisheries, will be laid before you.

You may rely upon my cordial co-operation with your endeavours to promote every object that involves the public interests and the happiness of the people.

Our beloved Sovereign, in conjunction with her Allies, is engaged in a righteous, but sanguinary War, with the Emperor of the Russians, and I feel the strongest assurance that, in the sufferings and sorrows which its ravages have brought home to thousands of British hearts, you, and the loyal people whom you represent, will sincerely and deeply sympathize.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE.—This venerable gentleman entered upon his 81st year on Monday last, on which day as he took his seat on the Bench of the Supreme Court, the gentlemen of the Bar rose in a body to pay their respects, and the Honble. Atty. General, on their behalf, addressed his Lordship, congratulating him on the occasion, to which he returned a suitable reply. We are persuaded that the whole population of Nova Scotia, if they had the opportunity, would join in these congratulations. It is pleasing to be able to add, that physically and mentally, the respected Judge seems as equal as he ever was to the duties of his exalted position. Long may such be the case!

Several disasters have lately occurred on our coast. On the 22d ult. the scho. Jack Hinton, of and for Liverpool from Halifax, was lost on Irouboud, Co. of Lunenburg. Stephen Goovely, a young man of noble and daring spirit, was the means of saving the crew and a female passenger, by jumping from the bowsprit, with rope in hand, upon the cliff, amid a raging surf. Thus all on board reached the land, and after some time, found out two families. We regret to see it stated that the claims of humanity were so far forgotten, that the unfortunate shipwrecked were charged for their meals and for their conveyance to the main land. We hope this may be contradicted with truth.

Another vessel called the George Henry, Gardner, was lost the same night, near Herring Cove, Liverpool, and sad to relate, all on board perished.

A poor fellow named Sullivan, of Herring Cove, near this city, fell overboard from his shallop while on his way home, and tho' the sea was smooth and he a good swimmer, he sank to rise no more, leaving a wife and 8 children behind him.

The Daring brought up from Sable Island 37 passengers saved from the wreck of the ship Arcadia, at Sable Island, from Antwerp bound to New York.

There were 121 passengers and 21 of the crew—all saved by one of the Life Boats presented by Miss Dix. The people are in a most destitute condition—having lost all their clothing—many were in bed when the vessel struck.

R. M. S. CANADA, FROM BOSTON.

The R. M. Steamship Canada, arrived yesterday morning, from Boston. We extract the following items, being all for which we have room, from the New York Herald of the 6th.

Some paragraphs had been going the rounds of the papers, alleging the discovery by Dr. Kane, of the remains of Sir John Franklin, the substance of which is thus given:—

Intelligence has reached us from Lake Superior, said to be derived from a reliable source, that Dr. Kane's party of the brig Advance, sent out by Mr. Grinnell, has discovered the bodies of Sir John Franklin and his companions. They were complete-

ly frozen and in a perfect state of preservation. Although Dr. Kane has anticipated our indefatigable countrymen in solving the problem set to the fate of the gallant Sir John, yet the honor due to his services in the cause of humanity is none the less.

Upon the above the Herald remarks:—

THE FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The despatch published on yesterday a paper relative to the bodies of Sir John Franklin and party is probably without foundation in fact. Dr. Kane's party were last heard from at Smith's Sound, and it does not seem probable that they had gone to Back River, where Sir John Franklin's party are supposed to have perished. The statement which was published as coming from Albany by telegraph yesterday, was received at our office on Saturday night last, in the Baltimore Sun of the same date, with the same editorial remarks which are appended to the despatch. It seems that somebody has humbugged the Lake Superior papers, or else they have got the names of Dr. Kane and Dr. Kane confounded with each other.

The Captain General of the Island of Cuba, has issued decrees having for their object the effectual suppression of the slave trade with that Island—and makes an energetic appeal to the naval and civil authorities to contribute to the realization of the lively desires which animate her Majesty's Government, to destroy definitely the shameful remnant of the old traffic that still subsists to the injury of our national honour, the disgrace of civilization, and the serious danger of political order.

The vessels of the allied fleet continued to hold by their anchors in the harbour of San Francisco, with appearances indicating that they would not soon leave their comfortable position. A number of the men composing the crews of the English vessels had deserted. A French vessel the Obligado, had been despatched to Guaymas, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Count de Boulbon, and it was reported that on her way she fell in with a Russian frigate, and an engagement had taken place; but the rumour needs confirmation.

The ships of war in San Francisco harbour comprise 11 frigates President, and Pique, sloop of war Amphitrite and steamer Virago, and the French frigates Forte and Eurydice. They are accompanied by their prize, the Russian ship Sitka. The Discovery ship Plover is also in port. In addition to these vessels, the sloop of war Trincomalee, and the French corvette L'Artemise, from the Sandwich Islands, arrived within a few days. The whereabouts of the Russian frigate Diana is not known, though it is presumed she is somewhere in these waters.

By this arrival the President's Message, delivered on the 4th inst has come to hand. It is an interesting document. The President argues against the abandonment of the privateering system, which he thinks to be as defensible as the seizing of private property by ships of war. We have barely room for what he says on the reciprocity topic.—

W. G.

Since the adjournment of Congress the ratification of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, relative to coast fisheries, and to reciprocal trade with the British North American provinces, have been exchanged, and some of its anticipated advantages are already enjoyed by us, although its full execution was to abide certain acts of legislation not yet fully performed. So soon as it was ratified, Great Britain opened to our commerce the free navigation of the river St. Lawrence, and to our fishermen unobstructed access to the shores and bays, from which they had been previously excluded, on the coasts of her North American provinces; in return for which, she asked for the introduction, free of duty, into the ports of the United States, of the fish caught on the same coast by British fishermen. This being the compensation, stipulated in the treaty, for privileges of the highest importance and value to the United States, which were thus voluntarily yielded before it became effective, the request seemed to me to be a reasonable one; but it could not be acceded to, from want of authority to suspend our laws imposing duties upon all foreign fish. In the meantime, the Treasury Department issued a regulation, for ascertaining the duties paid or secured by bonds on fish caught on the coasts of the British provinces, and brought to our market by British subjects, after the fishing grounds had been made fully accessible to the citizens of the United States. I recommend to your favorable consideration a proposition, which will be submitted to you, for authority to refund the duties and cancel the bonds thus received. The provinces of Canada and New Brunswick have also anticipated the full operation of the treaty, by legislative arrangements, respectively, to admit, free of duty, the products of the United States, mentioned in the free list of the treaty; and an arrangement, similar to that regarding British fish, has been made for duties now chargeable on the products of those provinces enumerated in the same free list, and introduced therefrom in the United States, a proposition for refunding which will, in my judgement, be in like manner entitled to your favorable consideration.

FOUND.—The body of the late Capt. M. Donald, of the gene. Walling Lees, was found at the head of Bedford Basin, on Thursday last.—Chron.

Several Editorial paragraphs in type, omitted this week for want of room, will appear in the next ENQUIRY-TRAY.