to enable Henry Bessamer to obtain Letters Patent for the discovery of certain improvements in the manufacture of malleable or bar iron and steel,—and the Bill to appropriate certain moneys therein mentioned for the service of the year 1857.

The Bill for raising a Revenue was read a second time, committed, and reported with certain amendments.

The Order of the Day, for the second reading of the Bill to increase the power of the Corporation of Charlottetown over corporations or individuals laying down gas and water pipes, &c., as proposed by the City Council, being read, a good deal of opposition was made to the second reading of the Bill. Some hon. members objected on the ground of the late period of the session at which it was introduced, whilst others objected to the principle of the Bill. Ultimately, the Bill was read a second time. A motion being made by the Hon. Mr. Palmer, who confessed that he had given it but a very superficial reading, for the committal of the Bill to a Committee of the whole House, the motion was strenuously resisted by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, Mr. Heath Haviland, and other honorable members, some of whom spoke of its provisions in the strongest terms of condemnation. Mr. Heath Haviland, in particular, characterized the measure as most glaringly inequitable, inasmuch as the Gas Company had obtained their Act of Incorporation prior to the incorporation of the City, and had laid down a large proportion of their pipes, &c., in conformity with that Act, and long prior to the incorporation of the city. In allusion to the decision recently given in the Supreme Court, in the action brought by the Gas Company against the City Corporation, the legality and propriety of which the hon. Col. Secretary (Mr. Coles) had thought proper to call in question, the judges, he presumed, in giving that decision, had been influenced solely by the maxim, that every man should so use his property as not to injure his neighbor. Mr. Haviland looked upon the Bill just read as one of the most partial and glaringly unjust ever presented to a Legislature, and thought the House would disgrace themselves in the eyes of the world were they to give it their sanction. He moved, that the Bill be committed to a committe of the whole House "this day three months."—The Hon. Col. Secretary strongly supported the claims of the City Corporation, condemned in sweeping terms the recent legal decision in the Supreme Court—said the Judges of the Supreme Court were not the proper judges of such matters—the City Corporation being, in his opinion, the only competent parties to decide cases of this description,—and contended that the Act to incoporate the Gas Company did not deprive the public of any rights of which they were possessed before the passing of that Act. If the City found it necessary to lower certain portions of the streets, and by that means come in contact with the pipes of the Gas Company, the city, he contended, should not be compelled to defray the expense of lowering those pipes to the requisite depth.—Mr. Heath Haviland acknowledged that the City Corporation were invested with the same rights as the inhabitants possessed before the city was incorporated, but he denied that they possessed any greater rights, and he asserted that it was not the intention of the Legislature to give them any other rights. He thought the corporation of no City but that of Charlottetown would have asked for such a law as that just read. There were things in it which could not be found in the laws of any other civilized country.—For Mr. Haviland's amendment, 11. Against it, 10. So the Bill was lost.

The Bill for raising a Revenue was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Council.

Then the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 9.

The Bill from the Council to enable the Supreme Court of Judicature to give relief against adverse claims made against Sheriffs, and other persons having no interest in the subject of such claims, and also to protect Sheriffs for loss in certain other cases therein mentioned, was read the second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. Macdonald in the chair. The Hon. Col. Secretary said the present Bill was merely a transcript of an Imperial Statute. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland did not object to the first part of the Bill. The first part might be just and equitable; but to the last clause, which read as follows, he had very serious objections:—

"And whereas it is reasonable to protect Sheriffs from loss in executing writs issuing out of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever a Writ against the person, whether the same be mesne or final process, or a Writ of *fieri facias* or Statute Execution issuing out of the Supreme Court of Judicature, shall be delivered to my Sheriff, his under-sheriff, deputy, or bailiffs, he shall be entitled to employ, in the execution of such writ, one or two, but not more, constables or bailiffs, if necessary, in addition to himself, and shall be entitled to receive payment for the services of such constables, as well as for his own fees and incidental expenses; and in case, after due diligence used, he shall not succeed in capturing a defendant under any writ against the body, or where he shall have captured the defendant and committed him to the Jail of the County, then he shall be entitled, after the return of the writ, to demand from the plaintiff in the case or his attorney the amount of his fees and expenses, and the fees and expenses of the constables employed by him therein; and in case of neglect or refusal to pay for the space of two days after such demand, the sheriff, his under-sheriff or deputy, shall be entitled to sue for and recover the same from the plaintiff in any Court of Commissioners for the recovery of small debts; and in case, under any writ of *fieri facias* or Statute Execution, the sheriff, his deputy, under-sheriff or bailiff, after due diligence used, shall not succeed by levy and sale of the defendant's goods and chattels, or lands, in realizing an amount sufficient to defray his own fees and incidental expenses, and also the fees and expenses of one or two constables, as the case may be, employed by him thereon, then he shall be entitled, after the return of the writ, to demand from the plaintiff or his attorney the amount required for such purposes; and in case of neglect or refusal to pay the same for the space of two days after such demand, the sheriff, his under-sheriff, or deputy, shall be entitled to sue for and recover the same from the plaintiff in any Court of Commissioners for the recovery of small debts."

This clause provides that the sheriff shall be entitled to fees for services not rendered. He should, therefore, oppose that part of the Bill. . . . . Hon. Mr. Wightman said the clause referred to by the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. H. Haviland), would enable the sheriff to recover his fees before he had done his duty. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary replied that the sheriff would have to show that he had used due diligence before he would be entitled to demand his fees. And if it could be shown that he had done so, he ought to be protected. In the course of his observations, he alluded to a case which had recently been tried at Georgetown, the result of which was, that Deputy Sheriff Williams had been "put in for the whole debt and costs." . . . . Hon. the Speaker said, in that case it must have been proved that the sheriff had not done his duty. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland could speak on this subject disinterestedly. It would be a most extraordinary law to enact that the sheriff should be paid for serving a writ, whether he performed that service or not. The case referred to by the hon. Col. Secretary was this: a writ was placed in the hands of Sheriff Williams, who, on arriving at the house of the party upon whom the writ was to be served, broadly hinted that he had better keep out of the way. This fact having come out in evidence upon the trial, he was very properly "put in for the debt and costs." The sheriff is entitled to his pay as soon as he performs his duty; but now it is proposed that he shall be paid when that duty has not been performed! There was no such law in any other part of the world. It would be equivalent to giving the sheriff a fixed salary for the future, and would enable him to recover poundage and mileage for every writ that might be placed in his hands, whether served or not. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary denied that the sheriff could recover poundage unless the writ were actually levied. He contended that the sheriffs were not paid as they ought to be, and that it was high time the Legislature passed a law for their protection. He did not hesitate to say, that the Court had punished the sheriff alluded to on account of the new law and for acts which they would never have thought of punishing had the old law been still in existence. It was well known, he said, that the lawyers had done all in their power to trip up the present sheriffs and their deputies. How had the Deputy Sheriff acted when an axe was swung over his head? He simply took out his pistols and commanded the party to surrender. But for this he was found guilty of an assault, and fined. They could not blind him (Mr. Coles) with reference to the treatment of the liberal party in the Supreme Court. . . . . Hon. the Speaker said they were to protect the liberty of the subject; but the Bill before the Committee was intended for the protection of the sheriff alone, and for that reason he disliked it. Besides, it would give very unusual powers to that officer. The sheriff, surely, had no right to complain of the Court, if, when he went before a jury, that jury found him guilty of improper conduct or a want of proper diligence; and from what he understood of the case referred to by the hon. Col. Secretary, it was clearly proved, that due diligence had not been used by the sheriff. That being the case, judgment was very properly given against him. This Bill would have, the Speaker thought, a very bad effect, for it would make the sheriff the sole judge as to his having used due diligence. It was a new principle in legislation, and therefore he was opposed to it. . . . . Hon. Mr. Montgomery also expressed himself opposed to the clause under consideration. In the case of assault alluded to by the Col. Secretary, the prosecution was conducted by the Attorney General, a member of the present Government; and he denied that the man upon whom the writ was to be served had an axe in his hand at the time alluded to, or that he offered resistance, and threatened the sheriff with violence. And yet the sheriff cocked his pistols in his face, and told him if he did not come down with him he would shoot him. At Georgetown it was clearly proved, to the satisfaction of the jury, that the sheriff had not done his duty. He thought the proposed enactment was not only very unusual, but would have a very bad effect. If the sheriff could get his pay, whether he performed his duty or not, there would, he apprehended, in most cases, be very little probability of his doing it at all. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland repelled the charge of partiality brought against the Judges of the Supreme Court by Mr. Coles. It should be remembered that in the case of Dunn, of New London, the Judges were not the sole parties who tried that celebrated case. Dunn brought his case before a Grand Jury, composed of twenty-four individuals, drawn from the Ballot-box from among some 400 names, and that the Petty Jury who tried and convicted Williams of the assault was drawn from a list of 48 names—the whole of whom were nominated long before Sheriff Williams was in existence. The charge of partiality must, therefore, of necessity, be destitute of the slightest foundation in fact. How dared the crown officers go into Court with a case of this description, if the facts were truly represented by the Colonial Secretary? It was, Mr. H. contended, exceedingly unfair to attempt to throw the odium of this conviction upon the Judges. . . . . The hon. Col. Secretary replied, that the Crown Law Officers were bound, in the circumstances in which they found themselves placed, to prosecute the sheriff. But who were those grand jurors? There were only two liberals among them, and the foreman was a political opponent of the Government—a man who had attempted to make it appear that the sheriff was a drunkard, &c.; and not satisfied with propagating the slander in this Island, he had published the statement in Canada also. What he blamed the Court for, he said, was, the imposition of a fine of £5, which, in his opinion, showed the existence of a feeling, on their part, adverse to the sheriff. . . . . Mr. Yeo characterized the clause as one of the most iniquitous attempts at legislation that he had ever heard of. . . . . Hon. Mr. Lord did not see anything unreasonable in the clause, as the sheriff was bound to use all diligence in the discharge of his duties; and was only permitted to take a constable with him when he found himself unable to succeed in his object without assistance. When the sheriff employed a constable, under these circumstances, should he not be paid for doing so? If he was obliged to take a constable with him, he would, of necessity, have to pay him. Would hon. members like to be compelled to travel through the country without being paid for so doing? Parties who sue for the recovery of their debts should be compelled to pay the parties alluded to. Writs are very seldom taken out for men who are willing to pay their debts—they are generally served upon parties who wish to evade the payment of their just debts. After referring to the Georgetown case, Mr. Lord said he believed there never was an officer who had been so badly handled as Mr. Williams, and the cause he assigned for this rough usage was, that the deputy sheriff employed the year before had not been continued in the office. He would support the clause, so far as it went to provide for the payment of the constables. . . . . The Hon. the Speaker saw other objections to the clause besides those already stated. Who are to be the judges of the diligence of the sheriff? Three small Debt Commissioners? The clause, too, would take away the privilege of going before a jury. He did not like the principle of the proposed enactment at all. It was their duty to protect the privileges of the people. Even if the feeling alluded to by the Hon. Col. Secretary existed, that was no reason why they should confer upon the sheriff the powers proposed to be given to him by this Act. . . . . Mr. McIntosh was sorry to hear the terms liberal or tory employed in the halls of legislation at all. He did not believe that a sheriff who did not do his duty should be paid his fees. He was of opinion that the sheriffs were already sufficiently protected. He would not support the Bill. . . . Mr. Cooper confessed that he had not sufficiently studied the Bill to give a decided opinion upon its merits. Having, however, gone on for so long a time without such a law as the one now proposed, he could not see any very pressing necessity for it at present. It seemed to him to be made solely for one person. He had never before heard of such a proposition as paying the sheriff before he had discharged his duty, and leaving it to three commissioners of small debts to decide whether proper diligence had been employed or not. If such things were allowed innovations would creep in, till we are brought under the worst description of tyranny on the face of the earth! He (Mr. Cooper) thought they ought to have appointed some person to the office who would not have insulted the whole community. Had they done so, complaints would not have been so general as they are at present. . . . Mr. Clark thought there had been faults on both sides. To the proposition authorizing the sheriff to recover his expenses before he had performed his duty, he never would consent. He was friendly to Mr. Williams, but he would not consent to stand up there to legislate on such a subject for friend or foe. . . . Mr. Laird said he had heard of nothing calling for the introduction of such a clause. He would vote against it. . . . . Hon. Mr. Palmer did not recollect ever having met with such a clause as that under discussion. The office of deputy sheriff was one which it was never found difficult to fill—there were always a number of competitors for the office, who were willing to assume the responsibility, and take the good with the bad—the profitable with the unprofitable business. A sheriff might perform a journey or two before obtaining his fees; but then he might obtain a large amount of fees in another case in an hour's time. The proposed enactment was in his (Mr. Palmer's) opinion unparalleled in the annals of legislation. It would entirely do away with that incentive to diligence which the law, at present, wisely leaves in full operation. The sheriff would be allowed to drive a very fine business indeed! He might keep two or three bailiffs constantly employed, with ten or a dozen horses, and half a dozen men, going two, three, four, or even five trips, and thus make a very profitable business of it. The whole thing was perfectly preposterous! It was so preposterous and palpably wrong in principle that he wondered any hon. member would stand up to defend such an enactment. . . . Hon. Mr. Lord contended that when the risk and responsibility incurred by the sheriff were considered, it must be admitted that the remuneration of that officer was not at all sufficient.

Mr. Heath Haviland then moved that the clause be struck out of the Bill—which, after some further discussion, was put and carried without a division.

The hon. Colonial Secretary moved that the following Section be added to the Bill:—

"When any sheriff shall report to any plaintiff's attorney that he has made an effort to execute any Writ that may have been placed in his hands by such plaintiff or his attorney, and requires the assistance of one or two constables to assist in such execution, and if the said plaintiff or attorney refuse to guarantee the expenses incurred in the employment of such constables, it shall be lawful for such sheriff to retain such writ and state the grounds, being the refusal of such plaintiff or attorney to give such guarantee."

Negatived—Ayes, 8. Noes, 12.

The Bill was then reported agreed to with certain amendments.

The Bill to extend and more particularly to define the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Charlottetown, was read a second time. . . . The hon. Mr. Palmer said, the principal amendment or alteration sought for by the Bill just read was to increase the powers of the Corporation in civil and criminal cases. With respect to giving the Corporation increased power in civil suits or actions, there was, no doubt, considerable diversity of opinion. He (Mr. Palmer) confessed he did not think it advisable to compel suitors to bring their actions in the Mayor's Court, so long as we have a Small Debt Court sitting in Charlottetown. He thought, if an option existed, it should not be taken away from the suitor. He saw no objection, however, to giving the Mayor's Court jurisdiction in criminal cases. He would give them power to try certain cases of petty larceny, and to punish offenders by imprisonment, with or without hard labour. In short, he would give them the same power as Mayor's Courts possess in Great Britain, in such cases, leaving the prisoner the privilege of deferring his trial to the Supreme Court and a Jury. A prisoner would thus have the option of having his case tried at once, or on giving bail, he could postpone it till the next general jail delivery. No one could then complain that he had been deprived of that right which every British subject possessed of being tried by a jury of his country. A prisoner who is unable to give bail, and yet refuses to be tried by the Mayor's Court, must remain in prison until the next sitting of the Supreme Court, as he would have to do at present. This, he thought, would be a great improvement on our present system of requiring all cases of petty larceny—many of them of a most trivial character—to be brought before the Supreme Court. With respect to the qualification of electors, Mr. Palmer remarked, some persons conceive that payment of their rates can be made at any time before the election; but his opinion is, that, under the present Act, payment must be made one month before the elections. The proposition in the present Bill allowing the rate to be paid on the day of the election he would never accede to. The power to withhold licences for the sale of spirituous liquors, intended to be conferred on the Corporation, he did not object to. But the power claimed to dismiss the Recorder at any period of the year, was, he thought, open to very serious objections. At present, the Recorder is not a yearly officer. He holds his situation during "good behavior." When he fails to discharge his duties in a proper and satisfactory manner, he can be dismissed, but not before. The amendment proposed was, in his opinion, rather too arbitrary, and he feared the effect of it would be, that the office would fall into the hands of mere speculators. All judges should be appointed during good behavior. This principle has formed a part of the Constitution of England since the reign of George III., and it was a principle which, he hoped, would always be strictly adhered to. The Recorder is the legal adviser of the Corporation; and he ought not to be subject to be ousted at the end of the year, or at any other time, by some invisible agency, without good and sufficient reasons. Mr. Palmer concluded by moving that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House. . . . Mr. McDonald opposed the motion. He could see nothing in the Bill requiring immediate legislation, and as the session was now far advanced, would move, in amendment, that the Bill be committed "this day three months." . . . . Mr. Whelan spoke in favor of the immediate committal of the Bill; and with reference to extending criminal jurisdiction to the Mayor's Court, said that he was always of opinion that all such cases as those referred to by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer) ought to be disposed of either by a Court of Quarter Sessions or by the City authorities. He thought it would be well worth while going into Committee on the Bill, late as it was. With respect to civil cases, he thought the hon. member (Mr. Palmer) had not stated the case correctly. The Bill was only intended to apply when either the debtor or the creditor resided in the city. When both parties lived out of the city, there was no wish to interfere. . . . . Hon. Mr. Montgomery said that as they were now so near the close of the session, he would support the motion of the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McDonald). . . . . Mr. McIntosh said he thought it was not for the House to say when the City Council should hand in their Bill, or when they should not. It was the duty of the House to attend to the public business whenever presented. He would support the motion of the hon. member (Mr. Palmer). . . . . Hon. Mr. Coles did not think the whole of the Bill necessary. With respect to the extension of the civil jurisdiction sought for under the present Bill, he could not see why we should have two Courts sitting in Charlottetown for the recovery of small debts incurred therein. This, he thought, was not the intention of the legislature. These cases ought to be decided by the Mayor's Court. With respect to voters for civic offices, the clause in the present Bill was merely explanatory. It had been decided that a receipt for city rates, to constitute a legal qualification to vote, should be given at least one month before the election; but his opinion was, that if the rates were paid at any time before the election, the party doing so ought to be entitled to vote. As to the Recorder, the hon. and learned member (Mr. Palmer) seemed to think that officer held his office "during good behavior." This he denied. The City Council could displace him whenever they pleased. Neither does the Recorder sit in the Mayor's Court as a Judge. He merely appeared there as their legal adviser. The Bill before them would place the Recorder on precisely the same footing as the other officers. As with the members of the government, he ought to go out of office whenever it was the will of the people that he should do so. . . . . Hon. Mr. Whelan thought the Recorder ought to be put on the same footing as the Mayor and other members of the City Council. The Recorder might be very objectionable to the members of the Council, yet, if the views advanced by the hon. member (Mr. Palmer) were correct, he might ask, when they sought his removal, "Have I misbehaved myself?" He agreed with the hon. member (Mr. Coles) that the Recorder was not a Judge,—he sits in the Court merely as the legal adviser of the Mayor and one Councillor. He is never called upon to pronounce judgment. . . . . Mr. Perry said if the matter had been correctly represented by hon. members on both sides of the house, there was clearly no need of this law at all.

The question was then put on Mr. McDonald's amendment, viz: that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House "this day three months," and negatived on the following division: Yeas—Messrs. Macdonald, Perry, Dingwell, Muirhead, Laird, Clark, Wightman, Heath Haviland, Montgomery, Hon. Mr. Haviland—10.

Nays: Palmer, Longworth, Macintosh, Mooney, Yeo, Coles, Whelan, Warburton, Munro, Lord, Cooper—11.

The usual dinner hour having arrived, at this stage of the proceedings Mr. Yeo moved an adjournment. Finding, however, that if his motion were carried the Bill would be lost, on a division being called for and the nays directed to go forth, Mr. Yeo appeared among the latter. This was immediately objected to, and the Speaker decided that the hon. member making the motion must vote with the ayes. By this somewhat amusing inadvertence, therefore, the Bill has been lost—the motion of adjournment, superseding all other motions, being carried—Yeas 11. Nays 10.

In the evening, the House, having agreed to the several grants for the relief of paupers, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the Special Committee appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts—Mr. Muirhead in the chair. The report of the Special Committee having been read by the chairman, a lengthy and very animated discussion ensued, of which we are unable to give even an outline in our present number.

The Hon. the Col. Secretary then moved that the Speaker do take the Chair, and the chairman report the report of the Special Committee agreed to with certain amendments. This summary mode of dealing with the Public Accounts was strongly objected to by several members of the minority, and ultimately the hon. Mr. Palmer submitted the following Resolution:—

"That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Commissioner of Public Lands, in charging the sum of £267 7s. 6ld. for disbursements, in his account submitted to this Committee, without a Warrant or Warrants under the hand and seal of the Lieutenant Governor, has acted contrary to the requirements of the Colonial statute under the authority of which he received his appointment as such Commissioner."

The hon. Col. Secretary withdrew his motion, and after a good deal of discussion Mr. Palmer's Resolution was put and negatived by the committee. After about four hours' debating, the Speaker took the chair. Progress was reported, and leave granted to sit again.

Then the House adjourned until 10 o'clock on Saturday next (to-morrow being Good Friday).

J. BARRETT COOPER, Reporter.

NEWS SELECTIONS.

THE WAR WITH CHINA

The following letter appears in the *Moniteur*:—

"HONG KONG, Jan. 14.—The Chinese no longer restrict themselves to mere self-defence at Canton and upon the river; they have issued proclamations and pamphlets exciting the inhabitants to hatred and to the murder of foreigners; they prohibit them from serving the barbarians, and we have had reason to apprehend an insurrectional movement at Hong Kong itself. Sir John Bowring has come to an understanding with Admiral Guerin, the commander-in-chief of the French division, and they have decided in concert upon effectual measures for keeping down, in case of need, the Chinese population. Fifty men of the French crews have taken up a position in the east part of the town, and every arrangement has been settled for landing, at the first signal, all the landing companies and four field howitzers. It would appear that this attitude taken by the French is to be ascribed to the instructions received by the last mail: France and England had concerted, we are assured, before they knew even of the recent events at Canton, to obtain from the Chinese Government the revision of their treaties, which expire forthwith, and their representatives are said to have received despatches, which, whilst prescribing to them the identical conduct they will have to observe for the attainment of this object by common accord, authorise them to afford each other mutual support in all eventualities. Be that as it may, it is time to have a reinforcement sent to us, and should fresh forces fail to come to China, all Europeans indiscriminately would be exposed to most serious dangers. In fact, you will learn, that the incidents of the contest, of which Canton is the theatre, are succeeding each other rapidly and acquiring every day more serious importance. You will know when you receive this letter that the factories have been destroyed; they were set on fire by the Chinese in twenty places at one and the same time, and the English, unabled to multiply themselves, made efforts, but in vain, to subdue the flames. Where the factories once stood we now see nothing but a heap of ruins. Encouraged by the momentary deficiency of force at the disposal of Admiral Seymour, the Chinese are showing themselves resolved to go on by means of murder and arson; imperial soldiers in disguise took their passage on board the Thistle steamer, carrying the mail; while this vessel was descending the river these soldiers fell upon the Europeans whom they assassinated, and they then, having set her on fire, ran her ashore. In the course of the 3rd instant a large number of junks attempted to take the Coromandel war steamer, carrying Admiral Seymour's flag. The Chinese had chosen the moment when the tide was at the lowest, and when the different steamers could not come to each other's assistance. The Coromandel made a vigorous resistance, and the assailants were obliged to sheer off, after losing many of their number. The English had one officer and four men killed, and eight men wounded."

Private correspondence from Canton mentions a fact which has not yet been reported, and which shows how deplorable is the feeling entertained towards England by the court of Pekin, since the breaking out of hostilities. On the 5th December the Madrian Governor of Ling-Ting seized in the Hong warehouses all the merchandize belonging to the East India Company and to English subjects. The town of Ling-Ting is the principal depot for the clandestine opium trade. Independently of opium, Ling-Ting contains considerable stores of goods of every description, the principal part of which belongs to English merchants, and was destined for exportation to Europe.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* publishes the following proclamation from the Mandarin Governor of Whampoa:

Infamous foreigners have presumed to raise the standard of revolt against the sublime and venerated authority of the Emperor. They have attacked the city of Canton in order to burn it, and already have they received the punishment they merited, for our invincible troops have repulsed them, and killed a great number of them. Let them be attacked from every part of the empire. Let every inhabitant of China who shall meet an Englishman inflict on him the fate he merits. Already do our innumerable fleets and our mighty armies, which are dreaded by the whole world, advance to drive them away. Let everybody unite with that army; let everyone take part in the war, and teach foreigners to tremble before the will and before the anger of our Sovereign, whose gaze is burning as the rays of the sun, and whose power is immeasurable. He who shall not act in conformity with these orders shall be considered as a traitor, and may expect from us a chastisement as prompt as terrible. You hear! Obey. The Mandarin Governor.

TOHYN-TOO.

Done at Whampoa, the 9th day of the 12th moon.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* adds, that on the publication of the preceding document, the foreign ships anchored in the roads or in the Tchou-Kiang sailed away, taking with them the few Europeans in the town. The utmost excitement prevailed.

The course about to be adopted by Government for the settlement of the Chinese dispute is thus sketched in the *Times* of Saturday, the 7th:—The Opposition will be gratified to a certain extent, inasmuch as a Plenipotentiary will shortly proceed to China with full powers to conclude a peace. This person, whoever he may be, will not, indeed, supersede Sir J. Bowring, or in any way dispense with the assistance of the men who are at present conducting the affairs of the country in the Eastern Seas. He will, however, have the advantage of knowing the wishes of the Cabinet from the mouths of the Ministers themselves, and he will be acquainted with what has been said and done at home, while Sir J. Bowring, Sir M. Seymour, and Mr. Parkes will be able to supply him with the necessary local knowledge. A military commander, with 5000 men, will also at once be dispatched to the scene of the disturbance. Of course, if the area of hostilities widen, this force will be increased. The Plenipotentiary will, we believe, seek to establish direct communication not with Yeh, but with the Emperor. The Opposition which holds Lord Palmerston responsible for the acts of officials at the other side of the globe can hardly deny that the Court of Pekin should be held accountable for the acts of one of its greatest satraps, a potentate disposing of the lives and fortunes of ten millions of its people.

On Saturday, the 7th, Major-general Breton, the lieutenant-governor of Portsmouth garrison and commanding-in-chief the south-west district, received orders to prepare the three regiments of the line now on duty there for embarkation for China at a moment's notice. These troops are the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusileers, the 82nd (or Prince of Wales's Volunteers), and the 90th Light Infantry (Perthshire Volunteers). A fourth regiment is also ordered for embarkation for the same destination, but its number we have not heard. The 93rd Highlanders, however, we believe, is the regiment. These corps will be sent out in "full strength"—about 1067 each, of all ranks, (not including officers). Thus, about 4500 troops will embark at Portsmouth in a few days for the seat of war in the Celestial Empire. The steamers commissioned or ordered to be employed in carrying out these and the other forces (1000 marines) to their destination are her Majesty's ships Sanspareil, 70 guns, 2334 tons, 400 horses' power, 620 crew, Capt. Astley C. Key, at Plymouth. Retribution, 22 guns, 400 horses' power, 1641 tons, 300 crew, Captain Barker, at Devonport. Himalaya, 2 guns, 700 horses' power, 3500 tons, 188 crew, Commander Benjamin B. Priest, at Plymouth. Transit, 4 guns, 500 horses' power, 190 crew, Commander Chambers, at Portsmouth; Adventure, 400 horses' power, at Portsmouth (the complements of these two ships have not been defined yet). Sidon, 22 guns, 560 horses' power, 1328 tons, 300 crew, at Portsmouth. Furious, 16 guns 400 horses' power, 1286 tons, 223 crew, at Portsmouth. The four last-named are not commissioned, but are expected to be. If these vessels bear the same complements as they did on their last service they will add a reinforcement in seamen and marines of upwards of 2200. The Himalaya will go round from Plymouth to Portsmouth to embark her troops there. It is thought she will take at least two regiments.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times*, writing on Sunday evening, the 8th, says:—"If I am to credit what I hear in one or two quarters, we are pretty sure to have French co-operation in our proceedings in China. A convention is spoken of as likely to be concluded, after some negociation between the two Governments, with the view of acting together and enforcing the execution of existing treaties. The French Government would naturally wish to introduce a clause with reference to the Catholic missionaries. It is probable that a French Envoy, furnished with fresh instructions, will leave for China at the same time as the Envoy from England."

The *Gazette* contains a list of casualties which took place before Canton on the 15th of January last among the British troops, 59th Regiment—killed, two privates; wounded, Ensign F. Kay Statham, severely, one drummer and one private dangerously, four privates severely, one private and one corporal slightly.

Great excitement seems to have been produced recently at Constantinople, from a report that one of the great officers of the SULTAN's household had treated with indignity, and had, in fact, thrown into a well, certain sacred relics in which, according to the opinion of all good Mussulmans, the supremacy of the Mohammedan religion rests. It turned out on examination that the rumour was unfounded; that some rotten coverings had indeed been removed, but that the holy things themselves were preserved safe and sound. Still the alarm produced by the rumour is deeply significant. It indicates the widespread feeling among the Mohammedan population, that the crisis of their religion is at hand, when every sound such as this alarms them. Without being thought superstitious, we would also regard the circumstance as ominous of the future. Surrounded by superstitions of all sorts, both Mohammedan and Christian, the great truth of the unity of the DEITY, far removed from all comparison with either saints or genii, stands prominent. Is it too much to hope that the superstitions and errors of both religions are about to be removed from that fair land; and that the central truth of "One God and one Mediator between God and man, the man CHRIST JESUS," will be admitted and welcomed by Greeks and Turks alike?

It is reported that the King of NAPLES is about to conclude a concordat with the POPE. The terms are said to be similar with those of the Austrian agreement, which has already spread discontent through Austria, and widened the separation in thought and feeling between her and Protestant Germany. It was understood that the King of NAPLES was averse to placing himself in the hands of the ecclesiastical power; if that aversion has now been overcome, we may form some guess of the danger to which he now feels his throne exposed. Alas for Italy, now that the rulers of her fairest portions—Lombardy, Rome, and Naples—are bound together in this unholy alliance! Her prospects are gloomy indeed.

Some sharp correspondence has taken place between the Courts of Vienna and Sardinia respecting the freedom of the press in the latter country. It appears that when the Emperor FRANCIS-JOSEPH first intimated his intention to visit his Italian dominions, the bile of certain editors of Sardinian newspapers was stirred, and they pursued him with relentless abuse so long as he remained in Lombardy. Against this policy the Austrian Minister not unnaturally complained, but he got nothing by his motion. The reply of Count CAVOUR was complete and crushing. By the law of the land, the Sardinian Government cannot control her newspapers; the Austrian Government has hers under complete control. Yet it is not found that the Austrian newspapers are one whit less sparing of their abuse of the Sardinian rulers than the Sardinian papers of the governors of Austria. Again, the Sardinian papers can be, and are, excluded from Austria, while Austrian journals circulate unrestrainedly throughout the length and breadth of Sardinia. It is very clear that if there be cause of complaint at all, it would become the mouths of almost any people rather than the Austrian Minister's.

The *Staffordshire Advertiser* inserts the following letter: "May I beg the insertion in your valuable paper of the following occurrence. About the middle of last month, a nun, in her conventual dress, appeared about mid-day in the greatest state of agitation and alarm, at the Colwich station of the Trent Valley Railway and inquired for the next train which would take her either to Birmingham or Stone. Her great alarm and desire to conceal herself were observed by many persons. After waiting some time, she left by the 2. 13 train for Stafford. It unfortunately happened that there was no train for some time to Birmingham; she was therefore obliged to remain at the station. Dr. Ullathorne followed by the 3. 12 train from Colwich, and when at Stafford telegraphed to Colwich that he would shortly return to the convent; he did, I believe, return, and with him the nun. The fact of her being in such alarm, and her desire to hide herself, and being in her conventual dress, with very bad shoes on her feet, and otherwise totally unprepared for travelling, I think proves that she was making her clandestine escape. I think little comment is needed. Is it right that in any country, much less in a land of liberty like this, such institutions as convents should *not* be open to Government inspection, like some insane establishments? How many others, like this poor lady, would escape if they could? Who can tell what terrible penance this poor creature may now be enduring, aggravated, I fear, by her being, as we foxhunters say, 'run to ground' by so high a dignitary as the Bishop of Birmingham? I think this should be a lesson to some who belong to the Church of England, who in our days are making a miserable copy of the Roman Catholics in many ways, one of which is the establishing of convents.—I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, W. W.—Great Haywood, Feb. 16."

SNOW STORM IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.—*La Nacion*, a newspaper of the city of Mexico, speaks in its number of the 21st of December of the first snow storm there, thus:—Last night, at half-past nine o'clock, a heavy snow storm began, which lasted several hours. Never have we seen this phenomenon in Mexico before. It also excited to a high degree, the curiosity of the inhabitants of the capital. The thermometer of Reaumer was one degree above zero, and maintained itself there the whole night. The flat roofs of the houses, the streets, the hills which surrounded the city of the lakes, and gave her so beautiful an aspect, the public walks, all remind us, this morning, of the first snow storm we ever witnessed.

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

(*From Willmer's European Times.*)

Lord Palmerston is the most fortunate of ministers. His star seems to be always in the ascendant. Compelled to dissolve Parliament because he justified the course which the agents of the British Crown pursued in China, we now learn, by telegraph last night, that the Emperor of China disapproves as strongly of the proceedings of Commissioner Yeh at Canton as the British Premier himself. Not only is the head of the "Celestials" anxious to conciliate the British, remembering former troubles in which he was involved with them, but he will *have no war*. In a word, the "Chinese difficulty" may be said to be arranged by the spirit of Lord Palmerston, a fact which cannot fail to tell upon the elections which are now pending.

The same mail brings another important item of news—the British troops have had an encounter with the Persians, about forty miles from Bushire, in which the Bombay Cavalry completely routed that of Persia, with a loss of eight hundred killed.

It will be seen by reference to our election news that Lord John Russell had the largest show of hands at the city of London nomination yesterday,—that the popular candidate, at Manchester, tested by the same standard, were Messrs. Bright and Potter, 20,000 being present at the nominations—that Mr. Massey, in Salford, had the show of hands over Sir E. Armitage,—that the show of hands at Sheffield was in favour of Messrs. Roebuck and Hadfield,—that the show of hands at Huddersfield was in favor of Mr. Cobden, that Westminster has returned Evans and Shelley without opposition,—that the brave old General Thompson, of anti-Corn Law notoriety, has been returned for Bradford,—that Sir James Graham is in for Carlisle,—that Mr. Wegnelin has succeeded at Southampton,—and that at Birmingham the old members were returned without opposition.

Lord Palmerston's personal popularity, which three weeks ago stood so high, will be tested in this struggle, and we shall soon see whether his majority in the new House of Commons will be such as to enable him to retain permanent power. At present, to make use of an expression of his own, "he is master of the situation," and in the course of a fortnight we shall be enabled to judge whether this advantage can be maintained. New party combinations are certain to arise out of the existing chaotic confusion which may ultimately advance those domestic reforms of which the country stands so much in need. To show the interest which some of the leading statesmen of the age are taking in the composition of the new House of Commons, Mr. W. E. Gladstone presented himself at Mold, on Thursday, avowedly to eject Mr. Moyston from the representation of Flintshire, and substitute Mr. Gladstone's brother-in-law, Sir Stephen Glynn. The speech on this occasion, like all Mr. Gladstone's, was a great effort, and a strong contest may be expected in that country. Amidst these conflicts of the politicians, it is satisfactory to know that the trade of the country is progressing most favorably. The present year, judging by the returns of the Board of Trade, just issued, will distance in commercial activity all previous years. The exports in February this year amounted to £9,313,000, against £7,725,000 last year, and £5,032,000 the year previous. Between the two months of the present year and those of the last the difference is great—£18,371,000 against £15,700,000, and £11,497,000 in 1855. In these figures we see all the elements of a nation's greatness—a well-employed and well-fed population, a successful and commercial marine, and all the requisites for the production of wealth in a state of healthy activity.

The Commander-in-Chief visited Portsmouth in the early part of the week, for the purpose of inspecting the troops, numbering 2442, about to embark for China. But while this announcement is made, it is also said that orders have been given to discontinue the surveys of the two or three ships engaged to convey further troops to the same destination, and the inference is, that the soldiers necessary for this pupose will be mainly drawn from India—most probably, now that peace with Persia has been restored, from the last named country. But while Persia, through her ambassador, has made terms with us, she appears to be torn by domestic convulsions. A civil war has broken out, and the insurgents are said to have seized the uncle of the Shah, and, unless ransomed, had threatened to deprive him of life. In the North-west and South-west provinces the people are in open revolt, and the ruling authority is unable to grapple with the difficulty. The armistice concluded between the English and the Persian troops was for three months, beginning with March. The organ of the Russian Government in Brussels states that the Persian ambassador has visited London at the express invitation of the QUEEN—a visit of personal courtesy, without reference to diplomacy.

The late vote of the House of Commons has been the means, though tardy, of justice being done to the Crimea Commissioners. Sir John M'Neill is to be appointed a Privy Councillor, and Colonel Tulloch will be made a civil K. C. B.—a concession to the force of public opinion which cannot be misunderstood.

We see it stated that the French ambassador has obtained from the English Government the concession to France of Napoleon's house and tomb at St. Helena, and the present ruler of France intends to restore both to their original state. The report of the French Minister of State on the budget of 1858 shows an excess of income over expenditure of twenty-five million of francs, a gratifying assurance, considering that finance was always regarded as the weak point of Louis Napoleon's policy. The surplus is to be applied to the redemption of the floating debt. A French engineer, M. Collignon, has been appointed to construct the Russian railways, and is