IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

(Continued.)

MR. WATKINS' STORY.

Narrowidth was a rich man at the period of which I am speaking, although he has since got into the Gazette. He was never high or haughty to any person in his employment, but to me he was especially civil; and when it fell to my lot to travel for the firm in Lancashire, in a certain winter, he bade me not pass within fifty miles of Hawthorpe Hall, which was his country seat, without paying it and him a visit. Well, business took me about Christmas time, to Riggadale, within thirty miles of Hawthorpe; and I wrote respectfully to say that I should take advantage of his invitation, if convenient, and drive over the Fells in the double-gig, or dog-cart as it would now be termed.

His reply was kind as usual: 'Come, by all means; but take care, if the snow comes on, you don't get lost among the hills. There has been a terrible black frost here for a fortnight, but there are now signs of change.'

Riggdale was duly reached, my horse and trap put up at the *Greyhound*, dinner ordered, and I then proceeded to transact my business in the town. This being done, there was still an hour to spare before dinner, so I made my way up stairs to the empty billiard-room, with the intention of whiling away the time in solitary practice with the cue.

I had not been knocking the balls about for more than a few minutes, when I was joined by a tall, thin, handsome man, of very dark complexion and acquiline features, with large piercing black eyes, and black hair, worn much longer than it is the fashion to wear it now a days, who, courteously saluting me, inquired whether I had any objection to engage him for a game. I had no objection in the world, so we were quickly doing our best to beat one another; but although I had hitherto believed myself to be tolerably proficient at the game, I now discovered, to my mortification, that I was little better than a novice in comparison with the stranger.—There was nothing, however, of the sharper about him; he was a gentleman both in manners and appearance, though, perhaps, just a shade overdressed, according to my notions of the matter, and with rather too profuse a display of jewellery about his very handsome person.

'You are like myself, I suppose, here for the night only?' said the stranger, with a bland smile, as he paused for a moment to chalk the end of his cue. 'I had engaged a post-chaise to take me across the hills to Overbarrow, when one of the horses fell lame, so I was obliged to stop short of my object; and here that insinuating landlord has persuaded me to stay till morning.'

'Suppose we dine together?' said the stranger impulsively, as he made a splendid cannon.

Of course, I could make no objection to such a proposition, although I was being ignominiously defeated at billiards, and I felt sore thereat; so the bell was rung, and an order given accordingly.

'Let us be strangers no longer,' observed my opponent, as he finished the game by a magnificent back-stroke. 'Pour moi, I'm a Yankee by birth and breeding, and there's my address.'

He handed me a card as he spoke, on which, in minute characters, was inscribed 'Mr. James Y. Nettlefold, New York.'

'I've given myself a holiday for a couple of years,' said the American, 'to see the old country, and study your institutions, before settling down to coin dollars for the remainder of my life.'

We spent a very pleasant evening, my American friend and I. We played 'poker' together, we smoked, we sang; we concocted and drank sundry mysterious beverages well known to bar room frequenters on the other side of the Atlantic. Nettlefold had among his luggage a guitar, on which he accompanied himself while he sang, in a rich tenor voice, a number of plaintive Spanish ballads he had picked up while knocking about Mexico. I don't know what hour it was when we got to bed; but I remember that we shook hands, and vowed an eternal friendship for each other before parting for the night.

After putting out my light, I drew back the curtain, and took a look at the state of the weather—a fine starlit night, crisp and clear, with a few inches of snow on the ground, not enough to impede our journey on the morrow.

It was late next morning when my new friend and I met at breakfast. There had been no more snow during the night, but the clouds were heavy and lowering; and the weather wise landlord shook his head ominously when we announced to him our intention of setting out in the course of an hour on our journey over the Fells, and intimated to us that we had better stay where we were for the present, as there would certainly be a heavy fall before evening; and there was no place in England so dangerous as the north-country Fells during a snow-storm.

'All the more necessity for our starting at once,' I replied gaily. 'Let the mare be put into the trap immediately; and stow this gentleman's things and mine away as well as you can, as we are both going the same way, and will travel together.'

Finally, towards noon we found ourselves on the road, going along at a spanking pace, brimful of high spirits, and ready for any adventure. My companion before starting had brewed a steaming bowl of some insidious compound, of which we had partaken freely; and to this, perhaps, was in some measure to be attributed my reckless style of driving, and Nettlefold's frequent outbursts in the way of nigger melodies.

The landlord's predictions respecting the weather were quickly fulfilled; we had not gone more than two or three miles when the snow began to come down heavily. But we were too jolly just then to think or care much about it; we only wrapped our rugs more closely around us, refilled our pipes, gave the mare her head, and bade defiance to care and dull weather. Neither of us had ever crossed the Fells before; and we did not leave the *Greyhound* with out full instructions from the landlord as to the course we were to take; but how many miles we had gone before we unknowingly left the right road, and got into some lane that led away into the hills, I never could make out; neither can I tell for how long a time we had been unconsciously traversing this byroad before we discovered that we were at fault.

The truth dawned on us at last. We were grave and steady enough now; and certainly the prospect before us was not a pleasant one. We had set off some hours ago, and ought to have been at our journey's end before this time; yet there we were, traversing an unknown road that led away, interminably, as it seemed, into the heart of the Fells; and the snow still coming down as I had never seen it come down before. Every few minutes, a great blast of wind came rushing and rumbling down from the gallies of the hills, and half-buried us in a swirling cloud of powdered flakes. Here and there, in hollows of the road, the drift had already accumulated to such an extent as to be almost impassable; and the mare began to labor heavily. The afternoon was closing in rapidly, and still no sign of hamlet or farm. What was to be done? To turn back would have been worse than useless; there was evidently nothing for it but to struggle blindly forward, trusting to our ultimately reaching a habitation of some kind.

The last flicker of daylight was dying out through the storm, so that we were close upon the house before we saw it—a rude, low, one-story habitation, built of the great rough unhewn stones of the country; built evidently to withstand the furious winter-gales which rage in those parts; cheerless enough to look at under any other circumstances; but just then, to us poor, belated travellers, a very haven of rest and safety. Above the door hung a half-defaced sign, bearing the name of James Mattinson, with the usual declaration as to the sale of ale and spirits. The door was quickly opened to our summons, and the landlord himself came out.

'One of the three hunchbacks of Damascus,' whispered Nettlefold in my ear. A thin, wary, little man, about forty years old; with a wild mop of red hair, and a beard to match; with an astute foxy sort of face, and quick watchful eyes; with plenty of energy and activity about him, in spite of the deformity indicated in the American's remark.

'How far is it from here to Hawthorpe Hall?'

'Fifteen good miles.'

'And how far to the nearest village?'

'Six miles at least.'

'Would it be possible to do that distance this evening?'

'Well, if your horse was fresh, and you knew the road very well, you might mebbe manage it; otherwise, you'd stand a chance of being smoured in the drift. I shouldn't recommend you to try.'

'Then I suppose we shall be obliged to stay here till morning?'

'I fear there's nothing else for it, sir, though the accommodation's only very poor—in fact, we never take in folk for the night, except it happens, as it has with you, that they get weather-bound among the Fells; for the place is only a poor roadside public for the use of farmers and drovers passing over the hills.'

There was evidently nothing for it but to make up our minds to pass the night where we were; so we got down without further delay, and after taking off some portion of our white covering, crossed the lowly threshold of the *Green Bush*.

We found ourselves in a room of considerable size, poorly and sparely, as was only to be expected, but at having at one end of it a cheerful fire, blazing in a large old-fashioned grate, in close proximity to which we quickly seated ourselves. This room, as we afterwards discovered, served the purposes of kitchen, parlour, and taproom in one.—Beyond it, there were only two small bedrooms and a large pantry, all opening out of a passage which was lighted at the other end by a small grated window; over it there was a loft or lumber room, open to the rafters, and only to be reached by means of a ladder through a trapdoor, in one corner of the kitchen. The strong homely furniture was, with one exception, made of plain deal, scoured to an exceeding whiteness; this exception was a quaint black oak chest, about six feet long, which stood in a corner near the fire—a chest covered with carved work of fruit and flowers, and fanciful arbesques, and interlaced letters repeated again and again; and which at once brought to my mind the old song of *The Mistletoe Bough*, and the story of Francesca in Rogers' *Italy*.

The landlord entered in a few minutes, having duly attended to the requirements of my mare, a matter which I verified by personal inspection later in the evening.

'You don't live here all alone, landlord?' said I, interrogatively.

'No, sir, not commonly,' he replied. 'But my old woman and the girl went down this morning into Overbarrow to do their bit of marketing; and there they're likely to stop till the roads are open again.'

These words did not convey a very reassuring prospect to the American and myself.

'Have you got anything in the house you can give us for supper, landlord?'

'Nothing, sir, but a rasher of bacon, some eggs, a Welsh rabbit; and some middling home-brewed ale.

We gave our orders accordingly; and speaking for myself that I never enjoyed a meal more heartily in my life. After supper was over—dinner and supper in one—the landlord, with a sly smile, produced from some secret recess a brown stone bottle full of prime old rum; and then, having seen us fairly at work with our meerschaums, and having heaped up a tremendous fire, he solicited leave to retire for the night; and, mounting the ladder, disappeared through the trapdoor, having arranged the two little bedrooms, to the best of his ability, for the accommodation of his unexpected guests.

After the landlord's departure, we sat for some time drinking and smoking in silence. My companion looked pale and haggard, and I noticed that once or twice he pressed his hand to his forehead, as if in pain. 'Are you ill?' I said to him at length.

'Not ill exactly, *ami*,' he replied, with a melancholy smile. 'It's the shadow of an old pain that comes over me at odd times—a bagatelle—not worth talking about!'

Grave and taciturn as two Indians, we sat smoking for another space; at length the American laid down his pipe, got up, and began to pace restlessly about the room; suddenly he stopped in the middle of the floor. 'I will *not* think about it!' he exclaimed, grinding out the words from between his clenched teeth; and next moment he burst in a jovial students' song, trolling out the verses at the top of his powerful voice, and winding up with a wild Ha ha chorus; waking unwonted echoes in the old house, till the night-capped landlord popped his head for a moment through the cavernous opening in the roof, doubting, perhaps, as to the sanity of one or both of his guests.

'That has done me good, mister,' said Nettlefold, as he came and sat down and resumed his pipe. 'I'm in a queer humor tonight. I must talk, *Le diable le veut*. So I'll tell you of a fight I once had with a grizzly among the Rocky Mountains.'

'Good,' I replied. 'Let us have it, by all means; nothing better for a long winter's night.'

So Nettlefold proceeded to tell the story of his fight with the bear; and when that was done, went on to relate one wild story of frontier and Indian life after another, as fast as he could tell them; as though, like the Ancient Mariner, a spell were on him which he could not resist; and, finally, he finished up the evening by reciting from memory *The Hunting of Pau Puk Keewis* (as I heard the gentleman's name correctly from Longfellow's *Hiawatha*.

'And now to be bed,' he said, as he stood up and yawned. 'Rouse me betimes in the morning, for I am somewhat of a sluggard; and let us have an early breakfast, and try to make our way through the snow to some civilized part of the world.'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

"PEACE DEVILS."

Of all the people on earth for party names, political soubriquets, and abusive epithets, the "Universal Yankee Nation" is ahead.

We observe, from some of our American exchanges, that the war party—the shoddy contractors, the war-preachers, who, by the way, should wear *red* instead of white chokers—the shoulder straps and hangers-on of Mr. Lincoln—have discovered a new name for the friends of peace—those who favor love and harmony rather than bloodshed and strife. They are henceforward to be styled "Peace Devils!" Well we had heard of "Wooly Heads," "Silver Grays," "Anti-Masons," "Plug Uglies," "Blood Tubs," "Black Republicans," "Black Republicans," "Loco Focos," "Know Nothings," "Sag "Nights," "Shoddies," "Copperheads," "Greybacks," "Butternuts" and many other like euphenious epithets bestowed on each other, by the various political parties, in harmonious Yankeedom; but who could have dreamed that even the exhaustless inventive genius of New England could have suggested the chaste, elegant, unique antique and expressive title of "Peace Devils" as suitable to the friends of peace, love and harmony.

The march of progress in that region is rapid: Not many years since the philosophers of New England discovered how to impart to wooden balls the appearance and aroma of nutmegs—to convert ligneous substances into Bologna hams, and transform cows' horns into silex. But a little while ago New England humanitarians sought to improve the condition of men, by introducing Free Love, Fourierism and Spiritualism.—In Boston they have progressed so far as to be able to hold converse with the spirits of their friends, and, as we are told, any one desiring to hear from "that bourne whence no traveller returns" can for a small "green back be accommodated. Nay, more than this—a paper edited by departed spirits is actually published in the "hub of the universe," and is said to "ay well." These things only serve to show the progress of the New England mind, and ought to teach sluggards, elsewhere in the world, that nothing is impossible to a Yankee. But really this singular combination of the words "Peace," "Devil," has somewhat surprised us.

From what we had read in the Bible, and heard from the sacred pulpit, we had an idea that his Satanic majesty claimed to be the author of strife, hate, discord and war, and if we remember right, the apostle James, plainly tells from which source come "wars and fightings." Moreover, from the knowledge we have of New England piety, we had supposed it was too familiar with the attributes of the Evil one to venture to ascribe to him qualities which are opposed to his mission. But it seems that New England politicians and preachers are not content to be outstripped by New England philosophers and philanthropists. They have determined to give a new attribute to the Prince of Darkness. They are going to clothe him with a love for peace, and denominate all those who advocate peace and oppose bloodshed and strife, as his followers and friends. They are to be called "Peace Devils." And the advocates of war and strife are, of course, to be called "War Christians."

Well, if these improvements in Yankee nomenclature continue, we shall soon expect to hear of such characters as honest knaves, truthful liars, peaceful murderers, loving assassins, and holy rogues. We suppose, however, this new title is one of the results of "military necessity," which according to Yankee notions, moulds everything to suit its demands. Knavery, lying, stealing and killing seem all the go in some regions now; why not, by a military order, make them fashionable and essential elements of Christianity? It would be altogether as reasonable and proper as to make peace an attribute of the Devil.—*Leader.*

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 23, 1864.

WAR IN EUROPE.

There is something grandly solemn in the firing of the first shot by which a possibly great and devastating war is initiated. Like a hurricane at sea, it is preceded by a period of deep, ominous calm. Slowly but surely the black cloud arises above the horizon, and then with a crash the storm bursts. For months past the little understood Schleswig-Holstein question has agitated the minds of statesmen and people in Northern Europe. Not being able thoroughly to understand the true issue between Denmark, the Principalities and the Germanic States, the English people have evidently hoped that the cloud would disperse without inflicting upon Europe a war doubtful both as to its results and ultimate extent. The dread Rubicon, however, has been crossed, the *first battle* has been fought, and already several hundreds of gallant men have fallen. Few indeed of the nations of Europe can look with complacency upon the advent of such a war. For the past few years the Great Powers have been making enormous strides in the manufacture and concentration of the machinery of war.—Compare the navy of England as it now exists with the wooden armaments which, under Nelson, brought terror to the hearts of evil-doers in high places. Steel-plated sides and Armstrong guns have completely revolutionized the art of naval warfare,—have so tremendously intensified the elements of havoc, that the armaments of two nations thus prepared, meeting in deadly strife, can be likened to nothing that has yet been witnessed in the world's battles. The preparations of France for war have been almost, if not quite as colossal as those of Britain. Austria, Prussia and Russia have not been idle. Well might the lovers of peace sive to stave off the day when these new and formidable powers of destruction should be brought into active play. But the brand has been cast into the inflammable mass, and it is to be feared that the flames will envelope the whole continent of Europe, if, indeed, they are confined to it.

Now that hostilities have commenced the question eagerly asked by all is, who will side with the Danes. Notwithstanding the assertion of the celebrated Talleyrand that "God has always a special miracle in reserve for little Denmark," it is manifestly impossible for that nation to combat successfully with the united power of Austria and Prussia. It is true that Austria must place much larger numbers of soldiers in the excitable and dangerous possessions of Venetia, Hungary, and Gallicia, but, notwithstanding, she can send an army into Holstein of at least 100,000 men, and Prussia can spare about the same number. Against this formidable force Denmark can oppose, unaided, but 60,000 regular troops. The sympathies of both Norway and Sweden are decidedly with the Danes, and if that sympathy or the fear of Germanic encroachment should prove strong enough, they can send to the assistance of their brave little ally, at least 60,000 soldiers. Then, again, should England decide on armed interference, she would at first probably send into the field a contingent of 30,000, besides using her powerful navy to good advantage. This would provide 150,000 men to form the army of defence, a force sufficiently strong, we apprehend, to cope with the invading armies of Austria and Prussia. The news by the "City of Manchester" does not warrant us in coming to the conclusion that England will inevitably interfere, for we learn that Gladstone and Earl Russell, members of the British Cabinet, are in favor of English neutrality, and the question has been left to the decision of the House of Commons. In the discussion of the important subject the representatives of the Peace-at-any-cost party will take strong ground, but it can hardly be expected that Lord Palmerston and other prominent statesmen will consent to stand quietly by and see the treaty of 1852 violated with impunity. The London Treaty of 1852, at which England, France, Russia, Prussia and Austria were represented, secured the Dutchies of Holstein and Schleswig to Denmark, and it is only reasonable to suppose that England and the English people will sympathize with the Danes in their struggle for what they consider to be their rights by both purchase and treaty.

From present indications the policy of the Emperor of the French is a *waiting* one. He doubtless holds England accountable for the failure of his proposed Congress, and if asked to give his reasons for non-interference will probably retort that the present difficulty would have been obviated had the general meeting of plenipotentiaries taken place in Paris as urged by him. But Napoleon will keep his eyes open during the struggle, and it is possible that the temptation to seek the aggrandizement of France Rhinewards will prove too much for his neutrality resolutions.

By the arrival of the *Africa* we have later news. The Danes, it appears, have evacuated Schleswig and retired from the Dannewerk, the Germans following them. The speeches in both Houses of the British Legislature pointed to non-interference. England evidently distrusts the policy of Napoleon, and wishes if possible to keep her hands free. The Press generally, since the deliverance of the Queen's Speech, is more pacific in tone. With the prospect of continued peace, in so far as England is concerned, more confidence has been infused into Commercial circles, and, as might have been anticipated, breadstuffs have lost the advance quoted by the *City of Manchester*. Affairs have become so complicated that it is impossible to predict what may be in the immediate future.

DICKSON WON'T YIELD.

Immediately after the defeat of the Solicitor General in South Leeds, some of the Western papers alluded to the probability of Dickson, of Huron and Bruce, retiring and giving place to Mr. Richards. The London *Prototype* publishes what purported to be a telegraphic correspondence between the Premier and Mr. Dickson, which run something in this fashion:

Premier to Dickson.—We want you to retire for Mr. Richards.

Dickson to Premier.—What's the consideration.

Premier.—We'll see about that afterward.

Dickson.—I'll see you hanged first.

At the Seaforth Dinner Mr. Dickson emphatically denied that such a proposal had been made to him either directly or indirectly. The only thing the quotation proves is that the London *Prototype* is determined to sustain its unenviable reputation as a fibber!

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Westminster Review, Leonard Scott and Co., New York. Sold at this office.

The January number of this Quarterly is to hand. In an advertisement the publishers state that on account of the scarcity of printers much difficulty has been experienced in getting out the January number of the Reviews. The contents of Westminster are, 1. The Life and Writings of Roger Bacon; 2. The Tunnel under Mont Cenis; 3. Astrology and Magic; 4. The Depreciation of Gold; 5. Gilchrist's Life of William Blake; 6. Parties and Prospects in Parliament; 7. The Inspired Writings of Hinduism; 8. Russia; 9. The Physiology of Sleep; 10. Contemporary Literature.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Governor's Speech.

Quebec, Feb. 19th.

This day at 3 o'clock p. m., His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Council, in the Parliament Buildings. The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, and that House being present, His Excellency was pleased to open the second session of the eighth Parliament of the Province of Canada, with the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

I am happy again to meet you in Parliament, and I feel confident that during the session now commenced, your best attention will be bestowed on legislation for the public welfare.

I have taken steps for carrying into effect the Acts passed during last session, for the organization of the Militia Force of the Province, and I will continue my best efforts for the establishment of so important an object.

The period is approaching when, by the conditions of the Treaty of Reciprocity between Her Majesty and the United States of America, the notice for the termination of its provisions may be given at the option of either party. I have not failed to give my best attention to the subject of this Treaty and of the great interests affected by it.

You attention will be invited to measures designed, by the improvement of our existing system of inland water communication, to attract to the channel of the St. Lawrence a larger share than we have heretofore enjoyed of the great and rapidly growing commerce of the western lakes.

You will also be invited to consider the expediency of providing for such improvements of the canals constructed to obviate the natural impediments to the navigation of the Ottawa river as will, it is believed, without involving a heavy outlay, greatly accelerate the development of the extensive and valuable territory drained by that noble stream and its tributaries.

Unforeseen obstacles have retarded the survey of the route of the proposed railway between the Province and the sister Colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Arrangements are, however, now in progress, which I trust will soon lead to the execution of this preliminary work, the result of which will enable all parties to form a more satisfactory estimate than is possible at present of the expense and practicability of the proposed undertaking.

The condition of the vast region lying to the north-west of the settled portions of the Province, is daily becoming a question of greater interest. I have considered it advisable to open a correspondence with the Imperial Government, with a view to arrive at a precise definition of the geographical boundaries of Canada in that direction. Such a definition of boundary is a desirable preliminary to further proceedings with respect to the vast tracts of land in the quarter belonging to Canada, but not yet brought under the action of our political and municipal system.

The construction of the public buildings at Ottawa, since the resumption of the work last spring, has been prosecuted with so much diligence as to justify me in announcing to the officers of the civil service, the intended early removal thither of the Seat of Government, in pursuance of Her Majesty's selection of that city as the future capital of Canada.

The discoveries of gold and other valuable ores within the Province, which have recently been made, and which have attracted very general attention, appear to call for legislation, both as regards the more systematic and perfect development of our mineral wealth, and the rights as well of the public as of private individuals connected with it.

I would also suggest to you the expediency of making legislative provision for ensuring a more efficient system of investigation into the cause of shipwrecks, occurring on or near the sea coasts of the Province, as well as of similar disasters which, though occurring elsewhere, may from the nature of the attendant circumstances seem calculated to effect the reputation of our marine service.

A fresh contract for our Ocean Mail Steamship Service has been entered into on terms which will be submitted for your consideration, and will, I believe, be found to combine efficiency, economy, and safety.

I would further invite your attention to the state of the existing laws relative to Parliamentary Elections, to Bankrupts and Insolvent Debtors, to the Administration of Justice, to the encouragement of Agriculture and of the Fisheries, to the Registration of Title to Real Estate, and the granting of Patents for Inventions.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

The Public Accounts for the past year will be laid before you, as also Estimates for the Supplies required for the current year. These Estimates will be found to have been prepared with a careful attention to economy. I rejoice that I am enabled to inform you that the revenue of the past year considerably exceeded the estimate submitted to you last session, whilst the aggregate expenditure for the public service of the year was less than the estimated amount. Notwithstanding these gratifying results, however, there was a large excess of expenditure over income, and the revenue derivable from existing sources is clearly inadequate to meet the unavoidable annual charges on the public treasury.—Measures will be submitted for your consideration calculated to exqualize the annual income with the annual expenditure of the country.

Hon. Gentlemen and Gentlemen,—

I commit the affairs of the Province to your patriotic and disinterested consideration, earnestly hoping that under the favour of Divine Providence your deliberations during the session may be productive of results conducive to the prosperity of Canada and the happiness of her people.

After his Excellency had left the Chamber, Hon. Mr. Chauffers was introduced by Hon. Mr. Letellier De St. Just and Hon. Mr. Wm. McMaster, and took his seat for Rougemont.

Hon Mr FERGUSSON-BLAIR introduced the usual formal Bill, intituled "An Act relating to Common Schools."

Hon Mr FEGUSSON-BLAIR moved that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on Tuesday next—Carried.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

LATEST FROM QUEBEC.

Quebec, Feb. 20.

Political matters stand very much as they did yesterday. Rumors of all kinds continue to abound. The Ottawa men are still undecided, and evidently stand out for the best terms attainable. It is understood that they were to have a meeting among themselves to-day, but if it was held, the result has not transpired.

The strongest dissatisfaction prevails among the Upper Canada Ministerial supporters at the suggestion that Mr. Bell, of Russell, should be received into the Cabinet.

It is understood generally to day that Mr. Foley will vote against Ministers.

Messrs. McKellar, White, Mackenzie, (Lambton,) Dickson and Snanly arrived today.

A deputation has arrived here from London, consisting of the Mayor, Messrs. Wm. McFie and Frank Smith, to urge a compromise in regard to the city debt. They had had an interview with the Premier and Finance Minister, and were told that if they showed a disposition to meet their obligation by paying one year's rate, the Government would not press them hardly for arrears, but that it was impossible for the Government to forego the debt altogether. They will have another interview on Monday.

Mr. Canavan has gone west by train this evening, having failed in his application on behalf of Greenwood. He had another interview to-day with the Attorney General, and an audience of the Governor General. He was backed by a memorial signed by a few members of Parliament in favor of commutation of sentence, but was informed that the law must take its course.

The Postmaster General entertained last evening a large number of the Government supporters.

The Governor General gives to-day a dinner party to prominent members of the Legislature, and in the evening Lady Monck is to have a reception.

Mr. Timothy Blair Pardee is gazetted to-day County Attorney for Lambton, in the room of Mr. Fredrick Davis resigned.

The *Gazette* announces that by an Order in Council the Governor General has revoked the commissions of John McCuaig and Richard Nettle, as Superintendents of Fisheries in Upper and Lower Canada.

It is rumoured that the Opposition are disposed not to take a test vote on the Address, but to wait till the financial policy of the Government is developed.—*Globe.*

Highly Important News from Europe.

WAR COMMENCED.

Sandy Hook, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

The *City of Manchester*, from Liverpool on the 3rd, *via* Queenston on the 4th, is now passing this point *en route* to New York where she will arrive about 4 o'clock. An engagement, lasting six hours had taken place between the Danes and Germans, at Missunde. The Danish outposts were driven in by the Germans, but the Danes repulsed their assault on the place. Breadstuffs firmer and a trifle higher. Flour firm and 6d to 1s higher. Wheat tending upward, and 3d to 4d higher; winter red, 8s 8d to 9s 2d.—Corn firmer and 6d higher; mixed 30s to 30s 6d. Consols 90 to 90¼.

London Markets.—Breadstuffs tending upward. Coffees firm. Tea quiet. Rice quiet and steady.

The "Alabama" was on the watch for vessels 50 miles south of Rangon; on the 5th of January.

Liverpool, Feb. 4.—There has been no renewal of the attack on Missunde by the Germans. The Danish loss was from 150 to 200. The Prussian loss was from 250 to 300, and some accounts say that it was much greater

London, Feb. 4.—The Austrians attacked Bestore, one mile south of Schleswig, on the 3rd inst. The Danes held their own. An attack on the whole Danish line from Missande to Agel, is expected to take place to-day. It is asserted that England has offered to guarantee all that Austria and Prussia have demanded of Denmark.

London, Thursday morning, Feb. 4.—The *Times* has the following telegram:—

Schleswig, Feb. 3, Friday, 6.30 p. m.

At three o'clock this afternoon the Austrians attacked the position of Bistore, one English mile south of Schleswig. The Danes held their ground. There was sharp fighting till after dark. The King of Denmark walked towards the outposts. No casualties are known. The Danes lost one field piece.

Later.—The firing continues. Another attack is expected to-morow. The wounded are being brought in.

London, Feb. 4.—The *Times* seems inclined to cast upon Parliament the task of deciding the policy of the Cabinet. It says that the future course of British policy rests with the House of Commons. All that a neutral state may do will, no doubt, be sanctioned by Parliament and public opinion. The *Times* says the question whether the state of war on the part of Austria and Prussia against Denmark, now definitely existing is such as to imperil the ships of those nations at present in the ports of this country, if they should put to sea and meet with Danish cruisers, has been a subject of anxious discussion. On the part of Prussia's interests there is apparently little doubt upon the subject, and German commerce will likely soon pass into the hands of neutral's.

The London *Times* reiterates its arguments against Seward's claims upon England for the "Alabama's" depredations. It questions whether Seward is in earnest, but refuses to suspect him of a design to seek a quarrel.—There is a great anxiety in England for a meeting of Parliament, to learn the policy of the Government on the Danish question. The Morning *Herald* asserts that Government will do nothing for Denmark. The Peace Society memorialized Lord Russell against intervention. It is rumoured that Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli will make strong attacks on Lord Russell, and that the Cabinet is prepared to support Denmark, except Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone. An embargo would be placed on the German shipping at Copenhagen, on the 3rd. Field Marshal Wrangel issued a proclamation to the Schleswigers, says he is there to protect their rights, and that the Civil Commissioners of of Austria and Prussia will assume the administration of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. It is asserted that Napoleon is more resolved than ever to take no active part in the Danish question, but leave the difficulty to England. The English Cabinet held daily Councils preparatory to the meeting of Parliament on the 4th. Marshal Wrangel, on the 31st of January, summoned the Danes to evacuate Schleswig forthwith. Gen. Demeza refused, whereupon the Prussians passed the frontier, and shots were exchanged, without effect. The Danes retreated, after blowing up the Dorg Bridge. The Prussians on the 1st instant advanced to Gottrof and Eckenforde, establishing their headquarters at Gottrof. A provisional law was published at Copenhagen on the 1st inst., to accelerate the meeting of the Regarand. The Austrian and Prussian Ambassadors quitted Copenhagen on the 31st ult. and the King of Denmark left on the same day for Schleswig, accompanied by the President of the Council. The Danish ships at Eckenford, after exchanging shots with the Prussians sailed away. It is asserted that France and Russia would not join England. The first vessel detained under the Danish embargo is the Prussian barque "Mrotha," from Memel to London, under the anchorage at Elsinore, in which port she has been stopped. The fleet at the disposal of the Danish Government it is said will be more than equal to his service.

Paris, Feb. 3.—The *Patrie* of this evening publishes, under reserve, the news that the Italian Government had protested against fortifications being erected by Austria near Peschiera, in contravention of the treaty of 1859. The *Pays* of this evening announces that Austria is making armaments on the Mincio.

India.—The war on the frontier is an end, and the force employed against the hill tribes has been broken up.

London, Feb. 4.—The following is the important part of the Queen's speech:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

We are commissioned to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of her Parliament. Her Majesty is confident that you will share her feelings of gratitude to Almighty God on account of the Princess of Wales having given birth to a son, an event which has called forth from her faithful people renewed demonstrations of devoted loyalty and attachment to her person and family. The state of affairs on the continent of Europe has been the cause of great anxiety to her Majesty. The death of the King of Denmark brought into immediate application the stipulations of the treaty of May, 1852, concluded by her Majesty with the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Sweden, and afterwards acceded to by the King of Hanover, the King of Saxony, the King of Wurtemberg, the King of the Netherlands, the Queen of Spain, the King of Portugal, and the King of Italy.

That Treaty declares that it is conducive to the preservation of the balance of power and the peace of Europe, that the integrity of the Danish monarchy should be maintained; and that several territories which have hitherto been under the sway of the late King of Denmark, should continue so to remain; and, for this purpose, it was agreed that upon the death of the late King, and his uncle the Prince Frederick, without issue, his Majesty King Christian should be acknowledged as succeeding to all the dominions then united under the sceptre of his Majesty the King of Denmark.

Her Majesty, actuated by the same desire to preserve the peace of Europe, which was one of the declared objects of all the Powers who were parties to that Treaty, has been unremitting in her endeavors to bring to a peaceful settlement the differences which, in this matter, have arisen between Denmark and Germany, and to avert the dangers which might follow from the beginning of warfare in the north of Europe, and Her Majesty will continue her efforts in the interest of peace.

The barbarous murders and brutal assaults committed in Japan upon subjects of Her Majesty, rendered it necessary that demands should be made upon the Japanese Government and upon the Daimios, by whose retainers some of these outrages were committed. The Government of the Tycoon complied with the demands made upon them by Her Majesty's Government, and full satisfaction having been made the friendly relations between the two Governments have continued unbroken; but Daimio Prince Satsuma refused to comply with the just and moderate demands which were made upon him. His refusal rendered measures of coercion necessary, and Her Majesty regrets that while these measures have brought the Daimios to an agreement, they led incidentally to the destruction of a considerable portion of the town of Kagosima. The papers on this subject will be laid before you.

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

Halifax, Feb. 19.—The steamship Africa has arrived with Liverpool dates of the 6th inst., and Queenstown on the 7th.

The Danes have evacuated Schleswig, and the Dannewerke and are falling back to Flendsburg, the Germans pursuing.

A Hamburg despatch of the morning of the 5th says:

"There is no news from the theatre of war. It is believed that the Prussians will prevent its transmission. Severe fighting is supposed to be going on, as numbers of wounded are being constantly brought into Rendesburg."

A Hamburg despatch of the afternoon of the 6th reports the town of Schleswig evacuated by the Danes and occupied by the allies. This is said to be authentic.

Nothing is known as to the capture of Missunde.

A semi official Vienna paper expresses the hope that the explanation just sent by Austria and Prussia to England will hinder all further complications.

France.—The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* says that at a ball on the 3rd inst., the Emperor Napoleon said to a group of Marshals and Generals, "It appears they have begun the exchange of cannon shots in the North. Let them go on, it is no affair of ours. Our policy should be no intervention." Those whom he addressed seemed to agree with him.

Great Britain.—An address in reply to the Queen's speech was adopted in both Houses of Parliament without amendment.

In the House of Lords Earl Derby reviewed at length the former policy of the government, contending that it was injurious and humiliating to England—the rejections of the Emperor Napoleon's proposal for a European Congress, of his invitation to recognize the government of the Confederate States, together with the fruitless negotiations with Russia respecting Poland and the interference in the Dano-German difficulty were severally referred to by Earl Derby, and although he did not oppose the address he severely censured Earl Russell's foreign policy.

Earl Russell in reply explained the Dano-German difficulty and showed that England was quite unfettered in the matter, never having given the slightest promise of assistance to Denmark.

Earl Grey condemned the bombardment of Kagosima; and thought that Denmark had been encouraged to look for assistance from England.

Earl Granville replied, defending the government.

In the House of Commons Mr. Disraeli spoke in a similar strain to Earl Derby, as sailing the foreign policy of the government.

Lord Palmerston replied vigorously, defending the course of Earl Russell.

Mr. Gladstone explained that the promise of England to stand by Denmark was given under circumstances different from those which control the present war.

The Queen's speech caused the most bitter disappointment in Denmark.

All the English journals treat matters as very undecided, but the majority of them have a pacific bearing.

Lord G. Manners expressed the hope that the government would lose no opportunity in giving friendly advice to the American belligerents, with the view of ending the bloody contest.

It is stated that the Alexandra case will be taken before the House of Lords whatever the decision of the Exchequer Chambers may be, it being the wish of all parties to have the law in this difficult case settled by the highest legal authority.

Additional details of the attack on Missunde give the following particulars:—

The loss of the Danes in the attack on Missunde was from 150 to 200 men. The Prussian loss is variously estimated at from 150 to 300 killed and wounded. Some accounts say that the Prussian loss was much greater than this. On the afternoon of the 3rd inst. the Austrians attacked Bistorf, one mile south of Schleswig, There was sharp firing until after dark, but the Danes held their own, losing however one field piece and having a few wounded. Another attack was expected on the 4th inst. An attack on Frederichstadt was also expected to take place on the 4th instant.

Marshal Wrangel has issued a proclamation to the Schleswigers, saying that the civil commissioners of Austria and Prussia will assume the administration of the Duchy of Schleswig only, and not as had been stated, of Schleswig and Holstein. The London *Times* says that the British government a few days since, made to the two German powers proposition which deprived them them of every possible ground for hostilities. England offered to guarantee the fulfilment of the required conditions, and to embody German principles as to the government of Schleswig Hostein in the protocol to be signed by the signers of the treaty of 1852, when, therefore, the troops of the two German powers passed the Eider, those governments know that all they had demanded had been conceded, and not only conceded, but guaranteed by a first-rate power, which had been the chief adviser of Denmark, and possessed the power of enforcing its own opinion. Can it then be said that the war on which they have entered is either than useless carnage, but with the antagonism between the Dane and German, heated by mutual slaughter, we have little hope that moderate counsels will be listened to by either side.

The proceedings on the 3rd inst., against Schleswig are reported as follows in an official bulletin, from the Prussian headquarters;—

The Austrian vanguard, led by General Von Gablenz in person, with the vanguard of the Prussian Guards, advanced against Schleswig. At the third charge with the bayonet the allies repulsed the Danes posted between Letterf and Gottorf, and stormed Konegsberg and Oberselk. The attacking force captured a rifled gun and penetrated onward till beneath the fire of the cannon arming the Danewerke. The losses are inconsiderable. Another account asserts that the German loss was very great. The attack was renewed on the 4th inst., without making much impression on the Danish lines. One grenade fell into the town of Schleswig, but the town itself was barricaded against a *coup de main*. The King of Denmark had left Schleswig, and arrived at Sonderberg. The loss of the Austrians in the storming of Jage is stated at four hundred, including many officers. A false guide conducted the Prussians against the Austrians, and they fired upon each other. Duke Fredrick has been proclaimed at Eckenforde and Schwadgen in Schleswig. The Austrian Reichrath had expressed its sympathy for the army in Schleswig and granted an extraordinary credit of four millions of florins. Breadstuffs dull and tend downwards.

NEWS ITEMS.

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