

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Vice-Admiralty Court at Halifax has condemned, as forfeited, the American fishing schooners *A. J. Franklin* and *A. H. Wansell*, arrested for violating the law.

The Bey of Tunis, apparently alarmed at the firm and ever warlike attitude of Italy, has sent an envoy to Florence with instructions to settle the questions in dispute. Hessian Bey is the personage charged with this duty.

Royal honors and a body guard have been assigned to Pius XI. by the Italian Chamber of Deputies, but it is not certain that His Holiness will accept such favours and compliments from the Legislatures of the kingdom aggrandized at his expense as a temporal sovereign. The Chamber has also adopted a bill providing for the establishment of a fund for the support of his Holiness.

Judging from the reports from Washington and New York there is a general feeling of satisfaction in the States at the prospect of a settlement of the difficulties with England, and the President has been successful in his choice of Commissioners, as the names mentioned are approved by the public and by the Senate. The *London Times*, in commenting upon that portion of the Queen's speech, having reference to the Joint High Commission, believes that the *Alabama* claims will mainly engage the attention of the Commission, though it is apparently secondary to the fisheries; but asserts that the Commission will not lead to the abandonment of England's position, or admission of liability with respect to the *Alabama* claims. The *Standard* thinks it would have been more interesting if the basis upon which the Commission is to work had been made public.

The proceedings in the House of Lords on Tuesday, after Her Majesty's speech had been read, were merely of a formal character. In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone gave notice of a bill altering religious tests, and Mr. Cardwell, of a measure for re-organizing the army. Major Hamilton and Mr. Samuel Morley moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. As was expected, Mr. D'Israeli at once addressed himself to the task of severely criticising the foreign policy of the Government, especially in connection with the Franco-Prussian war, which, he believed England could have prevented had the Government adopted a more decided course. He had equal blame for the conduct of the Government in dealing with the Black Sea question; and urged forbearance and contempt as the treatment for Senator Sumner and others in the United States, but hoped all difficulties between the two countries would be amicably settled. In view of all the circumstances connected with England's foreign relations he expressed his approval of the proposition to increase the military forces of the country. Mr. Gladstone re-

plied to Mr. D'Israeli's adverse criticisms, and defended the policy of the Government. Non intervention he considered the best and wisest course for England in foreign affairs; and he recommended the observance of neutral rights and obligations and the study of domestic questions. The House agreed to the address, and adjourned.

The bankers of Paris are said to be fully provided with means to loan the city the two hundred millions of francs needed for the payment of its war contributions. The French have proposed a prolongation of the armistice. Favre is expected at Versailles. The Emperor will go to Berlin at the beginning of March to open the sessions of the Reichstag.

The Versailles correspondent of the *London Times* telegraphs that a portion of the Paris contribution has been paid, viz: £2,000,000 in bills on London; £100,000 in notes of the Bank of France, and £1,000,000 in specie.

It is said Paris is tranquil; the disarmament is proceeding and is nearly completed. If peace is made on fair terms it is probable the Germans will not enter Paris, but the 24th is considered the probable day of entry in case one is decided upon. It is also said a second ballot will be required in Paris to determine the election of Favre. Ulrich, Foulville, Faidherbe, Cochon, and Gambien, who have not obtained the requisite majorities.

It is reported that everything has been arranged at Bordeaux. A committee to negotiate the treaty of peace has been selected and the draft of the treaty has been approved by Bismarck and Moltke. The treaty is to be signed immediately, and the German troops will then march through Paris to the Strasburg station and there take the train for home. Trains will follow each other as rapidly as possible. The Assembly will then adjourn to Paris and proceed with the reorganization of France.

The departments not occupied by the Germans are said to be ravaged by bands of Franc-tireurs, who are pillaging travellers and houses. Terror reigns in those departments.

Discreditable revelations are making concerning the Provisional Government. It is said that members hold immense sums made out of contracts, that they secretly disposed of the stores of provisions, and that in the Hotel de Ville 43,000 bottles of wine were drunk. Provisions are pouring in and prices are low.

A special from Versailles to the *New York Worlds* says: A strong belief prevails at the Prussian headquarters that the French Assembly will frame a Provisional Government with the Count de Paris as President, and provide for a future plebiscite on the question of the restoration of the Orleanists or the establishment of a Republic. The Duke d'Aumal has less chance than his nephew. At a caucus held on the evening of the 15th at Bordeaux, composed of a majority of

delegates, it was concluded to establish a Provisional Government with Thiers as President Favre as Premier, and the Duke de Cases as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The other members are to be Simon, Ricord, Buffet and Barthay. On the conclusion of peace their convention will adjourn to Paris, and will submit the future form of Government. It is stated that a settled purpose is manifest among the deputies now here to accomplish two things, viz., the overthrow of violent republicans and the removal of the future seat of Government from Paris, in order that the country will be no longer at the mercy of the mobs of the capital. They are making earnest appeals and violent speeches among the people, but unmeaning cries for a prolongation of the war and no surrender have lost their force. The conservatives are quiet and confident. There is a strong under current in favor of the Orleanists.

The *London Times* of the 14th inst. says: The private engagements of Sir John Rose prevent his acceptance of his position as a member of the High Commission for the adjustment of all questions at issue with the United States, and that it has been tendered to Sir Stafford Northcote. The latter has accepted it and will sail during the present week for the United States. Sir Stafford is probably more intimately acquainted with all the considerations arising out of the *Alabama* claims than any other person who could have been selected for the position.

In the House of Lords, on the 15th, the Earl of Granville said that the High Commission which was about to meet in Washington is without power to settle the question of the fisheries, but it is only authorized to frame a plan of adjustment, on which the decision of the members is to be unanimous, for submission to their respective Governments.

Mr. Gladstone made some further explanations on Thursday in regard to the Anglo-American Commission. He said it was empowered to discuss amicably all differences. Any difficulties arising were to be referred to the Home Government by cable, and instructions would be returned the same way.

In the Royal Artillery it appears to be almost settled, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, that the first captains are to be converted into majors, a reduction being made at the same time in the proportion of regimental lieutenant colonels, which are now considerably in excess of the actual requirements of the service. There can be no doubt of the propriety of this change, the command of a field battery being at least equal in responsibility to that of the functions performed by a major of either cavalry or infantry. When this change is carried out it may be presumed that the grade of lieutenant-colonel on major's pay will be abolished. A similar change will, of course, be made at the same time in the corps of Royal Engineers, in which the grade of first captain is perhaps even more inappropriate to the duties to be performed than in the artillery. In each regiment the present second captains will then be styled simply captains.