From Papers by the last English Mail.

RONGE, THE GERMAN REFORMER.

(From the Brighton Herald.)

In an apology (Rectfertigung) published at Jena, 1845, the following statements occur:—

"John Ronge was born 16th Oct. 1813, at Bischofswalde, in the circle of Neisse, not far from the southern chain of mountains. From the age of six until twelve years his principal occupation consisted in keeping his father's sheep in spring, summer, and autumn, and in winter he worked upon the land.

'He was taught in the village school reading, writing, arithmetic, the Catechism, and Biblical history. He studied with himself the latter when tending his flock. In his solitary shepherd's life he would muse on the momentous concerns of the next world, time and eternity. These thoughts affected him with anxiety. In the year 1827 he entered the Gymnasium at Neisse, and quitted it in 1836:—where he had declined the study of the classics for the more attractive pursuit of German literature and history.

'He then commenced a course of university education at Breslau; and was resolved to make the most of his time in the study of theology,—to which his own inclination and the advice of friends inclined him; and his father had left him the choice of his profession.

'In the December of the year 1839, he matriculated. He describes his initiation into the clerical ordeal as painful, and gives a gloomy account of the process under which Romanish clergymen are trained, and the means adopted to make them the passive and miserable dupes of an anti scriptural system. The ceremonies of the Latin service and tedious prayers (Lippengebete) occupied from five to six hours every day, exclusive of the Breviary Devotions (Brevier gebets)—*five hours of daily prayer,*' (he says,) *and such prayer!* for youths of twenty-four years, destined to be the salt of the earth! He passed sleepless nights ruminating on his moral weakness to perform the incumbent religious tasks, 'and he caught at every glimmering hope of being set free from the cruel trammels. He left the seminary in the year 1840.

'He utters the following warning to the world.—(Mahnung.) "Oh! I beseech you that are German fathers and mothers to suffer none of your sons to be immured in this grace of moral liberty. The mothers in Germany once preferred to see their children die than to become the slaves of ancient Rome.—But the yoke is not so easily perceived now, because it is concealed under the imposing name of religion."

Glad was he to escape from this imprisonment into the free air, and enjoy the sun in the blue heavens above his head. Yet he felt his spirit to be morally enslaved. He hastened home, and he hoped upon his native hills to get rid of the burden which oppressed his bosom. In the society of his family he looked for change and consolation. But his pressing reception failed to completely satisfy him in consequence of the following incident:—An old man, who had been intimate and dear to him from childhood, stepped in. He extended to him his hand, and thought 'he will take it of me and press it to his lips.' But the venerable man looked with shyness and suspicion at him,—just as if he had looked on a supernatural being. 'Oh!—I am no mighty creature, indeed,' thought he, "but one just tutored and trained to deceive my fellow-citizens; like a victim dressed out to conduct the ceremonious services of the church." He desired to accept the care of souls, and ascend the pulpit, and conduct school; and depart [illegible] whether he had been invited i[illegible] and here it was that he first seriously [illegible] to question and suspect the verity and worth of the Romish system, and to count the cost of confessing his sentiments.

His confession runs as follows:—As a Papal priest I venture to think, and write only as is defined by Hierarchic canons or allowed by my superiors. Let me think, speak, and write more, or differently, then must I be denounced for an heretic and most vile offender. As a Romish clergyman, I have no freedom of thought or conscience: as such, I have no privileges whatever: if opposed by my superiors: I must blindly submit.

He began to withdraw confidence from his fellow-ministers; with his university friends the former intimacy no longer continued. He felt himself to be degraded by participating in the Romish rites. 'When I bowed before the Altar (he thought) with the credulous congregation before me, and I cast a view within myself, I felt an insupportable uneasiness, and my first thought in the morning reproached me for continuing to wear the fetters of an useless superstition.'

'In a little tract, entitled 'The Life and Acts of John Czerski,' (Leben and Werken) this passage stands in the 15th page. 'About this time, the fearless Ronge raised himself up in the bosom of the Catholic Church. His life was devoted to earnest labor in drawing hearers to the light of truth from the pretended sanctity of the seamless coat of Treves. Instantly he commended open opposition against the Hierarchy and the barefaced doings of the Ultra-montanists.'

In the Cathedral City of Treves, there was a coat which the idolatrous clergy (Baalspruster) exhibited for public adoration, though it never had been proved to be the real garment of Christ, but only asserted. Not mere reverence for it was exacted; no;—they made the populace to address it thus:—*Holy coat! pray for us. Holy coat! before thee I bow myself!*

In this state of things, Johannes Ronge published his 'Call' (Zuruf) to a new Reformation, and has preached freedom of opinion from all lay and clerical domination. The Pope, the Bishops and State, are not to govern the German mind. His addresses to the people, to Catholic schoolmasters, to the inferior Catholic clergy, are reprinted everywhere, and sold for a few pence, and their circulation is very extensive.

Education has been silently doing its work in Germany, and a thoughtful population is on the point of throwing off the yoke of priestly tyranny. Some in England would fix it upon our shoulders again, and throw us back into the shadow of *tradition and our ancestors*, while Germany is emerging into the day of freedom and progress. In proof we make the following statement, and refer to a list of articles agreed upon at Schneidemuhl, 1845, between John Czerski and John Ronge, the two chief leaders in the present religious reformation, viz., that it is antiscriptural (unbiblish) to give but one of the elements in the Lord's supper to the laity.—The canonization of saints is an error. It is false to say that the invocation of saints obtain the grace and favour of the Almighty. The saints cannot forgive men their sins; fasts are not commanded;—masses and vespers in Latin should not be continued; celibacy is repugnant to Revelation and nature. Christ is not to be represented on earth by a visible man, viz. the Pope. These errors are renounced; what they shall substitute in their place, they reserve for the subject of future deliberation. A council is to be held at Franfort-on-the-Main, and a synod annually, to manage the new assembly affairs. M. Ronge, seems indeed, to have been chosen by Providence for carrying into execution the great project which was entertained in the eleventh century by Berengarius and Arnulph, Bishop of Orleans, but which was stifled in its birth by the Hierarchy of that day.

May Luther's hymn and Ronge's success agree together.

Ein feste Burgist unser Gott,
A strong Citadel is our God.

FRANCE.—In some provinces great alarm exists with respect to a deficiency in the supply of food; and in Bretagne disturbances have taken place to prevent the removal of corn to the south of France, where the harvest has partially failed.—With the view of allaying the alarm the Minister of Commerce has addressed a circular to the Prefects of Departments, stating that the last harvest indeed was not so abundant as the harvests of 1843 and 1844, but it was more abundant than in 1839, and that it was sufficient for the country: 26 departments having produced more corn, &c., than they need, 28 having produced enough, and 32 being deficient.

The Duc d'Aumale, one of the King's sons, has been presented with a little boy by his wife. The child has been solemnly nicknamed by the *Moniteur*, a 'high and puissant prince,' and Louis Phillippe has created him Prince de Conde. The title of Conde is one of the ancient dynasty, and it was from the last of the name that the Duc d'Aumale derives his immense possessions.

Algiers appears to be increasing in mercantile importance. In 1831 the navigation between it and France was 214 vessels, of 38,976 tons; in 1844 it was 1572 vessels, and 160,413 tons—the far greater portion being French. In 1836 the value of the commerce was 20,000,000 francs, in 1842 it was 87,000,000, of which 53 millions were with the mother country, and in 1844 it was 79,000,000.

The Chambers are convoked by royal ordinance for the 27th December. There will be some grave questions to discuss—Algiers, Morocco, railways, and the everlasting Tahiti. It is impossible to say whether the Ministry will or will not weather through the session. The chances perhaps are that it will, if no unforseen obstacles should arise.

From an article in the 'Journal des Debats, it appears that the French Government has no intention of taking the Island of Chusan at the present, or any other part of China. Indeed, it seems that the late embassy of France was not so much for promoting existing commercial interests, as for laying a foundation for interests that may arise hereafter. The Journal des Debats particularly glorifies the French for having obtained a removal of the edicts against Christian missionaries.

A commercial crisis is just now weighing upon this city. On the Stock Exchang everything has declined fearfully—especially railway shares, which in two months have fallen from £5 to £10 and seem disposed to fall still lower.

His Highness Ibrahim Pacha landed at Toulon on the 27th ult., and was received with all the honors due to his rank; Admiral Baudin, the Maritime Prefect, the Major General of the Marine, and all the military and civil authorities being present.

MADAGASCAR.—The following intelligence, which is extracted from a Bourbon paper, was received by the last arrival, and has been transmitted by Capt. Pinnid, commander of the French brig Sans Souci. The brig Sans Souci sailed from Bourbon on the 24th July, for Fort Dauphin (Madagascar,) and anchored on the 6th August, after having met with very bad weather. On their arrival, the captain and supercargo went on shore, where they were met by one of the Hova chiefs, who told them that, having received from the queen a formal order, under pain of death not to allow the exportation of any merchandize of any kind, they were only wasting their time if they expected they could get a cargo. Water and fresh provisions were equally refused. The next day Capt. Pinnid was getting ready to weigh, when a signal was made that a vessel was in sight. This induced him to stay. In the evening, a Dutch ship of about 1,200 tons, the Prince Henry, Captain Feyfer, came to anchor. The Dutch captain, and the supercargo of the ship, M. Leguevel de Lacombe, who at first called himself by another name, appeared annoyed at finding the Sans Souci in the harbor.—They stated that they came in for provisions; but it was evident that some mystery was lurking under their voyage, as the arrangements on board indicated a longer stay than that of a vessel merely calling in for provisions. The next day the boat of the Sans Souci, manned by six men, disappeared. It has been asserted that she was sunk by the Hovas; but all attempts to find the men, or hear of their fate, have been fruitless. Shortly after the supercargo of the Sans Souci received a letter from Capt. Pinnid, informing him that he was detained a prisoner, and 40 dollars demanded for his ransom. All protest was vain: the money was therefore paid and the captain released. In the meantime, a certain quantity of gunpowder was landed from the Dutch ship, and guns fired by the Hovas as a token of rejoicing. While this was going on, an officer from the Dutch ship came on board, and told us that his vessel was loaded with powder and ammunitions of war, that they had on board guns, engineers, smiths, &c. That they were bound to Fort Dauphin, Manouran, and Tamatave, and were to be followed by two other vessels, consigned to and under the immediate and sole control of M. de Locombe, the supercargo of the Prince Henry. He stated further that they came from the Mauritius. On the 12th, the Sans Souci weighed anchor. Shortly after two vessels hove in sight, probably those expected at Fort Dauphin.

EXTRAORDINARY FEAT.—The long expected match made by Mr. Bragg, the proprietor of the North Star Inn, at Slough with a sporting character at Windsor, for a considerable amount, to produce a man, within the present year, who would run eleven miles within an hour, came off on the 26th ult., on the turnpike road, near the King's Head, at Bedfont, between Staines and Hounslow. The person who was named by Mr. Bragg to perform this extraordinary feat was a celebrated runner named Maxfield, known as the 'North Star,' who, in May last, accomplished twenty miles in one hour, fifty-eight minutes and thirty seconds. On the 26th ult., the match was performed over one mile of ground, in which, of course, there were no less than ten turns. This was considered to be rather to the disadvantage of the runner. The start took place between three and four o'clock. The result was, that the 'North Star' gallantly won the match, but with only seventeen seconds to spare.

THE BOOTY TAKEN IN SCINDE.—We understand that a grant has been made to the captors of the booty taken in Scindo by the troops under Major General Sir Charles Napier in February and March, 1843. The amount of bullion and treasure is stated at upwards of £400,000.—what the value of jewels, &c. may be is not known, but they will probably realize £100,000. so that no less than half a million sterling will fall to be divided among the captors. To the troops who were stationed in Scinde at the time of the battles Meanee and Hyderabad, but who were not actually present at those battles, a specific portion (we believe an sixth) is allotted. The residue is given to the forces engaged in the battles after deducting what they have already received under the head of extra batta on this account. The stamp duty paid into the Bank of England on account of the bullion and treasure amounts to upwards of £21,000.—*Allen's Indian Mail.*

A patent has been taken by Mr. R. Orton, for a new life boat, which the inventor exhibited and explained to the merchants and ship owners of Sunderland on Friday. It is approved of highly. At each end and along the sides and thwarts it is supplied with air cases enclosed in wood or formed of metal. If upset the boat is so constructed that the crew composed of eight men run no risk of perishing, as it is so arranged that a grating in the bottom admits air to those beneath. Her buoyancy is so great that she is capable of keeping 300 men afloat while clinging to her.

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THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 2, 1846.

By the arrival of the *Robert Rankin* from Boston, we are put in possession of latest American papers and news from Congress, where discussions on the Oregon question appears yet to occupy a considerable portion of the time. In the Senate on the 23d Mr. Levy submitted the following Resolution:

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Senate it is advisable for the President to open negociations with the government of Spain for the cession to the United States of the island of Cuba—the inhabitants of said island consenting thereto."

In the House of Representatives a Bill has been reported to "protect the rights of American settlers in the territory of Oregon, until the termination of the joint occupation of the same." The provisions of this Bill embrace *all the territory* west of the Rocky mountains between the 42d and 54. 40 north latitude. It provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace, grants of land to all settlers, the erection of military forts, the equipment of two regiments of cavalry, the establishment of a mail route, and finally advises the President to give the one year's notice to Great Britain, required by the treaty between that country and the United States signed at London, and also all the treaty stipulation for the joint occupation of the Oregon territory. Some of the New York papers are of opinion that the passing of such an Act would be tantamount to a declaration of war.—Really Jonathan you are progressing famously, and with admirable boldness:—The whole of the Oregon is to be yours—negociations are to be opened for the island of Cuba.—and by the following article in the New York *Herald*, California also is to be added to the *free* and *benighted!*

"But there are other and stronger points, not immediately connected with this negotiation, that may have a great influence on the temper and disposition of the British government, and not on that government alone, but on that of France, and others beside. We allude to the new negotiations which have been re-opened between the United States and Mexico, embracing, as they undoubtedly do, the purchase of Upper California, and the frontier of the Rio del Norte for Texas.—The fact of such a movement on the part of the United States, will alarm the fears and jealousies of England to such an extent as to interfere materially with the settlement of the Oregon question, and those moderate compromises which might otherwise have been expected,"

"Since the promulgation of the message, we learn that Mr. Parrot, a confidential agent of the government, has recently been despatched to Mexico, with full and explicit directions to open negotiations for the purchase of Upper California, and for the accomplishing a new boundary between the United States and Mexico, to run by the Rio del Norte on the East, and the Gila on the West, to the Pacific ocean."

On the opposite side of all this, it is confidently stated in the American papers that news favourable to peace was received by last packet, and that Mr Pakenham had been instructed to renew the negociations on the Oregon question. It will be fortunate for the Americans if they succeed in arranging the dispute with Mr. P., as the receipt of Polk's Message in England will be an almost insurmountable obstacle to any further compromise.

LATER.—The New York *Morning News* states that the negotiation on the Oregon question had been resumed in London by Mr. McLane and Lord Aberdeen, on the basis of the 49th degree, and has been settled.

THE NATIONAL DEFENCES.

UNITED STATES SENATE—Dec. 14.

The following resolutions, submitted by Mr. Cass on a former day, were taken up for consideration.

Resolved that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the national fortifications, and their armaments, and whether other defensive works are necessary: and into the condition and quantity of the military supplies; and into the state of the means possessed by the government for the defence of the country.

Resolved, That the committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the present condition of that great branch of the public service, and into the state of the militia laws; and that they be further instructed to report such changes in the existing system as will give more experience and efficiency to that arm of defence, and will place it in the best condition for defending the country should it be exposed to foreign invasion.

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the navy of the United States, and into the quantity and condition of the supplies on hand, and whether an increase of them is not necessary to the efficient operations of the navy, and to its preservation and augmentation; and generally into its capacity for defending our coast and our commerce, and to any services the exigencies of the country may probably require.

The resolutions having been read—

Mr. Cass rose and addressed the Senate. Is it possible, said he, to read the Message of the President of the United States to Congress, and to witness the indications of public opinion which are disclosed about us, without being aware that a crisis rapidly approaches; that the present state of the intercourse between this country and great Britain demands serious consideration, and may demand a cordial co-operation in action on the part of congress and the whole nation? The President has told us that the negotiations have arrived at, if not a close, at all events, a position which is about tantamount to a close. The claims of the two nations he finds utterly irreconcilable, and a relinquishment of claim to some extent on the part of one or both countries, or the intervention of a mediating power seem now to be the alternatives which can avert the most disastrous event, a state of war.

This Government had already declined to submit the matter to arbitration; it was a course which might with propriety be adopted by independent nations, under equal circumstances, but unfortunately in our controversy with England; those equal circumstances did not exist. It was obvious that an umpire would have to be taken from one of the associate monarchies of Europe, and we might well hesitate to leave the decision in such hands. It would be thought, be better to hold fast our rights, than by submitting them to a doubtful arbitration, risk their loss. War was a great calamity, and should if possible be avoided; but there were calamities more to be dreaded than war, and among these calamities was national dishonour. He did not rise for the purpose of discussing our right to Oregon; that was a subject which would come up in its proper place, and at a proper time. He was aware that a great diversity of opinion existed as to the extent of our claims, and, for himself, he would embrace the opportunity of expressing his cordial and entire adhesion to the views expressed by the President in his message to Congress in relation to this matter.

It must be pretty evident to all who examine the subject that the pretensions of the two nations are utterly irreconcilable. The most liberal offer as yet made by England fell far below our most moderate claim; and under these circumstances said Mr. C., what are we to do? Shall we recede? No, sir: as to receding, it is a thing not to be thought of for a moment. It is a thing which I allude to only to denounce it; and in this denunciation I am sure that I shall be joined by every true hearted American. Nothing is to be gained by pusillanimity.

He who would be content to attain a present advantage at the expense of future honour and disgrace, but sows the whirlwind and reaps the storm. I will, continued Mr. C., here repeat a maxim which cannot be too deeply impressed upon our minds viz. that it is better to fight for the first inch than for acres than for acres afterwards; better to fight for the door-sill than the hearth stone: to maintain our national character unblemished, is of greater consequence than the acquisition of wealth or extended possessions; it is this which possesses a moral influence in the hour of danger which is beyond all price. I repeat it, upon this question we cannot recede.—Our destiny is onward. You might as well attempt to chain the waves of the Pacific as to arrest the progress of this nation. There is a tide of emigration now finding its way—making for itself a channel through the barriers of the Rocky Mountains, which must inundate every portion of the vast territory lying beyond them. A vigorous and happy population are spreading themselves abroad in that region, and they demand the protection of this Government. Shall they not have it? Shall they not have the benefit of our laws and institutions extended them? Only last week memorials were laid upon your table asking for your protection; and do you think that, if their application is disregarded, they will no longer continue to seek your favour or conciliate your regard? No sir: the possessions they have acquired they will hold by the bayonet. They will not tamely sit still and await your tardy movements. The great principles of mutual protection and allegiance, if not adhered to by you in favour of that adventurous people, a portion of your own citizens, you dishearten them, and they become a prey to foreign diplomatic chicanery. What is inspires the hearts of those who have found a home in that distant region, if not the prospect of enjoying the blessings of civil and religious liberty under the fostering care of this Government? It is impossible that this state of things should continue, for it seems to me utterly impossible that a community having the same interests and occupying the same territory can hold a divided allegiance, and be governed by two distinct and separate sovereignties. Are their claims to be disregarded by us altogether? Have they not rights to be enforced and wrongs to be redressed? How is either the one or the other to be done amid conflicting authorities constituted within the same limits? Possessory titles to lands might be held to be good in favour of the party last getting possession. How can justice be obtained by going into a court composed of the very party from whom redress or restitution is sought? England herself is invulnerable; the arrows of justice cannot even reach her steel. Touch but her rights in the minutest particular, and her national sympathies and prejudices are aroused, and she is prepared to resist to the utmost. Shall we be less tenacious of our rights? We are warned by the infirmities of human nature to trust our cause to none but ourselves. If, then, we cannot with a due regard to national honour retrace our steps and as England has placed herself in our path, what course is before us? I have no hesitation in saying, if England adheres to her last proposition, and refuses to relinquish it, it is tantamount to a declaration of war. I hope, nay, I say rather, I wish that England would awaken to a sense of her injustice, and yield when she can yield honourably. But will she do so? It is safest to believe she will not; and this dictate of caution is fortified by the whole tenor of her conduct. When did she ever relinquish a hold that she had once gained?—The course taken by the two great leaders of her administration may be regarded as a pretty sure index of what may be expected from her policy.

[Mr. Cass here quoted from the London Morning Chronicle a portion of the Debate which occured in the House of Commons, April 5, 1845, in relation to the proposed annexation of Texas to the United States.]

Here, said Mr. C., is the leader of the Whig party in the British House of Commons denouncing the annexation of Texas to this country, because it tends to territorial aggrandisement; and all this cant about British moderation and philanthropy is believed in by the credulous and the infatuated, but let them not suppose it is believed by us. The timely and wholesome rebuke administered to Mexico, might with equal propriety be administered to England. The moderation of England! Such a colossal power as England has built up the world has never seen. Her fortifications gird the earth and her ships cover the sea. I have procured from the Librarian a few statistics of England's power and greatness. She holds sway over 153,000,000 of people! A little narrow island on the western coast of Europe gives laws to one fifth of the whole human race. She holds sovereignty over three millions eight hundred and twelve thousand square miles, one eight of the whole globe. And in the whole course of her acquisitions, from the subjugation of Ireland downwards, it has always been by force of arms. There has never been an instance, so far as I remember, where an independant people subjected themselves willingly to her domination or control; never an instance where a people or the fragment of a people united with her out of reverence or regard to her institutions. I have no pleasure in national recrimination, but we cannot, if we would, shut our eyes to these truths. They have made a lasting impression on my mind, and I am but little disposed to yield to pretensions urged as she urges them. And she charges that we, too, are ambitious. Why we have made but three accessions and they were all of them, conterminous regions with our own. And now, when in process of the accomplishment of a junction consummated by the voluntary act of a free people that nation, so celebrated for its self assumed moderation, interposes in words, if not deeds, and bestows upon us the utmost vilification. While I would sacredly regard the rights of other nations, I would extend the benefits of our laws and institutions over all who claim our protection; for I have no fear that an extension of territory will weaken our government. It has a life preserving principle within itself; in the control which the whole body of the people have over the government—a better security than fleets and armies—And if this administration would crown its labors—and in all it has yet done it has acted with equal ability and success—let it secure the peaceful annexation of Oregon and California, and it will have secured to itself the lasting gratitude of the country.

[Mr. Cass again referred to some passages in the English newspapers, expressive of the feeling entertained by the leading men of that nation towards the United States.

Under these imposing circumstances, (continued Mr. C.) we may well ask the watchman 'What of the night?' What are we to do? I take it for granted that we will give notice of the termination of joint occupancy, according to the recommendation of the President, (for I cannot suppose the people of Oregon are to be left without protection,) and if we do there will be war. And it will not be a trifling war, but a war of extermination. The danger cannot be averted by indifference. It is better to look a difficulty in the face, by making the adequate preparations, showing to England and the world the spectacle of an undivided people. One war has already found us unprepared, and reflect for a moment what that condition of things cost the country in blood and treasure. Our preparation should be vigorous, prompt and efficient. The President has discharged his duty ably and fearlessly; let us now discharge ours. It is my firm conviction, and I do not hesitate thus publicly to express it, that the surest if not the only means of avoiding a war is to be united in the determination to carry it on, if it does come, with all the energies that God has given us. Our country is extensive and populous; we have a spacious frontier exposed, unfortified and ungarrisoned, with a very diminutive navy which ought, especially the steam portion of it, to be in a better condition with all practicable speed. The preparations require time, but the patriotism of the American people is always awake, and prepared in a single instant to repel agression and to resent injury—ready to demonstrate to the whole world that republicans are jealous of their interests and determined to support and maintain them.

Mr. Mangum said that he regretted exceedingly that the honourable senator from Michigan thought it his duty to bring forward these resolutions at this time; and he still more profoundly regretted the remarks which the senator had thought proper to use. The honourable senator had expressed his entire confidence in the wisdom and discretion of the Executive, and his own perfect coincidence of sentiment.

Mr. Cass disclaimed having used any such expression.

Mr. Mangum said he was not a little surprised that a gentleman who felt so strong a confidence then, in the executive, should have found it necessary to move the adoption, by this body of resolutions of this description at a time like the present.

Mr. Allen followed supporting General Cass, and adopting his sentiments.

[On the following day the question was taken by yeas and nays, and decided unanimously in the affirmative.]

[*From the New-York Courier and Enquirer*]

The Report of the Secretary of War has been received. As we shall publish it at length as soon as our space will allow, we shall present this morning simply a summary of its most important statements and suggestions:—

There are in the Army 14 regiments, 2 of dragoons, 4 of artillery and 8 of infantry. The number of non-commissioned officers and privates authorized by law is 7,500:—the actual available force does not exceed 6,500. On the whole Northern frontier there is but a single regiment.—Along the Western and Southwestern frontiers there are only one regiment of dragoons and two of infantry. The residue of the army is in Texas.

A brief outline is given of the causes which led to this disposition of our troops, and the Secretary says that—

"Should Mexico deny our right to possess the country up to the Rio del Norte, to the extent justly claimed by Texas before annexation, and the free common use of the waters of that river, it is presumed that authority will be given to enforce it in both respects. In the event of resistance, there may be occasion to employ an additional force; and authority should be given for raising it, in that contingency."

The presence on the borders of Texas of large bodies of Indians will require a strong force to be stationed there. The establishment of a chain of military posts to Oregon is urged and confidently expected. The withdrawal of our troops from many important points, made necessary by the state of affairs in Texas, has made necessary a decided increase of our military establishment. The present army consists of 14 regiments of 10 companies each: the infantry and artillery companies have 42 privates each, and those of the dragoons 50. The Secretary recommends an increase of the rank and file,—in each company to 80. A regiment of mounted riflemen is asked. It is only, he says, "in view of a probability that a force considerably larger than a permanent peace establishment might be soon required, that he would prefer to increase the army by raising new regiments." He urges the organization of a corps of sappers and miners, comprising say 100 enlisted men.

The estimates for arming fortifications, are increased $100,000. The account of property committed to the custody of the War Department, is 17,000,000. Repairs are needed at the armories. A foundry for cannon, and a depot for gunpowder are recommended. Changes in the mineral lands are advised and a special report on this subject is promised. During the year the engineer officers have been occupied upon 48 posts, 40 of which are now ready to receive their full armament. New fortifications have been commenced. The purchase of a site for fortifications on Staten Island, is recommended, and also a new work on Sandy Hook. Works at several other points are also urged. The West Point Academy is said to be prosperous.

PRICE OF HUMAN FLESH.—We cut the following paragraph from the *River State Review*, published not in the dominions of the Grand Sultan, or in any other heathen country, but in Marion, Alabama.—Since we are to have Texas, it is well, perhaps, that we should become familiar before hand with the statistics of a traffic which must hereafter hold a prominent rank in the commerce of the country. O Democracy! where is thy blush? 'Negroes sold last day at the Court House rather high it seems to us for buyers and times, but most assuredly not too high for those compeled to part with them. Fellows brought near $600, average; one brought as high as $632. Women sold for from $300 to $610, one only bringing the later sum. Girls about 14 years old sold from $375 to $400. Some families sold in proportion much less.

A DELEGATE FROM OREGON.—Dr. White, whose recent and rapid journey from Oregon to the United States, was some time since announced, is now in Washington, and is understood to be urging his claims to a seat in Congress, as the delegate of that distant territory. He has brought with him a petition from the inhabitants, asking the extension of our laws over them and credentials from the provincial legislature.—*Boston Evening Gazette.*

From Turks Island.—The Turks Island Gazette, of the 14th ult., says:—"Our market is at present in great want of provisions and breadstuffs—scarce a pound of butter, lard, pork, cheese, rice, &c., is to be had. On the 10th ult., superfine flour is quoted in the Assessor's Tariff at $9 per bbl."

We learn from Capt. Dyer of the Eagle, arrived yesterday from Baracoa, that it was reported before he sailed, an English brig of war had been seized by her crew, her officers murdered, and the brig turned into a pirate. We hope the report will prove incorrect.—*New York Herald.*

COLD WEATHER.—At Fredericton, on the morning of the 24th inst. the thermometer stood at 26 degrees below zero.—At Kingston, Upper Canada, on the 12th inst. the mercury stood at 22 degrees below zero, being the greatest degree of cold experienced in any part of Canada at so early a period of the season, for the last 15 years. At Montreal, 16 degrees below zero.—In various parts of the United States the weather has been unusually cold. At Franconia, New Hampshire, the mercury fell to 33 degrees below zero and the spirit thermometer to 28 below.—The Mississippi on the 10th inst. was frozen over at St. Louis; the steamers could not run on account of the ice and a want of fuel.

At St. John, on Wednesday morning last, the thermometer in some situations, stood at 14 to 16 degrees below zero.

OUR PUBLIC VEHICLES.—Within the past year, a most marked and pleasing improvement has taken place in the character of the Hackney Coaches, plying for hire, in our city. The old-fashioned, inconvenient, non-descript vehicles of former times, something between a Van and a Baker's Cart in appearance, have now mostly given way, to handsome, well-built and well-appointed Coaches, Cabs, &c.; which during the year now closing, (as long as wheel carriages could be used,) made a pleasing appearance on the stand, and afforded the most comfortable and excellent accommodation to those who patronized them. These remarks have been called forth, by a glance at the same Hackney Stand, as it is now occupied by the Winter Sleight Stages; and truly we may congratulate our fellow-citizens, at the very great improvement visible this season, in that class of public vehicles. A number of new Stages have been turned out, built on very superior principles, and on a far more elegant and commodious plan, than any ever before seen in our city; and our Hackney Sleighs may really now challenge general admiration, for their beauty, elegance, commodiousness and comfort. Their owners have evidently spared no expense this season, in producing a class of carriages for public utility, very greatly superior to any previously in use; and they therefore deserve corresponding patronage and compensation. As yet, we fear, their returns have been but small; as we too constantly perceive the long line of sleighs on the stand in King-street, stationary in undisturbed positions; while horses and drivers are shivering in the cold, from want of employment and exercise. We cordially hope, however, that as the season advances, a more brisk demand for their services will arise; and that the various necessities of visiting, pic nic associations, evening parties, assemblies, &c., will afford our Hackney Sleighs that liberal patronage which they now so well deserve.—*Observer.*

George R. Young, Esq., of Halifax, arrived in town from that city, on Tuesday last, on business connected with the Halifax and Quebec Railway. He left this city on Friday morning, for Boston, en route for Quebec.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE NIAGARA.—A project is on foot to erect a Suspension Bridge across the Niagara River, at a point between the Falls and the Whirlpool, which, it is said, is quite practicable. The cost of the work is estimated at about $120,000. A company has been formed, and committees appointed to apply to the Legislatures of Canada and the State of New York, for an Act of Incorporation, with a capital not exceeding $300,000 It is contemplated to make it sufficiently strong for the passage of a steam locomotive and a train of cars. James Buchanan, Esq. late British Consul at New York, was chairman of the meeting.

MORE STEAM!—We understand that a new Steamer is now building for Capt. John J. Akerley and others, to ply on the River Saint John, and that the enterprising owners contemplate having her propelled at the rate of *eighteen miles* an hour! Such a boat would soon become a favorite, as she would be a novelty in our waters. May success attend her.—*Courier.*

NEW VESSEL.—Arrived from Annapolis on Wednesday last, in tow of the steamer *Saxe Gotha*, a fine new copper-fastened Barque, for James Whitney, Esq., of this City, called "the "*Henrietta.*" She is one of the prettiest craft that has entered our harbour for a long time, and was built by Mr James Hardwick, of Annapolis.—*Ib.*

QUEBEC, December 15.

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.—A meeting of the General Committee, appointed by the public meeting held in this city on the 23rd October last, was held on Friday, in the Board of Trade Room. Hon. JOHN NEILSON in the Chair.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee of Correspondence had addressed circulars and letters to various parties in England and the North American Colonies, requesting information and co-operation in the great object; and the Secretary read letters from J. Robertson, Esquire, of St. John, N. B, and J. B. Uniacke, Esquire, of Halifax.

The Chairman laid before the Committee a draft of an Address to the inhabitants of Canada on the subject of the proposed Railway, which was adopted, and ordered to be translated into the French language.

It was resolved—That under present circumstances it is not expedient that the Quebec Committee should identify itself with any one of the proposed Lines of Railway between Quebec and Halifax—but that considering the work to be of permanent national importance, the direction of the Line ought to be fixed by Her Majesty's Government.

Notice was ordered to be given in the Canada Gazette, that the Committee, on behalf of all interested, would apply to the Legislature at the approaching Session for an Act to incorporate a Company for the construction of a Railway from Montreal to the boundary line of the Province of New Brunswick.—*Neilson's Gazette.*

NEW COUNTY OF ALBERT.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has determined that the Land at and Adjacent to the Ferry Point, in the Parish of Hopewell, shall be the site for the Public Buildings in the Shire Town, of the new County of Albert.

Provincial Appointments for the County of Albert.—John Smith and James Brewster, Esquires, to be Justices of the Common Pleas. John Smith, James Brewster, George Steves, Peter McLallan, Robert Scott, James Wallace, junior, and Elisha Peck, Esquires, to be Justices of the Peace. Thomas Gilbert, Esquire, to be High Sheriff. Samuel G. Morse, Esquire, to be Clerk of the Peace and Common Pleas, and Registrar of Probates. John Edgett, Esquire, to be Coroner. Martin Bent Palmer, Esquire, to be Surrogate Judge of Probates, and Issuer of Marriage Licences. George Calhoun, Esquire, to be Registrar of Deeds and Wills. Mr. Reuben Stiles, to be Deputy Surveyor, for the sale of Crown Lands.

By His Excellency's Command.
JOHN S. SAUNDERS.

Secretary's Office, 22d Dec., 1845.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.—The following amounts were collected in the respective Churches in this City, on Christmas day:

Trinity Church,	£40	14s.	9d.
St. John Chapel,	19	1	2
St. Luke's Church,	17	9	0
St. Paul's Chapel,			
St. Malachy's Church,	33	5	4½
St. Peter's Church,	15	3	7
Germain-Street (Wesleyan) Chapel,	23	14	9
Centenary (Wesleyan) Chapel,	9	7	8½

PASSENGERS FOR ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen have left this city since Saturday last, for Halifax, via Digby, and other routes, to embark in the Steamer *Acadia*, for Liverpool, on Saturday next, 3d January:—Hon. John Robertson, Messrs. William Parks, William Brown, Thomas E. Milledge, James Adams, William Davidson, Thomas Gilchrist, John Gillis, John Veasy, James Howard, and William Howard.—Several other gentlemen from this city went to England in the Steamer of the 19th inst. whose names were given in our last paper.

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