

is to be ready for sea in a few months; the *Téméraire*, 5600 tons, building at Chatham, and to be ready for launching in May; the *Nelson*, 4000 tons, the *Northampton*, of the same tonnage, both being built in the yard of Elder and Co. on the Clyde; and the *Shannon* on the stocks at Pembroke. The ships not yet begun are the *Ajax* and *Aga Memnon*, double screw turret ships, of four guns. A novelty to be introduced in them will be the filling of the lower watertight compartments with cork to prevent the inflow of water should they be stove in below the water line. As a new *Dreadnought* and a new *Ajax* are thus springing up, the old *Dreadnought*, so familiar an object for many years as hospital ship in the Thames, and the old *Ajax*, a seventy-four-gun-line-of-battle ship, are being broken up in Chatham Dockyard. Truly the old order passeth away, and giveth place to the new."

The foregoing from *Broad Arrow* shows that England yet has a navy, and that there is no intention of allowing it to fall into decay. A new feature has been introduced into the construction, one of those vessels about to be built, a contemporary says:

"The designs for the *Agamemnon*, 4, double screw, iron, armor-plated turret ship, 8,492 tons, 6,000 horse-power, are being prepared, and she will be commenced as soon as possible. This vessel and her sister ship the *Ajax* will carry heavy guns in revolving turrets behind armor of immense thickness. In order to provide against the *Agamemnon* sinking should a hole at any time be made in her below the water line, it has been decided to fill her water tight compartments with cork, so that there would be no room for such an inrush of water as that which caused the sinking of the *Vanguard*. She will be 250 ft. long between perpendiculars, with an extreme breadth of about 66 ft. Great efforts are being made to complete the *Inflexible*, a twin-screw, iron turret ship, armor-plated, 11,165 tons, 8,030 horse power, for launching in March. An improvement has been introduced in respect to the loading of her guns by hydraulic power. In the *Thunderer*, the muzzles of the guns have to be depressed to the deck below, which not only requires that there should be two distinct sets of ports, but renders the shot liable to shift after being rammed home. In the *Inflexible*, which is undergoing alterations on the other hand, the requisite protection is afforded while loading by undulating elevations of the upper deck itself out of the line of fire. After being discharged, the turret is rotated until the guns are brought under cover of the elevations, so that no alteration of level is necessary."

We copy from the New York *Herald* the following notice of the military career of the late General STISTED:—

"Lieutenant General Henry William Stisted, C.B., whose death in England was announced a few days since, was the first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, under the Dominion Government, and will be remembered by many of our citizens in connection with the inspection of some of the regular regiments quartered in New York. General Stisted was a very distinguished officer. His military career was principally in India, where he served with such distinction as to earn the honor of being made a Companion of the Bath. He entered the army as cornet in the cavalry on the 4th December, 1835, attained a lieutenant-colony in April, 1850, and a major-generalship on the 10th August, 1861. He served with the Queen's Royals,

under Lord Keane, and took part in the campaign in Afghanistan and Beloochistan and the Shuznee. He was wounded in the action at Shuznee, and obtained a medal. He afterwards served with the 78th Highlanders in the Persian war, and in 1857 commanded a brigade in the night attack and battle of Kooshan, for which he received the distinction C. B. He was also with the same regiment at the bombardment of Mohundra, and served with Havelock's column in 1857, being present in the action with the insurgents at Bithoor. He commanded a regiment in the several actions ending in the relief of Lucknow. He afterwards served with the 78th Highlanders in the Persian war, and in 1854 commanded a brigade in the night attack and battle of Kooshan, for which he received the distinction C. B. He was also with the same regiment at the bombardment of Mohundra, and served with Havelock's column in 1857, being present in the action with the insurgents in Bithoor. He commanded a regiment in the several actions ending in the relief of Lucknow. He afterwards succeeded to the command of the first brigade on the death of General Neil, and held it during the whole of the operations toward the defence of the Residency. He was for two months with Dutrain's force at Alumbagh, and participated in several attacks, ending in the final capture of Lucknow. Again he participated in the Rohilcund campaign in April, 1858, and commanded the second brigade at the capture of Bevelly, for which he received a medal with two clasps and a year's service."

Opening of Parliament.

The third session of the third Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened on Thursday with the usual imposing ceremonies. There was a good attendance of members and senators, and an immense crowd of visitors to see the ceremony. The Chamber has been re-carpeted since last session with a very costly bright scarlet carpet; the desks have been newly varnished and brightened; new drapery has been arranged around the throne; the chair has been burnished until it shines like fine gold, and the whole chamber wears a gorgeous appearance. The Governor, with his staff, arrived at the usual hour, attended by a guard of honor composed of 100 men from the Governor General's Foot Guards, under command of Captain Tilton, and a detachment of the Ottawa Cavalry commanded by Captain Sparks. A detachment of the Ottawa Field Battery, commanded by Captain Stewart, fired the usual salute. The "faithful Commons" were summoned and the speech from the throne was delivered with the usual ceremonies. The five Supreme Court Judges were present in their official robes of scarlet and black, and their presence was one of the novelties of the opening. They sat directly in front of the Throne. Major General Smythe and his staff with their military trappings also added to the brilliancy of the scene. There was a large attendance of ladies, owing to the mildness of the weather, and the dresses were very rich and attractive. His Excellency and Lady Dufferin were accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness de Bassano, the Hon. Mr. Littleton, the Count de Turenne, Mdlle. Gerrault and Major Hamilton.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate.
Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

I have much pleasure in again calling you together to attend to the business of the country.

Since you last assembled it has been my happiness to visit the Mother Country, and to have had the opportunity while there of calling public attention to the remarkable progress of the Dominion, and giving expression to the feelings of attachment to the person of Her Majesty and the interests of the empire which animate the Canadian people.

The great depression which has prevailed throughout neighboring countries for several years, and which has more recently been felt in the old world, causing a general stagnation of business, has extended to Canada and has seriously affected our trade. At the same time, we have reason to be grateful for an abundant harvest; and while I deeply regret the suffering which exists among certain classes and in particular localities, I believe, nevertheless, that the great bulk of our people continue to enjoy a condition of reasonable prosperity.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the fact that the great railway undertaking, connecting the former Province of Canada with the Maritime Provinces, provided for by the Act of 1867, is approaching completion. Early in the coming summer the small portion of the International line not already in operation will be opened, when the connection with other systems of railway will be formed, so as to enable passengers and traffic to pass over continuous lines of railway from Halifax or St. John to the extreme western railways of Ontario.

The opening of the Prince Edward Island Railway during the past year marks an epoch in the history of that Island, and cannot but exert a beneficial influence on the people, and add to their material prosperity.

Every effort has been made to obtain an early settlement of the claims of Canada for compensation for the use of her Fisheries by the United States, as provided by the Treaty of Washington. Her Majesty's Government in the early part of last summer, at the instance of my advisers, appointed the British Commissioner, but I regret to have to state that the United States Government have not yet appointed a Commissioner, and that consequently no progress has been made.

I have given effect to the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act of last session by issuing the proclamations and by appointing the judges and officers of the court.

A Bill to simplify and amend the law relating to common carriers will be submitted for your consideration.

A Bill will be brought before you containing provisions for affording greater security to policy holders in Life Assurance Companies.

The want of reliable and systematic information relating to the several classes of crime and the importance of collecting and classifying criminal statistics have engaged my attention. A Bill will be introduced to provide for what is most successful in this direction.

You will be asked to make provision for the commencement of the work of consolidating the statute law.

The Acts relating to the enfranchisement of Indians and the management of Indian affairs have been fully considered, and steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the Indians themselves. A measure on this subject will be submitted for your approval.

A measure will be introduced to provide for the better administration of the estates of insolvent banks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

The accounts for the past and the estimate for the next financial year will be laid before you.