

an appointment of much importance, that of the Earl of Durham to be Governor General, Vice-Admiral, and Captain General of all her Majesty's Provinces within and adjacent to the Continent of North America. He is also appointed her Majesty's Commissioner for the adjustment of certain important affairs affecting the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. This appointment cannot fail to be satisfactory to the Parliamentary friends of the Canadians. Lord Durham is more likely than any other eminent public individual to effect the object of his appointment.

On Wednesday, Lord John Russell brought in the bill of which he had given notice on the previous evening. The power of passing laws during the suspension of the house of Assembly was to be conferred on Sir John Colborne as Governor in Council; but when the Earl of Durham arrived out, the power would be invested in him. Further instruction would be given to the Governor-General, and if necessary a power of granting a general amnesty in the Province of Lower Canada would be conferred on them. A debate followed, in which Mr Ward, Mr Warburton and other members took part, but it was not intended to divide the house against the bringing in of the Bill.

In the house of Lords the subject has not been yet regularly discussed, Lord Glenelg having merely given notice of his intention to move on Thursday an address to her Majesty on the subject of affairs in Canada. A conversation followed, in the course of which the Duke of Wellington expressed a hope that preparations would be made on such a scale, and operations conducted in such a manner as must make it quite certain they should succeed, and that, too, at the earliest possible period that the season opened. If such a course was pursued he was determined to give his support to her Majesty's Government. No further proceedings have been yet had on the subject in the Upper House.

STILL LATER.

The Joseph Porter arrived on Tuesday, in 30 days from Liverpool. We have been favoured with files to the 3d of Feb. from which we make the following extracts:—

Sir Robert Peel, in the debate on Friday, made some remarkable observations—remarkable, at least, as coming from his side of the house; though the friend and ally of Huskisson is not deficient in sound and comprehensive views of commercial policy. He was arguing for not fettering Lord Durham in the composition of the new council, and he observed that it was not desirable to legislate merely for Canada, but to provide for the contingency of a separation.

"I can suppose the time might come when we would say to the Legislative Assemblies of Upper Canada, and to those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 'Do not suppose that we wish to keep up a tyrannical dominion in these Colonies. We have a common interest, and that only we wish to maintain. As far as pecuniary matters are concerned, the risk and expense of defending you in the moment of difficulty is infinitely greater than any prospective advantage which we might gain by keeping you.' I do not say, therefore, that the time may not come when it may be necessary for us to resolve ourselves into a committee of the whole house to consider this question, if acceptable to the North American Colonies. I would not exclude Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from our consideration, whether it would not be possible to effect some such object as to unite all these provinces into one great dependency with Great Britain, to

be maintained as long as possible in friendly understanding with her."

It is something to have the possibility of an amicable renunciation of our sovereignty, and the tacit inference that the demand of it, on the part of the colonies, would be sufficient cause, acknowledged by the tory leader. Sir Robert's proposition was, that a general convention should be formed from all the states for general purposes, leaving to each its local government. This, he very rightly observes, would facilitate immensely the union, civilization, and the fusing together of the whole and relieve the government from the responsibility and trouble of doing a great many things they might do much better for themselves. We may also add, that it would afford at any time an easy way of closing the connection with peace and amity. We firmly believe, that, if such a convention had been sitting now, there would have been no Canadian insurrection; that instead of Canadian rebels being slaughtered in the field, Canadian deputies would be out-voted in the convention.

The Hon. Edward Bouverie will be Lord Durham's Secretary, the Hon. Captain Harvey Grey, son of Lord Grey, the Hon. Lt. Frederick Valliers, and Capt. Conroy are to be his aids de camp.

Mr Roebuck, as Agent for Lower Canada, appeared at the Bar of the Commons on the 22d. to oppose the passage of the Bill.

The Government contract for the supply of her Majesty's navy with 100,000 gallons of rum this year, was taken on Thursday week much higher than has been known for many years, owing to the unusual scarcity of rum in the kingdom.

Sir Andrew Leith Hay succeeds Major-General, Sir R. Chapman as Governor (civil) of Bermuda.

The Board of Ordnance has noticed that tenders will be received for supplying 2000 shells, to be delivered in the shortest time possible.

The Countess of Durham, and the youthful family of the noble lord will accompany him to Quebec. The Governor-general having resigned his embassy at St. Petersburg, Mr Millbank will be accredited charge d'affaires until the arrival of his successor.

It is stated in a Chester paper, that Lord Arthur Lennox will not proceed with his brigade of guards to Canada, having to attend to his parliamentary duties as member for that city.

The 65th Regt. embarked 300 strong from the West Indies for Canada, but are to get a strong draft from their depot.

The 52d Light Infantry are the next regiment to proceed to the West Indies; they have never been in the West. The 12th, another regiment strange to say, have never been on that station.

The House of Commons has only sat one night since our last; and to make room for later and more important intelligence, we shall greatly abridge our notice of the night's debate. Both of Sir Robert Peel's amendments were adopted. The one was to take away from the crown the power to terminate the operation of the bill without the authority of parliament. This is of comparatively little importance, as the crown is not likely, under any circumstances, to take such a step without the authority of parliament. The other was to do away the clause in the bill making it imperative on Lord Durham to give a certain determinate representative character to the new council of advice. On Thursday evening Mr Ellice, who has an extensive practical acquaintance with Canada, and possesses large estates in it, strongly counselled the ministers not to divide

the house on such a question, or to disturb the all but unanimous feeling which had so far prevailed. Lord John Russell assented; stating that the object of government was to show clearly its desire to govern Canada on constitutional principles. On recommending the proposition, we are led to take a different view of it from what we took at first. The intentions of the government will be, we hope sufficiently manifest; it seems unnecessary to fetter Lord Durham; and the clause stands in the way of a general Legislative union of our transatlantic provinces, which, for reasons we have stated elsewhere, we consider an object particularly desirable. The bill thus, and in other respects, amended, passed, being opposed only by eight members, and was laid on the table of the House of Lords on Wednesday.

Prussia has declared to the King of Hanover that it will allow no interference with him; so that the Cologne affair has turned to the advantage of King Ernest. Professor Ewald, one of the seven professors, has passed through Holland on his way to London.

Considerable alarm has been created amongst our mercantile circles connected with the African trade, by the statements which have been put forth, announcing that a great number of the white population had been murdered by the blacks, who had revolted at Cape Coast Castle.

The late accounts from Lisbon represent the financial difficulties of Portugal as still in an almost entirely hopeless position; the people in general in a state of the greatest destitution; the army unpaid, and to avoid absolute starvation, the soldiers were described as plundering the Province at discretion; and the financial projects of the minister are all of the most futile description as remedies for a disorganization which is existing upon so vast a scale. The minister acknowledges indeed the almost utter hopelessness of his scheme for raising even a very trifling amount of temporary relief to the treasury, and laments that "no one can propose any thing better in their stead." Under these circumstances a party in the city has come forward with a proposition which they say is worthy of being introduced to the notice of the Portuguese bondholders and the English public at large. The proposal is for the cession to England of the Azores Islands to the British Crown. These Islands are seven in number, and are colonies of Portugal, but of little real utility as the dependencies of a country which is now in a state of such entire disorganization at home. It is now reasoned that the Azores, though useless and unimportant to Portugal, would be very valuable in the possession of this country, as their geographical position in the direct course from England to the West Indies, and therefore that as English Colonies these Islands would be governed and defended at a comparatively slight expense.

By the Garland further accounts have been received from Bahia to the 3d December. At that date the Brazilian frigate was firing on the town, which the insurgents were defending. The principal inhabitants had left; it was the opinion that the insurgents would be subdued. All business was at an end, and the foreign ships of war and merchantmen had dropped half a mile down the river. The heavy rains had prevented the legitimists from attacking the town; but they were very numerous, and calculated at being six times as strong as the few soldiers who held out in the town. The 8th of December had been fixed for an attack on the town, and about 250 men, who had arrived from Periro, stationed themselves on the east side of the town; but the national guards, amounting to 3,000 men, were in St. Aman, and Pirajo, and enthusiastic in the cause of the young Emperor.