

carried on their mal-practices there, whenever they could do it with safety. In giving me an account of their exploits they made use of a jargon which I could not understand, and I was obliged to stop them in their narratives to ask for an interpretation of their terms. On speaking to them of the sin and folly of such a course of life, and of the account they would have to render at the day of judgment, my surprise was great to find that two or three of them were not destitute of Scripture knowledge, and still greater to find that one, whom I marked out as the worst, had been taught in our National School. What does this fact prove, but that the depravity which reigns in a wretched and ignorant neighbourhood, draws into its vortex those who we hoped were defended against it?

"But with these exceptions the pupils are tolerably good in their behaviour. Many exhibit an eager desire to learn; and some would keep a teacher to themselves a whole evening if they could. Those who have been steady and uniform in their attendance have made good progress. Reading, writing, and arithmetic is the course of instruction. Writing in copy-books is reserved as a sort of reward for the best-behaved, and I am happy to say the class contains no small number. Arithmetic is a favourite study. We take every opportunity of introducing religious subjects, and speaking on the leading truths of Christianity. At the conclusion the doxology is usually sung. The coarseness of voice and discordancy of sound at first, could not well be imagined. The singing is improved, though still harsh and unmusical.

"On the whole the experiment is such as to afford us satisfaction; and if our teachers will have the courage to persevere for both resolution and patience are absolutely necessary in such a work we may, with the Divine blessing, hope to see good done among that miserable class, who have been looked upon as the outcasts of society."

The Berean.

QUEBEC, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1848.

The coincidence of very important proceedings in our Provincial Parliament, with the arrival of intelligence by the English Mail, has filled our columns with matter chiefly of a secular nature, whilst with regard to ecclesiastical concerns we are not as yet in possession of our usual sources of information, the newspaper-bags not having reached this city at the time of our writing.

We learn, however, the demise of the aged Archbishop of Canterbury, who expired at a quarter past two o'clock in the morning of the 11th of last month, at Lambeth Palace. His Grace was within one day of completing his eighty second year. The choice of a successor is another very important trust falling upon the statesmen at this time in power, who have already had to exercise that of filling the archiepiscopal see of York, and whom we must ardently wish to have been guided in their choice—before this time probably made—by the overruling power of the great Head of the Church in the course of whose permissive providence it has come to pass that our Sovereign's political advisers should have to fill posts whose occupants may exercise so extended and blessed an influence on the affairs of the Church, by the encouragement of a faithful ministry, by rebuke to inconsistency in life or error in doctrine, and by the promotion of every enterprise conducive to the spread of evangelical truth among the masses of a population which has ever been growing in numbers with far greater rapidity than the means for their religious improvement.

An impatience under that state of the law which has hitherto allowed the Queen's Ministers to appoint to vacant Bishoprics, consigning to ecclesiastical bodies or functionaries nothing beyond the obsequy of certain forms at the peril of falling under the censure of the law if compliance were refused, has manifested itself very strikingly on the occasion of Dr. Hampden's nomination to the see of Hereford, and it is a circumstance inviting serious reflection, that out of four judges before whom the question was argued whether a mandamus should be issued, compelling the Archbishop of Canterbury to hear the opposers of that nomination, two were in favour, making an equal division, and so ending in a refusal when there was not actually a majority in favour of the royal prerogative. We cut a meagre, probably faulty account of the judgment from the *European Times*:

"Judgment was given in the case of the Queen v. the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 1st instant. The court was crowded to a much greater excess than upon any of the former occasions, from its being announced that a difference of opinion existed amongst their lordships. Mr. Justice Erle, as the junior judge, proceeded to deliver judgment, and contended that the statute of Henry the VIII. must be literally construed; that the archbishop having received a letter missive from the crown was bound to obey it. The mandamus, in his opinion, ought to be discharged. Mr. Justice Coleridge contended that the act of Henry did not give the power which had been claimed by the defendant; that the election of a bishop was vested in the public and that according to the law of the church, they had a right to be heard, otherwise a solemn mockery had been allowed to exist for three centuries. In his opinion the mandamus must be made absolute. Mr. Justice Pattison took the same view, and contended that the penalty of *præmunire*, as regarded an English archbishop or dean and chapter, was never contemplated by the act. Lord Denman said, in granting the rule for the mandamus, he did it for the purpose of allowing the crown to exercise its prerogative; but he wished to know, was not the judgment of the archbishop to be consulted? the opinion of the dean and chapter also; and the peace and quietude of the church? These all required deep and serious consideration; and thinking the rights of each would be better maintained and protected by the discharge of the rule, he felt bound to agree in the opinions of his brother Erle. The rule for the mandamus was therefore discharged. The court was occupied nearly four hours in delivering its judgment."

The vacancy which has just occurred in the archiepiscopal chair will cause some further delay, though we suppose the efforts at opposition, in course of law are exhausted. What course Her Majesty's

Ministers may pursue, to obviate similar occurrences in future, remains to be seen: they may feel themselves strong enough to carry a measure which shall do away with the form of election, and thus make the appointments by the Crown conclusive; or they may allow the substance of election in some quarter, where it would be seen with satisfaction by those who do not approve of an absolute right of appointment by the Sovereign. It must be admitted that the repetition of agitators like that which has arisen out of the nomination to the see of Hereford is by all means to be deprecated.

We have felt some difficulty with regard to a discussion which has lately arisen in this parish, referring to the establishment of a burial-place for the bodies of the dead. Our readers have been apprized of the measures which have been decided upon, first by the formation of the QUEBEC PROPRIETARY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (see *Berean* of January 27) and since then by an Association for establishing a CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY (see our last number). This result has not been arrived at without considerable division of sentiment, leading to printed statements of some length, for the insertion of which in full we have not room, and which to condense we fear to take in hand, lest we should seem to do injustice to the one side or the other of the question. We think it is not needed, since a course has been resolved upon which provides for separate measures, so that violence need be done to no one, and the feelings of dissatisfaction which have been excited may as well be suffered to die away under the mutual enjoyment of perfect freedom of action.

Diocece of Quebec.

INCORPORATED CHURCH SOCIETY.
We understand that the Collections for the general designs of this Society, after Sermons preached last Sunday, amount to £27 16 11 at the Cathedral, to which have to be added £2 10 0 subsequently received as acknowledged by the Rev. Mr. Cornwall in another column; £5 10 0 at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity; £4 11 10 at St. Peter's; £2 5 1 at the Mariner's; £1 3 9 at All Saints'; and 5s. in the Burying Ground Chapel; making a total of above £44. in the parish.

DIOCECE OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Church Society.—A numerously attended and interesting meeting of the General Committee of this Society took place at the National School on the 19th ult. The Lord Bishop in the Chair.

After the customary prayers and reading of minutes, communications from several of the Clergy were read, all of which afforded most gratifying proof of the unabated interest of the local Branches, in the operations of the Society, and some of them shewing an increase of members and subscriptions, notwithstanding the extreme pressure of the times. Two important propositions were urged in these communications, one by the Rev. Mr. Cochran of Lunenburg, to the effect that "affording assistance to the erection to Parsonage Houses" should be embraced in the benevolent objects of the Society—the other by the Rev. Mr. Leaver, Thuro, suggesting the propriety of the Parochial Associations nominating a Member resident in Halifax to represent them in the General Committee. Notice was given that both these objects should be brought before the Committee at its next meeting.

An Ecclesiastical Map of the Province, exhibiting the Churches, Parsonages, Church and School lands, &c., was laid before the Board, and a vote of thanks to T. B. Akins, Esq., for the ability, zeal and labour expended upon it, and also to C. H. Belcher, Esq., for the material and valuable assistance afforded in its preparation, was passed unanimously.

The half-yearly Return of the Chester Church School was referred to Dr. Twining, who reported favourably upon it, and the Grant of £20 was continued for the current year.

His Lordship the Bishop read a letter from each of the visiting Missionaries, and expressed his thankfulness, which was participated in by all present, that these devoted men were, by their zeal and faithfulness, conciliating the respect and kindness of all parties, thus realizing in some good measure the anticipations of the friends of the Society. Sub-Committees were appointed for drafting Resolutions and making preparations for the Annual Meeting, and the Committee adjourned to the 6th of March next.—*Halifax Times*, Feb. 23.

ON CONFORMITY TO THIS WORLD.

In an age in which conformity to the world constitutes without doubt the "besetting sin" of what is familiarly called "fashionable society," a warning word now and then cannot be either needless or useless. This sin seems to be a sort of substitute for the more degrading vices that pollute the lower walks of life, and which none hesitates to condemn in the poor and the illiterate, however much he may be attached to his own peculiar follies and pastimes. Yet it is a matter very questionable indeed—circumstances and education considered—whether even the evil practices and immorality of the poor, where they occur, can offend the eye of the heart-searching God more—or as much—as the vanity and worldliness so constantly and universally prevalent among the rich and the great. Both these matters not how widely differing in their nature—are certainly sins; and the question can only be between sin and sin—which is the more offensive to God—the more blameable in the individual. It is not merely at the offence committed that we must look: the heinousness of a crime must much depend upon the circumstances, character, and information of the transgressor. Ignorance—where it is not willful—will most materially diminish the guilt which light and knowledge cannot fail to aggravate to a great degree. It is here the main consideration rests: is worldliness, or worldly-mindedness, which is perhaps a better word, a sin? It is—we hesitate not to say, upon the testimony of every page of the gospel.—Is it prevalent in the circle to which we have alluded? In truth who can stand up to deny it? The very advertisements in the current newspapers of the day, inviting the votaries of fashionable dissipation to the halls of unhalloved festivity, would abundantly condemn any who might be presumptuous enough to deny the fact, though it should make, at the same time, the self-denying follower of Christ, blush for his Master's cause. Balls, Public Assemblies, Fancy-dress Balls, and such other scenes of vanity and irreligion are not the place for the Christian to show himself, if he would at all live up to his profession, and follow out, in his daily walk and conversation that much disregarded precept of the Gospel

which enjoins upon us "not to be conformed to this world." The votary of fashionable dissipation will not hesitate to condemn, in terms the most unequivocal, the ruder diversions, and less polished amusements of his poorer brethren, provided he be permitted to pursue his own giddy course without interruption or censure. In a low tavern in some rude street, and among common people, it is doubtless a crime to indulge in revelry and noisy mirth—(too often accompanied with profanity, intonation, and quarrelling, as must be admitted) but not among the great and the opulent, in gorgeous apartments, and at some fashionable resort, where, to say the least, vanity, frivolity, and a total banishment of all religious influence, for the time being, are supported by the benefits of an enlightened education. Rank, circumstances, and a high station in society are but a poor plea here; and it were sad indeed, if these gifts of fortune should be made a pretext for the better informed classes of society, to indulge in worldly pastime and carnal pleasures, forbidden alike to all.

In vain will faithful ministers raise their voice, and denounce among the poor and the ignorant, among hard-working, industrious men and their families, the sin of frequenting haunts of pleasure and dissipation, show the evil attending Rolles, Dances, Card-playing, Tavern-parties, and vanities of various kinds; the seeds of greater and more atrocious vices and abominations they lay in the way of the young and thoughtless; in short their general tendency to overthrow morality and religion, and nourish wickedness and impiety, while these classes point out, with all confidence, the example set before them by the rich, the great, the elevated part of the community, who, they will naturally argue, ought not to wish to deprive them of their little pleasures and innocent amusements (as no doubt they will call them, copying the words of more enlightened sophists) when those who should be their patterns and leaders in the paths of holiness and self-denial, and who really, from their happier circumstances and lot in life, cannot allege so reasonable a justification of their error, "walk in the vanity of their minds" and, uninfluenced by the greater knowledge they possess, make it a practice openly to indulge in the gaieties and frivolities of life. All this—both in high and low—rich and poor—is conformity to the world—and most culpable in all. Ignorance may indeed extenuate guilt in the one class, but refinement will add to it in the other. A worldly spirit—in whatever shape showing itself—must be condemned universally: no allowance, no exception can be made for rank and dignity. The reformation which is needed should be general, to the destruction of all that tends to foster a worldly and carnal spirit among us; not here and there only, but in every street and house. Were these announcements intended for religious meetings, we wonder how many would attend! But the Ball-room possesses more attractions than devotion for too many who call themselves Christians; dissipation and folly claim more votaries than self-denial and piety. "These things ought not so to be." The gospel of Christ is decided against them, and its language very explicit: "Love not the world"—says the Apostle—neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."—*Communicated.*

The Rev. JOHN CORWALL, thankfully acknowledges to have received from A. B. the sum of two pounds ten shillings in aid of the CURACU EXTENSION SOCIETY.
March, 5th, 1848.

The Rev. J. E. F. STIMPSON acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of One Pound Five Shillings donation from A. FRISZ, through the hands of HENRY JESSOP, Esq., for the poor of his district.

The undersigned begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of Ten Shillings from Wm. McGINNIS, Esq., for the Achill Mission.
C. H. GATES.

The Agent A. H. acknowledges the receipt of 10s. Subscription from Wm. McGINNIS, Esq., Christiville.

RECEIVED PAYMENTS.—Capt. Holbech, No. 193 to 244; F. Bowen, Esq., No. 139 to 190.

TO CORRESPONDENTS: Received Mrs. N.—C. Y.;—H. H.;—M. M.;—Mrs. G. S.; Paper from St. John.

Local and Political Intelligence.

The British Mail Steamer *Britannia*, from Liverpool on the 12th ult., arrived at Boston on Saturday last, at nine in the morning. Telegraphic news was received at Quebec on the evening of that day, and was circulated in an extra from the *Morning Chronicle*. The Commercial news is favourable; trade is reported as reviving, the money-market easier, and only one important failure, since the last mail was despatched. "Trade has taken an earnest step towards the recovery of its long-lost strength and the re-establishment of ease and confidence." The quotation of prices is as follows:—Markets, best western Canal Flour, 27s. a 27s. 6d.; Richmond and Alexandria, 27s. a 27s. 6d.; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 26s. 6d.; New Orleans and Ohio, 26s. a 26s. 6d.; Canada, 27s. a 27s. 6d.; U. S. and Canada sugar, 23s. 6d. Indian Corn, 25s. a 32s. 6d. per qr.—Wheat, U. S. or Canada, white and mixed, 7s. 6d. a 8s. 6d. per 70 lb. red, 7s. 6d.

The decline in breadstuffs has been gradual. Supplies good. Cotton has improved in demand 1d. per lb. Larger business, and gradually mending.

The letter-bags arrived at the Quebec Post Office on Tuesday evening, bringing also the *European Times*, from which we have selected the most important intelligence for insertion in this number. Parliament met on the 3rd ult., and a committee was appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into West Indian affairs. Ministers announced the measures which they intended to propose with reference to that question; the parties interested did not consider the concessions sufficient, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted they were not, "unless the colonies accompanied them by improvements in their agriculture and process of manufacture."

An animated discussion on the same subject took place in the House of Lords, in the course of which the Bishop of Oxford delivered an effective speech, taking up that part of the question which regards the encouragement given to slave-labour in foreign countries by the depression of the British West Indian interest, and expressing himself on that subject

in manner worthy of the name he bears.—*WLANBOROUGH.*

"Although the affairs of Ireland have not occupied a conspicuous share of public attention since our last publication, we are afraid that a vast amount of human misery has been secretly and silently suffered by large masses of the Irish people. The Special Commission has been adjourned, after having passed the most severe sentences upon all the prisoners whose guilt has been proved. Upwards of fifty have been convicted of agrarian outrages, and the sentence of death hangs over no fewer than sixteen, who have been found guilty of murder. Outrages of a frightful character continue to afflict the provinces; and the state of reckless immorality disclosed by the evidence before the Special Commission is frightful to contemplate. As one instance, we may adduce that, within the last few years, out of the body of magistrates which usually attend the bench at Cashel, no fewer than ten, either themselves or their immediate relatives, have been shot! It is lamentable to witness such a complete disorganisation of all the bonds of society." *Eur. Times.*

The Marquis of Lansdowne has placed a short bill on the table of the House of Lords, having for its object to enable Her Majesty's Government to open and carry on diplomatic relations with the Pope of Rome.

The bill for admitting Jews into Parliament has been read a second time.

The day of departure of the Mail Steamers from this side of the Atlantic for Liverpool, which hitherto has been Saturday, will be Wednesday, commencing with the Steamer which is to leave Boston in the month of April, which will be on Wednesday the 5th of that month, instead of Saturday the 5th. The weekly dispatch of Atlantic Mail Steamers will commence from Liverpool on Saturday the 8th of April, and from America on Wednesday the 3rd of May, as the permanent arrangement.—The American Post Office authorities have rejected a proposal from the British Government for an arrangement on terms of reciprocity, which was considered perfectly equitable by the community in England, and its rejection is considered to evince no readiness on the part of the United States, to arrange differences upon a basis of equal advantages.

POPULATION AND POOR-RATES.—There has just been presented to Parliament a return showing the population, the annual value of property voted to the poor-rate, the expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor, the rate in the pound on the total number of paupers relieved, including casual poor, the proportion per cent. to the population of persons relieved, and the rate per head of expenditure on the total returns, in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, respectively. The items stand thus:—For England.—Population in 1841, 15,906,741; annual valuation of property, £62,510,030; expenditure for relief of poor in 1845—1846, £4,951,204; rate in the pound, 1s. 7d.; total number relieved, 1,330,557 being 8-4 per cent.; rate per head of expenditure on total number relieved, 2s. 14s. 5d. For Scotland.—Population, 2,620,181; annual property valuation, £9,320,784; expenditure for relief of poor, £295,232; rate in the pound of expenditure for relief 7d. Total number of paupers relieved, 86,326, being 3-7 per cent.; rate per head of expenditure on total number relieved, £3 0s. 9d. For Ireland.—Population, 8,175,124; annual property valuation, £13,204,334; expenditure for relief of poor, £425,181; rate in the pound of expenditure 8d. (this calculation is made on the annual value of 123 Unions); total number relieved 257,235, being 3-1 per cent.; rate per head of expenditure on total number relieved £1 13s. 0d.—*The Record.*

THE DUKE'S DESPATCHES.—The Duke of Wellington being asked if he had seen a French criticism on the 14 volumes of his Despatches, replied in the negative, and inquired, "What do the French say of them?" He was told that the reviewer remarked the word glory did not once occur, but that duty frequently did.—*D'Aubigny's Germany, England, and Scotland.*

ITALY.—The insurrection in Sicily, of which the report reached us by the last English mail (see *Berean* February 21) has proved successful to such an extent as to have its influence upon the affairs of the sister kingdom Naples. The King's ministers resigned on the 27th of January, and a new administration was formed, under which a national constitution for the United Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (Naples and Sicily) was decreed, a national guard organized, and a legislature of two chambers, responsibility of ministers, and the liberty of the press promised. The Roman Catholic is to continue the national religion. Great rejoicings took place, and the King was received with applause in public, though every concession had been evidently wrung from him much against his own mind. It is not a little curious that, as the first step in the way of concession, it is stated that His Majesty's Confessor, Father Coele, had to be sent away from his presence to a distant convent. That would indicate whence the chief opposition to liberal measures proceeded.

AUSTRIA is said to have protested against these concessions; but there is, on the other hand, a report of an energetic declaration on the part of the British government, to discourage all armed interference on the part of Austria with the internal affairs of that portion of Italy not subject to its authority.

THE CHOLERA.—Notwithstanding the excessive cold which has prevailed, the cholera still maintains itself, with more or less intensity, on the frontiers of Russia and in several governments of the empire. From the 2nd to the 5th ult. 54 cases occurred at Moscow, 53 of which terminated fatally. In the Interior of Russia, the governments of Kassar, Orenburgh, Simbirsk, Tula, Kursk, and Pultawa, were cruelly visited by the scourge. In the western governments, along the banks of the Dnieper, where it manifested itself at a later period, the epidemic has carried off numerous victims, particularly in the governments of Tschernigow, Podolia, Kiev, Minsk, Mohilew, and Witepsk. In the three provinces of Southern Russia, Tauris (the peninsula of Crimea), Cherson, and Ekaterinowsky, the cholera has almost entirely subsided.—*Eur. T.*

PRUSSIA.—The *State Gazette* contains two royal ordinances; one a list of twenty-seven questions upon different points of criminal law, to be laid before the Select Committee of the United Diet, now in session. The other ordinance is a regulation how the transactions of the Select Committee are to be carried on, and after-ward, how they are to be published. In the recent advices from Berlin, we find some details relative to the first labours of the Committee charged to prepare the new penal code, which is to be submitted to the Committee of the States. The question of abolishing the punishment of death was taken into consideration, and five members gave in an affirmative answer, and seven a negative one; nine members supported the employment of the guillotine in place of beheading with an axe.

TURKEY.—The good feeling of the Sultan toward the two members of his Cabinet who are farthest advanced in the paths of reform has just been exhibited in a most marked manner. The Grand Vizir, Reschid Pacha, has received a pension for life of 600,000 piastres, (150,000*l.*) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Effendi, has been raised to the rank of Muehri, or Pacha of three tails. The cholera remains almost stationary. After having raged at Kouskoundjouk, on the Asiatic side, it broke out at Arasouk-Keny, on the European side, where it carried off from 20 to 25 persons. The epidemic which raged in the arsenal has fallen off in intensity; the number of attacks is nearly stationary, but the mortality has diminished.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We have intelligence from this colony up to the 6th December by the Essex, which has arrived at Brighton. Sir H. Smith, the new Governor, and suite, had arrived in Cape Town on the 1st December, and great rejoicings and illuminations had taken place in consequence. Sir H. Poltinger was to leave for Madras in three weeks. The Kaffir mail which arrived on the 1st December, announced the important fact of Col. Somerset having, with about 900 men, effected the passage of the Kye at the Brille Drift. The General, with the main body of the troops, was to move towards Port Warden, ready to improve any advantage which might arise from this forward movement, or to afford, in case of need, support to Col. Somerset. The accounts before us speak of this pursuit as a most laborious affair—the men having to subsist for four days on meat alone—neither bread, biscuit, or spirits to be had, and their only cover from the weather being the clothes on their backs and the shelter of the bush.—*Eur. T.*

VENEZUELA.—A scene of violence took place in the Hall of Congress at Caracas, the members coming to drawn daggers, the President ordering out the troops, by whom the members were taken prisoners first, then marched back to their place of assembly to vote an exemption from all blame to the President, and a general amnesty to all who had taken part in the proceedings. Some of the members of Congress are said to have lost their lives by shots fired by the troops.

THE DISCOVERY OF CHLOROFORM.—The following notice of Dr. Wells, who committed suicide, a short time since, is copied from the *Hartford Courant*. It is evident that the unhappy man was labouring under temporary insanity, produced, no doubt, by his having inhaled too much of the subtle gas which is now creating such a sensation in the scientific world, and which is well known to be so serviceable in surgical operations. The *Courant* says:—Dr. Wells was the original discoverer of nitrous oxide gas producing insensibility to pain; and only last week received a letter from the Paris Institute, awarding the highest prize (20,000 francs) for the discovery, and other testimonials in his favour, which caused a derangement in his mind—indeed, his intimate friends had noticed a tendency in that direction. Dr. Wells had long been a resident of this city, and was a consistent professor of religion, and a good member of society. No one who knew him will suppose for an instant that he committed the act referred to with a sane mind.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The following is an extract from a letter recently received in this city from respectable sources at Rio Janeiro:—"Here there is nothing particularly new, things jogging on much the same as when you left us. The slave trade is brisk. The recent orders which the Consul has received, to grant sailing certificates to any American vessel which may be sold here to American citizens, whatever their destination may be, have given a great impetus to it." We are very sorry to learn this. If orders have been given to the American Consul, of so very general a nature as is here said, it is the very method to encourage, to protect, to pamper, in fact, the slave trade. Let us see then how this is managed. It is desired to fit out a vessel for a slave expedition to Rio. An American is found unprincipled enough to lend his name—the same name will serve for a hundred transactions of the kind—and there is no dishonest stratagem by which money is to be made, which cannot, on taking a little pains, find a fitting agent. The vessel is sold to the American, and the consul gives a certificate of nationality. The Portuguese captain, a veteran perhaps in the slave trade, accustomed to skulk along the African coast, is put on board, and sails with American colors. On the sea the vessel is American or Portuguese, as may serve its turn; it comes back with a cargo of slaves and lands them on the Brazilian coast as a Portuguese ship. Thus our flag, the certificate of our consul, and the American name, are abused to the most atrocious purposes.—*Letter from Rio Janeiro, in the New York Evening Post.*

MEXICO.—Telegraphic news, which we find in the *Morning Chronicle*, mentions, under date Washington the 6th instant, that "it is now reduced to almost a perfect certainty, that the Treaty of peace will be ratified." It is also stated, upon the authority of recent letters from Mexico, that the Mexicans who signed the treaty, are of the highest integrity, and of commanding influence; so that there need not be any fear of any effectual counter-movement in that country.

A correspondent of the *Picayune*, writing from the city of Mexico, Feb. 4th, says he was at a late meeting of the members of Congress at present at Queretaro. There were twenty-five in attendance. It was ordered that the members absent be notified through the Governors of the States, or local authorities; that if they do not appear in their seats by the 20th February, they shall be adjudged as traitors to their country, guilty of high treason, arrested, treated and punished accordingly.

A passenger by the *Edith*, just arrived from Vera Cruz, states he had been informed by Gen. Twigg that he had received positive information that General Scott had granted Santa Anna his passport, and that he was expected in Vera Cruz on the 24th ult.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH FROM HALIFAX TO THE UNITED STATES.—At a Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at St. John, Feb. 23rd, 1848; J. D. Andrews, Esq., American Consul, having submitted a communication from F. O. J. Smith, Esq., of Boston, proposing the establishment of a Telegraphic Line from Halifax through New Brunswick, to connect with the Grand Line through the United States to Maine.—Therefore

Resolved, That the Chamber has long looked forward to such a line, and consider its establishment as of the first importance to the interests of this Province, and do therefore recommend that every facility and encouragement be given to any Company undertaking to carry into effect such a desirable object; and that Messrs. Duncan, Thurgar and Jardine be a Committee to prepare a Bill and Petition to be laid before the Legislature for the purpose of obtaining an Act of Incorporation for the Company; and to be connected with and lend assistance to any parties inclined to embark in the undertaking.