

From Papers by R. M. S. Canada, to Feb 4.

ENGLAND.

THE OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The second session of the present Parliament was opened on Tuesday last by her Majesty in person, accompanied by her Royal Consort. About two o'clock the firing of a gun announced the arrival of the carriage at the New Palace of Westminster; and immediately afterwards the Queen entered the House of Lords amid profound silence and great excitement, all present having previously risen to receive her. Her Majesty was preceded by the heralds and great officers of state, bearing the sword of state, the crown, and the cap of maintenance. Prince Albert having conducted her Majesty to the throne, and taken his place in a state chair one step lower, the Usher of the Black Rod was directed to summon the House of Commons to the bar. In a few minutes a shout from one of the outer corridors announced the approach of the Speaker and several members of the Lower House. The Lord Chancellor then presented the Speech to her Majesty upon his knees, which the Queen read as follows:—

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I am always happy to meet you in Parliament, and on the present occasion it is with peculiar satisfaction that I recur to your assistance and advice.

"The hopes which I expressed at the close of the last session, that a speedy settlement would be effected of the differences existing between Russia and the Ottoman Porte, have not been realised, and I regret to say that a state of warfare has ensued.

"I have continued to act in cordial co-operation with the Emperor of the French, and my endeavours, in conjunction with my allies, to preserve and to restore peace between the contending parties, although hitherto unsuccessful, have been unremitting. I will not fail to persevere in these endeavours, but as the continuance of the war may deeply affect the interests of this country and of Europe, I think it requisite to make a further augmentation of my naval and military forces with the view of supporting my representations, and of more effectually contributing to the restoration of peace.

"I have directed that the papers explanatory of the negotiations which have taken place upon this subject shall be communicated to you without delay.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"The estimates for the year will be laid before you, and I trust you will find that, consistently with the exigencies of the public service at this juncture, they have been framed with a due regard to economy.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"In the year which has just terminated the blessing of an abundant harvest has not been vouchsafed to me. By this dispensation of Providence the price of provisions has been enhanced and the privations of the poor have been increased; but their patience has been exemplary, and the care of the Legislature, evinced by the reduction of taxes affecting the necessaries of life, has greatly tended to preserve a spirit of contentment.

"I have the satisfaction of announcing to you that the commerce of the country is still prosperous; that trade, both of export and import, has been largely on the increase; and that the revenue of the past year has been more than adequate to the demands of the public service.

"I recommend to your consideration a bill which I have ordered to be framed for opening the coasting trade of the United Kingdom to the ships of all friendly nations; and I look forward with satisfaction to the removal of the last legislative restriction upon the use of foreign shipping for the benefit of my people.

"Communications have been addressed by my command to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, with reference to the improvements which it may be desirable to effect in their institutions. These communications will be laid before you, and measures will be proposed for your consideration with the view of giving effect to such improvements.

"The establishments requisite for the conduct of the Civil Service, and the arrangements bearing upon its condition, have recently been under review; and I shall direct a plan to be laid before you which will have for its object to improve the system of admission, and thereby to increase the efficiency of the service.

"The recent measures of legal reform have proved highly beneficial, and the success which has attended them may well encourage you to proceed with further amendments. Bills will be submitted to you for transferring from the Ecclesiastical to the Civil Courts the

recognition of testamentary and of matrimonial causes, and for giving increased efficiency to the superior courts of common law.

"The laws relating to the relief of the poor have of late undergone much salutary amendment; but there is one branch to which I earnestly direct your attention. The law of settlement impedes the freedom of labour; and, if this restraint can with safety be relaxed, the workman may be enabled to increase the fruits of his industry, and the interests of capital and of labour will be more firmly united.

"Measures will be submitted to you for the amendment of the law relating to the representation of the Commons in Parliament.

"Recent experience has shown that it is necessary to take more effectual precaution against the evils of bribery and of corrupt practices at elections. It will also be your duty to consider whether more complete effect may not be given to the principles of the Act of the last reign, whereby reforms were made in the representation of the people in Parliament. In recommending this subject to your consideration, my desire is to remove every cause of just complaint, to increase general confidence in the legislature, and to give additional stability to the settled institutions of the State.

"I submit to your wisdom the consideration of these important subjects; and I pray God to prosper your counsels and to guide your decisions."

The house then adjourned during pleasure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JAN'Y 31 CONVOCAION.

Sir John Pakington stated that as proceedings in Convocation were to be commenced, he wished to know whether Lord Aberdeen had given consent to the meeting, and whether it was the intention of Government to prevent the transaction of business by the authority of the Crown?

Lord John Russell replied that Lord Aberdeen had apprised the members of Convocation, with whom he had communicated, and that he did not think it desirable to depart from the usual course of meeting and prorogation; but that, if the business of Convocation were proceeded with beyond a day, it would be a case for interference.

We are enabled to state that the Army Estimates for the ensuing financial year, provide for an increase to the forces of no less than 10,000 men.

We understand that the active forces of the Royal Navy are to be increased by an addition of 10,000 seamen and 3000 marines.

It is rumoured that the 60th Rifles, the 79th Highlanders, and some of the Guards, are to hold themselves in readiness for departure to Constantinople.

Seventeen English officers have applied for service in Constantinople. Several who are recommended by the Ministers have been received.

ROYAL ARTILLERY.—It is currently reported that two additional battalions will be added to this distinguished corps at the commencement of the financial year (the 1st of April); and that an increase of three or four companies will shortly reinforce our establishments in the Mediterranean.

It is stated in letters received from the fleet of Rear Admiral Cerry, that the vessels of the western squadron at Lisbon are ordered home, for the purpose of being stationed at the North and on the anchorage ground off the port of Sheerness, and are to be kept in a constant state of readiness for any emergency, and in case their services should be required in the North Sea.

A plan is said to be in contemplation for establishing a Minister of War in this country, who should be charged with the affairs of Army, Navy, and Ordnance.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEA.—The public will learn with regret the serious indisposition of this venerable peer and distinguished officer. On Wednesday, as his Lordship was taking his usual morning walk, he was observed to rest against a lamp post, when a gentleman, who knew him by appearance, approached and found that his weakness was the result of an attack of paralysis. He immediately conveyed him to Uxbridge House, where medical aid was at once called in.

PRINCE ALBERT.—We have refrained, in our parliamentary report, from entering at length on the vindication of the Prince Consort; but we are desirous to place before our readers the only legal opinion of the matter which has been expressed on the undoubted position of the prince. In the course of the debate, Lord Campbell said that, having closely studied the constitutional history of this country, he was of opi-

on that it was inevitable, on allowing a female to mount the throne, that such communication between the Sovereign and her Consort should take place—they must resort to the Salvo Law to prevent it. It was not as a Privy Council that the Royal Highness was present, but as an alter ego—as the Consort of the Queen; and it was highly desirable that the Queen regnant should have the advice of her illustrious Consort. He believed that the accusations were most groundless and most calumnious. It was a proof that, if his Royal Highness did give advice to her Majesty, most salutary that advice must have been, for he had no difficulty in saying that the Queen now upon the throne was the most constitutional Sovereign that ever reigned.—Church & State Gazette.

THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY.—RUSSIAN DEPARTURE.—On Wednesday his Excellency the Russian Ambassador, Baron Brunow, gave notice to the servants not immediately waiting on his Excellency, and their services were no longer required, as the Baron was about to leave the country. Every preparation had been made to enable his Excellency to start on one. Diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Russia are broken off. It is reported that his Excellency Baron de Brunow, Ambassador of the Czar at the Court of St. James, left London at an early hour on Friday morning.

The state of the English stock market yesterday furnishes an encouraging view of the real opinions of an important commercial class. It was known that Baron Brunow, the representative of the Autocrat of Moscow, was about to leave us. We might be at that hour in absolute war with Russia. Yet 'Change stands just where it did—indeed, the funds rather than fell! So much for the 'Stock-market' and the dreadful consequences to ensue when the Russian Ambassador leaves London! The City people are the strong sense to see that the Czar is a desperate adventurer, who, having traded for a long time on false political pretences, is about to be exposed. He blusters, bullies, and says his Minister shall leave—but it is well known the Czar some time ago drew his last sovereign from our Bank—the City folks he is obliged to resort to forced loans and an aw-suspicious paper to keep himself financially afloat. They know that large military operations cannot be kept up without money, and they know that the covites are almost destitute of bullion. Hence the confidence which yesterday kept up the 'City' evidently calculated that a war with Russia carried forward manfully, cannot be either very costly, or very damaging.

THE RUSSIANS AND THE GOLD FLEETS.—A report from Australia states that the heavy 60 gun frigate, Dwina, that fitted out in England, has returned on that station. The Calliope, 26, is the British man-of-war on the Australian station, with the Fantome, 12, and a small tender or cutter are the only ships-of-war of this nation at the place.

DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA.—In consequence of the appearance of a Russian fleet in the Pacific, the necessity of adopting adequate measures for protecting Australia has been mooted in the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

The answer of the British and French Governments to the communication recently addressed them by Russia, on the subject of the entry of combined fleets into the Black Sea, was delivered Wednesday in writing to Baron Brunow in London and to M. de Kisseloff in Paris. There is no doubt that the instructions already received by envoys from their own court leave them perfectly to the course they were to pursue in the event of a negative answer to the questions put by Count Scheroff's despatch and their own Notes. The answer they have received is such as to be regarded by them in an unfavourable light, in as much as it does not differ in any important particular from the verbal communication already addressed to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg on the same subject. The reply to the Czar's inquiry, as to the necessity of the action of the combined fleets in the Black Sea, is virtually to the same effect as the answer given to the Admirals to protect the British territory and flag, and to command the Russian fleet.

COUNT SCHEROFF'S MISSION TO VIENNA.—It is affirmed that one part of Count Scheroff's mission is to obtain permission to send a Russian corps to the Danubian by way of Preburg, to the Danubian. His first interview with the Emperor took