

The declaration of this blockade has been rendered necessary by the more than suspicious character of some merchant ships hovering about the coast, some of which, we have good reason to believe, have been supplying the enemy freely with arms and gunpowder. Of course, to maintain an effective blockade of such a long coast-line requires a much stronger force than we have on this station.

"I mentioned in my last some details of the burning of Tacorady and Appoassi on the 26th of Aug. The party we landed were smartly attacked, much to their surprise, for the natives were absolutely invisible in the jungle. The *Barracouta* and the *Argus*, seeing the difficulty, ran in as close as possible to the shore, and threw shell into the jungle, thus covering the return of the men to the boats, not, however, before sixteen of them were wounded. I have since learnt that while performing this service—running closely along the shore—both the *Barracouta* and the *Argus* touched on outlying rocks which were not marked on the chart. Fortunately, the ships were got off again at once and with little damage, and continued the action. The ships having to leave immediately for Chamah Bay, in order to destroy the town of Chamah before natives could give warning. There was no opportunity of surveying the locality, but since then two or three expeditions on shore have been made with a view to survey the coast and take soundings. In one of these, on the 1st of September, Navigating-Lieutenant Wigham, of the *Barracouta*, and Navigating-Lieutenant Denny, of the *Argus*, were sent in charge of a party to survey the locality. While doing so, the natives fired from ambush into and over the boats, but fortunately precautions had been taken, and before any mischief had been done the boats were out of range. It is necessary, however, before extensive operations are undertaken, that a much better survey should be made, for landing or approaching the shore closely was out of the question. The coast is full of reefs, called by nautical men 'dangers,' which are not marked upon the charts. Every day—almost every hour—brings us rumours of intended attacks upon this or that British station. The two which are chiefly threatened are Dix Cove and Elmina, in the neighbourhood of which large forces of Ashantees, Ahantees, and Chamah men have been hovering. The *Druid* is at Dix Cove, the *Merlin* and *Decoy* at Secondee, and *Argus* at Elmina. The *Bittern* has arrived from Ascension at St. Helena, and has gone down to Axim and the westward point.

"We are here at present quite in the dark as to what is being done and determined in England, but, as I mentioned before, an expedition to Coomassie generally commends itself as being the best means of striking a blow which shall be effectually felt. Such an expedition would do much to produce a healthy excitement among those who are now languishing under daily increasing heat."

On Thursday, 23rd inst., the second session of the Second Parliament of Canada was opened by His Excellency the Governor General.

Taken altogether, this was the most magnificent display which has been witnessed in Canada. His Excellency, attended by Lieut. Colonel Fletcher, Military Secretary, and Lieut. Hamilton, A.D.C., arrived at the Par-

liament building, a few minutes after three o'clock, p.m. He was received by the Usher of the Black Rod, Rene Kimber, Esq., Lieut. Colonel Powell, Acting Adjutant General, Lieut. Colonels McPherson, Wiley, Stuart, Strange, Aumond, Coffin, Denis, Ross (Governor General's Guards), and Jackson, Acting D. A. G.; Commander Blair Hamilton, R. N.; Majors White, Egleson, Ferry, MacDonald; Captains Graham, Walsh, Sparks, Duchesnay; Surgeons Neilson and Malloch; Paymasters Wicksteed and Woodburn, and about forty officers of the various arms of the service,—and escorted to the Senate Chamber, which was crowded with the wealth and beauty of the capitol. Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin, Lady Harriot Fletcher and suite, were present on this occasion.

His Excellency being seated on the Throne, the Black Rod was despatched in due form to summon the Commons, and on their arrival His Excellency delivered the following speech in English and French:—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In accordance with the intimation given by me at the close of last Session, I have caused Parliament to be summoned at the earliest moment after the receipt of the Report of the Commissioners appointed by me to enquire into certain matters connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The evidence obtained under the Commission deserves careful consideration. The Report will be laid before Parliament, and it will be for you then to determine whether it can be of any assistance to you.

A Bill for the Consolidation and Amendment of the Laws in force in the several Provinces relating to the representation of the People in Parliament will again be submitted to you. By the postponement of this measure from last Session, you will have the advantage of including in its provisions the Province of Prince Edward Island, now happily united to Canada.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to whom a Royal Charter was granted, have, I regret to say, been unable to make the financial arrangements necessary for the construction of that great undertaking. They have, therefore, executed the surrender of their Charter which has been accepted by me.

You will, I trust, feel yourselves called upon to take steps to secure the early commencement and vigorous prosecution of the construction of that Railway, and thus to carry out, in good faith, the arrangement made with the Province of British Columbia. A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The extension of the bounds of the Dominion has caused a corresponding increase in the work of administration, and seems to call for additional assistance in Parliament as well as in Executive Government. A Bill on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the consideration of a Bill for the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures relating to our navigable waters and to the Inspection Laws, will be laid before you; as also a Bill for the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture.

The subject of the law relating to insolvency will necessarily engage your attention.

The efforts made by the several Provinces, as well as by the Dominion, to encourage immigration, have met with success, and a large number of valuable settlers have been added to our population. I do not doubt that you will continue your liberal aid to this important object.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have directed that the accounts of the past financial year be laid before you. The prosperous condition of our finances continues, and the revenue has been sufficient to meet all charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy as well as to the efficiency of the public service; and I trust that the supplies which are necessary will be granted without inconvenience to the people.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be devoted to the important interests committed to your charge, and I am confident that your deliberations will redound to the advantage and prosperity of the country.

The Commons then retired to their Chamber, and the ceremonial was brought to a conclusion in the usual manner.

In our report of the admirable speech delivered by Colonel Fletcher, on the occasion of presenting the prizes to the Governor General's Foot Guards, there is an inaccuracy which has crept into the text by inadvertence. It is that "the French infantry were armed with a breech loading rifle—the Chassepot—during the Franco-Austrian war," the fact being that the Chassepot was not issued generally to the French army till after the British army had received the Snider-Enfield. In justice to Colonel Fletcher, we must say the speech was reported from memory, and there was no opportunity of submitting it to him for correction. His letter on the subject is published in another page.

Lieut. Colonel Thos. Ross, and officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards gave a ball at the Queen's Hall on the 25th inst. It was well attended by the rank and fashion of the capital.

The *Levant Times* says the Turkish minister of war has been to the Palace, and presented to the Sultan Mother an address signed by Prince Yussuf Ezzeddin, marshal commandant of the Imperial Guard, the Seraskier himself, and the *Dari Shoura* (council of war) thanking Her Majesty for the gift she has made of sixty six-pounder Krupp guns. The cost of these, with carriages and everything complete, will be £20,000. This patriotic present was suggested to the Valide-Sultan by the order the government lately gave to Mr Krupp for 500 of his cannon of different calibres, to be supplied within four years. The Seraskierate has just concluded a contract with the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, of America, through their agents, Messrs. Azarin, Pere et Fils, for 50,000 cartridge cases, and the same number of bullets for the Snider rifles, to be delivered in forty weeks.