

A letter from Vienna of the 26th Jan., in the Post Aamp Gazette of Frankfurt, says:—"Since the meeting of the Council of war in Paris, the attention of the Russian general has been directed towards Poland. The fortresses of that country, for the repair of which immense sums have been expended during the last 45 years, are all constructed on a system worthy of being studied by strategists. These fortresses are now being provisioned for a year, as though the Russians are to have to defend themselves behind walls, and not in the open field. It is in these places that the divisions of the reserves are being collected, and other forces are directed on Sitomir, Kicheneff, Nicolaieff, Finland, and the Crimea. The military Governor of Orenbourg is sending reinforcements to General Mouravieff."

THE ARMY.—It is reported that the 91st will be removed from Greece to the seat of war in the east.

Some new companies of the Royal Sappers and Miners are to be raised, which will give an increase to the corps of nearly 1,000 men. The officers for the staff of the corps are being increased.

It is stated that, in addition to the augmentation to each battalion of the Royal Artillery, two additional battalions are to be added to that corps on the 1st of April next.

The following will be the change of quarters of the home cavalry in the spring:—The 3rd Dragoon Guards from Edinburgh, to York, the 3rd Light Dragoons from Hounslow to Dublin, the 7th Hussars from York to Manchester, and the 15th Hussars from Manchester to Hounslow; the Queen's Bays and 16th Lancers remain in Dublin.

A warrant will immediately be issued granting to soldiers the bounty money, without the deduction of a single shilling on account of necessities. An entire kit will be given to the soldier at the public expense. On the score of expediency this is commendable, but the measure merits the higher praise of being fair and just to the soldier. The volunteering from the militia regiments is to be superintended by a steady (if possible, a field) officer, with a surgeon, whose approval will be final. The height must be 5ft 6in for the Cavalry, and 5ft 4in for the Infantry. Volunteers will, if over 29 years of age, be allowed to reckon on one half their militia service (over 18) as line service, and their good-conduct pay, &c., is to be preserved to them equally, as if they remained in the militia.

GENERAL WILLIAMS.—A letter from Erzeroum says:—"All the officers and soldiers who have returned from Kars speak in terms of the highest gratitude of General Williams, who has done so much for them, both before and after the capture of Kars. His name is venerated by all. Every one is in hopes of seeing him return in the course of a few months."

NAVAL.—It is reported that Rear Admiral Fanshawe, C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the West India Station, has applied to be superseded on the score of ill health, and that he will be succeeded by Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K. C. B.

Buttons, rivalling jet in beauty of gloss and finish, are now made from India rubber. The U. S. navy and several large clothing houses have adopted the new style.

A HINDOO WITNESS.—A Hindoo having been summoned to give evidence before the court of judicature at Calcutta, deposed that such a circumstance happened in her presence. The judge asked, where it happened; she replied in the verandah of such a house. "Pray my good woman," said the judge, "how many pillars are in that verandah?" The woman not perceiving the trap that was laid for her, without consideration, said that the verandah was supported by four pillars. The counsel for the opposite party immediately, offered to prove, that the verandah contained five pillars, and that consequently, no credit could be given to her evidence. The woman perceiving her error, addressed the judge: "My Lord" said she, your lordship has for many years presided in this court, and every day you ascend a flight of stairs; may I beg to know how many steps these stairs consist of?" The judge confessed, that he did not know. "Then," replied she, "if your lordship cannot tell the number of steps you ascend daily to the seat of justice, it cannot be astonishing that I should forget the number of pillars in a balcony which I never entered half a dozen times in my life." The judge was so much pleased with the woman's wit, that he decided in favor of her party.

A certain barrister, who was remarkable for coming into court with dirty hands, observed, "that he had been turning over Coke," "Coke!" exclaimed a waggish brother, "I should have thought it was coal."

Topsy Turvy.—When things are in confusion they are said to be turned Topsy Turvy.—The expression is derived from the way in which turf for fuel is placed to dry on its being cut; the surface of the ground is pared off with the heath growing on it, and the heath is turned downward, and left some days in that state, that the earth may get dry before it is carried away. It means, then, top side turf-way.—Gentleman's Magazine.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF'S FAREWELL TO HIS ARMY.
The *Invalide Russe* of the 22nd publishes the following order of the day, addressed by Prince Gortschakoff to the army of the South and to the troops in the Crimea:—

Head-quarters, Baktchi-Serai, Jan. 12.
In leaving, by the Emperor's order, for new duties, I bid you farewell, brave comrades!

I give to my worthy successor an army inured to battles, and which has been, for the Czar and the country, a defence and a joy.

Your courage and your devotion, brave warriors, will remain graven for ever on my heart. I sincerely return you thanks for the confidence you always reposed in me in the midst of the bloody and terrible struggle, in which you defended the peninsula of the Crimea against numerous foes, who had in their power means of warfare unique and heretofore unknown in the annals of war.

This order of the day will be read in every company, squadron, sotnia, battery and body of marines.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE ON

ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Whelan, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the address in answer to His Excellency's speech. Mr. Perry in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—Mr. Chairman, I will make some observations on the general tone of that speech, and will offer some observations on one or two paragraphs. First, with regard to the general character of this speech, it is one, I think, not similar to many that have come before this House. I do not remember one so plain in its character. It is not a long array of Government measures. But I think I may remark, that the advisers of the Governor need not be afraid to come before this House. But, sir, I presume, they have very nearly exhausted the subject. When we look at the Statute Book and find the many important measures which they have passed, there was very little to advise His Excellency on. Perhaps, it is well that the Government should come down here without any plan asking support, and that they should not dictate to this House what measures should pass or should not pass. It has become the practice, that the fewer Government measures the better. But, Sir, they act wisely and judiciously, I think, in saying and leaving it to the House itself to propose what measures they in their wisdom may deem best calculated for the prosperity of the Island. The first part of the speech is that in reference to the revenue. He says, (see speech, paragraph third):—"On looking to the abstract of the revenue, published a day or two ago, I found there was a falling off of £3,952 9s. 43d." Is there any accounting for this falling off? I think it is owing, in some measure, to the extended commercial relations which have arisen between this Island and the American Union. No man of common sense could believe, that when that measure was carried into execution, it would not affect the revenue. That may, in some measure, account for the decrease. It is also to be taken into account that in no former period were the prices demanded for West India produce so high in the States. It is a well known fact that many of our merchants who imported largely from those Islands failed, in some instances, to supply the demands of their customers. It will also be seen, as another item of decrease, that there is a falling off in the land assessment of £329 10s. 54d. This, is in a great measure, owing to the purchase of the Worrell estate by Government, which then became exempt from the duties. There was also a small deficiency in the amount of sales of Crown Lands. It is easy to account for that; because the Worrell estate being bought up, other lands were less eagerly sought after. Another small decrease is in the amount of licence duty. This is owing, I think, to the arbitrary system followed by the Grand Jury. Whatever opinions hon. gentlemen may entertain in the abstract, as to the use of alcoholic liquors, still it must be admitted, that during the last year, the summary power which they enjoyed of refusing, at their pleasure, to license houses of public entertainment has had an injurious effect on the public interests. Turning to the increase column, we find an increase in the postage accounts. Nothing is so well calculated to elevate the interests of any country. So long as this is on the increase, the intelligence of the country is also on the increase. Another item is £2120 11s. 2d. on the sale of public lands. There is also an increase on interest on bonds. These items of increase are very easily accounted for. That increase requires no explanation, when it is known that, on the whole, the decrease amounts to only about four thousand pounds, so that we have reason to congratulate ourselves after the depression in the business of last year. Now, the next paragraph to which I shall call your attention is that on the necessity of consolidating the Revenue Laws. I do not presume, that His Excellency has discovered that the Revenue Laws are more defective than other Laws. We have been in the habit of patching up our Revenue Laws for six or seven years, and our circumstances are such, that smuggling is carried on to a considerable extent. We have an extensive coast, and a large number of American fishermen visit our shores. Owing to the facilities which they have in landing, and owing to the ease with which our own people can go to the other Provinces, it is utterly impossible to put down all illicit traffic; but still the laws are such and have been patched so much, that His Excellency probably did well in calling attention to it. The next paragraph to which I shall refer is that respecting the war. I shall not detain the Committee with any observations on this clause of the speech. I only express my own opinion, that the Government has properly expressed it, that our interest is not diminished in the progress of the war. Nearly about this time last year we appropriated a sum of two thousand pounds for the support of the widows and orphans of those who fell in the war.

Then the British satellites—the German Courts—found it prudent to renew negotiations for peace. Taking into account these things, we have no reason to fear for our interests. But turning from a significant subject to a paltry one, what influence has the war had on our own Island? The Governor says we are exempt from the war, True, we have had to pay no tax in support of the war, but nevertheless we have suffered from it, as well as every other Province on this side of the Atlantic and on the other. And we have suffered from it in another point of view: Her Majesty's Government have thought it proper to withdraw every one of the troops which we had for our defence. Has this been the case with the other Provinces? As to augmentation of the Crimean army! yet they were of some consideration to us. They spent their money here; and we had not to provide protection for ourselves. But her Majesty's Government have suggested that we ought to provide a force for ourselves, and that a company might be obtained from Newfoundland. That was done, and a Bill was passed to pay for it; but what was the consequence? The Bill went home; Her Majesty's Government turned round and said—"We will not pass this Bill; we cannot pass this Bill." The home Government says, "We will not allow this tax on the proprietors." He says, "The grounds upon which the decision of Her Majesty's Government, regarding those measures, is founded, shall be communicated to you." I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that we have not the despatches before us, in order to investigate, and to criticize, somewhat closely, the reasons. Certain, I am, that the reasons and motives cannot be weighty ones. They cannot be to relate to the interests of this Island, but for the benefit of a certain clique. It is well known, that when these Bills went from here, they were accompanied by memorials from the proprietors. Now, Sir, is it not humiliating to stand up here and say that we, who enjoy the benefits of self-government—that we have passed two bills here, and that these measures must be intercepted in their progress by any fiction of land-agents; and that our Legislature here is rendered a farce and nullity by a party who have respect to no power—to no authority under heaven. Sir, I had hoped that that day had passed when any party could interfere between this Island Government and Her Majesty; but unfortunately, it appears that that accursed influence still exists in its pristine eloquence. I trust, that this House will call the attention of the British Government to the subject. Would any British statesman dare to interfere with the Government of Canada or the other smaller Provinces? Yet we, with a small revenue and population, because we are in such a condition, is it right that our measures should be frustrated and overlooked? It were far better to do away with the power of Government, than pass measures from year to year, and then have that Government balk our measures. Sir, it is humiliating in the extreme, that we cannot pass acts of a purely local nature, without being balked in these measures. But perhaps I shall take another opportunity of expressing myself on the subject. The next paragraph relates to the Public Lands. The Commissioner of Public Lands is, I trust, well prepared on the subject. But there is one subject to which His Excellency alludes, to which the whole of us may say something. We all do not require any information from the Government, to know what benefits have been conferred by the free School system. The Governor says, there are 268 schools in operation, attended by 11,000 pupils. In looking over the Journals, I think, for 1849, a year or two previous to the introduction of the Free school system, I find the number of schools 126, attended by 4,735 scholars. They have more than doubled, both as to schools and pupils. Our population is 71,000, and when the Public Accounts come down, it will be seen that we have given nearly £12,000 during the past year, for the support of Education. Now let us look at the state of education in the neighbouring Provinces. The population of Nova Scotia is about 300,000; and that province pays for education, a little more than £4,000 over what we pay—the sum granted by N. S. for education being £16,280. The Revenue of Nova Scotia, is £133,000; ours only £42,000—not one third. New Brunswick with its £203,000 revenue, and a population of 200,000 inhabitants, not so large a population as Nova Scotia; and the reason why the Revenue is so much greater than Nova Scotia, is owing, I believe, to the peculiar nature of the business of that country—with this Revenue, gives the wretchedly small sum of £9,435 for the support of Education. Now, is it not creditable to reflect, that we give nearly £3,000 more than the large province of New Brunswick, to the support of education! Surely it is a source of gratification to think, that we are so immeasurably ahead of that province.

Another subject to which His Excellency calls our attention is that of our communication with the neighbouring Provinces. I may be permitted to state that, much to the credit of the Government, they embraced the proposal of a gentleman from Boston. By his arrangements we shall enjoy all the benefits which New Brunswick enjoys, and which Nova Scotia will soon enjoy; so that for a very small consideration, about £40, we will get our letters two or three days earlier than we could by the ordinary mail routes. The advantage will be felt, before the Session is over. Indeed, I think twice £40 would be well thrown away, if it were simply for the purpose of making our American neighbours and ourselves better acquainted than we have hitherto been. I would be willing to vote any sum, and I do not think it can be too large, for the purpose of keeping up regular communication. Nothing so much detracts from the Island as the want of an efficient system of communication. To the credit of the Government they, last summer, kept up a very creditable means of communication. But still I think it may be very materially improved on; and I trust the Government will ask a liberal sum; and I think no sum can be too liberal for this purpose.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then moved that the first paragraph of the Address be read; which being done, he moved that it be agreed to, which passed.

Several paragraphs were then agreed to without remark. On reading the fifth paragraph of the Address, respecting illicit traffic.