MESSAGE.

A. Bannerman, Lieut. Governor.

In Compliance with the Assembly's Address, the Lieutenant Governor sends, herewith, the Copy of the Hon. William Young's opinion on the Sheriff's Return for the First District of Queen's County.—In regard to the cases laid before Mr. Young, the Lieut. Governor refers the House of Assembly to the annexed Letter, from the late Attorney General, and, also, a Copy of a Letter to the same gentleman from the Lieut Governor on the issuing of the Commission. The Lieut. Governor required no *legal* opinion on this subject, as there is no Statute Law fixing the precise terms to be used in such a Document, it being the [duty of the Lieut. Governor only to take care, according to the Royal Instructions, that the Oaths required by law, should be administered to all Members of the Legislature. But the Lieut. Governor did wish to have the opinion of a gentleman of Mr. Young's great parliamentary experience whether it was advisable to issue a Commission inconsistent with the Sheriff's Return? which the Lieut. Governor thinks might have been easily obviated (although he did not suggest it to Mr. Young) by ordering the Twenty four Members returned to be sworn, omitting, in the latter part of the Commission, the words "duly elected and qualified." Mr. Young, however, referred to his opinion of the 24th October, said recommended that the Commission should be issued in the usual form, and the Lieut. Governor acted on that advice; but having done so, he considered it to be his duty, at the opening of the Session, to notice the Sheriff's return for the First District of Queen's County, as being an unusual one, expressing no other opinion on that Document, his object being to protect those privileges which might have been compromised, even without the knowledge of the House, by so unusual a Return.

Government House, 5th April, 1854.

The papers accompanying the said Message having been read,

Hon. Mr. Whelan rose and moved That the Message and the Papers accompanying it be submitted to a Committee of the whole House on Friday next.

A Motion was then made, That the House do now adjourn.

The House divided on the question of the adjournment:

Yeas—Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Conroy, Hon. Mr. Macaulay, Hon. Mr. McEachen, Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Douse, Mr. H. Haviland, [Mr. Macgowan, Mr. Beer, Mr. Yeo, Mr. Goff, and Mr. Clark—14.

Nays—Hon. Mr. Whelan, Hon. Mr. Warburton, Hon. Mr. Lord, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Fraser, Mr. McGill, and Mr. Davies—7.

So it was carried in the affirmative; and the House ajourned accordingly.

OPINION OF HON. WM. YOUNG, ON THE RETURN OF THE WRIT OF ELECTION BY MR. SHERIFF BINNS.

I have considered the return of Mr. Sheriff Binns on the Writ of Election for the first District of Queen's County, dated the 9th August last, and the Act of the Prince Edward Island Legislature 11 Vict. Cap. 21, referred to therein; and taking the facts as they are set out in the Return, I perceive no strange a misapprehension of the objects and meaning of the Act and the powers of the Sheriff, that I shall be more explicit on those points than I should have, otherwise, thought it necessary to be. The Act is evidently founded on the Nova Scotia Act of 1847, and the two principal Sections in our present enquiry, to wit, the 40th, and 42d. of the Island Act, are transcripts of the 37th, and 38th, Sections of the Nova Scotia Law. Now it is a distinguishing feature of both Acts which was carefully preserved and guarded in the passage of the Nova Scotia Bill, that the powers of the Sheriff and presiding Officers should be exactly defined, and no larger discretion entrusted to them than was indispensable for the working of the Law. No House of Assembly having a just regard to its own rights and those of the Constituencies, would transfer to a subordinate officer powers that belong only to themselves, and are among their most valued privileges. In this light nothing can be more clear than the duty of the Sheriff after the Poll Books are returned. We have never had a doubt of it in our own Province, and looking to the 10th Section, I am at a loss to conceive how any doubt could have arisen. The Poll Books being[all returned, the Sheriff shall openly break the seals thereon, and cast up the numbers of Votes, as they appear on the said several Poll Books, and shall then openly declare the state of the Poll; and, if within one hour thereafter no objection shall be made on the ground of persons having voted out of their proper polling division, or more than once for the same election, the Sheriff shall forthwith thereafter make proclamation of the Members chosen, and shall forthwith return such persons as have a majority of votes. It is difficult to imagine in what way the intention of the Legislature could have been expressed more clearly. The Sheriff is to be governed by the number of votes, as they appear on the Poll Books. Whether they are good or bad, objected to or not, sworn or unsworn, is no enquiry of his—he is to cast them up as he finds them; and is, forthwith, to make proclamation of the Members chosen, and forthwith to make return of the person or persons having the majority. If, indeed, within one hour after the state of the Poll is declared, objection is made by a candidate, or any three electors, upon the two specific grounds of electors having twice voted, or voted at a wrong polling place, or upon either of these grounds, the Sheriff is to investigate such objections, and, for that purpose, is to postpone his return. The time within which such objection may be made is limited in the Act; and I take it to be perfectly clear that the instant the hour after the state of the Poll has been declared expired, the right to interpose such objection and stay the return is at an end. If it could be made one minute or five minutes after, why not one hour, or five hours? The Sheriff, after the expiration of the hour, is forthwith to make proclamation—that is, he is required to do it immediately, without any thing else intervening. How is it possible then that he can be legally receiving or listening to an objection, when the law requires him to be in the act of making the return. The expiration of the hour has given the Candidate having the majority of Votes on the Poll Books, and his party whoever they may be, a vested right, subject to enquiry by the House, not by the Sheriff. Now, it appears by this return that the Hour elapsed without objection having been made, and that the Sheriff did thereupon forthwith thereafter proceed to make proclamation and return of Messrs. Coles and Macleod, when Mr. Beer demanded a scrutiny of Votes polled for Mr. Coles which had been marked objected to on the Poll Book. This Mr. Beer had a perfect right to do after the hour, for the purposes in the 42d. Section, but his demand ought to have had no effect on the return. The Sheriff has entirely misapprehended his duty and the scope and meaning of the Act. When objection is duly made of Votes having been twice polled or polled at the wrong place, and it shall appear to him after hearing evidence that such objection is sustained, he is empowered to strike out such Votes from the Poll Book; and, for that purpose, he is a judicial officer. But he has no authority to strike out or expunge votes upon any other ground, except indeed, under the 14th Section, when he is casting them up; and his functions, in the prosecution of a scrutiny are of a totally different kind. Such a Scrutiny is held merely to receive the evidence on which the House is afterwards to judge; and there is not a syllable in the Act, authorising the Sheriff to adjudicate upon or expunge a single vote. Such Scrutinies have frequently come before our Assembly, and have never been supposed to have any other object, nor the Sheriff or his assistants to have any other power, than the receiving or rejecting of such evidence. Mr. Coles' demand of a Scrutiny, though after the hour, was also regular; and he might prosecute or abandon it, as he thought fit. Of course it could have no effect on the return to which he was already entitled. Such being the view which I take of the return, I am now to enquire how it can be rectified or amended. Now it is perfectly clear that this can only be done by the House itself. It would be unconstitutional and dangerous for the Governor, or his Executive Council to interfere with the return of an Election Writ, nor has any such attempt ever been made, that I am aware of, either in England or the Colonies. If the election had taken place while the House was in Session, they might possibly have interposed in the first instance, and refused to allow the returned Member to take his seat, though of that course I find no example in England. But the present being a new House, I know of no constitutional method by which Mr. Beer can be prevented from taking the Oath and his seat, if he so determine. The law as administered in the House of Commons is to be found in Rogers' Law of Election, seventh edition, and the cases cited therein. "When a return has once been made no person is to presume to make any alteration in it without the express order of the House." "If a man be duly elected and yet not well returned, he cannot sit in the House until the return be amended;" and a distinction is taken between a petition against the return only, and a petition against the sitting Member upon the merits; and returns wrongfully made have been frequently amended by order of the House, or of an Election Committee, giving the party thereby ejected time to petition upon the merits. The leading case upon this subject is that of Middlesex in 3 Peckwell, to which I have turned. The case of Camarvon, in Cockburn and Rowe, is also to be found in our Library. The other cases cited in Rogers are not within our reach, but the rule is well established; and, therefore, however anomalous it may be thought that a return, bad in itself, should entitle the returned Member to a seat in the Assembly, where is vote may be of great moment, I cannot advise His Excellency the Governor, or the Executive Council of Prince Edward Island, to undertake to amend the return, or to issue a Commission inconsistent therewith, and for which there is no authority to be found.

William Young.

Hon. Joseph Hensley, &c. &c. &c.
Halifax. 14th Oct., 1853.

Letter of Sir A. Bannerman, Lieut. Governor, to be transmitted for the opinion of the Hon. William Young.

Government House, 29th Oct. 1853.

Dear Attorney General;

I have read Mr. Young's opinion on the election of the First District of Queen's County. It is such as I quite expected from a gentleman of his great parliamentary experience; for no Governor or Council could be justified, if they ventured to amend a return, which is entirely the province of the House of Assembly—nor should a *Governor*, I think, issue a *Commission* at *variance* and *inconsistent* with such a return.

It is, therefore, to the *issuing of the Commission* alluded to by Mr. Young that I wish to direct his attention, and, with that view, I enclose a copy of the proceedings which take place at the opening of a newly elected Assembly in this Colony. What says the Governor's Commission? "Whereas our said High Sheriffs have,as commandd, held the said elections, and returned to our Secretary, &c., &c., the names of twenty-four proper and fit persons, *duly elected* and *qualified* to serve us in our said Assembly."

Now, at the recent election, our Sheriffs, in strict conformity with the foregoing, did return the names of twenty-three Members, but our Sheriff for Queen's County, did also return the name of one other Member for the First District of that County, to be *duly elected*, as having the majority of votes, *subject to the determination of the House of Assembly, on the scrutiny before mentioned, and of the facts herein before set forth.* It appears to me, therefore, that, by following the usual course, I do issue a Commission *inconsistent* with the return, because I tell the Commissioners that twenty-four Members have been *duly elected* to serve in the Assembly, and *command* them to be sworn, while the Sheriffs' return declares one of them to be duly elected subject to the determination of the House of Assembly; and, yet *before* the House can possibly determine on the validity of a return, in which *facts* are left for its discussion, the Member in question, in virtue of *my Commission!* takes the Oaths and his seat, and may vote in cases of great importance!

In the House of Commons,at the opening of a new Parliament,the Chief Clerk, a permanent officer, is furnished, by the Clerk of the Crown, with a list of the Members returned, and all of them may vote for the choice of a Speaker; but after that, no Member can sit or vote until the Oaths are administered to him; and had such a case as the present, occurred in England, I think the Speaker would have directed the attention of the House to so unusual a return, even if it was not petitioned against—and *before* the Oaths were administered to the Member so returned. The return for Queen's County at the recent election, involves important considerations. Similar returns may, hereafter, be made, and when parties are nearly balanced, and party spirit runs high, the consequences can easily foreseen—public business neglected, from prolonged political struggles in the Assembly, and no alternative left to the Lieut. Governor, but dissolution. The Law of Election in Prince Edward Island, is nearly the same as that in Nova Scotia, and, as Mr. Young states, great pains seem to have been taken, clearly to define the duties of a Sheriff, who, I see, is subject to a penalty for *wilful* neglect of duty. The law I think requires farther amendment.

In the mean time, I am desirous to have Mr. Young's opinion, whether in issuing the Commission on the meeting of the new Assembly, the Lieut. Governor should follow the usual course. You will oblige me by forwarding this letter to Mr. Young, and, with his convenience, I shall be glad to hear from him professionally through you.

Yours faithfully,

A. Bannerman, Lt. Gov.

Hon. J. Hensley,
Attorney General, &c., &c., &c.

Charlottetown, 6th April, 1854.

Sir,

In reply to Your Excellency's enquiry as to what cases were laid before the Hon. Wm. Young by me for his opinion respecting the Sheriff's return for the 1st Electoral District of Queen's County, I beg leave to state that when the Hon. Mr. Young was in Charlottetown, I waited upon him, and handed to him the copy of the Return and of our Election Law. I also informed him of a point omitted to be stated in the Return, namely that Mr. Coles had notified the Sheriff in writing that he abandoned the Scrutiny demanded by him. I also conversed with Mr. Young, for some time, on the subject generally; but did not submit any regular case to him. So that the case on which his opinion was given consisted of the Sheriff's return only, with the additional circumstance above alluded to of Mr. Coles' abandonment of the scrutiny. As regards the subsequent opinion on the form of Commission to be issued to swear in the Members, the case submitted was Your Excellency's Letter to me on the subject, dated 27th October, 1853.

I have the honor to remain,
&c., &c., &c.,
Joseph Hensley.

His Excellency,
Sir Alexander Bannerman,
Lieut. Governor, &c., &c.

THURSDAY, April 6.

BREAST WORK AT CAPE TRAVERSE.

Hon. Mr. Lord, as Chairman of the Committee appointed to report to the House concerning the prayer of a certain Petition of the Inhabitants of Cape Traverse and adjoining Settlements, submitted the following Report:

"Your Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the Inhabitants of Cape Traverse and adjacent Settlements (Lot 29), praying for a Grant of money, in aid of individual subscription, amounting to £150, to enable them to erect a Breast Work at the entrance of Cape Traverse River, have to report that they would respectfully recommend the prayer of the Petition to be complied with; but, that, previous to any money being granted, your Committee would suggest the propriety of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor in Council appointing three competent and disinterested persons to examine the place, and, if found practicable, to select the most suitable Site whereon to erect the contemplated Breakwater, together with an estimate of the probable expense of erecting the same, and report the same for the information of the House by its next Session.

(Signed) William W. Lord,
Robert Mooney,
James H. Conroy,
George Beer,
John McLeod,

After some discussion as to the practicability of the proposed work, the probable expense of the same, and the propriety of appointing competent and disinterested persons to examine the place, and report to the Government concerning the scheme, the Report was adopted by the House; as was also the subjoined Address to His Excellency,—the Committee who had made the said Report and prepared the said Address being appointed a Committee to present the same to His Excellency.

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, Lieut. Governor &c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Assembly having had under consideration a Petition from the Inhabitants of Cape Traverse and adjoining Settlements have adopted a Report of a Committee on the subject, a copy of which is herewith transmitted to Your Excellency; and the House respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to give effect to the recommendations therein contained and set forth.

VOTE BY BALLOT.

Hon Mr. Warburton, agreeably to a Notice which he gave, in the Orde Book, at the commencement of the Session rose in his place, and having read this subjoined Resolution, moved that the consideration of it be made the Order of the day for Wednesday next.

Ordered accordingly.

METHODIST CHURCH INCORPORATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. Beer, this Bill was read a second time, submitted to a Committee of the whole House (Mr. Macgowan in the chair) agreed to therein without amendment reported accordingly, and ordered to be engrossed.

SUPPLIES.

The House went into Committee of Supply, Hon. Mr. Warburton in the Chair. Having sat some time therein, the Hon. the Speaker resumed the Chair, and the following Resolutions were reported, and agreed to by the House: the former of which was moved in Committee by Mr. Fraser and the latter by the Hon. Mr. Macgowan.

Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, That the Sum of £1361 be granted for Wharfs and Bridges, to be divided amongst the Three Counties in the following manner:

Queen's County,		£400
An additional Sum to complete Fyfe's Ferry Bridge,	261	£661
Prince County		400
King's County (Besides a sum sufficient for the completing of Souris Bridge)		300
		£1361

And that any sums which remain unexpended from last year's Appropriation, shall be laid out upon the objects for which they were intended; and, if not wanted for such objects, where most required.

Resolved, That a sufficient sum, be placed at the disposal of His Excellency, to defray the expense of procuring a Survey and Report on the practicability and expense of erecting a Breakwater at Campbell's Cove (North Side) Lot 47, East Point.

STEAM PACKET.

The Hon. the Attorney General, submitted the following Resolution, which, after some discussion, was unanimously adopted by the House; the utmost harmony of opinion prevailing, as to the necessity of procuring the most efficient Boat which can be obtained for the service, and the propriety of making a liberal vote for the attainment of the important object of the Resolution.

Resolved—That it be recommended to the House when in Committee of Supply to vote the Sum of Nine hundred Pounds, to be placed at the disposal of the Government of this Colony, as a contingent sum for obtaining the services of a good and sufficient Steam Packet for the conveyance of the Government Mails, for the present year, between Charlottetown and Pictou, and Charlottetown and Shediac; and that provision be made for a like sum yearly, in case a Contract be entered into by the Government for such public service for the term of three Years. And also that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, to request that he will be pleased to cause a correspondence to be opened with the respective Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with a view of ascertaining how far those Provinces are disposed to co-operate with the Island in running a Steam Boat of at least Eighty Horse Power, twice a week between Charlottetown and Pictou and once a week between Charlottetown and Shediac, touching at Bedeque going and returning.

The Hon. the Attorney General then submitted the following Address to His Excellency, which was adopted by the House, and to present which to His Excellency, The Hon. the Attorney General, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Wightman were appointed a Committee.

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman Lieut. Governor &c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Assembly, having come to a Resolution with reference to the obtaining of an efficient Steam Packet for the conveyance of the Government Mails, between this Colony and the adjoining Provinces, a copy of which is herewith submitted, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to give effect to the wishes of the House as therein expressed.

TEMPERANCE.

Friday, April 7.

A number of Petitions were presented to, and received by, the House, praying for the Abolition of the Liquor Traffic.—The total number of signatures to all the Temperance Petitions sent in, up to the present time, amounts to 5075.

☞The consideration of the Petitions in favor of the Maine Liquor Law is made an order of the day for Tuesday next, 11th inst.

SUPPLIES — GEORGETOWN PACKET.

[Omitted under date of Saturday 1st April.]

Mr. Fraser, the Chairman of the House when in Committee of Supply, reported several Resolutions; the principal of them being the Salaries fixed by Statute.

The question being put on all, they were agreed to with the exception of the Grant to the Georgetown Packet—£80.

The question being put on the motion of Mr. Mooney, that the Grant for Georgetown Packet be reduced from £80 (the amount reported agreed to in Committee) to £50, the House divided:—

Yeas:—Messrs. Mooney, Clark, Fraser, McGill, Davies, and Hon. Mr. Warburton—6

Nays:—Mr. H. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Macaulay, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. McEachen, Hon. the Attorney General, Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Douse, Mr. Yeo, Mr. McLeod, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Beer, Hon Mr. Lord, Mr. Goff—14.

The question was then put on the £80 as agreed to in Committee; and the same was confirmed by a division as above—Yeas 14 and Nays—6.

Amendments to the Report on the Free Education Act, agreed to in Committee, and adopted by the House.

INCREASE OF THE ALLOWANCES TO TEACHERS.

The recommendation of the Special Committee to increase the allowances to Teachers was carried out by adding thereto "that an addition of Five Pounds be made to the allowances for First and Second Class Teachers."

ACADIAN TEACHERS.

The Paragraph affecting Acadian Teachers as amended will read thus: "That Teachers of Acadian Schools be required to open English Classes, and impart instruction in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, '*in those districts having a mixed population, and that they be entitled to the same amount of Salary as First Class Teachers under the Act; and that those who do not pass the Board be entitled to an increased allowance of £5.*'"

SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE CENTERAL ACADAMY.

The *blank* left in the recommendation of the Special Committee, for the time during which individuals shall enjoy the benefits and privileges of the Scholarship, was filled up by *Two years.*

NORMAL SCHOOL AND ASSISTANT SCHOOL VISITER.

The Committee recommend that provision be made for the establishment in Charlottetown of a Normal School: and that the present Visiter of Schools be required to take charge thereof, subject to such rules and regulations as the Government may deem necessary and expedient: in consideration of which service, your Committee are of opinion that, for the future, but one Visitation, in the year, of the several District Schools, be insisted upon.

The amendment to this recommendation is the following addition:

"Your Committee are also of opinion that the Executive should be empowered to engage an Assistant to the said Visiter to be employed either in visiting Schools, or teaching the contemplated Normal School, as soon as they may deem it proper or expedient to do so."

ORWELL HEAD SCHOOL AND CHARLOTTETOWN ROYALTY (EAST.)

The recommendation of the Special Committee that the Petition of the Trustees of Orwell-Head School, praying for an allowance to Teacher, and the Petition of divers Inhabitants of Charlottetown Royalty (East), praying for a grant in aid of private subscription, to enable them to build a Schoolhouse, was as it regards both Petitions, rejected by the Committee—without a division as respects the first Petition; and, as respects the second, on a division of 10 to 9.

PRIVATE PETITIONS.

The House was chiefly occupied in the considering and disposing of Private Petition; nearly all of which were ordered to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

POLICE BILL.

The Hon the Attorney General, in pursuance of a recommendation contained in His Excellency's opening Speech, introduced a Bill for the establishment of a Police Force, &c., which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

R. B. Irvine, Reporter.

The newspapers, at times, have odd things in them.—Amongst the advertisements in a recent London paper, we read that "Two sisters went washing!" and that "a spinster, particularly fond of children, wishes for two or three, having none of their own or any other employment."

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

ROYAL INSPECTION OF THE FLEET.

The Queen had her Court, as they sailed to Osborne, yesterday week, in the Fairy yacht, passed through and reviewed the Baltic fleet at Spithead.

A few minutes before the guns of the Victoria announced the arrival of the royal train the signal to dress ship was made from the St. Jean d'Acre, in which Sir Charles Napier had his flag flying, and immediately the order was obeyed. The fleet, however, made no holyday display of bunting, but was decked soberly with flags, as became a naval force with rough work before it and the honour of the country in its keeping. The salute from the Victory had scarcely died away, when, through the haze, every ship could be seen with her yards manned, while in one or two the crews swarmed like bees upon the rigging. Then, after a short pause, the Fairy, with the royal standard flaunting from her mainmast, came gliding out of the harbour, and instantly the crowds assembled on shore raised their loyal cheers for the Queen.

Bending her course past the platform battery, the guns of which poured forth their welcome, the yacht steered at once for the head of the fleet, where the flagship lay. The salute then began, and was volleyed forth in grand style. Hardly had the flash of the first gun blazed from the side of the St. Jean d'Acre, when all the ships were following her example, and for about a minute there was a roar of artillery which must have made all on shore thank heaven most devoutly that they were not Russians. The smoke, borne on the west wind, soon enveloped the tiny form of the Fairy, and even the fleet itself was so completely shrouded that nothing of the mighty ships composing it could be seen, except here and there, high up in the air, the flags waving at their tallest mastheads. Through the dense cloud the flash of the guns for a time penetrated, but even that was at length lost in the mass of vapour, and then, until all was silent, nothing could be distinguished but the louder or fainter report of each boom as it came from the port or starboard side. When the smoke had passed away, the Fairy, which looked at that distance, and by contrast, very like a Thames wager-boat, was steaming swiftly through the fleet on her way to Osborne.

SAILING OF THE BALTIC FLEET.

The first division of the Baltic fleet composed of the following ships set sail on the 11th March, from Spithead:

SCREW LINE-OF-BATTLESHIPS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power
The Duke of Wellington	131	1100	700
The Royal George	121	900	400
The St. Jean d'Acre	101	900	650
The Princess Royal	91	650	400
The Blenheim	60	660	450
The Hogue	60	660	450
The Ajax	58	630	450
The Edinburgh	58	630	450
	680	6420	4030

SCREW FRIGATES.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power
The Imperieuse	50	530	360
The Arrogant	47	450	360
The Amphion	34	320	300
The Tribune	30	300	300
	161	1600	1320

PADDLE-WHEELS.

	Guns.	Men.	Horse-power
The Leopard	18	280	500
The Dragon	6	200	560
Valorous	16	220	400
	40	700	1520

The scene is thus described by an eye-witness:—At eleven o'clock, after leaving Southampton, we passed under the stern of H. M. brig Frolic, the only vessel of that class at Spithead, when a truly sailor-like voice told us that the fleet were under orders to sail at two, that the Queen was coming out from Osborne, and that "they were all ready for the Russians!" At half-past eleven, as our steamer approached the Duke of Wellington, Sir Charles Napier was seen in a screw-tender coming out from Portsmouth to join his ship; and, immediately after he he had reached her, the booming of a salute from the entire fleet announced her Majesty's departure from Osborne. In a few minutes more the Fairy with the Queen, Prince Albert, and other members of the royal family on board, came under the stern of the Duke of Wellington, and a signal was at once passed for the commanding officers of the fleet to go on board the yacht and pay the parting respects to her Majesty. The ceremony appeared to last but a short time, when a signal was made for weighing and loosing sails, and, at the expiration of half-an-hour, the whole squadron was under weigh. The St. Jean d'Acre and the Amphion led the way, the other ships following in rapid succession, and being favoured by a strong S. W. breeze, which enabled most of them to set all canvass, each ship, when off St. Helens, passed close to her Majesty's yacht, and, with rigging manned, cheered vigorously as they passed. The rear was brought up by the admiral's ship the Duke of Wellington, which, in addition to the crew swarming on her shrouds, exhibited men on the trucks of her masts who, with a "dare-devil" enthusiasm, waved hats from their giddy eminence with as much nonchalance and glee as if seated in an arm chair. At this moment nothing could equal the splendour or excitement of the scene, the fine sailing qualities of the admiral's ship being remarkable beyond all others, for although under doublereefed topsails, when last seen she was making strong progress towards the van of the fleet, some of which had left an hour before her.

—France can at any time, if necessary, place in an immediate condition of warfare an army of 1,250,000 men.