

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

ENGLAND.

LONDON.

PROPRIETY OF PACIFIC RIVERS. We have laboured, and we trust not unsuccessfully, to show that no ground for war has yet been afforded by any of the European Powers. But, really, there have been lately such a tone and temper adopted by foreign and English writers, in speaking of this country that we must guard against the suspicion that our efforts to prove that no cause has yet been afforded us for war have been influenced by any fear of war. We do not fear war whenever war is necessary; but let the necessity be clear and paramount. Because we are not always intermeddling with our neighbours, because we did not keep Don Juan no prisoner in this country, nor hold him from his seat in Portugal, as we could have done, with one lash of the lion's tail—because in our complaint against the Government of Brazil, we did not spare all attempts to procure reparations by amicable means, because we did not demand and endeavoured the liberation of Greece, we did not once draw the sword against our ancient friend, who had never offered us the least cause of complaint—because we prefer accomplishing an object by the milder means, and negotiation than by the stricter measure of war, we are supposed to have descended from the pinnacle of our fame, and to be no longer able to assert and maintain our pre-eminence and glory—because the British Lion reposes in quiet in the shade of the British Oak, he is said to have lost his strength and courage—because our flounders are not heard on every shore and every sea is not covered with our ships of war—because having accomplished the liberation of nations from the grasp of tyrants, we have ever since them, we do not attempt to cancel the obligation by disturbing them ourselves—because we are steadily husbanding our means, and cultivating the arts of peace—we are characterised as having degenerated from our ancient character, from our former grandeur. We have hand our resources that they may be more available in any emergency. We do shrink from war—but it is not the shrinking of fear—we shrink from it till it becomes necessary to avenge an insult, or to assert our independence. Then every man of us will be ready to stand with life—then shaking off the dew-drops from the lion's mane, we should show that we are the same nation that fought the good fight in every field—in Egypt, in Portugal, in Spain, in France, and in the Netherlands—at Alexandria, at Talavera, at Salamanca, at Orléans, at Toulouse, and at Waterloo—that the name and the spirit, and the prowess of Nelson, yet live in our memories as green as ever, and that Trafalgar would not be the last victory that would dignify the annals of our naval history. We do not run rashly in war, because we think that a people who deemed no sacrifices of blood or treasure too great, when the safety and honour of the country were at stake deserve that every possible care should be taken to lighten the burden to which they are voluntarily submitting—but show them that their glory, their independence, and their security, are again threatened, and blood would be again poured out as if it were of no more value than water—and gold would be again lavished as if it were as worthless as the sand of the desert.—Lon. Cour.

FRANCE—ALGIERS—EXPEDITION TO THE MORA. That France is anticipating some conflict, in which all her strength will require to be exerted, is rendered manifest by her preparations for the Algerine Expedition. The letters from Paris—the journals are silent on the subject—(this is indeed discreet if not liberal)—state that in every part of France the most active recruiting prevails—that a new impetus is given to the military spirit—that the conscripts are levied in all the departments—that drillings, parades, marches, and reviews, are the order of the day. The spruce drummer is seen in every street of the metropolis, pacing along, in all the majesty of conceit, to his murderous music, and leading on his party-coloured raw soldiers to the establishment even of the Parisians themselves. "War" is the topic of conversation every where—the officer is dreaming of renown, the recruit of glory. What is the meaning of all this? Can France seriously meditate the conquest of the Algerine Empire?—Three of her merchant ships have been captured by the Dey's cruisers, and the whole of the *belle France* is drowned in tears. Her mercantile marine is threatened with destruction, her royal fleets are defied by a single town on the coast of Africa, the Dey's boys all within sight of the French blockading squadron, insult them by passing to and fro as they please, and consequently the liberal Ministry of his Most Christian Majesty are warranted in ordering a levy en masse of the heroes of France to punish the haughty "barbary." Other rumours we know are afloat, and the new forces, we are informed, are to be employed in a still nobler enterprise.—But it is impossible that the Ministry of France can entertain such intentions, or cherish views of ambition in Greece, in Egypt, or elsewhere, so long as the King of a little town, with one harbour, seven small vessels of war, and a hundred brass cannon, bears them and sets them at defiance. It is true that the blockading squadron may be an excellent school for young sailors; but this pretext is but an equivocal apology for the gallantry of the French. It is also true that the benignity of the Ministry may induce them to compassionate the weakness of the poor Dey, and restrain the power of their naval armaments upon his fortifications; but without questioning their philanthropy, we think they might prove themselves as good Christians if they were to conquer first and spare afterwards.—They have professed their pacific intentions quite long enough. They have for eight years displayed their flag in the bay of Algiers, within telescope range of his Highness's palace; and, accordingly, we are of opinion that they have evinced as much forbearance as might reasonably be expected from so great a nation. No man, not even a Quaker, could look on the men now were in Egypt, or the forts of Algiers into the air and all the harbour with the ruins. This, indeed we have every day expected they would do; and nothing, we believe, but their nice feeling of generalship have prevented them from performing. But their reluctance to acquire such glory may possibly be traced to jealousy. The French army may not be disposed to give to the navy the exclusive honor of such an enterprise; and the liberality of the latter may have prompted them to dispense with the monopoly. The journals have proved how ardently France longs to give laws again to Europe; and this chivalrous and romantic spirit may have restrained the one description of force from reaping laurels at the cost of the other. They perhaps think they ought to share the triumph equally, and that a military expedition should assail the Dey by land while the fleet co-operates at a respectful distance by sea. These, however, we beg to state, are merely speculations of ours; and the grand levy now in progress may be destined to other employment. In this case the blockading squadron will perhaps continue their operations for eighteen months longer.—Morning Journal (formerly the New Times.)

LONDON AND LIVERPOOL CONTRASTED.—The commerce of London and Liverpool form objects of wonder and envy to the civilized world. The trade of each port is very different in its nature; and thus the tonnage of the one may increase without any diminution of that of the other. The Port of London, indeed the whole course of the river, from Blackwall to the Tower, is perhaps, one of the most splendid spectacles of modern times. The almost uninterrupted range of warehouses and quays; the East India, the West India, the London, and the St. Katharine's docks; the coasting and other small vessels anchored in the Port, the long succession of steam boats arriving from or departing to, all the ports of the Old and New Worlds, these are circumstances which fill the mind with a sense of the vastness of our commercial wealth and industry. The trade of the port of London has more than doubled within the last thirty years. But the port of Liverpool offers a greater condensation of commercial objects, and is to a certain extent more imposing.

quantity, by presents, and even by clandestine sale, is consumed by the middling classes. Venison is sold, chiefly by pastry-cooks, at a moderate rate, but the chief consumption, which is considerable, is amongst the gentry and proprietors of deer-parks. The annual consumption of wheat, in London, may be averaged at 900,000 quarters, each containing eight Winchester bushels; of porter and ale 2,000,000 barrels, each containing thirty-six gallons; spirits and compounds 11,000,000 gallons; wines 65,000 pipes; butter 21,000,000 lbs.; and cheese 26,000,000 lbs. The quantity of coals consumed is about 1,200,000 chaldrons, of thirty-six bushels, or a ton and a half to each chaldron. About 9,600 cows are kept in the vicinity of London, for supplying the inhabitants with milk, and they are supposed to yield nearly 7,900,000 gallons every year; even this great quantity is considerably increased by the dealers, who adulterate it, by at least one-fourth with water, before they serve their customers.—Allen's History and Antiquities of London.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—The usual repairs and preparations are proceeding in both Houses of Parliament. In the lobby of the House of Commons some carpenters' benches have been fixed up, and workmen are employed in enlarging the vote office, and making alterations calculated to increase the accommodation which it has previously been capable of affording. But although every thing is kept in readiness for the immediate meeting of Parliament, persons possessed of the best means of information do not contemplate its re-assembling before the end of January or beginning of February, except some unexpected occurrences should arise to hasten it.

The first tax on personal property in England, was levied by Henry the Second, whose reign began in 1154, which amounted to 2d in the pound, on the amount of every individual's net effects, after deducting debts owing, to be verified on oath; and 1d. in the pound for the four following years. This tax was raised afterwards to one-tenth part of all personal property, as in 1188 intelligence had been received that Jerusalem had been taken by the Sultan of Egypt. On this occasion, the English are said to have paid about £70,000 and the resident Jews about £60,000 making altogether, in those days an immense sum.

A London paper states, that the coming season of Christmas would introduce into London literary market at least 13 annual, or literary keepsakes. About 100,000 volumes will be printed altogether, and will exceed £75,000, the cost of the publication being perhaps £50,000. The sum paid for binding alone may be estimated at £10,000. Nearly the whole of our best painters, from the President of the Royal Academy down, (says the same paper) have furnished subjects for the burins of our best engravers, to embellish their pages, and the names of the greatest portion of our most celebrated authors appear among the lists of their contributors, from Sir Walter Scott downwards. It appears by a Parliamentary paper, that the timber imported into Great Britain from North America, last year, was 345,203 loads, paying a duty of £213,749. From the Baltic, the quantity imported in the same period was 173,382 loads, of which 107,818 were in British, and 65,564 in foreign ships.

SUPERSTITION.—Irish Earth.—Extract of a letter from Plymouth to a gentleman in this city:—"I am told that your soil or Irish earth has the property of terror to snakes, I have cottages troubled with these reptiles—will you send over a bag or barrel full—no doubt you may smile at the superstition of the Plymouthians; you shall know the effect."—Cork Rep.

Sir Ewan Cameron.—Intelligence has just reached us of the death of a gentleman universally known and respected in the Highlands, the venerable Sir Ewan Cameron of Fassfern, Bart. He expired on Sunday last, at the advanced age of about ninety years. Sir Ewan will be succeeded in his title and estates, by his eldest surviving son, Sir Duncan Cameron. In him were united the best qualities of the Highland Chief,—honour and hospitality, regulated and controlled by a spirit of pure unostentatious benevolence and sound judgment. Sir Ewan obtained his baronetcy in consequence of the gallant conduct of his son, Colonel Cameron, "the valiant Fassfern," who fell at the head of his brave 92d, on the field of Waterloo. The title was the free spontaneous gift of our Sovereign, who thus sought to alleviate the sorrows of the aged chieftain, by reflecting back upon him the honours earned by his gallant son.—Inverness Courier.

Yesterday, his Grace the Duke of Gordon, accompanied by the Duchess, and his noble relative the Duke of Richmond, visited the Castle, for the first time since his appointment as Governor. The reserve companies of the 42d regiment received him on the esplanade with military honours. His Grace seemed highly gratified at being welcomed to his new office by the gallant corps which he had so long commanded. He ordered the brave Highlanders a substantial token of his regard; and they spent the afternoon in pledging libations to his health and happiness.—Edinburgh Weekly Journal.

ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF FOOD IN LONDON.—The consumption of animal food is very great; but to form a proper idea of its extent, the average weight, as well as the number of the animals, must be ascertained. About the year 1700, the average weight of the oxen sold in the London market was 370 lbs.; of calves 50 lbs.; of sheep 28 lbs.; and of lambs 18 lbs. The present average weight is, of oxen 800 lbs.; of calves 104 lbs.; of sheep 80 lbs.; and of lambs 50 lbs. The number of oxen annually consumed in London has been estimated at 110,000; calves 50,000; sheep 770,000; lambs 250,000; hogs and pigs 203,000; besides animals of other kinds. Smithfield is the principal market for the above articles; and the total value of butchers' meat sold there annually is stated at £3,000,000. The quantity of fish consumed in the metropolis is comparatively small, on account of the high price which it generally bears, but this will probably be remedied, though some kinds of fish, at particular seasons, are cheap, and of good quality. There are, on an average, annually brought to Billingsgate-market 2,500 cargoes of fish, of forty tons each, and about 20,000 tons by land carriage; in the whole 120,000 tons. The supply of poultry being inadequate to a general consumption, and the price consequently high, that article is mostly confined to the tables of the wealthy.—Game is not publicly sold, yet a considerable

charge them to the satisfaction of His Majesty and his faithful subjects the inhabitants of this Province. The experience of several years, and the present situation of this Province, unhappily prove too clearly that without a good understanding among the several branches of the Legislature, it is impossible that the Colony should prosper; alike impossible to remedy the evils now experienced, and to provide for the prosperity and welfare of His Majesty's Canadian subjects. And your Excellency may be assured that we shall be all with pleasure and eagerly second your Excellency's endeavours to establish conciliation, by measures in which the undoubted prerogatives of the Crown and the constitutional privileges of the people of this Province will be equally respected.

We learn with the liveliest interest that His Majesty's government has occupied itself with our financial difficulties, so as to relieve your Excellency from all responsibility attendant upon any measures to be adopted of such high importance. And the sentiments expressed by your Excellency lead us to hope that we shall apply to them with effect. We shall pay respectful attention to such recommendations as your Excellency may hereafter make to us upon other matters of public importance, and we feel assured that they will ever be founded on the high interests of the Province and the wants of its inhabitants.

We have ever been convinced of the justice and liberality of His Majesty's Government, and we believe it extremely desirable that, as far as possible, the grievances of which we have to complain, of which we find a striking and to us a very consolatory proof in the results of the petitions recently laid before His Majesty's Imperial Government by a very large majority of the inhabitants of this Province, and which have long retarded the progress and prolonged the infancy and weakness of this colony. As soon as the inhabitants of Lower Canada made known to the King the sufferings of the country, personally at heart to provide for the contentment and welfare of the inhabitants of this Province, and we cannot doubt of the weight which the recommendations and testimony of a distinguished officer, whose public career has merited and obtained success by rendering important services to the country, must have with His Majesty. By the concurrence of all these circumstances, we perceive in your Excellency a combination of means and facilities for effecting good, such as none of your predecessors has possessed.

We are sincerely grieved at the arbitrary and manifestly illegal acts, which by depriving the Province of the aid of its Legislature during the whole of last year, have occasioned very grievous evils, and put your Excellency under the necessity of laying before us the Accounts of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure for two years instead of one. We nevertheless assure your Excellency that we shall apply the most scrupulous attention to the accounts which your Excellency shall lay before us, and that we shall gratefully avail ourselves of any explanations which your Excellency may be pleased to communicate to us respecting them.

We respectfully assure your Excellency that the sole and faithful remedy for the jealousies and dissensions, of which an obelisk is assiduously the first step towards improvement of any kind, is a conciliatory, impartial and constitutional administration, such as we confidently expect from your Excellency, and that we shall accordingly hope we shall make every endeavour in order that the Executive Government and the Legislature may apply their undivided attention to the advancement of the general interest in a spirit of cordial co-operation. And we do not doubt that such advancement will rapidly advance towards prosperity, and emulate, ere long, the most opulent and flourishing portions of the North American Continent.

The House having returned from the Castle, Mr. Speaker and His Excellency's answer, to the address on the speech which is as follows:—

"Gentlemen, I sincerely thank you for this Address, which I receive with feelings of high satisfaction. It is very gratifying to me to learn that your sentiments are entirely accord with my own, upon the points to which I adverted in opening the Session: and to receive the assurance, which you are now pleased to give me, of your zealous co-operation in my administration of the government. You do His Majesty but justice in believing that he has never ceased to feel an affectionate regard and paternal solicitude for the welfare of his faithful Canadian subjects, and you may be assured that I have nothing so earnestly at heart as to promote their happiness and prosperity by every means in my power."

PROVINCE OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

FREDERICTON. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Wednesday, Dec 10. Whereas Mr. Speaker has announced to the House his acceptance of the Office of Treasurer of the Province, and conceiving that the situation is incompatible with that of a Member of this House, requests that his seat should be vacated; and the House concurring in Mr. Speaker's opinion on this subject, do comply with his request. Resolved thereupon, that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to consider and report upon all matters relating to the Commerce of the Province.

Mr. Weldon moved for leave to bring in a Bill further to increase the Revenue of the Province, by imposing a duty upon all Rum and other Spirituous Liquors that shall be distilled within the same. Leave granted.

Mr. Barlow, by leave, presented a petition from Richard Hiches and Edmund Crowell, residing on the Seal Islands near Cape Sable, praying aid for relief extended to Shipwrecked persons.

Mr. Parker moved for leave to bring in the following Bills:—

A Bill to prevent a failure of Justice by reason of variances between Records and writings produced in evidence in support thereof.

to the Lieutenant-Governor in the Council Chamber, forthwith, for his approbation. "H. D." Mr. Allen, a Member for York County, then addressing himself to the Clerk, said:—"Mr. Wetmore, "His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor having been pleased, by Message to this House, to direct that they proceed to the choice of a Speaker, I now rise to nominate Charles Simonds, Esquire, as a fit person to be elected to that important situation. That Gentleman's long experience as a Member of this House, connected with his acknowledged acquaintance with the usages and the proceedings of the British Parliament, I think justifies an opinion, that, if elected, he will conduct the duties of the Chair with dignity, ability and independence; and at all times maintain the privileges of the House in the most ample manner."

And the motion being seconded by Mr. Hayward, a Member for the County of Sunbury, and the House appearing to be unanimous, Mr. Simonds was taken from his Seat, and conducted to the Chair; and when on the Steps, said:—"I beg leave to express my grateful acknowledgments to the House, for this most flattering proof of your confidence in electing me to one of the most important and honourable situations in the Country. In the hope that my deficiencies may be viewed with indulgence, I cheerfully submit to the wishes of the House; constantly relying, that the discharge of my duty, I shall have your constant aid and support."

Mr. Simonds then took the Chair, nem. con. A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, requiring the immediate attendance of the House in the Council Chamber; whereupon Mr. Speaker elect, with the House, attended—

And being returned— Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had addressed his Excellency as follows:—"May it please your Excellency, "The House of Assembly, in pursuance of leave granted by your Excellency, and in the exercise of an undoubted right, have elected a Speaker, and now present me to your Excellency as the person chosen. But aware of my inability to discharge the duties of that highly important situation, I trust that your Excellency will be pleased to disapprove of me, and command the House to elect a more fit person to be their Speaker."

That the Hon. Mr. Chief Justice Saunders, then said:—"Charles Simonds, Esquire."

"I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to acquaint you, that he hath so good an opinion of your integrity, diligence and sufficiency for executing the important office into which you are elected, that His Excellency is perfectly satisfied with the choice which the House of Assembly have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker."

Thursday, December 11. On motion of Mr. Chandler—Resolved, that a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in answer to his Speech.

Ordered, that Mr. Chandler, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Crane, be a Committee to prepare the Address.

On motion of Mr. Ward—Resolved, that a Committee be appointed to consider and report upon all matters relating to the Commerce of the Province.

Ordered, that Mr. Ward, Mr. Crane, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Barlow, and Mr. Keicium, be a Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Allen, the House went into Committee of the whole, in consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. Taylor, from the Committee, reported, that having gone into consideration of the business referred to them, they had passed a number of Resolutions, which being handed in at the Clerk's table, were there read and agreed to by the House, and are as follow:—

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the encouragement of Agriculture, be referred to a Select Committee to report thereon.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the Fisheries, be referred to the Committee of Trade.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the manufacturing and export of Timber, be referred to the Committee of Trade, to report thereon by Bill or otherwise.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the Institutions of Education, be referred to a Committee with instructions to enquire particularly into their present state, and the best means of making them more generally useful, and to report their proceedings to the House.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the Militia System, be referred to a Select Committee, to report thereon.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the opening of the Water Communication, and the present system of applying the Statute Labour on the Roads, be referred to a Select Committee, to report thereon.

Resolved, that such part of His Excellency's Speech as relates to the opening of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, be referred to a Select Committee to report thereon.

And Mr. Taylor further reported, that he was directed to ask for leave to sit again.

Friday, December 12. Mr. Barlow moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the early trial and discharge of persons committing criminal offences in the City and County of Saint John, under the degree of Grand Larceny. Leave granted.

And the Bill being brought in, and accompanied by the requisite Certificate from the Clerk of the Peace for the said City and County, was read a first time.

Mr. Ward moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize the extension of the Gaol Limits in the City of Saint John. Leave granted.

And the said Bill being brought in, and duly certified by the Clerk of the Peace for the said City and County, was read a first time.

Mr. Ward, by leave, presented a Petition from Anthony Lockwood, jun., praying to be remunerated for compiling a Map of the Province. Which he read.

Saturday, December 13. Mr. Chandler, from the Committee appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech at the opening of the session, reported, that they had prepared a draft thereof, which he read, and being handed in at the Clerk's table, was there again read. Ordered that the report be accepted.

Mr. Weldon moved for leave to bring in a Bill to continue an act to repeal all the laws now in force for the regulation of Seamen, and to make more effectual provision for that purpose. Leave granted.

And the said Bill being brought in, was read a first time.

On motion of Mr. Crane—Ordered, that the Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, to issue a new Writ for the Election of a Member to serve in General Assembly, for the County of Northumberland, in the room of Richard Simonds, Esquire, who has accepted of the Office of Treasurer of this Province.

Monday, December 15. Mr. Parker, by leave, presented a Petition from Henry Gilbert, Esquire, and others, Merchants and Traders, of the City of Saint John, praying a revision of the Law for regulating the Sale of Goods by Auction, and levying a duty on Goods imported by non-residents.

On motion of Mr. Parker—Resolved, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Treasurer's Accounts for the last ten years, and report to the House a statement of the duties which have been paid by Auctioneers throughout the Province on Goods sold at Auction during that period.

Ordered, that Mr. Parker, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Rankin, be a Committee for that purpose.

Ordered, that Mr. Parker be added to the Committee to consider and report upon all matters relating to the Commerce of the Province.

Mr. Weldon moved for leave to bring in a Bill further to increase the Revenue of the Province, by imposing a duty upon all Rum and other Spirituous Liquors that shall be distilled within the same. Leave granted.

Mr. Barlow, by leave, presented a petition from Richard Hiches and Edmund Crowell, residing on the Seal Islands near Cape Sable, praying aid for relief extended to Shipwrecked persons.

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