

efficient floodgates, has the appearance of another dock and half the basin. It is understood that the engineering operations are completed for the demolition of the whole of these structures, and that the object in demolishing one portion only was to test the accuracy of certain calculations with regard to the quantity of gunpowder necessary for effecting the desired result. The quantity actually employed is said to have been a little over 2000 pounds of English, or 1000 French kilogrammes.

Report says that all the preparations will be completed for the demolition of the three docks to be destroyed by the English in the course of a week from the present date. The arrangements would have been finished already had it not been for the large quantity of water which has found its way through the shafts and galleries excavated for the reception of the blasting powder.

The Crimea correspondent of the London Morning Herald states that a private of the English artillery has died under the lash at Balaclava. His offence was drunkenness. This private was made fast to the usual lumber wheel; his state was apparently not one of health; he was sentenced to receive in full fifty lashes, at the hands of the sergeant farrier of the left siege train at Balaclava Heights, and that on being cast loose he fell to the ground like a log, there remained a short time, was carried to the hospital, and there died.

From Papers by R. M. Steamer Arabia. Jan. 19. London, Jan'y 16.

Last night's Gazette contains the treaty between Japan and this country, signed by Admiral Stirling, on behalf of England, at Nagasaki on the 14th October. By it the two ports of Nagasaki (Foen) and Hokodadi (Matamei) are now opened to English shipping, for repairs and obtaining supplies; but only ships in distress are to put into other ports. The fifth article provides that "in the ports of Japan, either now open, or which may hereafter be opened, to the ships or subjects of any foreign nation, British ships and subjects shall be entitled to admission and to the enjoyment of an equality of advantages with those of the most favoured nation, always excepting the advantages accruing to the Dutch and Chinese from their existing relations with Japan."

The following is given by the Independence as the text of the Austrian propositions:—

"I. Danubian Principalities.—Complete abolition of the Russian protectorate. The Danubian Principalities shall receive an organisation conformable to their wishes, to their wants, to their interests; and this new organisation, respecting which the population itself will be consulted, shall be recognised by the contracting Powers and sanctioned by the Sultan as originating from his sovereign initiative. No State shall be able, under any pretext whatever, under any form of protectorate, to interfere in the question of the internal administration of the Principalities; they shall adopt a definitive permanent system demanded by their geographical position, and no impediment can be made to their fortifying, in the interest of their safety, in such manner as they deem advisable, their territory against foreign aggression.

"In exchange for the strong places and territories occupied by the allied armies, Russia consents to a rectification of her frontier with Turkey in Europe. It would commence in the vicinity of Chetym, follow the line of the mountains, which extend in a south-easterly direction, and terminate at Lake Sasik. The line shall be definitely regulated by the general treaty, and the conceded territory would return to the Principalities and to the suzerainty of the Porte.

"II. Danube.—The freedom of the Danube and of its mouths shall be efficaciously assured by European institutions, in which the contracting Powers shall be equally represented, except the particular positions of the lords of the soil on the banks, which shall be regulated upon the principles established by the Act of Congress of Vienna as regards the navigation of rivers. Each of the contracting Powers shall have the right to keep one or two small vessels stationed at the mouths of the river, destined to assure the execution of the regulations relative to the freedom of the Danube.

"III. Neutralisation of the Black Sea.—This Sea shall be open to merchant vessels—closed to war navies (marines militaires). Consequently, no naval military arsenal shall be created or maintained there. The protection of the commercial or maritime interests of all nations should be assured in the respective ports of the Black Sea by the establishment of institutions conformable to international law, and to the customs sanctioned in such matters. The two Powers which hold the coast engage themselves to maintain only the number of light vessels of a fixed force, necessary for their coast service (service de leurs côtes). This convention, concluded separately between these two Powers, shall form part as an annex of the general treaty after receiving the approval of the contracting parties. This separate convention cannot be annulled or modified without the consent of the signatories of the general treaty. The closing of the Straits will admit the application applicable to the stationary vessels mentioned in the preceding article.

"IV. Christian Subjects of the Porte.—The immunities of the Royal subjects of the Porte shall be religiously preserved without infringement on the independence and dignity of the Sultan's Crown. As deliberations are taking place between Austria, France, Great Britain, and the Sublime

Porte to assure to the Christian subjects of the Sultan their religious and political rights, Russia shall be invited, when peace is made, to associate herself thereto.

"V. The belligerent powers reserve to themselves the right which appertains to them of producing in a European interest special conditions over and above the four guarantees."

The Paris Constitutionnel gives the following particulars relating to the peace proposals:—

"Count Valentino Esterhazy, when he handed to Count Nesselrode a copy of the ultimatum agreed on in concert by all the allies, of the 2nd of December, informed the Russian Chancellor that his instructions did not authorise him to accept any discussion of the ultimatum nor any modification of its contents. If, therefore, he should receive on the 8th of January any other reply than a pure and simple acceptance, he would be under the necessity of leaving St. Petersburg with all the members of his embassy.

"To prevent this scene, and to postpone the departure of the Austrian Legation for at least a few days, the Court of Russia resolved to send its reply to Vienna direct. If an ambassador is bound by his instructions, a Minister of Foreign Affairs is not, and Count Buol could not, at any rate, refuse to listen to the explanations of the Russian Ambassador.

"It was on the evening of Friday, the 11th of January, that Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, received the reply of his Government to the ultimatum. On Saturday morning he communicated it to the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The reply composed a whole system of counter proposals which Russia wished to substitute for the proposals she had received.

"These counter proposals were communicated by Count Buol to the Ambassadors of France and England, and were immediately forwarded by them to their Government.

"The reply of Russia not being the 'pure and simple' acceptance demanded from that Power, Austria could not take it into consideration without being authorised thereto by her two allies, France and England. The Western Powers had no motive for giving up a decision which had been carefully considered and was irrevocable.

"It was, therefore, replied to Prince Gortschakoff that, if by the 18th of January Russia did not send her pure and simple acceptance of the ultimatum, Count Valentino Esterhazy and his Legation would receive orders to leave St. Petersburg.

"Immediately afterwards Austria will present to the German Diet, through her envoy, propositions to the effect of obtaining the armed concurrence of the Confederation in the struggle which she will have to maintain against Russia."

All the Vienna evening papers of Monday speak of the new state of affairs as "most serious," "unexpected," and "alarming." The whole personnel of the Russian Embassy have received orders to leave Vienna.

Yesterday the Duke of Cambridge, in the name of her Majesty Queen Victoria, distributed the British Crimean medal to 14,000 French troops, just returned from the seat of war. They were drawn up in the Place du Carrousel. The Emperor was much cheered, and the whole scene was very imposing.

The Times of Thursday, in a second edition, publishes the following:—

VIENNA, WEDNESDAY, 10 P. M.

"Russia has unconditionally accepted the propositions of the allies."

"This is authentic."

A third edition of the Morning Post of Thursday says, that her Majesty's Government have received the following telegraphic despatch from Sir Hamilton Seymour:—

"The Russian Government accept the Austrian proposals as a basis for negotiation."

INDIA.

The Santal insurrection is suppressed at last; all the leaders are prisoners, and the troops engaged returning home. The Bombay Times says:—

"On the 20th of November a body of troops were despatched to Roxadungal, and though none were found at this particular point, their track was discovered by men sent up in the trees. The troops pushed on and found themselves all at once, to their surprise, in the centre of a great encampment, with the cooking pots still on the fire, and which had not been abandoned for above ten minutes. The insurgents, to the amount of about 1,500, were scattered in parties of from 200 to 300 in the brushwood all around, over a space of four or five square miles in extent. The troops at length came in contact with them, plunged into a tremendous bamboo jungle, and drove the Santals before them. They finished by burning from 20 to 25 villages, and by showing the enemy that none of their fastnesses were impenetrable. On the 30th detachments were sent out by General Lloyd, if possible to capture the remaining insurgents, and in this they were entirely successful, Ensign Allen having arrived the following day with all the most important prisoners in charge, Kanco included."

Lord Dalhousie is at Calcutta, winding up his affairs previous to returning home. Oude is auspiciously tranquil; and all other parts of India at peace.

Provincial Legislature.

[From a Royal Gazette Extraordinary.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. January 21, 1855.

At 2½ o'clock, p. m. His Excellency Major General Sir J. Gaspari LeMarchant, Knight, Knight-Commander of the Order of St. Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, and its dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c., &c., came to the Council Chamber, attended as

usual, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's command, to let the House of Assembly know "It is His Excellency's will and pleasure that they attend him immediately in this House"—who, being come, His Excellency was pleased to direct that the House return to their chamber and choose a Speaker. The representatives retired accordingly, and, after brief delay, reentered the Council Chamber, and presented Stewart Campbell, Esq., as Speaker pro tem. His Excellency approved of the choice, and opened the session with a Speech to both Houses, as follows:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have great pleasure in meeting you in parliament, and I trust that our united efforts will be successfully directed to the development of the resources, and the advancement of the prosperity, of this highly favored Colony.

The people of Nova Scotia, though most deeply interested in the existing conflict, are permitted by the gracious dispensation of Providence, quietly to pursue their industrial occupations, far from the scene, and exempt from the burthens of a protracted war, which the arms of their valiant subjects, and of their brave Allies, sustain, with distinguished valour and fortitude.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The accounts for the past, and the estimates for the current year, shall be submitted without delay.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

Our especial gratitude, as a people, is due to the Almighty for our exemption from pestilence during the year that has past.

To that source we must also gratefully ascribe the success which, in the last season, has attended the industry of the husbandman, and rewarded the toils of the fisherman.

The Revenue, though somewhat diminished in productiveness, when compared with that of the preceding year, as was anticipated from the reduction of Duties, and the first effects of suddenly expanded commercial freedom, is nevertheless, amply sufficient to meet all demands upon it, and affords satisfactory evidence of the increased energies, and growing prosperity, of the people.

The Normal School—opened at Truro during the past Autumn, under circumstances most auspicious—is now in efficient operation.

A measure, having for its object the improvement of the general educational condition of the Country, will be submitted to your consideration.

Our Railway system is progressing favourably, and I trust that, when the accounts of the expenditure, and liabilities, connected with it, are laid before you the utmost prudence and economy will be found to have been observed by those to whom the Legislature has entrusted the conduct of this important branch of the public service.

The Reports and Accounts respecting St. Peter's Canal, and the Lunatic Asylum, when submitted to you, will show you that those public works have advanced satisfactorily during the past season.

On the subject of the Mines and minerals, in connexion with the claims of the General Mining Association, an opinion of the Imperial Law Officers of the Crown, and a correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, will be laid before you, which will doubtless engage your most earnest attention.

A measure will be submitted to you, founded on the example of the Mother Country, and on our local experience, for facilitating the collection, and improving the administration of the Revenue.

The substitution of a simpler and more economical process for vesting forfeited lands in the Crown, in place of the existing system, will be proposed to you by my Government.

The selections of Stock, which I have made, in accordance with the desire, expressed in the closing Session of the last Parliament, will, I trust, commend themselves to your approval.

I venture to indulge a confident expectation that the further promotion of Agriculture, in its various relations, will, in the present Session, command the interest of the Representatives of a people thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of that great object.

Some modification of the existing Laws for the protection of the River Fisheries appears to me imperatively called for, and I trust that your local experience will suggest such improvement of them as will ensure the attainment of the purpose for which they were enacted.

You will be gratified, I am sure, to learn, that I have resumed the occupation of Government House, seriously-injured by the late fire, but renovated and refurnished in a style that bespeaks your munificence, whilst it demands my grateful acknowledgments.

The House of Assembly having returned to their Chamber, proceeded to choose their subordinate officers, when Mr. James was chosen Clerk; Mr. James Tobin, Assist. Clerk; Mr. G. Rossie, Sergeant at Arms; Mr. E. Joyce, Assist. Sergeant at Arms. This is a great change, and it is said to have been made upon party grounds. We should have thought that the result of the last Election afforded the very best opportunity to do away with party altogether. The majority on one side was certainly strong enough to be generous. "It is a good thing to have a giant's strength, but not to use it as a giant."