regardlessness of the emperor. He was in correspondence with Voltaire, and protected science and literature; he gave the second and more brilliant varnish to Russian society, which, by her licentious example, was encouraged in debauchery. The madness of her son Paul, more fit for a drill-sergeant than for an emperor, again aroused the original rudeness of the Russians. But soon after his death, his successor, Alexander, did all he could to assimilate his autocracy to the western civilized nations. In opposition to Napoleonic France, Russia became liberal; and the French and German emigrants instructed the Russians in good manners and the elegances of life. Still, all their efforts acted only upon the surface. Napoleon knew it, and remarked, therefore, justly:—"Gratter le Russe, et vous verrez le Tartare." Western civilization is in Russia only the varnish of the original savage. Yet Alexander's mystical and half-liberal turn of mind had, in his long reign, a smoothing influence on the character of the Russian aristocracy, which, during the wars with Napoleon, had seen more of Europe in fifteen years than before in a century. Foreign literature proved to be fertilizing; it roused the native energies, and a national literature began to develope itself. At this time Russians began to read Russian books, and no longer only French and German; they began to wean themselves from foreign influences; they dared to think for themselves; grew warm in their sympathy for struggling Greece. A crisis was impending, when Alexander died. The spirit of the higher classes and of the army was in a state of fermentation; but the outbreak of December 26, 1825, which was to destroy the omnipotence of the Czar, was quenched by the energy and personal courage of the Czar Nicholas. The conspirators and rioters were shot down with grape, and the tottering imperial throne was founded more firmly in the midst of a pool of blood; the power of Russian aristocracy, the most generous hearts in the army, were executed, or sent to the mines of Siberia. The aspect of society suddenly changed; the French doctrinaire liberalism, and the visionary German mysticism of the time of Alexander, had to disappear; Nicholas is a matter-of-fact man, and despises speculation. Generous aspirations became dangerous; materialism, pedantry, discipline, were the watchwords for the new reign. Czar Nicholas transforms the organization of government into barracks and offices. He fears the influence of Western ideas, and throws difficulties into the easy intercommunication with foreign countries; to get a passport is now become a favour, whilst, formerly, travelling in Europe was encouraged; nor are foreigners any longer admitted into the empire, unless they are merchants, or above all suspicion. But, on the other side, he endeavours to arouse a national exclusive spirit, which may in future isolate Russia, and keep it back from the ways of Western Europe; the ladies at court must wear the Russian costume; moreover the Russian language, which since Peter I. has been excluded from society, becomes again fashionable by command of the Czar. Peter I. worked for years to make the Russians Europeans, and his successors followed his example for a whole century; Nicholas now works to separate them from the West, and once more to arouse their nationality. He has succeeded, perhaps, beyond his expectations; the original Russian nature has been roused; and the present crisis is but the necessary consequence of the revival of narrow-minded bigotry and savage combativeness. Russia has been put in opposition to Europe; Russia is 'holy,' and Europe is wicked. A few epigrams of Lermontoff describe this reaction and its consequences very strikingly:—

No traitor to my native land,
Nor of my sires unworthy am I;
In that, unlike to you, to limp
On home made crutches, "likes me not.

For that I blush their deeds to see,
Nor music hear in clanking chains,
Nor glittering arms think beautiful;
No patriot am I, they say!

Since not of the ancient mould I am,
Since backward I decline to go,
I (in their view) ill understand
My country, and disparage it.

Happy they're right the devil appreciation it!
For here, who go but backwards, most advance,
And earlier far they at the goal arrive
Than I, who onward ever took my way.
I, venturesome, commenced with feet so well,
With eyes to see, the prison was my doom.
God gave to me a tongue; but I begun
To speak and had to rule. How strange a land!
The wise man here only to be a fool
Uses his mind, and wants his tongue for silence.

Lermontoff had sufficient reason for his epigrams. When the untimely death of the great poet Pushkin by the pistol of Dantes d'Hecckeren, suddenly aroused the poetical genius of the young man—who up to that time had lived a life of pleasure in St. Petersburg, and his indignation dictated to him some beautiful stanzas addressed to the Czar, claiming justice and revenge—he in three days had become a celebrated and reputed man. His stanzas were spread, in manuscript all over the capital; they had, indeed, reached the Czar; but in the same hour, the imperial order reached the young poet, which banished him to the Caucasus, on account of his boldness and sudden popularity. The Czar does not allow any one to censure his conduct, even in the form of loyalty, or of hope for the future. His person is sacred, and, like the idols of old, not to be approached but behind a cloud of incense. Nicholas is, in this respect, just as exacting as his father was, who, when the French ambassador mentioned a Russian scholar, calling him eminent in science, Czar Paul seemed offended, and replied, that in Russia no man is eminent unless the emperor allows it.

The jealousy of Nicholas is not less striking; not even his favourites can dare to express the slightest doubt of his infallibility. Prince Wotonsoff, whom the Czar honoured with personal friendship, had to experience the disgrace of his master, in consequence of a curious incident at the camp of Woznoesensk. An army of 60,000 men was assembled there and the sham-fights had, indeed, the dimensions of actual war. The Czar, who believes himself to be a first-rate strategist and a great general, made all the plan of the general action, which was to close the performances. He took the command of half the army, and gave the other half to Prince Woronzoff, so as to represent the enemy. The battle had begun in the morning; and after a series of most skilful manœuvres, the Czar was to out-general the enemy on all the points, and in the evening to capture Woznoesensk, supposed to be the centre and strongheld of the enemy. All the exercises were executed in the most masterly way, according to the plan of the Czar; but as the paper he had forgotten one brigade of the adverse army, which at the end of the action was neither defeated nor cut off; and Prince Woronzoff, therefore, as a good strategist, secured with it to Woznoesensk, which according to the Czar's opinion, was not defended. When, therefore, in the evening, Nicholas, at the head of his staff, galloped triumphantly into the city, to receive the submission of the enemy, he saw himself suddenly surrounded by a force which he did not expect and Prince Woronzoff approached him with the words: 'Your majesty is my prisoner.' Nicholas smiled, and handed his sword to the prince, who, not accepting it, delivered his own sword to his master. But instead of making a compliment to the prince for his clever generalship, the Czar on the same evening sent orders to Prince Woronzoff to take care of his health, and to visit the spas of Germany. He was banished in this form, for having been a better general than his imperial master and friend, and for several years he remained in disgrace. It was only when Schamyl's mountaineers had repeatedly defeated the Russian army, that the Czar remembered Woronzoff, and intrusted the civil and military command of Transcaucasia to the accomplished prince. I have this anecdote from one of the Austrian officers, who were present at the camp of Woznoesensk; and I do not doubt its authenticity, as it is entirely in the character of the Czar.

Two foreigners only, both of them having had the opportunity of seeing Nicholas at his court—Custine, the Frenchman, and Henningsen, the Englishman—give us a description of his character and of his measures.

Custine says:—'It is easy to see that the emperor cannot forget who he is, nor the constant attention of which he is the object; it pose incessamment (he attitudinises unceasingly), from whence results that he is never natural, even when he is sincere. His features have three distinct expressions, but one of which is that of simple commonplace. The most habitual seems to me that of constant severity. Another expression, though more rare, better tells that the countenance—it is that of solemnity. The third is politeness; and into this glide a few shades of graciousness, which temper the cold astonishment caused by the other two. But notwithstanding this graciousness, there is one thing that destroys the moral influence of the man; it is, that each of these physiognomies, which arbitrarily replace each other on his face, is taken up or cast aside completely, without leaving any trace of the preceding to modify the expression of the new. It is a change of scene with upraised curtain, which no transaction prepares us for. It appears a mask taken off and put on at pleasure. Do not misunderstand the sense I here attach to the word mask; I use it according to its etymology. In Greek, hypocrite means actor—the hypocrite was the man who masked himself to perform a part. I mean, that the emperor is always mindful of his *part*, and plays it like a great actor.'

Henningsen says of his character:—'The emperor Nicholas has not the brutal instincts of the Czar Peter I., any more than his talents; he has not the disordered passions of Catherine, his grandmother, anymore than her brilliant intellect and her innate liberality; he has not the fitful ferocity of Paul, his murdered sire, any more than his enthusiastic generosity; neither has he the irresolute, impressible nature of Alexander, his brother and predecessor, nor Alexander's benevolence of intention.

'The Emperor Nicholas, who nervously shudders at the physical danger in which he sees a private soldier placed, is probably not innately cruel; but absolutely and irresponsible power, the self-deification to which his auto-veneration has led, acting on a limited intellect and selfish heart, have made him think himself the mate Jupiter Tonans, whose wrath should be as terrible as his interests and glory should be sacred from competition with those of humanity. When they are so, he passes over them ruthlessly and remorselessly, without even apparently the consciousness of evil-doing.

'The influence of wealth, of family, of customs, and of privileges, affords no longer any shelter.—Prudent as he is in disposition, being aware that he possesses a power unparalleled, he uses it in a manner unprecedented. Not only does he hourly trample on both his great vanquished enemies—the nobility of his empire and the Polish nation; not only has he uprooted whole races, and succeeded in extirpating the religious creed of millions; but he seems now bent both on destroying the nationality and religious faith of the whole of Poland, even, if required, by transplanting its population to Asia. Political violence and cruelties, the mere extirpation of races of creeds would be nothing, however, to the condition to which his subjects are reduced—comparatively nothing—because races are doomed, according to the law of nature, to perish, and creeds flourish and wither, and being immaterial, spring again from their ashes. But the dull, monotonous, hopeless, all-pervading oppression to which his subjects are reduced, producing the same moral effect on the human mind as the slough of his northern bogs on the human frame sinking into it, blinding the eye, silencing the tongue, and paralysing the agglutinated limbs, is infinitely more terrible—doubly terrible—because it is a destiny the sufferers must not only endure, but propagate by foreign conquest, and by the natural reproduction and increase of population.'

MATCH-MAKING EXTRAORDINARY.—An eccentric rector remarked a gentleman at church who was not a parishioner, but who Sunday after Sunday placed himself in a pew adjoining that of a young widow. On the first occasion he detected him slyly drawing the lady's glove from off the back of the pew where she was accustomed to place it (her hand and arm were delicately fair) bye and bye the lady's prayer-book fell—of course accidentally—from the ledge of her pew into the gentleman's. He picked it up—found a leaf turned down—and scanned a passage which evidently caused a smile of complacency. Our minister saw all their movements, and continued to watch them with a scrutinizing eye for two successive Sundays. On the third, as soon as the collect was read, and the bendis obsequiously waited to attend him to the chancel, our eccentric pastor, in a strong and distinct voice, said, "I publish, the banns of marriage between M——and H——(deliberately pronouncing the names of the parties); if any of you know any just cause," &c., The eyes of the whole congregation were turned on the young widow and the gay Lothario; the lady suffused with blushes, and the gentleman crimsoned anger; she fanning herself with vehemence, and he opening and shutting the pew door with zeal and violence. The minister meanwhile, proceeding through his accustomed duties with the same decorum and ease as if perfectly innocent of the agitation he had excited. The sermon preached, and the service ended, away to the vestry rush the party at the heels of the pastor, "Who authorised you, sir, to make such a publication of banns?" demanded they both in a breath. "Authorised me!" said he, with a stare that heightened their confusion. "Yes sir, who authorized you?" "Oh!" said the minister, with a sly glance alternately at each, "if you don't approve of it, I'll forbid the banns next Sunday." "Sir," said the lady, "you have been too officious already, nobody requested you to do any such thing; you had better mind your own business." "Why, my pretty dear," said he, patting her on the cheek, "what I have done is all in the way of business and if you don't like to wait for three publication, I advise you, sir, (turning to the gentleman) to procure the license, the ring, and the fee, and then the whole may be settled on to-morrow." "Well," replied the gentleman addressing the lady, "with your permission, I will get them, and we may be married in a day or two." "Oh, you may both do as you please," pettishly, but nothing loth, replied the widow. It was a day or two after that the license was procured. The parson received his fee, the bridegroom his bride, and the widow for the last time threw her gloves over the back of the pew, and it was afterwards said that all parties were satisfied with their gains.

A BARGAIN DURING A BATTLE.—It is related during one of the obstinate naval engagements between the English and the Dutch, in the time of Cromwell, one of the English ships, to their great mortification, had expended all their ammunition—The commander, well aware of the trafficking propensities of the Dutch, hoisted a flag of truce, and sent an officer on board the enemy's ship to purchase ammunition. The Dutch, who would never lose an opportunity to make a good bargain, without regard to friend or foe, after some negotiation, consented to supply their enemies with powder and ball, but taking advantage of their necessity, demanded an exorbitant price—which, of course, was paid after some grumbling by John Bull, who nevertheless, seemed duly sensible of the favor, and renewing the engagement with more fury than ever returned the balls with such force and accuracy, that the Dutchman was soon placed *hors du combat*, and compelled to surrender!

WHEN WAS IT.—An amusing story is told, by his friends, Judge R——, now chief Justice of one of the New England states. His father, a worthy man and a good farmer, was remarkable for his economy and for his inattention to his dress and personal appearance.—One day he sat conversing with a neighbour, in his usual shabby habiliments, and (as usual also) with very dirty hands. The neighbor complimented the old farmer on his good husbandry, and general shrewdness in the management of his affairs. "Yes," said Mr. R——, complacently, "I believe I *do make one hand wash the other*." "*When?*" cried the astonished neighbour, opening with vexation the dirty digits of his paternal ancestor—"when? in Mercy's name, When?"

MARINE LYCEUM.—This new institution, chiefly designed for the instruction and entertainment of nautical men in a rational manner, was opened last Friday evening, with an admirable extempore lecture by M. H. Perley, Esq., on "The Coasts and Harbours of New Brunswick." The learned lecturer in his usual happy and flowing style, first described the coasts and harbours of the Bay of Fundy, and then the harbours on the Gulf shore, from Baie Verte to the Miramichi and Miscou, reserving the Bay of Chaleur for a future occasion. Very large diagrams made expressly for this lecture, were exhibited, and the local descriptions were interspersed with notices of the first voyages to these shores by French navigators, the character of the fisheries, and the agricultural features of the coast, altogether forming a most agreeable and instructive lecture.—*New Bkr.*

THE ILLUSTRATED NEW YORK JOURNAL for December has been received from the Agent, Mr. B. O'Brien, King-street. It appears to have much improved in appearance since it came into the hands of the present proprietors.

The Chronicle.

Saint John, N. B., Jan. 5, 1855.

The steamship *Atlantic* arrived at New York on Sunday last, from Liverpool. After leaving port, an accident happened to her rudder, which compelled her to return; consequently she did not leave until Monday, the 18th December. The news is therefore nine days later.

There is nothing of importance from the seat of war. A despatch from Sebastopol of the 4th, says that nothing can be done against the city on account of the heavy rains, which have filled the trenches and rendered the roads impassible. The heavy battery guns of the Allies could not be worked during the continuance of the flood.

A report from Sebastopol states that 5,000 Russians had retreated from their second line of defence.

Omar Pacha was at Varna, embarking 19 battalions of troops for the Crimea.

Gen. Osten-Sacken had arrived in the Crimea to take command of Dannenberg's division.

Parliament was opened on the 12th ult., by the Queen in person. The speech related principally to the war.

The conclusion of a treaty of alliance between Austria, France and England is announced, and large reinforcements of troops are called for, that the war may be prosecuted with vigour.

The conclusion of a treaty with the United States, settling numerous questions of interest, is also alluded to.

Parliament has voted thanks to the army in the Crimea.

A Bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords to enlist a German and Swiss legion.—Also, a Bill in the Commons to send the Militia to garrison abroad.

The duration of the session depends on the progress of the Government measures, but if put it will probably adjourn in a week.

Nothing had yet been heard of a loan.

The Danish Ministry had been reinstated.

The China trade was dull.

RUSSIA.—If the present negotiations do not procure peace, Russia is to call out a levy of a million of men, to take the field as early as possible.

LIVERPOOL MARKET.—Wheat has advanced 4d. to 9d., and Flour 1s., with fair inquiry; Corn quiet and unchanged. Consols 92.

Still Later from Europe!

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA AT HALIFAX.

INTERESTING NEWS.

The steamship *Asia* arrived at Halifax on Wednesday, bringing dates to the 23d December. The Mail is expected to arrive in the city this evening.

The Baltic arrived at Liverpool on the 20th.—The Glasgow, from the Clyde, sailed on the 19th. The Red Jacket would sail on the 22d for Australia. The City of Manchester sailed on the 20th for Philadelphia.

THE WAR.

A Vienna semi-official despatch states that Prussia does not adhere to the triple treaty, but will renew negociations on her own account with France and England. In confirmation thereof Baron Von Usedom has already arrived in London, charged with a special mission from Prussia.

The following despatch from Admiral Hamelin appeared in the *Moniteur* of the 25th:—

KAMIESH BAY, Dec. 12th.—A severe cannonade has been going on; two sorties of the Russians had been vigorously repulsed. The enemy was received by a well sustained fire of musketry, and they were driven back at the point of the bayonet after an obstinate struggle.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.

A letter from Jassey of the 9th, in the Augsburg Gazette, states that great activity has been perceptible among the Austrian troops of occupation, some regiments having advanced to the fortified points of the Sereth, and extended their advanced posts even as far as the Pruth.

The following important statements are from Lord John Russell's speech in the Commons on Friday night:—

"My belief is that although not contained in the literal terms of the treaty, Austria will find that as we do not propose to diminish the territory of Russia, as we propose to leave her a great and powerful State, and only demand securities which are as necessary for Austria as they are for England and France, unless Russia shall consent to such fair and moderate terms as it will be our duty to propose whenever a Minister of the Emperor shall declare that he is directed to enter into negociations—if, I say, those terms are not accepted by the Emperor of Russia, I anticipate that we shall have before the opening of the next campaign the alliance of Austria with us on the offensive and defensive."

SEBASTOPOL.

Nov. 25th.—The war correspondent of the London Times says, although it may be dangerous to communicate facts likely to be of service to the Russians, it is certainly hazardous to conceal the truth from the English people that they must know sooner or later that the siege has been for many days practically suspended—that our batteries are used up and silenced, and that our army are much exhausted by the effects of excessive labor and watching, by wet and storm, to which they have been so incessantly exposed. The Russians know this well enough. The relaxation of our fire is self-evident, but our army, though weakened by sickness, is still equal to hold its position and to inflict chastisement on the assailants who venture to attack them. Nothing would so animate our men, destitute of all stimulating influences beyond those of unadunted spirits, as a prospect of meeting the Russians outside of their entrenchments, and deciding the campaign by the point of the bayonet. Last night there was a brisk affair between the Chasseurs de Vincennes and the Russian riflemen in front of Flag-staff Battery earthworks, and the Russians dispelled all absurd reports about their want of powder and ball, by a most tremendous cannonade. Assaults and counter-assaults continued amid furious fire, which lighted up the sky with sheets of flame from nine o'clock at night till four in the morning. The French actually penetrated behind the outer entrenchments, and established themselves for a time within the enclosure, but as there was no preparation for a general assault, they withdrew.—Volleys of musketry and salvoes of cannon roared through the camp during the whole night, but few lost their rest in consequence, for those affairs are now of nightly occurrence.

Nov. 26th.—The fight between the French and Russian riflemen, aided by artillery, was renewed last night; as usual, the object of contention is the Mud Fort near the Quarantine Battery, which the French persist in holding, although useless.—Preparations for the renewal of a general bombardment are proceeding from day to day. The great obstacle is the bad state of the roads.

Nov. 27th.—Nothing occurred.

Nov. 28th.—During the day the Russians fired on the British about one gun per five minutes.—The English look-out-man cries Tower, Radan, or Gardars Battery, and the shot is returned; but the fire on the French is much more lively, and is kept up with some effect on their earth-works and parallels. Every night about nine o'clock, the Fing-staff, Quarantine and Wall Batteries open a furious cannonade, which lasts from 20 to 45 minutes, as hard as men can load the guns, right into the French lines, and then follows instantly a sally, the result of which is invariably that the Russians push a strong column out of the place, and rush towards the first line, drive in the pickets and riflemen, get up the first parallel, sometimes into it, occasionally beyond it, and close to second parallel, when they are received as they advance by the French covering parties with a deadly fire—they halt and fire in return; they are then charged by the French, who route and pursue them into the town, but who are obliged to retire by the flank fire of the batteries and street guns. In this way the French lose forty or fifty men, but the loss of the Russians in these sorties must be considerable. Frequently about daybreak the Russians repeat the performance.

Nov. 20th.—Storms of wind and rain. The Russians have much strengthed their defences; they have scarped the ground in front of all their batteries; have constructed strong *abattis* in front of their lines; have thrown up numerous earthworks, and made numerous batteries before all their redoubts and along the scarp of slopes.—During the night, a particularly strong sortie was made on the French, who, hearing a noise, a French-Russian man crept forward and saw a column of Russians, 2000 strong, forming in the rear of the battery. The French, therefore, fell back and [illegible] mounted the parapets of their own [illegible] tery, and received the Russians with a deadly volley—then leaping down attacked them with with their bayonet and compelled them to retreat.

Nov. 30th—A heavy fire was kept up on the French during the night. The Grand Duke Michael was observed making a reconnoissance at a thousand yards.

Dec. 1st.—More rain, the roads preventing the arrival of supplies. Part of the British put temporarily on short allowance. The deaths from fever and cholera sixty daily.

Dec. 2.—Continued rain. The besiegers began to erect huts for shelter. Deserters say that the condition of the Russians in the field is worse than that of the Allies. Much bell ringing and rejoicing heard in Sebastopol during the night; supposed to be in consequence of the arrival of provisions.

Dec. 5.—The Russians made a sortie against the French line, when eight divisions of the French line, under Gen. Ferrie, repulsed them with much loss.

Dec. 7th.—The Parish Monitour says that the besiegers batteries are re-established, and before three days firing will be resumed. The Allies are sufficiently entrenched, and provisioned to remain throughout the winter.

Dec. 10th.—A Russian despatch states that up to the 12th nothing of importance had occurred before Sebastopol. Some small sorties had been successful, in one of which the Russians captured some small mortars and spiked others larger. The fire of the allies continued feeble.

The Russian defences on the South side are estimated at 100 guns stronger than when the siege began. On the other hand, the British have erected a very powerful new battery not yet opened, on an eminence North of the valley of Inkermann, and commanding every house in Sebastopol, besides being another step towards the complete investure of the place.

Since the siege began, twenty British have deserted to the Russians. The Russian deserters say that provisions and ammunition are becoming scarce in Sebastopol harbor, probably to attempt a surprise at sea.

General Liprandi is deprived of command for a fault committed at Inkermann on the 5th Nov.

THE DANUBE.

Five thousand French reached Constantinople on the 8th, on their way to the Crimea.

The contingent of Omar Pasha's force to be sent to the Crimea is now called 45,000. Omar Pasha will embark next week. Generals Guyon, Harlan Pasha, and ten Polish staff officers are ordered from Asia to the Crimea.

THE BALTIC.

As soon as the English fleet withdrew from the Gulf of Finland, the Russian Admiral Firmoff put to sea from Sweaborg, Oct. 31st, with 9 ships, and steamed as far as Dagoe. Nov. 10th, Admiral Rumsinoff left Sweaborg with 14 ships of the line towed by steam frigates, and safely reached Cronstadt.

BRITAIN.

The Bill to enlist 40,000 Germans had awakened protracted debates; D'Israeli and his party in the Commons opposed it, but would not throw any unfair obstacle in its way. Sir Litton Bulwer moved it to be read that day six months. Milner Gibson said the enlistment of foreigner mercenaries independently of their government, violated the principle of neutrality, and might be taken advantage of by Russia to hire Privateers in the United States.

Debates also resumed on the Militia Bill, the Earl of Derby and his party opposing the removal of the Militia, which is essentially a home force, to foreign garrisons. He did not, however, move an amendment, consequently the Bill was read a second time, and passed through committee. A discussion ensued on a bad bargain made by the British Admiralty in exchanging the British frigate Thetis against two Prussian Gun boats.

Lord John Russell said that the number of troops France was willing to send to the war, was only limited to the number of transports. England did not propose to take Frenchmen into pay before proposing the Foreign Establishment Bill.

LATEST.

FRIDAY EVENING.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice that he will propose that the duty on Tea remain at 18d. per pound, till peace be restored. Sir J. Graham stated that Admiral Fanshawe, "British," is making vigorous efforts for the destruction of the slave trade of Cuba.

The Foreign Enlistment Bill was read a third time in the Commons and passed by a majority of 38. This foreign enlistment is strongly sympathizant as a job to put money in our cousins of Hanover's and Gotha's purses, in exchange for a few thousand of spare subjects.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to transfer the deposits of the Savings Banks, amounting to thirty-two millions sterling from the Bank of England into Government as per cent debt. The proposal is regarded unfavorably, and caused funds to recede.

Government has not yet announced their intentions as to overland traffic in Russian produce.

Cutter & Co., ship brokers, London, have suspended payment, in consequence of Edwards Oliver's trustees witholding vouchers against the Admiralty for freight, advances by Cutter's acceptances. Liabilities £80,000 sig.

Sir Charles Napier had returned to England, and was well received at Portsmouth.

MARSEILLES.—Thursday midday.—The Indus has arrived from Constantinople, with dates of the 16th. The Indus brings accounts from Balaclava to the 8th; the Valadimir and a second Russian steamer arrived on the 6th on the French bank outside the Quarantine Fort and opened fire. The Valeureux, the Terrible, and a French steamer compelled them to put back under the batteries. The French repelled the continual sallies of the Russians.

The 9th and 90th Regiments, and a part of the 34th had arrived since the 4th.

Gen. Pennefather was ill at Balaclava. Lord Cardigan had left for England.

ATLANTIC.—The Morning Chronicle publishes the Vienna ratification of the triple treaty. It is reported that Russia accepts the four points as the basis for peace negociations, but the razing of Sebastopol or the radoitation of the Black Sea fleet will never voluntarily be ceded; if inoffensive equivalents shall be proposed Russia promises acceptance.

The Emperor of Austria has sent the decoration of St. Stephen, as a mark of friendship, to Napoleon.

PRUSSIA.—In Second Chamber it was resolved to open the Russian coasting trade to English shipping.

MARKETS.

Cotton without material change. Sales of the week 41,000 bales.

Breadstuffs are also without change, and quiet. Indian corn advanced 6d.

English Funds were quiet, without much fluctuation. Consols 93, by mistake quoted at 91 to92.

Freights unchanged.

ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The Ministers of the various churches in this city, who some time back signed an appeal in behalf of an Orphan Asylum, have not lost sight of the object they had in view; they have met from time to time since, looking for a favorable opportunity of bringing it more particularly before the community of St. John and its vicinity; and in the meantime some liberal offers have been made, among others, a most valuable site has been placed at their disposal, for this purpose. On Friday, the 29th ult., a meeting was held, at which there were fourteen laymen, from different communions, who met together for the purpose of settling the best course to be pursued in order to carry out the design, when—

It was *Resolved*, That the following heading to subscription list should be adopted, and that each Clergyman, with his associate layman, be furnished with a copy, and requested to procure subscriptions to it:

"*Whereas*, during the epidemic many families were left without natural protectors, and many children in a state of orphanry, and whereas there must always be orphans in a community so large as this, we undersigned, thankful to Almighty God for His mercy to us during the late visitation, and feeling it our duty to provide for the destitute, agree to give the sums subscribed by us, for the erection and endowment of an Orphan Asylum."

It was further resolved, that a Provincial Committee be appointed, consisting of seven persons, to carry out the purpose contemplated and set forth in the appeal, and that the various ministers be ex *officio* members of the same.

The Committee was then appointed as follows:—Dr. Botsford, Messrs. Frazer, A. McL. Seely, W. W. Daniel, W. Peters, John Armstrong, and [illegible] Hodson.

[illegible] resolved that the Ministers be requested to bring the subject before their several congregations in such a way as they think proper; and that a public meeting be held on Friday evening, the 12th instant.

We are gratified to learn, that the congregation of St. John Church, in this City, presented their worthy Rector the Rev. G.M. Armstrong on New Year's Day with a donation of sixty six pounds, as a token of their esteem and regard.

Contributions to the amount of £313 were taken up on Christmas Day in the Roman Catholic Churches in this City and Portland in aid of the orphans rendered destitute by Cholera.

The first annual meeting of the Church of England Young Men's Society of this City, will be held at the Hall of the Institute next Thursday evening.—*Witness.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORIES.—The collections on Christmas Day, for the benefit of the poor amounted in Trinity Church to £29 10s. 6d.; St. John's Church, £25; St. James' Church, £16 15s.; St. Luke's Church, Portland, £23 12s. 6d.; St. Paul's (Valley) Church, £5 10s.; Centenary Methodist Chapel, £35 6s. 3d. Collections at the St. John Presbyterian Church on Sunday £21 1s. 6d.

ST. JOHN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting held in the Sunday School Room of the Germain Street Baptist Chapel, on Friday, 22d inst, the following Gentlemen were unanimously elected Officers for the ensuing year:—Hon. W.B. Kinnear, President; James Paterson, Esq., L. L. D., LeBaron Botsford, Esq., M.D., T. W. Daniel, Esq., and E. E. Lockhart, Esq., Vice Presidents; James Reid, Esq., Treasurer; H. W. Frith, Corresponding Secretary; E. H. Duval, Esq., Recording Secretary.—*Church Witness.*

RECIPROCITY.

On this subject there is as great a diversity of opinion, as perhaps ever was displayed on any question that ever agitated the public mind. One party insisting that *free* and unshackled Commercial intercourse is the best policy that can be pursued by any civilized nation, while an opposite party as doubtfully insist that self-preservation is the first law of nature, and that it is both impolitic and inhuman to employ foreign artisans to the exclusion and destruction of our own neighbours and fellow citizens. We are free to acknowledge that we belong to the latter class, the Protectionist; yet by no means do we feel disposed to condemn wholesale, the arguments of those who hold contrary opinions. It is too frequently the case, that men form their opinions hastily, and upon false premises; and having once given publicity to those opinions, even on self conviction fancy it would be a tacit acknowledgment of an unsound judgment to read their recantation. It must be obvious to the least discerning, that much may be said pro and con on this subject. We are, therefore, well disposed to take a calm and a dispassioned view of both sides of the question, and should it be considered that we have leant unduly to the side of protection, we shall, in all candour feel pleasure in opening a column for our own refutation. The onest advantage, say the free traders, to be gained by unshackled trade is, that it cheapens all the necessaries of life, and in letters neatly published in one of our City prints, over the signature of "Agricola," the farmers are appealed to and in a very sympathizing way that writer points out the hardship of their paying a long price for their agricultural tools. Of course that writer took what he considered one of the strongest arguments to sustain his position as a free trader.—We will take as an example the Tanners and Shoemakers. The business of the former, until the late Tariff gave them a small protection, was all but annihilated, our Tanners driven out and their Tanneries converted into stables, while Shoemaking, if we were only permitted to do our own work, which the Yankees now do for us, would employ in this City alone 800 men. Would then, we ask, these two classes of men be benefitted by Free Trade? and would not the Farmer have that number of men and their families the less to supply? And would the cheapening of a fifteen penny rake compensate him for the loss he would sustain in the decrease of his customers? If we had established in our midst a Cotton Factory, employing 100 persons, and retaining twenty or thirty thousand pounds annually in the country, instead of sending it out to pay for foreign manufactures, and they protected against foreign competition, would that increase of customers injure the Farmer? or, would the employing the ragged urchins with which the City is infested, in such an establishment, be injurious either to their morals or their pockets? Capital also invested in a Woollen Factory, and employing a similar number of the same class of individuals, and keeping a similar sum in the Province, instead of sending it foreign, would that be an injury to the Farmer, or even to the Mechanic? Now, half the sum that is required to build one ship would be amply sufficient for starting both these establishments; and admitting that this system of SELF RELIANCE increased the value of Cotton Cloths a half-penny a yard, which we do not believe it would, would that be a valid reason why our sons and daughters should be kept in idleness, instead of being profitably employed? We think not.

To finish the catalogue of advantages to be obtained by fostering Domestic Manufactures, we will put the question to all such as possess property in, or wish well to, the Province. Is population wealth? Or, admitting your possession consisted of fast property, would you desire the population to abandon the Province, or would you wish an increase? The latter certainly would augment your wealth, while the former would decrease it. This is a momentous question, and will, we much fear, be dealt with by the Legislature at its next sitting in a way to accomplish the destruction of this Province's progress and prosperity. When this Province shall, by working for itself, keep half the money that is annually drained from it to pay foreign artizans for goods we are quite qualified to make ourselves—from that hour we may date our progress and wealth, but while we denude the country of its primitive wealth, to purchase manufactured goods, we shall continue to be mere "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to our more cunning Western Neighbours.

VERY GRATIFYING.—In the *Ottawa Railway and Commercial Times* of the 22d ultime, we find the following gratifying announcement:—"We learn that the intelligence of the £20,000 grant by the Canadian Parliament, has excited in the Mother Country a sensation of the liveliest admiration of the patriotism of her children in this far off dependency; it is considered an '*Imperial*' and not a '*Colonial*' act, and it is said that nothing can exceed the gratification felt by the Queen. We are persuaded from all we have heard both from French and English on this River, that a regiment of volunteers might be raised here for the East, if need was, without the slightest difficulty." Shall it ever be our lot to state that Her Majesty was graciously pleased to express her "gratification" of the munificent grant towards the Patriotic Fund, from the Legislature of New Brunswick? Week after week have we appealed to the inhabitants of this City and Province, to bestow a little of those riches they have amassed under the protecting Banner of the British Constitution, in aid of the Soldiers' Widow and Orphan Fund, but in vain, so far.

☞ CHARLOTTE COUNTY ELECTION.—The Election for Charlotte came off on Friday, when Mr. Brown was elected by a large majority.

THANKFUL.

Kind and steadfast supporters of the St. John CHRONICLE, for the patronage you have heretofore accorded to us we are grateful; and now, that we have entered upon a New Year, we sincerely wish you, one and all, the compliments of the season, and hope, by a steady adherence to the glorious principles of our Protestant constitution, to merit a continuance of your favours.

Although, our opinions upon the leading topics of the day are already well known to our readers, "for we wear no mask"; yet it may be desirable, if not necessary, that we should, in brief, state our views, and so, at this Season, unfurl our BANNER again. Our sentiments—*unchanged*—may be here expressed under three heads—THE THRONE!—THE CHURCH!—and THE PEOPLE!

THE THRONE! We thank God, for the privileges which we possess in our constitutional monarchy. We are neither exposed to the tyranny of a despot, nor to the still more fearful tyranny of a mob—without the will and the means of crushing both. Under the aegis of our beloved Sovereign, and the good Providence of the All-wise Ruler, every Englishman's home is his castle. No rude and lawless hand can despoil him of his rights. The life, and liberty of the beggar is as sacred, in the eye of the law, as those of the noblest in the realm. We believe that the Kingly office has the Divine authority, and that constitutional monarchy is the best form of Government. We are, therefore, the determined opponents of Sedition and Republicanism. We love "our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria," not only for the office she bears, but also the virtues which adorn her character.—Long may she reign over us, to vanquish and overcome all her enemies—and, with all our heart, do we say—GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

THE CHURCH, we revere, as the great foundation-stone of our nation. She is founded upon the rock of truth—God's holy word. Her liturgy comes next to the inspired writings, in its beauty, and devotion. Her articles drawn up by men, who laid down their lives for the truth, is the sounded confession of faith ever made. What Church is so Protestant as the Church of England? With no "stammering lips," she utters her protest against the Anti-christian pretensions of Rome.—What testimony could be more clear against the idolatry of that false and rampant church than the teachings of the homilies, articles, and even the rubrics? We have no sympathy with those who would admit the foe, and treacherously betray our Zion to the enemy, who had so long, in vain, laid before her walls. We are utterly opposed to the Romanizing, or Puseyite movement of some, who still, in form, adhere to the Church—Pharisees and hypocrites—and we are thankful that their wicked machinations have received the reprobation which they deserve, from the Episcopal Bench, the Clergy at large, and the great bulk of the Protestant Laity. Our bold object is to maintain the Church against the inroads of Popery, and Dissent. The weak points in the walls of Zion, which invite attack, we would repair. Whatever is crumbling we would build up. Whatever is evil we would reform—by expunging from our Book of Common Prayer—every vestige of Popery. The events of the last few years too plainly indicate that these are days in which the Spouse of God needs bold, and vigorous defenders—men who will valiantly wield the Sword of the Spirit, and not lukewarm half-and-half Protestant Churchmen. With this view uppermost in our heart, we therefore, again, hoist our BANNER with the inscription upon it—THE CHURCH AND QUEEN.

THE PEOPLE'S prosperity, well being, and happiness, we earnestly desire. We are the advocates of religious education; the improvement of the morals and social condition of the working classes. We are not of the number of those who would divorce the school, and the Bible. We think that no school stands upon a right foundation which is not based upon the Holy Scriptures. Educate without religion; and we put the people on the high road to infidelity. Satan has intellect, and knows well how to turn it to account. Mere knowledge—mere cultivation of the head, without the right education of the heart, will not give true happiness, or true social prosperity. A nation may be highly educated, and yet be a nation of proud, selfish, cruel, unprincipled, infidels. We adore him who says, "righteousness exalteth a nation." We are advocates for the social improvement of the people. We would store their minds with useful, and scriptural knowledge, and make their homes comfortable, clean, and happy. Let there be such an increase of the Clergy that the Pastor can visit the houses of the poor, and inculcate the lessons of true religion and peace, and we have no doubt that soon "no complaining will be heard in our streets." We would not sacrifice one class at the shrine of another, but advocate the rights, and plead the cause of all in the participation of that knowledge which leads to eternal life. We are for "the people"; but by "the people," we do not mean a class, but *all*—the agriculturist, as well as the manufacturer—the tradesman and labourer, as well as the merchant. We are for old England, with her Colonial Dependencies, and the conservation of her position, as the greatest, and most enlightened nation on earth. And for this reason, even because, we desire the well being of all, we are opposed to the extension of Popery in this Province—we are utterly hostile to the views of Priests, Democrats, Republicans, and to Whig Administrations, who would give a share in the Government of our Province to those who have no stake in society, but on the contrary who may be led to suppose that, as they have nothing to lose, so they have everything to gain by revolution.

Our views, then, are fixed; and we know them without hesitation. We are, and ever shall be, with the Divine blessing,