

Mr. Johnston's Municipal Corporation Bill was taken up. On clause 1st being moved, the Hon. Sol. Gen. thought it would be expedient to send bill to a select committee.

SATURDAY, Feb. 16.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Marshall, from Charles B. Martell, for aid to a Ferry; James B. Hadley, S. B. W. Desbrisay, Richibucto, on the subject of Steam Communication between New Brunswick, P. E. Island and Nova Scotia.

By Mr. Esson, from John Northup and Richard McHesley, complaining of the withholding of a grant of 7,500 acres of land in the County of Hants. Also, from inhabitants of Sackville, relative to damages to their road by the Railway; from Mr. Gallagher, Teacher, and N. Clark, for remuneration for signing notes.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table returns relating to Schools in Annapolis and to a bridge in Cumberland. Also the petition of Mark Curry, from Overseers of Poor, Windsor; from Charles B. Bowman Esq., Windsor, praying to be exempted from a Bill passed to procure a Fire Engine; from Thomas Kirby and others for alteration in mail route.

By Mr. Martell, from Arichat, for alteration in Law of Pilotage.

By Mr. Wade, a Bill to assess the township of Granville, and from mail Carrier.

By Mr. Annand, from Gammell & Tupper, and from Alex. Munro, Author of a Book on Education, in New Brunswick—praying the House to purchase a number of copies of his work.

Hon. P. Secretary by command laid on the table the report of the Trustees of Pictou Academy.

By Mr. Marshall, from Doctors Jennings and Slayter, on Hospital accommodation in Halifax.

By Mr. McFarlane, Bill to incorporate trustees of St. Matthew's Church, Wallace.

By Mr. Robinson, Cape Sable Island, for increased Post accommodation.

By Mr. Rynard, from John Publicover, on fishing; Bill concerning School districts, Lunenburg.

By Hon. Att. General, petition of Hon. W. McKee, for improvement of the Harbour of Port Hood.

Hon. Solicitor General, from Hon J. B. Uniacke, for the restoration of £100 deducted from his salary in 1854.

Also, from Stephen Delory, on behalf of the inhabitants of Little Tracadie, for aid to open harbour. For Pier at Little River; James Purcell and others, of Ship Harbour, for Ferry.

By Mr. McDonald, from Presbytery of Pictou, for the Prohibitory Liquor Law; 2 petitions from County of Pictou, with 3,220 names on the same subject.

By Mr. Bill, a Bill to incorporate the Oak Point Pier Company, Cornwallis; to incorporate Ira Woodworth's Pier Company, Cornwallis; for aid to erection of an Oat Mill; West Cornwallis, for aid to take a Road up the Mountain; 2 petitions for aid to a Breakwater; and for a Bridge across the Harbour of Cornwallis.

By Mr. John Campbell, Bill to incorporate the Liverpool Maritime Railway Company.

Hon. Sol. Gen., Petition of Messrs. Campbell and Smyth, members of this House, for aid to establish a ferry in the vicinity of Low Point.

Mr. C. Campbell, a Bill to alter the Harbour Master's Fees, Sydney, C. B.

The Bill was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Johnston, Archibald, Brown, McLellan, Chambers, Henry, McDonald, Killam and Marshall.

Hon. Attorney General pronounced a glowing eulogium on the dead and living Nova Scotians engaged in the present War, and concluded by moving a vote of 150 guineas, for the purchase of a Sword for General Williams.

Hon. Mr. Johnston warmly seconded the motion, and after the Provincial Secretary had supported it, the vote passed unanimously.

MONDAY, Feb. 18.

The Hon. Sol. General laid upon the table, by command of his Excellency, Report of Commissioners of St. Peters Canal.

Also, accounts of £30 for relief of Indians. Also, petition of the Keeper of Penitentiary. Also, petition of William Young and Thomas Donohoe, assessors of Victoria, praying remission of fines imposed.

Petitioners pleaded that, not being able to read or write, they were incompetent to the discharge of the duties imposed, but had been nevertheless fined for nonperformance of the same.

Petitioners had stated to Magistrates their inability to perform the duty imposed, but had been brought up 70 miles, and fined. A hard case, seeing that they had offered to pay any one who would do the work for them.

The Hon. Sol. Gen. laid upon the table, correspondence on Reciprocal Trade, Inland Postage, Passenger Act, and Colonial Light Houses, suggesting better, more economical and efficient management of the same.

The hon. Mr. Locke, by command, laid upon the table of the House papers in connection with inter-colonial Steam Navigation.

The hon. Mr. Johnston asked leave to introduce a Bill to Incorporate a Railway Company for building a Rail Road from Windsor to Digby. Company requiring guarantee of the Province to a certain extent.

Hon. Att. Gen. would be glad to have detailed views of the Company.

The hon. Mr. Johnston explained briefly, and

intimated that he would be "shortly" prepared to lay his measure before the House.

On motion of the Hon. Sol. General the House went into Committee of Supply.—Mr. Dimock in the chair.

Grant of £200 to Speaker, passed £200 to first Clerk.

Also, usual grants to the Assistant Clerk of the House, Surjeant-at-Arms, Messenger, &c., &c. Also, Salaries of a number of officers of the Revenue Department, &c. Also, to Ferry-men in various localities. Also, £100 in aid of the colored population of the county of Halifax. Also, £100 to pay the Reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court.

Mr. McLellan for reason assigned, moved an addition to the Post office Committee. The increasing deficiency in the Post Office being assigned by him as a reason.

The Hon. Sol. Gen. explained that the deficiency in the Post Office had increased, but not because the revenue of the office had decreased, but that greater Postal accommodation had been afforded to the People. And he did not see how money could be better spent than in opening up facilities for the speedy, frequent, and regular transmission of Newspapers, &c., to all parts of the Country.

Committee adjourned. House resumed, and resolutions being brought up, were with the exception of three, affirmed.

European Intelligence.

From the News of the World Feb. 3.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

Before these lines are in print, the country will, doubtless have learnt from the lips of the Queen, in language as distinct as the advice of her Prime Minister will permit her to utter, that the prospects are of that early conclusion of a safe and honourable peace which we have lately been encouraged to look upon as being almost as good as sealed.

There seems to be no doubt that the preliminaries to a negotiation for peace have lately been determined upon. A semi-official authority informs us that a Protocol will be signed almost immediately at Vienna by the representatives of England, France, Austria, and Russia, recording the fact of the acceptance of the Austrian proposals by the Cabinet of Russia, and fixing a date for the opening of Conferences upon the basis of those proposals.

The Conferences, it appears, are to be held at Paris; and they may be expected to commence about the middle of February. Plenipotentiaries will be immediately appointed by the Powers concerned. Lord Clarendon, assisted by Lord Cowley, will represent England. M. Walewski, aided by M. de Bourqueney, will, in all probability, represent France. M. de Buol, in conjunction, possibly, with M. Hubner, will be charged with the interests of Austria. M. d'Azeglio and the Marquis of Villamarina will be present for Sardinia; and it is confidently anticipated that Count Orloff and Barren Brunow will be appointed to act as the representatives of Russia. There will also be a Plenipotentiary from the Porte, we presume that the omission has arisen from the circumstance of the Sultan's not having yet named the Minister to whom he intends to confide the interests of his empire in this momentous council of nations.

The selection of Count Orloff and of M. Brunow as the representatives of Russia, is regarded in Paris as well as in London with much favour, and is looked upon as an indication of the desire of Russia not to place obstacles in the way of an arrangement.

Constituted in a manner, the high court of Conference about to be held in Paris may be reasonably regarded as furnishing a justification for the presumption and the hope that a just and honourable peace is not far distant. All, however, must depend upon the good faith with which Russia enters into the arena of negotiations. At present, we are completely ignorant of what her real intentions may be; and her past history certainly does not warrant us in placing the slightest reliance upon her professions. But as her character is now well known, it will be the fault of the other Powers if they allow themselves to be for a moment beguiled or deceived. If the Czar is sincere in his desire for peace, and if he has really accepted the Austrian proposals without equivocation or deceit, the discussions at the Conference can scarcely extend beyond a week.

[From the European Times, Feb. 2.]

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

From the language which has recently been employed by the Muscovite organ in the Russian capital, there can be little doubt that the Czar is sincerely anxious for peace and nothing will strengthen his good resolution in this respect so much as the quiet but most effective way in which this important topic is handled in the Queen of England's speech to the Imperial Parliament. The speech confirms what was previously known, that the negotiations will be opened in Paris. Reference is made to the treaty with Sweden, for preserving the balance of power in the north of Europe, and a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, is declared to have been concluded between this country and Chili.

There is one striking omission in the speech—all reference to any misunderstanding which

America is avoided. This we take to be conclusive that the points at issue are in a fair way of being satisfactorily adjusted, for assuredly, if, as some of the transatlantic journals assert, all diplomatic intercourse between the two countries were soon likely to cease, the circumstances would have found a place in the speech. It is, too, a little remarkable, that the leading journal of Thursday, speculating on the probable contents of the speech, assumed that the American misunderstanding would be one of its primary features.

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—

Since the close of the last Session of Parliament the arms of the Allies have achieved a signal and important success. Sebastopol, the great stronghold of Russia in the Black Sea, has yielded to the persevering constancy and to the daring bravery of the Allied forces. The naval and military preparations for the ensuing year have necessarily occupied my serious attention; but while determined to omit no effort which could give vigour to the operations of the war, I have deemed it my duty not to decline any overtures which might reasonably afford a prospect of a safe and honourable peace. Accordingly, when the Emperor of Austria lately offered to myself and to my august ally, the Emperor of the French, to employ his good office with the Emperor of Russia, with a view to endeavour to bring about an amicable adjustment of the matters at issue between the contending Powers, I consented, in concert with my Allies, to accept the offer thus made; and I have the satisfaction to inform you that certain conditions have been agreed upon which I hope may prove the foundation of a general treaty of peace.

Negotiations for such a Treaty will shortly be opened at Paris.

In conducting those negotiations I shall be careful not to lose sight of the objects for which the War was undertaken; and I shall deem it right in no degree to relax my Naval and Military preparations until a satisfactory Treaty of Peace shall have been concluded.

Although the War in which I am engaged was brought on by events in the South of Europe, my attention has not been withdrawn from the state of things in the North, and, in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded, with the King of Sweden and Norway, a Treaty containing defensive engagements applicable to his dominions, and tending to the preservation of the balance of power in that part of Europe.

I have also concluded a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation with the Republic of Chili. I have given directions that these Treaties shall be laid before you.

SIGNATURE OF THE PEACE PROTOCOL.

2nd Feb. 3156.

Yesterday at noon a protocol recording the acceptance of the Austrian proposals as a basis of peace, was signed at Vienna by the ministers of Russia, France, England, Austria, and Turkey.

Berlin, Jan. 28.—The participation of Prussia in the negotiations for peace and the conferences is considered almost certain, France having renounced her opposition, and England alone still raising some difficulties.

Vienna, Jan. 31.—The Turkish Ambassador in this city has been empowered to sign the protocol if necessary.

AN ARMISTICE.

The Morning Post says,—We have reason to believe that an armistice will shortly be concluded for a limited period. The exact terms of the armistice have yet to be defined. It may very probably be confined to land operations, as there is no possibility of collision at sea, and the continuance of the blockade, supposing peace not to be concluded by the time the Baltic is free from ice, would be necessary to our position, as negotiators, and in conformity with general precedent.

THE ALAND ISLANDS.

The Times Paris correspondent states his belief that Russia has agreed not to re-fortify the Aland Islands. It is said it is probable that Prussia will be admitted to the Conference, only on condition of accepting the propositions adopted by the Allies.

THREATENED ATTACK ON KERTCH.

On the 9th of Jan. the Russians made an advance upon the ice, with the intention of attacking Kertch, but the vigilance of General Vivian completely disconcerted the enemy.

SHUMLA.

A Trieste despatch, dated the 30th instant, says that news received there from Constantinople announces that, notwithstanding the intelligence relative to peace, General Shirley had sent orders to Shumla to prepare quarters for troops at that place. These troops were to proceed to Shumla in the spring.

Official despatches from Constantinople state that warlike preparations are carried on with the utmost activity.

At Stockholm it is officially stated that active preparations for war are being continued. Sweden will be prepared for offensive operations, if necessary.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF'S FAREWELL TO HIS ARMY.

The *Invalide Russe* of the 22nd publishes the following order of the day, addressed by Prince Gortschakoff to the army of the South and to the troops in the Crimea:—

Head-quarters, Baktchi-Serai, Jan. 12.

In leaving by the Emperor's order, for new duties, I bid you farewell, brave comrades! I give to my worthy successor an army injured to battles, and which has been for the Czar and the country a defence and a joy.

Your courage and your devotion, brave warriors, will remain graven for ever on my heart. I sincerely return you thanks for the confidence you always reposed in me in the midst of the bloody and terrible struggles of 1855,—that eternally memorable struggle in which you defended the peninsula of the Crimea against numerous foes, who had in their power means of warfare unique and heretofore unknown in the annals of war.

On the 21st the Pope gave his benediction to the lambs which were to be afterwards shorn, in order to furnish wool for the pallium, which Rome sends to each of the new bishops.

FRANCE.

A most interesting ceremony took place on Thursday, the 24th, at the English Embassy in Paris. The Order of the Bath was conferred upon a number of general and superior officers of the French army, who, by their conduct in the Eastern war, had deserved that high distinction, which can only be conferred, according to the statutes of the order, for eminent services rendered to England. Generals Bosquet, and Regnaud de St. Jean d'Angely received the Grand Cross of the Order; Generals Niel, De Martimprey, Mellinet and Dalesme were appointed Knights Commanders; Generals Espinasse, de Boville, Cler, Maneque, and Colonels Comignan, de Rochebouet, Roille, and others were appointed Knights Companions. Conformably to the statutes, the members of the Order present in Paris were assembled; in addition to a number of English general officers, the three Grand Crosses conferred by the Queen's own hand, during her visit at Paris—his Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, Marshal Vaillant, and General Canrobert—were present. Lord Cowley, the English Ambassador, performed the act of investiture, and the ceremony was followed by a grand banquet, in which there was an interchange of national toasts and good wishes.

The Queen's speech was published in Paris early yesterday afternoon, and produced a very favourable effect. It is considered moderate and dignified.

AUSTRIA.

According to certain statistical data which have recently been published, we find that the number of Protestants of the Helvetic and Augsburg confession in the Austrian empire amounts to 3,450,000 whilst the number of those who belong to the old Greek confession amounts to 3,162,000, and the number of Unitarians amount to 50,000. It follows, therefore that nearly one-sixth part of the population of the Austrian monarchy consists of non-catholics.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Friday, Feb. 1.

Lord J. Russell, returning to the subject of the war, expressed his approval of the course proposed by the Government, and which the House seemed willing to adopt, to avoid discussion while the negotiations continued, but at the same time not to suspend any of the preparations for continuing the war. He hoped that an early opportunity would be taken of giving the thanks of Parliament to the army for the siege and capture of Sebastopol, showing to the men that their country appreciated their noble devotion.

Lord Palmerston said that in the present state of the question, it was not fitting that the government should state any details as to the negotiation, but so soon as such progress should have been made as would justify such a proceeding no time would be lost. What saying this, he added that the preparations that were now making were such as would probably, at the end of another campaign, obtain for us better terms than those proposed. But so long as there was a chance of peace upon the conditions now required, he did not think it would be just to reject them merely with the view of obtaining greater success in another year. If, however, peace could not be obtained, there was that strength and determination in the country to carry on the war, which would accomplish the objects for which it had been undertaken. In reference to the fall of Kars, the noble lord said that, when the subject came to be discussed, the Government would be able to show that they had taken all the measures in their power to prevent that catastrophe. Measures had been taken to effect the exchange of General Williams.

REMOVAL! REMOVAL!!

FROM the Old Stand, Market Square, to the NEW BRICK STORE, adjoining the Bank of Nova Scotia, Hollis Street.

J. STAIRS, Iron & Hardware Merchant.

February 6.