

claim compensation for the destruction of the buildings taken by the English soldiers, and which he had converted into a fort and arsenal.

Sect. XI, The losses, which Lord Elgin so poetically calls the *cruel though perhaps inevitable accompaniment of civil warfare*, were, it appears, all on one side: they are the work "of violence on the part of persons in Her Majesty's service or acting or presuming to act on behalf of Her Majesty in the suppression of the said Rebellion, &c." This would pretty nearly include the whole of the military operations of the campaign of 1837-38. The houses, barns and buildings which the rebels had used at St. Denis, St. Charles, Grand Brulé, &c., as outposts, guard-houses, fortresses, &c., whence to fire upon the military, or to sally forth and capture an officer, &c., were of course destroyed—and the bill says as plainly as possible that these are to be paid for. If this be not paying rebels, we no longer understand the term.

We are not aware that during the whole of the late political storm, we have ever allowed an expression to escape us which was disrespectful to Lord Elgin: we have considered him more as a passive than as an active agent. But now that he comes forward and expresses his own, peculiar, private views of the question, and that they are found so totally at variance with the manifest colour of facts, we must confess that our respect for him, and his office, is growing beautifully less. Would any of our ingenious ministerial confederates oblige us by conciliating and explaining this apparent contradiction?

Sir Allan McNab went out in the Hibernia for England, and takes with him the Addresses of Toronto, &c., praying the recall of Lord Elgin. Mr. Hicks went home in the previous steamer, charged with financial measures of importance.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

[From the New Brunswick Extra.]

EXCITEMENT IN ENGLAND RELATIVE TO CANADIAN AFFAIRS.—DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT!—PROBABLE FATE OF W. S. O'BRIEN AND THE OTHER STATE PRISONERS.—THE WARS ON THE CONTINENT.—CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE HUNGARIANS!—INTERFERENCE OF THE RUSSIANS!—&c.

The Royal Mail Steamer NIAGARA, Capt. Stone, arrived at Halifax on Thursday morning last, at 3 o'clock, in 11 1-2 days from Liverpool, bringing 66 passengers, 3 of whom landed at Halifax. She brought £2000 in specie.

The Horse Express for the Associated Press left Halifax at 4 o'clock, and arrived at Digby Gut at 15 minutes past 12, making the run in eight hours and a quarter—the quickest on record! The steamer Hoyal left immediately for St. John, and arrived at her wharf at 6 1-2 o'clock, on Thursday evening. The whole distance from Halifax was performed in fourteen hours and a half.

The news of the disturbances in Canada, which reached England by the *Europa*, created much excitement, and it will be seen that the subject has been referred to in Parliament. A despatch from Lord Elgin has been laid upon the table, and the whole circumstances will be discussed in both Houses. The *European Times* says:—The news of the sudden outbreak in Montreal has caused greater sorrow, and more poignant regret than any event which has occurred in our Colonies for many years. It is very much to be deplored that Lord Elgin was apparently so unprepared for this outbreak. An adequate force on the spot might, at least, have prevented the destruction of a building of such recent erection and beauty, together with the public archives, which must prove an irreparable loss to the Colony.

The business of Parliament is actively proceeding, and the Encumbered Estates Bill has been read a second time in the Commons. The Rate-in-Aid Bill only passed the second reading, in the Lords, by a majority of two.

No further action has been had in the House of Lords in reference to the Repeal of the Navigation Laws. The Lords were to go into Committee on the Bill on Monday the 21st. Notice has been given by Lord Stanley and others of important amendments to be offered, and it is considered quite possible that the Ministry may be beaten in Committee, and the Bill so mangled as to induce its authors to reject it, and retire from office.

The accounts of destitution in the West of Ireland, and of the ravages of the cholera, are more deplorable. It is said that the Lord-Lieutenant has again been summoned to London to confer upon the state of the country.

The appeal of Mr. W. S. O'Brien and his fellow convict to the House of Lords having failed, it is rumoured that they will all be transported to Bermuda or elsewhere, but no definite decision on the subject is yet known.

An official communication has been made that the sentence of ten years' transportation would be carried into effect in the case of Mr. John Martin.

COMMERCIAL.

Since the sailing of the *Caledonia* there has not been much improvement in the aspect of commercial affairs. The continental accounts, together with those by the *Europa* from Canada, have exercised an unfavourable influence upon business. The Produce markets, notwith-

standing, are pretty firm, and an advance is expected in most articles. The Iron trade is still dull and depressed, and prices continue to recede. The state of trade in the manufacturing districts is still without life. Little business is going forward, and holders of goods are unwilling to accept lower prices. The result of the French elections, as far as they have proceeded, are giving satisfaction to the friends of order; consequently the English Stock market is improving.

The Flour market has rather improved since the sailing of the *Caledonia*, and Western, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, bring 23s. to 23s. 6d. per barrel, at which rates there is a moderate but steady demand, and the best Ohio is quoted at 24s. per barrel. Indian Corn is also higher, and with an increased demand for Ireland at 32s. to 33s. for White, and 34s. to 36s. per quarter for Yellow. Indian Corn Meal 15s. to 16s. per barrel, but the supply is small.

PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, May 15.

DISTURBANCES IN CANADA.

Mr. Hawes appeared at the bar to present by her Majesty's command, papers relative to the disturbances in Canada.

On the motion that these papers be laid upon the table, Mr. Roebuck said, I hope that what I am about to say will be received by the House, relating, as it does, to the papers just laid upon the table. The country has naturally been very much excited by the statements which have appeared in all the public papers; and he in common with others, was startled by that intelligence. But since that, I have received private information from gentlemen who live in that country which, I think, may relieve the anxiety which is necessarily felt with respect to that colony. I hope the House will pardon me if I read that information. The riot in Montreal arose because a bill had passed the Houses of Legislature for the purpose of compensating persons who had incurred losses during the disturbances in the year 1837, and from that time on. The bill which has raised all this commotion in Canada was a money bill. It was brought in by the present administration in Canada, that created in that country what was called Responsible Government—meaning thereby, that the Government of the country is carried on according to the feelings of the majority of the Legislature, as made by Imperial Act of Parliament—the Act of Union between Upper and Lower Canada. Two different classes of population, English and French, returned members to the Legislature; and constant attempts are making to induce England to believe that all questions in that country are questions, not of party, but of country and race.—I have in my hand, though I do not wish to quote the name of the gentleman who sent it to me, the actual division in the House of Legislature—a document which clearly sets at rest this question, so far as it is stated to be a question of race between the French and the English Canadians. I will read the letter. [The hon. gentleman here read the correspondence, and resumed.] There is no doubt that at the present moment alarm is created in Canada, and that alarm is created here, by the idea that annexation is connected with these affairs. That is not the case. But I warn the House of Commons not to interfere, lest they should make the question one of annexation, which it is not made in Canada. The present House of Assembly is constituted under the Act of Union. The Act of Union was passed much against my advice, for I told the House of Commons then, and I tell them now, that whenever the question of annexation does arise, it will come from the English part of the population. What I now say is this, that the money which the Canadian Legislature is about to appropriate is the money of Canada, and not the money of England. It is about to be appropriated at the suggestion of the administration, made by a majority of the Legislature, and sanctioned by the Crown. I assume the fact to be, that Lord Elgin went out with certain general instructions, and certain powers as Governor-General. He represents her Majesty there, and in that Parliament no act for the appropriation of money could be discussed without setting up a committee exactly as is set up in this House. The Minister therefore must himself have come down, and, when he proposed the committee, have stated he had the sanction of her Majesty for making the request for whatever the sum was, whether for £200,000, [Mr. Hawes: £100,000,] or £100,000, for a specific purpose, of which her Majesty was cognizant. After that, to put the responsibility on anybody but the Government would be impossible. They are chiefly responsible for the proposal. But I cannot imagine that the Colonial-office was not perfectly cognizant of all the facts of the case. They must have known them long before. We have had papers delivered this morning showing that the ground-work of this proposition was thoroughly well-known to the Colonial-office; and it is stated distinctly it was brought in with the sanction and approval of the head of the Colonial-office. I am quite prepared to justify the conduct of the head of the Colonial-office; and I only repeat now, that the House should be careful in interfering with an expression of the determination of the properly and legally constituted Legislature of Canada.

Mr. Hawes: I think it would be extremely inconvenient, at this moment, to enter into a discussion upon this subject. The Government have taken the very earliest opportunity of laying the papers having reference to the recent events in Canada upon the table of the House; and, therefore, I think it would not be proper for me to enter into the question until an opportunity has been afforded to hon. gentlemen of seeing those papers. Under these circumstances I hope my hon. friend will not think me guilty of discourtesy towards him, if I decline saying any more until the papers now presented have been considered.

Mr. Gladstone: I entirely concur with what has fallen from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies; but I am sorry to say that the remarks which fell from the hon. and learned gentleman (Mr. Roebuck) are of that na-

ture which I do not think it consistent with my duty to pass over altogether. I am sorry to say that the hon. gentleman, whilst he was attempting to dissuade the House from interference, and warned us against undertaking it, has himself done much to prejudice the question. I confess, when the first intelligence of these transactions reached this country, my mind was deeply excited by it; but a review of that intelligence convinced me that we were not in possession of the merits of the case. Until we shall be put in possession both of Lord Elgin's own despatches, stating the grounds of those proceedings and the previous history of the case, and of the principles which may or may not have guided the former acts of Legislature, we shall not be able to form a judgment. The hon. gentleman warns this House against interfering with the Rebellion Losses Compensation Bill. If he gives that warning upon the ground of the imperfect information which we possess, I heartily concur with him, and for one I will give no opinion upon the bill or upon the conduct of Lord Elgin or of Her Majesty's Government. But when I hear the hon. gentleman say, "the people of Canada have been voting the money of Canada, and therefore I warn you not to interfere," I protest against a doctrine which interferes with the supremacy of this country over all imperial concerns. Why it might be that England might be at war with some foreign power, and that some colonial legislature might be found voting a subsidy to that foreign power. Would that be a reason, because it is a question of the money of the colony, and not the money of this country, against the interference of this House? I protest against the warning of the hon. gentleman, and I contend that this House has a perfect right to interfere in all imperial concerns.

Again, I will give no opinion whether it is a question of a race, or whether it is not. I have read much in the public journals and private communications upon the subject. I have seen a hundred times over the allegation that this question is a question of a race. But never once have I seen it stated that it is a question of race in the House of Assembly. Everybody knew that the French members of the House were in a minority in that House, and that the question of whether this is a question of race was not within the walls of the Assembly but without.—The hon. gentleman says that this measure was introduced into the Canadian Parliament with the sanction of the Crown. I apprehend that about that there can be no doubt whatever. Being a matter involving money, it would have been impossible, according to the constitutional forms of the province, to have introduced it without the sanction of the Crown. I trust hon. members will, before arriving at a conclusion upon this question, feel it an imperative duty to examine, with dispassionate care, every step of the proceedings; and that they will pass no judgment whatever upon the executive of the colony, or upon Her Majesty's Ministers here, until they have carefully examined the whole of the papers, and endeavoured therefrom to form a wise conclusion.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 15.

Lord Stanley, referring to the formidable news from Canada, felt it his duty to ask Her Majesty's Government whether they had received any further information than that which had been conveyed to the public, and whether they were prepared to offer any explanation of the state of affairs existing in that colony, where it would appear that the discontent which had been produced by the measures of the government had at last broken out into absolute disaffection and revolt, and where, it was to be apprehended, there was now raging the most formidable of all wars, a war of races. And wished also to know whether, with regard to the particular measure which had led to this outrage—the Indemnity Bill—any specific instructions had been given to Lord Elgin as to the course of policy to be pursued.

Earl Grey replied that about an hour previously he had received a despatch from Lord Elgin, and that despatch, when the House next met, he should have great pleasure in laying upon the table—a despatch which he thought would show that Lord Elgin had acted throughout with his accustomed judgment, moderation, and good sense. The despatch was dated the 30th of April, and the mail having left, was forwarded just as the packet was about to leave. Undoubtedly, at the time the despatch was written, a riot of a very aggravated kind had taken place at Montreal, and the Parliament House had been burnt, but he saw no reason at all to apprehend, from the despatch, that there was a war of races of which the noble lord had spoken; on the contrary, he had every reason to believe that tranquillity was restored. There had been no step taken in this matter which he should not hereafter be fully prepared to justify, and take the responsibility which belonged to himself and his colleagues. At the same time he must tell the noble lord that, in his opinion, the responsibility of these events rested as much upon the noble lord as upon other persons, in consequence of the proceedings in that House some time since, the opinions expressed by the noble lord having in no slight degree increased the party feeling which prevailed in the colony.

Lord Stanley replied, and again asked the question whether Lord Elgin had left to act upon his own unassisted judgment with reference to the Indemnity Bill, or had he received advice and instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

Earl Grey replied that no instructions had been given to Lord Elgin with reference to the Indemnity Bill. In Canada, as well as in most of the other colonies, the governors were bound to act on their own judgments, and he should never depart from that wholesome rule by giving instructions from home.

After some observations from Lord Redesdale, and a reply from Earl Grey, as to the constitution of the Legislative Council of Canada, the subject dropped.

It is calculated that the prime cost of the materials used in England and Wales, to produce artificial light, viz. coal, tallow, camphine, &c., cannot be less than £11,336,000 per annum.

[For Remainder of English News, see page 396.]