

Crampton is the only existing "cause or pretext for a rupture between the two countries." Is the Central American issue then abandoned on either side or postponed indefinitely, or settled, or turned over with the consent of both governments into the hands of Gen. Walker and the Nicaragua Accessory Transit company? We should really like to know.

Crampton is the only "cause or pretext for a rupture!" We turn back to the affair of the steamer Caroline, and the McLeod case, and feel fully authorized to bid the bulls of Wall-street be of good cheer. The world will never be set in flames about Mr. Crampton. Oh, no! But upon the Central American question, how is it? Is Marcy laughing in his sleeve at us? Have we been sold? Or has Mr. Pierce been frightened off by the warlike voice of Seward? These are the questions that bother us.—N. Y. Herald.

PORTSMOUTH DEFENCES.—Portsmouth garrison presents just now the appearance of a town beleaguered from the sea, and the garrison preparing busily for its defence. A large fleet of ships and gunboats is at anchor in the roadstead off the town and new batteries and quarters for soldiers are being constructed rapidly within the walls of the fortress. At the top of the town a large range of dwelling houses and the theatre have been pulled down to create more room for military accommodation, while at the bottom a battery of 16 68-pounder pivot guns is in the course of completion, having taken the place of the old 6-pounder saluting guns. In the rear of these has been erected a large shell magazine, flanked by a high earth mound to protect it from the shot of an enemy seaward; new embrasures for heavy 32 pounders have been cut in the curtain of the ramparts at various points commanding Southsea, where a mud fort has been built near the old stone fortress, Southsea Castle, to strengthen that defence. A new double drawbridge is in course of erection in lieu of the old single one at St. James-gate "Point," where a battery and Royal Artillery quarters in rear have for some time been built to protect the mouth of the harbour on the right of the entrance. The Government are also endeavouring to negotiate for a large extent of house property in Green-row and the rear for further enlarging the barrack accommodation, and this to the extent (says military rumour) of 30,000 men!

If so, Portsmouth and its adjacent dependencies must become almost exclusively a citadel.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

A few nights since Lord Palmerston addressed the house on the differences that have arisen with America. In answer to Mr. Cobden's arguments he gave to the world a statement of the rise and present state of the dispute, and appealed to his hearers for a justification which will hardly be withheld. With respect to the affairs of Central America he stated what is well known to be the fact, that the spirit of the treaty concluded was to prevent further acquisitions of territory by either of the contracting powers. As England has long possessed a colony of more or less importance on this coast, her ministers understood the treaty to refer to further settlements, and not to those already made. The United States took a different view, and demanded the immediate evacuation of the territory we had fancied secured to us. Here was a difficulty somewhat hard to be overcome; "but," says Lord Palmerston, "we have offered to refer the matter to arbitration." Whatever may be the general opinion as to the merits of this mode of decision, it at least shows good faith in the party that proposes it, and the declaration of Lord Palmerston was received with applause by an assembly which, while jealous for its own country's dignity is not unmindful of what is due to the spirit of peace. With equal frankness did the British Premier point out the incidents of the second dispute. We are threatened with a suspension of international relations. The two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race will only correspond officially by means of a consul, or, at most, a secretary.—Possibly no great harm may arise from a short cessation of diplomatic activity, but the cause of this mutual interdiction, and not the thing itself, is of grave importance. Such an interruption is generally looked upon as approaching nearly to a state of hostilities. In fact in such a case everything has been done which usually precedes the first irrevocable blow, the great letting out of the waters of strife. The house then listened with attention to the words of the First Minister. He stated that in the directions for the enlistment in Canada strict orders were given that nothing should be done to infringe the municipal regulations of the States or violate the laws of the Union. He added moreover, that when it was found this enlistment might cause offence to the American government and people, orders were given for its cessation, and this before any remonstrance was received.—W hen

official representations were made complaining of an alleged infringement of American law, the British government expressed its regret at once and without reserve, Lord Palmerston thus explicitly stated that his government first did all that it could to avoid giving offence, and when charged with discourtesy promptly apologised. This declaration was received with cheers by the British House of Commons. The Temper of the government and the national representatives was fully evinced at this sitting. The feeling of the public we believe we have expressed, and it fully coincides with that of the ministry and the Commons. A sincere desire for peace, a wish to make any honourable concession, a regret that any alleged act of ours should have caused a difficulty between the two countries, animates all classes and will determine their future conduct. Turn now to America. From the Five Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico we believe no thinking American fails to perceive that, if his country be brought into hostilities with our own, the Central American affair and the Recruiting-office are not motives but pretexts. To the few, principally immigrants, or children of immigrants, who detest England and look forward to a struggle with satisfaction, we shall not speak. But of the mass of Americans we would ask, whether their government can disturb the peace of the world in these disputes without incurring the just reprobation of every free nation? Can it be denied that these matters might be settled at once if it were the wish of one or two men at Washington to settle them? Can it be denied that even in the President's cabinet some moderate politicians are overcome by the recklessness of colleagues who wish to gain popularity at the expense of the nation's peace? We believe that the Ministers of President Pierce are divided in their convictions and their motives of action. The following is said to be the state of parties. The Attorney General, Mr. Caleb Cushing, has been the leading spirit in these differences. He is said not to object to war, or at least to such an approach to it as may give him popularity and a reputation for high spirit throughout the States. As a law officer of the government his language should have been cautious and his conduct moderate, how far both have fallen short of such an ideal we may judge from the letters bearing his signature that have appeared in print. Mr. Cushing has much influence with the President, and they are probably bound together by an identity of political objects. It is stated that Mr. Marcy, the Secretary of State, is opposed to the warlike demonstrations of his colleague and his chief. If the settlement of these disputes depended on him and the British Minister, matters would not long remain unarranged. The prolonged stay of Mr. Crampton in Washington is said to be due to his moderation.—London Times.

MR. DALLAS.—The National Intelligencer says of our new Minister:—

"We are assured, and are happy to believe, that Mr. Dallas carries with him the best dispositions to cultivate the relations of friendship and good will between two nations whose connections and interests are so intimately blended, and to heal as far as he can all the unhappy dissensions and misunderstandings which have been permitted to spring up on unimportant or exaggerated issues.—We can but hope that in this noble spirit and purpose he will be carrying out the pacific wishes and instructions of our Administration.

THE THREATENED RUPTURE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.—The prospect of hostilities with America is not in itself serious; nor would so much be made of what there is, if the public on both sides of the Atlantic would lay aside all petty anger and prejudice, and betake themselves to a calm and just review of the situation. Whatever feeling may at this moment exist between the two countries is due to misconception of the facts in some, and misrepresentation of them in others.—There is no *casus belli*. There is nothing whatever that can for a moment justify two great Powers, like England and America, in having recourse to arms. Nations are bound by the same moral laws in respect to their quarrels as individuals. Many a cause for angry, and even menacing words may arise between two upright men, and yet nothing exist to justify them in proceeding to blows. Similarly at the stage of civilization at which the nations of the West have now arrived, no cause of war can be admitted to be justifiable which does not stand upon a wrong committed or a right in danger, to such an extent as to leave no other means open for the vindication of the one or the defence of the other.

There is nothing in the American question which in the least answers the conditions. In the Russian aggression there was a tangible evil to which we could point as our justification for recourse to arms. We could point to a danger to universal

liberty, to the peace of Europe, to the balance of power, to the faith of treaties, and to the honor of nations. These were jeopardised, and he who put them in jeopardy refused to recede. One only course was then left us. He who would not retire by force of reason must be repelled by force of arms, and that concession be extorted by necessity which ought to have been granted by honor and conscience. The suffrages of nearly all Europe uphold the Allied Powers in their conflict with Russia, and the free of all countries sympathise with their triumphs. But the attitude and temper of America are wholly without excuse. The case as between the two governments is so ridiculously frivolous, that to suppose it possible to hang upon it an excuse for plunging into the wasting miseries of war is to assume Americans to be utterly void of all conscience of right, and all perception of their true interest. That they are not as a nation so void it is easy to believe; but it is also impossible not to see that a people situated as they are, with a constitution so democratical in theory, so arbitrary in practice, without a preponderating conservative element such as we possess in the House of Lords, or any principle of self rectification, such as we have in the power of the Crown to dissolve Parliament, may without difficulty be lashed to madness by a few clever men, who find it their interest for the nonce to stimulate popular passion and raise a cry for war.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—A little girl about eleven years of age belonging to Mrs. McAfee of this place left her school about 10 o'clock A.M. on Tuesday for the purpose of getting some water; in a short time she was missed; a search was made when her bonnet was found in a water hole in the Creek quite convenient. An alarm was immediately made; and we never witnessed a greater degree of sympathy than was manifested towards the afflicted mother. (The father of the child was drowned a little more than three years ago.) Upwards of fifty men commenced cutting away the ice about 11 o'clock the same day, and continued their exertions until about two o'clock P.M. on Thursday, when their labours terminated by the discovery of the body about four rods from where she fell in, and in about two feet of water.

The ingenuity of Mr. McCausland, Watchmaker of this place, suggested the plan by which the deceased was discovered. He procured a water tight cask, in which he inserted two small panes of glass; sunk it with weights, and then a boy went into it, who through the glass could see all around him, and by this means discovered the situation of the body.

An Inquest was held before John Bedell Esq., Coroner, and a verdict returned accordingly.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

By Telegraph to the Carleton Sentinel.

March 14th.—After reading of the journals this morning there was a warm conversation among the members respecting the financial condition of the Province. The discussion took place in connection with a motion relating to Bye-Roads appropriations. Members of the Government not present during the early part of the discussion. Much warmth displayed on both sides. House in supply. Usual grants to Baptist Seminary and Miltown Academy passed. The Provincial Secretary announced his intention of laying his statements before the House tomorrow. Report of Committee on Public Accounts laid before the House this evening. The Bear and Wolf bill rejected in the Legislative Council. Railway bills expected to be taken up early next week.—House adjourned at six.

March 15th.—No business of any consequence transacted this morning. Notice of Address to His Excellency and Resolution respecting expenses of the old and new Governments. House in supply. Several grants passed. Another discussion took place in reference to the Prohibitory Law. No time fixed for taking up the bill. Petitions received from the County of Gloucester, praying that the Prohibitory Law may be amended. Petitions also presented for the repeal of the Law. The report of the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works was laid before the House. The several Railway bills were read in Committee and fixed as the order of the day for Monday, the House to go into Committee of the whole in consideration of the same at 2 o'clock the same day. Hon. Mr. Tilley laid before the House an estimate of the income and expenditure for the coming year. House adjourned at a quarter past 3 o'clock.

March 17th.—Usual routine business transacted in the morning. Progress was reported on Mr. Gray's Bill relating to Patents. Several Grants entered on Supply Book. Motion to enter draft for service performed by W. H. Keans, under 9th Victoria, Chap. 65, was rejected. At 1 o'clock, Mr. McPhelim suggested that the House adjourn

early in honor of St. Patrick. Business resumed in afternoon, a few minutes before three o'clock. The Reports of the Light House Commissioners, Steamboat Inspectors, &c., were laid before the House.—Entered on Supply the sum of £24,730 for the Great Roads for the present year. The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole in consideration of the Railway Bills. Mr. Gilbert in the Chair. Hon. Attorney General spoke three hours and a quarter. He contrasted the condition of this Province with that of Nova Scotia and Maine in their Railway enterprises, and dwelt upon the numerous benefits that would be derived from the carrying out of the present scheme; respecting compensation for land damages, he stated that it was his intention to introduce a Bill to make provision for losses sustained in this way. He believed the proposed settlement with Jackson was the best that could be expected. Debate resumed to-morrow at eleven. House adjourned at six.

March 18th.—Several bills were under consideration in the House this morning. The bill to incorporate the St. Stephen's Gass Light Company, was passed in Committee. The Railway bills were taken up a few minutes after 11 o'clock. Mr. J. A. Harding was the first speaker. He did not say whether he would condemn or support the scheme. He was alive to the importance of Railways, but did not believe in the payment of such a large sum to Jackson. Mr. Boyd spoke for one hour in opposition to the scheme in favour of the principle of taking the wild land. He also advocated the necessity of doing something for the St. Andrews and Quebec Line. Mr. Brown entered into a lengthy history of Railways in this Province from the commencement down to our present position, and spoke for some time in support of the scheme before the House. Mr. Gray spoke for two hours in opposition to Mr. Barring's proposition, and in favour of carrying out the arrangements with Jackson & Co.—Debate resumed at eleven to-morrow. Hon. Mr. Tilley will probably be the next speaker.—House adjourned at six.

19th March.—Several bills of minor importance disposed of this morning. Mr. Cutler's bill to prevent certain persons from holding seats in the Assembly stands the order of the day for Tuesday next.—Railway bills taken up a few minutes after eleven. Mr. McAdam made a short speech in favour of the scheme. Hon. Mr. Smith spoke for near an hour in support of the proposition, and in justification of the course pursued by the Government respecting the arrangement with Jackson & Co. Mr. Street spoke for one hour and three quarters in condemnation of the present Railway scheme. He expressed himself favourable to the proposal made by Jackson on a previous occasion. Hon. Solicitor General spoke for upwards of two hours in support of the scheme, and contended that it was a great misfortune that the Province had ever been gulled with the arrangement with Jackson & Co. The debate resumed at the usual hour to-morrow. The bill to incorporate the town of Woodstock has passed the Legislative Council with certain amendments.—House adjourned a few minutes after six.

The New York Herald takes a common sense view of the difficulties between the English and American governments, worth in our opinion, a hundred yards of telegraphic surmises, speculations and ingeniously fabricated gammon.

The Herald justly says:—"Pierce, finding that the chances for a nomination are rapidly fading away, has applied to Congress to give him three millions to expend in burrowing up old guns, or, in other words, in getting up a sham war excitement for the Cincinnati Convention.

Having exhausted all the means in his power to plunge us into a quarrel with Spain, he now hopes to turn to more profitable account our differences with England; but there can be no war between countries which are joint proprietors in commercial agricultural and financial enterprises to the extent of hundred of millions, merely to aid the prospects of Mr. Pierce at Cincinnati. Abrogate the Clayton and Bulwer treaty. It should never have been made. If your offended dignity, suppressed through a year of personal civilities, accepted and returned, requires to be avenged, send Mr. Crampton his passports, and leave our merchants, agriculturists and monied men free from your diplomatic quackery, till a new and more competent administration finds means to efface your blunders, and restore harmony between two nations which should be the last to quarrel with each other. Neither the one nor the other of the measures now pending can by any possibility endanger the peace of the two countries."

A young lady at an examination in grammar, was asked why the noun "bachelor" was singular. She replied immediately, and with much naïvete, "Because it is very singular they don't get married."