

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XII.]

Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus at apes.

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THE GLEANER.

THE AMERICAN PRESS.

From the New Yorker, Feb. 20.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

We have dared to express frankly the opinion that the difficulties now existing and palpably augmenting between this country and Great Britain can only be adjusted, and a horribly sanguinary and destructive war avoided, by the existence and manifestation of a spirit of peace, of conciliation and of compromise on both sides. We have always maintained that the right of this country to three-fourths of the territory on the North-Eastern boundary, now in dispute between the two nations, is clearly with the United States, and must be acknowledged and established in any adjustment which may be made. At the same time we have felt constrained to admit that our claim to that small and (to us) totally worthless portion of the territory watered by the Restigouche and other streams tending Eastward into the Bay of Chaleur is not clear, and that there is strength in the British position that a line described as 'running due North to the highlands which divide the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean,' could not have been intended to cross four or five rivers which run in neither of the direction indicated, but eastwardly into the Bay of Chaleur. What fair mind does not feel the force of this consideration? We have therefore recommended and urged a generous and manly offer of compromise on our part, which shall take at its basis the award or opinion of the King of Holland, giving us all the Aroostook country, all the disputed territory South of the St. John and St. Francis Rivers—in short, three-fourths in extent, nine-tenths in positive value, and ninety-nine hundredths in relative value to us—if the residue be worth any thing at all—while at the same time we concede to Great Britain the frozen region which is necessary to her, to preserve her line of communication between the Canadas and her Atlantic Colonies.—Such is our suggestion—such 'the very head and front of our offending.' It is an offence of long standing, however.

With regard to the growing difficulties on our Northern frontier, we have expressed the opinion that our people are most in the wrong, having begun the mischief by the 'Patriot' operations at Buffalo in 1837, by the seizure of State ordnance, the hostile occupation of Navy Island, and the general 'sympathising' in men, munitions and provisions, with that absurd, flagitious movement. The British have also done wrong, especially in burning the Caroline; but their conduct, if unjustifiable, was by no means unprovoked. He who asserts that the previous and subsequent operations on our side of the line were consistent with the relations of peace and the requirements of good neighbourhood is besotted beyond the reach of argument. The contrary is plain as demonstration can make it.

We therefore insist that it is the duty of the two nations to bear and forbear—to pass lightly as possible over past irregularities on either side, and provide as soon as may be for the security and harmony of the future. We have not considered the proceedings at Lockport either reputable in themselves, calculated to promote the restoration of good feeling, or indeed to answer any purpose of good, and we have frankly said so. But our reprobatory comments have been restricted to the extra-judicial portion of those proceedings—to the processes under the authority of Judge Lynch, not of Judge Bowen.

We did not overlook, when we made our former observations, the strong probability that there were individuals, even in the Editorial profession, who would eagerly clutch at and distort them in the hope of making some paltry political or personal capital therefrom. We have not been disappointed. The editor of the Norwich (N. Y.) Journal has done this, with all the unfairness and low rancor of which the mind which could stoop to such an act must necessarily be capable. Yet we were not prepared to see a man who had once filled the high station of State Senator descend to the base falsehood of representing us as urging a compromise which shall 'give to Britain all that she claims.' We never spoke or thought of giving her half she claims, but simply so much as is necessary to her—that is, to the maintenance of that line of communication from New Brunswick to Canada, which she has always possessed and enjoyed. After exposing this enormous falsehood, self respect dictates that we should pass lightly this subordinate misrepresentations, that we have assailed the justice of the Administration, denounced the imprisonment of M'Leod,

insisted that he should be released, &c. Every reader of the New Yorker knows that we have repeatedly and heartily borne testimony to the wisdom and moderation of Mr Van Buren's course on the perplexing and critical subject of our relations with Great Britain. If we have deemed it false in any respect, it has been the reverse of that indicated above; yet if we thought it too moderate and procrastinating we have never said so. We are too well aware that this matter of passing judgment on the foreign policy of the government by one who cannot understand so fully as that government must do, all the circumstances and bearings of the case in question, is rarely consistent with discretion or modesty. We usually publish all the official documents connected with such questions, and leave our readers to form their own judgment. And with regard to the propriety of arresting and trying M'Leod, we said nothing until the matter was taken out of the hands of the civil authorities by a Lockport mob. Was it not high time then that the friends of peace and the supremacy of the law should raise their voices?

From the New York Mirror.

WAR WITH ENGLAND.

Every now and then we think we perceive a speck in the political horizon, that looks as if it would lead to a war with England. Some outbreak or other on our borders, some territorial dispute about a strip of land, some trifle, in short, not worth thinking of, much less quarrelling about; and such a quarrel as a war between this country and England—probably, a general war throughout Europe—the whole world in a flame, probably from the most trifling spark. We are literary men, our columns are devoted to literary subjects, which only live, and flourish, and bloom in the midst of peace, which decay and perish in war; war, like the frost of a single bitter night, destroying all the tender plants which entwine themselves around our existence. But we must occasionally talk of these subjects, look into them, see danger at a distance, try to ward off the blow; and prevent, if possible, a dire conflagration, rather than aid in extinguishing one. This is the *ius mileu*, the true conservative principle, and we follow it. We are the most excitable people on the face of the globe, our feathers are ruffled quicker than a Turkey's. We cannot, it seems, debate a debatable question, comprising a single point of national importance, without forthwith talking of war, and placing ourselves, like Tom Crib, in an attitude for a fight. Not long since, Mr Fox, the British Minister, having probably overslept himself, acknowledged, in a yawning manner, that the burning of the Caroline was acknowledged by the British authorities. This was one of Queen Mab's freaks, 'the fairy midwife,' who visited the Minister, and he had a dream. The ministers at home had given no such orders. The confession, however, like a cat jumping out of a bag, created immense sensation in the halls of Congress, and every man was chock full of war, and ready to make fight, and 'pledge his life, his fortune, and his sacred honour on the issue!' How silly for a sensible, thinking, honest, powerful, gallant nation of eighteen millions to think thus, and talk thus. Opposite our frontier is Upper Canada, a province belonging to Queen Victoria, as no one will deny. A number of idle, lazy loafers, probably a few rascals, and a few counterfeiters to boot, having the impudence to call themselves Patriots invade the aforesaid Province of Upper Canada without any declaration of war, and in the midst of profound peace between the two countries; and, as might have been expected and desired, they are soundly flogged, and their leaders deservedly hanged. But, looking at the expense of blood and treasure incurred by the invasion, Queen Victoria says, 'Why brother Jonathan, what is the meaning of all this? We are at peace, like loving cousins and friends; our relations are of the most pacific character. I have done you no wrong either in thought or action, and yet your men have crossed into my territories and killed my people. How is this?' Brother Jonathan very honestly says, 'Madame, and our dear cousin, it is all true; but the rascals have acted without my authority, wishes, or connivance.' Well says the Queen, 'have you not laws to detect and punish these marauders?' Why yes, says brother Jonathan, you perceive they are state laws, conflicting with the laws of Congress; cross bills, cross firing, local and federal legislation, all twisted together, interlined, dovetailed, and so forth, the result of which is, we cannot reach and punish these fellows. Then, Brother Jonathan as my illustrious ancestor, Queen Elizabeth said, 'I'll thrash them myself!' The first fruits of this determination was the burning of the Caroline on our shores, supposed to be conveying arms to the cow boys at Navy Island. Two points grow out of this burning—

If the Caroline belonged to the rebels, and she was engaged in illegal acts, then she ought to have been burned by either party wherever found, by the British because she was aiding and abetting the invaders of Canada, and by the Americans, because she was making war on a nation decidedly at peace with the United States. This is the equality of the case. If the Caroline was not engaged in aiding the Patriots, directly nor indirectly, then burning her was a mistake, and error of judgment, and atonement should be made, and would be made in that case to the injured parties. But when these patriots, as they falsely called themselves, left our shores to invade a country at peace with the United States, the whole armed power of the country should have pursued and made war upon them. No honorable nation recognises war in disguise. 'Them's our sentiments.' We are a country of liberty, it is true, but law first, and liberty afterwards, and if we cannot keep the people from lurking into war, upon their own impulses, and without declaring it according to the constitution and by the constituted authority, then we are not a nation, and do not deserve so to be considered. A firm, honest administration, not desiring to make political capital from such outbreaks, can easily put them down and punish the criminals. Now for the other spec of war—the Eastern boundary. Her Majesty wants a road through part of Maine to Canada, and instead of saying to Maine 'how will you trade,' a proposition well understood down east, contends that the roads and the timber are all her's already, and have always been so. Is this a fit subject for two great nations to fight about, and kill each other, more particularly for us, having so many thousand millions of acres, that we are disputing among ourselves in what manner we shall give them away? We are not in a position to fight for national character. We have as much reputation in the field and in the cabinet as belongs to any nation. No power desires to injure or insult us. It is only by cultivating peace that we can be happy. A war between this country and England would not be a war for territory, or national aggrandisement, but simply a war to see which can do the other the most harm. Let us imagine it; let us suppose that England, by her improvements in the arts of war and by steamships, runs into our seaports, lays our cities in ashes, or levies contributions. In order to save our towns and its defenceless people, let us in return, by our private marine, sweep her commerce from the ocean, and burn her small towns. Let us then go on, at immense expense of blood and treasure, to injure each other for twenty years, and at the end of that period, we shall not have settled a single point of national honor; for the simple reason that there is none to settle in the present dispute. It involves no principle or policy which cannot be settled by men desirous of preserving the blessing of peace, and promoting the happiness and prosperity of the country.

PEKIN.

The capital of China stands in a corner of this vast empire, about forty miles only from the great wall. It consists of two distinct parts, the Chinese and Tartar cities, in the latter of which is the Imperial Palace. It is about twelve miles in circumference, and completely surrounded by lofty walls. According to the most creditable accounts, the population is about 2,000,000. It is divided into regular streets, the principal of which crosses the whole city, and is about 120 feet wide, unpaved, but carefully watered, and nearly three miles long. The streets are much crowded, as the Chinese spend much time in the open air. Its position renders the climate comparatively cold, and the frost and snow prevail generally for three or four months every year. The palace also, is surrounded by a wall, with a few sentinels at the gates. It, in fact, forms a small town, inhabited by the great officers of the state, and numerous mechanics in the service of the Emperor. Nankin, the ancient capital, is a very superior city, but has greatly declined since the seat of government and the courts of justice were transferred to Pekin. It is the first town in the empire for manufactures and learning. It is situated on the Yangtze Kiang near the mouth. Nankin is remarkable for its pagoda, or porcelain tower. It consists of nine stories, ascended by 884 steps. The galleries are filled with images, and set round with bells, which jingle when agitated by the wind. To the south of Nankin, along the Great Canal, stands the beautiful city of So-chou-fou, which the Chinese extol as their earthly paradise. Here all the classes, whose functions are to minister to pleasure, are trained to their respective vocations—comedians, dancers, jugglers, and females destined to fill the harems of the great. The females here are reckoned to be fairer and more gracefully

attired than those of the southern cities. The adjoining province, Tche-Kiang, is the finest in China. It produces vast quantities of mulberry trees, and it is distinguished by containing the great city of Hangtchou-fou, situated at the point where the Great Canal joins the river Tcheentang, which here spreads into an ample salt water lake. This is the city described by Marco Polo, as the capital of Southern China, and as the most splendid he ever saw. Even in its present decline, it still rivals Pekin. The varied beauties of its lake, the numerous pleasure parties which cover its surface, the gilded barges with floating streamers, and the ariel mansions with which the margin of the lake is studded, form a magic scene which fully bears out the glowing description of that celebrated traveller. In the adjoining province of Kiang-si is the Poyang Lake, surrounded with numerous and populous cities: one of the most remarkable is Kan-tchan-fou, said to contain 1,000,000 of inhabitants. It is in the centre of the porcelain manufactures, and like some of our best inland manufacturing towns, its site is marked by the clouds of flame and smoke which rise from it, and make it appear at night like a great city on fire. No foreigner has been admitted into its precincts, lest he should discover the secret of the processes carried on. The southern frontier of Kiang-si is bounded by a lofty and naked barrier of mountains, which interrupts the communication between Pekin and Canton.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 25.

On motion of Mr Woodward, Whereas it appears by a Report of the committee of Public Accounts, (to whom were referred the Accounts from the Auditor General), made to the House on the 15th day of February instant, that in the distribution of the Surplus of the Civil List, there are charges for a retired allowance to the late Surveyor General, the hon. Thomas Baillie, at the rate of £600 per annum, also a charge of £500 on account of Salary to the present Surveyor General, and also charges for travelling expenses of Members of the Executive Council not residing at Fredericton, therefore

Resolved, That an humble address be presented to his Excellency, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to lay before this House copies of any communications that his Excellency may have received from her Majesty's government in reference to the several subjects adverted to in the preamble to this Resolution.

Resolved that there be granted to the Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Newcastle, in the County of Northumberland, the sum of £58 17 6 to reimburse them expenses incurred in that parish for the support of transient poor.

February 26.

A message from the Legislative Council. Mr Miller, Master in Chancery, informed the House that the Council had agreed to the following Bills, viz:

The bill to authorize the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland to erect a Lock up House in the Town of Chatham in the said County; and

The bill relating to Buoys and Beacons in the Harbour of Shediac, in the county of Westmorland, without making any amendments thereto

February 27.

On motion of Mr Street, Resolved, That an humble address be presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to appoint three or more fit persons as Commissioners appointed to revise, and if necessary, make a new Ordinance of Fees in the Supreme Court, on the Crown Plea and Exchequer side thereof, and also to take into consideration the propriety of introducing into the Supreme Court in this Province the new Rules of Pleading in Civil Actions, at present in force in England, so far as may be applicable to this country, and to report the result of their doings to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for the purpose of being laid before the Legislative Council and House of Assembly at the next Session of the Legislature.

Ordered, That Mr Street, Mr Fisher, and Mr Barberie, be a committee to wait upon his Excellency with the Address.

March 1.

On motion of Mr End, The House went into committee of the whole, on a Bill sent from from the Council, intitled 'an Act to amend the Law relating to the practice in the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas.' The Chairman rose