

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.—We are indebted to the Boston Atlas for the following brief synopsis of his important document:—

The President commences by congratulating the country that we are at peace with all nations, that we have been greatly blessed by Providence, and that the scourge of cholera has been stayed.

The relations with Great Britain are of a friendly character; the recent alteration of the navigation laws, which are reciprocated by us, are likely to prove mutually advantageous.

A slight interruption of the diplomatic relations with France has been terminated. Our Minister has been received, and one appointed to this Government.

The President alludes to the fitting out of German War Steamers at New York, and intimates that by the documents referring to this procedure, accompanying the document, it would be seen that the parties interested approved of the course of the government. No such government as the German Empire had been established, and our Minister had been recalled, after being instructed to transfer the archives of the Legation at Frankfurt to the American Legation at Berlin.

The suppression of the expedition against Cuba, and the demand for the restitution of Rey, (the New Orleans man,) are slightly alluded to. The President announces that, although the crime charged against the supposed abductor of Rey is justly odious, there is no law punishing such an offence.

The Executive studiously avoided interference during the conflict between Austria and Hungary. It stood prepared, however, in case of success on the part of the Hungarians, to welcome them among the family of nations, and invested an agent with power to recognise their independence, should circumstances justify it.

Our claims upon Portugal have been pressed with renewed vigor.

During the late Revolution at Rome, our Charge had been unable to present his letters of credence.

The President recommends a cultivation of friendly relations with Mexico, and a faithful observance of the treaties with that government. He sends in a correspondence relating to the Protocol, and alludes to measures for settling the boundary, and adjustment of the American claims.

He recommends close relations of friendship with the South American States, bordering on the Pacific.

A convention has been negotiated with Brazil, providing for the settlement of American claims.

The President calls attention to the existing laws concerning the African trade, with a view to the more effectual execution of the same.

Seeing that there was no prospect of re-union among the five States comprising Central America, he had treated with them separately by treaties of commerce, &c.

A contract had been made with the government of Nicaragua, by a company composed of Americans, for the purpose of constructing a ship canal. He had directed negotiations for a treaty with Nicaragua, pledging both governments to protect those who shall engage in the work. Nicaragua had invited other nations to enter into the same treaty stipulations.

The President thinks the canal may be made the bond of peace, and also thinks that the Isthmus and Tehuantepec are worthy of consideration, and though Mexico did not concede the right of the latter to us, yet he will not renew the proposition to purchase it, as it ought to be open to all nations.

The President calls attention to the position of the Sandwich Islands, and desires that they may maintain their independence, and thinks that other nations should concur in this, as no government can be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power.

Treasury Estimates.—The receipts into Treasury for the fiscal year, ending the 30th June are \$48,000,000; Treasury notes funded, \$10,000,000; making \$58,000,000. Expenditures, \$46,000,000. He says the Treasurer's report will probably show a deficiency in July next of \$5,000,000, and on the 1st of July, 1851, of \$10,000,000—making an aggregate of \$15,000,000, caused by the extraordinary expenses of the Mexican war.

He recommends that authority be given to borrow the necessary amount to meet the deficiency.

The Tariff.—The President recommends a revision of the existing Tariff, on a basis which may augment the revenue. He does not doubt the right of Congress to encourage domestic industry, and thinks that specific duties are best adapted to prevent frauds upon the revenue. He recommends duties high enough to protect home industry.

He thinks that if the sub-treasury be continued, it will require important modifications; and also recommends an agricultural bureau.

He commends the application of California for admission into the States, as favorable to the consideration of Congress.

A coast survey has been ordered for California and Oregon, to fix upon sites for light-houses.

He recommends a branch mint in California, and a commission to examine land titles in that country, and also a geological survey. He also recommends a reconnaissance of the most feasible route for a Pacific Railroad; and early appropriations for improvements of rivers and harbors.

On account of Indian troubles in the extensive new territories, he recommends an increased military force.

The President speaks well of the Navy; and is favorable to a reduction of postage, except by sea steamers. He alludes to foreign postage treaties, indulges in general reflections thereupon, and above all, recommends a love of union to every American heart. Its dissolution is the worst of all calamities—its preservation the surest means of prosperity and happiness. Whatever dangers may threaten it, (says he) I shall stand by it and maintain it in its integrity to the full extent of the obligations imposed, and the power conferred upon me by the Constitution.

HINT.—The following important paragraph is copied from the last number of the Fredericton Reporter:—

"It is rumored that the construction put upon a late act of this Province by one of our highest authorities, is to the effect, that the party giving Bail for the personal appearance of a debtor is also responsible for the amount for which he is arrested. If this should be the case, it should immediately be known throughout the Province, as there are many persons who would give security for a man's personal appearance, who would not choose to become responsible for his debts. We will not vouch for the accuracy of this report; although it is said that a case in point has occurred in Saint John."

The Fredericton Amaranth gives the following version of the affair:—

"In consequence of a cloth dealer in Saint John having been held to bail for £700 sterling—surrendered by his bail, imprisoned, and subsequently liberated on a Judge's order, it was currently reported here last week, that the said Judge had construed the law thus: that when bailable writs are issued, the bail becomes liable for the money, and cannot by surrendering the debtor release themselves from the liability. Having made some inquiries, however, we find that the prisoner in this instance was surrendered before the writ was returnable, which was illegal; hence his release. It is important this should be known, especially as in this instance the liberated debtor immediately absconded, in spite of the remonstrances of his bail, whom he left saddled with the debt."

THE NICARAGUA QUESTION.—A Correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Washington under date of December 20, says:—

I have some very important news to give you to day, justifying the belief, from present appearances, the Nicaragua question between England and the United States is so near a settlement, that it may be considered as out of the pale of troublesome questions between the two countries. I have my information from such a quarter as to place it beyond all doubt. It comes from the Department of State, through one of the Senators who has seen and read the despatches received by Mr Clayton, by a late steamship, which effectually precludes any difficulty growing out of the Mosquito business.—These Despatches were received by the Department of State, by the steamship before the last, from Mr Lawrence, the American Minister to London, and they cover a letter from Lord Palmerston, dated about the end of October or the beginning of November last, in which the most conciliatory position is taken in reference to the whole matter in dispute between the two Governments.

CANADA.—An extra of the Canada Gazette, contains the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General, appointing Thursday the 3rd inst., to be observed throughout the Province as a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his mercy in having removed the Cholera.

CANADA TIMBER TRADE.—The following general remarks on this subject we take from Wood & Petry's Annual Circular, published at Quebec.

We are happy to be enabled to state, that the hope expressed in our last circular, of some revival in our trade, has been partially realized; the result of the operations in Lumber during the past season having been, on the whole, rather more favorable than during the two preceding years. Yet, it must be borne in mind, that the increased Export of this article has not arisen from any increased consumption in the United Kingdom; but is attributable to two causes, of a local and temporary nature, viz: First—the short supply in the United States, and secondly, the small quantity produced in the Lower Provinces; the former of which, led to the decision of a considerable quantity of Timber destined for this market; and the latter to a great increase of the tonnage of shipping at this port—but for these circumstances, it is very evident, that the export of 1849 would have fallen short of that of 1848; and prices in our market would have been lower throughout than they have been since July.

The extent of our future trade hangs entirely upon the consumption in the United Kingdom, which, we regret to state, is likely to be limited

for some considerable period; the principal markets being so fully supplied, and heavy stocks will probably remain over until the summer: for the general revival of business has not yet reached the timber trade, as we find it expressed in the London Economist of the 10th November, which says:—"The only important articles, the consumption of which exhibits any material decline, is Timber. In the present year duty has been paid only upon 1,103,256 loads, against 1,343,469 loads during the same period in 1848. This great decline is no doubt mainly attributable to the greatly diminished scale on which railways, and buildings connected with them, have been carried on during the present year, as well as buildings in general, compared with the last three or four years. From the length of time necessarily occupied in such undertakings, it has been uniformly a matter of observation that the iron and timber trades are the latest to suffer from bad times, and the last to recover when a general improvement takes place."

We must therefore caution our friends to restrain within a moderate compass the manufacture of timber generally this winter, and particularly red pine of small dimensions.

Dr. Dow.—This gentleman writes us to say, that he purposes visiting Miramichi in about three weeks, and will deliver a course of Lectures on *Anatomy and Physiology*. The Dr. has lectured in Fredericton and Saint John, and his efforts have been highly spoken of. He is now in Woodstock. He informs us that he intends bringing with him his extensive and costly apparatus, and beautiful French manikin.

THIS DAY'S MAIL.

CANADA.—By the Quebec Chronicle of the 31st ult. received last night, we learn that the City Council of Quebec has unanimously passed a resolution pledging the credit of the City to the extent of £100,000, in aid of the Melbourne Railway.

Portland and Montreal Railway Company.—A meeting of the Shareholders of this Company was held at Montreal ten days since, the Hon. A. N. Morin in the chair, when it was resolved unanimously to issue the "new and preferential stock," which has been agreed to be taken by the City of Montreal, the Seminary of St. Sulpice, and the British American Land Company, upon terms already settled. A full report of the proceedings of the Company is to be laid before the shareholders this month; meanwhile it is announced that the contractors are actively engaged in the work between Saint Hyacinth and Melbourne, on Saint Francis River, at which point it will be intersected by the proposed railway from Quebec.

Quebec Chronicle, Dec. 31.
The Toronto Colonist persists in affirming the correctness of its previous statement, that the Parliament will not meet until a meeting can no longer be put off, and that a general election is approaching. The Colonist says "the present House will not be convened again, and the assembling of Parliament cannot be postponed beyond May."

The Montreal Herald says,—there is a story in town to which, however, we can find no good foundation, to the effect that Lord Elgin is about to leave for England, and that he is about to be replaced by Sir L. Bulwer, at present ambassador to the United States.—Lord Mark Kerr is now in Washington in communication with Sir L. Bulwer.

Quebec Gazette.
We are informed that a fatal affray took place at Lake Aylmer, in the Eastern Townships, a few days ago, by which some four or five individuals lost their lives. It is said that the quarrel arose between Mr. Thomas Levallee, of this city, and his friends, and a number of the inhabitants located near the Lake, on account of his going to fish trout there every winter, which they did not admit his right to do. It appears that he was informed before leaving town that he would be attacked, if he should go and fish there this season; but notwithstanding, he left with his party, and on arriving there a collision ensued, and rumour says that Mr. Levallee and three of his opponents were killed. We give the statement just as we heard it, without vouching for its truth. The next Sherbrooke papers will probably furnish us with full particulars.

Nicaragua.—Our latest intelligence from Jamaica, brings us news of some importance. It appears that the English Government has decided on making Greytown, in the Mosquito territory, a naval station, and it is announced that the vessels of war Alarm and Tincomalee were forthwith to be despatched thither. Thus it seems that the English are determined not to be caught off their guard, but intend to anticipate any movement which might be made against their supremacy in that portion of the continent.

We learn that the States of Central America were about to unite into a confederation. The commissioners of Nicaragua, San Salvador, and Honduras, had agreed on articles of confederation, and were to invite several other States to join them, though it was thought English influence might prevent them.

St. John.—The ship James Stewart sailed yesterday for San Francisco, with a well assorted cargo of building material and other articles suitable for the California market, shipped by the owner of the vessel, Charles C.

Stewart, Esq. and valued at upwards of £1000. Several young men belonging to this city form part of the crew of the James Stewart, and Messrs. N. Milby, and William Bradley, of Saint John, John Ruddock, of Portland, and Miles, of Fredericton, have gone passengers in her.

The following editorial article from the Charlotte Gazette, of the 1st inst. we deem of significant consequence to ship-owners, whose vessels are for the future to be occasionally engaged in performing a portion of those voyages for American citizens, which were hitherto monopolised by vessels of their own country:—

Insurance of Provincial Shipping.—A gentleman, commissioned by the Wall Street Office, has been down through Charlotte County, with the view of ascertaining, by personal inspection, the character of our shipping, preparatory to putting them under a fair mode of classification. The gentleman we believe, possesses all the information necessary to enable him to accomplish his mission in the most perfect manner, and we therefore feel satisfied that his report will release our commercial marine from much of the unfavorable impression under which it has had, but too frequently, to struggle, undeservedly, at the hands of the American underwriters.—*St. John Courier*

To Shipbuilders and Others.—Instructions have been received by the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws at this port from the Commissioners of Customs in England, directing that accommodation for men, galley, windlass fitting, and boat births, if put on the main deck, shall not be deducted from the tonnage of the vessel, in the admeasurement for obtaining a certificate of registry; and that no vessels are to be cleared out at this port between the first of September and first of May with cargo upon the upper deck, whether covered by a house or no.

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—*The Storm.*—The storm last night was very severe, particularly on the Sound. The Boston Mails failed to arrive in season for the Hibernia, and were left behind. Some new buildings were blown down in Brooklyn, and the Ferry Boats during the night could not run. The weather is cold, with a light fall of snow.

Abandonment of Canada as a British Colony.—Frequent and prolonged have been the meetings of the Cabinet during the last ten days, and various the surmises as to the weighty affairs of state which have so portentously occupied their attention. We have, however reasons for boldly announcing that the question of abandoning Canada as a British colony has been the most absorbing topic, and we learn from authority in which we are apt to place firm reliance, that it has been all determined to give up Canada as a dependency to the British Crown.—*United Service Gazette.*

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.—Accounts from Constantinople up to the 14th appear in the German papers. According to the German Reform, the diplomatic relations between the Austrian and Russian Envoys had not been resumed, and the English fleet continued in the Dardanelles; but nevertheless, says the letter, it was not doubted that the affair of the refugees would be arranged. The Augsburg Gazette has a letter which states that the Porte had refused to expel the Polish refugees as required by Russia, and that it was endeavoring to induce Austria to support its views, but it was not considered probable that the latter power would separate from Russia.

On the 17th the English fleet was still in the Dardanelles; and the officers paid daily visits to Stamboul.

Russia continues to construct war vessels; seven new ones, two being men of war, were to be launched on the 23d and 24th, at Nicolajew.

We have advices from Constantinople of the 25th ult., at which date the affairs between Russia and Turkey were not in so satisfactory a state as could be wished. There was a continual interchange of notes between the representatives of the two powers, which indicated that every difference of opinion respecting the refugees had not been finally adjusted though from the secrecy observed, it was impossible to ascertain with any degree of correctness where the difficulties existed. The British fleet continued in Beshika Bay, and the French fleet at Oniah.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Officers elect of Bathurst Division, No 23, for the present quarter:

Bela Packard, W. P.; Joseph Windsor, W. A.; Edward Hickson, R. S.; Christopher Lockart, A. R. S.; Wm. Branch, F. S.; Thomas Baldwin, T.; James Hickson, C.; John T. Carter, A. C.; John Meaghan, I. S.; John E. O'Brien, O. S. James McNutt takes the Chair of the P. W. P.

Mr Thomas Weatherly has been unanimously chosen W. P. of Northumberland Division, in place of Mr B. Millar, who declined acting.

Marriages.

At Black River, on the 2nd inst., by the Rev. Wm. Stewart, St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, Mr ALEXANDER McRAE to Miss CHRISTIANA McKAY, both of the Parish of Glenelg.

At Chatham on the same evening, by the same, Mr ROBERT THOMPSON, to Miss MARGARET DOUGLAS, both of the Parish of Chatham.