

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Willmer and Smith's European Times,
December 27.

FRANCE.

The present critical position of affairs in France has naturally awakened deep and serious apprehension in this country; and as it is utterly impossible to anticipate what a day may bring forth, the most gloomy forebodings are indulged in by writers whose fears have been evidently worked upon by the phantasmagoria arising out of the last revolution.—War with England, and its invasion, are the least of the luxuries which are in store for us if we attach credit to the prophecies of these dolorous gentlemen. But without at all wishing to blink the manifold dangers which are likely to arise out of the new order of things in France, they are neither, we think, so imminent nor so immediate as to prevent us from looking them steadily in the face, and of providing such necessary securities as the occasion calls for. A greater evil could not befall the country at this present moment than a panic arising out of the present alarming position of France. It is true that the usurper would not be deterred by any earthly consideration in carrying out his schemes of personal aggrandisement, whatever they may be. We are quite ready to believe that the shedding of human blood would rather delight than appal him, where an end was to be achieved. His recklessness of human life and his contempt for human suffering have been pretty well demonstrated in the events of the last twenty days. But the question is, how far would his interest be promoted by a war with England? Would it consolidate or weaken his power? Would it fix him firmly on the throne which he is erecting on the ruins of popular liberty, or would it prematurely shake him off it? These are points which Louis Napoleon has, doubtless, often resolved in his own mind, and upon their solution depends the question whether he will, like his uncle, venture to measure strength with us, or whether he will court our amity. Our own Government are quite awake to the importance of the crisis. They have been already, it seems, interrogating him about his policy, but the oracle is dumb. No wonder. To call upon such a man, at such a time, for pledges in favor of constitutional rights, seems about as reasonable as to ask a hungry tiger to disgorge its prey. But the fact of the head of the French executive declining to pledge himself to any intelligible course of conduct, ought to prepare us for any alternative that may arise. By this we mean such proper and prudent precautions as will not involve us in extraordinary expense on the one hand, nor leave us totally incapable of making a ready resistance on the other.

Louis Napoleon may be a madman, but he is certainly not a fool. With his uncle's example before him, he will pause before he throws down the gauntlet to England; and as to the statements we read of in some quarters about the defenceless condition of our coasts, and the ease with which a French army could land in the dead of night, and march on London, which it would pillage and burn, we regard them as the mere drivelling of a maniac, or the premature terror of a nervous old woman. What should we be doing while this invasion was preparing? We must, in the nature of things, have timely warning of it. It could not be got up in a day and a night, nor yet in a week or a month. The preparations for so daring an experiment could not be concealed. They would necessarily employ all the available resources of France. A *coup d'état* of this sort would be known all over Europe. Secrecy would be impossible. In the meantime we could concentrate on any part of the coast a marine force, in steamers and vessels of war, such as the world has never witnessed. Whatever definite shape Louis Napoleon's designs may assume, a descent upon this country is clearly not amongst the number.

At the same time, the very condition of his existence as a ruler will necessitate action of some sort. He cannot remain idle. As he has climbed to power by such desperate, such unprincipled means, he may be compelled to go on. The army which has created him must be flattered. He is its creature. The usurpation would come to a melancholy and a premature end if he did not pamper the power by which he is supported. The intelligence from Morocco this week shows not merely that the *coup d'état* had long been fermenting in his own mind, but that this expedition against the Mussulman, attended as he evidently hoped it would be, by some brilliant results, was planned to follow, like a comet, in its tail. So far, the Barbary scheme for popularity has not been very successful, an European explosion may arise of this very contest in Northern Africa. It is more than probable that the whole affair has been carried out in bad faith, and that as Lord Palmerston, when he held the seals of the foreign office, was duped, his successor may feel compelled to call upon the French President for an explanation respecting a movement which seriously compromises British interests in that part of the world.

Some of our contemporaries, anticipating a speedy rupture with France, are suggesting, if not extraordinary expedients, to make it. A London weekly paper of mark proposes the immediate enrolment of a corps, to serve as a substitute for the ordinary military power, with better pay than the existing

soldiery receive, and to whom a liberal remuneration ought to be made, so as to induce the better class of mechanics to enter it.—Such crude ideas show the uneasiness which prevails in the public mind at the present moment. We are far from thinking that the time has arrived for such a step, and if it had, this, we conceive, is not the way to meet the danger. Far better, we think, would be the enrolment of a national guard in the great towns and in the metropolis, composed, as in France of citizen soldiers,—a power which could not, from the nature of its construction, be inimical to civil liberty; but which, on the contrary, would be influenced by a due regard for law and order. The very fact of Louis Napoleon suppressing the national guard in Paris foreshadows the nature of his designs. In this country there are hundreds of thousands of discreet and respectable men, who, to prevent the desecration of their "homes and hearths, and altars free," would readily train themselves to the use of arms, and the necessary military evolutions which the exigencies of the case required.—The readiness to support such an organisation was promptly shown during the feverish period in '48, when the Chartists exhibited a disposition to follow the French example which ended in the expulsion of Louis Philippe. Local bands of this description, formed of housekeepers and shopkeepers, would be a decided improvement on the old militia system. They would be influenced by patriotic feelings, far superior to the mere sordid impulses of a higher soldiery. No question can exist that modern warfare would be a more deadly but at the same time a much more speedy settlement of differences, owing to the advance which mechanical science has made during the last thirty or forty years, than were the conflicts anterior to the battle of Waterloo. To their military duties, such a corps as we have named would bring far greater intelligence and aptitude than the ignorant clodhoppers who composed the old militia, or even the soldiers of the line, men for the most part without education, and made to conform to the stern severity of military discipline by the sole dread of punishment.

THURSDAY'S MAIL.

COLONIAL NEWS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Late from Newfoundland.—The Royal Mail Steamship Ospray, Captain Corbin, arrived on Sunday afternoon last, after a fine run of 3 days from St. Johns, Newfoundland, via Sydney, Cape Breton. The people of St. Johns appear to be sadly disappointed at not meeting with their respected Lieutenant Governor, whose return was confidently looked forward to by all classes there. A rapid glance into the papers received, furnishes no local news, other than the following announcement from the Harbor Grace Herald:

"We are happy to find that the Share List of our Steam Packet Company is rapidly filling up. Upwards of four thousand pounds has been already subscribed in this Bay. We are in possession of a copy of the list, but regret its having come too late for insertion this week.—There are Sixty names on it."

Mr Gisborne in Newfoundland.—The Saint John's Morning Post notices the departure of Mr Gisborne from Newfoundland, and also adds:

"Mr Gisborne has received the most gratifying and well-deserved testimonials from the Electric Telegraph Commissioners, and we are certain he carries with him the kindly wishes of the whole community, who will look anxiously forward to his early return, to welcome him, we trust as the harbinger of a new era about to open brightly and beam prosperously on the long neglected but self-sustained and valuable colony of Newfoundland."

New Postal Regulations.—Besides the excellent internal arrangements and improvements at the General Post Office as previously noticed in this Journal—others have since been promulgated—all of which will have a direct bearing on the well being of the whole community. The Post Office will be kept open every day, with the exception of Sunday, from seven in the morning until ten in the evening. When the Mails from England arrive before nine P. M., they will be delivered on the same night; if after that hour, at seven the next morning. All other mails arriving before eight P. M. will be delivered the same evening; if after that hour and before ten, at seven o'clock, and if after that hour, at eight o'clock the next morning. Money Letters intended to be registered must be posted half an hour previous to the closing of the particular mail by which they are to be forwarded. In order to facilitate the business at the Post Office, and that the public may be more expeditiously served, it is, we understand, the intention of the Government to take on two additional clerks. The following is the new regulation for the closing and arrival of the Mails in this city:

The mails for Annapolis, Bridgetown, Barrington, Chester, Digby, Kentville, Lawrencetown, Liverpool, Lower Horton, Lunenburg, Margaret's Bay, Shelburne, Windsor, Weymouth, Wolfville and Yarmouth, will be closed at Halifax at eight o'clock on Monday and Thursday morning. For Bridgewater at the same hour on Thursday. For Windsor, Wolfville, Lower Horton and Kentville, at half past eight o'clock on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. For Newport at the same hour on Tuesday. For Amherst, Darham, Londonderry, Parrsboro', Pictou, Pugwash, Truro, Wallace, P. E. Is-

land, New Brunswick, Canada, and the United States, on Monday and Thursday night at ten o'clock. For Antigonish, Arichat, Albion Mines, Beddeck, Durham, Guysborough, Lower Stewiacke, New Glasgow, North Sydney, Pictou, Plaister Cove, Port Hood, Sherbrooke, Shubenacadie, Sydney, Sydney Mines, St. Peters and Truro, on Wednesday and Saturday nights at ten o'clock. For Gay's River and Middle Muscodoboit, at the same hour on Wednesday night.

A Novelty.—A floating Dry Dock, for the General Government, is in course of construction by Gilbert, Secor, Dakins & Co., of New York, to be sent to San Francisco. It will cost six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, according to the Journal of Commerce, and will be sent by four large vessels, around the Horn, in the spring.

An International Journal.—We have much pleasure in announcing that, through the instrumentality of a number of mercantile gentlemen in the United States, a weekly Journal under the above caption, is to be issued at Boston forthwith. This enlightened enterprise is intended to further the ends of Free Trade. It will (to quote the language of the prospectus) especially be devoted to the strenuous advocacy of reciprocity trade between the United States and the British North American Colonies—increased of Railway and Steamboat Communication between the two countries—the presentation of the resources of the Colonies to capitalists in the United States—weekly review and prices current of American goods required in the Colonial market, and of colonial produce, &c., shipped to American ports—and all general Commercial intelligence touching the interests of the rapidly increasing trade between the two countries. This Journal will be handsomely printed on a large folio sheet—price \$2 per annum in advance. The proprietors solicit, from American and Colonial correspondents, articles containing statistics of the trade between the States and the Colonies—the mines, minerals, timber, fisheries, agricultural, &c., of the Provinces—the manufactories, public institutions, schools, &c., of the States, and facts on all subjects connected with the reciprocal commerce of the two countries. We cordially approve of this Cosmopolitan move; it is a step in the right direction: the interest beginning to be manifested in these North American Colonies, on both sides of the Atlantic, is a significant fact of the times; and while it evinces the usual acumen of Brother Jonathan in matters of self interest, it is not less admonitory to John Bull who, if he values his Empire in the Western World, will do well to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the estimation in which we are held by his energetic rival for supremacy in everything that constitutes national wealth and superiority.

Steam to Boston and Halifax.—The long wished for desideratum of connecting this port with Boston, by means of regular steam communication, is about to be consummated. A screw propeller is now being built at Medford, near Boston, for that purpose. This vessel is intended to be one hundred and seventy five feet long on deck, twenty eight feet beam, and eighteen and a half feet hold, and will measure about seven hundred tons. According to agreement she will be timbered out solid fore and aft, timbers caulked, and ceiled with white oak seven inches thick, one half from keelson and three and a half inches the remainder and caulked out. Bend planking three and a half inches with thick bilge streaks. Timber and plank white oak throughout—except beams and clamps, which are to be hard pine. Her model has been pronounced by naval architects superior to any sea-going steamer, for speed, ever built in the United States.—*Halifax Nova Scotian.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Registry of Vessels.—As there are only 3 ports in this Province where vessels can be registered, and as it has hitherto been requisite that the owners of vessels, previous to registry, should appear personally, to make the declaration and sign bond required by law, much inconvenience has been felt by parties residing at a distance from a registering port, having to travel in some instances, upwards of a hundred miles for this purpose.—The Hon. Commissioners of Customs have directed, on the suggestion of the Controller at this port, that owners and masters of vessels, residing at a distance from registering ports, may subscribe the necessary forms in future, before any of the Colonial Officers who are empowered to execute the duties of Controllers of Customs and Navigation Laws at the Out stations, who will then forward the said documents to the nearest registering port, for the purpose of having the vessel registered and the certificate forwarded to the owners.

This measure will give the Out stations the same accommodation as if they were registering ports.

Important to Shipbuilders.—The following is an extract of a letter from Liverpool, dated 26th December:—"It may be of importance to those interested in Shipbuilding to know that Lloyds have given an extra year to hackmatack Ships, classing them now for seven years, in place of six, as formerly. They also allow Spruce Knees, instead of Hackmatack; which will be a great saving of expense."

Loss of the Brig Alfred Henry.—We deeply regret to learn (by telegraph) from Boston, the melancholy intelligence of the loss of the brig Alfred Henry, of this port, on "The Graves," near Boston Harbour, and that the master and all on board perished. The A. H. was commanded by Henry Kidd, of this city who leaves a wife and child to mourn their

bereavement. He was a young man, whose integrity of conduct had gained for him the sincere respect of all his acquaintances. We deeply sympathise with those who mourn his untimely departure.—*St. John Chronicle.*

UNITED STATES.

The Hungarians turned out of the Irving.—The New York Tribune of the 5th reports that the Hungarians at the Irving House had received notice from the New York City Government, that their Bills would not be paid after Monday. This procedure is considered particularly unkind, because, says the Tribune, on two occasions when they have expressed to the Mayor their desire to find less expensive lodgings, and employment, they have been requested to give themselves no anxiety, and to remain where they were till something should be done for them by Congress.

The Boston Evening Traveller suggests to the Revolutionary Fund Committee of New York, the expediency of appropriating a portion of the thirty thousand dollars already collected to the comfort of Kossuth's companions now in this country.

SUNDAY'S MAIL.

UNITED STATES.

Kossuth at Washington.—The Congressional Banquet to Kossuth, came off on Wednesday night, at the National Hotel. About 300 persons were present. Hon. W. King, President of the Senate presided—with Kossuth and Speaker Boyd at his right, and Hon. Daniel Webster on his left. Secretaries Corwin and Stuart, Judge Wayne, Gen. Houston, Mr Seward, and other distinguished gentlemen, occupied seats in the vicinity of the Chair. Dinner was served at 7 o'clock. After the cloth had been removed, a larger number of ladies were admitted into the room.

A correspondent of the New York Commercial, writing from Rome, under date of Dec. 10, says it is well known that \$90,000 has recently been deposited somewhere in Rome, for the purchase of arms; \$40,000, it is said, were from the United States, and \$20,000 from Liverpool. It is reported that there are at least 30,000 muskets secreted in the city, and in the campaign.

New York, Jan. 7.—Glenby Bucks, a large cotton factor, formerly President of the Canal Bank, failed on Saturday. His liabilities are reported heavy. There are rumours current relative to the failure of other parties. Business dull, in consequence of the failure of the Eastern mails, and the Western telegraph lines having been down through the whole week.

The New York Post contains a serious charge against the canal commissioners at Albany, stating that they have swindled the people out of three millions of dollars, and made themselves liable to a criminal prosecution, and in conclusion calls upon the present legislature to sit the matter to the bottom, and bring the guilty parties to justice.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Census of Fredericton.—We learn from the Reporter that the returns of the census just taken show a population of 4,447 inhabitants in Fredericton. Adding the Parish of New Maryland, which was included in the census of 1840, the returns give an increase of little over twenty five per cent. This is not bad for the Metropolitan city, everything considered.—*New Brunswick.*

We learn from J. A. Torney, Esq., Superintendent of the Woodstock and Quebec Telegraph Line, that Instruments are already prepared for opening an office at the Tobique, and that as soon as he comes through this way, on a tour of inspection (which will be in a short time) the office will be put in working order. Our friends at the Tobique will doubtless look anxiously for his arrival.—*Carlton Sentinel.*

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Weather continues extremely mild for the season—happily so for the poor, whose means of obtaining fuel to meet the pressure of inclement weather—such as we had experienced for several weeks, consecutively, before Christmas. A slight fall of snow on Sunday night covered the ground to the depth of an inch or two, but it is fast disappearing beneath a temperature not higher than the ordinary average of April.—*Halifax Sun.*

To Ship Owners.

The Subscriber, an experienced Ship Master, and at present a resident of the County of Restigouche, is willing to take charge of a new Ship, from a port in the Lower Provinces, to any port in Great Britain or Ireland, the ensuing spring. Satisfactory reference can be given. Address, Dalhousie, Restigouche.

GEORGE MORRISON.

January 2, 1852.

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A CARD.

DR. JOHNSTON, formerly of Point de Bute, informs the inhabitants of Chatham and the surrounding country, that he intends practising the various branches of his Profession in this place.

Residence—In the house adjoining Mr George Johnston's.
Chatham, November 3, 1851.

BLANKS

Of various kinds for sale
the Gleaner Office.