

have been sent to the Admirals to enter the Black Sea, immediately. It is deeply to be regretted that such orders had not been issued at an earlier period, as in all probability would have been the case, but for the absurd and overstrained defence shown by some of his colleagues to the opinion of Lord Aberdeen. Assuming that they have been issued now it remains to be seen in what way the fleets are intended to operate in the Buxine. If, as we are told by a correspondent of the Times, "the first object of the combined fleets, once in the Black Sea, will be to protect the coasts of European and Asiatic Turkey from outrage, and render impossible another collision between the Ottoman and Russian squadrons," it would appear that, even now, Ministers are hesitating to take a step which may bring Britain and Russia into actual collision. We do not understand the arrangement which would transmit our seamen into a sort of naval police, stationed in the Black Sea, for the purpose of desiring Russian and Turkish ships to "push on, keep moving," and forbidding them to interfere with each other. The efficiency of a policeman depends upon his possession of an authoritative right to take offenders to the station-house, and we should like to know whether that power has been intrusted to the British Admiral. Further, the police must be impartial; so that, if Admiral Slade, who commands the fleet of Turkey, and who, no doubt, is burning with desire to avenge the late disaster, should happen to fall in with a Russian vessel, within sight of the squadron commanded by Admiral Dundas, he must necessarily forbear hostilities, under the penalty of undergoing a broadside from the British guns! If the course hitherto pursued by Lord Aberdeen's Government, in regard to the Eastern question, had not in all respects been characterized by utter imbecility, we should be loath, even for a moment, to suppose such an arrangement possible; and yet there is no denying this, that it would be in perfect accordance with what has hitherto been done.

UNITED STATES PRESS.

From the New York Herald.

RUSSIA AND AMERICA.

It has been the policy of Russia since its embroilment with the Western Powers, to seek to extend and cement its alliances even with distant countries. We have witnessed the result of its efforts in this way in the case of Persia. Differing so much from Russia in the character of our institutions, and in the liberal sympathies of our people, it might have been supposed that in no state of circumstances would that power be likely to cast its eyes towards us with a view to entangle us in the meshes of its diplomacy, or in the dangers of a general war. Such an hypothesis absurd as it may seem, has nevertheless some foundation in fact. We have got Russia agents amongst us who are making strenuous efforts to form certain combinations, differing entirely in their character from the alleged motives of their visit, which were said to be nearly similar to those which brought to this country some years ago, Captain, now Admiral Von Schontz, Captain Pepin, and other officers in the Emperor's service, who were sent over here to superintend the construction of the steam frigate Kamshatka, and likewise to inspect our railroads and our system of naval architecture of which the Czar is known to be a warm admirer. The Russian officers who are here now, came over for the ostensible purpose of superintending the construction of the screw propellers ordered by the Emperor of Mr. Webb, one of our most eminent shipbuilders, during a recent visit paid by the latter to St. Petersburg. There is no reason to believe, however, that that object forms only one, and that the most unimportant part of the mission of these gentlemen; for facts have come to our knowledge which leave no doubt upon our minds, that they are sent here to effect the organization necessary for fitting out Russian Privateers in our ports.

There were three of those officers at the Astor House, namely, Messrs Gruinwald, Ferstine and Leckloff, and three at the Clarendon and other hotels, and they have sub-agents scattered through this and other cities of the Union, busily engaged in endeavouring to carry out the object of their instructions. That the Czar will obtain as many ships as he wants here is probable enough. This is the best market he could send to to procure them, for our shipbuilders are famed for constructing the fastest clipper ships and steamers in the world, and they will have no objection to execute his orders as fast as he sends them in, provided that by doing so they are guilty of no contravention of the law of nations. But the idea that he can pick up enough adventurers here to man them as privateers, is founded on a total ignorance of the character of our population. The floating population of our cities, for the most part, composed of European republicans who have been exiled from other countries for the assertion of principles diametrically opposed to those upon which the Czar's government is based, and many of whom are only awaiting the means and the opportunity to proceed to Turkey to enrol themselves in the armies or navy of the Sultan. These persons will, no doubt, listen to the propositions of his agents, and, as a duty to God and humanity, will take all the money they can get from them; but they will probably turn it to good account, by proceeding forthwith to Constantinople, and it would not at all surprise us if this scheme of the Czar were the means of procuring for the Sultan some of his best soldiers.

Up to the present time the exertions of these Russian agents have not been attended with much success. The applications which they have made to some of our merchants to

engage in these enterprises have in every instance been met with a contemptuous refusal. It is not likely that we shall again see a citizen of this republic coming forward, as in the case of the Russian frigate Kensington, during the excitement of the Polish revolution, in 1830, to furnish funds to support the cause of despotism. It will be recollected that when that vessel put back into one of our ports, after being disabled and almost wrecked in a storm, a merchant of New York supplied the money to fit her out again. It was nearly the cause of his ruin; and, in fact, to this day he never recovered the damage which it did him in public estimation.

This experiment amongst the marauding portion of our population is, it seems not to be confined to Russia. The English government have also agents here, who are instructed to offer bounties to all the sailors, English, Irish and Scotch, that can be induced to take service in her navy. Orders have also been given not to enrol nations of any other country, and this proceeding has been followed up at home by strict injunctions to the government officers at the different ports, not to permit English sailors to leave the United Kingdom.

In proposing to fit our privateers in our ports Russia may have the ulterior design of embroiling us with the Western Powers; but if such be her object she will signally fail in it. There is too much good sense and too strong a detestation of the principles of despotism in this country for any of our citizens to be caught in such a trap. Even should a few adventurers be tempted by the inducements offered to listen to these agents, they would be deterred from embarking in such a venture by a wholesome apprehension of the consequences. In the present advanced state of civilization the privateering system would no longer be justified or tolerated. For men captured in such pursuits the only measure of justice would be the yardarm.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Halifax British North American.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Thursday last the Hon. Mr Johnston moved his resolution in favor of a Union of the British North American Provinces. His speech occupied a delivery of three hours, and was distinguished by his usual depth and penetration. He principally devoted himself to the work of showing that British America was ripe for a position of nationality, in connexion with the parent state, that our people were as numerous, our boundaries as capacious, our people as enterprising, and our revenue as large as many other countries enjoying independent Governments, especially the United Colonies when they declared their independence.

The following were his resolutions:

Resolved, That the Union or confederation of the British North America Colonies on just principles—while calculated to perpetuate the connection with the Parent State—will tend to their advancement and prosperity, to increase their strength and elevate their position.

Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to the Queen, praying Her Majesty's gracious consideration of the subject, and the adoption of measures for bringing it under the attention of the Government and Legislatures of Her North American Provinces, and for effecting the Union of Her Majesty's Loyal Colonies, in a way satisfactory to themselves, and adapted to secure their harmony, and bring into exercise their consolidated strength.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Address, be respectfully requested to transmit, with his favourable recommendation, the Address of this House to the Queen, to be laid at the foot of the Throne, and that His Excellency, when the Queen's sanction shall be obtained, will use his influence, to promote the object, by correspondence with the Imperial and Colonial governments, and such other ways as His Excellency may judge expedient.

Resolved, That these resolutions be conveyed to the Legislative Council, with the request of this House that they would give this important subject their attention, and unite with this House in such manner as may best be suited for its mature consideration and ultimate adoption by the several Provinces.

On Friday the Hon. Provincial Secretary followed, not exactly in opposition to Mr Johnston's resolutions, but in a different strain; and we must say that if ever we were proud of a Brother Novascotian, we exulted in the glorious display of intellectual vigour, logical deduction, and bold enunciation of the principles of liberty, which distinguished the oration of the Provincial Secretary on Friday afternoon. The main groundwork of his speech was a preference for Colonial Representation in the Imperial Parliament, instead of a Union of those Colonies.

The speech taking it all in all, was a masterly production. It may well be deemed so by all men, when we said that he made Mr Johnson an Ambassador, the Speaker a deba-

tor on the floor of the Commons, and Mr Lewis M. Wilkins the governor of some distant colony. But joking apart, for this is no subject for amusement, he showed that these colonies were ripe for nationality, that a connection with the 30 millions of the United States, or an independent government of our own with only 2½ millions, were far inferior to a consolidated connexion with the 260 millions of the British Empire; and he boldly announced that the time was approaching, nay, had ALREADY COME! when if Great Britain wished to preserve these colonies as the right arm of her strength, she should give them a voice in the National Councils. He instanced the important question of the Fisheries, now under negotiations, which might, at one dash of the pen, sweep away our present exclusive right of three miles from the shore, not to speak of the Bays and Harbours; and the greater question of War, which might at this moment subject our 6,000 vessels to the mercy of a foreign foe; and he declared his opinion that with but one Representative on the floor of the House of Commons, Nova Scotia would have secured the Railway promised by Lord Grey, and defeated by a few members of Parliament; and also have freed her mines and minerals from their present monopoly.

If the rights and interests of the Colonists, if the possession of our Fisheries, which are as much our personal property as our farms and houses, are liable to be swept away by a British Minister, if we are liable to the horrors of war by the decision of a British Cabinet, whose life is breathed from the nostrils of Parliament; if that Parliament retains the controul of our commerce, and a supervision over all the acts of our Legislature, then we must be represented in Parliament, and if not so represented, we are in a state of vassalage, and possess not the rights and privileges of Britons. As one British North American, we will never rest until the Empire is consolidated, and Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, and all the other Colonies, if they wish, shall be represented in the august Assembly which regulates the laws of the Empire, and has influence over the Imperial Councils, whose deliberations on Colonial subjects, can rest on no sure foundation unless enlightened with the information which Colonial Statesmen can shed upon them.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s 6d. in advance, or 17s 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

TIMBER TRADE.

AGREEABLY to our promise last week, we publish below some extracts from Farnworth & Jardine's Circular, giving a detailed account of the Timber Trade of Liverpool during the past year. There are many things in this document, that is interesting to the Colonial readers. We would, particularly call their attention to the heavy stock of timber and deals in the home market:

LIVERPOOL, 1st February, 1854.

REMARKS ON THE TIMBER TRADE DURING THE YEAR 1853.—The past year is remarkable as being most successful to all engaged in the Timber Trade. The supply has been to an extent unprecedented, and although brought to market subject to unusually high rates of freight, and greatly enhanced first cost, imports on the whole have been very profitable. The consumption for the year has also increased upon that of 1852, which was greatly in excess of any previous year; during the last few months, however, there has been a considerable falling off in the demand, which may be attributed in part to the unsettled state of affairs in the East—the stocks are apparently very considerable, still with a prospect of a continuance of that prosperity which has for several years been experienced by all branches of commerce, it is fair to conclude that they are justified, and they will not appear so excessive when the quantity already sold for delivery is deducted, and the unusually small stock held by country dealers are taken into account. Of the future it is difficult to judge, in the absence of experience, as to what effect War would have on our commerce; but looking to the large quantities imported from Russia and Finland, whose ports would be closed in case of war, and to the possible stoppage of Wood from Russian Poland, whence Prussia derives her chief supplies, we must anticipate a great falling off in the aggregate import to the United Kingdom; yet this might in some measure be counterbalanced by the consequences of War tending to check the consuming powers of the country. Should, however, the present negotiation for Peace be successful, there is every reason to believe that the demand for Wood will continue upon an extensive scale.

Australia has for the last eighteen months taken large quantities of Timber from this market, both of Baltic and Colonial, and although some diminution in the export of that distant Colony has been the result of the fears entertained some months ago, that an overabundant supply had been sent, later accounts seem to offer inducements for further shipments, and recent operations prove that the wants of that important country are not lost sight of.

The following Table shows the estimate of Import Consumption, and Stock of Timber and Deals, for the past six years.

	IMPORTATION.		
	1851.	1852.	1853.
Colonial Timber,	6,871,000	6,456,000	7,706,000
Colonial Deals,	6,852,000	8,069,000	16,542,900
Total cubic ft.	13,723,000	14,525,000	18,248,900
	CONSUMPTION.		
	1851.	1852.	1853.
Colonial Timber,	6,834,000	7,724,000	6,813,000
Colonial Deals,	6,227,000	7,559,000	9,000,000
Total cubic ft.	13,061,000	15,283,000	15,813,000
	STOCK.		
	1851.	1852.	1853.
Colonial Timber,	3,810,000	2,542,000	2,435,000
Colonial Deals,	2,974,000	3,484,000	5,026,000
Total cubic ft.	6,784,000	6,026,000	8,461,000

COLONIAL TIMBER.—QUEBEC PINE.—The year commenced with a moderate stock of Pine Timber, which was well cleared off before the spring shipments arrived. The demand throughout the season has been lively, the first arrivals having realized 19d to 21d per foot, according to quality, which left a moderate profit on the import cost; as the season advanced the increased prices at Quebec and higher rates of freight current were met by a more than corresponding advance on this side, and we close the year with inferior Timber at 22d, and prime Timber at 2s 2½d per foot. Saint John Pine is generally sold according to average size: at the commencement of the year, 18 inches average brought 22d per foot, in April the same size sold at 23d per foot, in June 2s per foot, in August 2s 1d, and September to the close of the year 2s 3d to 2s 4d per foot. The consumption of this article shows a great decrease as compared with former years, which we attribute in some measure to the scarcity of the article in the early months of the year, and to the high prices current in the latter. The value of Quebec Pine of prime quality now approximates more closely to that of St. John, we may therefore expect that the St. John Pine will again attract the attention of consumers. The import of Quebec Pine has been 4,396,900 feet, against 3,766,000 feet in 1852; the consumption 4,238,000 feet against 4,212,000 feet, leaving a stock of 1,855,000 feet, against 1,677,000 feet in the previous year. Of Saint John Pine the supply has been 1,805,000 feet, against 1,645,000 feet in the year 1852, the consumption 1,341,000 feet, and the present stock is estimated at 881,000 feet, equal to eight months' consumption, according to that of the past year, but taking the average consumption of the three previous years, the present stock is only equal to 5½ months' consumption. Lower Port Pine shows an increase in the import of the previous year, but is about equal to that of the three preceding years, being 249,000 feet; the consumption has been 126,000 feet, and the stock is equal to 14 months' consumption, being 143,000 feet. These items give a total importation of Pine Timber of 6,450,000 feet, a total consumption of 5,705,000 feet, and show the stock of all sorts of Pine Timber to be 2,859,000 feet, equal to a consumption of six months.

HARDWOOD has been imported freely, and found purchasers at paying prices, especially for wood of good quality. The consumption has been considerably less than the two previous years, and the quantity remaining in the market is double the stock at the beginning of the year, and equal to 6-13 months' consumption. The first arrivals of Prince Edward Island Hardwood sold at 22½d to 2s per foot for fair quality, and St. John, of 14 to 15 inches average, at 2s 1d to 2s 3d per foot. A large portion of the late import being of inferior quality from P. E. Island has sold at 20d to 21d per foot, good Wood being still worth the highest price of the season.

QUEBEC DEALS.—This article when contrasted with other Colonial Deals does not bear a favourable comparison, which may be accounted for by the severe restriction still adhered to in Canada of cutting their Deals 12 feet in length. This year the supply of Yellow Pine Deals from New Brunswick has been abundant, and being of much longer lengths, has interfered with the consumption of these brought from Quebec. The importation of Quebec Deals exceeds that of the preceding year by 1515 standard; the consumption has, however, very considerably increased, being less by 2634 standard; the present stock is estimated at 3624 standard, equal to a consumption of 10½ months. Third quality Deals sold in July, at £10 10s. to £11 per standard, advanced in November to £15, the highest point of the season, and have receded to £13 15s. to £14. The last sale of second quality was at £16 per standard, and of first quality at £19.

SPRUCE AND PINE PLANKS, BOARDS, &c.—The superior manufacture of New Brunswick Deals, and their relative cheapness compared with any other description of Wood, has again caused them to take the lead both in quantity imported and consumed; so well are they adapted for every purpose, owing to their make and variety of dimensions, that a large quantity of Spruce Deals have been sent out to Australia, and have there favourably competed with the same article from the Baltic. During the past year Spruce Deals have fully maintained the high position awarded them in our last annual statement, for while we had there to note an unparalleled import and consumption, we have now to remark upon a supply exceeding even that of the year 1852 by 34 per cent, and also upon a consumption exceeding that of the previous year by 20 per cent. On reference to the table at the head of our circular, it will be observed that the importation has been 10,542,000 cubic feet, and the consumption 9,000,000 cubic feet, exceeding both in supply and demand all other descriptions of Timber, Colonial and Baltic combined. The stock, when considered without reference to other influences, and merely comparing the quantity to that of previous years, might be looked upon as greatly in excess of the requirements of this market, but it will bear a favourable comparison with that of former years, for, on referring to the general table below, it will be observed that the stock at the end of 1845 was equal to 8 months' consumption; in 1849 to 9 months'; in 1850 to 5½ months'; in 1851 to 5½ months'; in 1852 to 6 months'; while at the present period the stock is equal to a consumption of 6½ months'. The value of Spruce Deals at the commencement of the year was stationary at £10 6s to £10 10s per standard, and so continued until June, when increased supplies brought down the prices to £9 10s to £0 per standard, at which rates sales were effected with very considerable difficulty; this continued until the month of August, when some improvement was manifested, towards the end of that month £11 being realized for St. John Deals; from this period until the last of November a rapid rise in price took place, and several cargoes sold at £14 10s per standard; this, however, was the highest point, and from that period to the present there has been a fall in price to the extent of 2s per standard, the year closing with St. John Spruce at £13 10s to £13 15s, St. Andrews at £13, and Nova Scotia at £12 per standard. Yellow Pine Deals have been in great request the whole of