

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM AUSTRALIA.—The following important intelligence was conveyed in a private letter to a respectable house in Liverpool, and was posted yesterday, by Thomas Court, Esq., in the Underwriters' Rooms.

Sidney, Nov. 1.

"The French have taken possession of New Caledonia. There is plenty of gold there, at least, so it has always been believed, from the large granite regions among the groupe. If such be the case, Great Britain ought to have been beforehand with them, as it lies so near New South Wales. The French Commander-in-Chief in the South Pacific, has sent a vessel here to take a cargo of supplies to the new colony immediately. How will they relish this in England?"

New Caledonia is an island, or rather a group of islands, lying to the eastward of New South Wales, being in lat. 22 S., lon. 165 E.

ITALY.—Letters from Turin, of the 30th ult., state that the irritation prevailing between the Civil Government and the clerical party was daily increasing. The negotiations with Rome for the conclusion of a Concordat were no longer spoken of since the publication of the Pope's last encyclical letter.

The Parlamento of Turin quotes, without guaranteeing it, a letter from Rome, in which it is stated that the Pope intends appointing a Special Commission for the purpose of reorganizing the Government on the footing of 1816. Cardinals Antonelli and Lavelli, and Monsignor Santucci, are mentioned as likely to form part of this commission.

MALTA.—A private letter from Malta, of the 30th ult., states that the workmen in the arsenal are preparing stores for twenty ships of the line. A report was current there that the English and French Governments were determined to send a sufficient force into the Black Sea to put a speedy termination to the war.

Mr George Roe, the chairman of the executive committee, stated at the last general meeting of the Royal Dublin Society, that Mr Dargan's losses by the Exhibition amount to little short of £20,000.

TRADE.—The fact announced this week of the departure of the Russian Ambassador from Paris, and of the intention of Baron Brunow to leave the Court of St. James's to-morrow, leave no doubt as to the future policy of this country and France upon the Russo-Turkish question. The firm tone of the Royal Speech has given general satisfaction, and now, when war seems to be beyond doubt, it is the hope of all parties that it will be most vigorously prosecuted and that the Emperor of Russia may receive such a check as will prevent Europe being again "shaken from its propriety" to gratify either his own ambitious designs or the fanaticism of his subjects. It has been pretty confidently stated that Austria and Prussia will join with the Western Powers, and that the stand taken by the former, has quite taken the Czar by surprise—the object of the mission of Count Orloff to the Court of Vienna being it is stated to induce Austria to disunite herself from the Allied Powers, and join him in his struggle to crush Turkey.

Notwithstanding the alarming rumours daily prevalent, the Money market continues easy, and to be most abundantly supplied. Prime first-class paper, short dated, has been done at 4 1-2 to 4 3-4 per cent, while others not so good have been charged 1-2 per cent above the minimum rate of the Bank of England, but the general run of bills has been unaltered. The amount of bills falling due to-morrow (the 4th) was expected to be unusually heavy, and will probably lead to a temporary increase in the demand for accommodation.

The news from the Cape of Good Hope is satisfactory. Entire tranquility prevails, although not a little apprehension exists in the Orange River Sovereignty in consequence of the mediated withdrawal of British authority and protection.

Accounts have been received of the death of the Emperor of Japan, whose decease will place the court in mourning for three years, during which period no foreign embassy can be received.

About forty vessels for Australia are already advertised to sail from London during the present month. Two steamers will also be despatched to Australia this month, viz, the Bosphorus and Ema.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET IN THE BLACK SEA.—The following is an extract list of the Russian naval force in the Black Sea:—4 three deckers 120 guns (one old and unserviceable); 11 line-of-battle, 80 to 84 guns; 5 frigates, 51 guns; 2 ditto, 48 guns; 3 corvettes, 36 guns. 4 ditto, 24 guns; 2 brigs, 22 guns; 10 ditto, 18 guns; 8 ditto, 14 guns; 5 ditto, 12 guns; 5 ditto, 6 guns; 3 schooners, 12 guns; 5 ditto, 10; 1 old 84 line-of-battle ship, and 1 old 24 gun-brig, unserviceable in harbour, and a few steam-vessels.

BANDITTI IN GREECE.—A band of brigands, Greece, having the village of Arma, on the frontiers of the Turkish province of Tirhala, the Ottomans authorities despatched a column of troops against them. They made a show of resistance, but after two were killed and three wounded, they threw away their arms and fled.

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—A despatch from Constantinople, dated the 23rd January says:—Yesterday the combined fleets returned from the Black Sea to the Bosphorus, and anchored at Beycos. General astonishment at Constantinople.

A despatch from Vienna dated Thursday evening, February 2, reads thus:—Report says that the Emperor of Austria has declared to Count Orloff that if the Russians cross the Danube he will consider the same as a declaration of war. Austria insists on the acceptance of the project of the 13th. The Paris correspondents of the Chronicle and Times confirm the telegraphic report that the Russian Ambassador had received the answer of the French Government to the inquiry respecting the objects of the combined fleet in the Black Sea, and that he was on the eve of quitting Paris. 'The Times' correspondent writing on Thursday, says: "The Russian Minister in Paris has at length received his answer from this Government. M. de Kisseleff had an interview in the afternoon of yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who communicated to him the 'explanations' demanded. They are in substance the same that I have already mentioned, namely, that the Powers do not intend to maintain in the Black Sea the neutrality as interpreted by Russia, and that they cannot place on perfect equality Russia and Turkey, seeing that they are resolved to protect the Turkish squadron and the Turkish territory from the attacks of the Russians—the weaker against the stronger. There is no necessity to convey a decision in uncourteous terms, and those of the answer were, I am assured not so; but they were firm and determined, and such as left no room for doubt. So M. de Kisseleff very probably considered them, for he is said to have on the spot demanded from M. Drouyn de Lhuys his passports—a request which the minister said he should forthwith communicate to the Emperor and take his orders. Some days since I mentioned that Thursday would be the day that the Ambassador would leave Paris, or formally cease to act as the representative of Russia at this Court. It is here very confidently stated that M. de Kisseleff, who has already made his preparations, will leave Paris this evening or to-morrow morning; but whether this evening or to-morrow is not of much importance, as his diplomatic relations with this government cease from the moment that the demand for passports have been officially made. The Russian Chancellerie remained closed to day. Rumour says that M. de Kisseleff will return to Russia, and that M. Brunow proceeds to Germany. The answer to M. Brunow was, it is stated, given yesterday, with no doubt the same results, and the intelligence transmitted to this Government accordingly."

The Paris paper Patrie states that Count Orloff appeared much dissatisfied with the result of his mission.

Letters from St. Petersburg state that the asking for explanation in London and Paris, which so clearly betrays "the better part of valour," had produced a very unpleasant effect here, that no Russian was in the slightest doubt as to the mission of the fleets, even without the circular of M. Drouyn de Lhuys; the Holzei ung has told them all so very often, and they believe it, that the "arch rebel harbourers" have no other end in view than the overthrow of "Holy Russia."

REPORTED FIGHT IN THE BLACK SEA.—On Thursday night it was currently stated in London that the English and French fleets had met the Russians in the Black Sea—that a collision had occurred, and that the ships of the Czar were destroyed or taken. This report emanated from a great city centre of shipping intelligence, and from the confidence with which it was put forward obtained considerable credence. No special telegraphic message, however, arriving to confirm the statement, it may perhaps be safely regarded as a more enlarged and positive echo of a rumour traceable to the Vienna Wanderer, and current for many days past. The Viennese story was based on a theory that a hostile meeting had taken place, "because the Russians must be met by Admiral Dundas, and could not in honour accept, without fighting, the orders he was to deliver to them"—such orders being that they should at once return to Sebastopol and remain there.

FRANCE.—The preparation for war, both of a military and naval character, are proceeding with great activity.

It is said this evening, that although all the necessary arrangements for sending troops to Turkey have been made, there will be no absolute movement so long as the Russians shall not have crossed the Danube, and made an attack on the frontiers of Turkey. It is calculated that long before the Russians could make any serious impression French and English troops would arrive at Constantinople. The Presse of this evening amuses its readers with a Stock Exchange rumour, that 15,000 English troops are to march through Paris to Marseilles or Toulon, to save themselves a part of the voyage to Constantinople.

General Baraguay d'Hilliers had gone on the 16th to examine personally the fortifications of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles.

Legislative News.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER.

Fredericton, 18th February, 1854.

Dear Pierce,—Since I last wrote, routine business has chiefly occupied the Assembly.—Bill to increase Buoy and Beacon Survey in Miramichi by 1d. per ton, and Bill to revive the Act authorising Sessions to convey County Lands, introduced by Williston and passed.—Bill to Incorporate South West Boom Company, introduced by Kerr, and one to relieve Chatham Firemen from Parish offices, Juries, &c., introduced by Johnson, passed. The clause in the latter Bill as read in Session, to relieve from taxation, struck out by common consent, Johnson saying he could not support it: all your County Members agreed in these Bills. Kerr introduced a Bill to establish Great Road from Richibucto Road round E. quimnac to Kouchibouguac, and Johnson a Bill to repeal 5th section of Civil List Act, as to granting Timber Beiths, &c. Attorney General states that the Government will not bring in any Election Bill. House pay for 1,500 journals, and 1,900 debates, so that the people will learn enough of the sayings and doings of their solons. I hope the profit may equal the cost, and that the electors may bring their information to bear at the proper time. To-day while in Committee of Supply for the Public Service, the usual grant of £10,000 for Parish Schools came up, Johnson asked if it would not be well to increase the amount, said it was clear the assessment principle would not be adopted by the Country, and that the law on that subject was imperfect; as the general revenue was large, and much of our public debt paid off, a portion of the surplus could not be better expended than in the improvement and maintenance of Parish Schools, which could only be accomplished by holding out inducements to competent teachers by increase of Provincial allowance; quite a debate ensued, Attorney General and a majority appeared to think with Johnson, that while direct taxation was the legitimate means, the Country was unprepared and unwilling to receive such a Law as compulsory; Connel and Reed alone contended that Direct Taxation should be forced upon the Country. I hope a measure will be introduced and adopted, by which an increased allowance to Teachers can be secured from the Public Funds. If there be one subject of more importance than another for the advancement of our Country, and more deserving the attentive consideration of the Legislature, it is the education of the masses—the establishment of free institutions—the enlargement of the Public mind—the value and security of life and property will be enhanced by it. "Ingenus deducisse fideliter artes, emoluit mores nec sinet esse ferus."—Enterprise and energy in the Commercial, Manufacturing, and Agricultural Circles, must be a consequence of intellectual culture—it is the true source of advancement, moral, social, and physical. Educate the mass, and you raise the base of the Pyramid on which society stands; elevate the working classes in this way, and all other classes which rest, as all do on this foundation, must rise in proportion. Education is therefore, or at least ought to be, the grand object in a young Province like ours; we possess all the natural elements of wealth, prosperity, and future greatness, and Education will engender all else we may require. But let means be taken to inform and enlighten them on the subject, and in the meantime, let the School Establishment be liberally supported out of the General Revenue.

FIDES.

From the Journals.

February 9.

On motion of Mr Taylor, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of a Member from each County, to whom may be referred all matters relating to the Agricultural interests of the Province.

Ordered, That Messrs. Taylor, Jordan, Kerr, Purdy, Gordon, Smith, Thomson, Barberie, Siles, McPhelim, Gilbert, Rice, English, and Hayward, do compose the said Committee.

On motion of the Hon. Mr Partelow, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of a Member from each County, to take into consideration the state of the Roads of Communication in the Province, and to report to the House what sum it may be necessary to grant for the repairing and improving the Great as well as the Bye Roads.

Ordered, That Messrs. Partelow, Macpherson, Wilmot Cutler, Read, Lewis, Barberie, Botsford, Connell, Johnson, Ryan, Porter, Earle, and Scullar, be the Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr Williston, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration all matters affecting the Lumbering Interests of the Province.

Ordered, That Messrs. Williston, Hathaway, Smith, Godard, Connell, Montgomery, Cutler, and Porter, do compose the said Committee.

On motion of Mr Boyd, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration all matters relating to the Fisheries of the Province.

Ordered, that Messrs. Boyd, Gray, Robinson, Gordon, Lewis, Montgomery, Williston, Thomson, Landry, English, and McPhelim, be the Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr Cutler, Resolved, That a standing Committee be appointed to examine and report upon the Public Accounts.

Ordered, That Messrs. Cutler, Johnson, Kerr, Wilmot, Thomson, Gordon, Smith, Boyd, Harding Connell, Macpherson and Ryan do compose the said Committee.

On motion of Mr Needham, Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of five Members, be appointed, to whom shall be referred the Contingent expenses of the House.

Ordered, That Messrs. Needham, Cutler, Taylor, Kerr, and Robinson, do compose said Committee.

On motion of the Hon. Mr Wilmot, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration all matters relating to the Finances of the Province, and to report thereon to the House.

Ordered, That Messrs. Wilmot, Macpherson, Kerr, McLeod, and Montgomery, be the Committee for that purpose.

February 11.

The Hon. Mr Street moved for leave to bring in a Bill to extend the Gaol Limits of the County of Northumberland. Leave granted.

The said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

Mr Read, by leave, presented a Petition from Messieurs Sprague, Soule and Company, Ferguson, Rankin and Company, G. and A. Smith, and ninety-eight others, inhabitants of the County of Gloucester, praying aid towards building a Public Wharf at the Grind Stone Quarry at New Brandon, in the said County; which he read.

Ordered, That the said Petition be received and referred to the said Committee.

February 13.

Read a second time the following Bills, viz:—A Bill to vest all Mines and Minerals in the owner of the Soil. A Bill to extend the Gaol Limits of the County of Northumberland.

Mr Read moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize the erection of a Marine Hospital at the Port of Bathurst. Leave granted.

The said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

Mr Cutler moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the improvement of the Bar at the entrance of the Richibucto Harbour. Leave granted. The said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

February 14.

Read a second time the following Bills:—A Bill imposing a Tax on granted Wilderness Lands in certain cases. A Bill to authorize the erection of a Marine Hospital at the Port of Bathurst. A Bill for the improvement of the Bar at the entrance of the Richibucto Harbour.

From the New Brunswicker
Fredericton, February 16, 1854.

Yesterday morning, in answer to an enquiry from Mr Hathaway, as to the course the Government intended to pursue in regard to the Report of the Law Commission, Mr Street suggested that the better way would be to appoint a Joint Commission of the two branches—both legal and lay members—to examine the Law Report thereon.

This was ridiculed most harshly by Mr Botsford,—whose wit on the occasion was rather pungent—not only as a scheme to procrastinate, but because it took the matter out of the hands of men supposed to be competent, and submitted it to the investigation of an incompetent body, before submitting it to the decision of the final Judges. The members of the Law Commission, he observed, were chosen for their intellectual capacity, their integrity, and their astuteness in legal matters; but, "where is the good of them, or what are they for," he continued, "if after two years' research, deliberation, and labour, you take their Report and place it in the hands of another body of men to investigate and report thereon, who have but two months, or less, to apply themselves to it, and their legislative duties to attend to in the meantime?" Mr Botsford concluded by suggesting the plan pursued in England, where the House of Commons and House of Lords pledged themselves by resolution, to take up one chapter a day, simultaneously, and, by exchanging, refer to the other branch, each body, for amendments or approval.

Mr Johnson followed on the same side. The plan suggested by the Hon. Attorney General would, he said, have the effect of procrastinating the amalgamation of the Courts, so that it would not be effected this session, as it ought to be, and the abolition of the Court of Chancery would be indefinitely postponed. He contended that it would be impossible for a Joint Committee to pay anything like proper attention to the subject in time to submit it to the Legislature during the present session, and the House would not be influenced by their report, but by the report of the Law Commission.

Hon. Mr Grey was also opposed to the appointment of a joint commission; it was unnecessary, and would produce no other effect but procrastination. He read a series of resolutions he had prepared, to the effect, that they adopt the system pursued in England, and that