

A captain of the engineers sometimes accompanies them. One night, one of these brave men named Gentry, and belonging to the Zouaves, finding himself in the suburb of Sebastopol, and finding himself rather too far from his comrades, was surprised by a Russian sentinel. The latter took him at first for one of his own comrades, and he therefore made the signal, which was, to knock twice with his hand on the butt end of his gun, and say 'Chatal.' The Russian repeated the signal, but the Zouave did not answer well knowing that it was not a Frenchman who had challenged him. He was still remaining undecided what to do, when he was suddenly surrounded by about 20 men, commanded by a sergeant. Without being at all disconcerted, Gentry fired, and then presented his bayonet. It is to be supposed that the Russian patrol, thought that they had to do with a numerous body, for they immediately took to flight. The sergeant, however, more courageous than the rest, rushed on the Zouave, and aimed a blow at him with his bayonet, but missed him. Gentry then seized the musket of the Russian by the barrel, and disarmed him and made him prisoner without any resistance. The Zouave led him back to the trenches, where he delivered him up to the commanding officer, and then quickly rejoined his comrades, who were at a loss to know what had become of him."

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1855

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 it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pill and Ointment Establishment, 24, Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

We refer our readers to our Correspondent's Letter below, for a summary of the Legislative news:

Fredericton, 3rd February, 1855.

Dear Pierce.—The Assembly opened with the usual forms on Thursday. The speech you will have seen; it fore-shadows many measures which sooner or later will require Legislative action, in order to satisfy the public demands.—The address in the Legislative Council was moved the same day by the Hon. J. S. Saunders, seconded by the Hon. J. Robertson, and passed without amendment or opposition on Friday. The address was moved in the lower House by Mr. Ryan, of King's, and seconded by Mr. McPhelim, of Kent, taken up to-day and quietly adopted until the 17th paragraph, relating to the audit office came up, when Cutler moved an amendment to the effect—that the office should be political, which being seconded by Mr. Grey, a discussion ensued. Cutler attacked the whole address and speech as meaning nothing; insisted that the Government was bound to say in the speech, whether it was intended to make the office political or otherwise. Street agreed that the speech was not more explicit than usual, but could not support the amendment, as he thought the Government as gone so far as he would have done, and would not give the administration his opinion now, but deal with the subject as he might deem right when it comes up. Grey and Wilmot supported the amendment—conceived the office should be political; Ryan, Steadman, Hatheway, Connel and others spoke against the amendment, on the ground that it was not the proper time to express the opinion of the House on the subject. The members of the Government took little part in the debate, and when the question was taken, Cutler, Wilmot and Grey, alone, voted for it. Street sought to make a verbal alteration in the paragraph referring to the victories in the Crimea, and the question was taken on the amendment moved by him, when he and Hayward, who seconded the motion, alone, voted for it. The address thus passed without a letter being altered. There has been nothing else done except presenting petitions, bringing in bills of minor import, and appointing Committees. Of course it is not yet known how many scrutinies there will be—Victoria and Albert are the only ones yet certain.

The calm so far may be the precursor of a coming storm. Cutler appears as if ready to renew the attack upon the first opportunity, and though it is to be expected that Wilmot, Grey, Street, and others, may desire to defeat the Government, and failing this, to embarrass them, it is not probable that Cutler and these gentlemen can act in concert, and with mutual confidence. The members of the late Government have thus far manifested nothing beyond a fair political opposition, and individual good feeling appears to exist on all sides. Whether the Government will undertake too much for the first session or fail to do anything, is yet to

be seen, but that they will be accused of one or other of these extremes, is quite certain—they appear to agree politically, and promise to work harmoniously.

FIDES.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

A very numerous, and enthusiastic meeting was held at Quebec on the 23rd ult. "to set on foot a subscription in aid of the Patriotic Fund, and to express the sympathy of the citizens of Quebec with Britain in the present contest, engaged for the freedom of the world against the despot of Russia." The Mayor presided, who opened the proceedings with an eloquent speech, approving of the war, and paying a just and honourable tribute to the valor and fortitude of the Allied armies in the Crimea, and the necessity there exists for contributing towards the support of the widows and orphans of those who have, and may fall in the contest.

The following Resolutions which were ably, and in several instances—eloquently moved and seconded, were unanimously adopted. Before the meeting broke up £600 was subscribed.

"That the war now waged by England and France against the despotic and ambitious Czar of Russia, originating in acts of aggression committed by him upon the territory of the Sovereign of Turkey, in violation of the recognised rights of European Nations, is eminently a war of civilization against barbarism, and one calculated to enlist in its favor the sympathy of every enlightened people interested in the guardianship of the liberties of Europe, and more especially of the inhabitants of Canada, who are connected with the Allied Army and Navy by political and national ties of no common character.

"That the following Gentlemen do form a committee (with power to add to their number), to collect subscriptions and to take any other steps they may deem necessary to promote the object of this meeting, and that they do transmit the amount collected to the commissioners of the Patriotic Fund:—

[In accordance with this resolution 80 gentlemen were appointed.]

"That this meeting deeply sensible of the debt due to the relatives of these brave men who have died nobly fighting in the defence of their country and liberty, are desirous of testifying their heartfelt sympathy for them, and of aiding by their contributions the Commissioners appointed by Her Most Gracious Majesty, in their endeavours to ameliorate the sufferings of the Widows and Orphans of the Soldiers and Sailors who have fallen or may fall in the present conflict with Russia."

A similar meeting has been held at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The following are the resolutions that were passed.

"Resolved.—That this meeting views with pride the noble exertions making by great Britain in conjunction with her illustrious Ally, to protect the weak against the usurpations of the strong, and to uphold the cause of freedom and civilization, endangered by the progress of despotic power.

"Resolved.—That this meeting desires to express its admiration of, and its heartfelt gratitude to those gallant men, who, on the field of battle, have so nobly sustained the glory of the British name, and afforded additional proof of the invincible prowess of the British arms.

"Resolved that this Meeting sympathises with the Wives and Families of those whom the fortunes of war have deprived of their natural protectors and deems it alike a privilege and a duty to aid in affording them the aid and assistance their desolate condition so urgently demands.

"Resolved that a committee be appointed and that the Ladies of Dartmouth be requested to assist by all the means in their power, in obtaining subscriptions and gratuities to be presented as a freewill offering of the people of Dartmouth."

A meeting for the same purpose, was held at Dorchester, County of Westmorland, when committees were appointed to take up subscriptions in the different parishes.

A large tea party was given at Georgetown, Queen's County, on the 30th ult., when the handsome sum of £40 was realized—the proceeds is to be paid to the above named fund.

Our Correspondent has sent us the proceedings of a public meeting held at New Richmond, County of Bonaventure, on the 18th January; but owing to its length, and the previous receipt of various manuscripts, we have been compelled to postpone its publication until next week.

It will be seen by Advertisements in another column, that we are at length stirring in the matter of the Patriotic Fund.

A singular offer towards this Fund is noticed in the English papers. A widower with eight children offers to marry the widow of a soldier

who had fallen in the Crimea. Generous—truly.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

We have much pleasure in transferring to our columns, the annexed letter from Mr. John Bennett, furnishing the gratifying intelligence that the inhabitants of Dalhousie have succeeded in establishing a Mechanics' institute in their town. We wish them every success in their laudible undertaking.

Dalhousie, February 6, 1855.

FORMATION OF A MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

"A grant of a hundred pounds having been voted by the legislature last winter, to assist in the erection of a building to be devoted to the purposes of a Mechanics' Institute and Town Hall, in Dalhousie, a meeting was held some time since, in furtherance of the contemplated objects, when Mr. Barbarie delivered a lecture on the rise and progress, the uses and value of Mechanics' Institutes, and exhorted the people to use despatch in organizing one among themselves. As soon as convenient after this, another meeting was held, at which the several trades and professions were numerously represented: W. S. Smith Esq., in the Chair. A resolution having been passed that the persons then present form themselves into a society to be called the Dalhousie Mechanics' Institute, and one or two other resolutions of a preliminary nature, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected office-bearers: Andrew Barbarie Esq., President; Charles Simonds, Esq., First Vice President; Hon. William Hamilton, second Vice President; Donald Stewart, Esq., Treasurer; Mr. John Bennett, Secretary. Also the following seven gentlemen were appointed a committee of management: viz, Messrs Edward Gordon, James Brown, David Sadler, Joseph Windsor, George B. Cowper, Alexander McKay, and W. S. Smith, of which Committee the latter member has been chosen chairman.

"So far, we are happy to say, the Institute seems to work well, and to bid fair for a long career of usefulness. The numbers who have given in their adhesion amount at this date to thirty six; but before the spring an accession of at least half as many more is confidently expected. The members are animated by the best spirit, and the ladies evince the interest they take in its success by attending in considerable numbers the lectures, which have been delivered once a week since the organization.

"By the kind liberality of the Trustees, the Grammar School-House is used at present for the purpose of lectures."

EUROPEAN NEWS.

We have made numerous extracts from our files of English papers. Sir Charles Napier has been ordered to strike his flag, and in consequence thereof, has demanded a court martial, when it is expected matters of importance respecting the inactivity of the Baltic fleet, will be elicited.

What are the four points, so often spoken of in the negotiation so long pending between the European powers? This is a question that has been frequently put to us. For the information of our readers, we give them below.

The following guarantees were laid down in the notes of England and France on the 8th of August, 1853. It was then declared by each power, separately, but in the same terms, that the relations of the Sublime Porte with the Imperial Court of Russia, could not be re-established on solid and durable bases:—

"1. If the protectorate hitherto exercised by the Imperial Court of Russia over the principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia, and Servia, be not discontinued for the future, and if the privileges accorded by the Sultan's to these provinces, dependencies of their empire, be not placed under the collective guarantee of the powers, in virtue of an arrangement to be concluded with the Sublime Porte, and the stipulations of which should at the same time regulate all questions of detail.

"2. If the navigation of the Danube at its mouths be not freed from all obstacle, and submitted to the application of the principles established by the acts of the Congress of Vienna.

"3. If the treaty of July 13, 1841, be not revised in concert by all the high contracting parties in the interest of the balance of power in Europe.

"4. If Russia do not give up her claim to exercise an official protectorate over the subjects of the Sublime Porte, to whatever right they may belong; and, if Austria, Great Britain, France, Prussia, and Russia, do not lend their mutual assistance to obtain as an initiative from the Ottoman government the confirmation and the observance of the religious privileges of the different Christian communities, and to turn to account, in the common interest of their co-religionists, the generous intentions manifested by his Majesty the Sultan, at the same time avoiding any aggression on his dignity and the independence of his crown."

Lord Clarendon, in his despatch of July 22, thus explained the meaning attached by the

English government to the guarantees. He said:—

"These guarantees are naturally suggested by the dangers to guard against which they are required.

"Thus Russia has taken advantage of the exclusive right which she had acquired by treaty, to watch over the relations of Wallachia and Moldavia with the suzerain power, to enter those provinces as if they were part of her own territory.

"Again, the privileged frontier of Russia in the Black Sea has enabled her to establish in those waters a naval power which, in the absence of any counterbalancing force, is a standing menace to the Ottoman empire.

"The uncontrolled possession by Russia of the principal mouth of the Danube, has created obstacles to the navigation of that great river, which seriously affect the general commerce of Europe.

"Finally, the stipulations of the treaty of Kukukschuk-Kainardji, relative to the protection of the Christians, have become, by a wrongful interpretation, the principal cause of the present struggle.

"Upon all these points the statue quo ante bellum must undergo important modifications."

THE SEASON.

AFTER enjoying for an unusually long period, mild, pleasant weather, a sudden change took place on Sunday last, from which day until Wednesday, the cold increased in intensity, until the morning of which day, the thermometer stood 34 degrees below zero. Since then the cold has gradually relaxed.

About half-past six on the morning of Thursday last, the shock of an Earthquake was felt in the different towns and settlements in the County. The shock was very severe in Chatham, and preceded by a rumbling noise, which was sufficiently loud to awake persons out of a sound slumber. From all we can learn, there was scarcely a person that did not either hear the noise or feel the concussion.

We learn by telegraph, that it was felt in Richibucto, the Bend, St. John, Fredericton, and in Calais, State of Maine.

This morning C. J. Peters, Esq. kindly furnished us with the following statement of the state of the thermometer during the week.

Monday, 8 a. m. 32 below zero: 10 p. m. 10 below.

Tuesday, 8 a. m. 15 below: 12 noon, 10 below: 1 p. m. 8 below: 3 p. m. 12 below: 10 p. m. 24 below.

Wednesday, 8 a. m. 34 below: 10 p. m. 20 below.

Thursday, 8 a. m. 28 below: 10 p. m. 20 below.

Friday, 8 a. m. 18 below: 10 p. m. 10 above. Saturday, 8 a. m. 10 above.

NOVA SCOTIA.

THE British American says—that His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant has offered his services to proceed to the Crimea, and that the next steamer will convey a part of the garrison of Halifax to England.

We take the following extract from a letter received by us from Halifax, bearing date February 6:

"We have had a remarkable fine winter thus far—I have not as yet worn an overcoat.—Yesterday we had a regular Miramichi snow storm—it snowed all day and best part of the night, and I can assure you it makes the town quite lively to hear the jingle of bells and see sleighs about in all directions. I hope it may remain for the remainder of the month, as it will enable the people in the country to get out their wood and timber. The Railroad is rapidly progressing. You ought to see the Cars—they are very handsome, and equal to anything of the kind in the United States. The people here are subscribing very liberally towards the Patriotic Fund."

COUNTY KENT.

A Correspondent at Richibucto, under date of February 8, furnishes us with the following items of Local news:

"At a late meeting of Kingston Division, No. 44, Sons of Temperance, it was Resolved unanimously, to contribute the sum of Thirty Pounds, to the Patriotic Fund; and to mark more strongly their feeling on the subject, it was also determined to make up the amount by a voluntary offering from the members of the Division, individually, rather than trench upon their common fund.

"The foregoing has been detained, partly by being mislaid and forgotten. This enables us to speak of the Earthquake of this morning, which seems to have been felt far and wide. It is curious to notice the different impressions re-