

QUEBEC, FEBRUARY 2. PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT OF LOWER-CANADA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Friday, February 2.

This day, at two o'clock, his Excellency the GOVERNOR IN CHIEF came down in State to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent to command the attendance of the Assembly. The Members being come up with their Speaker elect, his Excellency was pleased to confirm their choice, and grant the customary privileges of the House. His EXCELLENCY then addressed both branches of the Legislature in the following

S P E E C H:

"Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
"Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"In addressing the Legislature of a Colony the affection of which to the King and His Government has not been doubted, it will not be thought surprising, that I should first advert to that general state of the affairs of Europe, which affects the dearest interests of both, equally with those, which are indeed inseparable from them, of the nation at large.

"I have as little doubt of the satisfaction with which you would have heard, as I am sensible of the feelings with which I should have stated to you, the successful progress of those efforts of resistance to the common enemy, which were offered to our hopes, in the bravery displayed by the Austrian Army. It has however pleased the Almighty to order it otherwise, and those very efforts, instead of producing the effect which we had reasonable grounds to look for from them, have, on the contrary, been the means of enlarging and consolidating that immense power, which is so industriously employed against us. Spain indeed, still offers an obdurate and gallant opposition to the tyranny, that would impose its galling yoke, upon a loyal people, and, together with Portugal, forms the only exception to our standing alone against all Europe in arms. Sweden has not yet taken an active part, but having been compelled to shut her ports to us, her doing so, may be considered as no very distant probability. But, though in this awful situation, it would ill become us to despond, or to shrink from a manly opposition to the dangers, with which we are threatened; a Monarch, and a nation, united in the firmest bonds of affection and of confidence, may bid defiance to every peril, and while we, in these distant parts, share in the general anxiety, attendant on the important events which follow each other in such rapid succession, let us not deny ourselves, the proud exultation, that arises from the consciousness, that we are partakers also, in that affection and in that confidence.

"With respect to our relations with the American Government, I am concerned to have to state to you, that far from that amicable settlement of the differences between us, to which the arrangement that had been agreed on by his Majesty's Minister led us to look forward, the circumstances that have since occurred, seem rather to have widened the breach, and to have removed that desirable event, to a period that can scarcely be foreseen by human sagacity. The extraordinary cavils that have been made with a succeeding Minister—the eager research that could discover an insult, which defies the detection of all other penetration—the consequent rejection of further communication with that Minister, and indeed every step of an intercourse, the particulars of which are known by authentic documents, evince so little of a conciliatory disposition, and so much of a disinclination to meet the honorable advances made by his Majesty's Government while these have been further manifested in such terms and by such conduct, that the continuance of peace between us seems now to depend less on the high founded resentment of America, than on the moderation with which his Majesty may be disposed to view the treatment that he has met with.

"In laying before you this picture of our actual situation, I am confident I do not deceive myself when I feel it to be unnecessary to urge you to be prepared for every event that may arise from it. In the great points of our security and defence, I persuade myself one Heart and one Mind will actuate all. On his Majesty's part should hostilities ensue, I feel warranted in assuring you of the necessary support of regular troops, in the confident expectation of a cheerful exertion of the interior force of the country, and thus united, I trust we shall be found equal to any attack that can be made on us. Animated by every motive, that can excite them to resistance, our Militia will not be unmindful of the courage they have displayed in former days, and the bravery of his Majesty's army has never been called in question.

"The conquest of Martinico on which I have to congratulate you, the Victory of Talavera, and indeed every occasion that has brought British troops in contact with the vaunted Legions of the enemy with whom we contend, has served to prove the energy of their courage, and aided by that discipline which has been established by the unremitting exertions of fourteen years of the most judicious command with which the army was ever blessed, they have torn from the foe the character they had so proudly assumed of invincibility. The gallantry of his Majesty's Navy will be equally forward in your assistance and from the peculiar constitution of the country may be most efficaciously employed.

"Under these circumstances you will no doubt feel the expediency of an unremitting vigilance, and you will not hesitate to renew those Acts by which the Executive Government is enabled more effectually to discharge its duty in guarding against dangers which could scarcely be reached by the ordinary process of Law.

"Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"I shall cause to be laid before you a statement of the Provincial Revenue of the Crown, and of the Expenditure for the last twelve months.

"Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and

"Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"The Imperial Parliament of Great-Britain and Ireland having thought proper to pass an Act during the last Session which affects the Boundaries of the Province, I shall for your information direct copies to be laid before you.

"The practice of forging and counterfeiting, within the limits of this Province, foreign bank notes, and orders for

payment of money, and of circulating such forgeries as well within the limits of the King's Government in America, as without, has of late greatly increased. This evil is so eminently injurious to the neighboring Foreign States, so deeply affects the morals, and so directly strikes at every habit of industry in his Majesty's subjects, that I am desirous of calling your attention to it, and as the existing laws do not appear to provide a remedy adequate to the suppression of these fraudulent practices, I recommend the subject to your consideration.

"During the two last Sessions the question of the expediency of the exclusion of his Majesty's Judges of the Court of King's Bench from a seat in the House of Representatives, has been much agitated. This question rests on the desire of precluding the possibility of the existence of a bias on the minds of persons exercising the judicial functions in those Courts, from their being under the necessity of soliciting the votes of individuals, on whose persons, or on whose property they may afterwards have to decide.

"Whatever might be my own opinion on this subject, I nevertheless hold the right of choice in the people, and that of being chosen by them in too high estimation, to have taken upon myself, had the question ever come before me, the responsibility of giving his Majesty's Assent to the putting limits to either, by the exclusion of any Class of his Subjects; and they are rights of which it is impossible to suppose they could be deprived by any other authority than that of the concurrence of the Three Branches of the Legislature.

"That the channel in which flows the current of Justice should be pure and free from every the slightest contamination, is too essential to the happiness of the people not to be interesting to a Government which has solely that object in view; and it is perhaps little less necessary to that happiness, that there should not exist in the minds of the Public a doubt on the subject.

"In this latter view, I have thought that the early disposal of the question may be of utility, and therefore in recommending the subject to your consideration, I have to add, that having received his Majesty's Pleasure upon it, I shall feel myself warranted in giving His Royal Assent to any proper Bill for rendering his Majesty's Judges of the Courts of King's Bench, in future, ineligible to a Seat in the House of Assembly in which the two Houses may concur."

BOSTON, MARCH 7.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

On Monday we were favored, by an attentive friend in Portsmouth, with London papers to the 9th January, (many days late!) received there by an arrival from Bristol.

Intelligence of the rupture between our Government and Mr. Jackson was received in England towards the close of December; and the whole correspondence between Messrs. Smith, Erskine and Jackson had been inserted in papers prior to the 3d January, our earliest print. The papers in our possession do not contain a single comment on the transaction; and the language of the last, the COURIER, is pacific. What may have been said when the event was promulgated, we have yet to learn.—It is certain the whole of the transaction must have been made known to the British Cabinet, as we find, that on the 3d January, Mr. Oakley, (Mr. Jackson's Secretary of Legation) had been presented at the levee.

We do not see any mention of our Russian embassy in these papers.

It appears, that fresh troops were embarking for Portugal. Rumour had suggested that these were destined to Canada and Nova-Scotia; but the "Courier" pointedly contradicted the report.

It would seem, by the presentations at the levee of General Donn, and other officers from Walcharen, that the Island had been evacuated.

The Austrian Minister remained in England; and had lately received intelligence that the Turks had gained an important victory over the Russians on the Danube.

The French articles shew that Bonaparte was dispatching large bodies of troops to Spain; but there were no indications of his following them. His raree-show of Kings in Paris had been broken up.

From SPAIN.

GIJON, [a Spanish port on the Bay of Biscay.—These letters are written by an intelligent gentleman belonging to this town, to a merchant in Marblehead] JANUARY 5, 1810. Intelligence has been received here, by a launch from St. Antonio, which place she left the 1st inst, that France has declared war against the United States, and that in consequence all the American vessels have been embargoed to the eastward of this."

JANUARY 9. Since the above, I have seen a letter from a respectable house at St. Sebastians, dated December 30, and two from Bilbao, of December 31, and January 1, all of which mention, that France had declared war against the United States, and that the American vessels had been embargoed by order of the Emperor. Several other circumstances tend to corroborate this intelligence. Still, in my opinion, it wants confirmation. From all the information I have been able to collect, there appears no doubt but the American vessels have been detained."

JANUARY 14. An Express has just arrived here from St. Andero. It left there on the 6th inst. A letter says, that the Emperor has ordered a general embargo at the ports below here, and issued a Decree prohibiting the introduction of goods into Biscay, from this and other ports occupied by the Patriots. I have still some doubts of a French declaration of war against America."

CAPTURE OF GAUDALOUPE.

Captains Telford and Fowler who have arrived in New-York from Gaudaloupe, via St. Baris. inform:—That on the 28th January the British under General Beckworth, covered by the fleet under Admiral Cochrane, completed a safe landing near Bassaterre:—That on the 3d February the British attacked the French at Macoubac, six miles from Bassaterre; that the battle continued about 8 hours, ceased; and re-commenced next morning, and continued 8 hours more, when the French hoisted white flags as signals

for a cessation of arms:—That on the 4th Admiral Cockburn landed, and proceeded into the French camp, and from thence on the 6th to Bassaterre, where in the presence of Captains T. and F. he mentioned, that the capitulation of the island had been agreed to that morning at 8 o'clock: That the English loss was estimated at 500 killed and wounded; and as the French posts were taken by storm with the bayonet, and the fighting was desperate, the French loss must also have been great; and that of the three companies of "grenadier invincibles," only five men survived.—That the French had 103 brass pieces of artillery in the battle; and that the British assailing force consisted of between 7 and 8000 men, besides marines and seamen. The next objects of the British will be St. Martins, St. Eustatia and Sabo, which must fall an easy sacrifice; and thus the haunts of privateers and pirates in the West-India seas, be wholly broken up.—Boston Centinel.

Freedom of the Seas! or practical French respect for Neutral Rights.

Captains Telford and Fowler, masters of the American ships Phoenix and Louisa Cecilia, of New-York, have arrived there from Gaudaloupe, and inform, that they sailed from New-York early in November for Gijon, in Spain, and Lisbon:—That on the 23d and 26th November, they were CAPTURED by four French frigates from Nantes, bound to Gaudaloupe.—That the Louisa Cecilia was boarded from La Clorenda frigate, Capt. St. Crique, the captain and crew taken out, sent on board the frigate, SCUTTLED and SUNK with all her cargo on board. Capt. Fowler adds, he was put down in the fore-peak, under three decks, to mesh with the boatwain, and his crew in the hole with English prisoners.—He remained in this dark filthy hole till the 7th Dec. when himself and crew were put on board Le Loire frigate, and there put down between decks with other prisoners, where he remained four days, till after the capture of the British frigate Junon, when, there not being room for all the prisoners, he was permitted by his pressing solicitations, to go into the gun-room. On board the Clorenda, the thirteen American prisoners were only allowed for their subsistence, what was given to seven English prisoners, which was 6 ounces of meat, a pound of bread, and a pint of water per day; that while the Americans were treated with cruelty and contempt, the English captains, mates and passengers, whom they had taken, messed most sumptuously with the French officers. On the 17th Dec, they were landed at a small place 15 miles to the northward of Bassaterre, to which, they were marched along shore, over hills, and across creeks. About a week after, the American seamen were all taken up and put in prison, but the officers were paroled. The English officers were allowed half a guinea a day to subsist on, while the Americans were refused a single cent; though they often applied for relief. The situation of Capt. Telford, and the crew of the Phoenix, was exactly similar to that of Capt. F. These gentlemen remained at Gaudaloupe until the island was captured by the British, when they took passage for Antigua, and from thence came home via St. Baris, being compelled to leave their unfortunate crews in prison at Gaudaloupe, but in the hope they would be released by the English.

Captains Telford and Fowler add, that they were informed by the Captain of the Clorenda frigate, that the Emperor (Bonaparte) had issued his orders to DESTROY every American vessel they met with, on pain of death, and said it was his determination to go to war with the United States, unless they declared war against England.—Ibid.

OF CONGRESS.

What shall we say? Shall we tell our readers that the majority are living upon the people's money from day to day, and without endeavoring to extricate them from the hobble into which they have plunged them? They have not the inclination, if they had the ability, to help the people. They are continually making laws, and unmaking them. One moment they give the people hopes of a restoration of prosperity; the next, threaten them with a war with England; and so they go on to linger the time and to gorge the pampered parasites of the administration.

Mr. Macon's bill, as amended, has been entrusted to a committee, which are all Democrats, all Warhawks, all Commerce-haters, except one, Mr. Dana. It is expected they will report a second edition of Non-Intercourse, Embargo, and War Policy.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica,) FEBRUARY 10.

An American schooner, from the United States, arrived here on Tuesday, with a cargo of slaves and heading. On the 18th ult. lat. 28. long. 59. she spoke the Statira frigate, Capt. Boys, from Halifax, bound on a cruise. Off Porto-Rico, on the 29th, she was boarded by a boat from the Driver sloop of war, of 16 guns, Capt. Monke, in 96 hours from St. Juan. The Officers stated that a small vessel had arrived there, previous to her sailing, from the Windward Islands, which gave an account of the British having got possession of the greatest part of the Island of Gaudaloupe.

La Franchise frigate, of 36 guns, Capt. Dashiwood, arrived at Portsmouth on the 16th December, in 37 days from Vera Cruz, and 23 days from off the Havanna. She has carried home a million of dollars for government. The Marquis D'Aparrado, and Don Vms. de Villa Urrutia, were passengers in her. They have come from Mexico, purposely to make a tour through England. The Marquis possesses one of the richest mines in Mexico.

FOUND.

ABOUT a fortnight ago, a PURSE, containing a small sum of Money.—The owner can have it again by applying at the Gazette Office, and paying the expense of the Advertisement. March 10, 1810.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of MATTHEW TAYLOR, late of this City, deceased, are requested to present them within Six Months from this date; and all those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment.

PHILO THORP,

SAMUEL AUSTEN,

} Administrators

Saint John, 15th March, 1810.