

The *Mexican War* becomes more serious and complicated. The obstinacy of the Mexicans, the great extent of their country, and indeed its poverty, are serious difficulties. It is a second Affghanistan business; you may invade, march over the country, take its towns, and defeat its armies, yet it is not conquered, not even subdued. If Santa Anna were defeated and the city of Mexico taken to-morrow, the country—that is to say the nation—would be still unconquered, because the people are determined to resist, and because the vastness and the poverty of the country constitute its strength. It is true that an effective army of 50,000 men may hold the principal points of Mexico, as Napoleon held Spain—as France held Algiers, and as England held, for a time, Affghanistan; but that does not amount to a conquest, for as soon as any fair opportunity presents itself, the people will rise as they did at Cabul, and expel their invaders. Such countries, as the Duke of Wellington said, are too strong for a small army, and too poor to support a large one: and so much is this the case with Mexico, that the American army draws its chief supplies of provisions from the United States, and even, if newspaper report be true, forage for the cavalry!

Such a war must be costly in the extreme, and we do not wonder that the Executive calls for the imposition of new taxes and duties—for additional regiments, and for a Lieutenant General to command them.

Congress being now in session, new force is given to the opposition; for already has the House of Representatives declared the proposition of the Government to lay a duty on tea and coffee, inexpedient. The proposal, moreover, of the President to appoint a Lieutenant General, has not been acted upon by the Senate; and the opposition to any of the conquered provinces of Mexico being admitted into the Union, with the institution of slavery attached to them, is marked and vehement on the part of a large portion of the northern and eastern members. This point, it is supposed, will form another Missouri discussion, and rekindle the embers of abolition in all their fiery intensity. The southern states would not be strengthened, but weakened, by the acquisition of Mexican provinces, unless they came into the Union with kindred institutions to their own.

Gen. Scott has departed from New Orleans to Mexico. It is understood that he will take command of the troops, and that the army will concentrate itself at Victoria, or Santander, as it is called on the maps. From this point it will march, as the newspapers inform us, to Tampico, and thence to San Luis Potosi, where Santa Anna is posted with his whole force. It is occasionally reiterated that an attack will be made on Vera Cruz, and the army take that direction to Mexico; but it is probable that the real plan of operations is not known to the public at all. Perhaps the plan and its details may not be finally settled until Gen. Scott has had his interview and conference with Gen. Taylor.

The army is still represented as sickly; intermittents soon assuming a typhoid form, are prevalent even at Monterey. General Hamer, of the volunteers, has recently died of this affection. At Tampico, fevers also prevail, and Commodore Conner, has been a sufferer. That the volunteers should suffer severely is not at all surprising, as they are new soldiers, just drawn from the comforts, ease, and enjoyments of home, to experience all the severity and privations of an actual campaign. Notwithstanding all the force that has been sent to Mexico, it is said that Gen. Taylor could not at this time collect over 7,000 men to re-assume actual hostilities. But the call of 8,000 volunteers additional, and the creation of ten more regiments of the *regular* army of the United States, should the latter be determined on, will give a new face to affairs. Such a force can speedily be raised; and indeed, one of much greater amount, if Congress would vote the necessary loans, or impose the requisite taxes, to meet the cost of such an enlarged scale for carrying on the war. In a country of resources like the United States, with an active population of eighteen millions, there is no difficulty in raising fleets and armies, if the "sinews of war" be duly provided.

The official account of the loss of the U. S. brig Somers has been published. It would appear that she capsized in what is called in the West Indies—a *white squall*, that is to say, a squall which does not give due notice of its approach by a blackened and ruffled appearance on the surface of the water. The British, French and Spanish ships of war in sight sent their boats, which, at great risk and danger, saved fourteen lives. Commodore Perry has returned thanks to the officers of those ships in very handsome and grateful terms.—*New York Albion*.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH TO HALIFAX.

At the meeting of the citizens of Quebec held at the City Hall yesterday, called on a requisition by the Mayor, the following Resolutions were passed by one of the most numerous and respectable meetings ever held in Quebec.

On motion of the Hon. William Walker, Chairman of the Board of Trade, seconded by J. Chabot, Esq. M.P.P.—

1.—That the political and commercial connexion between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Canada, renders the sure and speedy conveyance of intelligence between them, of great general importance.

On motion of the Hon. R. E. Caron, Speaker of the Legislative Council, seconded by Mr. Gilmour,—

2.—That the line of Royal Mail Steamers from Liverpool to Halifax has, for several years past, conveyed the earliest intelligence

from the United Kingdom and Europe to North America, which will probably continue to be the case, Halifax being the nearest port on this continent to Great Britain and Ireland, open at all seasons of the year.

On motion of the Hon. J. Neilson, seconded by the Hon. Louis Massue,—

3.—That the establishment of a line of Electric Telegraphs from Halifax to Quebec, and prolonged throughout Canada, would furnish the most important part of the intelligence brought by the said line of Steamers several days earlier than it can be conveyed through any other channel.

On motion of the Hon. T. C. Alwyn, M.P.P., seconded by J. Cauchon, Esq. M.P.P.—

4.—That the establishment of such a line by the Post roads to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, or by such other Route, within British Territory, as may be found most eligible, the distance being about six hundred miles, might be effected at an expense not exceeding £25,000.

On motion of P. J. O. Chaveau, Esq., M.P.P., seconded by J. Maguire, Esq.—

5.—That the cost from Quebec to the Province Line of New Brunswick is estimated at £6500.

On motion of J. B. Forsyth, Esq., seconded by C. Gethings, Esq.—

6.—That a Joint Stock Company be formed and Books of Subscription now opened for the purpose of raising the said capital of £6500, to be divided into 650 shares of £10 each, a deposit of £2 per share to be paid on subscribing, and no person be allowed to take more than 20 shares until after the expiration of one month from the opening of the Books.

To this motion the Hon. T. C. Aylwin, seconded by C. Wurtele, Esq., proposed in amendment,—

That a Joint Stock Company be formed, and books of subscription be now opened for the purpose of raising a capital of £24,000 in shares of ten pounds each, making 2,400 shares, 800 to be reserved for Quebec, 800 for New Brunswick, 800 for Nova Scotia, no subscriber to be allowed more than 50 shares, until after the first month after the opening of the books.

Which motion of amendment was lost on a division, and the main motion then adopted.

On motion of J. Tibbitts, Esquire, seconded by W. Stevenson, Esquire,—

7.—That a Committee of eighteen be appointed to carry into effect the preceding resolution, and that the said Committee do consist of His Worship the Mayor, the Hon. William Walker, R. E. Caron, J. Neilson, L. Massue, T. C. Aylwin, and J. Tibbitts, Capt. Boxer, — Gilmour, J. Jones, J. Chabot, J. Gibb, J. B. Forsyth, William Stevenson, P. J. O. Chauveau, — Wurtele, C. Langevin, and Dr. Fisher, Esquires.

On motion of H. Pemberton, Esquire, seconded by P. Gingras, Esquire,—

8.—That Charles Gethings, Esquire, be requested to act as Treasurer until the appointment of Directors.

On motion of Henry Burstall, Esquire, seconded by James Gibb, Esquire,—

9.—That so soon as 400 shares are taken up, a meeting of Shareholders be called to appoint Directors, with full powers to act for the benefit of the Shareholders, and that a deputation be sent, if requisite, to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to promote the formation of similar Companies there, and that petitions be presented to the Legislature for an act of incorporation, on such terms as the Directors may deem most advantageous.

On motion of John Jones, Esquire, seconded by C. Langevin, Esquire,—

10.—That the said Directors take such steps, as speedily as possible, definitively to fix the line, get out the necessary timber and adopt all other measures to bring the said line of Electric Telegraph into operation early in the ensuing season.

The Mayor having left the chair, Dr. Morrin was called to the same,—and on motion of the Hon. L. Massue, seconded by E. B. Lindsay, Esquire,—

That the thanks of the meeting be voted to His Honor the Mayor, for his conduct in the chair, and to Mr. Garneau, as Secretary.

Captain Elliott, the new Lieutenant Governor of Bermuda, had arrived. He landed on Christmas day, under a salute from the Vindictive.

Governor Reid had arrived at Barbadoes, and Sir Charles Grey had left in the *Hermes* for Jamaica. Governor Higginson had reached Antigua, and had convened the Legislature.

Newfoundland dates to the 26th ult. were received on Friday last by Royal Mail Steamship *Unicorn*.—We do not observe much in their contents that is of interest here. The Legislature was in Session, and adopting measures to alleviate the various calamities by fire and hurricane, that have recently visited the Island. No successor to Sir John Harvey had been appointed to the Government at the latest advices from England, but all parties seemed to be pleased with the Administration of His Honor Colonel Law.

We are happy to observe that a vote of six thousand pounds has been given by the General Assembly, for the purpose of relieving the Fishermen from the destitution created by the late storm.—*Patriot*.