

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.



IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Dec. 13.

Peers and Pensions.—Earl Grosvenor, in moving "That there be laid before the House an account of all the salaries and emoluments above £1000, enjoyed by the Clerks of the House of Lords from January, 1829 to January, 1830, and of the various sources from which such emoluments were derived," took occasion to ask some questions relative to certain late appointments. The Noble Lord cautioned the public against the flattering expectation of a great reduction being made by the present Government. He gave them full credit for the very best intentions, but it was quite impossible, with the enormous debt hanging over the country, that any Government could produce substantial relief. He did not expect much advantage from the labours of Committees, but thought the Committee on the Poor Laws might obtain useful information. The Noble Earl defended the landed interest against the attacks made upon that body, and thought that it was not fairly treated. He would ask, if that interest were not protected, what would become of the monied interest? If the landed interest failed, the monied interest would vanish into air. Attention was not paid to the real situation of the fundholder. Jew or Gentile might hold funds. The person holding funds might withdraw the same from circulation, carry their money out of the country, or conceal it. They made a trade of it, and were not bound to contribute to the taxes; whereas the landed interest could not by any possibility evade the taxes. It was most essential to the public interest that the relative situations of the fundholder and the land proprietor should be duly appreciated by the Government. The question, however, he wished to put, was relative to the appointment of Mr. Bathurst to the office of Clerk of the Council, and to the removal of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. The income of the first might have been saved; and the retirement of the latter would entail an expense of £4000 a year on the country, which might be avoided by retaining a man every way qualified for the important trust reposed in him. He wished also to know, whether the late Ministry, between their resignation of office and their absolute retirement, had, as had been rumoured, granted any new pensions. He had also heard with satisfaction that a noble and learned Lord who had lately sat on the Woolsack, was to be appointed to a highly lucrative judicial station, by which £4000 a year would be saved to the country. He wished to ascertain the truth of this report. The Noble Earl concluded by submitting his motion to the consideration of their Lordships.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, in reply, said, that understanding his predecessor in office had applied to His Majesty for the appointment of his son to the office vacant by the death of Mr. Butler, and that His Majesty had been pleased to signify his pleasure that he should have it, the present Government confirmed Mr. Bathurst in the office, at a reduced salary of £1200, instead of £2500 a year; and if any additional duty was imposed on the two clerks in the office, no additional allowance was to be made. The present Government had also made a provision, if either of the Clerks of the Council held any other office under the Crown, if above £500 a year, that the surplus should be deducted. This provision he thought it his duty to introduce into the arrangement; and in the case of Mr. Bathurst it had an immediate effect, from the circumstance of that gentleman holding a situation in the Exchequer of £1000 a year, from which in future he would receive only £500. So that there would be an immediate saving of £1700 a year to the country. The object of Government was to reduce the public expenditure, without withholding an adequate reward from the efficient servants of the State.

The Duke of Wellington, in explanation of his conduct as to the pensions alluded to by the Noble Earl, said he had considered it his duty to recommend pensions to two gentlemen (his Grace's private secretaries) who had examined all the papers which came to him as First Lord of the Treasury, and he thought them fairly entitled to a provision for their services. He had likewise recommended a pension to the widow of the Lord Advocate, who had well and ably filled an important office under Government, and had withdrawn from another very lucrative situation in order to serve his Majesty. In consideration of these circumstances he had recommended to His Majesty the pensions referred to by the Noble Earl; though perhaps it would have been more regular if he had waited until the Civil List Act had passed before he had recommended his Majesty to place them on the Pension List.

Earl Gray deprecated the practice of introducing topics upon loose and unauthorised rumours. The Noble Duke had explained the irregularity of the course he had pursued, and he did not know that such pensions could legally be granted till the Civil List had been settled by Parliament. He could not object to the recommendations of the Noble Duke, and he merely threw out the remark, rather to notice the principle applicable to cases of this kind which had been brought under discussion, than to stigmatise the acts of his predecessor. The Noble Earl then proceeded to defend the appointment of Lord Plunkett to the Chancellorship of Ireland, which he did on the ground that it was calculated to conciliate both Catholics and Protestants; the former, as the consistent supporter of their claims; the latter, as a known and zealous friend of the Establishment. The present Chancellor (Sir A. Hart), he admitted, would retire with a pension of £4000 a year, but then he had reduced the salary of the new Chancellor from £10,000 to £8000, which would give the public a permanent saving of £2000 a year, charging them only with £2000 during the life of a very aged man. His Lordship then alluded to the rumour of a highly gifted individual [Lord Lyndhurst] having received an appointment by which his retiring pension might be saved to the country. There was no situation to which the talents and integrity of that Noble and Learned Lord could be applied, and it was with pain that he [Earl Gray] could not confirm the rumour. There was also with pain that he referred to a point having been acted upon by himself—that of having patronised individuals to office who were related to himself. He had conferred no appointments, but those who were perfectly competent to perform the duties assigned to them, and he had no reluctance to prevent him from availing himself of the services of those who were connected with him by

the ties of kindred. He had placed his son, under his Noble Friend (Lord Goderich), whose great assiduity in business, knowledge of its details, and honourable character and talents, were universally known and appreciated. He had so placed him, impelled by an honourable and he hoped a pardonable ambition, that he might learn the business of Government, so as to qualify himself hereafter for a higher office. He hoped his son was not destitute of the requisite talent of which in another place he had given specimens; and he had placed him with his Noble Friend on the express condition that if he was not able and diligent, he should be discharged. If the appointments he had made proved efficient, he cared not what censure it might be thought advisable to visit upon him. It was too late in life for him to sacrifice what little character he had obtained, after forty years upon the political stage, at the shrine of undue interest. These were all the explanations he had to offer to their Lordships, and he hoped they would not be deemed unsatisfactory.

Lord Farnham took occasion to observe, in reference to the question of the repeal of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland, that such a repeal would be prejudicial to the interests of both countries; he was satisfied that the great body of the inhabitants of Ireland were opposed to the measure, and would shed their blood to prevent it.

Earl Grey considered that a repeal of the Union would not only prove injurious to both countries, but absolutely to their destruction. Persuaded of this, the Administration would not fail to use those measures deemed most effectual to prevent it. He should lament if His Majesty's present Ministers should be considered for a moment adverse to the Protestant interest in Ireland. In making the appointment to which he had already alluded, he conceived that both the Catholic and Protestant interest would be best suited, and he should regret it, if that House or elsewhere, he held out any statement which might be considered as hostile either to the interests of the one or the other.

Lord Goderich was of opinion that the appointment of Lord Plunkett to the office in Ireland was one of the wisest steps that could be adopted.

Earl Grey replied, observing that he was only anxious to misrepresentations on the important topics of which he had spoken should go abroad.

The motion was then agreed to.

Tuesday.—Lord Bexley presented a petition from a numerous body of the Jews of the Metropolis, praying to be admitted to equal civil privileges with their Christian fellow-subjects.

Tithes.—Lord King presented a petition on the subject of Tithes, and argued that a great cause of agricultural distress originated in the present system, which he maintained should be established upon a permanent settlement, on the principle of the commutation in Scotland. This would do away with the bad blood engendered by the severity with which the tithes were exacted, and the bad feeling produced by the general tithe-system. Something ought to be done for the peace and quietude of the Clergy and their parishioners. If the hard-working Clergy required more support, they should have it out of the lands of Deans and Chapters; all that sort of lumber was useless, and should be removed. They were rejected by the reformed Clergy of England.—The Archbishop of Canterbury would not follow the Noble Lord through all his remarks, but would merely say, the Bill which was too late last Session to receive the sanction of their Lordships, he should bring in again during the ensuing Session.—The Bishop of London admitted that the agricultural population had been long suffering, but that suffering was not produced by tithes. He attributed it to the maladministration of the Poor Laws. There had also been a change in manners; during an artificial prosperity, farmers had lived in a style of luxury which had led to distress. Some remedy must be applied; and the remedy would, no doubt, come from the wealthy. The Rt. Rev. Prelate denied that tithes had produced the evils complained of. If the farmer did not pay tithes to the Church, he must pay more rent to his landlord. He did not say that tithes worked well, but he repelled the statement made by the Noble Lord, that tithes were exacted with severity. In no part of the world were tithes demanded with so much lenity as the Protestant Clergy of England. In many instances, a sixth of the tithe had been taken. The Rev. Prelate was desirous of making one remark in answer to the calumny uttered against the holders of church property. Having inquired into the subject, he could pledge himself to prove, that the whole property of the Established Church, if thrown into a common fund, would not furnish each individual Minister of that Church with a stipend of £350 a year. When they looked at the Clergy as a learned body, could their Lordships consider that sum sufficient? That the Church property might be better divided, he did not deny. He would be always ready to do what justice and equity required of him; and if an arrangement could be made to the benefit of the Clergy generally, he could have no objection. At the same time, he was sure the Church did not deserve the censure cast by the Noble Lord. The Church of England would stand—as it had done—the glory of the Protestants of Europe, and the best support of the British Empire.—The Marquis of Bute defended the Established Church, and declared, as a tithe payer, that he paid more tithes to the lay improprators than to the Clergy. The Noble Marquis could not admire the permanent commutation in Scotland. He thought it would not answer in this country.—Laid on the table.

Wednesday.—Lord Sheffield presented a petition from Nottingham, signed by 7800 persons, against the Truck system.

Earl Grey's sentiments on the Corn Laws.—As our agricultural friends may be desirous of knowing the precise views of the new Premier on the Corn Law system, we give the following extract from a speech of the Noble Lord a few nights since:—

"He now came to another subject.—The Corn Laws, and he well knew that many Noble Lords who now heard him, condemned the existing system. His opinions were not altered. All the interests he had in the world were in land; and he did not pretend to be exempt from human weakness or human frailties. If he knew himself, he had considered the subject without any reference to his own interest, and from a conviction that it was for the benefit of the people themselves, in order to secure to them a constant, a sale, and he would add, a cheap necessary of life, he would maintain that some protection ought to be afforded to the agricultural interest. This was certainly a question of degree, but there were a few courageous persons who would willingly incur the whole danger of the experiment of laying open the trade in corn. He would willingly confess that he was not one of those courageous persons. He had not courage for such an experiment; for if it should fail in practice, the evils would be numerous and irremediable, and would

produce utter destruction. These were opinions which he was not assumed to avow, however unpopular they might be to the country. He was not, however, so wedded to the Corn Laws as not to admit, that in some proper season they might become the subject of inquiry, though upon the whole, the Corn Bill had operated advantageously for the country. This had been found to be the case after deficient harvests, and after the average prices of corn had fallen. Of two things he was sure—that to agitate a question of such a nature, whilst the public feeling was so excited as at present, would be the worst, and it could not, on any pretence, be justified. There could not be a greater evil than that the state of the law should be fluctuating. In certain cases, changes produced evils which were repaired by any improvements they might produce, and yet he would repeat, that he did not carry his opinion so far as to say that in a proper season he would resist a consideration of the whole question *de novo*. He believed it a false supposition that the Corn Laws had contributed to the distresses of the country. In his opinion they had not done so, and, upon the whole, he believed that they had worked advantageously, although he was not inclined to enter upon the subject at present. But this was a field of inquiry, that if a Committee applied itself to that alone, it would have ample employment for the remainder of the Session."

A letter from Frankfurt in these papers states, that the Emperor of Russia with 100,000 Cossacks is marching against Warsaw. This expedition is said to have been arranged on the instant, in order to reach Poland before the Polish forces were organized, or the Provisional Government generally obeyed. The resolution of the Emperor has therefore put every thing in the shape of intercession out of the question, and "war to the knife" is the alternative offered to the Provisional Government. Upon the other hand, it appears that all that is possible within so short a time has been done to meet and repel this storm. General Chlopicki and the Government are represented as indefatigable in their exertions, and already the principal places of strength in their hands are in progress of defence. The Civic Guard of Warsaw amount to 25,000 men, and the army ordered will number 30,000. The dictator is confessed, upon all hands, to be a man of great vigour and spirit. Austria and Prussia seem to have taken the utmost pains to have it understood that they are determined to remain neutral; and thus far it is in favour of the Poles.

The state of Switzerland generally has been somewhat disturbed for several months; and in Lausanne, it would appear, there is something approaching to an actual revolution. The commonly received notions of Helvetia are exceedingly inaccurate. People talk of Swiss liberty; but the liberty of the country is the liberty of an abominable aristocracy, and of the towns, of a set of close and corrupt corporations. We wish the Swiss success, for they require it hardly less than the Poles—only the tyrants of the latter are foreign, and those of the former domestic.—*Spectator*.

THE REVENUE.—We are gratified at being able to announce that the revenue of the quarter, which expired yesterday, does not exhibit a decrease of more than £100,000, notwithstanding the large diminution of taxation by the repeal of the duties on beer and hides.—Nearly all the other heads of receipt will show an increase.

The election of Member of Parliament for Invernesshire, vacant by the appointment of the Right Hon. C. Grant to the President of the Board of Control, took place at Inverness, on Thursday. There being no other candidate than Mr. Grant, the Right Hon. Gentleman was unanimously returned.

The Gazette of Friday announces the appointment of Lieut. Col. Mahony, as Surveyor General, and Captain the Hon. Henry Duncan, O. B., R. N. as Storekeeper, of the Ordnance.

A division of opinion is said to prevail in the Cabinet upon the question of reform. Lord Althorp, Sir James Graham, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Pulteney Thomson contend for a radical cure; while Earl Grey, the Duke of Richmond, and Lord Palmerston are in favour of an alternative system. In other words the former are desirous to introduce measures of a far more sweeping and extensive nature than the latter judge to be consistent with safety.

The new ministry are endeavouring to sift to the bottom the cause of the late disturbances, and for this purpose they have sent a barrister to ascertain how the various individuals tried had been employed, at what wages, and if in actual distress.

FALMOUTH, Jan. 8. It will be observed by a paragraph in another column, that one of the rioters who was convicted of setting fire to a barn at Battle, and sentenced to death, has left it on record, in the confession of his guilt, that he ascribed his untimely end to Cobbett, who instigated him and others to these practices by his inflammatory lectures; and declares that but for this turbulent vagabond, he believed there would have been neither fires nor mobs in that neighbourhood. We fear Cobbett has not been the only means of bringing about the disgraceful outrages which have been committed throughout the country. The fact is, the radical portion of the press have been labouring in their sedition vocations with increased fury, and where they have disseminated their doctrines, a spirit of insubordination and discontent has been kindled up which threatens to become fatal to existing institutions, and which even the Whigs will find exceedingly difficult to lay. It is impossible the country can enjoy peace unless the libellous demagogues Cobbett, O'Connell, and Carline and such like are put to silence.

FALMOUTH, Jan. 8. STATE OF TRADE.—The year 1831, we rejoice to say, opens under very favourable auspices. The great staple manufacturers of the country have seldom been in a more flourishing condition than they are at present. The demand for cotton and sheep's wool is unusually brisk, and there is a prospect of a year as flourishing and prosperous as the last. Notwithstanding the loud complaints of distress, the spinning of cotton-stocks, and the breaking of thrashing machines, the country has seldom enjoyed commercial and manufacturing prosperity than in Belgium has had the effect of opening the markets of Holland to the manufacturers of England. Within the last month upwards of 40,000 yards of Woollen cloth have been sent from the West Riding of Yorkshire to Rotterdam, as clothing for the Dutch army. This order, which was given by the government, is expected to be followed by still more extensive ones. Provisions to the Revolution, the whole of the cloth would have been purchased from the Belgium manufacturers of Tongues, Verviers, &c. Considerable orders for cotton goods for the Dutch market are also said to have been received at Manchester.

Ministerial Retrenchment.—In addition to abolishing the Postmaster-Generalship of Ireland, the salaries of the Vice-Treasurer and Deputy-Vice-Treasurer in Ireland, amounting to 2500l., are to be reduced, *minus* 200l. per annum the present duties of a clerk about to take upon him the whole duties of the office; so that, instead of 3500l. a year, the country will henceforth have to pay no more than 1200l. It is also understood that Ministers will reduce the Civil List very considerably, and a Committee has been appointed for reducing their own salaries. This is beginning at the right end. The inferior Officers of the Government each of with justice complain at being reduced when the superior ones first set the example by striking off a part of their own emoluments. Indeed the new Government is proceeding in its career to reform boldly and fearlessly not only in temporal, but in ecclesiastical matters. It is determined that there shall be no pluralities—that the duties of every place shall be sufficient for its salary, and that no one shall receive salary for offices of which it is impossible for him to discharge the duties, or which might be better divided between two than swallowed up by one. Bishop Phillips is a gratifying example in point. He is not to have the Rectory of Stanhope along with his Bishoprick, but his attention will be confined to the superintendence of the affairs of his diocese.

Parliament, it is expected, will adjourn on the 16th till the 1st of February. The reasons assigned for so long an adjournment are, first, the benefits which may result to public tranquillity, from the more copious connection of the members with the necessity of giving the Ministers time to look about them.

Retrenchment.—It has been notified to the officers, clerks, and others in the Dock yard, at Sheerness receiving salaries, that the same would be reduced of the following scale:—All salaries above £200 per year to be reduced 20 per cent., and all of £200 and under to be reduced 15 per cent.—*Kent Herald*.

As one of the plans of economy, it is asserted that the tenders now attached to guard-ships will be discontinued.—*Devonport Telegraph*. A saving of not less than £40,000 a year will be effected in the naval department, by the dissolution of the naval and victualling boards.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

A court-martial will, it is said, be shortly held in this harbor, on the commander of a ship of war, for tricing up a midshipman, and then putting him in irons.—*Hampshire Telegraph*. The committee appointed during Sir George Murray's secretaryship, to inquire into the expenditure of the Colonies, ceased their functions last week.

We learn from good authority that Ministers have just received from Brighton the important and to them gratifying intelligence, that the plan of Parliamentary Reform agreed upon in the Cabinet, had met with His Majesty's full approbation.—*Evening Pr*.

On the 25th of June, the number of unattached Officers in the army was 944—the amount of their pay being £150,931.

The receipts of the first nine weeks of the railway between Liverpool and Manchester, for passengers alone, exceeded £10,000 sterling. The marriage of Viscount Falkland to Miss Fitzclarence, took place on Monday, at the pavilion, Brighton, (after a *dejeuner-a-la-fourchette* in the banquetting room) in one of the drawing-rooms. The Bishop of Chester officiated, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Hervey. His Majesty gave the Bride away.

The male convict ship *Eliza*, Capt. Groves, now lying at Spithead, is intended for the conveyance to Sydney, New South Wales, of the Rikers, now on trial in the different counties, under the Special Commission granted by His Majesty, and for those only. This ship must remain some time longer, as a great many will probably go by her who have not been put on their trial.

The only new order in the Navy List for the present quarter is that which excludes all officers, from attendance at His Majesty's Levees. The order extends to Secretaries, Purgers, Masters, and Surgeons.

Large orders, for arms, it appears are now in course of execution in this country on account of the French government. Some accounts make the total quantity required amount to 1,200,000 muskets, with corresponding accoutrements; but it is at all events very considerable. It is proposed to pay for them by a new issue of *bons royaux*, answering to our Exchequer Bills.—*Morning paper*.

Government are said to look with much anxiety to the state of affairs at Paris, and not to feel so confident as might be wished that the National Guard is altogether to be depended upon.

The Lords of the Treasury are said to be forming themselves into Committees of reduction, and proceeding vigorously in the work of retrenchment.—The Clerks have been ordered to early attendance, and great activity is manifested in that part of Government.

It is now generally understood, and indeed openly announced, by the adherents of the Ministry, that a dissolution of Parliament will be immediately resorted to in the event of any opposition to that extensive Reform which they contemplate.—*Morning Chronicle*.

Letters from Amsterdam say that Society of Commerce has ordered 100,000 pieces of calico at Manchester for the Dutch East India Colonies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gossett, lately appointed Under Secretary for Ireland, commands the Engineers at Dover. It is arranged that Colonel Arnold will succeed him.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 3.—We still continue to have a good demand for British plantation sugar, the sales of this week exceeding 1000 hogsheads at rather better prices.

FRANCE.

The French Government proceeds in its exertions to suppress the licence of the liberty of the press. Placards of a political nature are forbidden by an express ordinance, and bill stickers placed under the surveillance of the Police.

We have received the Paris papers of Thursday. They contain a curious dramatico-political scene, which is said to have been acted at Milan. A conspiracy, on a grand scale, was organized in that city against the Austrian authorities. The conspirators were assembled in the pit of the theatre, and there, at a certain signal, the insurrection was to have broken out. The bell rung, the curtain rose, and soldiers; their muskets pointed to the pit. Every door was similarly beset, and the astonished revolutionists were arrested to a man in the very scene of the conspiracy, and conducted to the fortress of Spielberg.

Three new changes are spoken of in the new ministry of France. The Kingsit appears, has given some discontent to the pilytechnes, by refusing to receive them with an address of respect which they proposed to deliver to his Majesty. The Russian Ambassador is said to have reiterated their orders for all Russians to leave Paris. M. Nugent is condemned to three months imprisonment and 300 francs fine for a pamphlet reflecting on the government. The French papers contain accounts of the

death of the Pope, the popularity of the new King of Naples, and a report that the King of Prussia would abdicate in favour of his son.

REVOLUTION IN POLAND.

On the evening of the 29th November, an insurrection broke out at Warsaw. It began in the military school of ensigns, 500 or 600 of whom took up arms, and called the citizens to join them. They proceeded to the arsenal which was taken. The immense quantity of muskets and sabres it contained were distributed. The insurrection had previously gained the barracks of the infantry. The engineer regiment were the first that rose, and several others followed.

The Grand Duke Constantine, on the point of being attacked in his palace, effected his retreat upon Praga, with two Russian regiments and a regiment of Polish cavalry. The Chief of the municipal police and two Russian generals were killed. The German General Hauch and Count Stanislaus Pototsky were also killed in seeking to rally the troops. The military chest and the House of the Paymaster-General were plundered. General Klopicki has taken the command of the Polish troops. A corps of national guards is organizing. The Council of Administration established by the Emperor of Russia, in conjunction with Prince Lubelski, Minister of Finance, Prince Adam Czarotinski, and Prince Michael Radzivil, from the provisional government, and have issued a proclamation, in which they acknowledge the rights of sovereignty of the Emperor Nicholas, but on condition that the separation of the two states shall be complete, and that no Russian Military corps shall keep garrison in Poland.

The great Duke is in full retreat, and Warsaw is quiet.

December 26.—The Lithuanian army is 30,000 strong; and it has declared for the independence of Poland. Cloyicki is appointed Dictator. He ordered a public thanksgiving on Sunday, for the establishment of the new state of affairs. He is rigorous in enforcing discipline; one soldier has been shot for insubordination, and armed persons are prohibited from passing the frontiers. The Grand Duke was in full retreat on the 7th, at Pultowa. In Posen the most severe measures are taken to guard against the influence of example—public places must close at 9 o'clock. The police may use their arms on any insult, and the windows are to be illuminated in case of alarm. 100,000 Prussians, under the command of Giesseman, will shortly muster in the Grand Duchy.

The Diet of Warsaw was to meet on the 18th, the birthday day of the Emperor Nicholas. Posen was perfectly quiet on the 9th. The Poles looked forward with anxiety to the opening of the Diet. The Russian account of the Polish revolution, as given in the Cracow papers, states, that the horrors of Paris and Brussels were more amusements, when compared with those of Warsaw; that the people were intoxicated, and that the most wanton outrages were committed. It is our duty to state both sides of the account, and to leave the reader to strike a balance according to his conviction.

The force of Poland is estimated at 332,000 effective men. The Russian army on the frontiers is in strength 160,000. Should they come together what a collision! The Archbishop of Posen has sent a circular to his clergy, warning them against the influence of the example of Russian Poland. The Prussian duchy has not yet caught the flame.

January 2.—Diebitsch, Paskewitch, and Giesseman, are to head the Russian army in Poland, the advanced guard of which has, it is said, already arrived on the frontiers. Much, however, is expected from the Grand Duke Constantine's mediation with his brother, and it is to be supposed that Nicholas will not turn a deaf ear to his mediation. Austria declares her determination to continue neutral. The Dictator Klopicki makes vigorous efforts to prepare for the worst.

The Continental papers received this morning contain news from Poland. The Diet met on the 18th, and to them the Dictator laid down his authority. Wladislaw Ostrowski was elected marshal of the Diet, and when the staff was presented to him, he laid on the table 30,000 florins, as his individual contribution to the necessities of the state. The Deputies followed his example, and a similar subscription was raised by the Senate. The first act of both chambers was formally to recognize the insurrection. The second, to resolve themselves into a body of volunteers, and to pass over in civil uniform to the Polish frontiers, and there each to lend his hands in the intrenchments and works for the defence of the City of Warsaw. A more solemn, devoted, or truly patriotic commencement of a session, has not been recorded, even in the annals of Poland. The Diet has already received assurances of support from Provinces; five new battalions of field artillery are in organization, and the defences of Warsaw are carried beyond the Vistula. Generals Sieniecki, Woyczynski and Palkowski, divide amongst them the powers lately borne by the dictator himself.

The French Journals are urging on their ministry by every argument to declare for Poland, and thus anticipate or prevent the march of Russia towards the centre of Europe.

December 20.

BRITISH AMERICA.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

or LOWER-CANADA.

The Legislature of Lower Canada assembled on Monday the 24th January, but in consequence of the indisposition of his Excellency Lord Aylmer both Houses adjourned until Thursday the 27th when they assembled at the Castle of St. Lewis, and presented Mr. Papineau as their Speaker, and His Excellency's acceptance in that capacity having been signified in the usual forms, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

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

The convening of a New Provincial Parliament, which has been rendered necessary by the death of His late Majesty, and my own recent appointment to this Government, are circumstances which would have made it desirable to call you together at an earlier period; but I have been induced to defer doing so until the corresponding season of last year's meeting, under the impression that I was hereby more effectually consulting your personal convenience.

The loss which His Majesty, and the Royal Family, and the whole of His Majesty's subjects have sustained by the demise of His late Majesty, will, I doubt not, have been the cause of grief to His Majesty's faithful Canadian Subjects.

My inexperience in regard to the local concerns of this Province does not, as yet, permit of my directing your attention to any particu-