The Chronicle.

Saint John, N. B., Jan. 27, 1854.

LATEST AND IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FROM ENGLAND.

The Mail by the steamship *Niagara*, at Halifax, with dates to the 7th instant, reached here on Wednesday. The intelligence received thereby, is important as regards both foreign and home intelligence; the principal item in the latter points to the treacherous conduct of Prince Albert with regard to the present continental difficulties, in having privately made known to foreign Governments the contents of Despatches sent and received by the British Government. It now turns out that Lord Palmerston long ago suspected this treachery, and protested against Prince Albert being present at Ministerial meetings, or being allowed to read the Foreign Despatches,—this led to Lord Palmerston's retirement,—and now the whole secret is out as to the un-English conduct of the British Government in Continental affairs. It takes John Bull a long time to get his eyes open but if he gets fairly awake and finds traitors in his household, he will not delicately deal with them: or if he has warmed a snake, the fate of him in the fable must be his reward.—If these statements are true of the Prince, and he holding the position he does, that of Field Marshal in the British service, what would have become of any army sent out in aid of Turkey? What might be expected, but that the whole would be sacrificed. This alone shews the indiscreet act of giving such a commanding position in the army to any foreigner;—that however Englishmen may love their truly British Queen, her husband being a foreigner, should never have had the chance to meddle in national affairs of any description. The Prince's conduct will no doubt meet with a searching investigation at the meeting of Parliament; and if he is found guilty of the charges laid to him, the Tower may be opened for him as it has of old been for many a better man, and for a less offence.

The newspapers state that the most energetic measures are being taken by the Russian Emperor to prosecute the war in early spring. The present inactivity and the unsatisfactory part taken by England and France in Turkish affairs will by that time have terminated, and failing in negociations, they must either leave Turkey to her fate, or compel Russia to retire into her own territories.

A Bucharest letter says, according to the orders from St. Petersburg, the army of the Danubian provinces, which does not now exceed 80,000 men, is about to be immediately carried up to an effective strength of 240,000 men. All the accounts from Russia agree as to the enormous warlike preparations, confirming the impression that the Emperor is determined on pursuing his religious crusade in spite of all opposition.—The *Herald's* Paris correspondent understands that the Emperor of the French has intimated, in plain terms, to the Austrian cabinet, that any further secession from the intervention to which it had become a party, will be regarded as an indication of meditated hostility; and that in case of war becoming general through its conduct, the French will not decline the alliance of either Hungarians, Italians, or Poles, but that the recognition of those nationalities will become the settled policy of France, and will receive her support. An understanding with Piedmont, with a view to certain eventualities, is also spoken of. The understanding between England and France continues to be of the most cordial and the decided character.

Two screw steamer Andes arrived at Liverpool on the 1st, and the Atlantic on the 5th inst.

England has been visited by the greatest snow storm in many years. All the trains were blocked up for two days, and when the Niagara sailed the roads were altogether irregular.

The Liverpool merchants on Change in lack of business, had recourse to a snow-ball fight—the Cotton brokers *versus* the Stock brokers—which ended in the unwarrantable interference of the Police, and quite a row ensued.

Letters from France mention equally great detention in that country.

In Belgium, the snow was some feet deep on the railway, and troops were employed in clearing the track.

At Madrid, the ice was thick.

In the North, the winter was severe. The Baltic was packing with floating ice.

The London Observer says that agents are on their way to the United States to purchase ships and arms privately for Russia.

Much indignation is excited in Great Britain at the discovered interference of Prince Albert in political affairs. The more independent of the papers, and yet more loudly the public voice, protest that Prince Albert is the subservient tool of Russia, and that Lord Aberdeen is altogether under Albert's influence. The Prince betrays every secret of the British Cabinet to the Russian, Austrian and German Courts, and the important state affairs that are kept profoundly secret from the British public, are freely known in St. Petersburgh and Vienna. The expressions of indignation against Albert, who is truly or falsely regarded as the tell-tale, are unusually strong. Prince Albert is popular in Manchester, Liverpool, and with the manufacturing interest, consequently the organs of that interest are silent on the subject, but Radical and Conservative papers alike join in declaring that his interference has reached a pitch dangerous to the Constitution. The affair will undoubtedly come before Parliament.

Parliament met *pro forma* on the 3d, and was prorogued with the usual formalities to meet on the 31st Jan., for business.

A Cabinet Council was held on the 3d, and lasted four hours. All the members were present. Business unknown.

The financial quarter ending Jan. 9th shews an increase of revenue.

FRANCE.

New Year's Day Levee was held on Sunday the 1st, at the Tuilleries. On addressing the Ambassadors, the Emperor Napoleon said—I sincerely hope to maintain the relations of amity which now subsist between my Government and the Sovereigns whose representatives you are. Turning to the Ottoman Ambassador, he added:—My good wishes, my sympathy, and my efforts are in favour of your sovereign, and you will be good enough to communicate to him what I say.

The *Times* repeats our correspondent's statements, that when required 70,000 Frenchmen will form a camp, part near Adrianople, the remainder near Constantinople.

A report from the war department states the number of men available for arms in France, in the event of a general war, is one and a quarter millions for land service.

It is current in political circles that the Czar does not cease to tempt Napoleon to desert the English alliance by offers of his consent to the annexation of Belgium and Egypt by the French, the Czar also promising to abandon the cause of the French Bourbons.

The following is the latest manifesto by the Emperor of France:

The Moniteur contains a circular dated Dec. 30th, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to all the French Legations on the Eastern question. The document is moderate but very firm. After narrating the phases of the question, it declares that France, England, Austria and Prussia have recently, by agreement at Vienna, solemnly recognized the territorial integrity of the Ottoman empire for one of the conditions of their political equilibrium. Further, that the affair of Sinope took place against all provisions. Russia having declared that she only desired a material guarantee. Therefore, to prevent the Ottoman territory flag from any new attack by the naval force of Russia, the French and English fleets have received orders to enter the Black Sea. The circular terminates by expressing a hope that Russia will not expose Europe to new convulsions.

The Dresden authoritically further state that the French Government, dissatisfied with the evasive conduct of Austria, has addressed that Cabinet a strong remonstrance, intimating that any further secession on her part from the proceedings of the other three powers, will be taken as an indication of meditated hostility, the results of which she must be prepared to abide by, whatever they may be, and France will send an army to Hungary, Italy, &c.

The Patrie and the Bulletin give a report that the Czar had given orders for immediate preparations for crossing the Danube. If true, it seems that the Czar has refused the propositions of the four powers.

BELGIUM.—The King has decreed the total suppression of the duties on coal.

SWEDEN AND DENMARK.—The governments of these powers have addressed a circular to all the courts of Europe, stating that whatever difficulties may arise among the maratime powers, Sweden and Denmark have resolved to remain strictly neutral.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

A letter was received here to-day from a very intelligent English Engineer serving in one of the Austrian steam-vessels. The letter is dated on the 1st instant, at Constantinople, and states that the *Wiscelay*, a Turkish war steamer was to leave Constantinople on the 3d instant for England, and will come round to the river Thames to have new boilers put on board by Maudslay, Sons, and Field. He also states that the result of the hostilities between Russia and Turkey, up to December 1, was a loss of 30,000 killed on the part of the Russians, and 12,000 killed on the part of the Turks. The Austrian steamers are permitted to proceed from Vienna through the Bosphorus to the ports in the Black Sea; but they are only permitted to pass the forts and the Dardanelles in the day time, as they must remain at anchor during the night.

Advices from Constantinople agree that little hope was entertained of the new negociation leading to a satisfactory result.

VIENNA, Friday evening.—The Turkish Council has itself permanent. Harmony is established in the Cabinet.

On the recent disturbance, the Sultan declared to the French Ambassador that he would rather abdicate than accept assistance against his own subjects.

The Russians have occupied the Austrian Wallachian frontier from Orsova to the Nordburg pass, near Cronstradt. The Russians were also permitted to make purchases within the Austrian frontier. Count Esterhazy has not yet gone to St. Petersburg; it is therefore supposed that some political misunderstanding has arisen.

Constantinople is tranquil. Trieste is mentioned as the neutral town for the meeting of Congress.

An insurrection of the peasantry along the Danube, from Kalafat to Turnul, as far as the Aluta, had taken place. They were supported by the Wallachian irregulars, and the Russian minor officials were everywhere turned out.

Authentic intelligence confirms the previous reports that on the 20th Dec., the Porte accepted the note of the four powers. He says that he would not under certain conditions object to an armistice, but continues to insist on the evacuation of the principalities. The deliberations of the Divan continued three days, the 21st, 22d and 23d. On the deliberations transpiring in Constantinople on the 21st, a tumult arose; a mob of 300 Softas, urged on by Wiemas, assembled to present a remonstrance, declaring that the Scheriat constitution was violated by the resolutions of the Council. For a time a riot was feared, and the English and French steamers and marines were called to Constantinople. The night was passed over quietly, and on the 22d, a proclamation was issued and quiet restored. Several were arrested and banished to Candia.

Something definite as to the action of the Czar was daily looked for at London and Paris.

It was stated that from St. Petersburg, Dec., 20th, that Nicholas had formally rejected the Vienna protocol and note of 5th, but would consent to receive and examine the Turkish proposition of the 20th, as above, although he persists in refusing to recognize the right of European intervention in matters which, he says, concern Russia and Turkey alone.

It was reported several times during the week on the Paris Bourse, that the Czar had read and rejected the Turkish propositions, but the rumour was premature.

Up to the 25th, the fleets had not entered the Black Sea, owing to tempestous weather.

Contractors at Malta are ordered to form depots at Sinope, Varna, and Trebizonde.

The instructions to the fleet are that in the event of meeting Russian ships of war, they will in the name of the respective Governments, request the Russian officer in command to return with his ships to Sebastapool, where he will find further instructions from his own Government. On refusal, force will be used.

Russian statements affect not to feel the slightest alarm as regards the threat of the allied squadrons. On the contrary, they assert that the entry of the fleets will be the signal for simultaneous outbreaks in India, Algeria, Greece, and Greek insurrection throughout the Turkish empire. All being already organized by agents of the Czar.

Heavy snows prevented operations of magnitude, but daily small skirmishes took place between the outposts of the two armies.

A Russian despatch says that the Turkish army in Asia is totally disorganized, and Selim Pacha and Gen. Guyon killed by the troops; but no one believes this.

The Turkish accounts acknowledge the evacuation of the Russian territories in Asia, but say it was affected without the reported losses.

Two firmans have been sent to Servia; one guaranteeing all Servian privileges; the other cancels all the Turk-Russian treaties, but permits Servia to claim the protection of all the powers.

PERSIA.

The latest news from Persia was more satisfactory, but it seems irreconcilable with the statement that a Russian General commands the Persian army. A despatch from Constantinople of the 25th, says that Mr. Thompson, the British Charge in Persia, has succeeded in terminating the differences between Great Britain and Persia.

Ahmet Effetdi, the Turkish charge, satisfied with the explanations of the Government, did not think it right to interrupt the relations with the Shah.

M. Kenikoff, Russian Consul General at Teflis, has gone to Persia and Affghanistan as Special Envoy of the Czar.

Accounts from all parts of Russia describe extraordinary military activity, unexampled since 1813. The Czar has just got a supply of 20,000,000 rubles from the Church.

RUSSIA AND SWEEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 11.—Stockholm is in a state of great excitment to-day, caused by the arrival of a Russian courier with a note *commanding* Sweden to close her ports to English and French vessels and subjects. I can scarcely believe that it is true, but that a note of importance has arrived is quite true, and Russia is determined, either by threat or flattery, to get Sweden on her side, and the Swedes are in great excitement about it. The royal family is greatly in favour of Russia, but the nation to a man is against her. It is no secret here that Russia is making enormous preparations for war, although everything is kept as secret as possible. She has already one or two screw line-of-battle ships, and is now converting others as fast as possible. Since Russia has had Finland, she has sailors equal to any in the world, with the sole exception of the Anglo-Saxon race, so that next summer the general opinion here is that Russia, to say the least of it, will astonish England and France, and put those powers to a greater test than they have yet had. The Russian emissaries are most active all over the world. She has already beaten England at the court of Persia, and Dost Mahomed is on her side.

MARKETS.

COTTON.—The demand for the week was steady and prices unchanged. Total sales of the week, 29,500 bales.

BREADSTUFFS.—The Liverpool market continued buoyant, prices of all articles having advance daily, and show a large improvement on the week, namely. Wheat 1d, dearer per bushel; Flour 3s. 6d. dearer; Corn 2s. dearer. The markets closed firm, good demand. The advance is caused chiefly by the speculative feeling that the Spring imports will be short of the demand.

Provisions generally unchanged.

Sugar was animated and, 1s. dearer. Coffee in good demand. Rice active.

The Manchester market was very quiet during the week, but healthy in tone.

Iron steady at last quotations. Copper very firm, and an advance is anticipated.

MONEY.—No change to notice. The funds fluctuate from day to day. Consols closed at 92 7-8 for money. There are large arrivals of the precious metals.

TIMBER.—Yellow Pine, averaging 16 inches, is quoted at 2s 4d. (so reads the despatch.) Demand limited, and inferior qualities unsaleable. Hardwood is worth 2s. 2d per foot. Spruce Deals per standard, £13 5s., but no sales. Lathwood, £5 10s.

Freights are without alteration.

SHIP NEWS.

Arrived from St. John, Dec. 29th, Pallas, at Cork; 30th, Chas. Humberston, at Liverpool; 31st, Albion, at Queenstown. Jan. 2d, Glydon, Bristol; 3d, Wm. Vail, and Rhodes, at Liverpool; Etiwan, at Ilfracombe; Lotus, the Clyde; Thetis, Kingstown; Laconia, Liverpool; 5th Lisbon, Deal.

Sailed from Liverpool, 5th inst., packet ship Joseph Tarratt, St. John; from Queenstown, 1st, Competior, do.

[The subjoined article is copied from the *Dublin Evening Mail*, and may prove a lesson to our own Legislators in the framing of any new election law, and a caution that by keeping up the qualification of voters to a reasonable standard, they may not afflict the Province with the evils here spoken of.]

PRIESTLY INFLUENCE AT ELECTIONS.

[A LESSON FOR OUR OWN LEGISLATORS.]

The state of the Irish constituencies must attract the attention of Parliament during the ensuing session. It is scarcely possible that, in the discussion of a new reform bill, the bodies whose nominees have for the last twenty years held in their grasp the fate of British Ministries, should escape question and enquiry. 'Tis true, ours are the most reformed of all electoral bodies. We were reformed by the Emancipation Bill, reformed by the Reform Bill, and scarce two years have elapsed since we became treble X, by the adoption of a new and totally distinct franchise. If there be any virtue in reformations, we cannot be very far from the height of constitutional perfection.—The proof of our progress is to be seen in the quality of representatives that we have returned to the Imperial Parliament. The Brigade is a standing testimony of the adaptation of the electoral law to our state of society, and the fitness of the voters, whom recent enactments have invested with the franchise, to exercise constitutional privileges for the general benefit of the nation. The individuals who compose that august body are, in most respects, very different indeed, from those on whom has fallen the choice of English or of Scotch constituencies. They are chosen out of a totally different class of society, and are recommended by virtues that find no favour in the eyes of the English people. They are not distinguished by any statesmanlike quality whatsoever. Noisy, grasping, and turbulent, they are listened to with impatience not unmingled with contempt. Full of requests, they haunt the purlieus of office with a cousin for every public situation, down to a city scavenger, and a begging box for every loose shilling. Their bluster of patriotism is the thin veil they throw over their corruption, and boast of their superiority to the temptations of place and office; while their connections to the tenth degree are fattening on the public spoils. It is not for us to draw a picture of the Brigade. Its features are delineated in the Parliamentary history of the last twenty years; we only revert to the matter in connexion with the proposed reform bill. It may be worth the consideration of Parliament whether it may be wise or just to leave Irish constituencies in such a state as to secure to the legislature the future assistance of those immaculate patriots.—Those gentlemen are confessedly the nominees of the Roman Catholic priests; and our people are in such a barbarous state as, without inquiry or consideration, to wield their elective franchise as the priest directs; and the priests themselves are in so barbarous a condition as to return the style of gentleman that figures in the Brigade.

We do not complain that the sacerdotal choice falls on members of the Church of Rome. Far from it. There are many Roman Catholics whom we should be glad to see in Parliament, that the priesthood would oppose to a man. Part of our complaint is, that all the respectability of our Irish Romanism is passed by and excluded. Almost every man, whom high station, noble birth, the habits of good society, or liberal education has invested with independence of mind, has his name placed in a Parliamentary *Index Expurgatorius*. A base and degenerate Protestant would be received with cheers and acclamations, where an honest and high minded Roman Catholic would be hooted. It is the quality of the men returned by Irish constituencies, we deplore, and not the creed.—We should not say constituencies, but rather the foreign corporation, into whose hands the constituencies have relinquished their privileges.

The most important question that Parliament will have to decide is, whether this state of things is to continue. The fact is patent that a great many of the Irish counties, and most of the boroughs are at the disposal of the Romish priests.—No matter by what influence, be it love or fear, ignorance or superstition, the fact is certain, that the priests execude whom they choose from Parliamentary honors, and return whom they will to represent the Irish people, just as fully and effectually as if the privilege of the franchise was confined to their own body. In comparison to this, the corruptions of Gatton and Old Sarum sink into insignificance. Whether Derby be corrupt, or St. Albans immaculate, what borough should be disfranchised, or what city have an additional member, are matters of trifling import. If franchises are to be lowered, or a higher value to be maintained to defeat corrupt influences, surely the Irish constituencies cannot escape. If electoral bodies are to lose their franchise for yielding to unconstitutional appliances, who can say a word in vindication of Meath, Clonmel, Sligo, or Tipperary.—To permit the elective power to remain in such a condition as places it altogether in the hands of a small body of very violent and intolerant men, is a perfect farce—it is a mockery of our boasted constitution. To improve English constituencies, which, at least, return respectable men, and leave the Irish to return the article they have hitherto furnished, is simply ridiculous. The first Act of Parliamentary Reform should be to abolish the system of Papal borough-mongering in Ireland, to confine the franchise to the limits of the sanity and independence of the people. There are gentlemen in every county in Ireland, differing, probably, in religious and political opinion, but agreeing in an earnest desire to advance the interests of Ireland; men intimately acquainted with the circumstances of their country, deploring its evils, and desirous of alleviating them, who are now excluded from Parliament by the prevailing system of priestly nomination. These men would make the name of an Irish member as much respected as it is now despised; would encourage useful arts instead of preposterous agitation, and endeavor to advance their country to prosperity, instead of deluding it by vain and futile hopes of imaginary measures. Parliament, it is very true, cannot endow a people with common sense; but it can, at least, cease to confide an enormous political power to a corporation of ecclesiastics unknown to the Constitution, who have given such ample testimony that they are unworthy to possess it, and unwilling or unable to use it for any good purpose whatsoever.

"TOO MUCH PRIEST."—The extraordinary efforts of the pro-Romanist and Romanist party to thrust Romish priests into all our prisons and workhouses many decasily explained. The United Kingdom is just at present supplied with "too much priest." At the time of the tithe war in Ireland, some twenty-three years ago, we warned the country that the priests having, though unlawfully, seized upon the property of the Established Church would multiply in number, and improve the habits of indulgence, that must render it difficult to deal with them when that opportunity of plunder should be closed. It was about that time that the Rev. Mr. M——, an English dissenting clergymen, stated, as the result of a careful inquiry, that the revenue of the Romish priesthood in Ireland might be rated at two millions and a-half sterling. This substantially agreed with the Romish Bishop Doyle's estimate, given before the parliamentary committees of 1826 and 1827, namely, 10s. a head from each Romanist of about five millions and a half, supposing half a million to pay nothing. The burden upon the poor people was oppressive, dreadfully oppressive in the years of famine, and the tax was aggravated upon those who could pay as a compensation for the failure of those who could not, and the wretched creatures just elevated above starvation were thus more heavily laden than ever. This has driven from the country some three millions of the contributors to the priests' fund reducing it at the least one million and a half; but the few who remain behind are still more heavily answered, and preparing for flight, rather than submitting to be, as it were, *ridden double* by their rapacious clergy. Every contrivance of monchism, &c., seat selling, and the like, has been resorted to, but provision cannot keep pace with the working of the Maynooth mill, which regularly turns out its annual batches, who must be maintained by somebody, and accordingly it is now discovered that they are an indispensable necessary in gaols and workhouses. This is the solution of the affair.—*Standard.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

(FOR THE CHRONICLE.)

NEW-BRUNSWICK OCEAN STEAMERS.

Mr. EDITOR—

By a Prospectus recently published, the Public are informed that Messrs. W. & R. Wright and J. & R. Reed, of this city, contemplate the establishment of a line of Screw Steamers, to ply between this Port and Liverpool. These vessels are to be of the first class in point of construction and speed. Indeed, the well established character of the builder, John Laird, Esq., of Birkenhead, is the most satisfactory guarantee which the public can require, in reference to the character of the contemplated Steamers.

The magnificent enterprise now suggested, is contingent, I perceive, upon an annual grant being made by our Legislature, for a definite period. I sincerely hope that no difficulty will present itself on this point. It cannot be expected that individuals, wealthy and enterprising as they may be, will embark in so gigantic an undertaking, without some guarantee from the people of this Province—who are to reap such immense advantages from it—against the heavy losses which will accrue in the event of a failure.

1. The establishment of the contemplated line will facilitate postal communication between this Province, Newfoundland, (where the steamers will regularly call,) and Great Britain. 2. It will in effect shorten the distance between us and the European continent. 3. New Brunswick has assumed that position, when it is almost as important that our intercourse with England should be facilitated, as it is, that we should possess good roads, and other means for inter-communication within our own favoured land. "There be three "things which make a nation prosperous:" says Bacon, "a fertile soil, busy workshops, and easy "conveyance of men and things from one place to "another." Nature has given us the first; our enterprising mechanics have established the second, and so far as our own Province is concerned, the means of internal locomotion are up with our age. The fourth means which will