the Lt. Governor to draw upon the military chest for any amount that might be required; no part of that sum therefore had been drawn. It must be obvious however that a provincial fund should be at the disposal of the executive, to be applied indiscriminately; and that sum might be reappropriated, to be expended in any manner that might be deemed necessary; because, as it now stands, not one shilling of the recent grant could be so applied. With reference to Maine, the hon. gentleman said, he thought at first the measures that State has of late adopted, were meant to hasten the settlement of the question; but the attitude she now assumes is most extraordinary and unjustifiable. It was stated at first, that the sole object of the expedition was to expel persons who were cutting timber. But he should like to know who commenced exercising ownership. Not the Government of this Province—but Maine and Massachusetts, who took possession of a remote portion of the territory, apportioned townships and granted licences to cut the timber, which they now state is disappearing. The circumstance of persons cutting timber, was not the cause therefore of the present hostile interference of the State of Maine. In his opinion it was this:—They knew the Queen's troops had been withdrawn, to act upon the Canadian frontier, and they thought this a fit opportunity to invade the country; not anticipating the obstruction which would be afforded by the opportune arrival of three or four British regiments. The letter from Gov. Fairfield to which allusion had been made, could never have been penned by a person who was actuated by proper feelings, and was disgraceful to his character and standing in society. The right to the disputed territory had been claimed and exercised as long as he could remember; and he had never before known it disputed. Admitting, however, any understanding to that effect could be disputed, which he for one was not disposed to allow, and that there was no compact to that effect—yet the jurisdiction of the territory belongs to Great Britain; the opposite party not having been put in possession. It was a principle established by the law of nations, that the original occupier retained jurisdiction over a country, until it was ceded. The hon. gentleman said he approved of the suggestion of the learned member for York, as to the appropriation of a grant by the Legislature, and that a satisfactory account of the expenditure should be rendered.

Mr. STREET said he was not a little surprised at hearing his Honor the Speaker question the necessity for going into a Committee on the state of the Province. If there ever was a time when such a measure were necessary this was one, when the Province was threatened with invasion, and the integrity of the Queen's dominions interfered with. It had always been conceded that the Government of this Province should exercise exclusive jurisdiction and possession over the disputed territory, and it was to remain part of the Province, until otherwise determined. This understanding had been acquiesced in until the recent aggression, when we find a secret session instituted, and the mails stopped, until the object of the State of Maine was effected; and a party sent to take possession of persons found trespassing, and who were therefore amenable to the laws of this Province. In pursuance of this plan, an armed party had been sent on the disputed territory, accompanied by a constituted civil authority, with a posse to carry into execution any process which he might issue. This was an attempt at aggression which had never been made before. A remonstrance had been made by the Government of this Province; but so far from receiving a satisfactory reply, the State of Maine contends they have a right to interfere with trespassers; while they themselves are granting licenses, and many of their own people are cutting timber upon the territory in dispute; and it appeared upon examination, that others who are willing to pay are permitted to proceed. The learned gentleman said the invasion it was pretended, arose from a misunderstanding of the agreement, which it was understood had hitherto existed with respect to the exercise of jurisdiction; and if no such understanding existed, the House should have information upon the subject; and they should address His Excellency to know what that understanding is. At present he considered the declaration of the President to be erroneous; any understanding by which the two countries were to exercise jurisdiction, would carry absurdity upon the face of it, and would continually lead to collision. The recent aggression therefore must be viewed as an infringement of the undoubted rights of the Province, and should be resisted by its inhabitants. The government of this Province has informed that of the neighbouring State that unless their troops are withdrawn, an armed force will be sent to turn them off; he was satisfied such a threat would not be made, unless the Government were authorised, and it was intended to carry it into execution; and he hoped it would be carried into effect. He saw nothing however to lead to the conclusion that Maine would comply; and therefore it was evident a collision must take place between the two Governments. The learned gentleman said he must regret such an issue, but the adverse party having thrown down the gauntlet, it was the duty of the Provincial Government to preserve its integrity, and maintain the rights of Her Majesty. He thought, therefore, the two countries were upon the eve of a war.—The session, he said, was now coming to a close, and what had been done?—The House had not evinced the same feeling as had been displayed in Nova-Scotia, whose Legislature had placed a large sum at the disposal of the Executive; and it would not be creditable to the people of this province, were they to refrain from doing the same.

There was a subject which he hoped would not be lost sight of, and that was the proposal of the learned member for York; he had in view a similar measure.—He alluded to the formation of a Rifle Battalion, it was a mode less injurious to the country than the calling out of drafts, which should not be resorted to unless in case of necessity; and would be joined by many young men, who could do so, without interfering much with their usual avocations. A draft from the Militia he considered would still take place. The House should not stand about expense, as it was of the first necessity that the means of defence should be provided, even if it required the entire revenue of the country. Either a draft of volunteers should be provided, or if a draft merely were to take place, a sum of money should be placed at the disposal of the Executive. The learned gentleman said he did not agree with the learned member for York with reference to the road vote, nor did he apprehend there would be any difficulty in providing labourers, when it became known that a large sum of money was to be expended. It would on the contrary have a very injurious tendency, to stop the road service. It was essential that good roads should be made for the more ready removal of troops, and communication with head-quarters. He should be sorry therefore to see that service neglected. The jurisdiction over the disputed territory had been touched upon by the hon. member for Queen's; and the learned gentleman here read from Kent's commentaries, an extract which went to prove that the jurisdiction of a country remained in possession of the State, by which it was held, until it had been actually transferred; and although it might be agreed upon that possession would be ceded, yet that possession was to continue until it should have been finally surrendered. In the present instance the case was much stronger, as Great Britain had always held actual possession of the territory in dispute, and had never agreed to cede it. The President himself states that the subject is in dispute, and suggests that the decision should be left to arbitration. If there were no doubt, then why refer it in that way?—Great Britain insists that she holds the territory as a right, and the State of Maine claims under virtue of a treaty, as is alleged; and has violated the law of nations by the invasion of that territory, and the introduction of a local establishment of their own.

The learned gentleman said those were all the remarks he had to offer upon a subject which occupied the public attention; and with a flourishing revenue, he said he trusted New-Brunswick would not be outdone by her sister colony; and concluded by making some remarks with reference to the audit office, and the salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The Hon. SPEAKER said he agreed with what had fallen from the hon. member for Northumberland, with reference to the Audit and Crown Land Offices; but the subject was too insignificant when compared with that under discussion, to engage the attention of members at the present time, when they ought to act, rather than talk. The Hon. Speaker here explained his reason for expressing surprise with reference to the Committee on the state of the province.—The fact was, he thought the subject should have been taken up long since; the House had been eight weeks in session, and he began to be uneasy upon the subject; and when the learned member for Charlotte, who moved the order of the day originally, stated that he had nothing to propose, and he found no resolution had been placed in the hands of the Chairman of the Committee, he certainly was astonished, and he so expressed himself. It preyed upon his spirits, to see the House engaged in frivolous matters with the enemy pressing at their door; and he had frequently suggested to members, that subjects of importance were awaiting their consideration. It was better, however, to act late than never; and he trusted the proceedings of Nova-Scotia would infuse fresh vigour. He was pleased therefore to find the hon. member for York bringing the subject under the notice of the Committee in the manner which he had done: and with reference to the road service, he thought it should be lost sight of when considering a subject of so much importance. He thought this was the time to act; and if Nova-Scotia, with its limited means gave £100,000 in aid of the Provincial Government, they should grant £200,000; or go to the extent of their ability, and arm the government of the country with the power necessary for its defence. The hon. Speaker said he agreed with the learned member for Gloucester, with reference to the letter from Gov. Fairfield, which, like all other American documents, was addressed to the mob; and were meant for the mob, no matter to whom addressed. It was in that way he found an excuse for his conduct; and his letter must go for what it was worth. He said he rose for the purpose of mentioning a fact, which probably was not generally known. The assertion by the State of Maine, that the object of the invasion of the disputed territory, was to expel trespassers, was not founded in fact; as the authorities of the State, supported by an armed force are protecting persons so engaged.

The object of the expedition was to get possession of the country; he said he had no faith in the General Government, and believed that a perfect understanding existed on the subject. In this state of affairs, it were madness not to be prepared for war; the province therefore should be put in such a state of defence as would enable them to meet the threatened danger. He should not take up the time of the Committee, farther than to express his concurrence in what had fallen from hon. members who had spoken upon the subject.

Mr. PARTELOW said he would not yield in feelings of loyalty and attachment to his Queen and country; yet he could not regard the invasion of the province merely as a provincial, but as a national question. Even were two or three hundred thousand pounds voted by the legislature of the province, it would not meet the exigency of affairs. The recent invasion would doubtless obtain the immediate attention of Her Majesty's ministers; and until that could be bestowed, the legislature of the province would take such measures and make such appropriations as circumstances would require, or the executive government might deem necessary; and he, for one, would anticipate the revenues of the province for the next forty years were it required. The house had already promptly responded to such suggestions as had been made by his Excellency. He was satisfied the government of the mother country would vindicate the national dignity; and the legislature of the Province should chiefly adopt such measures, as the government of the country might recommend or require.

Colonel ALLEN said the present situation of the province was such as had not existed since he had the honour of holding a seat in that house. In 1809, the militia had been embodied, but at that time there was not an invasion of any part of the territory; there was only a probability at that time of a threatened invasion. But even then, with more limited means, the legislature had placed at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief the sum of £10,000, and a farther sum of £30,000 to meet the exigencies of that period; and he thought the house should appropriate a sum similar to what was voted upon that occasion. A portion of the Militia, he said, had been called into actual service, and many of them required warmer clothing than they wore upon ordinary occasions. In this emergency there were no great coats in store, and a large part of the grant of £10,000 would be required to procure them; the government had already sent to distant parts of the country for a supply of that indispensable article. He thought it would very much relieve the militia were a Rifle Corps to be embodied, the youth of this country are very much attached to the Rifle service, and would make good rifle-men. The draft pressed hard upon individuals, and in one case a father and two sons had been drafted from one family. The hon. gentleman said he presumed the House would not rise without appropriating a large sum; as if there ever were an occasion when they should strengthen the arm of the executive, it existed at the present moment. The letter from the Governor of Maine was too insignificant to notice, and his conduct was not to be compared to that of a British Officer; it was all trick and evasion.—Some entertained an opinion that the militia of Maine would be withdrawn; he hoped they would. But still it became necessary to keep up a large force on the frontier. To accomplish this, adequate funds must be at the disposal of the Lieut. Governor; sleds must be procured, as at present the commissariat did not provide the mode of conveyance, except for her Majesty's troops; considerable expence therefore would be incurred in this way. A large portion of the £10,000 therefore would soon be appropriated, and there were other expences happening every day.

(To be continued.)

BORDER AFFAIRS.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser, March 16.

GOVERNOR FAIRFIELD'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.

The following abstract embraces all the material points of this message. It begins with an annunciation of the documents submitted to the Legislature, among which are, letters from the Secretary of State—the President's Message to Congress—the correspondence with the British Minister—and the memorandum of agreement signed by the Secretary of State and the British Minister. After a recital of the substance of the agreement the message proceeds as follows:—

"The important question now presented, is whether the State of Maine will assent to the agreement or not. Deeming it a question beyond my legitimate province to decide, I communicate the papers relating to it, and ask for instructions; with a determination, so far as I may be able, to carry into effect, your decision, whatever it may be. As I do not wish, however, to shun any portion of the responsibility fairly devolving upon me, I will proceed, as briefly as I can, to give my opinion in the case presented, and the reasons upon which it is founded. Shall we then, in accordance with the agreement, withdraw our forces from the disputed territory, and leave all future operations against trespassers to be conducted by concert and agreement with the Provincial Government? In determining this question, your attention will be naturally directed to the original design and object of the movement on your part—the extent to which that object has been accomplished—your constitutional power and right to adopt the course hitherto pursued—and the expediency of continuing to exercise that right. The object in the first place, was, to protect public property. The territory bordering upon the Aroostook river, in many respects the fairest portion of Maine, particularly in the noble forest of timber, and the extraordinary fertility of soil, has long been the scene of very extensive and wanton depredations, principally on the part of persons resident in, if not inhabitants of the Province of New-Brunswick. The circumstances in regard to the extraordinary depredations committed this winter, by a band of armed and desperate men—the course you took to arrest them—the seizure and imprisonment of the Land Agent and his assistants—I need not detail, as they are already familiar to you. This proceeding on our part, was denounced by the Lieutenant Governor of New-Brunswick as an invasion of that Province and a military occupation of the territory threatened, and also a forcible expulsion of our Agents if they should not immediately retire. Instead, however, of permitting them to retire, you sent what was deemed a sufficient military force to sustain them, and also to repel any invasion of our soil that should be attempted.

"This I believe to be a succinct and unvarnished statement of your object, and the method pursued to effect it. Has that object been accomplished? If I have a right apprehension of the facts, I must say in part only. It is true the trespassers are dispersed, but they have given out that as soon as our force is removed they will return, throw the timber already cut into the streams, and run it down to Saint John. This can undoubtedly be accomplished by them, without the utmost vigilance and activity on our part. It is true, also, that the Lieut. Governor of New-Brunswick proposes to swing a boom across the mouth of the Aroostook, to seize the timber there, sell it, and place the proceeds in the 'disputed territory fund.' But without intending disrespect to the Government of the Province, may it not well be doubted, whether Maine would ever realize any thing from such a proceedure?—Would not the debits in this disputed territory account always exceed the credits?—Would not the tracts about this 'fund,' so far as we are concerned, like those about the lion's cave, be all one way?—Be that as it may, Maine is capable of superintending her own affairs, and ought not to impose that duty on a neighbouring Province."

The Governor then goes on to state the grounds of the title of Maine to the territory in dispute, and to examine the question of the right of jurisdiction while "this preposterous claim of Great Britain," as he terms it, remains unsettled. He comes, of course, to the conclusion that the right of possession and jurisdiction is in Maine, and there has been no agreement for conceding it to Great Britain, and that this right is asserted by the General Government to be in Maine. He then proceeds,

"But if it had been otherwise, and the Government of the United States had agreed that the British Government should have exclusive jurisdiction and possession of this territory, which he acknowledges to be ours, would it have been binding upon Maine? Clearly not. The respective States of the Union are sovereign and independent, except so far as that sovereignty has been restrained or modified by the constitution of the United States. The General Government is one of limited and defined powers. The power to alienate the territory of a State, or to transfer a portion of it, or the jurisdiction and possession of it to a foreign power, for an indefinite period, or for one hour, is no where granted. An assumption of such a power on the part of the General Government, it is believed, would always meet the stern and uncompromising opposition of this State. But without intending probably to assert any such power, it seems there has been an understanding between the General Government and that of Great Britain, amounting perhaps, on our side, to a recommendation to the State of Maine, rather than to a contract by which she would be conclusively bound. What are the terms of that "understanding" which has been the prolific source of so much misunderstanding?—Clearly these and no more: that, during the pendency of the question, the two parties should exercise jurisdiction as they had respectively been accustomed to exercise it. Now over the territory south of the Saint John, especially that part of it watered by the Aroostook and its tributary streams, Massachusetts and Maine have always had possession and exercised jurisdiction."

The message then goes on to state facts and authorities in support of this last position. There are the grants of land made within the Aroostook territory as early as 1793 and 1806—the Acts of Massachusetts and Maine, in expelling trespassers—and the letter of Mr. Van Buren, when Secretary of State, to Sir Charles R. Vaughan, denying the British claim of jurisdiction then made. The Governor closes his argument upon this point, and proceeds to assume another position of a very different character, as follows:—

"Surely there can be no need of multiplying words upon this point. If the British Government have any jurisdiction over this portion of our territory, it may "with equal justice" claim to have it over the county of Kennebec. But why should we be compelled to resort to facts of this description to prove our jurisdiction? If the *title* be in Maine, the jurisdiction follows of course. No power can have a *right of jurisdiction* over a territory belonging to the State of Maine, and nothing but that extreme spirit of peace and forbearance by which Maine has been so long actuated, could induce her to argue such a point for a moment.

"If, then, the title, possession, and jurisdiction of Maine be clearly established, why is she not justified in her present attempt to protect the property on the territory from plunder, and the soil itself against invasion? It is hard to believe that any man can be found—any *American* I should say—of uncorrupted patriotism, and whose mind is not poisoned by prejudice, who will deny it."

In further confirmation of this position he quotes a passage from the President's message, which asserts the right of Maine to "arrest the depredations complained of," and also some passages from Mr. Howard's report in the House of Representatives. He then proceeds as follows:

"But I need not quote particular expressions.—The whole Report is a lucid and forcible exposition of the injustice of the proceedings of the Government of New-Brunswick, and a triumphant vindication of the course pursued by Maine. The almost unanimous vote of the House of Representatives upon the bill reported by the same committee, intending to carry out the views expressed in the Report—the unanimous vote of the Senate upon the same bill—also furnish to Maine the most conclusive and gratifying proof of the rectitude of her course. In accordance with all this, I take pleasure in saying, has been the general voice of the American Press. Such unanimity of opinion and feeling among the mass of the people—such a spirit of enthusiasm pervading all classes of society, it is apprehended has seldom been witnessed. Nothing could be more gratifying to Maine, and sure I am, that it will constitute a perpetual source of grateful recollection to her virtuous and intelligent sons."

Here is a more distinct recognition of the authority of the *fourth estate*—the press—than we recollect to have met with in an official document of this kind. Then follows the Governor's opinion as to the course to be pursued, in these words:

"Under these circumstances, the question recurs shall we withdraw our forces agreeably to the recommendation contained in the Memorandum signed by Mr. Fox and the Secretary of State—and leave the future protection of the timber to the concurrent action and agreement of the Governments of Maine and New-Brunswick? Under a full sense of the responsibility resting upon me, I have no hesitation in saying that we ought not. I admit that the General Government has nobly responded to our call—and with a promptness and efficiency beyond all praise, has made preparations to discharge its constitutional obligations to this State. Much is due from us on this account, to the Union. But the duty of Maine to herself remains unchanged. The property, for the protection of which we sent an armed posse under the Land Agent and Sheriff, remains still exposed—and the threat of expulsion from the territory and of invasion, which we sent our Military force to repel, still remains pending over us, while British troops. it is understood, are daily concentrating near the line with the apparent purpose of carrying the avowed design of the Lt. Governor of New-Brunswick, into effect."

The Governor then goes on to consider the agreement made by the President somewhat in detail, and pronounces it inadmissable on several grounds. 1st. It would be a "retrograde movement," placing the rights of Maine in a less favourable situation than they were placed in, before any thing had been done. 2d. It is unequal, requiring Maine to withdraw her troops, and not making the same requisition of the Provincial Government. 3d. Its phraseology is equivocal, admitting a construction that the armed *posse* under the Land Agent and Sheriff may be included in the "armed force" required to be withdrawn, an arrangement which he trusts Maine will never assent to. He then asks what shall be done. He answers the question, and closes the message as follows:

"Under these circumstances I would recommend, that, when we are fully satisfied, either by the declarations of the Lieutenant Governor of N. Brunswick, or otherwise, that he has abandoned all idea of occupying the disputed territory with a military force, and of attempting an expulsion of our party, that then, the Governor be authorised to withdraw our military force, leaving the Land Agent with a sufficient *posse*, armed or unarmed as the case may require, sufficient to carry into effect your orignal design, that of driving out or arresting the trespassers and preserving and protecting the timber from their depredations.

"From such an act of jurisdiction—an attempt so right and proper in itself as this, and so imperatively called for by the circumstances of the case, we should not be driven by any power on earth.

"We ought not, however, wantonly to do *more than is necessary*. We want no military force in the territory, if there be no military force against us. Brave men would not battle with the air.—We do want, however, men enough, armed or unarmed, as the case may require, to resist the marauders and protect the timber; we want no more. In pursuing this course, while we maintain our just and honourable position, we do nothing which our sister States can regard as unnecessarily provoking hostilities, and nothing which our Provincial neighbours can view as indicating a hostile or even illiberal feeling.

"These are my views, briefly and imperfectly expressed. Whether they coincide with your own or not, I repeat my determination to obey, so far as I may be able, whatever instructions you may be pleased to give. JOHN FAIRFIELD.

"*Council Chamber, March* 12, 1839."

To the message was appended the following postscript:

Note—Since the foregoing Message was prepared, I have received a note from Sir John Harvey, a copy of which is herewith communicated. From the spirit manifested, I shall entertain the hope that he will take such a course as will enable Maine to pursue that indicated in the foregoing.

The communication from Sir John Harvey here referred to, expresses his acquiescence in the agreement entered into between the British Minister and the American Secretary of State, and his readiness to enter into such negociations as may be necessary to carry it into effect.

Mr. Whidden, of Calais, laid upon the table the following Resolves:—

Resolved, That no new State of Affairs has taken place since the passage of the resolves, passed January 24, 1839, and February 20, 1839, which should cause the Legislature to recede from the position taken in those Resolves, and that the measures contemplated by those Resolves should be carried into effect.

Resolved, That the measures of the Executive of this State in carrying into effect the Resolves herein referred to, should be sustained by the Legislature.

Mr. Vose of Augusta hoped the gentleman would not urge its passage at this time. The Governor's message, which embraced subjects of great importance had but just been read—and he had not, and he presumed the House had not, so fully considered the matter to which it relates, as to be prepared for any decisive expression of opinion, until a further examination of the subject. He was not prepared to vote for or against the the Resolve at this time and he therefore hoped the gentleman from Calais would consent that Resolve should lay on the table, and he would move its printing together with the other documents.

Mr. Whidden consented—and the Resolve was laid on the table.

From the Augusta Journal, March 16.

The following Resolve was reported to the House yesterday afternoon, by the Committee on the N. Eastern Boundary, and Monday afternoon next assigned for its consideration:—

Resolved, That whenever the Governor of this State shall be fully satisfied, either by the declaration of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New-Brunswick, or otherwise, that he has abandoned all idea of occupying the disputed territory with a military force, or of attempting an expulsion of the civil force sent there under our Land Agent, that then the Governor of this State be authorized to withdraw our military force, leaving the Land Agent with a sufficient *posse*, armed or unarmed, as the case may require, to drive out or arrest trespassers, and to preserve and protect the timber from their depredations.

It is worthy of observation, that this whole movement, forward and retrograde on the part of GovernorFairfield, seems likely to postpone instead of advance the ultimate settlement of the boundary question,—and the turn which it will give to the affair, *will be likely enough to deprive Maine of a considerably larger portion of territory than she would have lost by accepting the award of the King of the Netherlands, which at the time she rejected with so much indignation!*—Boston Atlas.

Col. Jarvis arrived at Augusta on Tuesday afternoon, from the Aroostook, which he left on the 9th, at which time everything was quiet in that vicinity. A part of his force has been discharged by Col. J. as he deemed it to be too large. His encampment is within two miles of the line.

The Resolve authorising a loan in behalf of the State of $800,000 for military purposes, passed the Maine Senate on the 12th, and a Resolve appropriating $10,000 to open a road from Houlton to the Aroostook was passed to be engrossed.

The drafted militia at Houlton, under General Hodsdon, already amount to 2000 men, and the volunteers at the Aroostook, are 800 in number, under Col. Jarvis. The two encampments are fifty miles apart. Both militia and volunteers are engaged in making a road between them, by which communication will be greatly facilitated. The Bangor correspondent of the Eastern Argus, says: "It is not believed here that any blow will be struck at present to increase the flame already kindled, although our men threaten to stop the English mail which crosses our territory on the south side of the Saint John." The men under the command of Col. Jarvis are engaged in building a boom across the Aroostook.

A convention of the democratic members of the Legislature was held at Augusta on the evening of the 12th, at which Gov. Fairfield was nominated as a candidate for the office of Governor, for the ensuing year.

Mr. Carr, the whig candidate, was elected Mayor of Bangor, on Tuesday, by a majority of 152 votes over all others.

Correspondence of the Boston Atlas, }
AUGUSTA, March 14. }

Our border troubles are assuming a more quiet aspect. Notwithstanding our Governor is somewhat belligerent in some parts of his recent message, his acts are of a more peaceful character.—The detachment of troops from the Somerset division, that were ordered to muster at Skowaegan, have been dismissed. A part of the force under the command of Colonel Jarvis, at the Aroostook, have also been discharged, and there is little doubt that the detachments now here from Oxford and Cumberland will be discharged in a few days.

"Mr. Jarvis has recently been here, and states that there is no appearance of war on our borders. Understand his advice is, that 500 or 1000 men would be sufficient to protect the timber already cut, and prevent any further trespassing. His proposition is to hire this number of men by the month, and when they had nothing else to do, they might be at work making roads through the forests in that section of the State. This proposition is a very reasonable one, and will meet the approbation of all sensible men."

The Courier.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1839.

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS BETWEEN GREAT-BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The decision of the Umpire respecting the Boundary Line between this Province and the United States, did not accord with the views and expectations of the people in Maine, who, despite the honor of the General Government, and in violation of the confidence reposed in assents to References, magnified their own quibbles into exceptions, sufficient, in their estimation, to nullify the arbitration; and the conduct of the dissatisfied State justifies the conclusion, that the surrender of the Territory in dispute, is the only decision which they will consider obligatory upon them. Let it be admitted that the quantity and quality of the soil comprised in the Disputed Territory would be a valuable acquisition to a State characterised more by its barrenness than fertility, and that the desire of gain is the operating principle with the people of Maine in the question at issue, this desire would be much more abundantly gratified by the actual sale of the land, and we may venture to assert that the great commercial towns throughout Great-Britain and the United States would willingly become purchasers, rather than sustain the incalculable losses inevitably consequent upon a War. Cupidity may exercise its influence, but the predominating principle is hatred to England, manifested by their undignified displays and puerile vauntings, and by their desire to weaken, if in their power, the connexion of the British Provinces. Such being the case, we see but little prospect of any amicable adjustment of existing difficulties, with the vain boaster, who, unfortunately for both countries, has been elevated to supreme authority in Maine, and who, in the plenitude of his confidence and patriotism, addresses his Citizen Soldiers with the prudent imperative, "*Go!*"—a mandate better calculated to ensure the personal safety of the Citizen Leader, than the more inspiring invitation of "*Come,*" or "*Follow.*" We confess our scepticism as to the ultimate success of the Envoy Extraordinary, which is about to be despatched to England, and as to the sincerity or power of the General Government in the question. It may subserve the convenience of the belligerent party, by giving them time to inflame the public mind, to make some better preparations both for offensive and defensive warfare, and to give timely intelligence to their shipping abroad.—Moreover the American Government may hope thereby to lull the suspicions of the Colonies, and to lessen their energetic preparation for war. The war-cry of the mobocracy throughout the Union, authorises this conclusion, and should warn us to be in readiness to meet a crafty foe. Our Province is now bristling with the bayonets of our excellent Regulars, headed by experienced veterans, schooled in the Continental wars, and laurelled at Waterloo; these, with the loyal Militia of the Provinces, will keep invasion at defiance, until the fleets of England arrive, and call the attention of our enemies to other scenes and places.

We have read without surprise the frothy productions and ebullitive boastings of the different war-presses of the United States; and while we deprecate an appeal to arms, and feel no wish to detract from the personal bravery of Americans, we confess we do not measure their courage by their words; and while we wish to refrain from similar vauntings, in all cases better calculated to inspire contempt than dread, we may confidently assert, that, in the hour of trial, England will find her Colonists "*willing to do their duty;*" for the East, and the West, ensanguined Spain, and the Field of Waterloo, that historic word, afford ample evidence of the firmness of our Provincialists, and the Braggart of Maine, in his song of American prowess, should not have forgotten the Proclamation of his associate vainglorist—General Hull—and the subsequent surrender and disgrace of the American army under that boasting leader. We are aware that the war-cry throughout the Union is sounded from the tocsins of ignorance and hatred, and reverberated by the electioneering intrigue of mob-orators—that the good sense and intelligence of the people are averse to it, and that there are many estimable characters in the United States who would not compromise the honor of their country, nor shrink from the manly defence of it, and who condemn the proceedings of their countrymen, and deeply regret the prospect of hostilities. But the prudent and wise in all countries, are outnumbered by the ignorant and officious, and in Republican Governments, which are characterised by mobocracy, are generally out-influenced by them. The sayings and doings of the Local and General Governments of the United States confirm this assertion, and we fear that the rashness of Mr. Fairfield, the Governor of Maine, will light the torch to kindle a general war,—as he seems anxious to hazard the petty interest of his State, conscious that it will involve the feelings and expenditures of the General Government; that the advantages, if they succeed, would be enjoyed exclusively by Maine, and that every State, in the event of failure, would participate in the disgrace and consequent loss. England cannot add any leaves to her laurels by victories and conquests in America—Waterloo has immortalised her military greatness, and Trafalgar has recorded the courage and glory of British Seamen. We therefore hope that our Provincial Government will refrain from actual hostilities, until the word "Onward" is given by Great-Britain. Forbearance may lead to an amicable arrangement. The boasters of Maine may misconstrue the motive and feeling, but if they render an appeal to arms imperative, they may be convinced of their error, when it will be too late to correct it without incalculable mischief. England will not give up her Colonies, and when her interest and honor are outraged, and every pacific overture disregarded, she will tower in her strength, trusting in the God of Battles for victory and vengeance. England is superior to America in all the "*Sinews of War;*" this superiority of itself would inspire confidence. But she has a greater superiority, which will ascend as a memorial in her favour:—She is the glorious centre-spot, which has been irradiating the world with the truths of Religion, whilst America, and some of the Presses of the Eastern States in particular, with licentious and prostituted liberty, have been endeavouring to spread the principles of Infidelity. England is the champion of Liberty, and, preferring it to wealth, she has poured forth her treasures to break the fetters of Slavery: she is the advocate of it in principle, and the protector of it in practice. America echoes the word with noisy reverberations, to overwhelm the complaints of the slave, and to cover with its mockery the market of human beings; who are valued and vended like brutes, by those mouthers of Liberty, the Citizen Freemen of the Republic. England is the Patroness of Literature, and the great emporium of the Arts. America has been her pupil, and has been instructed and benefitted by her knowledge and discoveries. England was the Commercial friend of America, when, bordering upon Bankruptcy, she advanced her gold to sustain the sinking credit of the Union, and has been repaid by Piracy upon her Canadian Frontier,—by "Secret Sessions," cotemporary and apparently familiar with the conventions of American marauders, and by insolent and ungrateful epithets, intended to inflame the ignorant, to create hostilities, and thereby to cancel the debt. There are vast amounts of British Treasure in the United States; the people of those States are aware of it, and are aware of the influence it has heretofore exercised in the belligerent proceedings of Great-Britain. The past justifies the suspicion that the consciousness of this influence whets the valour of the present warparty throughout the Union. But we are inclined to believe that the great advocate for effectual measures, the Hero of Waterloo, in whose military tactics and knowledge of war the nation reposes deserved confidence, will prompt the British Government to decided measures, to a war compatible with the power and dignity of Britain; and which will decide the question of superiority in the Western hemisphere. Such is the war we wish, if recourse to war is inevitable, but we wish that the better judgment of all parties may avert a calamity so unnatural, and so dreadful in its consequences. It would be wiser to contemplate the advantages of Peace, to remove the jealousies, and to promote the friendly intercourse of two great Nations, whose interests are so intimately connected. The warparty in Congress, who advocate a "*bloody and ten years war,*" confess that they will be beaten in the "*outset and for three years;*" they then anticipate increased strength, discipline, and victory!—but war will not augment their revenues, nor will it lessen the ability of England to preserve and maintain her vantage ground, for it is easier to keep prostrate, than to prostrate an enemy. The doctrine may amuse as a novelty in theory, but it would be dangerous indeed to reduce it to practice. England, under less auspicious circumstances, sustained a conflict incomparably greater in every respect; nor is there the slightest authority to suppose that either the energy, the power, the spirit, or the treasury of England would be exhausted or enfeebled by a three years war with America, or that the ability of the United States would increase in the ratio of the decrease of England. If the Americans calculate upon a smothered spirit of revolt in Canada, that supposed advantage would be more than counter-balanced by the disaffection of the Slave population throughout the Land of Liberty, and by their Indian enemies, who are a constant annoyance to them, and who would receive fresh impulse, when they discovered that their oppressors were engaged with another and a powerful foe.

Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of affairs, we cannot yet believe that it is the serious intention of the American Government to settle all doubts with the sword; and we look upon the vapourings and proceedings of Mr. Fairfield, and the connivance of Mr. Van Buren, as an electioneering manœuvre, hazarded to please and catch the vulgar. But it is a dangerous hazard: for although in their bosoms and better judgments, they may deprecate a war, nevertheless their voices have inflamed the minds of the inconsiderate, and one shot exchanged upon the Disputed Territory, would be the signal for "Blood and Destruction;" we therefore repeat the hope that our Government will be content to act upon the defensive, until the determination of England is received. This delay may be repugnant to the feelings of British Soldiers; but we venture to predict, with all deference to abler opinions, that the consequences will be beneficial, either in Peace, or War. But whatever may have been, or may be the intention of the American leaders, they have been the means of bringing the materials of war into close approximation, and accident may ignite them. We must therefore be prepared for contingencies, with the most efficient preparations, without any niggardly reference to the expenses of them. The Legislature has manifested its entire confidence in the Executive.—Thousands had better be expended to be prepared for, or to prevent a war, than tens of thousands, followed by it with its concomitant destruction of life and property. The Province will not be injured, either at present or hereafter, by immediate fortification;—delay is weakness; and whilst the Executive is occupied in strengthening its strongholds, the strength of the PRESS should strengthen the determination and confidence of the people, by temperate discussions of the question at issue, without vituperative gasconading, and by appeals to that *Spirit of Loyalty*, which animated our forefathers during the revolutionary struggles with the United States, the *Palladium* which they have bequeathed to their descendants, and to that same spirit, which Britons, who have made these Provinces the land of their adoption, have brought from their Mother-Countries.

By the *Western Mail*, last evening, we received Augusta papers of Tuesday morning. They do not furnish us with the proceedings of the Legislature of Maine on the Resolve reported on Saturday by the Committee to whom the Governor's Message and the documents accompanying it had been referred, and which was assigned for consideration on Monday.

The belligerent spirit of the Maine papers appears to be decidedly on the wane. The *Kennebec Journal* of the 16th inst. says, "It is safe to say that an immediate collision between our forces and those of New-Brunswick is not apprehended, and that the aspect of affairs is much more pacific than it was ten days ago." The *Portland Courier*, which has generally maintained a calm and dignified tone in relation to the difficulties, is highly pleased with Sir John Harvey's note to Governor Fairfield, considering it in the highest degree conciliatory, and adds, "Unless our Government is irresistibly bent upon hostilities, it will lead to a peaceful and satisfactory arrangement." The *Courier* further remarks.—"Sir John Harvey has made the first advance in a very unexceptionable manner: let Gov. Fairfield meet him in a like temper and we think all real obstructions to the settlement of the differences between them will be easily removed. The first step to this result is, that the parties should come together with a sincere desire to accomplish this object, for while they stand afar off no useful purpose can be accomplished."

We regret, however, to perceive that the Augusta *Age*, a paper of the VanBuren school of politics, is endeavouring to support the Resolve, which provides that Maine shall continue to keep an armed or unarmed *posse* on the territory, for the protection of the timber already cut, and to prevent further trespasses, and in doing so, asserts, on what it considers good authority, that such was the intention of the President, though not explicitly declared in his late Message to Congress, and that the recommendation merely contemplated the withdrawal of the *military force* which had been sent to the frontier to repel invasion! Sir John Harvey has already made every overture that a due regard to his dignity and instructions will allow, and it cannot reasonably be expected that he will consent to such an arrangement. Indeed, we can hardly think the people of Maine themselves expect it.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—During the past week, the Assembly have got through much business both by Bill and Supply. The consideration of the Stumpage Bill, which we reported fully last week, has been deferred till the next Session of the General Assembly. This delay is to be attributed to the late period of the Session, rather than any opposition to the object of the Bill, which is the collecting the duty at the shipping port; although there are conflicting opinions, as to whether it shall be collected upon all timber, or only upon that which may be cut upon crown lands; but it is probable the former course will ultimately be adopted.

Meantime, a Bill for limiting the 5th Section of the Civil List Act, has been passed and sent up to the Legislative Council, the Act to that effect expiring during the present year. The Bill reduces the duty on Timber and on Saw Logs, and prescribes that emigrants may obtain Land, they paying for it by instalment. Doubts were expressed, however, whether the reduction of the duty might not be fatal to the Bill, in another quarter.

The Fish Bounty Bill, introduced by Captain OWEN, having been lost, Colonel WYER early in the week, brought in another, granting a bounty on the tonnage of vessels; but there was a majority against the first reading.

A very important Bill, uniting the different Banks in the Province, or such of them as may think proper to join together; to commence business when £130,000 shall have been paid in, and the capital to be limited to £1,000,000, the shares to be £25 each, was passed on Tuesday. The Bill was brought in by Mr. Woodward, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the Banks in this Province; and promises much advantage, should the plan be adopted.

The House divided equally in Committee, against the removal of the duty on Salt Provisions and Flour; and the decision in favour of its continuance was through the casting vote of the Chairman, Mr. Hayward.

Upon motion of Mr. PARTELOW, it was Resolved on Wednesday, that notice be given to the Banks, which at present have £29,000 of the Provincial funds at three and a half per cent. interest, that payment will be required; it being necessary to give twelve months notice. It was intimated, however, that there would be no objection to their retaining the money, upon payment of the usual interest of six per cent.

The Bill which passed the House, providing for the prompt payment of demands upon the Province Treasury, has been sent down from the Council agreed to.

The House was engaged on Tuesday and Wednesday, in considering his Excellency's Message with reference, to the Salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the present expensive construction of the Audit Office; and the Resolution of the House in both cases, was in accordance with the intimation from the Colonial Secretary, that the salary of the former officer should be reduced from £2000 to £1200, and the cost of the Audit Office be limited to £300 sterling per annum.

We have refrained from noticing the fate of the Baptist Seminary grant, which has again been rejected by the Legislative Council; until it should be ascertained what was the fate of the Bill passed for the amendment of the College Charter. This also has been lost in the upper House, there being a majority against its passing during the present Session; thus not only refusing to aid a useful institution, but refusing to amend an inefficient and extravagant establishment.

The subject was incidentally ment