

THE ENGLISH DECEMBER MAIL.

The English December Mail, together with two Halifax and two Cumberland Mails, were received at the Post Office on Sunday morning...

HALIFAX, N. S. Dec. 23.

We are enabled this day to lay before our readers late and important news from Europe. On Saturday last, about 10 o'clock, the Steamship Acadia, after encountering a continued succession of severe gales, arrived at this port from Liverpool...

Accounts from Bristol of the 20th Nov. state the loss of the fine steamer City of Bristol, on her voyage from Cork to that port. This calamity occurred near Worm's Head, on the Welsh coast, during a gale of wind, on the night of the Wednesday previous.

In France the war party has sustained a complete defeat. The speech of the King of the French at the opening of the Chambers, has not only given unmingled satisfaction and delight to all parties in Britain, from its pacific tone, but it has also produced a deep impression throughout France...

The late Queen Regent of Spain has arrived in Paris, and is stopping at the Palais Royal. It is reported that Abdel Kader, the enemy of the French in Algiers, is dead.

We have scarcely any later news from China by the arrival of the Acadia. The intelligence received from Afghanistan is unsatisfactory. The troops on the Indus have suffered a dreadful reverse, in endeavouring to relieve the town and fort of Kahul, which was besieged by the natives.

LONDON, Nov. 26.

BIRTH OF THE PRINCESS.

(From the Court Circular.)

Her Majesty was taken unwell at an early hour on Saturday morning, and the medical gentlemen were in consequence summoned to Buckingham Palace.

Her Majesty was safely delivered of a Princess at ten minutes before two o'clock, p. m., November 21. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert and the Duchess of Kent were in the room at the time, together with Sir James Clark, Dr. Loeock, Dr. Ferguson, and Mr. Blagden, the medical attendants on Her Majesty.

In an adjoining room, the door being open, were the following Counsellors:—His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of London, the Lord High Chancellor, Viscount Melbourne, First Lord of the Treasury; the Earl of Erroll, Lord Steward of the Household; Viscount Palmerston, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Lord John Russell, Secretary of State for the Colonies; the Earl of Albemarle, Master of the Horse.

The infant Princess having been brought into the room where the Ministers and Great Officers of State were assembled, their Lordships took their departure from the Palace directly afterwards.

The intelligence of her Majesty's safe accouchement, and the birth of a Princess Royal, spread like wildfire through the metropolis, and a crowd, which for an hour or two before had assembled around the gates of the Palace, was soon augmented by the numbers who came running from all directions to ascertain the fact.

TAKING OF ST. JEAN D'ACRE.

The British arms in Syria have experienced further successes. The important fortress of St. Jean d'Acre, which baffled the powers of Napoleon, surrendered after about three hours' bombardment. The Egyptians suffered severely; the explosion of a powder magazine sent 1200 persons into eternity; several hundreds were otherwise killed or wounded; 3,000 prisoners were taken, and a remnant of the garrison escaped and fled.

The loss of the English was, comparatively, small—17 killed, and 36 wounded. The bombardment was dreadfully intense; it commenced on the 3d Oct. The appearance of the place, after the surrender—the dead and mutilated lying in heaps among the ruins, was melancholy in the extreme, and might well sicken the souls of "glories" of war. The results of this event are thus estimated: the evacuation of Syria—the surrender of the Turkish fleet—and peace on the terms of the allies. The French were greatly mortified at the intelligence, but could only show their feelings in vain assertions and reproaches. St. Jean d'Acre has been garrisoned by Turkish troops, conveyed by the British vessels. The place is described as having been the magazine for the provisions, ammunition, and material of the Egyptian army.

The British naval force, under Admiral Stopford, consisted of 15 sailing vessels of war, and four steamers. There were three Austrian ships present. Mehemet has been deposed nominally by the Sultan, but on his acceding to the terms of the four powers, they promise, by message, to intercede for a revocation of the deposition, and for his reappointment to the Pacha of Egypt.

The bearer of the despatch was to wait three days for an answer. It is reported that the British Government has obtained a mortgage of the Island of Cyprus, from the Sultan, as a guarantee for repayment of expenses in his service.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Lieut. General Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B., to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of Ceylon.

We are authorised to contradict the report, in a contemporary paper, that Major General Sir Thomas Pearson succeeds Sir John Harvey in the government of New Brunswick; neither is it true that the latter officer is to be employed in Syria.

Lieut. General Sir Howard Douglas, Lord Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, is recalled by Government, and Mr. Stewart McKenzie, Ex-Governor of Ceylon, succeeds him. The Queen has been pleased to appoint Lieut. Col. Richd. Doherty to be Lieut. Governor of the Island of St. Vincent.

The Earl of Rothes was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, on Monday last. Lord Frederick Fitzclarence was elected Deputy Grand Master at the same time.

General Orders have been issued from the Horse Guards, to raise a Regiment in Canada, to be called "The Royal Canadian Regiment."

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager has forwarded £50 towards the erection of the monument to the late Sir Walter Scott, Bart.

Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow.—The election of a Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow took place on the 16th. The candidates were the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Breadalbane, and Sir A. P. Cooper. The Marquis was returned by a large majority.

The agitation of "Repeal," and endeavours to introduce Irish instead of English manufactures into general use, were active in Ireland. The cause of Temperance proceeds gloriously, with results most happy and astonishing to those who make reflection on the subject.

THE LOSS OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL STEAM-PACKET.—The particulars of the wreck have been supplied by the only two survivors, the ship's carpenter and a seaman.

"The City of Bristol was appointed to sail from Waterford on Tuesday morning; but the weather being most boisterous, the captain hesitated for some time as to whether he should put to sea. At length, however, he sailed; but had not proceeded far when the fury of the gale compelled him to put back, and he bore up for Waterford harbour.

"At 11 o'clock on Tuesday night, however, the weather having moderated in some degree, the captain being anxious to make his voyage, again put to sea; and, notwithstanding the storm still raged with the greatest fury, did not go back until the Wednesday afternoon, when they made Caddy Island. At this time the gale increased considerably; and they were completely blinded by snow and sleet storms, and by which the horizon was so much darkened, that long before night they could only see a short distance beyond the vessel's bows. The captain determined to run for shelter to the Worm's Head, and bring to. It had now become quite dark, and they shortly saw land on the larboard bow, which was judged to be the Worm's Head, and the vessel bore up for it. Almost immediately, however, and less than a mile from the head, the vessel struck the rocks, and the unfortunate captain then found that the land which he had mistaken for the Worm's Head was a most dangerous promontory at the other extremity of the Bay. The helm was immediately ported, with a view to bring the ship round; but almost at the same instant, and before she came round, the stern struck. The jib was then hoisted, which swung her head round, but she still remained fast astern. Every effort which human ingenuity could suggest to get her off, by hoisting the mainmast, using the engines, blowing off the boilers, and lightening her, were made use of, but in vain. She remained in this perilous situation for upwards of two hours; during which period the gale and sea increased so fearfully that no boat could have lived among the breakers; and at length, at between eight and nine o'clock, three tremendous seas struck her one after the other, and she parted in three pieces; when every one on board had to struggle for his life, and all on board but two perished."

The steamer was one of the finest packets upon the station, and valued at £25,000. The *Cambric* gives the following account of the disaster:—

"There were twenty-nine persons on board, including seven passengers (four men, two ladies and a child), all of whom, with the exception of two seamen, were drowned. The cries of the unfortunate persons were heard distinctly on shore, but it was utterly impossible to render any assistance without a life-boat; unfortunately there is not one stationed in the district. Four hundred dead pigs and eighteen horned cattle have drifted ashore."

At sea, on all parts of the coast, but more particularly on the southern and eastern, the wrecks have been unusually numerous and disastrous. On the Devonshire coast, the gale commenced on Thursday night, from the S. S. W. and continued with unabated violence throughout the whole of Friday.

A letter from Sunderland gives the following distressing details:— "On Friday morning, within three hundred miles of the shore, the *Syria* (a beautiful vessel of 210 tons burden, which had only been launched on the previous day,) had got jammed among the rocks, and a little further off, another bark of similar dimensions, was buffeting the waves in a feeble effort to reach the pier. The crews had been occupied in pumping the whole morning, and were now completely exhausted. By twelve o'clock the sea rose to a tremendous height, and dashed with such violence towards the harbour that the waves beat completely over the Northern Lighthouse. There was now a general cry out for the life-boat; it was manned by a daring and gallant crew, who, after a desperate struggle, and encountering many difficulties, succeeded in landing nine men (the whole of the crew) from the *Syria*. It was a melancholy sight to see the poor fellows who composed her crew, clinging to the ropes as each wave swept over them in its fury. An occasional shout, as the life-boat neared them, and was as often driven away by the surge, proclaimed to those upon the beach the agonized feelings of the sufferers."

All now seemed to be confusion on board; for the life-boat having proved by several trials the inability of Mr. Carte's invention, the men now almost gave up the attempt in despair. The other vessel had by this time gone to pieces; and various parts of a schooner, which had been discerned in the offing at an earlier hour, were washed with it to the shore. In the schooner all hands had perished. After the life-boat had apparently made its final effort for the preservation of the *Syria*, she dipped into the mountainous waves which were momentarily overwhelming her; and when she righted not a soul was to be seen aboard, the ill-fated crew having all been washed off. In a short time, however, the life-boat succeeded in bringing three of the crew to land. Many of those on the beach now voluntarily offered to man the boat again.

A schooner went over the end of the Plymouth Breakwater at high tide on Friday night, and sank in deep water in the sound, all hands lost.

On the eastern coast, the *Wigeon* of Berwick, with a valuable cargo, was totally lost, and her crew drowned. Of *Harwich*, the *Susan*, collier, of North Shields sunk and lost four of her crew. The *Mary*, of Shields, was lost at Lowestoft. The *Ant*, of Maldon, and a collier from Newcastle, were wrecked off the same coast.

At Shields a schooner, running for the harbour, encountered a heavy sea in sight of anxious crowds; in five minutes she was seen on her bowsprit; in less than five minutes more she was buried beneath the surf, with every human being on board.

The *Star*, of London, laden with wine, went down off Acre, and a French cutter shared her fate; the crew of the former survives, that of the latter perished. The *Sir John Seale*, of Dartmouth, went to pieces; the crew saved by the use of Captain Manby's apparatus.

At Windsor, during the late storm, the Royal Standard was blown from its elevation of 300 feet—the flag-staff on the turret of the Round Tower of Windsor Castle. The flag-staff is 73 feet high; the flag itself is 14 yards in length, and cost £200. It was torn in two, and one of the pieces carried away to the north slope. About seven o'clock it was at its height, and ceased before twelve, but during its continuance, the wind blew in gusts and squalls, unroofing houses, blowing down trees in the park and suburbs of the metropolis. On the river the loss of property was very great, and on Wednesday morning, the water was covered with deals, sticks of timber, broken wharves, barges, and other craft, which had gone adrift during the preceding night.—*London paper.*

Owing partly to the tempest, but mainly to the late heavy rains, the Severn has overflowed its banks, and laid the neighbouring lands under water.—*Worcester Journal.*

PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT.—Mr. E. A. Glynn, Mate of H. M. S. Ringdove, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and appointed Flag Lieutenant to Vice Admiral Sir T. Harvey, K. C. B., Vice Lieutenant T. Harvey, promoted to the command of the *Racer*.

LONDON, DEC. 3.

We understand that Austria, Prussia, and the other Germanic Powers, irritated by the military preparations of France, but unwilling to incur the expense of increasing their troops to a war establishment, have silently but effectually completed such a skeleton organization, that in any prepared for France.

The Galigiani says that the submission of Mehemet Ali is officially known, as Ministers affirmed it on Monday to several members of the Chamber of Deputies; but our Alexandria letter of the 11th, states, on the contrary, that the Viceroy had ordered fresh levies.

The Queen Dowager of Spain has sent an autograph letter to Don Carlos, to propose the marriage of his eldest son with Queen Isabella.

This document was received on Thursday last, per *Acadian*, from Boston. It is lengthy as usual, and embraces a variety of topics. The Boundary Question forms the first important subject of the Message; and it will be found, from what has been urged upon it, that it is as far as ever from being settled, nor can we see that the expectations entertained in some of the papers, that the new administration will press it to an amicable termination, will be speedily realized. The President says—

"With all the Powers of the world our relations are those of honourable peace. Since your adjournment, nothing serious has occurred to interrupt or threaten this desirable harmony. If clouds have lowered above the other hemisphere, they have not cast their portentous shadows upon our happy shores. Bound by no entangling alliances, yet linked by a common nature and interest with the other nations of mankind, our aspirations are for the preservation of peace, in whose solid and civilizing triumphs all may participate in a generous emulation. Yet it behoves us to be prepared for any event, and to be always ready to maintain those just and enlightened principles of national intercourse, for which this Government has ever contended. In the shock of contending empires it is only by assuming a resolute bearing, and clothing himself with defensive armour, that neutral nations can maintain their independent rights."

"The excitement which grew out of the territorial controversy between the United States and Great Britain having in a great measure subsided, it is hoped that a favourable period is approaching for its final settlement. Both Governments must now be convinced of the dangers with which the question is fraught; and it must be their desire, as it is their interest, that this perpetual cause of irritation should be removed as speedily as practicable. In my last annual message you were informed that the proposition for a commission of exploration and survey promised by Great Britain had been received, and that a counter project, including also a provision for the certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute, was then before the British Government for its consideration. The answer of that Government, accompanied by additional propositions of its own, was received, through its minister here, since your separation. These were promptly considered; such as were deemed correct in principle, and consistent with a due regard to the just rights of the United States and of the State of Maine, concurred in; and the reasons for dissenting from the residue, with an additional suggestion on our part, communicated by the Secretary of State to Mr. Fox. That minister not feeling himself sufficiently instructed upon some of the points raised in the discussion, felt it to be his duty to refer the matter to his own Government for its further decision. Having now been for some time under its advisement, a speedy answer may be confidently expected. From the character of points still in difference, and the undoubted disposition of both parties to bring the matter to an early conclusion, I look with entire confidence to a prompt and satisfactory termination of the negotiation. Three commissioners were appointed shortly after the adjournment of Congress, under the act of the last session providing for the exploration and survey of the line which separates the States of Maine and New Hampshire from the British Provinces; they have been actively employed until their progress was interrupted by the inclemency of the season, and will resume their labours as soon as practicable in the ensuing year."

"It is understood that their respective examinations will throw new light upon the subject in controversy, and serve to remove any erroneous impressions which may have been made elsewhere prejudicial to the rights of the United States. It was, among other reasons, with a view of preventing the embarrassments which, in our peculiar system of government, impede and complicate negotiations involving the territorial rights of a State, that I thought it my duty, as you have been informed on a previous occasion, to propose to the British Government, through its minister at Washington, that early steps should be taken to adjust the points of difference on the line of boundary from the entrance of Lake Superior to the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, by the arbitration of a friendly Power, in conformity with the seventh article of the treaty of Ghent. No answer has yet been returned by the British Government to this proposition."

The Message goes into the relations with foreign powers, which continue to be of the most friendly character—with several of these, treaties of commerce have been concluded. After these have been touched upon, the President adverts to the financial condition of the country, and the embarrassments with which the Government had to contend, occasioned by suspension of specie payments. Some of the extraordinary expenses, arising out of acts of injustice, whatever may be thought of their policy, are thus enumerated:—

"Whilst such has been our condition for the last four years in relation to revenue, we have, during the same period, been subjected to an unavoidable continuance of large extraordinary expenses, necessarily growing out of past transactions, and which could not immediately be arrested without great prejudice to the public interest. Of these, the charge upon the Treasury, in consequence of the Cherokee treaty alone, without adverting to others arising out of Indian treaties, has already exceeded five millions of dollars; that for the prosecution of measures for the removal of the Seminole Indians, which were found in progress, has been nearly fourteen millions; and the public buildings have required the unusual sum of nearly three millions."

There is a long defence of the present Administrative policy of the Federal Government, in which the questions of National Debt and National Banks are discussed, and their impolicy commented upon. It would appear also that though the Federal Government may have a surplus revenue, or enough to satisfy all demands upon it, yet that many of its parts have their revenues mortgaged to pay the interest of their debts—a state of things which is rather severely commented upon, as giving to foreign powers a control, or at least an insight into American affairs which is very alarming.

"Among the many objections to a national debt, the certain tendency of public securities to concentrate ultimately in the coffers of foreign stockholders, is one which is every day gathering strength. Already have the resources of many of the states, and the future industry of their citizens, been indefinitely mortgaged to the subjects of European governments, to the amount of twelve millions annually, to pay the constantly accruing interest on borrowed money—a sum exceeding half the ordinary revenues of the whole United States. The pretext which this relation affords to foreigners to scrutinize the management of our domestic affairs, if not actually to intermeddle with them, presents a subject for earnest attention, not to say of serious alarm."

The following paragraphs detail the progress of the Indian War.

"The desultory duties connected with the removal of the Indians, in which the army has been constantly engaged on the northern and western frontiers, in Florida, have rendered it impracticable to carry into full effect the plan recommended by the Secretary for improving its discipline. In every instance where the regiments have been concentrated, they have made great progress; and the best results may be anticipated from a continuance of this system. During the last season, a part of the troops have been employed in removing the Indians from the interior to the territory assigned them in the west—a duty which they have performed efficiently, and with praiseworthy humanity; and that portion of them which have been stationed in Florida, continued active operations there throughout the heats of summer."

"The policy of the United States, in regard to the Indians, of which a succinct account is given in my message of 1838,

and of the wisdom and expediency of which I am fully satisfied, has been continued in active operation through the whole period of my administration. Since the Spring of 1837, more than forty thousand Indians have been removed to their new homes west of the Mississippi; and I am to add, that all accounts concur in representing the measure as eminently beneficial to that people.

"The migration of the Seminoles alone has been attended with serious difficulty, and occasioned bloodshed and utilities having been commenced by the Indians in Florida under the apprehension that they would be compelled to comply with their treaty stipulations. The force of the treaty of Payne's Landing, signed in 1832, ratified until 1834, was postponed at the solicitation of the Indians, until 1836, when they again renewed their consent to remove peaceably to their new homes in the West. In the face of this solemn and renewed compact, they and their faith and commenced hostilities by the massacre of Major Dade's command, the murders of their agents, G. Thompson, and other acts of cruel treachery. When alarming and unexpected intelligence reached the Government, every effort appears to have been made to enforce General Clinch, who commanded the troops in Florida. General Clinch was despatched with reinforcements from Charleston; troops were called out from Tennessee and Georgia; and General Scott was taken command, with ample power and ample means. The first alarm, General Gaines organized a force at Orleans, and without waiting for orders, landed in Florida where he delivered over the troops he had brought him, to General Scott."

"Governor Call was subsequently appointed to command a summer campaign, and, at the close of it was replaced by General Jessup. These events and changes took place under the administration of my predecessor. Notwithstanding the exertions of the experienced officers who had command there for eighteen months, on entering upon the administration of the Government I found the Territory a prey to Indian atrocities. A strenuous effort was immediately made to bring these hostilities to a close. The army under General Jessup was reinforced with an amount to ten thousand men, and furnished with abundant supplies of every description. In this campaign a number of the enemy were captured and destroyed; the character of the contest only was changed. The Indians, having been defeated in every engagement, dispersed in small bands throughout the country, and became an elusive, formidable and ruthless banditti. General Taylor succeeded General Jessup, used his best exertions to subdue them, and was seconded in his efforts by the aid of his command; but he, too, failed to protect the Territory from their depredations."

"By an act of signal and cruel treachery, they broke through a truce made with them by General Macomb, who was from Washington for the purpose of carrying into effect expressed wishes of Congress, and have continued the vastations ever since. General Armistead, who was in Florida when General Taylor left the army, by whom assumed the command, and, after active summer operations met by propositions for peace; and, from the fort coincidence of the arrival in Florida, at the same period a delegation from the Seminoles, who are happily west of the Mississippi, and are now anxious to permit their countrymen to join them there, hopes were for time entertained that the Indians might be induced to the Territory without further difficulty. These hopes proved fallacious, and hostilities have been renewed throughout the whole of the Territory. That this contest has red so long, is to be attributed to causes beyond the control of the Government. Experienced Generals have had command of the troops; officers and soldiers have distinguished themselves for their activity, patience and courage; the army has been constantly furnished with supplies of every description, and we must look for causes which have so long protracted the issue of a contest, in the vast extent of the theatre of hostilities, almost insurmountable obstacles presented by the nature of the country, the climate, and the wily character of the Seminoles."

The Message concludes with stating what has been done to suppress the slave trade, and ends by a proposition which could not fail to do much to abolish that inhuman traffic, if carried into effect.

"The suppression of the African slave trade has received the continued attention of the Government.—The brigantine and schooner *Grampus* have been employed during the last season on the coast of Africa, for the purpose of venturing such portion of that trade as was said to be protected under the American flag. After cruising off those portions of the coast most usually resorted to by vessels, until commencement of the rainy season, these vessels returned to the United States for supplies, and have since been patched on a similar service."

"From the reports of the commanding officers, it appears that the trade is now principally carried on under Portuguese colours; and they expressly opine that the apprehension of their presence on the slave coast has, in a degree, arrested the prostitution of the American flag to inhuman purposes. It is hoped that, by continuing to maintain this force in that quarter, and by the exertions of officers in command, much will be done to put a stop to whatever portion of this traffic may have been carried under the American flag, and to prevent its use in a manner which, while it violates the laws, is equally an outrage to the rights of others and the feelings of humanity."

"The efforts of the several Governments who are directed to suppress this traffic must, however, be directed against the facilities afforded by what are now recognized as legitimate commercial pursuits, before that object can be fully accomplished. Supplies of provisions, water, and merchandise, and articles connected with the prosecution of the slave trade, are, it is understood, freely carried by vessels of different nations to the slave factories; and the effect of the factors are transported openly from one slave state to another, without interruption or punishment by either of the nations to which they belong, engaged in the commerce of that region. I submit to your judgment whether the Government, having been the first to prohibit, by adequate penalties, the slave trade—the first to declare it piracy—should not be the first, also, to forbid to its citizens all trade with the slave factories on the coast of Africa; giving example to all nations in this respect, which, if fairly followed, cannot fail to produce the most effective results in bringing up those dens of iniquity."

ST. JOHN, N. B. Dec. 8.

OPENING OF THE HALL OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening this splendid new building was opened, and dedicated to the advancement of Science, Literature and the arts, in this our Province of New Brunswick. The occasion was a most striking one, never before in this city was seen within the walls of one room so gay, so brilliant, and so numerous an assemblage. The opening Address pronounced precisely at eight o'clock, and a very admirable address was, in every way worthy of the occasion; Doctor Gest well maintained his previous high character as a Lecturer, and added fresh honours to those he has already won.

A tone of high religious feeling pervaded the Lecture, and the necessity of inculcating the Christian faith by instruction, was strongly insisted upon and declared indispensable to a proper state of society—and was explicitly declared that no party or political feeling should be provoked, or for one moment allowed to exist in such an institution, as thereby its declared objects, the advancement of science, the progress of the useful art, and the diffusion of useful knowledge among the people would be wholly defeated.

There were nearly eight hundred persons present, and although the place was certainly well filled, yet there was no crowding or squeezing. Among those present,