

never, Mr. Chairman, have heard Lord Stanley gravely assuring the House of Commons, that Prince Edward Island was not only out of debt, but had a small surplus balance in its favor.

Hon. Mr. COLES—So we were. Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—If that assertion be true, then the members of the House, in which the Government of the hon. member had a majority, have asserted a falsehood, in declaring, in the most positive manner, that the Colony was in debt to the extent of £13,101 18s. 4d.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I admit that the balance against the Colony is correctly stated, if credit is not to be taken for the lands owned by the Government, for the purchase of which a large portion of the Government liabilities were assumed.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—It was the bounden duty of the late Government to have transmitted the report of the Committee on public accounts, which having been ratified by the House of Assembly, constituted the most authentic and reliable exposition that could be afforded of our financial situation. The statement transmitted to England was, I presume, not intended to meet the eyes of the people generally; it was got up for the gratification of those who had no intention of paying for what lands they might purchase,—for such as those settlers on the Worrell Estate, who, when pressed by the late Government to pay up the overdue instalments had held public meetings and passed resolutions to the effect that the Government ought not to call on them to pay their debts, but should tax the men of Queen's and Prince Counties to pay for their farms.

(To be Continued.)

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MAY 9, 1859.

WAR NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The news brought by the English Mail, which was received here on Friday last, is more important than any which has been brought from the other side of the Atlantic for several months. Fears have been long entertained that the hostile bearing of Austria towards Piedmont, and the ambitious designs as well as vast military preparations of the French Emperor, forbode an early disruption of the peace which has happily prevailed in Europe since the close of the European war.

In addition to the telegram which contains the news above referred to, we give the leading article from the London Times of the same date (22nd April), which places the position of the belligerent powers in the clearest point of view. We beg to return our thanks to Frederick Swabey, Esq., of the Stock Exchange, London, for having obligingly sent us this paper.

AUSTRIA AND PIEDMONT.

We have received the following most important telegram from Turin:—

"Gyulai has been ordered to present an ultimatum for disarmament, and the sending away of volunteers. If refused, war is to be declared in three days."

"Two more divisions of the Austrian army of 80,000 men have been ordered to the Ticino."

"The English proposal for a Congress upon the same condition as that at Laybach has been refused."

"We have reason to believe that the same intelligence has been received by the Government."

A Cabinet Council has been summoned.

We have also received the following from our correspondent at Vienna:—

"VIENNA, Thursday, Noon. The day before yesterday Austria forwarded a categorical summons to Sardinia to dissolve the free corps. A reply is to be given within three days from the receipt of the summons, and an evasive answer will be considered equivalent to a refusal."

The following telegram has been received at Mr. Reuter's office:—

"BERLIN, April 21. The semi-official Prussian Gazette (Preussische Zeitung) publishes an article which states that the assembling of the Congress is becoming more and more doubtful, and that the state of affairs having assumed a most serious aspect (situation ernsteste charakter angenommen), it induces the Prussian Government to think that it is a proper time to make proposals to the Federal Diet for the purpose of taking general measures for its own interest and safety."

"Government has proceeded these proposals by ordering three corps d'armee to be placed on a war footing (kriegsbereitschaft). These measures are merely of a defensive character, and without any aggressive intention."

(From the London Times, April 22.)

Yesterday this kingdom was alternately soothed and startled by two successive telegrams which arrived from Paris and from Turin. We were compelled within the course of the

same morning to hold out to the English public a prospect of almost certain peace, and to withdraw that promise and to substitute for it the probability of almost instant war. Lord Derby, in his explanation on Monday night, intimated that in the interests of peace Ministers had made one other and last suggestion to the Powers at difference, and that upon the acceptance or rejection of that suggestion their present hope of peace rested. The Monitor of yesterday at once informed us of the substance of that proposal, and of its acceptance. The proposition was to effect a general and simultaneous disarmament under the supervision of six Commissioners, one of whom should be a Sardinian. It suggested also that the Congress should assemble and deliberate contemporaneously with the Commission, and following the example of the Congress of Laybach, that the representatives of the Italian States should have seats in the Congress. To this suggestion, which appeared reasonable and practical, France, Russia, and Prussia had given their adhesion, nor was there any intimation in the Telegram conveying this information which constrained us to believe that the absence of the name of Austria proceeded from any other cause than that she was more deliberate in her action than the other Powers. Close, however, upon the heels of this good news followed the telegram from Turin, stating that the English proposal for a Congress had been refused, and that the Austrian General commanding in Lombardy had been ordered to present an ultimatum demanding immediate disarmament, with the alternative of war after the lapse of three days from the delivery of this ultimatum. The knowledge of less decisive, but consistent, contemporary facts was added. A reinforcement of 80,000 men had been ordered to the Austrian army now on the banks of the Ticino. Prussia had mobilized three Corps d'Armee, consisting of some 70,000 men. Every act notified was a preparation for immediate war on the part of Austria; every movement was directed either to aggressive operations upon Sardinia or to the defence of her own German provinces.

Such is now the state of affairs. Austria has 200,000 men either upon the Ticino or within such a distance that they can be placed upon the banks of that frontier river within the three days of grace fixed in the imperative demand of the Austrian General. Sardinia occupies the opposite bank with a force which could not, probably, delay for one day its own destruction by that gigantic enemy. It may be that Sardinia can show 70,000 men in arms, including her free corps, gathered from all parts of Italy, and comprehending no small portion of the discontented spirits who have passed their lives in making manifestations of hatred to the foreigner. Of these 70,000, perhaps, after garrisoning her great fortresses, Alessandria and Genoa, she may be able to range 40,000 in line of battle. Three days of respite are all that is given. If, as we read the Telegram, the demand has been already made, next Sunday may see an Austrian army in quick advance upon Turin. The position of Sardinia is perilous, but it is a position from which she cannot escape by a tame compliance. Even if Victor Emmanuel could accept the ignominy of succumbing to the first pressure of force after putting forth such loud defiance, the men he has called around him would not suffer him to retreat. If Austria and Sardinia are left to themselves she shall hear in a few days of an invasion and a battle. Everything points this out as the natural sequence. The sudden ultimatum and the short respite are evidently part of a well-considered military policy formed by Austria. It is clearly her interest, if she is resolved upon war, or if she feels that she will be compelled to accept war, to crush the Sardinian army before the French can arrive to its assistance. The march from the banks of the Ticino to Turin is through a plain country unprotected by any place of military strength, well known by operations in a recent campaign, and offering every facility for the advance of a great army. Three days would bring the Austrian General to the unprotected city of Turin. There is nothing between the frontier and the capital but the arms and bodies of those 40,000 Sardinian troops, who are so vastly outnumbered by the Austrian hosts. To crush that army, to effect by force the disarmament demanded, and to dictate terms at Turin, would be but the effort of a few days, if Sardinia remained unaided. When we see her in this imminent danger we look round anxiously to measure how far off are her friends, and what may be the chances of timely assistance. We may assume, perhaps, that the passing of the Ticino will be considered by the Emperor of the French as a declaration of war by Austria, and that while the Austrians are marching from the East upon Turin the French Emperor will be pouring his columns from the West and marching through the passes of the Alps to meet the Austrian invaders, and to anticipate, if possible, their arrival at the Sardinian capital. For this purpose we may consider Grenoble or Briancon as containing the whole force of the French Empire, for the chains of communication by rail are so complete that continuous columns might be directed from all parts of France upon those cities. The columns, however, that should take their way by Chambery and Mont Cenis would find themselves 180 miles from Turin when crossing into the Piedmontese territory at the Pont de Beauvoisin. Those which should advance by way of Embrun and Briancon and over Mont Genevre could find a better road and a shorter distance on the Piedmontese side of the Alps, but would still scarcely hope to win the race against the Austrian troops coming by the plains. Again, help might quickly arrive from Toulon and Marseilles by way of Genoa; Toulon is rich in transports, and a few hours might land a respectable force at Genoa. From Genoa there is a railway to Turin, but, unfortunately, it winds away far up to the northeast, and an important portion of it would probably be reached and destroyed by the Austrians in their first day's march. We should not be very confident in trusting the safety of a kingdom to the possibility of uniting before Turin columns which had to penetrate the Alps and to arrive from Genoa, if one condition of the military success of such an operation were that the concentration should be effected in three or four, or even in five or six days. Perhaps we may count something for the delay which may be reasonably expected to be interposed by the Sardinian army either fighting or retreating; but, failing this, or those other chances of war which never can be fully calculated, the military heads who seem to have conceived this plan of opening the campaign have not failed in strategic ability. Physically speaking, if the war is to come, the Power which strikes the first blow and chooses its own field of action will commence with an advantage. Morally speaking, of course, the picture is reversed.

In former times there would be little more to say about this crisis but to await the issue of the inevitable invasion. But the telegraph has altered all things. The same wires which have told us of the demand which General Gyulai has made by direction of his Imperial master has by this time carried to the Court of Vienna the strongest protest of England against this hasty and haughty menace. The Emperor of the French is now in possession of those significant words which were spoken by Lord Derby at the termination of his speech. Napoleon III. has, moreover, heard of the movements that are being made in Germany; and he cannot but suspect that when Prussia puts her troops in motion, it is not without some knowledge of the part which Russia is prepared to play in the great drama. He can look around, therefore, and see that his chosen antagonist is likely to be able to devote the whole resources of his empire to the contest which he has challenged. He must by this time have meditated on the fact that Russia, Germany, and England have assumed an attitude already passively hostile, and are tending towards a state of even active coercion, if fortune should give him victory in the war, and if his ambition should carry him beyond certain very narrow limits of aggression. We may discern a spark of hope, therefore, that Louis Napoleon may not make a hasty rush to take up the glove that is now so rashly thrown down; and that time may yet enable England to prevail upon Austria to retract it. There is still a faint chance that we may induce Austria not to precipitate a war just at the time when matters have taken such a turn that there was some real hope of an accommodation. It would not be right, however, to hang much weight upon this slender thread. It is not a very promising prospect to hope to change the purpose of a stubborn Power, exulting in her military superiority, by diplomating her through the Telegraph.

A violent storm of thunder and lightning passed over this city yesterday afternoon. We understand that a new house, not occupied, in the eastern end of the town, was struck by the electric fluid, and seriously damaged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have again to apologise to several of our correspondents for the unavoidable omission of their contributions. The large amount of space necessarily devoted to Legislative proceedings will fully explain the reason.

IS THE BIBLE PROHIBITED IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS?

The Monitor—a paper which plays second fiddle to the present Government—says it is; or, at all events, uses language calculated to convey an affirmative answer to the question which heads this article. Our attention has been directed to an editorial which appeared in the paper just referred to, of the date of the 5th ult.,—and which, like many other extraordinary things that occasionally appear in the Monitor, escaped our own notice at the time of publication—wherein the editor refers to the "religious element" that was infused into the late contest for political power in this Island. Alluding to the action of the Protestant Ministers on the Bible question, the Monitor makes the following remarks:—

"All they claimed was, that the children of those parents—and those alone, whether Protestant or Catholic—who desired it, should be permitted to read a portion of Scripture daily, and be thus instructed in those truths which 'make wise unto salvation;' whilst those who objected to religious training of any kind were to be allowed, unmolested, to confine themselves solely to the secular instruction to be imparted. In all this we certainly fail to discover any particular hardship, or anything that could possibly be misconstrued into an act of proselytism."

Now any one would suppose, from the tenor of the above extract, that under the late Government—which was so violently assailed by many of the Protestant Ministers—the use of the Bible was prohibited in our common schools, even when the parents of children attending them desired it to be read. But the very reverse is the fact, as will be seen by the following resolution, which was prepared with the concurrence of the late Liberal Government, and adopted by the Board of Education, more than two years ago, (on the 25th February, 1857), published in various forms, and incorporated with the Education Laws, as a guide for schoolmasters. But the very principle of this resolution has been acted upon for very many years, as was shown by the school returns sent into the House of Assembly last Session. In fact, the permissive principle, with respect to the use of the Bible, here publicly recognised under the auspices of the late Government, has been always an element in our educational system. The following is the resolution:—

"That the Board of Education recognize the desirableness of affording, as far as possible, to the scholars in the Public Schools of this Island, the benefit and advantages of a religious and moral, as well as a literary education; but taking into consideration the extreme difficulty of laying down any general rules for the Public Schools, respecting the mode of conducting religious reading or instruction, on account of the different religious persuasions prevailing amongst the inhabitants and Teachers in the various Districts of the Island, and feeling that any attempt to do so, instead of proving beneficial and producing harmony and good will, would be productive of religious strife and contention, which they consider it to be the duty of all to avoid as much as possible—the Board have always deemed it better to leave the management of the District Schools in this respect to be adjusted by the respective local Trustees thereof, and the parents of the children attending the same; and the result has been, as appears from returns before the Board, that in a large number of Schools in this Island religious instruction is imparted to the children of those parents, both Protestant and Catholic, who desire it, and who thereby, without offence, the one to the other, and in harmony, enjoy religious freedom."

The School Visitor's Report of the state of education in our public schools for the last year—now before the Legislature—shows how satisfactorily this principle has operated. We make the following extract from the Report, in corroboration of our statement that there is no prohibition with respect to the use of the Bible:—

"Religious Instruction.—In several of the Schools which I have visited, the business of tuition commences every morning with prayer, and the reading by pupils, in class, of a portion of the New Testament. In such Schools the business of the day is, generally, but not always, also concluded with prayer. In a few, the teachers read daily to their pupils passages from the Old or New Testament; and in a few others no form of prayer is used, either at the opening or at the closing of School; and in these neither is the Bible read at all. In no School District, however, the School of which I have visited, does the least dissatisfaction exist, so far as I have been able to ascertain, either on account of the practice of the offering up of prayers and the reading of the Scriptures in School, or in consequence of the neglect therein of these religious exercises or observances."—Extract from the School Visitor's Report for 1858.

The Tory Government have been in power for more than a month. They have not taken any action on the Bible question, nor intimated in the slightest way their intention to take any action upon it. If the late Government had interfered with the religious rights of the people, what has the present Government done to remedy the evil of such interference? If Protestant Ministers, who went so sturdily to the polls at the late election, had any sincerity in their clamour about the Bible, what have they gained by the change of parties? In the face of the facts and evidence above given, the Monitor—with the help of all the political parsons in the Island, to whose bigotry and torism it delights to pander—can no longer keep alive the foul deception which has been practised upon the people of this country.

THE NEW YORK ALBION ON P. E. ISLAND AFFAIRS.

We take the following short notice of the political affairs of this Island from the New York Albion of the 23rd ult. Our very excellent and much admired contemporary is slightly astray in stating that our incorruptible "Ministry" have no seats in the House of Assembly. There are, indeed, no less than seven "Ministers" on the floor of the House—the whole number of which is only thirty—and there are only eleven members beside the aforesaid "Ministers" who support the Government, and whose votes, it is very well known, are swayed on every party division by the presence of those "Ministers." The "leading principle of the newly empowered party is," to cram the House with Executive Councillors, and to pretend to be mightily independent by not taking the salaried offices themselves, but to take good care that they shall be monopolized by their brothers, cousins, nephews, sons-in-law, and partners in business. From this view of the case, the Albion is quite correct in concluding that the so-called "independence" of our House of Assembly "is more apparent than real."

In Prince Edward Island the Government has been completely defeated, on an appeal to the constituencies, and has resigned office. The Opposition, who have a fair working majority, have probably before this time formed a Government, as the Legislature was to meet on the 12th inst. A leading principle of the newly empowered party is, that the members of the Ministry should not sit or vote in the House of Assembly. Certainly in a House of few members, where Ministers form a fifth or sixth of the whole body, and therefore sway votes correspondingly, something is to be said in favour of this novel principle—novel, that is, in British institutions. It may be an experiment towards increasing the independence of such small Legislative bodies, worth trying; though it may turn out that such increased independence will be found more apparent than real, and more than counterbalanced by several disadvantages which will readily present themselves to any one who has given attention to the subject of Colonial Legislation. We at least shall watch the experiment with interest."

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

The large amount of space we have this week devoted to the proceedings of both branches of the Legislature precludes our noticing, in our usual way, at any length, the business which has been done in the Lower House since our last issue. The House has been in Committee of Supply on several occasions during the week, and we believe nearly the whole of the appropriations are now made. A good deal of other routine business has been transacted, such as reports of committees being adopted—the passing of private bills and others of a local minor importance,—and nothing that we are aware of remains to prevent the Session from being prorogued during the present week.

The only debate of any consequence during the week, arose on several resolutions moved by the Hon. Col. Gray in reference to the everlasting Land Question. The despatches on this question were taken into consideration on Thursday last, and the Hon. and gallant Colonel made a bold stroke for popularity by offering several resolutions conceived and expressed in true bunkum style. Their purport is, that some immaculate Commissioner shall be appointed by the British Government to induce the proprietors to consent to an abatement of the arrears of rent, because, as is stated in the resolutions, the proprietors are themselves partly blameable for the accruing of those arrears; and also to get the proprietors to sell their lands to their tenantry at such price as the proprietors may choose to exact—the purchase money to be paid in instalments, and the purchaser to be allowed the usual interest on such payments as he may be enabled to make. The resolutions, in fact, proposed no advantages to the tenantry better than what they may now enjoy under any reasonable landlord in this Island. They were met by counter resolutions proposed by Mr. Whelan, but the pliant majority voted them down, and gave their sweet voices in favor of Col. Gray's bunkum. We shall publish both the resolutions and the amendments in our next, with such comments as they may seem to require.

POST OFFICE AMENDMENT ACT.

The House of Assembly having passed a Bill to alter the Post Office Act, by which the Government would be authorized to enforce the prepayment of letter postage, the Legislative Council very properly threw out the Bill on Friday last, and adopted the following resolution explanatory of their views:—

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House, that to enact the prepayment of letters posted by persons in this Island, as proposed by an Act which it has had under consideration, intitled 'an Act to amend the Act for the transfer of the management of the Inland Posts within Prince Edward Island,' would have an effect on the poorer part of the population detrimental to their correspondence both within and without its precincts."

As regards the external correspondence the necessity of prepayment of a letter would put an end to all correspondence between the poorer inhabitants of the Island and their distant relatives and friends. The circumstances of the latter, for the most part, admit of the prepayment of postage by them, while it would be extremely inconvenient to their correspondents in this Island.

Is this one of the reform measures which our model paternal Government proposed to adopt for the benefit of the people? They lately cut down the road appropriations, so that the people should have less than one pound where they formerly had two, and now they want further to raise the wind by extracting a few shillings from their pockets, in the shape of foreign postage. Excellent Government! Be it remembered that in throwing out this Bill, it is not the first time the Legislative Council has nobly come forward to protect the interests of the people.

THE SICKLES MURDER.—Late United States papers inform us that Mr. Senator Sickles has been tried for the murder of his rival, Mr. Philip Barton Key, and acquitted almost immediately of the awful crime. The trial occupied twenty days. The circumstances of the tragedy are well known to most of our readers. Sickles accused Key of criminal intercourse with his wife, and discharged several shots into his body, in cold blood, in one of the principal streets of the capital of the Republic, in the presence of many witnesses; yet a free and enlightened jury of American citizens assured us that killing a man under such circumstances is no crime! What a happy country!

Sale to-morrow (Tuesday), 10th instant, at half-past 10 o'clock.

Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Cotton Warp, Grey and Striped Cottons, Soap, Candles, Flour, Tobacco, Raisins, Table Salt, Clover, &c. &c.

To be sold by Public Auction TO-MORROW (Tuesday), 10th instant, at half-past 10 o'clock, on Peake's Wharf, just arrived from Halifax:—

- 20 chests very superior English TEA, 10 half chests and 30 boxes do. do. 5 hhd. Porto Rico SUGAR, superior article, 5 hhd. and 10 hhd. do. do. 10 hhd. and tierces Porto Rico MOLASSES, a first-rate article, 400 lbs. COTTON WARP, 50 pieces grey & striped COTTONS, 100 boxes SOAP and CANDLES, 100 lbs. fancy FLOUR, 9 boxes Cavendish TOBACCO, 20 boxes RAISINS, 36 boxes Table SALT, 1 cask Clover, Lot of ornamental TREES, &c. &c.

Terms liberal. J. & T. MORRIS, Auctioneers.

May 9, 1859.

IMPORTANT SALE.

THE whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, CHINA, GLASS, BEDS and BEDDING, HORSES, CARRIAGES, HARNESS, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c. of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, will be sold by Public Auction, without reserve, at Government House, on an early day in June next. For terms and other particulars see Catalogue, which can be had at the Subscriber's Room.

WILLIAM DODD, Auctioneer. Charlottetown, May 9, 1859. (Id. & Mon.)

Valuable Building Lot.

To be sold by Public Auction, on TUESDAY, 24th inst., on the Premises, all that piece of Ground situated in WATER-STREET, opposite the residence of BENJ. DAVIES, Esq., being the Eastern half of TOWN LOT, No. 3, in the First Hundred, measuring 42 feet on Water-street, and 42 feet on Kent-street, running back 160 feet. For further particulars, apply to the Hon. CHAS. YOUNG or to WILLIAM DODD, Auctioneer.

May 9, 1859.

To Captains and others.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GAS COMPANY are prepared to receive tenders for the freight of Coal from Pietou per chaldron. By Order, WM. MURPHY, Manager.

May 9, 1859.

To Truckmen.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GAS COMPANY are prepared to receive tenders for the truckage of Coal, Retos, and any other goods at per load either to or from the Gas Works, or any part of the City. By Order, WM. MURPHY, Manager.

May 9, 1859.