(*From the London Times Jan.* 18.)

Over the sounds of warlike preparation but yesterday resounding from one end of this laborious island to the other has fallen a sudden lull, and the hammer of the armourer is uplilted, and the hand of the shipcarpenter is stayed, while they listen with wonder and surprise to the unexpected tidings of peace. We have become indurated to a state of war, and it seems now almost as impossible for England to fall back into the old pacific routine of the last forty years as it appeared two years ago for her to shake off the peaceful habits and associations, which those forty years had created. Nor would it, we suspect, be perfectly true to say that the country hails the prospects so suddenly offered of a return to peace with unmixed and unalloyed satisfaction. No one is so inhuman as to argue for war in the abstract, but there are a great many, we suspect, who think that its continuance for another year would have more of good than of evil. Our preparations are so vast, our army and navy are assuming so much more promising an aspect than before, and the power of Russia is so visibly reduced and shaken, that we might reasonably hope at the end of another campaign not only to dictate terms much more favourable, but to have for them the best of all possible guarantees—the utter exhaustion and prostration of our adversary. In such cases, however, it is wise to propitiate that Nemesis, which is so apt to wait on those whose overweening expectations of future good fortune render them blind to the opportunities of the present, and to close our hand upon that certain success which is in its grasp, than open it to snatch at some fortune more alluring, but also more doubtful and dangerous. To be delivered from the continually recurring catalogues of slaughter, from the rapid increase of our national debt, from the prospect of a 10 per cent. income-tax, and a constant derangement of our monetary system; to curb effetually the insolence and aggression of a Power which two years ago would only condescend to answer our earnest remonstrances by a haughty and expressive silence, treating them, to use the metaphor of the Empress Catherine, "as the moon does the wolves that bay at her,"—these are advantages so solid and substantial that we would not change them for the most brilliant future that ever allured and deluded the visionary or the enthusiast. Let us only be sure that we have got what we ask for, and we shall bear with much philosophy the loss of all the fine things that another year of war might bring us.

We would, however, caution the public against the persuasion that the telegraph messages of our correspondents at Vienna and Berlin, and that posted by the French Government on the Paris Bourse, necessarily imply what their words certainly, taken in a literal sense, would fairly comprehend,—that all the propositions upon which the allies insist have been unconditionally accepted by Russia. The terms of the fifth proposition are general, and do not necessarily include the undertaking not to fortify the Aland Isles, any more than any other demand the allies might think fit to make. We do not believe that this requisition has yet been specially submitted to Russia, and whatever may be the probabilities of the case, we are certainly not justified in saying that she has unconditionally accepted it. Two other terms on which we must peremptorily insist—the disarming of the eastern coast of the Black Sea, and the allowing Consuls of the Western Powers to reside in the Russian ports on its waters—have been only slitingly and ambiguously mentioned. Why this is so we do not know. That is the concern of Austria. We are not principals in the negociation, but have employed the mediation of a third Power, whose duty it is to see that Russia be brought to an unconditional acceptance of our terms, with all their stipulations, before we even enter into negociation. We do not believe for a moment that these things are likely to offer permanent obstacles to the conclusion of peace, but our readers must remember that the announcement is that of an Austrian, not of an English diplomatist, and that he speaks from a point of view not always identical with our own.

Again, what does Russia mean by an unconditional acceptance? We have held an acceptance of hers before, and have some experience how coolly she can dishonour it. Other despatches from Vienna speak of the terms being accepted as the basis of negociations. Logically, there is no distinction between the two, for the foundation on which to a negociation rests, must be accepted unconditionally, or they are no foundation at all. We must begin somewhere, and that with which we begin must be unconditional; but we have some experience how Russia understands these things when we remember that last year she undertook to do away with her preponderance in the Black Sea, and could be brought to assent to no means of carrying out this condition which did not tend directly to defeat it. We do not believe, as we have said that any of these difficulties will really be allowed to interfere with that peace which the Court of St. Petersburgh seems to have determined to be necessary to its interest, but merely wish to cool the ardour of those over sanguine spirits who may infer that everything is already done, and that nothing remains for England and France but to ring their bells, light their bonfires, and pay the bill.

Nothing should induce us to relax for a single moment in our preparatious until all the stipulations we have mentioned have been clearly and unequivocally put by Austria, and as clearly and unequivocally conceded. We must remember that by the pressure we have put upon Russia, and not by the mediation of Austria, has the present happy alteration in our circumstances been brought about, and that, if we would preserve the advantages of our position, it can only be done by a constant adhesion to the very means by which that change has been produced. Let Russian once see reason to believe that we have allowed the hopes of ease and tranquility the unnerve our vigilance and disarm our courage, and the whole work must be done over again, for she will assuredly find means to wriggle out of the concessions she has made, and io resume her old attitude of haughtiness and defiance. The way to obtain peace is to make our adversary feel thoroughly—what is, indeed, no more than the truth—how much more necessary that peace is to her than it is to us. We have tried reason and remonstrance with no effect, have tried vigour and action with the most encouraging results. By energetic action, we have compelled the enemy to negociate; by a continuance of that energy and that action we shall bring those negociations to a happy result. It is the common error of historians to attribute in these matters too much to the talents of plenipotentiaries, and too little to the relative force of the contracting States. No negociator was more successful than Charles XII. before the Battle of Pultawa, or Napoleon before the expedition to Moscow, for their arguments were backed by their bayonets, and faults in their logic passed unnoticed amid the thunder of their cannon. After these signal reverses they negociated with equal talent but entirely different success, for the power that gave force to their propositions was gone. Now, then, if ever in the course of the war, it is necessary to push on those preparations which are required for the effieciency of our sea and land forces in the uext campaign. Never before was that necessity so urgent, never would the effects of any relaxation or remissness be so immediately felt. We have the goal in sight, and that ought to induce us rather to double rhan to remit our exertions. By observing this line of conduct we shall either have gained the noblest victory—a solid and lasting peace, or be in a position to inspire those who shall have withheld it from us with still more durable repentance.

THE Paris correspondents of the *Independance Belge* revive the story that the Emperor intends placing himself at the head of one of the expeditions on the coming campaign.

THE bedchamber in the Palace of the Elysee, occupied by Queen Hortense, and in which Louis Napoleon was born, is being made ready to receive the Empress on the occasion of her confinement.

Late from California.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30th,—The steamships Star of the West, and the George Law, arrived with a large quantity of treasure.

CENTRAL AMERICA.—General Walker it is said has now 150 Americans under arms.

Walker has lost two of his finest officers by cholera—Capt Davidson and Lt. Col. Gilman; they died very suddenly last week within a day or two of each other.

CALIFORNIA.—From the mines we have the most cheering accounts. The recent rains have given the miners plenty of water and plenty of work.—The exports of wheat during the past year has been quite large—equivalent to 132,566 bbls. of flour. The total amount of wheat raised in California during the past year, is estimated as high as 2,525,444 bushels.

OREGON.—The latest dates from Oregon are to Dec. 20, brought by the Panama, which arrived on the 24th. Previous accounts give the intelligence that Col. Kinney was marching with his company to attack Fort Walla Walla, which was then in possession of the Indians. No intelligence had been received from the expedition up to the date of the sailing of the Panama, and fears are entertained for the safety of Col. Kinney's party.

POLICE COURT IN ST. JOHN, N. B.

Since the 1st of January, the business at the Police Office has been growing, "small by degrees and beautifully less," and for the last three days, it amounts to nothing at all, if we except a complaint against an individual for the larceny of a couple of codfish.

A Lowell girl, who says she was married at 13 and has a child two years old, has been detected serving as sailor on board the new ship James Ray at Philadelphia. She was very nimble in the rigging.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday, February 9, 1856.

IT has often struck us, that a public surveyor of shipping was an officer much wanted, not one whose sole business was to take the dimensions of the vessel previous to her being registered, but one who, with a thorough knowledge of ship-building, could pronounce with authority on the fitness or unfitness of the ship to do the work required of her, and that she was well and securely put together, and constructed of the best materials and workmanship. When we take into consideration the enormous risk of life and property that must of necessity be encountered by "these go down into the sea in ships" from storms, fogs, sudden gales of wind, and the hidden and unforeseen calamities that beset the mariner on every hand, there is surely no wisdom in adding to these by inefficiently building or rigging vessels, but on the contrary, that it is a duty to endeavor to lessen the number of casualties by taking every precaution in our power, and never allowing a vessel to sail, until it was fully ascertained, that she was in every respect well found in rigging, provisions, and stores of all kinds, independently of having been faithfully built, and being tight, staunch and strong. Numerous have been the cases that have fallen under the cognizance of the writer, where in disputes between the builder and contractor, it has turned out that the vessel in question has been inefficiently bolted and caulked, knees, apparently sound on the first view, have upon examination, turned out defective, in the heart, every kind of artifice was resorted to in order to conceal latent defects, and at times such an *expose* of utter recklessness and want of principle, that made him shudder.

It gave us great pleasure when we heard it announced, that a building surveyor from Lloyd's had arrived and intended to take up his residence among us, for the express purpose of examining into the construction of vessels while on the stocks, and keeping an eye upon them from the laying the keel to their sailing out of the harbor. We had often heard of A 1 at Lloyd's and could easily imagine that the letter and figure were intended to designate a first class vessel, but never understood until now what were the requisite qualifications in order to enable the committee at Lloyd's to place a vessel in this class.

We had no sooner heard of Lloyd's surveyor having arrived, that we took the liberty of waiting upon him, and were highly gratified at the open, frank and gentlemanlike manner in which our advances were received by Mr. Coker, who at once furnished us with the requisite information which we shall take peculiar pleasure in imparting to our readers. Ship-building is the only manufacture—if it may be so called—of any extent, that we have in the Island, and as it constitutes a considerable item in our articles of export, it is of the first importance that the manufactured article should be of the best possible quality. Our builders will now have the satisfaction of being able to submit their work to, in the first instance, a competent judge, and one who, from his knowledge of the art, and the particular points insisted upon at Lloyd's, can, and as he informed us, is willing to give every requisite information upon the subject; and in the second place, of obtaining from him such a certificate of the peculiar merits of the individual ship, as shall enable the committee at Lloyd's to assign to her the peculiar class in which her proper place is to be found. The advantages of having on the spot an officer of this description, duly accredited, are too obvious to require enumeration, and will appear the more clearly when we have given, as we purpose doing, some extracts from "Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping," with the loan of which we have been kindly favored by Mr. Coker. It will be easily conjectured, that no contractor will omit in future specifications, a condition, that the vessel shall be duly surveyed according to the instructions from Lloyd's, and that the certificate of their surveyor shall be decisive as to whether the contract has been duly executed or not. In truth, no owner will venture, we should think, to send his vessel to sea, without haing first subjected her to this proof of her soundness, as any reluctance or unwillingness so to do, is a species of negative evidence, that there is something in her construction or equipment that will not bear inquiring into.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOOIETY.

Committee Meeting, Feb. 6, 1868.

Present,—Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., President, His Honor Judge Peters, Hon. Capt. Rice, Hon. Geo. Coles; Thos. Pethick, John Johnston, Henry Longworth, & Chas. Haszard, Esquires.

Read minutes of last meeting.

The subject matter of the complaints lodged against the Turnip Inspectors was again took before the committee, when the Secretary read answers to letters written to the different competitors. The Committee having taken into consideration the affidavits and letters of the different competitors for turnip prizes, as to the mode pursued by Messrs. Geo. Smith, and Geo. Lewis, in adjudging the several crops, find, that in seven cases out of eight the turnips were tailed, previous to being weighed, according to the mode heretofore always pursued, and by which the average of the turnip crop can always be fairly ascertained, if the Inspectors act impartially. It appears, however, that on Mr. Irving, the Secretary of the Society, being called upon to adjudge the crops of Messrs. Smith and Lewis, they informed him, that *none* of the crops adjudged by them this season *had been tailed*, in consequence of which untrue statement, Mr. Irving was induced to weigh the turnips of Messrs. Smith and Lewis without their being tailed, thus giving Mr. Smith, *who obtained the first prize*, an average of 38 bushels per acre, over those of Mr. Binns, whereas, had they been treated in the same manner as the turnips of Mr. Binns and the others, Mr. Binns would have had the highest average, and been entitled to the first prize.

Resolved, therefore, That as the said Mr. Smith has obtained the first prize in consequence of untrue statements, and the partial conduct of himself and Mr. Lewis, he be called upon to return it to the Society.

Resolved further, That while this committee regret, that the said Inspectors should have deviated from the course formerly pursued in inspecting the turnip crops, and that they should have denied before this committee, that they had acted in the manner set forth in the complaint of Mr. Binns, and the affidavits sent in. They consider it their duty to censure the conduct of Messrs. Smith and Lewis as being unfair and partial.

Ordered, That the Secretary furnish Mr. Smith with a copy of these Resolutions, and call upon him to return the prize of Three Pounds, so unjustly obtained.

Ordered, That these Minutes and Resolutions, along with the Affidavits of Messrs. Binns and others, be published.

Read a letter from Mr. Gainsford in relation to some improvements in weaving.

Ordered, That a dozen "Fly Shuttles," such as described by Mr. Gainsford, be procured from Manchester in the spring.

By Order,
WILLIAM W. IRTING,
Sec'y R. A. Society.

Com. Room.
Feb. 6th, 1856.

Charles Binns, of Charlottetown, in Prince Edward Island, the elder, James Dean and John Jackson, both of the same place, laborers, and Alexander M'Leod and John Cassidy, both at present in the employ of His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, severally make oath and say, and first this deponent Charles Binns, for himself saith, that on or about the first day of November last past, George Lewis and George Smith attended in deponent's field for the purpose of examining and judging deponent's turnip crop, by order of the Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of the said Island, as deponent believes. Deponent saith, that at the commencement of pulling the said turnips by the said George Smith and others, the said George Smith received from deponent a knife, and did there forthwith begin and cut from off one or more of the said turnips, the tops and roots thereof, and stated at the same time to out follow in the same manner, and to trim the said turnips ready fit for market, which deponent solemnly saith was done throughout by cutting off the roots and tops thereof previous to their being weighed by the said George Smith, and deponent saith, that the turnips sworn to by the said John Jackson as hereinafter mentioned, are the same turnips that were judged as aforesaid, and that none of said turnips were touched in any way whatever, after being weighed and emptied from the bag by the said George Lewis and the said George Smith, until after they were noticed by the said John Jackson, to the best of deponent's belief.

This deponent, James Dean, for himself saith, that he was present at the pulling, trimming, and weighing of one or more of the said bags of the said turnips by and in the presence of the said George Lewis and the said George Smith and others, and that deponent assisted pulling and trimming one or more bags of the said turnips, and deponent solemnly declares, that the said turnips so pulled and weighed in his presence had the roots as well as the tops taken off before being weighed.

This deponent, John Jackson, for himself saith, that he entered the said field on the same morning, and shortly after the said turnips were examined as aforesaid, and that he deponent personally viewed the said turnips so examined and deponent also most solemnly saith, that said turnips had the roots, as well as the tops, taken off when so seen by him.

This deponent, Christopher Cassidy, for himself saith, that on or about the said first day of November last past, the said George Smith entered the turnip field on Government Farm and commenced examining and judging the turnips therein, and had the same partially completed prior to the said George Lewis entering said field, and deponent saith, that he commenced in the usual way pulling and trimming the turnips so being judged, by cutting the tops and roots therefrom, that when in the act of doing so, the