THE EXAMINER.

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

Vol. XII. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, January 13, 1862. New Series.---No. 1.

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The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 13, 1862

A WORD FOR OURSELVES.

We offer The Examiner to-day, in its new and improved character, with every confidence that our efforts to please our patrons will meet with their approval and substantial encouragement. It will be seen by comparison with The Examiner of last year that the present sheet contains a larger amount of reading matter, both in breadth and length; while there is a very considerable increase of the letter press from the smallness of the type used. Although the type is small, it is of a clear and beautiful character, and can be read more easily, by persons of even defective sight, than larger type defaced by long usage. The style adopted, as to the width of our columns and the size of our new type, is that which prevails with most of the leading papers in the United States, in the Colonies, and in Great Britain, by which space is much economised, and great facilities afforded for advertising. We have abundant materials, and skillful labour of the best description to meet all the requirements of our advertising friends, from whom we shall be always happy to hear. Our only object now is to make The Examiner thoroughly acceptable in other respects, as we believe it always has been. We have had experience enough in journalism to enable us to make good selections from our foreign and Colonial files, which we shall not fail to do, as we have great resources at our hands,—we have an excellent staff of correspondents, whose contributions crowd upon us faster than we can make use of them,—and we have sufficient knowledge of public affairs, combined with some practice in composition, which will enable us to conduct the editorial department of our paper, without subsidizing persons unacquainted with the Printing business, ignorant of the public taste and sympathies, and taking only a transitory interest in local discussions. We now ask our patrons to give us their best assistance in the prosecution of our labours—we wish to see them patrons not merely in name, but in fact; and we shall labour to give them assurance that we are not unworthy of their confidence and encouragement.

We hoped to have had a larger sheet, and a better quality of paper for this issue, but owing to the late season at which our order was sent to the States, we could not procure the paper there sought for, and had to take what we could get in a Colonial establishment. A new heading is another thing we required. It has been ordered; we regret it was not received before the closing of the navigation; but if an opportunity favours, we shall be able to make use of it before the navigation will again open.

THE NEWS BY THE MAILS.

The Mails have rushed in upon us so rapidly, during the last eight or ten days, and brought such an avalanche of newspapers from all quarters, that nearly all our time has been occupied in perusing them. After the long dearth of news, the intelligence from Europe and America, which is highly important, will be eagerly looked for by our readers; and we have, therefore, no hesitation in giving to its insertion the columns we had reserved for light literary reading. Having all the leading Quarterly and Monthly periodicals of Great Britain and the United States at our disposal, as well as the most extensive and well culled assortment of weekly, tri-weekly and daily journals, from the Foreign, British and Colonial Press—we have ample stores of select new literary matter, which shall be given from time to time when the news happens to be less pressing and less important than it is now.

Two English Mails have been received here during the past ten days, and another, we understand, is on its way from Halifax, and is hourly expected. The number of Colonial and American Mails we have not been able to count.

We give some extracts below relative to the death of the Prince Consort. These were received by the Mail Steamer *Asia*, which put into Halifax on her way to New York. The melancholy interest which attaches to everything relative to the death of his Royal Highness, will commend their perusal to our readers. The papers received by the English Mail on Saturday last are full of details incidental to the same subject. We give also some opinions of a portion of the English press on the question so lately at issue between Great Britain and the United States; and the opinions of some portion of the papers of the latter country, showing the pretensions and arrogance entertained towards the former. Happily, all cause of quarrel has been removed by the surrender of the Southern Commissioners, who are now on their way to Europe; but it is well to understand how public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic was agitated by this no longer vexed question.

THE LATE PRINCE ALBERT.

On the day previous to the death of H. Royal Highness, the London *Times* published an article eulogistic of the useful labours and good qualities of the Prince. His physicians had then announced his illness as dangerous. The following is an extract from the *Times*:—

"For more than 20 years the Prince Consort has been the guide and protector of the Queen, to a degree that is rarely found even in ordinary life, where the husband is both in law and reality the guardian of the wife. During all this period the Prince has devoted the powers of a singularly acute and well-stored mind to diminishing the cares of his Consort, by giving her the advice which no one else could have so effectually tendered her. When we consider that almost all her Majesty's public life has been passed under his guidance, and that by his influence her *steps* have been directed in that path of constitutional conduct which has strengthened her Throne and banished political discontent from every part of this great empire, we may well join in her Majesty's distress and anxieties. It is at such a time that we feel how high a position the Prince has taken in this country, and how much he has become one of ourselves. To the great body of the public he has always been present as the zealous and able leader in every useful work, while those who have been concerned in the administration of affairs know what judgment, acuteness, and scientific knowledge the Prince brought to bear on every subject on which he was consulted."

The London Correspondence of the Halifax Morning Journal furnishes the following account of the last hours of the Prince:—

London, December 21, 1861.

A gloom has overshadowed the nation such as has not been experienced since the death of the Princess Charlotte. If there was one man in high places of whom people were inclined to predict that he was destined to long life, it was the Prince Consort, whose vigorous constitution and temperate habits seemed to promise even a greater age than that allotted to ordinary mortals. But the strong man is struck down, while the feeble and old are spared. The Prince's health is said to have been indifferent ever since his return from Scotland. But he went out shooting with the Prince of Wales lately, got wet through, and sat in his wet clothes. He got wet a second time a fortnight since when reviewing, with the Queen, the Eton school volunteers. After this he became feverish, complained of pains in his limbs, was prostrated by gastric fever, followed by typhoid, against which his five physicians and his strong constitution were powerless. On the Friday his sufferings were agonizing. When an attempt was made to lift him, or to move his position, his groans were distressing to hear; and on Saturday night he breathed his last in the midst of his family and of the Court attendants, to all of whom he had previously bade adieu.

Even at this interval one can hardly realize the full extent of the calamity which has fallen upon the Queen and the country. For her Majesty the deepest sympathy is felt, and when we remember how poignantly was her grief at the death of her mother, we may well fear lest this new and greater affliction should be too much for her. We learn that during the Prince's illness her attention to him was unceasing; and as his disorder approached its crisis her husband could hardly bear her to leave the room. During the whole of Friday night she sat up with him, accompanied by the Princess Alice, and afterwards by the Prince of Wales, who arrived by special train at about 3 A. M. But neither affection nor skill availed aught to baffle the disease. As yet her Majesty has borne up bravely against this sad affliction, and calling her family about her, has besought them to aid her in this necessary effort. The worst is not to be feared whilst the excitement lasts; it is after the funeral, when the dreary void left by the absence of the well-known face is felt, that reaction will set in, and the effect upon our good Queen is most to be feared. At such a moment who will not join in the prayer that the widow and the fatherless may be strengthened from on high, and may have "a happy issue out of all their afflictions!"

Every one unites in praise of the Prince's goodness and ability. He was certainly a faithful and devoted husband; and if he was asked by the Queen for advice, he gave it with such modesty and discretion as disarmed the hostility of those who feared in him the exercise of a dangerous influence. Of late it is understood that he felt alarmed at the progress of democracy, and threw whatever influence he possessed into the Conservative scale; but all this was done unobtrusively, and Lord Palmerston had no occasion, so far as we know, to complain of undue favour shown by the Court to Lord Derby. What Prince Albert has done in his adopted country for art and science, for education and agriculture, we need not recount. These services are now well remembered. But even regret for the dead is subordinate to public sympathy for the living. When it was recollected how severe had been the shock to her Majesty from the death of the Duchess of Kent, almost the worst results were apprehended from this still more sudden and grievous affliction. Hitherto, however, the Queen has borne up under this heavy blow with noble calmness and resignation, confiding in her children's love and in the sympathy of the whole nation.

(From the London News of the World, Dec. 8)

OUR COUNTRY'S CALL TO DUTY!

Our messenger speeds his way across the waters of the Atlantic, carrying with him a demand for justice from an entire people animated by one common feeling, and inspired by one thought. Expressing only our determination, quoting precedents in support of it from international jurists, appealing to the recorded decisions of tribunals, and suppressing the anger we are well entitled to feel, we calmly wait the answer to our demand. 'Ere the light of many short winter days has come and gone, and Christmas calls us to the performance of the duties of affection and hospitality, we shall know whether we shall eat our roast beef and plum pudding at peace with all the world. It is a solemn thought that we stand face to face with our kindred in threatening hostility of array. We stand on the threshold of one of the most tremendous struggles upon which England has ever entered, and the circumstances equally urge us to forbearance and action. We are urged to exercise forbearance because as we are strong, so can we afford to be generous. Our American kindred are engaged in a life struggle, and already their national existence trembles in the balance. At such a moment ought we to strike? Might we not treat the insult we have received with disdain, and pass it by as we have done a hundred petty incivilities, and with as lofty a contempt as we have bestowed upon the braggart journalists of New York? We may content ourselves with accepting an apology, and pave the way, so that the Americans may not be humiliated by making it. But if no expression of regret comes from Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, then England owes a duty to herself—to Europe—and to the United States, to obtain by force the reparation which diplomacy cannot obtain.

We owe the duty to ourselves. Is England to continue, as she always has been, a sanctuary for the fugitive? Is the British flag to cover the refugee with safety? For if we permit the British flag to be insulted, and political prisoners seized on board our vessels, without warrant from the law of nations, and without the faintest show of right on the part of the municipal law of any country, then our *soil* would not long be safe from invasion. There is not, and cannot be, any real distinction between the soil of Britain and the planks over which her flag floats. We could not permit any captain of a vessel of war, either American, French, or Russian, to overhaul our ships, and take from them such persons as that captain chooses to allege were rebels to their own country. Questions of nationality, of naturalization, and of rights of persons, are of the nicest character, and cannot be solved by the bayonets of marines and the shotted guns of frigates. It is true the Americans may say that Messrs. Slidell and Mason were the accredited agents of the Southern Confederacy—of "rebels"—and as such liable to seizure, but we equally refuse to our masters the right to decide questions of rebellion and treason. All that we are entitled to see to is that such persons pay their passage money, are unarmed, and apparently desirous of proceeding from one neutral port to another, as unarmed passengers usually do. To refuse the right of passage to people on the *ipse dixit* of a captain would be impertinence, and to refuse a refuge in our ports would be inhospitable.

We are bound to obtain reparation as a matter of duty to the great European family. It is simply an accident, we hope, that the outrage was committed upon an English vessel. It might have been French, Russian, Prussian, or Italian; the result would have been the same to Europe; and no country would have been more interested in calling for redress to the insulted flag than ourselves. All Europe feels with us that justice must be done; and if we can point with honest pride to the tone of the English press, without exception, it is still more satisfactory to us to see how our hands are upheld by the press of all the great cities of Europe. Other European kingdoms may not feel as we do that something even greater than the rights of neutrals has been invaded, but they feel that their way across the deep is liable to be impeded by any bully armed with the commission of a belligerent power. Let Americans take note of the public opinion of Europe, estimate its weight, calculate on which side the truth lies where impartial expression is all on one, and then counsel their infatuated fellow-countrymen to be wise in time.

Lastly, we owe a duty to the United States; we must save her from—herself. For some months past she has been drifting into lawlessness. What have we seen? The great rights transmitted from us placed in peril of their existence; *Habeas Corpus* suspended in action without the proclamation of martial law; a judge placed under arrest for daring to issue the great prerogative writ; British passengers on board British vessels arrested and placed in durance; British minors compelled to serve in the American army; passports instituted, and the press restrained from expressing any other than feelings esteemed to be loyal by the Executive. The Americans are fast losing themselves, losing a sense of dignity as a free people, and sporting with their Constitution in the mad hope of subduing the South. America has been herself a home for the fugitive; to a large extent her population are fugitives from oppression and poverty in Europe. We desire her to continue so for ever, and if God help us, by our endeavour she shall. By her own act she seeks to stop the pathway of waters. It is a duty we owe all round to prevent her suicidal intent. The mob may shout and serenade Captain Wilkes; present him with testimonials, and extol his folly to the skies. The press may applaud and play to the passions and "most sweet voices" of the multitude. American statesmen may bend before a people who govern them, and yield to clamour that which their consciences and judgments do not approve. We must do our duty. It is painful in the extreme, for it places us under the necessity of acknowledging and making an alliance with the Southern States, and making their cause our own. Still we accept the duty, and leave consequences to that Providence which overrules all for good. Let us be of good cheer; no man and no nation need despair in the performance of duty. We will obey the call of the Queen, and from the depth of the great British heart there will, because there ought to be but one response—"Ready, aye, Ready!" It was so in the good old days, and if our fathers could see us now they would not be ashamed of their sons. In the hour of trial, of self-sacrifice, and duty, let us be found faithful. May God defend the right!

PRAYERS FOR PEACE!

Britannia waits with longing eyes stretched across the Atlantic, and hopes for an answer which may give her back the sanctity of her flag and restore her sense of security. We are painfully situated between inclination and duty. Our inclination runs towards our kindred with feelings of sympathy; we would rather overlook and pardon the outrage than strike the blow which duty demands. But *duty* must be done. There is no reason, however, why we may not pray for peace, and the beautiful orison of our Church "Give peace in our time, O Lord," may be uttered with significancy and fervency as often as we repair to the Temple of the Almighty Disposer of the Universe. Nay more, from every Christian heart on both sides of the sea may fitly rise the petition that the eyes of both people may be opened so that justice may be done. On Thursday, Exeter Hall witnessed the congregation of such hearts, and, however much we may take exception to the publicity of the act of prayer, the fact in itself is a hint pregnant with thought to the millions of Anglo-Saxons now already embroiled in Civil war, and perhaps only too soon also to be engaged in a foreign contest. It is somewhat solemn to think that in the civil war of America, the Church has been silent in its expressions of duty, and Christianity seems to have obeyed no other than the geographical tests of North and South. There may be a devout feeling of conviction in the minds of the Christian people in the Northern States as to their duty towards their "brethren in bonds" in the South; but it does not appear that the Christian sentiment has been made to tell in rebuke of the fratricidal strife. We are glad to find England called to a sense of her duty in this matter; and if we now go to war, it will be because we do so from a profound conviction of a wrong sustained which we can justify before the Grand Tribunal. Yet we will earnestly hope for the olive-branch of peace, and that an American kindred will make some concession to our injured feelings. Our flag does not merely represent a sentiment; it is simply the emblem of a grand doctrine laid down and fought for by our forefathers, and it includes the inviolability of our soil from invasion. But we are not disposed to be strict as to the *form* of concession. America may choose the mode most honourable to herself; she may release the captives upon their parole whilst the question of legal right is being settled by the Admiralty Court, or mediated by one of the Great Powers. Or she may do less, and release the captives only on condition of an agreeing to negotiate upon the limits of the Right of Search. When America and England exchange positions as to the right, which they have done in 1861, it is obvious that there is a greater identity in their interests, and more mutuality as to our respective positions on the sea, than we have yet recognised. A simple expression of regret, followed by an earnest attempt at providing the means for preventing the recurrence of similar wrongs, would be the most satisfactory solution of the question. And it may be so solved if we determine to restrain the expression of anger, so as to permit the question to pass into deliberate examination. In order that it may do so, let us continue to keep our temper and daily ask for peace. There are too many common grounds of action between ourselves and the Northern States preparing in the future for us lightly to quarrel with our own blood. When the Southern States have been told to go their way, England and the North will discover that their interests, their principles, and their hopes are one!—*News of the World, Dec. 15.*

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND HIS AMERICAN VIEWS.

We are just now unpleasantly encumbered with too much friendship across the Channel. It is almost impossible to say what is passing in the mind of the modern Cæsar, for to simple people he is inscrutable, and to politicians he is enigmatical. At present, the cue of the French journals is to laud England, and encourage her by every form of words. When we remember the connexion between French policy and French journalism, we may be excused if we accept the declarations of "inspired," "semi-inspired," and "demi-inspired" papers, joined as they are by "official," "semi," and "demi-official," "ministerial" and "quasi-ministerial" prints, as a true reflex of the minds of the ruling powers, but we must not be sanguine that we know the mind of Cæsar himself. France finds herself suddenly in the position of being the only friend of the rights of neutrals, and such a position may be used with advantage by the power "to whom all who suffer look for help." England and America have changed places; it is America which now insists on her right of search, and she appeals freely to the precedents we set up in 1812 to justify her claim. England, without abandoning the right in the abstract, denies the extent of the right as laid down by Captain Wilkes. France, always the friend of neutrals, sees some advantage in the change of affairs, and as her material interests are as much concerned as ours in the Southern blockade, rejoices in its being raised, whilst England accepts the odium of the breach. The Emperor's journals are eager for the war, and unless the expression of their opinion help us to a peace, it is not unlikely that there may be some proposition made for joint action by the two Powers.

It is certain France will not leave England and America to settle the quarrel, either by fighting or diplomacy, alone. France must either join us in the fight or mediate; to be quiet is impossible to France, for *her* central doctrine in external politics is intervention. But there are many grave objections to joint action. France is not a good ally; the Emperor is too fond of making a sudden peace, and England might be left in the same condition as she was in the winter of 1855-6, when France proposed an honourable peace to Russia, or in the still more pitiable condition of Italy, when the breakfast table of Villafranca terminated a war for "an idea." If France has a *casus belli* against America that is her affair, and she is as much entitled to pursue her own course, as we are in sending troops to Canada, or a fleet to the American coast. We have no wish to see French troops amongst the Anglo-French inhabitants of Canada, and France has no interest in maintaining the boundaries between our colony and the Northern States. We are more than a match for the Americans as it is, and to conclude an alliance with France, in the event of hostilities, would not only look like cowardice on our part, but would also be ungenerous to our own kindred. Beyond all this, France may calculate that if England is engaged in an American war, the attention of her Government and people will be released from the watchful attitude now bestowed upon the affairs of the continent. It is not likely that Napoleon would withdraw his troops from Rome, or abandon designs on Sardinia, simply because England could no longer keep watch and ward in the Italian interest. We may not expect the Emperor to be ready to give up all designs upon the Rhenish provinces, or engage not to attack Austria. He always does play a waiting game, and he gets credit for far-sighted astuteness, whilst in fact he only avails himself of the mistakes of over eager disputants. The *Moniteur*, in analysing the opinions of the journals the other day, said it was no part of the duty of France to take up the quarrel of England, or to wake observations on the speeches of the Italian deputies. Precisely; the Emperor waits, in the hope that some error will turn up of which he can avail himself to administer a dose of military glory to the French, or by crooked diplomacy obtain a slice of Italian or German soil in exchange for material aid given to Italy or Prussia.

We have our own cause; "thrice is he armed, that hath his quarrel just." We are confident of our mere right, still more confident of our spirit, and have even hopes of an honourable concession from Washington. But we have no hope of an alliance with France, if she is permitted to intrude her active help into the matter. Her interests beyond a certain point do not agree with ours, and she has not shown such a readiness to comply with our reiterated requests to withdraw from Rome, as to entitle her to thrust herself into a dispute entirely our own. If her ruler wishes to confer a lasting benefit upon the world he may do it by providing the means of paying off the enormous deficit the interventions of France have caused, and, by reducing her army, give at least one sincere pledge to Europe that all her future is not based upon armaments, in extent and cost greater than her necessities and her means of payment.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

The screw-steamer Melbourne, which has been loading at Woolwich for some days, sailed yesterday morning for Halifax or Quebec, laden with an enormous quantity of arms, ammunition, and stores, including warm clothing for 10,000 men, such as woollen shirts, fur caps, knee boots, and other requisites. She also takes out Capt. Vesey's battery of artillery.

The Cunard steamship Australasian has been chartered by the Government as a transport. The Persia has also been taken up. They are both to convey troops to Halifax. The Australasian is a powerful screw steamer of 2700 tons.

The steamer Persia, the largest vessel on the Cunard line, has been chartered by Government to take troops to Canada. The 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, now stationed at Cork, and the 1st Battalion of the 16th Regiment, stationed at Sheffield, have received orders to embark for Canada; and Captain Lester's battery of artillery (F Battery 4th Brigade) is also under orders to proceed from Aldershot to Liverpool to embark.

The militia immediately available in Canada may be stated at 30,000, which may be increased to 200,000.

It has been stated that a battalion of the Guards is under orders for embarkation, but at present no such orders have been received.

An Admiralty telegram, received at Portsmouth on Monday, ordered to be in readiness for immediate commission the 51-gun screw frigates Shannon and Euryalus, and the Stromboli, six guns.

At Woolwich an order was received for the immediate commission of the Devastation in the Atlantic.

An addition was, on Monday, made to the cargo of the transport Melbourne, viz., 2,500,000 rounds of small arms' cartridges, 30,000 stand of arms and accoutrements, instead of 20,000, and 1500 rounds of Armstrong ammunition. It is stated that the Melbourne will be adequately conveyed to her destination.

The screw iron frigate Warrior steamed into Portsmouth harbour on Monday, and was lashed alongside the dockyards to undergo the repairs ordered by the Admiralty. It is stated that the Warrior up to the present time has cost rather over £400,000, and her successors, before they are at sea, will cost nearly £600,000.

At Chatham on Tuesday, the Pylades, 21 guns; Rattlesnake, 21; and Galatea, 26, were ordered to be prepared for sea with all possible despatch. Fifty more workmen are taken on.

It has been definitely decided to augment the regiment of royal artillery by four additional batteries.

The British naval force on the south-east coast of the American station and the Pacific consists of 20 ships, 333 guns, and 5000 men.

The Federal Government are building in England three gunboats, to be plated with three-inch iron, and the most peculiar submarine boat called Stevens' Battery, which only shows its six heavy guns on a slight iron ridge just above water. A full account of this extraordinary vessel, which will probably be ready in a month or two, has already been forwarded to the Admiralty.

The 100-pound Armstrong guns, the issue of which had been temporarily suspended during some experiments, will now be again delivered for service.

The Admiralty have ordered a special report of the shortest time that can be taken to prepare the vessels ordered for commission at Sheerness.

The greatest activity is shown in getting ready for sea the new iron-cased ship Defence, and a crew will be sent to her immediately. Captain Powell, C. B., is commissioned to her.

The rifle and artillery volunteers of Bristol made a cordial demonstration on the departure of Capt. Vesey's battery for Woolwich, to embark for Canada. A large number of citizens heartily joined in this manifestation.

All the continuous service men who have recently been paid off from Her Majesty's ships are under orders to immediately rejoin at the respective flag ships.

The following are details of the steam reserve fleet in the Medway or at Chatham.

First division, 12 steamers; all but two ready to leave at a few days' notice. In addition, the Severn, 51 guns, is about to be added to the first division. Second division, 12 steamers; third division, 24 steamers. Five other vessels are not included, nor the large mortar boats laid up ready for service. Total guns, 1279.

The three classes of reserve of ships of war at Portsmouth comprise 6 frigates, 4 corvettes, 12 sloops, and 21 gunboats, but this does not include our boats laid up at Hasiar, nor the Black Prince. All the above vessels are really effective. The ships in commission at Portsmouth are the Edgar, Hero, Warrior, Orpheus, Trafalgar, and Chanticleer, carrying together 342 guns, and ready for service anywhere.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS FOR NORTH AMERICA—TROOPS AND MUNITIONS OF WAR—ARRIVALS AT HALIFAX.

Yesterday morning the steamships Asia, Adriatic and Persia arrived at Halfiax within a short time of each other, the two former with troops from England, and the latter from Bic., Canada.

The Asia brought 500 officers and men of the Royal Artillery and Military Train, and 180 tons of cargo, consisting principally of camp equipments, warm clothing, &c., for the troops. After landing the above she proceeded to New York with the American mails yesterday afternoon.

The Adriatic brings 72 officers and 1,300 non-commissioned officers and privates of the Grenadier Guards, and also, we learn, 300 men of the Military Train.

The steamship Parana is hourly expected at this port with the Scots Fuislier Guards and the 18th Royal Engineers. The Adriatic and Parana both left Southampton on the 20th Dec.

In addition to the above several other steamships are on their way to this port with troops, but how many of these regiments will proceed to Canada this winter it is difficult at present to tell.

The Persia, in consequence of unfavorable weather, was unable to land all her troops at Bic, on the St. Lawrence, and was also obliged to leave a portion of her crew behind. About 100 of the soldiers were brought to Halifax, and landed yesterday from the Persia in the steamer Neptune. An officer of the Persia informs us that they experienced very severe weather in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This service of the Persia will be looked upon as quite an achievement.

We copy the following from the Liverpool Journal:—

Ten Armstrong 100 pounder guns are ordered to be embarked with the earliest despatch for the sea and land defences of Halifax.

Rear Admiral Dacres, C. B., has been appointed as second in command to Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, K. C. B., the Commander-in-Chief on the North American station.

The force under the flags of Sir A. Milne and Admiral Dacres will shortly number 1,000 guns, and will include some of the fastest and most efficient ships in the British fleet.

Admiral Dacres hoisted his flag on Thursday on board the Edgar, as second in command on the North American station. The Edgar will call at Lisbon for latest instructions.

A portion of the Mediterranean fleet is gradually accumulating at Gibraltar, to be ready, if necessary, to cross the Atlantic.

At Portsmouth, on Wednesday, it was reported that the Shannon, Euryalus, Vigilant, and Pandera will be commissioned this week for the North American station.

The African Company's s. s. Cleopatra will sail from Liverpool to-day (Saturday) for Queenstown, where she will take on board a large quantity of provisions, and also embark 22 officers and 510 men of the Second Battalion of the 17th Foot, and then sail for Canada.

The 2nd battalions of the 17th and 96th Regiments have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for immediate embarkation for British North America.

Warlike Preparations at the Tower.—The greatest activity prevails at the Tower of London, where the whole of the workmen and labourers employed in the various departments have been engaged from an early hour in the morning until a late hour at night in packing up fire-arms and every kind of article necessary for active service abroad. On Sunday last the interior of the ancient garrison presented an unusual and bustling appearance, in consequence of an order which had been received from the officials of the War-office to prepare for immediate transmission 25,000 stand of arms, which were packed in boxes containing 30 rifles each, with the usual adjuncts. The men worked throughout the whole of Sunday in packing, and late the same night eight barges were filled with boxes, which were conveyed to Woolwich for shipment to Canada, Quebec, and other places. On Monday evening, a similar amount of fire-arms, &c., was conveyed to Woolwich, and on Wednesday preparations were being made for the transmission of every kind of the munitions of war down the river in barges and other craft, which were conveyed by steam tugs to the several Government depots, were orders had been received to forward without delay every kind of defensive missile. Additional hands have been employed daily in the various departments of the Tower, which has not assumed such a bustling appearance for many years.

In order to augment the corps of Royal Engineers, which is still considerably below its proper strength, additional recruiting parties have been despatched from head-quarters, Chatham, to various stations, where intelligent young mechanics may be enlisted. A field battery of 12-pounder guns is ordered to be prepared at Woolwich for transport to Jersey, for the use of the Militia Artillery of that island. In accordance with orders received at Chatham, the screw corvette Pylades, 21 guns, 1,278 tons, and 350-horse power (nominal), has been placed in the fourth dock, to be brought forward for sea with all despatch. Detailed instructions were on Wednesday forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief at the Nore, directing the following steamers to be prepared with the utmost possible despatch for active service—viz., the Severn, 51; the Galatea, 26; the Barrossa, 21; the Zebra, 17; the Rosario, 11; and the Dragon, 6. A special report is to be forwarded to the Admiralty, stating the shortest possible time in which the foregoing ships can be made ready for sea.

LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The R. M. S. Asia, en route from Liverpool, G. B., for New York, called at Haliax on the 31st ult., bringing dates to the 21st ult. The Asia carried out troops and munitions of war for Canada.

The demise of Prince Albert created a most profound sensation in England, and the more the event is considered in all its bearings, the greater is the conviction that the loss is national. So unexpected was the event, that several leading members of the aristocracy and persons connected with the Court, who were absent from London, were perfectly astonished on learning that the Prince was in danger. On midnight of the 14th the great bell of St. Paul's announced that the Prince had passed away. On the following day (Sunday) the event was the absorbing subject and the theme of every sermon.

The following is the official announcement published in the London Gazette Extraordinary:

Windsor, Dec. 15.—On Saturday night, the 14th instant, at ten minutes before 11 o'clock, His Royal Highness the Prince Consort departed this life at Windsor Castle, to the inexpressible grief of the royal family.

The Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, their Royal Highnesses the Princess Alice and the Princess Helena, and their Serene Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Leiningen, were all present when His Royal Highness expired.

The funeral took place on the 23rd inst., and in accordance with the expressed wishes of the lamented deceased, was divested of much of the pomp and parade that usually pertains to such ceremonials in princely circles.

In speaking of the popular feeling for the Queen's bereavement, the Liverpool Journal says;

"The sympathy for Her Majesty has in a large part reference to the widow rather than to the Queen; that she is beloved not for the dignity she confers on her august station, but for the virtues which adorn her mind; that although her station is not forgotten, the lady is never absent from the public mind; that her goodness recognized as well as the throne, and that the world will grow better from the popular and excusable obtrusion upon the sacred privacy of her life; that her example borrows power from her position to influence all classes, for that, although a few only can wear crowns, all can endow themselves with the bright attributes which distinguish the exalted being who now suffers, because she indulged in the holiest of loves—love for a husband and her children."

INCIDENTAL TO THE PRINCE CONSORT'S DEATH.

Windsor Castle, Sunday Noon.—"The Queen, although overwhelmed with grief, bears her bereavement with calmness and has not suffered in health." Signed by four of her Majesty's physicians.

Windsor Castle, Tuesday Morning.—"The Queen has passed a quiet night, and slept several hours. Her Majesty continues calm."

Other reliable accounts state that her Majesty's health continues most satisfactory.

A supplement to the London Gazette Extraordinary of Sunday contains orders for the Court to go into mourning from the present day, and a notice from the Herald's College says it is expected that all persons do forthwith put themselves into decent mourning.

The demand for mourning was so great that it could not be met for several days.

The places of business throughout England were generally closed on the day of the funeral.

The London Gazette contains Orders in Council for the omission of the name of the Prince Consort from the Prayers and Litany, and in future the form of prayer will be "for her most sacred Majesty Queen Victoria, Albert Prince of Wales, and all the royal family."

Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 17.—The Moniteur of today announces that in consequence of the death of the Prince Consort the Emperor will go into mourning for twenty-one days.

The Empress Eugenie has addressed an autograph letter to Queen Victoria.

The flag which floats over the Tuilleries was on Tuesday hoisted half-mast high.

In Paris, the Prince's death has caused great sensation, and all the papers unite in expressions of sympathy.

The Belgian Moniteur states that the Belgian Court will continue in mourning up to the 14th of February.

The Crown Prince of Prussia will pay her Majesty a visit at Osborne. The King of the Belgians will also shortly arrive.

Death of Sir Peter Laurie.—Sir Peter Laurie, the oldest member of the Court of Aldermen of the city of London, died on Tuesday evening. The deceased gentleman served the office of sheriff so far back as 1824, 38 years ago. He was elected an alderman for the ward of Aldersgate on the 6th of July, 1826, and was chosen Lord Mayor in 1832, having in the previous year stood a contest for the mayoralty with Alderman Sir John Key, who was then elected chief magistrate for a second time, after a memorable struggle, in which an unusual amount of political and partisan feeling was enlisted. To Londoners in general, and for full three generations Sir Peter was well-known for his homely, *brusque* manners and his inflexible honesty of purpose; and the way in which his characteristic qualities displayed themselves on the bench often amused the town. For the last ten years he has played a comparatively small part in public or civic affairs. Of late he attended the meetings of the Court of Aldermen occasionally, and was present at one recently; but his advanced age—upwards of 80—and increasing infirmities prevented his discharging the duties of a magistrate. The last public act of his life was the spirited protest which he addressed to his brother liverymen of London from Folkestone where he was staying in ill-health, against what he thought the unwarrantable use that was being made of his name in the late contest for the mayoralty. The death of Sir Peter renders vacant the office of alderman for the ward of Aldersgate, and by an act of the Court of Common Council the Lord Mayor is required within 14 days from the death to convene a wardmote for the election of a successor.

Death of General Armstrong.—The oldest general in the army, General Alex. Armstrong, died at his residence at Bath, on Monday, at the advanced age of 95 years. As far back as 1783 he entered the army, so that he was senior to Field Marshal Viscount Combermere. The general's commissions bore date as follows: Second lieutenant, July 7, 1783; lieutenant, Oct 31, 1792; captain, Dec. 16, 1793; major, July 24, 1800; lieutenant-colonel, April 25, 1808; colonel, June 4, 1814; major-general, May 27, 1825; lieutenant-general, June 28, 1838; and general, June 20, 1854.

A Duel in Russia.—A Warsaw letter of Nov. 14 gives some most extraordinary details which I have reason to believe are quite authentic, of the suicide of the Russian General, Gertsenweig. When the state of seige was proclaimed in Warsaw, a council of war was held, to deliberate on the course to be taken with regard to the crowds which flocked to the churches to celebrate funeral services for Polish martyrs. Gen. Lembert was for moderation; but Gen. Gerstenweig, Senator Platenoff and Gen. Kryzanowski voted for measures of extreme rigor, and their opinion prevailed. It was decided that the troops should surround the churches during service, let the women come out, but arrest all the men. Of the men arrested, all between the ages of 12 and 40 were to have their heads shaved, and be incorporated in regiments serving in distant parts of the Empire. This order was signed, but the General commanding the citadel, Gen. Lowszyn, got frighteded when he saw the immense number of prisoners, and thought it necessary to confer with Gen. Lambert. The latter shrunk from the responsibility of dealing in the manner prescribed with so many prisoners, and took upon himself to set a thousand of them at liberty. A quarrel thereupon ensued between Gen. Lambert and Gen. Gertzenweig, in the course of which the latter called the former a coward. Gen. Lambert replied: "General, one of us might die before to-morrow." The aides-de-camp who were present at this scene, feeling that a duel between the two Generals would be a very serious affair, at that moment interfered, and it was agreed that instead of fighting, they should draw lots to determine which of them should commit suicide. One of the aides-de-camp thereupon presented to Gen. Gertzenweig the corners of two handkerchiefs, in one of which a knot was tied, and it was agreed that if he drew out the one with the knot he should kill himself; if otherwise, Gen. Lambert was devoted to self-slaughter. Gertzenweig drew the fatal knot, and, in pursuance of the bloody contract, immediately went home and shot himself, three times in the head. The first shot did no harm; the second wounded him near the eye; the third took off a portion of the skull and completely disabled him, but without causing immediate death. The unfortunate General lingered for many days in horrible agony, attended by Sisters of Charity, and at length gave up the ghost. Gen. Lambert, horrified at the tragical result of this drama, resigned immediately, and left Warsaw, notwithstanding urgent entreaties from St. Petersburg that he should keep his command.

Mass Meeting of Irish Nationalists in Dublin.—A meeting of Irish Nationalists was held in the Round Room of the Rotundo, on the 5th, in Dublin, "to take into consideration the aspect and position of Irish national affairs at the present momentous crisis." The meeting was most numerously attended, the Round Room being densely crowded in every part. The O'Donoghue, M. P., was the first speaker.

The feeling of the meeting was decidedly Anti-British, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1. "That the population of America, from St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico from New York to San Francisco, being largely intermixed with men of Irish birth and Irish blood, it would be unnatural to suppose that Ireland could remain an indifferent spectator of the struggle between England and America."

2. "That at a moment when the existence of America seems about to be menaced by her ancient foe, we feel bound to recall the generous aid our country has ever received from that great republic, whose shores gave asylum to our exiles, banished by English oppression and whose country fed our people, famishing under English misrule."

3. "That the events of the hour imperatively dictate to all Irishmen forgetfullness of past differences, and an united rally for the old cause of their country."

4. "That a chairman, two secretaries, and a committee of twenty-one members, each having been duly and separately proposed and seconded, be chosen by a majority of voices at this mass meeting, to take into consideration the advisability of carrying out an organization in the present state of affairs at home and abroad (applause)."

Great Conflagration at Antwerp.—A fearful fire broke out on Monday at the Napoleon Docks, Antwerp. The Belgian sugar refinary and the St. Felix bonding warehouse were burnt down. The estimated loss is 5,000,000f. Seven or eight lives were lost amongst the firemen and the military. Fortunately the vessels in the basin hurried out to sea at the commencement of the disaster, or they must have shared the same fate. It is stated that the sugar refinery was insured for nearly 1,000,000f., and the other great establishment for 2,000,000f.

The debate in the Belgian Chamberrs respecting the recognition of the King of Italy has terminated with adoptian of an amendment of M. Orts, the Reporter of the Committee, brought forward in consequence of an amendment proposed by one of the members of the Right. The amendment is thus couched:—"In the present situation of affairs in Europe it is necessary that Belguim, a neutral Power, faithful to the great principle of international law, should abstain, as she always has done, from interfering in the affairs of other nations." This amendment was carried by 62 votes against 47, giving a majority of 15.

Will there be a Controversy?—Gen. Scott's letter to the French papers is made the subject of a leading article in the London *Times*, from which we make the following extract:

General Scott denies that it was in direct obedience to instructions from the Government at Washington that Commodore Wilkes perpetrated the outrage upon our flag. So far, so well. General Scott, however, has only denied what no one ever believed. Our special correspondent in Washington had, by anticipation, fortified us against giving credence to any such fabrication. He had already told us that the act of the captain of the *San Jacinto* was his own, and that he had undertaken this enterprise as a means of distinguishing himself. It is not, however, reassuring to find that General Scott, like his countrymen, is rather inclined to disavow the conception of his act than to repudiate it now that it has been done. He wishes to look upon it as a very small afair, and he dose not seem to be able to see that the question of what is "conterband of war" cannot be as lawfully determined by a navel officer at sea as by an International Prize Court. He think, that, after a public insult has been offered by the officer of one country to the flag of another, the first thing to follow is, not a complete restitution, but an argument between the ministers of the two countries whether what has been done in violence might or might not be legally effected in a peacefull manner.

General Scott greivously mistakes the feeling of this country if he belives that good relations between America and Engeland are to be preserved by any such suggestions as these. *We have sent to Washington not to open a controversy but to demand a restitution.* When that has been done, we shall be happy to discuss the other questions at issue at any length the Americans may please.

A few Statistics.—The aggregate population of the dependencies of the British Crown may be taken to be neary 200,900,000 souls. A total annual revenue is raised in these possessions of £35,000,000, or about half the sum collected in the mother country, and their total foreign commerce, imports and exports, reaches an annual value of £140,000,000. They give employment to upwards of two and a half million tons of shipping annually, or one-fifth of the entire tonnage employed in the trade of the United Kingdom. The Colonies themselves also own 11,000 vessels, measuring more than 1,000,000 tons, or in the proportion of nearly one-fourth of the entire registered tonnage of the Empire. The Union forces, regulars and volunteers, now in the field and in the course of organization amount in round numbers, to 650,000, and will require the following amounts of provisions, &c., per month:—14,625,000 pounds of pork, or 24,375,000 pounds fresh beef; 136,994 barrels of flour; 48,750 bushels of beans, 1,950,000 pounds of rice; 1,950,000 pounds of coffee; 2,892,500 pounds of sugar; 195,000 gallons of vinegar; 292,500 pounds of candles; 780,000 pounds of soap; 13,249 bushels of salt; 8,580,000 pounds of potatoes.

Another Great Swindle in England.—The commercial world in Europe has been startled with another of those stupendous frauds which every now and then fright the British Isle from its propriety. The National Insurance and Investment Association has suddenly wound up under the joint stock companies' act and the bankruptcy code, disclosing an indebtedness of upwards of $1,800,000, while its assets amount to only $275,000. The names of several persons of high rank and standing figure as those of directors in this great swindle.

An eruption of Mount Vesuvius, more threatening in its character than any which has occurred for a long period, is announced to have commenced and to be rapidly increasing. The inhabitants of Torre del Greco have already taken to flight. Nearly all the houses are damaged. The stream of lava is 28 palms in depth, and three quarters of a mile broad. The sensation is immense.

Double Murder on Board an American Ship at Sea.—From information received by the American Consul at Cardiff, the superintendent of police, with an effective staff of constables, repaired to the West Bute Dock on Tuesday to await the arrival of an American ship, the "Playedes," on which a horrible murder had been reported. On the arrival of the vessel eight foreigners (Italians, Americans, Germans, and Austrians,) who accompanied the crew, were immediately arrested on the charge. Their names were Peter Storey, Peter Murrier, Inech Jocyuine, Martin Sando, Perfeto Salas, Joseph Mansel, John Mansel, and Peter Sanga. From the captain of the ship the following particulars were afforded:—The crew had manifested very bitter feelings against the mate of the ship for his conduct towards the men, and it had at length been decided in council to murder him. On the 12th of last month the mate went to call the men from their sleeping apartments, when he was immediately attacked with staves, knives, and other weapons. The captain, hearing the noise, rushed on deck and fired on the men, and then by persuasion and force combined, succeeded in rescuing the victim, but the injuries were too severe to allow any hope of his recovery. His body presented a frightfully mangled appearance, and the wounds caused him the greatest agony. He lingered, by the aid of stimulants, not many hours, after which he was, according to the custom, thrown overboard. Another poor fellow, whose name also we have not learnt, who was the interpreter, was despatched into the ocean with little or no ceremony; at least so it is supposed by the captain, for he missed him without seeing any struggle or hearing any disturbance. The villains were not content to stop in the execution of their deadly work after causing the death of two, but they afterwards attacked the second mate, upon whom, fortunately, they determined to exercise a little mercy, and he was subject to no further molestation, after having received severe wounds on his left arm. The captain appears to have enjoyed the general confidence of the crew, and was not hurt.—The prisoners are at present confined in the Cardiff gaol, awaiting the arrangements of the American Consul to transfer them to the American police authorities for the administration of the laws of that country.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

Boston, Dec. 30.

The official correspondence relative to the seizure of Slidell and Mason, was published in Washington on Saturday.

The first document is a despatch from Mr. Seward to Minister Adams, dated 30th Nov., in which the *Trent* affair is alluded to. It states that Com. Wilkes acted without instructions, and Mr. Seward trusts that the English Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, when it may expect the best disposition on the part of the Federal Government.

The next document is a copy of Earl Russel's despatch to Lord Lyons, dated 30th Nov. It details the circumstances of the *Trent* affair, and says it was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law. Her Majesty's Government was willing to believe the act was committed without authority, and resulted from misunderstanding. Trusts the United States Government will of its own accord offer such redress as would alone satisfy them, viz., Liberation of the four prisoners and their delivery to Lord Lyons, that they may again be placed under British protection, with suitable apology for the aggression committed. Should these terms not be offered by Mr. Seward, Lord Lyons will propose them to him.

Mr. Seward in reply, after stating that Capt. Wilkes acted upon his own suggestions of duty without any directions or instructions from his Government, discusses the question at great length,—says it was simply an inadvertency, consisting in a departure by a naval officer—free from wrongful motive—from a rule uncertainly established. For this error the British Government had a right to expect the same reparation that we, as an independent state, should expect from Great Britain or any friendly nation;—says if the safety of the Union required the detention of the captured persons, it would be the right and duty of the Government to detain them; but that the effectual check given to insurrection as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons, happily forbid him from resorting to that defence. Mr. Seward concludes as follows: "The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please name a time and place for receiving them."

Lord Lyons acknowledges receipt of Mr. Seward's despatch. He says he will confer personally on arrangements to be made for delivering the prisoners to him.

Copy of despatch from Thouvenal, Foreign Minister of France, to Mercier, French Minister at Washington, also published. Thouvenal urges that neutral flag from one neutral port to another neutral port, covers persons and merchandize.

New York, Dec. 30.

The Banks, late on Saturday night, decided to suspend specie payments this morning by vote of 25 to 15.

Washington despatches state that manner in which Mason and Slidell are to be given up has been left to Lord Lyons, who will doubtless have it done in a manner least offensive to this Government. It is reported that they will sail per steamer *America*, which will call at Boston for them.

A gentleman from Richmond reports that rebels have great confidence that they would defeat Union troops, and that it is impossible for them to be conquered. They declare that rather than come again into the Union, the South would become a Province of England. Our prisoners are suffering, and many died for lack of medicine. Not an ounce of quinine to be found in Richmond, and little medicine of any kind.

Banks of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, suspended specie payments to-day.

Reports from seat of war unimportant.

Boston, 31st.

It is not yet known when or in what manner the Commissioners will be delivered up to Lord Lyons.

A battle is reported at Paducah, Kentucky; but despatches relating to it are withheld by the Federal Government.

A fire in Nashville has destroyed Commissary Stores to the value of one million of dollars.

General Burnside's division is destined for an attack on Yorktown, Va.

Advices from Port Royal state that the Federal Troops were advancing into the interior of Georgia, and South Carolina.

The Confederates were leaving the Potomac to defend their homes.

Montreal papers state that that city was jubilant over the rendention of the Commissioners. They look upon it as removing cause of war.