

A letter from Vienna of the 26th Jan., in the Post Aampt Gazette of Frankfurt, says:—"Since the meeting of the Council of war in Paris, the attention of the Russian general has been directed towards Poland. The fortresses of that country, for the repair of which immense sums have been expended during the last 45 years, are all constructed on a system worthy of being studied by strategists. These fortresses are now being provisioned for a year, as though the Russian were to have to defend themselves, as his walls, and not in the open field. It is in these places that the divisions of the reserves are being collected, and other forces are directed on Sitomir, Kichenoff, Nicolaïeff, Finland, and the Crimea. The military Governor of Orenburgh is sending reinforcements to General Mouravieff."

THE ARMY.—It is reported that the 91st will be removed from Greece to the seat of war in the east. Some new companies of the Royal Sappers and Miners are to be raised, which will give an increase to the corps of nearly 1,000 men. The officers for the staff of the corps are being increased.

It is stated that, in addition to the augmentation to each battalion of the Royal Artillery, two additional battalions are to be added to that corps on the 1st of April next.

The following will be the change of quarters of the home cavalry in the spring:—The 3rd Dragoon Guards from Edinburgh, to York; the Light Dragoons from Hounslow to Dunstable; the 5th Hussars from York to Manchester, and the 15th Hussars from Manchester to Hounslow; the Queen's Bays and 16th Lancers remain in Dublin.

A warrant will immediately be issued granting to soldiers the bounty money, without the deduction of a single shilling on account of necessities. An entire kit will be given to the soldier at the public expense. On the score of expediency this is commendable, but the measure merits the highest praise of being fair and just to the soldier. The volunteering from the militia regiments is to be superintended by a steady (if possible, a field) officer, with a surgeon, whose approval will be required. The height must be 5ft 6in for the Cavalry, and 5ft 4in for the Infantry. Volunteers under the age of 29 years of age, be allowed to reckon as if their militia service (over 18) is sea service, and their good-conduct pay, &c., is to be preserved to them equally, as if they remained in the militia.

GENERAL WILLIAMS.—A letter from Erzzeroum says:—"All the officers and soldiers who have returned from Kars speak in terms of the highest gratitude of General Williams, who has done so much for them, both before and after the capture of Kars. His name is venerated by all. Every one is in hopes of seeing him return in the course of a few months."

NAVAL.—It is reported that Rear Admiral Fanshawe, C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the West India Station, has applied to be superseded on the score of ill health, and that he will be succeeded by Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K. C. B.

Buttons, rivalling jet in beauty of gloss and finish, are now made from India rubber. The U. S. navy and several large clothing houses have adopted the new style.

A Hindoo Witness.—A Hindoo being summoned to give evidence before the court of judicature at Calcutta, deposed that such a circumstance happened in her presence. The judge asked, where it happened; she replied in the verandah of such a house. "Pray my good woman?" said the judge, "how many pillars are in that verandah?" The woman not perceiving the trap that was laid for her, without consideration, said that the verandah was supported by four pillars. The counsel for the opposite party immediately, offered to prove, that the verandah contained five pillars, and that consequently, no credit could be given to her evidence. The woman perceiving her error, addressed the judge: "My Lord" said she, your lordship has for many years presided in this court, and every day you ascend a flight of stairs; may I beg to know how many steps these stairs consist of?" The judge confessed, that he did not know. "Then," replied she, "if your lordship cannot tell the number of steps you ascend daily to the seat of justice, it cannot be astonishing that I should forget the number of pillars in a balcony which I never entered half a dozen times in my life." The judge was so much pleased with the woman's wit, that he decided in favor of her party.

A certain barrister, who was remarkable for coming into court with dirty hands, observed, "that he had been turning over Coke," "Coke!" exclaimed a waggy brother, "I should have thought it was coal."

TOPSY TURVY.—When things are in confusion they are said to be turned Topsy Turvy. The expression is derived from the way in which turf for fuel is placed to dry on its being cut; the surface of the ground is turned off with the heath growing on it, and the heath is pared downward, and left some days in that state, that the earth may get dry before it is carried away. It means, then, top side turf-ways.—Gentleman's Magazine.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF'S FAREWELL TO HIS ARMY. The *Invalide Russe* of the 22nd publishes the following order of the day, addressed by Prince Gortschakoff to the army of the South and to the troops in the Crimea:—

Head-quarters, Bakchei-Serai, Jan. 12. In leaving, by the Emperor's order, for new duties, I bid you farewell, brave comrades! I give to you my warmest an army intred to battles, and which has been for the Czar and the country, a defence and a joy.

Your courage and your devotion, brave warriors, will remain graven for ever on my heart. I sincerely return you thanks for the confidence you always reposed in me in the midst of the bloody and terrible struggle, in which I have seen the continual and the most numerous foes, who had in their power means of warfare unique and heretofore unknown in the annals of war.

This order of the day will be read in every company, squadron, sotnia, battery and body of marines.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE ON

ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Whelan, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the address in answer to His Excellency's speech, in the Chair.

HON. MR. WHELAN.—Mr. Chairman, I will make some observations on the general tone of that speech, and will offer some observations on one or two paragraphs. First, with regard to the general character of the speech, is one, I think, not surprising to many that have come before this House. I do not remember one so plain in its character. It is not a long array of Government measures. But I think I may remark, that the addresses the Governor need not be afraid to come before this House. But, sir, I presume they have very nearly exhausted the subject. When we look at the Statute Book and find the many important measures which they are bound to introduce, published a day or two ago, I think, perhaps, it is well that the Government should come down here without any plan asking support, and that they should not dictate to this House what measures should be adopted. I think, however, perhaps, it is well that the Government measures the better. But, sir, they act wisely and judiciously, I think, in saying and leaving it to the House itself to propose what measures they have in mind to carry out. The Government measures the revenue of the Island. The first part of the speech is that in reference to the revenue. He says, (see speech, paragraph third)—"On looking to the abstract of the revenue, published a day or two ago, I find that there was a falling off of £3,952 9s. 5d." Is there any accounting for this falling off? I think it is owing, in some measure, to the extended commercial relations which have arisen between this Island and the American Union. No man of common sense could believe, that when that measure was carried into execution, it would not affect the revenue. That may, in some measure, account for the decrease. It is also to be accounted for, inasmuch as the prices demanded for West India produce so high in the States. It is a well known fact that many of our merchants who imported largely from those islands failed, in consequence of the high prices demanded by their customers. It will also be seen, as another item of decrease, that there is a falling off in the land assessment of £239 10s. 5d. This, is in a great measure, owing to the purchase of the Worrell estates by Government, and which they are now paying for in instalments. There was also a small deficiency in the amount of sales of Crown Lands. Its easy to account for that; because the Worrell estate being bought up, other lands were less eagerly sought after. Another such fall in the amount of licence duty. This is owing, I think, to the arbitrary system followed by the Grand Jury. Whatever opinions hon. gentlemen may entertain in the abstract, as to the merits of the licence duty, it is a well known fact, that in the last year, the summary power which they enjoyed of refusing, at their pleasure, to license houses of public entertainment has had an injurious effect on the revenue. It is a well known fact, that the increase in the postage accounts. Nothing is so well calculated to elevate the interests of any country. So long as this is on the increase, the intelligence of the country is also on the increase. There is also an increase on interest on bonds. These items of increase are very easily accounted for. That increase requires no explanation when it is known that the interest on the debt has decreased to a considerable extent. We have an extensive coast, and a large number of American fishermen visit our shores. Owing to the facilities which we have in sailing, and in carrying on trade, our own people can go to the other Provinces, it is utterly impossible to put down all illicit traffic; but still the laws are such and have been patched so much, that His Excellency probably did well in his carriage statement. The next paragraph of the speech shall refer to that respecting the war. I shall not detain the Committee with any observations on this clause of the speech. I only express my own opinion, that the Government are not doing us any wrong, and that no interest is diminished in the progress of the war. Nearly about this time last year we appropriated a sum of two thousand pounds for the support of the widows and orphans of those who fell in the war.

Then the British satellites—the German Courts—found it prudent to renew negotiations for peace. Taking into account the reasons, and no reason to fear for our interests. But turning from a general point of view to any particular one, what influence has the war had on our own Island? The Governor says we are exempt from the war. True, we have not been directly affected by it, but nevertheless we have suffered from it, as well as every other Province on this side of the Atlantic and on the other. And we have suffered from it in another point of view:—Her Majesty's Government has been obliged to withdraw every one of the troops which we had for our defence. Has this been the case with the other Provinces? The Governor says it has not, but that they were of some consideration to us. They spent their money here; and we had not to provide protection for ourselves. Her Majesty's Government has suggested that we ought to have a contingent force of troops, which a company might be obtained from Newfoundland. That was done, and a Bill was passed to pay for it; but what was the result? The Governor says it was done; Her Majesty's Government turned round and said, "We will not pass this Bill; we would not pass this Bill." The home Government says, "We will not allow this tax on the proprietors." "It is," the grounds upon which the decision of Her Majesty's Government, regarding those measures, is founded, shall be communicated to you." An avowed object of the Government, that we have not the despatch before us, in order to be able to state the reasons somewhat closely, the reasons. Certain, I am, that the reasons and motives cannot be weighty ones. They cannot be to the advantage of the Government, but for the benefit of a certain class. It is well known, that when these Bills went from here, they were accompanied by measures for the benefit of the proprietors. Now, Sir, it is humiliating to stand up in this House, and to say that the benefit of self-government—that we have passed two bills here, and that these measures must be intercepted in their progress to the other Provinces, and that our Legislature here is rendered a farce and a nullity by a party who have respect to no power—to no authority under heaven. Sir, I had hoped that that day had passed when any party could interfere between the Island Government and Her Majesty; but unfortunately, it appears that that accursed influence still exists in its pristine eloquence. It is a well known fact, that the interference of the British Government to the subject. Would any British statesman dare to interfere with the Government of Canada, or the other smaller Provinces? Yet we, with a small revision, is it right that our measures should be frustrated and overlooked? It were far better to do away with the power of the proprietors, than pass measures from year to year, and then have that Government bank our measures. Sir, it is humiliating in the extreme, that we cannot pass a Bill of a purely local nature, without being balked in their progress to the other Provinces. It is another opportunity of expressing myself on the subject. The next paragraph relates to the Public Lands. The Committee of Public Lands, which was appointed in reference to the subject. But there is one subject to which His Excellency alludes, to which the whole of us may say something. We all do not require any information from the Government, in reference to the Free School system, but by the free School system. The Governor says, there are 286 schools in operation, attended by 11,000 pupils. In looking over the Journals, I find for 1849, a year previous to the introduction of the Free school system, I find the number of schools 126, attended by 4,735 scholars. They have more than doubled, both as to schools and pupils. Our population is 140,000. Accounts come down, it will be seen that we have given nearly £12,000 during the past year, for the support of Education in the Island, and that the same amount in the neighbouring Provinces. The population of Nova Scotia is about 300,000; and that province pays for education, a little more than £43,000 over what we pay—the sum granted by N. S. for education being 416,260. The Revenue of Nova Scotia, is £1,300,000; ours only £42,000—not one third. New Brunswick with its £263,000 revenue, and a population of 200,000, has given more than a large population as Nova Scotia; and the reason why the Revenue is so much greater than Nova Scotia, is owing, I believe, to the peculiar nature of the business of that country. It is a well known fact, that in the small sum of £9,435 for the support of Education. Now, it is not creditable to reflect, that we give nearly £3,000 more than that large Province, and that we are not the support of Education, and that we are so immeasurably ahead of that province.

Another subject to which His Excellency calls our attention is that of our communication with the neighbouring Provinces. I may be permitted to state that, much to the regret of the Assembly, they embraced the proposal of a gentleman from Boston. By the arrangement proposed, for all the benefits which New Brunswick enjoys, and which Nova Scotia will soon enjoy; so that for a very small consideration, the communication between the two Provinces earlier than we could by the ordinary mail routes. The advantage will be felt, before the Session is over. I do not think twice of it would be well thrown away, if it were simply to be a matter of convenience, and to be our neighbours and ourselves better acquainted than we have hitherto been. I would be willing to vote any sum, and I do not think that the Government would be any less than regular communication with the other Provinces. To the credit of the Government they, last summer, kept up a very regular communication with the other Provinces. I still think it may be very materially improved on; and I trust the Government will act a liberal sum; and I think we can see the advantage of it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then moved that the first paragraph of the Address be read; which being done, he moved that it be agreed to, which passed.

Several amendments were then agreed to without remark.

On reading the fifth paragraph of the Address, respecting illicit traffic,