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AND

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NEW YORK, JANUARY 24.
CANTON.

Late and important from Canton--Blockade of Canton--Protest of American Merchants--Revocation of the Blockade, &c.

The ship Robert Fulton, Capt. M'Michaels, from Hong Kong, Sept. 25th, arrived on Monday, bringing accounts 45 days later than by the last preceding arrivals.

The British, with their families, had been obliged to leave Macao, and go on board of the English ships at Hong Kong, 35 miles eastward of Macao. Capt. Elliott, chief superintendent of the English trade, had hoisted his flag on board the British Country ship Fort William. The opium trade, however, under the British flag, was very brisk, and at high prices, on the eastern coast of China; this will prevent the renewal of the English trade with Canton, and may lead to a suspension of all foreign trade. The English had fired into several junks, and made an attack under the command of Captain Elliott, on the forts and junks at Kow Loore, a few miles to the eastward of Hong Kong; it was reported that several Chinese had been killed, amongst whom there was a Mandarin of rank. A very severe edict against the English had been issued by the High Commissioner, in consequence of this attack, and the blockade of Canton by the British. The latter, however, has since been revoked, the Americans having protested against the blockade, and notified the British authorities that they and their government would be held responsible for all the damage to American persons or property. The American trade continued without molestation from the Chinese. Several vessels under the American, Spanish, and Danish flags, were employed in bringing India Cotton and British Manufactures to Canton, from Hong Kong, at high rates of freight. The British ship Mermaid had been purchased at Hong Kong, and was employed in the freighting business under the American flag between there and Canton.

An additional export duty on teas and silks was to be laid by the Chinese, to meet the expenses incurred by difficulties with the British. New forts have been built at the entrance of the river, and rafts and chains thrown across it. An arrival at St. Helena, from Singapore, reports that several vessels, fully armed, were about sailing for the coast of China, with a determination of carrying on the opium trade.

There were 80 sail of British ships in the harbour of Hong Kong, forbidden by Mr. Elliott's orders to leave their station--the greatest part of them loaded with from fourteen to fifteen hundred tons of cotton.

ST. JOHN, N. B. FEBRUARY 15, 1840.

The Western Mail, last evening, brought us New York evening papers of the 7th inst. at which time the *Liverpool* steamer, then out 18 days, had not arrived.

We are informed, on good authority, that the erection of Barracks, at Woodstock, in this Province, for the accommodation of a large military force, has been determined upon, and the work is to commence immediately.

These precautions, we presume, are taken in accordance with the views expressed in the communication of the British Minister at Washington to the American Secretary of State, under the date of 26th January. The continued persistence of Governor Fairfield in acts of aggression on the disputed territory, contrary to existing arrangements (while the British authorities have scrupulously adhered to them both in letter and spirit,) and the repeated threats of his determination to take possession of the territory, could not fail to arouse our authorities to a sense of their duty, and have no doubt caused the present warlike demonstrations. We sincerely trust, however, that the United States Government will perceive the difficulties into which the refractory Government of Maine is about plunging the two nations, and at once interpose to prevent the awful calamities of either a border or a general war.

WOODSTOCK, Feb. 8.--*High-handed proceedings of the Americans.*--We can state on the best authority, that Mr. Paul Beardsley, one of her Majesty's subjects in this Province, was arrested at a lumber camp near Presque Isle, by the Maine authorities, and thence conveyed to Houlton, and there committed to custody, to take his trial (a bill of indictment having been previously found against him) for having participated in the arrest of the Land Agent of Maine last winter--an act which was sanctioned by the Provincial Magistrates and Government at the time--as it is well known that the Land Agent was only released on parole. We have just heard that Mr. Beardsley has given bail for his appearance next Session at Houlton.

We look with the fullest confidence to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's taking the most active steps to have our fellow subject discharged from his bonds, and having ample redress afforded him.--*Woodstock Times.*

SPECKS OF WAR.--A friend in Portland, in whose sagacity and good sense we have much confidence, adds in a postscript to a letter, which we received yesterday--"We shall have war with England. All the elements of such an explosion are silently but surely gathering. The speck upon the political horizon may not yet be bigger than a lady's fan, but it holds in its volumed folds the germ of the tempest, and will soon unroll and spread its black banners over the whole zenith."

Is it credible, is it possible, we exclaimed, on reading this, that in this civilized age, a war between two such powers as England and the United States could grow out of a dispute, so trifling, in comparison with other great interests at stake, as the North Eastern Boundary Question? And yet the wary observer may discover many portentous tokens which threaten the consummation which our correspondent predicts.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, Feb. 12.--THE NEW CONSTITUTION.--The past week was one worthy of remembrance in the Legis-

lative history of this Province. The debates, which commenced on Monday, continued down to Wednesday night, by which time it was admitted on all hands that the existing system of Government was utterly indefensible--that the Despatch of Lord John Russell, as interpreted by the Governor General and Sir John Harvey, did give a new and improved constitution to the Colonies--and that Nova Scotia ought to claim her right to participate in the advantages of the Constitution without delay. Not only were these views sustained by the large majority of 30 to 12, who voted for the passage of the Resolutions, but were frankly admitted to be just, by the Hon. Mr. Uniacke, who withdrew from the division, and by Mr. Fairbanks, who voted against them. The debate throughout was remarkable for moderation and firmness, and the division was of a character not to be misunderstood.

On Monday, at one o'clock, the time appointed by the Governor, the whole House went up with the Resolutions, and a short Address, recommending them to the favourable consideration of His Excellency; and received from Sir Colin Campbell the following answer:--

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

The subject you have presented to my consideration in this Address, has, in all essential respects, been already brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, in Resolutions of the House of Assembly passed in its last Session.

Her Majesty's Ministers, after full consideration of the subject, and personal conference with Delegates from your body authorized to advocate your views, have expressed, in the Despatch which, by Her Majesty's command, I recently laid before you, the judgment to which they had come on the matters of your complaints.

Having no reason to believe that any alteration has taken place in the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in this respect, I do not feel myself at liberty to adopt any other course, than to refer you to the Despatch already alluded to, as containing their decision. Justice, however, to the Executive Council, leads me to say, that I have every reason to be satisfied with the advice and assistance which they have at all times afforded me.

It has ever been, and shall continue to be, my earnest desire to concur in every measure which appears to me to be conducive to the best interests of this Province.

On the return of the House to their own chamber, the hon. Mr. Uniacke rose and stated, that yielding to the expressed opinion of the Representative branch, and being desirous of facilitating the introduction of a better system, he had thought it his duty to the House and to Sir Colin Campbell, to tender his resignation of the seat he held as an Executive Councillor, and that his resignation had been accepted. He then referred to the attacks which had been made upon him, by his enemies and by his friends, for his frank admission, in the debate, of the absurdity of the present system, and the necessity for a change; but declared that neither should deter him from giving efficacy to what he believed to be the intention of Her Majesty's Government, nor from giving his support to the principles of Lord John Russell's Despatch, and establishing a local Government that should be responsible to, and work harmoniously with, the Representative branch. He then traced back his conduct as a public man, vindicating its consistency, but declaring that, as he had supported the government against the Assembly when he believed the latter were wrong, he would not continue to deny to the people what the Government had evidently yielded, nor contend further against the House, when he was convinced that in principle they were right.

On motion of Mr. Howe, the answer of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the Address and Resolutions of this House, relative to the Executive Council, was read, and thereupon Mr. Howe moved, that the following Address do pass, viz:--

"To His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir COLIN CAMPBELL, &c. &c. &c."

The humble Address of the House of Representatives, in General Assembly.

"May it please your Excellency;

"We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the Province of Nova Scotia, cannot but express our unfeigned regret at the tenor of the reply made by your Excellency to the Resolutions passed, by a large majority of this House, on the 5th instant.

"It is true that some of the complaints urged in those Resolutions had been pressed upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government in former communications,--but we humbly conceive that the Despatch of Lord John Russell, dated 16th October, and not that of his predecessor in office, dated 31st of August, to which your Excellency refers, is the one by which all parties in the Colonies now, and hereafter, are to be governed. We believe that that Despatch not only gives to your Excellency the power to remodel the Executive Council, but makes such changes as are required to ensure harmony between the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Government imperative.

"This House are at a loss to conceive any "Motives of Public Policy" more "sufficient" to render an application of the principles of that Despatch to this Province advisable, than the fact that a majority of thirty to twelve of the Members of the Representative Branch have avowed their want of confidence in officers, expressly referred to by the Colonial Secretary,--that they have declared it impossible to deal wisely with measures of great importance to the Government and the Country, until confidence between the Executive and the Legislature be established, and that while the only efficient Representative of the Local Government in this House has resigned his seat, no man of any influence in this Assembly can be found to devote his talents to the service of the Government while a majority of the Executive Council persist in retaining their seats, and your Excellency declines to exercise the powers confided by Lord John Russell's Despatch.

"It is to this House a subject of deep mortification, that while, in a neighbouring Province, His Excellency Sir John Harvey recognizes the Despatch of the 16th October, as conferring a new and improved Constitution on the Colonies, and has expressed his determination to act upon it,--while in Canada the Governor General declares that "he has received Her Majesty's commands to administer the government of these Provinces in accordance with the well understood wishes and interests of the People, and to pay to their feelings, as expressed through their Represent-

tatives, the deference that is justly due to them," that the people of Nova Scotia are to be treated worse than the people of New Brunswick, and that under cover of a Despatch written before the New Policy was adopted, by a Nobleman who no longer presides over the Colonies, principles are to be applied to Nova Scotia, whose allegiance is unsullied, less in accordance with the spirit and practice of the British Constitution, than those which have been promulgated for the Government of a Province but recently agitated by Disaffection and Rebellion.

"Should your Excellency, upon reconsidering this subject, upon referring to the Governor General's Message of the 14th January, in which he declares "his earnest and anxious desire to discharge the trust committed to him in accordance with the principles announced," still feel compelled to disappoint the just hopes of the people of Nova Scotia, this House will feel unfeigned sorrow; but, in the meantime, they trust they need not assure your Excellency of their desire to preserve the tranquillity of the Province, and to ensure the harmonious action of the different branches of the Government."

The last clause of the address threatened an application to the Governor General to remove their grievances, but was altered to the words we have inserted in italics.--The whole of this afternoon was occupied in discussing the subject matter of the address--which passed, 31 against 10.

Friday, Feb. 14.--Mr. Howe moved for the appointment of a Committee to wait on his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to know at what time he would be ready to receive the Address of the House, which passed on Wednesday.

Mr. S. Sargent moved an amendment for an Address to Her Majesty, praying that an act of parliament might be passed, giving a constitution to the colony--such act not to take effect unless approved of by the Legislature of Nova Scotia. The amendment was negatived by a majority of 18.

The Committee was then appointed to inquire what time his Excellency would receive the Address.

Saturday, Feb. 5.--The House waited on his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with their Address, passed on Wednesday last, to which His Excellency made the following reply:--

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

"I have given to this Address the deep consideration to which the opinion of the Representatives of the people is justly entitled.

"By adopting the course you suggest, I should practically recognize a fundamental change in the Colonial Constitution, which I cannot certainly discover to have been designed by the Despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of the 16th October, in the manner and to the extent supposed by you.

"In examining the solemn trust committed to me by my Sovereign, I feel it to be my duty not to establish a principle involving consequences of deep moment, on which any uncertainty rests, until Her Majesty's Ministers shall have been consulted, and the judgment of the Queen ascertained.

"It is therefore my intention immediately to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the Address and Resolutions you have lately passed on the subject.

"In the meantime, I shall be constantly ready to yield my concurrence to any measures you may adopt, which, in my judgment, are calculated to promote the welfare of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of this Province, whom you represent."

The House having returned, Mr. Howe and others spoke in terms of strong disapprobation of the course pursued by His Excellency, and Mr. Huntington gave notice, that when the Revenue Bills had passed--in order that the legislative bearing might not be destroyed, and that the supplies might not be stopped by collision with the other branches--he would move a couple of Resolutions, the import of which it is generally understood will be a vote of censure upon his Excellency, and an appeal to the Home Government. A Resolution was then moved by Mr. Doyle, for a Committee to wait upon his Excellency, to ascertain if his Excellency had given any instructions to the Hon. Alexander Stewart, for his guidance at the Colonial Office, or any other of the public offices. Messrs. Doyle, Goudge, Annand, M'Kim and Lewis were appointed a Committee, and proceeded to Government House. When they returned they informed the House that His Excellency had been pleased to state that he gave no instructions to the Delegates from the Legislative Council, nor was he aware of the cause of Mr. Stewart's detention in England.

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

TUESDAY, February 18th.

Mr. W. Dingwell presented a Petition, very numerously signed, from the Inhabitants of Grand River, (King's County) and the adjacent Settlements; setting forth the advantages which would accrue, were the present road from Dingwell's Mill to the Northern branch of Grand River continued from thence to the head of Cardigan River.

The Petition was, by leave, withdrawn, for the purpose of being presented to the Lieut. Governor in Council--the Members for King's County stating that they would accompany it with a petition from themselves, praying that his Excellency would cause the said roads to be opened under the provisions of the Road Compensation Act.

Mr. Macintosh presented a Petition from the Inhabitants of Bay Fortune, praying an aid of £25, to purchase a right of way through the farms of William Dingwell and William MacKenzie.--Laid on the table.

Four Petitions were presented by Mr. Yeo, two by Mr. Fraser, and three by Mr. Gorman, from different parts of Prince County, praying pecuniary aid to improve their Road communications.