HASZARD'S GAZETTE,

FARMERS' JOURNAL & COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

PUBLISHED ON EVERY WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY.

Established 1823. Charlottetown, P. E. Island, Wednesday, December 3, 1856. New Series. No. 399.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE,
Published by Geo. T. Haszard
Queen Square,
Is issued twice a week, at 15s. per year.
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THE LATEST NEWS, AT HOME & ABROAD

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

THE FRENCH ALLIANCE.—The bands by which the English and French Governments have for the last few years been closely united are evidently loosening. Russia has not suffered the months that have elapsed since the Treaty of Paris was concluded to pass unimproved for her own advantage. She has addressed herself to the double task of opening up the internal resources of her empire by the construction of railways—available alike for the purposes of peaceful commerce or military transport—and of weakening the alliance deemed to be permanently cemented between France and England. The following extract from the London *Watchman* of Nov. 5th affords a view of the present aspect of affairs:—It was necessary to Russia, that the Alliance should be dissolved, and that one of the Western Powers should be attracted to herself. She paid the Emperor of the French the compliment of preferring his friendship, and this country the still higher one of believing that England could not be drawn away from her steadfastness in regard to those European interests for which she took up arms. We wait for some further manifestation of the course which Louis Napoleon intends to pursue, but events speak with convincing argument that the intrigues of Russia have not been in vain. A short time ago, nothing was more vehemently suspected than the designs of Austria in the occupation of the Danubian Provinces; at present, it is by the semi-official organs of France alone that this outcry against Austria is kept up, while it has been suddenly suppressed by those journals here which support Lord Palmerston's Administration. Why? Because the axis of the political sphere is changing. At the present juncture, Austria is more the Ally of England than of Russia, and France more the Ally of Russia than of England. We regret this new position of things, because we have a higher respect for our neighbours across the English Channel, we have a nearer and larger community of interest with them, and have learned from a companionship of arms a warmer sympathy with France, than we can transfer to Austria. But how much soever the fact may be regretted, doubted it can hardly be. As we hinted in our last number, the new arrangement of the figures in our political kaleidoscope may be best seen under an Oriental sky. At Constantinople, the change of the Ministry to which we last week referred, and which was afterwards denied, is complete; the Sultan has accepted the resignation of Aali Pacha, and Reschid Pacha is Grand Vazier. If Lord de Redcliffe's influence is visible in this, equally plain is it that French diplomacy has been folded. The fact of a variance in policy between the Ambassadors of the Western Powers at that very capital which, a year ago, the fleets and armies of the two nations were combined to protect from Russia, is the most decisive proof that the alliance between them survives more as a name than as a living reality. By a despatch of the same date as that which relates the fall of the Turkish Ministry, we are informed that the Porte has consented to the continued occupation by Austria of the Danubian Principalities, and by England of the Black Sea. We already knew that such occupation was to be prolonged, with or without an agreement with the Sultan, until Russia had executed her part of the Treaty of Paris. But this compliance of Ottoman Ministry with the demands of Great Britain and Austria, is contrary to the urgency not only of Russia but, unless the French press has been allowed to misrepresent the sentiments of its own Government, of France also.

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Sir John Jervis, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, is dead. The late judge was fifty-four years of age. For a while he served in the army, but was subsequently, in the year 1824, called to the bar of the Middle Temple. He became Attorney General in 1846, and was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1850. In speaking of the late Chief Justice the Daily News says.—

In the two intellectual gifts of rapid apprehension and rapid ratiocination, no public man of the present day was within the range of his own professional pursuit, the equal of the late Sir John Jervis. Even to those most accustomed to witness the effects of forensic training in sharpening and quickening the intellectual faculties, there was a something almost preternatural in the swiftness of glance, with which the deceased Chief Justice took in all the bearings of a complicated subject, which till he came into court was wholly unfamiliar to him—in the facility with which he detected every artifice, exposed every sophistry, and pursued with an unerring logic the longest trains of legal reasoning to its remotest consequences. As a mere dialectic display, few exhibitions could be more gratifying to an intellectual mind than to watch Sir John Jervis, in the Common Pleas, making his way through the intricacies of a long patent cause, or playfully dragging to light the skilfully disguised fallacy which formed the basis of some solemn and plausible argument that might easily have imposed upon a judge less skillfully astute than himself. And even made in which the whole was done, made the best part of the exhibition. Not a word was wasted. Subtle and swift, the keen shaft of logic was shot, and the solemn man was abated, and the ponderous man came down with a crash, and—greater miracles still—the incessantly talkative man was silenced. Even the ablest and the clearest headed confessed there was "no standing up against Jervis;" and by a sort of tacit agreement it came to be understood that as little nonsense as possible was to be talked before him. And all this was done without pedantry and without harshness. Everything was accomplished with the easy half-careless manner of a clear-sighted man of the world, who, as Mr. Carlyle would say, "had swallowed all formulas," abominated learned trifling, and above all things, loved to come to the point. The merits of this style of proceeding were, that that portion of the human race who, during the time of the late Chief Justice frequented the Court of Common Pleas were saved an infinite amount of weariness, vexation, and delay.

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A tall, slab-sided Yankee, who made his appearance at Cape May last summer, strolled down to the beach during bathing time. On seeing the bevy of beauties sporting in the waves, he burst into a fit of enthusiasm:

"Je-ru-sa-lem! if that don't remind me of something good they have at home!"

"What is it?" said Jonathan, smacking his lips, "why it's 'lasses and water."

It is an extraordinary fact that when people come to what is commonly called high words they generally use low language.