

From English Papers to the 4th December.

There has been a brevet in the army, and a series of promotions in the navy and in the East India service, on the birth of an heir to the throne. The promotions have not been so comprehensive as many could have wished, but they are more extensive than any which the late ministry made. The number may be thus stated:—In the army, 402; in the artillery and engineers, 48; in the marines, 20; in the navy, 409; and in the East India service, 133; making a total of 1033 officers promoted. This will place in the hands of the ministry a considerable proportion of patronage, which is caused by the preferments, as several of those who have been advanced a step will retire upon full pay, and be succeeded by others whose advancement will create vacancies and new appointments. The following is a summary of the number of officers promoted by the brevet:—

THE ARMY.

- 33 Lieutenant-generals to be generals.
49 Major-generals to be lieutenant-generals.
61 Colonels to be major-generals.
75 Lieutenant-colonels to be colonels.
66 Majors to be lieutenant-colonels.
106 Captains to be majors.
13 Lieutenant-colonels to be aides-de-camp to her majesty, and rank as colonels in the army.

ROYAL ARTILLERY AND ROYAL ENGINEERS.

- 1 Lieutenant-general to be general.
4 Major-generals to be lieutenant-generals.
14 Colonels to be major-generals.
7 Lieutenant-colonels to be colonels.
22 Captains to be majors.

ROYAL MARINES.

- 3 Colonels to be major-generals.
17 Captains to be majors.

THE NAVY.

- 9 Admirals of the white to be admirals of the red.
11 Admirals of the blue, and five vice-admirals of the red, to be admirals of the white.
12 Vice-admirals of the red, and four vice-admirals of the white, to be admirals of the blue.
14 Vice-admirals of the white, and five vice-admirals of the blue, to be vice-admirals of the red.
17 Vice-admirals of the blue, and two rear-admirals of the red, to be vice-admirals of the white.
20 Rear-admirals of the red, to be vice-admirals of the blue.
33 Rear-admirals of the white, to be rear-admirals of the red.
27 Rear-admirals of the blue, to be rear-admirals of the white.
40 Captains, appointed flag-officers of her majesty's fleet, to be rear-admirals of the blue.
50 Commanders to be captains.
80 Lieutenants to be commanders.
80 Mates to be lieutenants.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE.

- 3 Lieutenant-generals to be generals.
5 Major-generals to be lieutenant-generals.
54 Colonels to be major-generals.
2 Majors to be lieutenant-colonels.
69 Captains to be majors.

In the case of the forged exchequer bills nothing further has transpired on authority, and probably nothing will until the trial of Mr. Beaumont Smith, which is expected to take place this day. A true bill has been found against him, and it is understood that the crown-lawyers have admitted Rapallo as approver or queen's evidence. There is a rumour very prevalent in the city that a large sum of money, part of the produce of the forgery, has been traced into the possession of the Bank of France as a cash deposit, and that measures have been taken to attach it there, to await the result of ulterior proceedings. Perhaps this sum may be the share of the lady who is said to have actually forged the signature to the exchequer bills, and who lost no time in making herself scarce as far as England was concerned. It would seem that the gang—for it is not credible that an isolated individual or two are alone concerned in a fraud of such magnitude—have not confined their operations to this country. At Dresden and at Paris large forgeries have been discovered of Prussian treasury bills; while at Lisbon the minister of finance has formally complained to the Cortez of the fearful extent to which the forgery of Portuguese Bank paper and government stamps has been carried, and has urged them to take measures for checking the evil. There is, we believe, no doubt but that the banking firm of Messrs. Coutts and Co. have filed proceedings in Chancery, in the shape of a bill of discovery, against Viscount Strangford, to obtain facts to ground proceedings against other parties. His lordship is said to have introduced a party to his bankers, who desired to obtain advances upon exchequer bills (since declared to be forgeries) to the amount of £35,000 or £40,000. The advance was made, but the party obtaining the cash has completely exonerated his lordship from having any knowledge whatever that the bills were bad. The bank made two false moves in the business. Instead of passing the amount through the noble lord's account, when his liability would have been obvious, they permitted his friend to draw upon them in his own name; and his lordship subsequently to take out of their hands his cash balance of about £800, thereby in so far waiving their claim on him. It is now said that at the time of the Boulogne expedition in August, 1840, an intimation was given to Lord Melbourne of papers of a highly important nature being in possession of Rapallo, but no notice was taken of the warning. As it is generally understood that the examination of exchequer bills, issued pursuant to the acts of parliament, was completed on Saturday, the merchants, bankers, and others in the city, have daily looked with much anxiety for an official announcement of the result of the inquiry, including, of course, the amount of bills that have been impounded as forgeries. No such notice has yet issued from the Exchequer office; but it is daily expected. The rumour still is, that bad bills to the amount of upwards of £400,000, in alleged value, have been impounded. It is stated that some additional discoveries have been made, but the facts and circumstances are kept back until the trial—for the result of that trial, the public are kept anxiously. Those presumed to be mixed up with E. B. Smith and M. Rapallo there is no doubt dread the public examination that must soon take place.

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch is to be Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburghshire, in the place of the Marquis of Lothian, deceased.

Sir Henry Freeling, Bart., died suddenly on Monday last. O'Connell has given notice, at the Corn Exchange, of an address to the House of Commons, calling on that house to address the queen to remove Lord De Grey and Lord Elliot.

Mr. Egerton Smith, the founder, editor and chief proprietor of the Liverpool Mercury, died, after a short illness, at Liverpool, on the 19th ult.

The amount of the O'Connell collection for the year in the city of Dublin parishes was £2,006, being an increase on the last year of £568.

It is probable that the Earl of Home will be elected by the peers of Scotland to represent them in the imperial parliament in the place of the Earl of Elgin, deceased.

It is proposed by the friends of Mr. O'Connell, in Dublin, to make him permanent lord mayor of that city, by re-electing him every year.

Dr. Birkbeck, M. D., expired on Wednesday morning, at 38, Finsbury-square, after the most prolonged and severe sufferings, which he, however, bore with extreme fortitude.

Sir Francis Chantrey, the eminent and distinguished sculptor, died on Friday week, at his residence in Lower Belgrave-place, London, of spasm in the heart. He had nearly finished his statue of the Duke of Wellington.

It appears from the census of Sydney, New South Wales, and its district, which has just reached this country, that the population amounts to 35,507 males and females; and the houses, stone and brick, to 5,392.

Admiral Sir John Wells, G. C. B. died on Friday week at Belmore, his residence, near Cruckfield, Sussex, at the advanced age of 78.

The directors and several of the subscribers to the Thames Tunnel used it as a thoroughfare, for the first time, on Wednesday. The Wapping end of the passage will be completed in about three weeks.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, it is said, is about to resign the Grand Mastership of the Ancient Order of Free-masons, and it is also rumoured that His Royal Highness Prince Albert will be offered that distinguished honorary appointment.

If the queen were to give birth to twelve princes she is not compelled to confer the title of Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester upon the first-born; she may reserve the honour for any one, even the youngest, or may allow it to remain in abeyance if she thought proper.

The death of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine took place at his lordship's residence, in the Rue de Varennes, on Sunday week. The deceased Earl was in his 70th year, and had been for a long period a martyr to the tic doloureux; but the immediate cause of dissolution was an obstruction in the digestive organs.

The Illustrations, 74, having on board Sir Charles Bagot and suite, which sailed for Canada on Tuesday fortnight, put into Falmouth on Saturday week, to await more favourable weather than she had encountered. She got under weigh again on Tuesday week, and proceeded for her destination.

A large and powerful association is now in progress of formation, having for its object the establishment of an extensive and national system of emigration to our North American colonies. This association is also supported by a union with the baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia, whose territorial claims on the ancient province of Nova Scotia will thus, it is anticipated, be made not only available to themselves, but beneficial to the distressed population of these kingdoms.

It is rumoured that the funds arising out of the negotiation of the exchequer counterfeits have been traced to the Bank of France, where they are held in deposit, and it is added that a messenger has been sent over to Paris to attach it in the hands of the bank. It is further stated that the government, having a clue to the agent here employed in the transmission of the property, has taken other measures for its recovery.

At the weekly meeting of the Repeal Association, held on Tuesday at the Dublin Corn Exchange, the Lord Mayor, O'Connell, styled the regent of Spain the "vile Espartero," and after denouncing him as the enemy of civil and religious liberty, reiterated his denunciations, and pronounced him to be "a vile and sanguinary monster."

The schooner Whim, with a cargo of mahogany, arrived safely in the West India Import Dock from St. Domingo, after a passage of sixty-four days, under very extraordinary circumstances. The crew consisted of but five persons on leaving St. Domingo; on the twelfth day the mate died, and was thrown overboard. A man and a boy subsequently became incapable of rendering any assistance to navigate the ship, and Captain Kellage and one man, John Willey, were left to bring the schooner to England, a distance of nearly 4,000 miles, in a most tempestuous sea, a feat which they accomplished, with the assistance of one of the crew borrowed from a vessel in the channel.

His Royal Highness the Infant Duke of Cornwall is the first heir-apparent to the British throne who has been born free of the city of London. His illustrious father having been some time since admitted a freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, the young Prince obtains his freedom by patrimony, and being of full age at his birth, may take up his livery at any time on paying his fees.

Three persons in one family, at Leigh Sinton, have been poisoned by eating greens which had been in a half frozen state, and were put into warm water before they had been properly thawed by soaking them in cold water; the consequence was, that they became, through decomposition, of a most pernicious and putrid quality.

The parish-clerk of Winkleigh has a salary of a guinea a year for winding up the church clock daily. To earn this sum he has to travel 102 miles, ascend and descend 23,000 steps, and haul up 18 tons weight 29,000 yards! Verily this is not an ecclesiastical sinecure.—Leeds Mercury.

A pile-driving machine, imported from America, and called "Brother Jonathan," is now in use on the Surrey side of the New Hungerford Market Bridge. It is worked by a locomotive engine of ten-horse power, and the blow given by the hammer or monkey as it descends, exceeds 600 tons. By this means two piles of the largest size are driven nearly their whole length into the earth in about eight minutes, or perhaps less; a circular horizontal saw is worked by the engine, which in a few seconds cuts the tops of the piles even. The saving of labour by this invention is immense.

INQUEST ON THE BODY OF SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY, R. A.—An inquest was held last night on the body of Sir Francis Chantrey. Dr. Bright says Sir Francis had been his patient for some time, during which the distinguished sculptor was suffering under severe indigestion and a tendency of blood to the head. He had seen Sir Francis three weeks ago, and had sanctioned his journey to Holkham, from which place he had just returned on Thursday, when Dr. Bright was summoned; but, on his arrival, found Sir Francis dead. He died from a spasm of the heart, consequent on a complaint in the stomach. Mr. J. Perry, of No. 4, Eaton-square, had been called in before Dr. Bright. He found Sir Francis pressing a tin bottle of hot water to his stomach, and complaining of agonizing pain in that region. He had not tasted anything since breakfast, and attributed the pain in part to this abstinence. Witness prescribed for him, and left the house, returning in a short time, when he found his patient dead. Sir Francis was in his 60th year. The jury returned a verdict of "Died from spasm of the heart."

DEATH OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER OF BAVARIA.—The Queen Dowager of Bavaria, Frederica Wilhelmina Carolina, died at Munich of a complaint in the chest, on the 13th ultimo. Her majesty, who was daughter of Prince Charles Louis of Baden, and niece of the present Grand Duke, was born on the 13th July, 1776, and consequently was in her 66th year, leaving five children—Elizabeth Louisa, Queen of Prussia; Amelia Augusta, married to Prince John, brother of the King of Saxony; Frederica Sophia Dorothea, married to the Archduke Francis of Austria; Maria Anna Leopoldina, Queen of Saxony; and Louisa Wilhelmina, consort of the Duke Maximilian Joseph of Bavaria.

The fishermen on the coasts of Normandy and Brittany have a superstitious notion that the quantity of fish in their seas has diminished ever since the death of the emperor. The unusually large draughts lately made at Treport and the neighbouring coasts have not destroyed this prejudice, but given rise to another; for now they believe that the fish have returned to France with the remains of Napoleon.

A letter from Hague of the 27th ultimo states that if the King of Holland refused to ratify the treaty between Luxembourg and the German Customs' Union, in the hope of effecting a treaty with Belgium, he is likely to be disappointed; the Belgian government, although not disposed to a treaty with Luxembourg, having declared that it will not treat until the differences between the King of Holland, as Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and Prussia, shall have been settled.

An extraordinary courier had been despatched from Madrid with an autograph letter from Queen Isabel for Queen Victoria, congratulating her on the birth of the Duke of Cornwall.

The Augsburg Gazette of the 16th inst. states that the carriages of the King of Naples were attacked and pillaged near Palermo by a band of highwaymen, although they were attended by a numerous escort.

When the Mail left Malta, three English ships of the line were about to proceed to the Levant, in order to watch the movements of Turkey. On the 15th, two ships of the line sailed for Malta, one for the coast of Spain and the other for Lisbon. Two more were to leave in a few days, for the same destination.

At Algiers, on the 7th instant, a meeting took place with sabres between the son of General Bonnet and another officer of the 1st Regiment of Chasseurs, when the former fell from a wound in the heart.

The advices brought by the Levant mail announce that Syria had again become a scene of bloodshed and violence. The Christian population had been assailed by the Druses in the most outrageous manner. A hundred villages had

been sacked, and Beyrout was completely filled with the unhappy fugitives. Col. Rose, Selim Pacha, and the Emir Bechir, had vainly endeavoured to allay the insurrection.

The following is a letter from the Sardinian Consul at Beyrout, dated the 20th of October:—

"Serious events have taken place in the mountains—events amounting to civil war. The Emir, as is known, has established himself at Deir-el-Kammer, and given orders for the levy of tribute; but the Druses, instead of bringing their contributions, attacked the town on the 13th, and the fighting lasted till the 17th. There were 42 Christians killed, and 100 Druses; the latter, to the number of 5,000, besieged the Christians, not numbering more than 800; but the latter fought, protected by their houses. There would have been no end to the combat had not Colonel Rose and the English officers interfered with Eyab Pacha, aide-de-camp of the generalissimo, and concluded an armistice. The colonel left the pacha at Deir-el-Kammer. The Maronite Patriarch has summoned his flock to arms. A mixed village of Druses and Christians wished to remain neutral, but the Christians attacked it, which made the village declare for the Druse party, and the firing can be heard from this. The sale of powder is again allowed here."

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Acadia arrived at Halifax, on the 19th inst. in 65 hours from Boston, having experienced very boisterous weather. Congress met on the 7th inst.—We give below such parts of the President's Message as relate to existing differences between Great Britain and the United States. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:—

In coming together, fellow citizens, to enter again upon the discharge of the duties with which the People have charged us, severally, we find great occasion to rejoice in the general prosperity of the country. We are in the enjoyment of all the blessings of civil and religious liberty, with unexampled means of education, knowledge and improvement. Through the year which is now drawing to a close, peace has been in our borders, and plenty in our habitations; and although disease has visited some few portions of our land with distress and mortality, yet in general the health of the people has been preserved, and we are called upon, by the highest obligations of duty, to renew our thanks and our devotion to our Heavenly Parent, who has continued to vouchsafe to us the eminent blessings which surround us, and who has so signally crowned the year with his goodness. If we find ourselves increasing, beyond example, in numbers, in strength, in wealth, in knowledge, in every thing which promotes human and social happiness, let us remember our dependence, for all these, on the protection and merciful dispensation of Divine Providence.

Since your last adjournment, Alexander Macleod, a British subject, who was indicted for the murder of an American citizen, and whose case has been the subject of a correspondence heretofore communicated to you, has been acquitted by the verdict of an impartial and intelligent jury, and has, under the judgment of the Court, been regularly discharged.

Great Britain having made known to this Government that the expedition which was fitted out from Canada for the destruction of the steamboat Caroline, in the winter of 1837, and which resulted in the destruction of said boat, and in the death of an American citizen, was undertaken by orders emanating from the authorities of the British Government in Canada, and demanding the discharge of Macleod upon the ground that, if engaged in that expedition, he did but fulfil the orders of his Government, has thus been answered in the only way in which she could be answered by a Government, the powers of which are distributed among its several departments by the fundamental law. Happily for the people of Great Britain, as well as those of the United States, the only mode by which an individual, arraigned for a criminal offence, before the courts of either, can obtain his discharge, is by an independent action of the judiciary, and by proceedings equally familiar to the Courts of both countries.

If in Great Britain a power exists in the Crown to cause to be entered a nolle prosequi, which is not the case with the executive power of the United States upon a prosecution pending in a state court; yet there, no more than here, can the chief executive power rescue a prisoner from custody without an order of the proper tribunal, directing his discharge. The precise stage of the proceedings at which such order may be made is a matter of municipal regulation exclusively, and not to be complained of by any other government. In cases of this kind, a government becomes politically responsible only when its tribunals of last resort are shown to have rendered unjust and injurious judgments in matters not doubtful. To the establishment and elucidation of this principle, no nation has lent its authority more efficiently than Great Britain. Alexander Macleod having his option either to prosecute a writ of error from the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, or to submit his case to the decision of a jury, preferred the latter, deeming it the readiest mode of obtaining his liberation, and the result has fully sustained the wisdom of his choice.

The manner in which the issue submitted was tried will never fail to govern the enlightened decision of an American tribunal. It cannot fail, however, to suggest to Congress the propriety, and in some degree, the necessity, of making such provisions by law, so far as they may do so, for the removal, at their commencement, and at the option of the party, of all such cases as may hereafter arise, and which may involve the faithful observance and execution of our international obligations, from the State to the Federal Judiciary. This government, by our institutions, is charged with the maintenance of peace, by the preservation of amicable relations with the nations of the earth, and proper means of maintaining the one and preserving the other. Whilst just confidence is felt in the Judiciary of the States, yet this Government ought to be competent in itself for the fulfilment of the high duties which have devolved upon it under the organic law, by the States themselves.

In the month of September, a party of armed men from Upper Canada, invaded the territory of the United States, and forcibly seized upon the person of one Grogan, and under circumstances of great harshness, hurriedly carried him beyond the limits of the United States, and delivered him up to the authorities of Upper Canada. His immediate discharge was ordered by those authorities, upon the facts of the case being brought to their knowledge—a course of procedure which was to have been expected from a nation with whom we are at peace, and which was not more due to the rights of the United States, than to its own regard for justice. The correspondence which passed between the Department of State and the British Envoy, Mr. Fox, and with the Governor of Vermont, as soon as the facts had been made known to this Department, are herewith communicated.

I regret that it is not in my power to make known to you an equally satisfactory conclusion in the case of the Caroline, steamer, with the circumstances connected with the destruction of which, in December, 1837, by an armed force fitted out in the Province of Upper Canada, you are already made acquainted. No such atonement as was due for the public wrong done to the United States by this invasion of her territory, so wholly irreconcilable with her rights as an independent power, has yet been made. In the view taken by this Government, the enquiry whether the vessel was in the employment of those who were prosecuting an unauthorised war against that Province, or was engaged by the owner in the business of transporting passengers to and from Navy Island, in hopes of private gain, which was most probably the case, in no degree alters the real question at issue between the two governments. This Government can never concede to any foreign Government the power, except in a case of the most urgent and extreme necessity, of invading its territory, either to arrest the persons or destroy the property of those who may have violated the municipal laws of such foreign Government or

have disregarded their obligations arising under the law of nations. The territory of the United States must be regarded as sacredly secure against all such invasions, until they shall voluntarily acknowledge their inability to acquit themselves of their duties to others. And in announcing this sentiment, I do but affirm a principle which no nation on earth would be more ready to vindicate, at all hazards, than the people and Government of Great Britain.

If, upon a full investigation of all the facts, it shall appear that the owner of the Caroline was governed by a hostile intent, or had made common cause with those who were in the occupancy of Navy Island, then, so far as he is concerned, there can be no claim to indemnity for the destruction of his boat, which this government would feel itself bound to prosecute—since he would have acted not only in derogation of the rights of Great Britain, but in clear violation of the laws of the United States; but that is a question which, however settled, in no manner involves the higher consideration of the violation of territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction. To recognize it as an admissible practice that each government, in its turn, upon any sudden and unauthorized outbreak, which, on a frontier, the extent of which renders it impossible for either to have an efficient force on every mile of it, and which outbreak, therefore, neither may be able to suppress in a day, may take vengeance into its own hands, and without even a remonstrance, and in the absence of any pressing or overruling necessity, may invade the territory of the other, would inevitably lead to results equally to be deplored by both. When border collisions come to receive the sanction, or to be made on the authority of either government, general war must be the inevitable result. While it is the ardent desire of the United States to cultivate the relations of peace with all nations, and to fulfil all the duties of good neighbourhood towards those who possess territories adjoining their own, that very desire would lead them to deny the right of any foreign power to invade their territory with an armed force. The correspondence of the two governments on this subject, will, at a future day of your session, be submitted to your consideration; and in the mean time, I cannot but indulge the hope that the British Government will see the propriety of renouncing, as a rule of future action, the precedent which has been set in the affair at Schlosser.

I herewith submit the correspondence which has recently taken place between the American Minister at the Court of St. James, Mr. Stevenson, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that Government, on the right claimed by that Government to visit and detain vessels sailing under the American flag and engaged in prosecuting lawful commerce in the African seas. Our commercial interests in that region have experienced considerable increase, and have become an object of much importance, and it is the duty of this government to protect them against all improper and vexatious interruptions. However desirous the United States may be for the suppression of the slave trade, they cannot consent to interpolations into the maritime code, at the mere will and pleasure of other governments. We deny the right of any such interpolation to any one, or all the nations of the earth, without our consent. We claim to have a voice in all amendments or alterations of that code—and when we are given to understand, as in this instance, by a foreign government, that its treaties with other nations cannot be executed without the establishment and enforcement of new principles of maritime policy, to be applied without our consent, we must employ a language neither of equivocal import or susceptible of misconstruction. American citizens prosecuting a lawful commerce in the African seas, under the flag of their country, are not responsible for the abuse or unlawful use of that flag by others; nor can they rightfully, on account of any such alleged abuses, be interrupted, molested, or detained while on the ocean; and if thus molested and detained, while pursuing honest voyages, in the usual way, and violating no law themselves, they are unquestionably entitled to indemnity.

The Government has manifested its repugnance to the slave trade, in a manner which cannot be misunderstood. By its fundamental law, it prescribed limits in point of time to its continuance; and against its own citizens, who might so far forget the rights of humanity as to engage in that wicked traffic, it has long since, by its municipal laws, denounced the most condign punishment. Many of the states composing this Union have made appeals to the civilized world for its suppression, long before the moral sense of other nations had become shocked by the iniquities of the traffic. Whether this Government should now enter into treaties containing mutual stipulations upon the subject is a question for its mature deliberation. Certain it is, that if the right to detain American ships on the high seas can be justified on the plea of the necessity for such detention, arising out of the existence of treaties between other nations, the same plea may be extended and enlarged by the new stipulations of new treaties, to which the United States may not be a party. This government will not cease to urge upon that of Great Britain full and ample remuneration for all losses, whether arising from detention or otherwise, to which the American citizens have heretofore been, or may hereafter be subjected, by the exercise of rights which this Government cannot recognize as legitimate and proper. Nor will I indulge a doubt but that the sense and justice of Great Britain will constrain her to make retribution for any wrong or loss which any American citizen, engaged in the prosecution of lawful commerce, may have experienced at the hand of her cruisers or public authorities. This government, at the same time, will relax no effort to prevent its citizens, if there be any so disposed, from prosecuting a traffic so revolting to the feelings of humanity. It seeks to do no more than to protect the fair and honest trader from molestation and injury; but while the enterprising mariner, engaged in the pursuit of an honourable trade, is entitled to its protection, it will visit with condign punishment others of an opposite character.

I invite your attention to existing laws for the suppression of the African slave trade, and recommend all such alterations, as may give to them greater force and efficacy. That the American flag is grossly abused by the abandoned and profligate of other nations, is but too probable. Congress has, not long since, had this subject under its consideration, and its importance well justified renewed and anxious attention.

I also communicate herewith the copy of a correspondence between Mr. Stevenson and Lord Palmerston, upon the subject so interesting to several of the Southern States, Great Britain, and advantageously to the United States.

At the opening of the last annual session, the President informed Congress of the progress which had then been made in negotiating a convention between this government and that of England, with a view to the final settlement of the question of the boundary between the territorial limits of the two countries. I regret to say that little further advance of the object has been accomplished since last year; but this is owing to circumstances no way indicative of any abatement of the desire of both parties to hasten the negotiation to its conclusion, and to settle the question in dispute, as early as possible. In the course of the session, it is my hope to be able to announce some further degree of progress towards the accomplishment of this highly desirable end.

The commission appointed by this government for the exploration and survey of the line of boundary separating the State of Maine and New Hampshire from the contiguous British Provinces is, it is believed, about to close its field labours and is expected soon to report the results of its examination to the Department of State. The report, when received, will be laid before Congress.

STRANGE HISTORY OF A NEEDLE.—A FACT FOR THE FACULTY.—The following account of the re-appearance of a needle, after its having been upwards of 60 years in the body of a human being, may be relied upon as correct:—Mr. John Bridges, solicitor, of No. 9, Parade, Islington, aged 72; swallowed, whilst at play, when between nine and ten years of age, a needle. The occurrence created great alarm in his family, and the most eminent medical practitioners of the day having been consulted, used every effort to expel the needle, but in