

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1857.

Extract of a letter from Washington, dated 20th November, 1857.

"Dispatches were yesterday received by Mr. Erskine, in which were copies of the notes that had passed between Mr. Canine and Mr. Moore, on the case of the Chesapeake, which copies have been shown to Mr. Madison. It appears that Mr. Moore's orders were limited, they restricted him on certain points, on which the British government wished for some modification. That unwilling to come to an open rupture with the U. S. a minister extraordinary would be sent to America, for the purpose of coming to an explanation and understanding with our government."

Monday last being St. Andrew's day, was celebrated by the St. Andrews Society of this city with that decent and well tempered hilarity which reflects honor on the highly respectable members of that charitable and praiseworthy institution. The pleasure mutually felt and conferred by the social collection of citizens whose object is to relieve the wants of the distressed, was much increased from an investigation of the annual report of the application of the funds, and the certainty that a number of poor, though worthy objects, had already experienced relief from the institution.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

- Robert Gilman, President, &c.
Gen. John Swan, Vice Presidents.
Mark Pringle,
Samuel M. Keen, Treasurer.
Andrew Burr, Secretary.
Rev. James Inglis, Chaplain.
Doct. Colin McKenzie, Physician.
Gibbie Christie,
Alex. Nesbit,
Alex. Fridge,
David Armour,
James Campbell,
Robert Riddell, Managers.

At half past three o'clock, the Society having finished their usual business, the members sat down to an elegant and plentiful dinner, provided by Mr. Peck, at whose Hotel the Society assembled. After dinner, the following toasts were drunk, each succeeded by a national or other admired song:

- 1. The Day and all who honor it.
2. The Land O'Goshes.
3. The Land we Live in.
4. The President of the United States.
5. The Memory of General Washington.
6. The Navy and Army of the United States.
7. Agriculture and Commerce—the Twin Sisters.
8. Wisdom to our Rulers to discern the true interests of our country, and firmness to pursue it.
9. Attachment to our Native Country, and fidelity to the Land we Live in.
10. All National Societies—May their chief aim be that of doing good.
11. Sootie men and Scotchmen's bairns and a' the m' wha' lie in Scotchmen arms.
12. The Beggar's benison.
13. Goodie McGreegers Maleson—we wish nae ill to any body, but if any wish ill to us, to do it in be.
14. A' the b-bunny Lasses that play among the heather—weul thim'd datin.
15. The Locher of Grammond—contentment is better than riches.
16. The American Fair.
17. May care and trouble ne'er fash—but merrin and joy be wi' us a'.

On commemorating the death of Daniel Bowley, Esq. some time since, we omitted accompanying it with the following:

In the discharge of the various duties of husband, father, relative, friend or master, he was equalled by few, surpassed by none. So well sighted were the eyes of his mind that he saw life in death, exultation in falling, and glorious light in the midst of darkness."

Of incorruptible integrity, of inflexible morals, possessing a mind too strong to be trammelled by the prejudices of education, or the preaching of fanaticism, his religion was the offspring of reason enlightened by revelation, and founded on the holy basis of UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION. He believed (as the author of this inadequate tribute to his memory doth believe) that the gates of heaven are wide, and the avenues many, which lead to that happy Place: and depended for his comfort on the merciful and Almighty Governor of the world, who if we have but done our duties in it, will never enquire whether we have done them in a red coat or in a black one: or whether we are followers of a particular sect, or in equal fellowship with all.

His charities were diffusive, and more than sufficiently broad for his fortune, splendid as it was; yet were they of that unobtrusive kind that they would have remained hidden forever, but for the number of industrious poor, who thronged about his residence on the day of his interment, to manifest their gratitude to a lost patron and protector. His public spirit and enterprise, have already been the theme of some friendly, and more able pen, who hath commemorated them in terms not less impressive than true. Devoted to the cause of liberty and the principles of the American Revolution, he was selected on a trying crisis of that eventful era, with by the state of Virginia, and his native state, to superintend certain naval equipments which duty he discharged with honor to himself, and public approbation. He was a real American in every sense of the word; and his attachment to his country was ardent and active, followed by habit, and superior to the spirit of party.

Such was the man, to whose memory is offered this feeble tribute of respect. Yet

hath he gone and left us to mourn, none by a painful remove from painful labor to quiet rest; from unquiet desires to happy contentment; from unquiet sorrow to joy, and from transitory time to immortality."

Lord SELKIRK'S Speech on the probability of Invasion.

[The following extract from the Speech of this gentleman as delivered in the British Parliament a short time previous to its late prorogation will be read with no little interest.]

"But my lords, is the chance of invasion a mere possibility? When we look at the vast extension of the resources of France, at the means of recruiting her navy, which she has acquired by her continental conquests, it would be blindness not to perceive, that her naval power will soon become far more formidable than it has ever yet been. France is now in possession of the finest forests in Europe, and of countries capable of affording ample supplies of every naval store; she may command the services of all the seamen which the continent can afford from Memel to Cadix; from Cadix to the part of a prudent politician, under such circumstances, to overlook the possibility of our navy being worsted. This, my lords, is an event for which we ought to be prepared, and fortunately there is room to hope that we shall have sufficient time to prepare against it. But any one who considers well what the state of this country would be, if the French had obtained a superiority at sea, will certainly not be disposed to think, that we can begin too soon to provide against such an emergency."

"In those who shut their eyes against the danger of immediate invasion, there is something like absolute imbecility. Because, our enemy is at assistance and has Constantinople. We may look too to the certain prospect, that the whole energy of the French government will now be directed to this object; we know in fact that during all the pressure of the continental wars, the most active exertions in ship building have never been discontinued in their naval arsenals, they have now no other object to divide their attention, and we may be well assured that all the ability of the ruler of France will now be turned to naval affairs! The same genius which has created such an astonishing change in the discipline and tactics of the French army, will now be unerringly employed in the improvement of their navy, and if we recollect that the disorganised bands which a few years ago were flying before Suwarrow out of Italy, are now the victorious legions of Austerlitz, of Jena, and of Friedland, we shall not be disposed to undertake the change, which the same genius, may effect in the navy of France. We have therefore every reason to believe, that the naval superiority of England must ere long be exposed to a more severe contest, than any which it has recently had to maintain—Whatever confidence we may entertain in the valor and skill of our seamen, it is not for a while his back turned to us, we seem to imagine that he can never again threaten our shores. His army indeed is now on the banks of the Vistula; but have we forgot the rapidity with which he moved from the Rhine to Bria? Nor are France and the adjacent provinces left so entirely destitute of troops but that a week or two perhaps, would be sufficient to collect against Boulogne such a force as might be sufficient for the invasion. Even before the next winter sets in, it is not impossible that a French army may be on English ground; and if the blow is delayed it will only be that it may be struck with greater certainty. Under the circumstances, not only is the nation sunk in apathy; but his majesty's ministers, not ashamed of bringing forward such a proposition as the bill before us, telling the nation that 20 or 30,000 more troops are to ensure their security. However, my lords there was an example of that intonation which seems to be the natural forerunner of the fall of empires, is not this one? In what are we more wise than the Prussians, who, a year ago, rushed headlong on destruction, and would not believe in the possibility of defeat? They thought that legions of the Great Frederick were invincible, as we seem now to think that the channel is an impassable barrier. Will no experience teach us wisdom? And is England destined to afford us another terrible example that 'quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat'?"

"Let us raise, my lords, from this fatal security; let us trust no longer to a barrier that may be overcome. It is not the channel that we must look for security, but to the hands of Englishmen fighting for their liberties, for the glory and independence of their country. To put our trust in the sea, if it were not the extreme of folly would be the extreme of cowardice! I shall the descendants of the men, who conquered at Agincourt and Cressy, acknowledge that they cannot meet the armies of France hand to hand, and that it is only at sea that we can cope with our enemies: At sea with the base idea, that England must entrench herself behind a miserable ditch, instead of coming out into the field! Prepare for our defence, as if the cliffs of Dover touched those of Calais, or as if the fleets of France had been as victorious as her armies! Till we can hear without dismay that the flotilla of Boulogne has effected a landing on the coast of Kent—that a French army of 120,000 men are in possession of Dover—and that 20 or 30,000 more have made their way to Ireland—all we can hear all this—without a well grounded apprehension, I shall not consider the state of our defence as worthy of the name of England. The probability is—that as war may not elapse before such news will reach our ears—and when it does come upon us, what consequence can any reasonable man anticipate, if our state of defence remain such as it now is or such as it will be, with all the addition his Majesty's ministers now call for? Let any man of military knowledge, who is acquainted with the present situation and disposition of our regular and militia forces, calculate the time that would be necessary, for bringing together an army capable of opposing 100,000 or even half that number of the troops of Bonaparte, flushed with all their late astonishing successes. Let him look back to the rapid marches of these troops in the campaigns of 1805 and 1806, and let him figure to himself what their movements would probably be were they at this hour landed on the shores of England. Let him say, whether the enemy might not be in possession of London, and all our military depots, before our army could even be collected? Whether advancing with his usual rapidity into the centre of the country he might not intercept our scattered battalions, before they could reach a rendezvous, or force the assistance of an army fit to oppose his."

"Last year we saw Prussia overwhelmed, after a short and feeble resistance—Heaven grant that England may not shortly exhibit a parallel, or a still more disagreeable spectacle! Prussia at least fought a battle before she submitted to the conqueror: England may probably be overrun, before her army is even in readiness to take the field and face the invader: and this far famed empire may be crushed, without our having the glory of making one stand for the liberties we value so highly."

—New York, Nov. 29.

"By the Jane, from Curacao, we learn, that on the 13th of October, a gale commenced at that place, which by one o'clock the next morning, became a complete hurricane. The water suddenly rose to an uncommon height, it burst into the water fort, washed away the batteries, custom-house, ordnance office, the walls of the church yard, and the dead from their graves. Many private houses completely destroyed. At Petre de Mary, many dwellings were carried off by the sea. The great and small batteries were completely destroyed. Little damage done to the shipping. Little Curacao was completely under water for several days."

DANGER OF THE EMPIRE IN INDIA.

What may be the final stage of our greatness in India, and the termination of an empire springing from a fortunate process of conquest, but which, in its progress, has been tarnished by every vice that ambition and despotism ever knew, will always be a subject of serious contemplation. Like Aurengzebe, the famous oppressor and conqueror of the continent of Hindostan, the mercantile Sovereigns of British India are in possession of an empire, which they have had better fortune in acquiring, than they are likely to have wisdom or luck in retaining—like him too, they have allies who are not friends, and friends who are not allies, dependent enemies, and independent enemies, all some that are neither one thing nor the other."

The present maxim, however, pursued in the government of British India, was not wholly casual in the illustrious predecessor of the present ministers. To invite the weaker states of that vast continent to exchange sovereignty for protection—in other words, to sell for property, was a mystery of policy not discovered till within these few years; and, it is not to be doubted that, had Aurengzebe been acquainted with this maxim in any plenitude of his power, he would have employed it towards the security and firm establishment of that mighty empire, which so and may capt through the efforts of his successors, and slight within a few years, into so many different and independent governments."

There is certainly in modern history nothing more astonishing or wonderful, than the means by which an empire has been acquired, and is now maintained in this distant quarter of the globe. We have provinces and kingdoms long annexed to the British scepter, whose boundaries we scarcely know where to look for in our maps, and have created the chiefs to be "masters of water and towers of wood," in their own country, a race of men who lived in populous towns & cities, whilst our ancestors eat acorns in their woods."

The maxim left by our celebrated historians, as a legacy to the future generations of India, was, "Avoid a war with the natives—you cannot make them your friends, and it is dangerous to make them your enemies." Lord Cornwallis left the company a maxim of equal value, "Nothing but a debt (said he) can ever ruin India." If we can substitute this formidable enemy, which is every moment growing upon us, a shall remain the same, the company will cease to be safe when it shall become insolvent."

Our late governor general marquis Wellesley, seems to have had other ideas upon the subject. He was neither averse from war nor from extravagance, he neither dreaded debt nor the Marattas. The policy of this nobleman was singularly absurd, he judged it prudent to fight for empire in India whilst we were struggling for existence at home. He is an able man, however, though a little too vigorous for time and circumstances, and one maxim he has left us, in his notes upon the late war in India which applies with great force to the circumstances of the present time. "It is not improbable, he observes, but that the British empire in India may experience a fate somewhat similar to that which precipitated the greatness of the Roman power—A remote and an unknown enemy may burst upon our security; the savage forces of the North East may rush down upon us, and the immense empire of Russia, which now almost touches upon our frontier, may, as she is extending her conquests into Persia or China, be induced to invade us to discover what prey she may be able to seize in Hindostan."

This observation of the noble author is of more value from some late hints which have been dropped in the Monitor, with respect to the mediation which Russia has offered between England and France—we are there told, in language tolerably plain, that if England refuses to accept this mediation Russia is to confederate with France against us; that Persia is to be employed as one of the main instruments of aggression; and that an attack is to be immediately made upon our empire in the East."

This is certainly, not improbable, we have seen the respect, not to say caplery with which the Persian embassy has been received at Paris. A deputation from that empire was even entertained in the camp of Napoleon whilst occupied in the last campaign; and though his motive was doubtless, at that period, to stir up an enemy against Russia, and invite the Persians to attack the possessions of that power, which he between the Caspian and the Euxine, it is not to be questioned but that his designs have changed with his circumstances, and that instead of employing Persia against England, his intention is now to employ her against India."

Whether Russia will co-operate in this hostility we know not; but weak, we had almost said despicable, as is the court of Alexander, there is much reason to fear that the temptation of a very slight booty will put aside every principle of honor and national justice.—Bell's Weekly Messenger, Oct. 4.

LONDON, Oct. 10. The last Danberg Gazette states, that the Emperor Napoleon has granted a pension of 100,000 forins to the Prince and Princess of Orange Fulda, who have lost their dominions, and a pension of 120,000 forins to Prince William of Brunwick, who is in the same situation, for himself and his Princess. No pension has yet been granted to the Elector of Hesse Cassel, who is said to be possessed of large capitals vested in foreign funds.

PARIS Sept. 16.

Yesterday at the meeting of the Legislative Body, the subject of the Budget was resumed. Mr. Arnauld went through the various items of the public revenue and expenditure, and concluded with the following observations:

"Advantages so signal are marked by the finger of genius; for it cannot escape any one, that they have been followed up and obtained by his majesty, the emperor and king, in the midst of innumerable triumphs; after the commotions, which shook France to her very foundations, and in spite of the clamors of writers in the pay of our enemy, who published from infallible deductions, periodicaly infused through every cabinet, that France would never have either emposts or finance, either credit or even territory—O atrocious blasphemy, thou hast receded upon the imprudent cabinet where thou originated."

"Who has forgotten the false prophecy of an orator, celebrated for his vehemence—of Burke! I cast my eyes over the map of Europe, and I behold not one single power that can give you the smallest uneasiness, I perceive," continued he, "one great blank, a vacuum—in the space formerly occupied by France."

"Let Burke raise his malignant head from the tomb, let him cast his eye not over the map of one single country, but over the whole horizon of the globe; and he will see what fruits this ambition and sanguinary policy had procured his country. He will hear from the remotest limits of Asia, to the least inhabited coasts of America, and even to the icy regions of the pole, one universal cry of indignation and hostility against the usurpations of the cabinet of London, to the dominion of all the seas. He will behold the two great emperors of the North and of the South uttering no restless enthusiasm of praise, as the price of the entrenchment of the navigators of all nations."

"Let Burke rise from his tomb—let him examine the state of the finances of his country, the oscillations of opinion, the agitation of the public mind, the two billions of annual expenses, the fifteen billions of national debt, the 30 millions of poor's rates, and the deplorable situation of Ireland, let him then contemplate France, her prodigious and peaceful population, her vast agricultural and commercial resources, with a constant public revenue of 20 millions, and a perpetual debt of only 25 millions."

"Let Burke rise from his tomb—let him tell those men who influence the councils of the nation, that the doctrine of war of extermination, which he professed, has accumulated all the calamities ready to burst over England; that her maritime and political system, established two centuries ago, when all Europe was ruled into a lethargy, with respect to its true interest, must now be modified, that every nation now knows the nature of its rights, and the efficacy of its means, in peace as well as in war."

"Let Burke expatiate, if it be possible, by this great truth, reasonably told, the incalculable evils which have brought upon mankind, by becoming subservient to the retrograde policy of the ministers of his time, and let his tomb close upon him again for ever."

As for your gentlemen, strong in your confidence in Napoleon the Great, you will strive to second his views of improvement of our financial system."

"I think I have demonstrated that the projected law submitted to you, presents, in every point, dispositions of general advantage and utility."

I have the honor to propose to the Legislative Body the adoption of the project of the law of the Budget of 1857."

EXTRACTS

From interesting facts and observations, made and collected principally by an eye-witness, very recently returned from the continent.

FROM THE LONDON GLOBE.

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

From the first intimation of the Emperor of Russia's intention to join his army, the consequences which followed that step were foreseen by many. It is well known that there is a powerful French party in his capital who are incessantly occupied in promoting the views and objects of Bonaparte; these too are no moment of the real character of Alexander, any more than his own senate, who appear to have been sufficiently aware, that his too easy temper and conciliatory spirit might make him the dupe of French artifice, and lead him to sacrifice the interests of his empire by a dishonourable and disadvantageous peace; and the chore they sent a positive injunction to General Bennigsen, either to lose the battle of Friedland, or retreat in the event of his gaining it. In either case the senate expected to have secured the object of peace, without sacrificing the interests of their commerce: Bennigsen did lose the battle, but his master completely disappointed the intentions of the senate. A gentleman of the first respectability told our informant, that he had a French officer declare, that if the Russian & Prussian armies had stood firm for two hours longer in the last engagement, the French might have unavoidably given way; this however could not be expected; the fixed hatred and jealousy the Russians and Prussians bear to and have of each other, must, on every such occasion, necessarily tend to their disunion and discomfiture. Every thinking man who has visited, and who is acquainted with the real state of the continent, is convinced that the operation of these destructive principles, in combination with the ignorance and treachery in their cabinets and in the field, and their very general degradation, both moral and political, must render most if not the whole, of the continental states, succession, at no very distant period, an easy prey to the superior tactics, commanding influence and unbounded ambition of France.

DENMARK.

It is now sufficiently ascertained, that

a good understanding subsisted between the courts of Copenhagen and London, previous to the arrival of the British fleet at the Sound, although the subjects of both countries were unacquainted with this important circumstance. A person was dispatched to Copenhagen on the first intimation of the fleet's approaching the Danish territory, from the fortress of Cronberg, for instructions how to act: the answer was, that the British fleet must pass unmolested.—Admiral Gambier, in the Prince of Wales, brought up oil the Coih in the afternoon or evening; and the following morning, weighed with a fine breeze, and in a short time let go his anchor within musket shot to the castle of Cronberg, with 12 sail of the line, besides the flag ship, and 114 vessels of war of inferior force. The shore was crowded with spectators. The admiral fired a gun: this was the moment of anxiety and suspense in the extreme, as the Danes would have it the gun was scotched, and they expected every instant that it would be returned in a hostile way by the garrison; the whole however ended in a salute of 15 guns from the British fleet, which was returned by one of 17 from the fort. This friendly termination of the above business appeared to a highly satisfactory to the Danes. Among the spectators now ver, was a French gentleman, who seemed greatly enamored; he said to a gentleman, who stood near him with a saucer, "So, your friends, I see, are coming!" and pointed to the British fleet. "Yes, sir, (replied the other) but where are your friends?" "Oh! (rejoined the Frenchman) just over the water." Before the gentleman, who witnessed these circumstances, left Denmark, the great man had intimated to the Danes, that they had nothing to do with the continuation—Providence having, clearly defined their boundaries of the Belts.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, November 30.

Mr. Cook observed, that the house had been sometime in session, and had done nothing on the great national question for which they had assembled. Some were in want of the information necessary, and some perhaps of the disposition to act. For the purpose of gaining that information, he submitted the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, that the Secretary of the navy be directed to lay before this house, a statement of the number of frigates and other armed vessels composing the navy of the U. S. distinguishing those in actual service from those in ordinary and those in want of repair, the sums necessary to put them to actual service, and the time necessary for making such repairs.

2. Resolved, that the Secretary of the navy be directed to lay before this house, a statement of the number of officers and men respectively, belonging to the navy of the U. States, and of the marine corps.

3. Resolved, that the Secretary of the navy be directed to lay before this house, a statement of the number of officers and men which may be necessary to man the whole and entire force of the U. States, including gun-boats; and an estimate of the expense necessary to keep them in actual service during one year.

4. Resolved, that the Secretary of the navy be directed to lay before this house, a statement of the quantity, quality, and present state of the timber and other materials belonging to the U. States, now on hand, and the purposes for which such materials may be suited.

Mr. Smith wished the gentleman to state the object of the resolutions, and whether the building of a fleet was to follow. A report was on the table, which was a part of the system of defence now in contemplation. He thought it best to do one thing at once: he therefore moved to postpone the further consideration of the resolutions until this day week.

Mr. Cook was surprised to find any objection to the resolutions. They merely went to request information necessary for the house to have. There was nothing in them about increasing or decreasing the navy. He thought he had slept long enough; he tore and he sleep the sleep of death.

Mr. Milner thought the motion of his colleague (Mr. Smith) very extraordinary. Notwithstanding the gentleman's great antipathy to a navy, he was surprised that he should be unwilling, to grant the house the information now required. Whether the navy was to be increased or annihilated, it was necessary for the house to possess the information requested in the resolutions. He believed there were not ten gentlemen on the floor who knew the present situation of our naval affairs, how many vessels were in actual service, how many were in ordinary, or how many were rotting.—It had been said on the last day the house were in session, that we were on the eve of a war; he believed one gentleman had said, that we were actually at war: in this situation, a gentleman comes forward and objects to the call for necessary information respecting the present state of our defence; and particularly when the winter was approaching, at which time the difficulty of repairing our vessels will be so greatly increased.

Mr. Mumford said the house had been a month in session, and had done nothing, although the nation was continually looking up to the house for something to be done. He hoped the house would immediately proceed to the defence of the nation. Look at the preparations in Canada and Nova Scotia, where troops have arrived, and others are expected. 20,000 men, too were said to be destined for South-America, when they might in fact be destined for the W. Indies and fourteen sail of the line were said to be destined for the West Indies, when in fact they might be to blockade our own ports.

Mr. Dana said that the object of the resolutions was merely to gain official information; he thought them important, as our affairs were certainly in a very delicate situation. Some gentlemen had said that we were on the eve of a war: if so, we should surely know our means of defence. If it was improper in the president to somment the subject to their consideration.