NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.

Speech of Lord Campbell on Unauthorized Negotiations, American Law, and the Mission of the Friends of Peace to Russia.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 9, 1854.

Lord CAMPBELL, in moving the second reading of this bill, said that he was well aware of the responsibility he incurred by laying this bill on the table of their lordships' house, inasmuch as it sought to extend the penal law of the country. He hoped that the bill would operate only by way of prevention, and that after it had passed into law, what it sought to remedy would have ceased to exist. At the same time he proposed to establish a new misdemeanor, which, though liable to a mild punishment, could not be proposed without casting upon the person who proposed it the burden of proving that it would not interfere with any natural or constitutional right, and that some evil had been experienced, or might be apprehended, which rendered legislation necessary. He believed that he should be able to show to their lordships that the bill now before them did not interfere with any natural or constitutional right, and that it was called for by evils which had been experienced, and by great evils which might be apprehended. There could, he presumed, be no doubt that the law of nations was correctly laid down in the preamble of the bill, and there could be no doubt that by the law of nations, intercourse between States could only be legitimately carried on by the governments of those States, or by ministers or officials duly authorized to carry on negotiations. It would be pedantry in him to quote authorities upon this subject; but he could, from Grotius downwards, show their lordships that every jurist had either assumed as a doctrine, or had expressly laid down for law, that such was the law of nations upon that subject. He should content himself with referring their lordships to an authority which they would all reverence—he meant Edmund Burke—an Englishman, or he was perhaps wrong in saying Englishman, because he was one of the glories of Ireland. Mr. Burke, in his celebrated letter to the Duke of Portland, published in 1793, used this language: "The laws and constitution of the kingdom entrust the sole and exclusive right of treating with foreign potentates to the king. This is an undisputed part of the legal prerogative of the crown." Then Mr. Burke designated an unauthorized interference with a foreign government "a most unconstitutional act," and added: "The legitimate and sure mode of communication between this nation and foreign Powers is rendered uncertain, precarious, and treacherous, by being divided into two channels, by which means the foreign Powers can never be assured of the real authority or validity of any public transaction whatsoever." He then pointed out that such unauthorized communications "make a highway into England for the intrigues of foreign courts in our affairs;" and concluded with these emphatic words: "This is a sore evil, an evil from which, before this time, England was more free than any other nation. Nothing can preserve us from that evil, which connects cabinet factions abroad with popular factions here, but the keeping sacred the Crown as the only channel of communication with every other nation." Now, the facts upon which Mr. Burke based these observations were, he believed, not actually existing, but the authority of that statesman's name was equally great upon the question, this being the doctrine he laid down upon the supposition that the state of things which he apprehended really did exist. There could be no doubt that even with those who had no evil intention—even with the loyal, the patriotic, and the intelligent—evil might arise from unauthorized communications with foreign powers. They might thwart unconsciously the measures of their own government; they might lay themselves open to mystification and cajolery on the part of those with whom they acted; and they might be the tools of foreign powers in spreading in this country doctrines and opinions that were unfavorable to the government which then existed. Now, could not their lordships suppose, if such evils might arise from the unauthorized interference of those who were loyal in intention, what might not be apprehended from those who were disloyal, disaffected, and factious? They might in this way seek to thwart the measures of the government of their native country; they might be the instruments of bringing about a war, and of sowing dissension, discord, and disaffection at home. Upon this subject, although the law of nations was such as he had described, our municipal law was defective, and it was in order to cure this defect that he ventured to propose the present bill. If anything happened within the realm, the municipal law was sufficient to punish a violation of the existing law. For instance, if there was a conspiracy in the county of Middlesex for inviting the interference of a foreign nation, even though we might not happen to be at war with that nation, no doubt the courts would have jurisdiction, and the offender might be punished; but for what it has done abroad you have no remedy. There was a principle of our code which rested upon this supposition—that the courts had [illegible]. There must be a grand jury in each county, and that grand jury was to find each indictment, which indictment could only relate to that which was done within the body of the county. Except, therefore, an offence were committed within the body of an English county, there were no grounds upon which you could act. It followed that those who combined to thwart the measures of the government, or do in connection with any foreign government what would be extremely detrimental to the interests of their own country, would escape from punishment, unless it could be proved that the plan originated in England, and unless you could show an overt act committed in England. Although it could be proved that at the bar of the National Convention an address was presented of a most seditious nature, calling upon the French nation to take part against England, you could not, by the simple proof of that fact, award punishment. With regard to high treason and murder, this defect was remedied, and whether committed in any part of the globe, these crimes might be inquired into and punished. With regard, however, to every crime which ranged within the term of misdemeanor, the defect remained unremedied. This being the case, he would draw their lordships' attention to what had been done by our brethren in America. The first settlers there had carried along with them to the regions far beyond the Atlantic the common law of England, and they had in various instances given us an example of improvements effected in that law which we should do well to follow. (Hear, hear.) He must say that in jurisprudence the Americans had done that which should not, indeed, excite our envy, but which should prompt our imitation. Now, what course had been taken upon this subject in America—and taken, be it remembered, in no way contrary to the natural or constitutional rights of American citizens? It was felt in America that very considerable inconvenience was experienced from the interference by American citizens with foreign governments. That had been felt for some years, and there was a particular instance of it in the case of a certain doctor who intrigued with the French Convention with respect to matters pending between the two goverments. A measure was accordingly proposed by two of the greatest statesmen and greatest of patriots that ever adorned any country—Adams and Jefferson. In 1799 John Adams was President of the United States, and Thomas Jefferson Vice-President, and under their auspices a bill was introduced into Congress, which, with their lordships' permission, he would now read. It was short, but it was cogent, and he must allow that he was not aware of the existence of this piece of American legislation when he had framed the present bill. The American bill was more stringent than his, and provided a superior punishment. These were the words of it:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That if any person, being a citizen of the United States, whether he be actually resident or abiding within the United States, or in any foreign country, shall, without the permission or authority of the government of the United States, directly or indirectly, commence, or carry on, any verbal or written correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government, or any officer or agent thereof, with an intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government, or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the government of the United States; or if any person, being a citizen of, or resident within the United States, and not duly authorized, shall counsel, advise, aid, or assist in any such correspondence, with intent as aforesaid, he or they shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and, upon conviction before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $5,000, and by imprisonment during a term of not less than six months, nor exceeding three years.

Then follows this proviso:—

Provided always, that nothing in this act contained shall be construed to abridge the right of individual citizens of the United States to apply, by themselves or their lawful agents, to any foreign government, or the agents thereof, for the redress of any injuries in relation to person or property, which such individuals may have sustained from such government, or any of its agents, citizens, or subjects.

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives in America, where it was at first strongly opposed; but after many discussions it passed, by a majority of 58 to 36. It then went up to the Senate, where—he might say so without offence to the House of Representatives—there was more calmness, more statesman-like knowledge, and where, as his noble and learned friend (Lord Brougham) reminded him, they had the foreign policy of the country directly under their cognizance. In the Senate this act was carried by a majority of 18 to 2. There were only two dissentients; and it received the assent of the President and became law on the 30th of January, 1799. He (Lord Campbell) was informed that the bill had worked most beneficially in America, and his information came from undoubted authority—from Mr. Buchanan, the present Minister of the United States here—one of an illustrious line of jurists and statesmen. The law had not become a dead letter, although it had never been acted upon by way of prosecution. There had not been one single prosecution instituted for the infraction of the law, and it had been thoroughly observed by the citizens of the United States. This, then, he thought, was a high example, which deserved imitation in this country. But he allowed that the existence of such a law as this in America would not form sufficient grounds for the interference of Parliament if no inconvenience had been felt, and none was to be apprehended, from the want of this bill in England. He should be able to show, however, that the most serious inconvenience had been suffered, and that great inconvenience might be apprehended if Parliament did not interfere in this matter. He would not deny that what was supposed to have taken place in 1791, when there was a dispute between the Empress Catherine and the English government, did not really happen. Sir Robert Adair, now in his ninety-second year, but retaining in full vigor the great talents that he had displayed in early life, (hear, hear,) and who was a man of the most unsullied character, had declared—and he (Lord Campbell) most implicity believed him—that what Mr. Burke had been misled respecting did not take place—that he (Sir Robert Adair) was at St. Petersburg during that dispute, but merely as a traveller improving his mind and acquiring that knowledge which afterwards made him a most accomplished diplomatist and enabled him to render most essential services to his country. He (Lord Campbell) believed, therefore, that in point of fact what Mr. Burke suspected was entirely without foundation. At that time, however, their lordships would recollect that the Empress Catherine was pursuing her conquests against the Turks. She was striving to make progress in that long cherished Russian plan of subjugating Turkey and of getting possession of Constantinople and the Dardanelles. Mr. Pitt, at that time Prime Minister, wished to check her ambition. Those who in Parliament disapproved of his policy were believed to have sent a deputation to the Empress Catherine, persuading her to proceed in her course, and telling her that a great part of the English nation sympathized with her. Now, if this had been really done, he (Lord Campbell) was at a loss to see what would have been the remedy. It might have been impeachment, but impeachment then, after the case of Warren Hastings, was a thing to be talked of but not practised. He believed that, on the part of the opposition of that day, there were no grounds for saying that any such deputation had been sent; but just about that time there could be no doubt that a very improper communication did take place between English subjects and foreign Powers. When the French revolution was in progress, and the Convention had become the supreme power of the State, there were various bodies of men in England who wished to imitate the example which had been set in France, who wished to upset our happy limited monarchy, and to establish a republic instead. There were various addresses from such sections of English subjects delivered *vivâ voce* at the bar of the Convention, calling upon the French nation to go to their neighbors (who were then in amity with us) and to assist them in bringing about a revolution. He could only give their lordships a single example of these addresses, in the form of an address from the London Constitutional Society, presented in the year 1792. It was addressed "To the National Convention in France, Servants of a Sovereign People and Benefactors of Mankind," and was presented at the bar of the Convention by two deputies—Mr. Frost and Mr. Barlow. It was couched in these words:—

We rejoice that your revolution has arrived at that point of perfection which will permit us to address you by this title; it is the only one that can accord with the character of true legislators. Every successive epoch in your affairs has added something to the triumphs of liberty, and the glorious victory of the 10th of August has finally prepared the way for a constitution which we trust you will establish on the basis of reason and nature. The events of every day are proving that your cause is cherished by the people in all your continental vicinity; that a majority of each of those nations are your real friends, whose governments have tutored them into apparent foes, and that they only wait to be delivered by your arms from the dreaded necessity of fighting against them. Our government has still the power, and perhaps the inclination, to employ hirelings to contradict us; but it is our real opinion that we now speak the sentiments of a great majority of the English nation. The people here are wearied with imposture and worn out with war. Go on, legislators, in the work of human happiness. The benefits will in part be ours, but the glory shall be all your own. In this career of improvement your example will soon be followed; for nations, rising from their lethargy, will reclaim the rights of man with a voice which man cannot resist.

This was a specimen of the address delivered by the deputies at that time, who could not be punished, for, when Frost and his companion returned, it would have been no evidence to show that they had presented such a document to the Convention. This address incited the French to make war against our allies; it sought to encourage the French to assist the English nation to change their form of government; and it held out hopes of universal revolution. Soon after this war was declared between the two countries, and then the Treason and Sedi[illegible] war existed, of course effectually prevented any such unauthorized communications; but when, in 1815, the war was at an end, the law remained in its original defective form. On account of the tranquillity which prevailed for a number of years the evil was little felt; but in the great revolution year of 1848 much inconvenience was again the result. Their lordships would remember—his noble friend, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (the Earl of Clarendon) would certainly remember—the revolutionary attempts which characterized that year. In Ireland a plan was formed for the destruction of the British empire and for forming an independent republic; and, when a republic was established in France, there went a deputation from Ireland to the members of the provisional government, who then represented the government of France. He held in his hand the address which had been presented to the ruling powers at Paris by Mr. Smith O'Brien, and which ran thus:—

We salute you as arbiters of the future destinies of the human race, as the liberators of enslaved nations. We, from whom nationality has been wrested by the most infamous means—we, who ever feel the evils arising from this inexpressible wrong—we, the people of Ireland, demand your sympathy. Ireland has declared that once more she shall be free and independent. Be ever ready to succor the oppressed. Make France the centre, not only of civilization and of the arts, but also of universal liberty.

Deputations from Liverpool and other towns in England delivered similar addresses; some of them more violent. M. Lamartine, on that occasion, acted with the greatest reserve, and skilfully evaded the request. On returning from Paris, Mr. Smith O'Brien appeared in his place in the House of Commons as though he had done nothing of which he need be ashamed. But he was denounced by his (Lord Campbell's) beloved and respected friend, Sir George Grey, in a speech which would not, from its force and ability, be forgotten by those who had either heard or read it. (Hear.) The next case of undue interposition on the part of individuals with foreign governments was that address with which an ex-Lord Mayor of London had waited upon Louis Napoleon. He (Lord C.) did not disapprove of the sentiments embodied in the address which Sir James Duke had so presented, in the name, as he stated, of the people of England, and expressive of their opinions, and of their hearty desire for the maintenance of peace, of an *entente cordiale* with France; but still he thought the course which had been taken by the Lord Mayor on that occasion, under the circumstances, and in that mode, was an example of dangerous precedent, and which it was highly desirable should not recur. (Hear, hear.) The last violation that had occurred of the law of nations in this very important respect was the deputation of Quakers who went to pay their homage to the Czar Nicholas. (Hear, hear.) He entertained a profound and sincere respect for the body to which that deputation belonged, and he fully believed that the individuals composing the deputation were men of the highest respectability and strictest loyalty; but, admitting this, their lordships could none the more approve of the course which had been taken by these persons; and it must be well considered that, great as were the inconveniences, the impropriety, the danger, of this proceeding on the part of innocent and well-inclined men, inconvenience and danger still greater and more alarming were to be anticipated if such proceedings, passing unnoticed and unguarded against for the future, were to be imitated by men of evil purpose. (Hear.) It so happened that the Czar Nicholas was making attempts which the government of this country thought it indispensable to resist—to resist, if necessary, with the utmost exertion of our power; the massacre of Sinope had already taken place. At that time three individuals, as a deputation from the whole body of the Quakers of England, set off to St. Petersburg with a view to present to the Emperor Nicholas of All the Russias an address which began in these terms:—

To Nicholas, Emperor of All the Russias—May it please the Emperor! We, the undersigned members of a meeting, representing the religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, in Great Britain, venture to approach the imperial presence," &c.

With such profound respect did they treat the Autocrat—with such 'bated breath did they come into his presence. (Hear, hear.) Then how did the address proceed? The account he should give of the matter was from an authentic narrative of the affair, which had been signed by themselves, and not from any of those invidious descriptions which told how the Emperor, raising the broad-brimmed hats of his admirers, lauded them, and said he would introduce them throughout his dominions. (A laugh.) First let him give their account of what they did when they reached their destination:—

On their arrival at St. Petersburg, they addressed themselves to Count Nesselrode, Chancellor of the Empire. They sent him a note requesting an interview, stating that they had not deemed it advisable to apply to their own Minister, and they preferred applying to Count Nesselrode for the purpose of securing his assistance in the presentation of the address to the Emperor. The Count sent a private secretary to them to fix an hour for receiving them. They had an interview with Count Nesselrode, and met with a cordial reception. He said that both himself and the Emperor (*Ego et Rex meus*) approved of their sentiments.

Then came the interview, as recorded in the protocol, signed by the three deputies—Mr. Sturge, Mr. Pease, and Mr. Charlton. The address having been delivered in due form and with infinite respect, the Emperor said:—

I wish to offer some explanations of my views as to the causes of the present unhappy differences. I have myself acted as my predecessors have done, and the treaty of Adrianople, in 1849, was as explicit as the former ones in this respect. Turkey recognized the right of religious interference, and fulfilled her engagements until within the last year or two, when, for the first time, she gave me reason to complain. I will not now advert to those who were her principal instigators on that occasion [a dig, doubtless, at our representative at Constantinople]. Suffice it to say that it became my duty to interfere, and to claim from Turkey the fulfilment of her engagements. I have every reason to believe that matters would soon have been settled if Turkey had not been induced by other persons [a glance at our Foreign Secretary] to believe that I had ulterior objects in view; that I was aiming at conquest, aggrandizement, and the ruin of Turkey. I have solemnly disclaimed, and do now solemnly disclaim, every such motive. [Praises the Queen personally.] What on my part was prudent foresight has been unfairly construed in your country into a designing policy and an ambitious desire of conquest. I will not attack, and shall only act in self-defence. I have a duty to perform as a sovereign.

The address having been delivered, the deputation did not attempt to recommend that the Czar should yield to the remonstrances of England, but urged arbitration. Next, to carry on the cajolery and mystification thus commenced, it was quite clear that in the verbal interview with the deputation the Czar had endeavored, and successfully, to impress on them that he was a much injured, extremely moderate, perfectly unambitious, and abominably calumniated person; that he had no evil intentions whatever; that he was a man of peace like themselves; and, on this authority, he requested they would give him that character in England on their return. The proposition exactly reminded him of a request which had been made to a near relative of his own, now no more, a member of their lordships' House, who was once sent for by a fashionable lady against whom certain rumors were afloat not quite consistent with her conjugal fidelity, the purpose of her summons being to request his relative to contradict all such rumors on her authority. "If there were any truth in them," said she, "I certainly must know it, and I therefore desire you will contradict them on my authority." (Laughter.) In the same way, the Czar Nicholas, having informed the three Friends, on his own authority, that he was a particularly moderate and unambitious and very ill-used man, desired them to contradict all rumors against him to the contrary, and, accordingly, returning home, they did so, taking infinite pains to publish far and wide among us the particularly authoritative account of himself which the Czar had so successfully impressed upon their simple minds. He held in his hand the account which Mr. Pease had rendered of his mission to a public meeting in the north of England, from which he would read these extracts:—

There was nothing unreasonable or anything to ridicule in a body of men who had been in existence for 200 years, and whose number averaged 20,000, sending three of their number to endeavor to bring about a pacific settlement of the disputes. . . . . While in St. Petersburg the terrible slaughter of Sinope was performed at the theatres every night. . . . . He was exceedingly grieved and humbled at the course which the press in England had pursued, resorting to abuse and calumny against the Czar . . . . The impressions conveyed by the press were erroneous and unfounded as regarded the Emperor. . . . , From what he saw of the Emperor he was convinced that the estimation in which he was held at St. Petersburg was correct.

It would be rather curious to know how these men of peaceful blood had reconciled themselves to the "representation at all the theatres every night of the terrible slaughter of Sinope," or how they had reconciled the reception of that terrible slaughter by the Czar with that eminent kindliness of heart for which they eulogized him. (Hear, hear.) This lecture of Mr. Pease was printed and largely circulated, for the purpose of exhibiting the Czar in a favorable light to the people of England, and of making out a case that the war in which we were embarked against him was a war which he had not provoked, and which was in itself quite unjustifiable, or, practically, to set the people against the war, and to impede its successful prosecution. If consequences of such injurious tendency upon the public service should follow from the proceedings of innocent and well-disposed men, what might not be anticipated from the attempts of men of different principles and purposes? Supposing there were men in this country—and there were, he believed, a few—who believed that "the sick man" had better be knocked on the head, and his spoils divided among two or three favored potentates—the Czar, for example, being placed in possession of Constantinople and the Dardanelles—and supposing a deputation from such a faction to wait upon the Czar, and as Englishmen to urge him to persist in his designs of aggrandizement, who should say what evil might [illegible] It was to prevent the occurrence of such evils that the bill he now proposed was framed. The bill contemplated no interference with private interviews between individuals as such—no interference with legitimate private enterprise; it only sought to prevent the interference of individuals on national affairs with foreign governments. He desired to go no further than this, but so far he hoped their lordships would consent to go. What were the objections to such a measure? It was said that we might be satisfied with the law of nations as it stood; that the law of nations already forbade this offence; and that there was no occasion for any alteration in our municipal law for the purpose. But we could not enforce the law of nations beyond our own territory, and he had various precedents on which he could rely for the legislation he sought. For example, by the law of nations passports or safe conducts were to be respected, and it was a violation of the law of nations to violate them. Yet it had been deemed expedient to enact a statute, (the 2d of Henry V., chap. 6,) by which the breaking of safe conducts was made high treason. So, again, by the 29th of Henry VI., chap. 2, and the 31st of Henry VI., chap. 4, the Lord Chancellor and Chief Justices may punish offenders who break safe conducts by sea or land, and order restitution. So, by the law of nations, ambassadors and their trains were privileged from arrest; yet it had been deemed expedient to embody that rule of the law of nations in a statute. In the reign of Queen Anne it so happened that an ambassador from Russia was arrested in London, whereupon Peter the Great sent another ambassador to demand the heads of all the offenders who had taken any part in the arrest. The English government replied that it exceeded their power to comply with his imperial majesty's request, but an act of Parliament was thereupon passed, (7th of Anne, chap. 12,) declaring all arrests of ambassadors, or of persons in their train entitled to the privileges of embassies, illegal, and subjecting offenders to such penalties and punishments as the Lord Chancellor and the two Chief Justices should ordain. He proposed to act upon the same principle now, and to enforce the law of nations by the municipal law. It was said that we ought at least to confine leislation on this head within the limits of the United Kingdom. Undoubtedly, so far as foreigners were concerned, we must do so; but as to our own subjects, we had a perfect right, and were called upon for the effectuation of the purpose, to legislate for all the world over. An example of this has been given in the measure of his noble and learned friend (Lord Brougham) with regard to slavery, by which all British subjects who should be found engaged in slavery, in whatever part of the world, were held guilty of felony, and might be tried as such at the Old Bailey. Another example was afforded by the Royal Marriage Act, the provisions of which were binding on all British subjects, whether at home or abroad. So, to make it a misdemeanor for a British subject to present an address to a foreign sovereign with respect to national affairs between him and England, would be binding on all British subjects, in whatever part of the world they might be. It was suggested that this measure would interfere with the intercourse which took place from time to time between English travellers and foreign sovereigns; but it would have no such effect. The noble lord below the gangway (Lord Beaumont) had informed him not long since that he had an interesting interview with the King of Sardinia; and another noble and learned friend of his had not long since had an interview with the Emperor Napoleon. With such interviews he had no desire to interfere. An apprehension was entertained, he believed, that this bill would interfere with the private business which might be transacted by individuals with foreign governments. He regretted that the noble Earl who was at the head of the late government (the Earl of Derby) was not in the House, for that noble earl was the first member of their lordships' House to whom he had mentioned his intention to bring forward this bill, and the noble earl was good enough to discuss the subject with him. The only objection the noble earl made to the bill was, that he was afraid it might interfere with the proceedings of British subjects who might wish to negotiate with foreign governments respecting such matters as the establishment of places of worship or burial-grounds. He (Lord Campbell) apprehended that the bill would not have any such effect, because those could not be considered either as national or political objects. At the same time, he did not see any reason why such negotiations should not be conducted through the accredited representatives of the British government, or with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Hear, hear.) He found, from the public prints, that there were persons in the country who objected to the bill because they considered that authorized negotiations had been so ill-conducted that unauthorized negotiations ought to be permitted. He did not know whether his noble friends behind him (on the ministerial bench) would concur in that view, but he might be allowed to read an extract from a newspaper—the Dundee *Advertiser*—which had been sent to him, and which contained an article on the subject. That journal said:—

We object to this proposal, because we think it would be well if there were much more of the unauthorized class of negotiations which seem so offensive to the Lord Chief Justice. Let us ask what there is so preeminently desirable in the "authorized negotiations" between European governments? If there be one opinion more prevalent and more justly grounded than another, is it not that the existing diplomacy is treacherous to all popular interests, and a vile conspiracy against the progress of freedom and the advancement of States, as distinguished from the upholding of tottering thrones? Has the secret correspondence so lately published tended to invest the "authorized negotiations" of governments with new titles to respect? There is no danger to the people of any country in the honest and unconcealed representations of the views of any number of the inhabitants of one State to the sovereign of another; but there is danger, as every page of history tells us, in the stealthy manœuvres of royal confederacies. They have [illegible] us in a fearful war, and we believe the national heart does not desire that during the progress of that war "authorized negotiations" should alone occur. Let not Lord Campbell delude himself.

Now he must say his opinion was—although there might have been some things a little startling and perplexing in the negotiations that had been carried on by authority—that upon the whole those negotiations had been wisely and judiciously conducted. At times during their progress the Czar might, perhaps, have been a little encouraged to think that he could go any length with impunity, and he (Lord Campbell), while watching those negotiations, had sometimes been reminded of the proverb—"He that makes himself a sheep is sure to be devoured by the wolf." He (Lord Campbell) must, however, be allowed to express very humbly his approbation of the manner in which the negotiations had been conducted by her Majesty's government, because it now appeared that the Czar had, from the beginning, a determined purpose of aggrandizement and aggression (hear, hear), and, if more vigorous measures had been taken at an earlier stage, the consequence would have been merely to accelerate the action of Russia before this country was well prepared (cheers), and we should not have had the advantage of the approval of all mankind, except the deputies of the Quakers. (A laugh.) Another objection had been urged against this bill. He learnt from good authority that the Roman Catholics were apprehensive that, if this measure passed, all communication between the see of Rome and themselves would be prohibited. He could only say, that he was the last man who would wish to throw any impediment in the way of such communications. He had resisted the clause which had been introduced into a bill that passed their lordships' house two or three years ago, preventing the reception of a Papal minister, who was in holy orders, at this court. He believed, if such a prohibition had not existed, that there would have been an authorized Minister from Rome at the British Court, and that we should have heard nothing of the Papal aggression, or of that miserable contest about the Ecclesiastical Titles bill, which he could not think of without shame. He could only say that he would not do anything to prevent communications between his Roman Catholic fellow subjects and the see of Rome, and he could not imagine how this bill could tend to prevent such communications. He hoped their lordships would consent to read the bill a second time, and if it were thought desirable that the bill should be referred to a select committee, he would readily consent to such a course. Whatever the result of this attempt at legislation might be, he would not regret the part he had taken, for he had been actuated simply by a desire to serve his country; and, as the head of common law in this kingdom, having found that a defect existed in that law, he had considered it not unbecoming his position to endeavor, to the best of his ability, to remedy such defect.

The Second Advent.

[From the Portland Argus, May 22.]

We had hoped that the Millerites, upon the signal failure of their predictions that this beautiful world of ours would be destroyed in 1843, might henceforth be content to wait the issue quietly and in patient silence. And for several years they did so. But the fever is beginning to rage again; and some of these people are fully determined that the globe shall be burned up during this year of 1854, whether or no. The more sanguine, indeed, have faith in the occurrence of that magnificent incendiarism during the present month. We shall see. In the meantime we advise the community not to be alarmed, but suggest that each man so live that, whatever happens, he may meet it with courage. The end of the world comes to thousands every day.

There is quite a numerous society of Advents in this city. They generally fix the "last day" some time during the present year, but the precise day they do not profess to know. They will, however, be disappointed; but they are used to it.

A paper in Lowell, called the *Crisis*, devoted to this cause, contains a letter, of which the following is an extract, dated at Waldoboro', Vt. It gives concisely the views of the Adventists:—

I feel to thank the Lord with a sincere heart that He yet remembers His waiting and toil-worn children; and to hear the true midnight cry, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh! Go ye out to meet Him!" Since I have had the happiness of perusing the *World's Crisis*, my mind has been very sensibly affected by seeing the complete verification of the parable of the ten virgins. Early in the year A.D. 1843, a brother came to this place, gave us a course of lectures on the second coming of Christ, and he most earnestly requested the whole congregation to bring their Bibles and follow him day after day, to see if these things are so. It is evident that was the movement the Lord saw would take place at that time. But why did the Bridegroom tarry? Why, because the Bridegroom desired to see how his intended bride would bear the trial of a little disappointment; and moreover to fulfil the prophecies. And can we be disappointed again? No, no; there is not between the lids of the Bible a single text that I know of intimating a second disappointment to the waiting, lonesome and mourning bride. When I view things as they are on one hand, my soul is pained within me; but when I look on the other hand, my soul is filled with "joy unspeakable and full of glory!" Yes, I think we have reason to expect the heavenly summons every moment. Glory to God, hallelujah. Amen.

Yours, expecting the Lord in 1854.

STEPHEN BRALEY.

Another letter says:—

Can it be possible that in a few months Jesus will come, when every eye shall see him? Yea, verily, those who pierced him shall see him. But who shall abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? May God enable us to be as wise as Lot, and escape the fires of the last day.

Rev. J. V. Himes, next to Miller himself the leader of the 1843 movement, does not coincide in the above theory. At least we reasonably infer it from the following notice, which recently appeared in the Boston papers:—

Rev. J. V. Himes will preach in Chardon street Chapel to-morrow (Sunday) morning and afternoon, at the usual hours of services, when the reasons will be given why the Adventists have no confidence in the calculations that some persons have recently made fixing the time of the second advent in 1854.

It seems by the above that Elder Himes and his people of Chardon street Chapel, are the genuine, regular Adventists, and that those who fix the time in 1854, are merely "some persons" outside of a healthy religious organization. As substantial evidence that in the opinions of the former, the world is safe for some time yet, we understand that they propose to erect a new church.

The safer way is not to perplex the brain about this matter, but so to live from day to day that when the Great Master comes—and by whatever mode he comes—we may hail his advent with joy. Time is short, whether estimated by the ordinary period of existence, or by the shorter figuring of the Adventists. It should, therefore, be wisely improved. Then we need have no fear of conflagrations.

MATERIAL FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The growing demand for printing paper, and the present high prices of the article, render it necessary that some new material should be brought into use, which from its abundance and cheapness may recommend it to the favor of the manufacturer. To this end, every experiment should be tried that may lead to the discovery of the article so much desired. In the Southern and Western States, south of the 30th degree of latitude, a garden plant is grown from which printing paper may be manufactured in greater quantities and of a finer quality, than is made from all the materials now used in the manufacture of that article. The value of this material as a substitute for hemp, has already been tested, with results highly satisfactory.

The plant flourishes best in damp soils and a humid atmosphere. Under the most advantageous circumstances, it grows from six to ten feet in height, and will yield several tons to the acre. The stem, like hemp, requires to be stripped of its bark, leaving a core of a beautiful whiteness, with a fibre of the full length of the plant, very strong and pliable. Experiments on a limited scale have recently been made with it, in the manufacture of a cloth used for bagging, with highly favorable results. In texture it bears some resemblance to Manila, though it is not so harsh, and is more readily converted into pulp. It may be sown broad cast, requires no cultivation, ripens in a few months and gives an immense yield. The process of stripping it of its bark is simple and expeditious, and may be performed by the ordinary mode of threshing.—*Baltimore Ledger, May* 17.

FALL OF AN IRON BRIDGE AT WASHINGTON.—Between twelve and one o'clock, yesterday afternoon, the iron bridge at the foot of K street, connecting Washington with Georgetown, over Rock creek, gave way under the weight of two omnibuses, going in different directions, but meeting in the middle of the bridge at the time of the accident. The result of this occurrence is:—McGinney, one of the drivers, had his legs broken. He has a mother and six brothers and sisters depending upon him for support. The other driver, Smith, was badly bruised, as was also a little boy named Thomas. Our fellow citizen, General Roger C. Weightman, had an arm broken. Besides, a new omnibus was smashed, beyond repair, and a fine horse, valued at two hundred dollars, is so much injured, as, it is supposed, to be rendered worthless. So soon as the intelligence of this accident became general, hundreds of persons repaired to the scene. The bridge is almost a total wreck. It cost, we believe, six or eight thousand dollars, and was erected at the expense of the corporation of Washington, not more than four years ago, if so long a time.—*Washington Sentinel, May* 21.

The Greek Insurrection.

THE VICTORY OF THE TURKS AT ARTA.

The Arta correspondent of the London *Times*, writing on the 26th ultimo, says:—As you will have seen from my telegraphic despatch, Peta has been carried by assault this morning at 8 o'clock. I told you in my last letter that Fuad Effendi had returned from Gomenitza, and had brought with him 1,200 regulars, which had arrived in that place, partly from Constantinople, partly from Janina; he added to these 500 more regulars from Prevesa and 200 Bashi-Bazouks, and Arnauts. With these troops he went himself to Arta, and took the command of the whole Turkish forces. He arrived in Arta on Sunday last, the 23d instant, and determined to let his troops repose one day, and then attack Peta on the 26th (to-day.)

However, as is very often the case when hostile troops are so close to each other, he was drawn into an engagement yesterday afternoon, which, although a trifle in itself, spoiled his intention of giving a day's rest to his troops. The cause was two cows, which had come to feed on the hill behind Arta, and were thought good prizes by some Albanians who were close to the spot. In the attempt of securing the cows two Albanians in the Turkish service were wounded. This brought more Albanians to the scene of action, but also more Greeks, and thus by degrees Fuad Effendi was obliged to come out with his regulars. He drove the Greeks to the foot of Peta, where some Albanian Mussulmen were cut off by a little body of Greek cavalry, but soon after liberated from their dangerous position by the bravery of Djelil Aga, the chief of the Lapi Albanians. In this skirmish the Turks killed an officer of the insurgents, on whom some papers of the greatest importance were found. His name cannot yet be ascertained with certainty, as all the letters found had no signature at all, or at the most one in cipher.

One of the most interesting papers found on him was an official letter from some Greek government authority in Cravazera to General Tzavellas, in which the person writing says that all those who come from the insurgents back to Greece will be put before a tribunal and accused by the public prosecutor as deserters, unless they can show by a *teskeri* (passport) that they have been sent by one of the insurgent chiefs.

The other is a kind of minute, or rather the rough copy of a letter, detailing the state of things in Peta. It speaks of the immense difficulties which they have in forming a provisional government, of the daily increasing dissensions among the chiefs, principally among the Suliots and the rest. I hope to give you some more particulars, as I have only seen the letter very cursorily, and was prevented by the more interesting events of to-day from following up this matter; but so much I must add, that the writer of the letter, killed yesterday by the Turks, who, as I hear from a prisoner who has been taken to-day, was the secretary of the provisional government, considered their cause as lost even before the taking of Peta.

The Turks, notwithstanding the little engagement in the afternoon, were again under arms before midnight, and transported, under the personal superintendence of Fuad Effendi, their guns, five in number, among which were two howitzers, to a wood of olive trees which extends through nearly the whole distance between the hill of Arta and that on which Peta is situate. In that wood, after having left one battalion of regulars and a gun to watch the movements of the insurgents, the rest, consisting of four more regular battalions and 1,200 Albanian Mussulmen, formed in four columns, of which the extreme right took the road which leads on the ridge of the plateau from Komboli to Peta; the second took, with two guns, its position on one of the two roads leading up to Peta from the valley of Arta; the third, also with two guns, stationed itself at the main road leading up to Peta, while the fourth, or extreme right, went to the road of Radhovisi, which leads also by a branch road over to the ridge of the Peta.

Dispositions having thus been made, the action began in the centre on the two roads leading from the plain of Arta up to Peta, in a misty morning and under heavy rain, at 7 o'clock, and soon the firing became general. The guns of the Turks were exceedingly well served, especially one of their howitzers, which Osman Pacha had, soon after the first advance of the Turks, drawn up on a steep hill close before Arta, and which set fire to the village at the first shot. On the height immediately before the village the four columns met by a well combined movement, and uniting into two columns carried everything before them.

The attack lasted fifty minutes, and at ten minutes before eight o'clock the insurgents were flying in all directions. As the reports have not yet come in, I cannot tell you what the loss was on the Turkish side; but it must have been very small, as I saw myself only two killed and half a dozen wounded.

Of the insurgents, I saw four killed; and there are three prisoners taken—one of them [illegible] Kalmagdatti, who had [illegible] with about 300 men from Patras, his servant, and some inferior persons. Kalmagdatti says they had so little idea of being attacked that they were in bed when the sentries announced the Turks attacking. All ran, Tzavellas at the head. He remained with his people as long as he could, but not being able to run on account of a kind of asthma, he surrendered, and has been hitherto well treated. The Turks supplied him with clothing, as his own was soaked with the rain, and they have taken him to the fort.

The village has naturally been burnt down, and whatever was to be found carried away; but I assure you I cannot imagine the most disciplined troops behaving better after having taken a place with the bayonet. It is true the inhabitants had fled, but the prisoners of war suffered not the slightest insult or injury.

With the seizure of Peta, according to all appearances, the movement in Lower Epirus at least will be most likely ended. The provisional government, which they had so much trouble to construct, has dispersed, and, moreover, Abdi Pacha is drawing near from the north.

Already yesterday I heard from Fuad Effendi that many villages from the Djumerka are ready to submit, and to-day, after coming from Peta, I spoke myself with two sent by their villages, who say that they themselves, and most of their neighboring villages, will submit. Fuad Effendi, the General *malgré lui*, as he calls himself, will then very likely have to give up again his new warlike occupation, and return to his diplomatic activity. He will invite all the villages to submit, granting them full amnesty.

The moral effect of this victory will be immense, and it is all the better if it be the Turks themselves who put an end to this movement. Naturally it will be the affair of the representatives of the Western Powers to see that the victory is not abused, but, on the contrary, that it leads to the abolition of all those abuses in the administration of the more distant provinces of the Turkish empire which exasperate so much the population, and which make them always ready to listen to those who promise at least something better. It may, although I do not expect it, serve also to bring the foolish govenment of Greece to reason.

LUMBER ON THE GRAND AND MUSKEGON RIVERS.—The Grand Rapids *Enquirer* in quoting the present prices of lumber in the Chicago market, says that the advances indicated have stimulated the manufacture of the lumber in a great degree, and must add largely to the profits of lumbermen, and to the wealth of this country. Last year the export of lumber alone, exclusive of lath, timber and shingles, from the mouth of this river amounted to 41,000,000 feet, and from the Muskegon upwards of 30,000,000 feet. This year not less than 90,000,000 feet, and it is quite probable 100,000,000 will be exported from Grand and Muskegon rivers. This at the present prices, and we see no prospect of a fall, will nett the manufacturers an average price of not less than twelve or thirteen dollars at the mouth of these rivers. These estimates, which we are confident are not exaggerated, will give an export for this article alone from these two rivers, of from eleven hundred to twelve hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which will in consequence of increased price and quantity, exceed any previous year about one hundred per cent.—*Chicago Press, May* 18.

LOOK OUT FOR PATENT GENERATORS—FATAL EXPLOSION IN CINCINNATI.—Yesterday evening at about 6 o'clock, one of the new patent generators exploded in a soda and mineral water establishment on Columbia, near the corner of Race street, whereby a man named John Crawford, the driver of one of the wagons of the establishment, was shockingly mangled, his abdomen being literally blown away, and the entrails scattered about the premises. The poor fellow, after lingering in the most excruciating agony for about half an hour, expired as he was being carried to his residence, on Front street, between Plum and Western-row. The proprietor of the Fourth Ward Exchange, who was standing by at the time, had an arm broken, and was otherwise seriously injured in the face and body. Crawford has left a wife and three children who were entirely dependent upon him for support. We understand that the generator was a new invention, said to be upon a safe principle, and this was the first time it was tried. A similer explosion, whereby four persons were seriously injured, occurred, about two weeks since, at an establishment on Pearl street.—*Cincinnati Enquirer, May* 20.

PRISONERS ESCAPED.—Three prisoners escaped from the jail in Columbus, Ohio, on the 17th inst., and at last accounts had not been arrested. Toliver Coker, the discharged convict, lately so cruelly treated by Deputy Warden Watson, in the penitentiary, and arrested on Watson's affidavit, was confined in the same apartment, but declined joining his fellow prisoners in their flight—preferring to await the result of a full examination, which will come off next month.

STEAM BOILER EXPLOSION IN CANADA.—On Saturday the boiler of Mr. Morton's steam saw mill at the Trent, collapsed, instantly killing the engineer, Mr. Duncan, (of the late firm of Duncan & Tutton, of the Ontario foundry, Kingston,) and fatally injuring one of his assistants, named Noon, besides seriously wounding two others. Noon has since died of his injuries, but the other two are recovering. The entire gable of the engine house was carried away, and the body of Mr. Duncan, was blown into the river, from whence at last accounts it had not been recovered.—*Kingston Advertiser, May* 19.

Later from Texas and El Paso.

MORE INDIAN OUTRAGES.

We have papers from Galveston to the 13th inst. Indian depredations are reported in almost every interior paper we receive. A petition, signed by the Indian agents and others, has been sent to General Smith, asking protection on the El-Paso and other roads. It states that in April, forty-five wagons, carrying $85,000 worth of goods, and 3,800 head of cattle, left San Antonio for El Paso and California, and urges that they are entitled to military protection. Besides the above, they include thirty emigrant wagons, with 200 souls and 1,000 head of cattle; Skillman's train passing monthly; J. R. Sweet's train of sixty carts and ten wagons now bound in, &c.

It requires no argument to show that the trade and travel on the El Paso road merits protection, and no one will doubt that General Smith will promptly afford all the aid he can in the matter. But he has not the means at hand of defending that route as it should be done. Infantry cannot do it—cavalry he has not in sufficient numbers.

We find the following account of further Indian outrages in an extra of the San Antonio *Ledger*, published on the 8th instant:—

NEAR FORT EWELL, Texas, May 2, 1854.

About noon to day, a teamster by the name of Mansfield, belonging to one of Major Chapman's trains of wagons for Eagle Pass, (Fort Duncan,) came into Fort Ewell with the report that Indians, supposed to be Lipans, attacked the train about seven miles from the post, drove off all the teamsters, wounding some, killing others, and then cutting the mules out of the harness and run them off. There were fourteen or fifteen wagons, the same number of teamsters and a wagon master, (McIntosh,) with one extra man. McIntosh was on a fine horse and has not come in. It is supposed he is killed and his horse taken. Two of the wounded teamsters have since come in, and three wounded, making six accounted for.

The commanding officer, on hearing the report, ordered out five different parties of riflemen, one of twenty men, under command of an officer, and four parties of ten, each under command of a sergeant; with each of the latter also went one of the returned teamsters as guides. As the Indians have only about two hours the start, it is probable they will stand a pretty hard chance of getting away—for on no occasion did I see men so quickly in the saddle, or show such an eager spirit for the chase. Pork and bacon, sugar and coffee, were scarcely thought of; in fact, a half an hour after the alarm was given, every man was in the saddle, and off at the word go.

1 o'clock P. M.—Since writing the above one of the riflemen has returned from his party, and reports five dead bodies in the vicinity of the wagons, one of which he recognized to be McIntosh, the wagon master; the names of the other four he did not ascertain. He brought in a raw hide sheath for a lance or some other of the Indian weapons. I believe the commanding officer will send out to morrow for the dead bodies.

There is no more than ten or fifteen soldiers at present at the post. The other part of the command have been out sometime scouting, and are still out in the vicinity of Los Ojuelos, I think in three different parties, each under an officer. Two officers only remain at the post, one of whom is the surgeon.

I will write to you again, and give you the result of the chase. The above can be relied on as all fact.

An extra of the San Antonia *Texan*, of the 8th, has another account of the same occurrence, the greater part of which we subjoin:—

By one of our citizens, John Crawford, who just arrived in our city from Fort Ewell, we learn the following painful intelligence:—On Tuesday last, May 2, a government train, consisting of fourteen wagons and one hundred mules, horses, &c., left Fort Ewell for El Paso, and had proceeded about five or eight miles from the Fort, when they were attacked by about 20 Indians, who were well mounted, and armed with bows and arrows, knives, lances, and two rifles. At the time of the attack, the wagon master, Mr. McIntosh, was a short distance from the train, in pursuit of a horse and unarmed, and there was only one weapon of defence among the whole train, and that was an old rifle, and unloaded.

The Indians made a charge upon them and killed the wagon master and scalped him, and also killed five others. Some few are still missing; they are supposed to have been taken prisoners, and are now with the Indians, no doubt, to undergo the most horrible tortures. All the mules and horses connected with the train were taken, and the wagons completely destroyed, with their contents, amounting in all to some twenty or thirty thousand dollars. One of the wounded men, from whom our informant gathered the particulars of this horrible outrage, arrived in camp at 11 o'clock, A. M., two hours after the massacre. The lieutenant in command, notwithstanding he was sick in bed at the time, within one hour had four companies armed and equipped and in hot pursuit, and it is to be hoped that they will overtake these savages and hold an inquest over their dead bodies.

The Outrage in Charlestown, Mass.

[From the Boston Atlas, May 22.]

One of the most unparalleled outrages of which we have ever heard, occurred in Charlestown on Saturday night. The scene was the currier's shop of Mr. Samuel O. Pollard, who nearly became the victim of a most horrible crime. The facts in the case, as we learn from Mr. Pollard himself, are substantially as follows:—During Saturday he had taken in considerable money for labor performed, and as usual on that evening in the week, he kept open until about nine o'clock, in order to serve a customer who generally makes his visits at between 8 and 9 o'clock. His partner's brother, a Mr. Hartshorn, had also been in and paid Mr. Pollard some $60. While he was in, Mr. Pollard counted his money, and ascertained that he had on his person $582.

After Mr. Hartshorn had gone, Pollard went to pay the board bill of one of his apprentices, and had just returned to lock up his shop, when the outrage occured. There was no light in the building, and he had reached the head of the first flight of stairs, when two men entered, and proceeded immediately to the place where Mr. Pollard was, one standing on each side of him. The first comer inquired for "the boss," and on receiving an answer from Mr. Pollard that he was the person wanted, asked if he wished to hire a "jour." Before an answer could be returned, the second man, with a violent blow, placed a plaster on Mr. Pollard's mouth, which, by its close adherance, prevented his speaking. The other man then threw him down, and the two tied his legs together, and his hands down to them, thus making a complete roll of his body. The villains then robbed Mr. Pollard of his pocket book, containing all the money, as stated above.

Gathering together a pile of leather shavings, at the distance of six or eight feet from him, and pouring on them some substance resembling spirits of turpentine in its action, they set fire to them, and left Mr. Pollard to his fate. Such a horrible death was not however in store for him. By a great exertion of strength, bound as he was, Mr. Pollard succeeded in moving his body almost the entire length of the building to the back stairs, down which he precipitated himself. From the gag on his mouth, he was unable to speak; but with his legs and feet he kicked on the door, making as much noise as possible. By this time the fire had made some progress and was observed from the adjoining sausage factory of Furbush & Davis; one of the men there employed went to the rescue, and by breaking a window, got to Mr. Pollard, and liberated him. He tore off the gag; some portions of the plaster it was afterwards difficult to remove with soap and water, and cut the cord which bound him, which was retained by Mr. Pollard as evidence. The alarm was then given, and the citizens and engines arrived in season to prevent the entire destruction of the building, which was damaged probably about $300.

Mr. Pollard received some slight bruises in the back, but is otherwise uninjured. He is unable to give any description of his intended murderers, other than that they were larger and stronger than himself; and also to account for the outrage committed on him. He remembers no quarrel with any person, and the affair can only be accounted for on the ground of robbery and the concealment of the crime. The pocket book, rifled of its contents, was found on a fence in the back yard. Great excitement existed in Charlestown during the night, and continued yesterday. A heavy reward will undoubtedly be offered for the detection and conviction of the unprincipled ruffians. Mr. Pollard is a man about 30 years of age, of unexceptionable character, and has been in business in Charlestown for many years. His house was broken open and robbed on the 4th of July last, during the absence of the family, and his shop has once been destroyed by an incendiary fire.

NEWS FROM HONDURAS.—By the arrival yesterday, in the lower bay, of the pilotboat George Steers, from Honduras via Omoa, we have later dates from Central America. The George Steers brings us as passengers General Jose Barrundia, Minister from Honduras, to represent the New Central American Mission at Washington, Don Latuo Lasso, Secretary of Legation, the wife and son of the former, A. Edwards, of New York, Herman Schmidt, of Brunswick, Germany, Mr. Charles Foller and Miss Foller, of Omoa. The George Steers proceeds direct to New York.

Mr. Edwards is President of the Honduras Railroad Company, and from him we learn that the surveys of the route are rapidly progressing, and prove that the road can be built without encountering any very serious obstacles. The summit of the plain of Comayagua is but sixteen hundred and eighty-five feet above the ocean, and the harbors of the Gulf of Fonseca on the Pacific, and of Porto Cabello on the Caribbean coast, are said to be the very best in Central America. There are at least ten fathoms depth of water on the bars to both of them. The route of this railroad, uniting the northern and southern ports mentioned, is nearly a straight line, and lies almost directly south of this port, offering the shortest possible communication between this section and the Pacific, leading to California and the Sandwich Islands. If it shall be built—and the President appears sanguine this will be speedily accomplished—it may be made highly conducive to the prosperity of this city. With the Mobile and Ohio and Illinois railroads completed, and a line of steamers to Porto Cabello, Honduras, the shortest, quickest and cheapest route to California for the great portion of the West and South, if not the North, would be through Mobile. We are, therefore, interested in the success of the Honduras project, and are pleased to learn that, in addition to its private resources, the company has received from the Congress of Honduras the munificent grant of two and a half millions of acres of valuable land to aid in the construction of the said road. We are informed that the country through which the road will pass is mostly table land, principally well timbered with pitch pine, and is moreover very healthy.—*Mobile Advertiser, May* 17.

ILLINOIS RIVER.—The recent rains have put the Illinois river in good navigable condition from La-salle to the Mississippi. There is plenty of water for boats of the largest class, and business on the river and at the various shipping points along it will be very active for a few weeks. There is yet considerable grain on the Illinois river held by parties here, as well as other parcels that will doubtless seek this market, and advantage will be taken of the present rise to forward it. Large amounts of lumber, for which there is an active demand along the river, will be shipped from this place. The canal is also in capital condition, and trade with the South will be very brisk for the fortnight.—*Chicago Press, May* 18.

VAN AERMAN, who defrauded the Bank of Montreal out of £5,000 not long ago, and whose skilfully executed forgeries caused so much remark at the time, was lately captured, and conveyed to Brantford, C.W., by Capt. M'Grath, of Montreal, late Chief of Police. The accused is committed for trial.—*Quebec Observer, May* 17.