shield our flag from the additional taxes inscribed in the navigation act of that country. It will give a new energy to our relations with one of the principal transatlantic markets.

You will also, gentlemen, have to examine a convention destined to guarantee artistic and literary property between Belgium and Great Britain, and to ameliorate, by the reduction of tariffs, the position of our book trade in the most important of its markets.

The judicial organization and the attorney institutions have given rise to labors the results of which will be laid before you.

The second portion of the new penal code will also become the object of your deliberations.

The completion of railways entrusted to companies will soon have formed a net work of communication such as few countries can boast of.

The concessionary companies have, under the circumstances, met with unforeseen obstacles; they have not been discouraged by them.

The progressive increase of the produce of our railways is a proof of actual prosperity, and predicts the future prosperity of this great national undertaking.

This increase and that of many other branches of public revenue have exceeded the previsions, and dispense with an increase of taxes.

The loan you authorised has been concluded. It has enabled my government, without loss to the treasury, to carry out the law of the 28th December, 1850—the calling in of the gold pieces.

A special account of these two operations will be laid before you.

The army, aware of its duties, devotes itself to them completely. As well as the civic guard, it merits your solicitude and the confidence of the country. Both are united by the same idea of order and attachment to the national independence.

That independence, gentlemen, has been reassured, and we may look at the future without anxiety. However, the duties of governmental power are attended with inevitable difficulties. In the present situation there exist particular ones. You will take account of them; gentlemen, your patriotism convinces me of it; and it is with confidence that I claim for my government your benevolent and efficacious concurrence.

The Fate of Sir John Franklin.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES.

SIR—The question has frequently been asked of me, "How can I account for so few of the unfortunate party forming the expedition under Sir John Franklin being seen by the Esquimaux, and for all these being found dead at or near one spot?"

It is my duty, as well as my desire, to give every information on this distressing subject, not only to the relatives and friends of the lost men, but also to the public at large; and the best medium of doing so is through the columns of your far and wide spread journal, should you consider the following remarks worthy of a place therein.

As I have not the blue-books on the subject of Arctic discovery by me, I may make some error in my statements; but, as far as my memory serves me, the last news we had from Sir John Franklin, in 1845, was that he had provisions for three, or somewhat more than three years, which he could make last for four. Again, the captain of a whaler, whose name I forget, says that "the crews of the Erebus and Terror, when in Baffin's Bay, on their passage westward, were killing and salting down great numbers of waterfowl, as a resource in case of necessity."

The information obtained by me from the Esquimaux, (by a mode of questioning which they understood, and in which they were induced to explain the different places where they had passed the winter seasons since the year 1849,) was, I consider, perfectly conclusive as to the spring of 1850 being the period of the melancholy catastrophe to which I refer. This will make the time elapsed since Sir J. Franklin was last seen in Baffin's Bay until the spring, 1850, very nearly five years.

Supposing that the provisions carried from England by the expedition did last four years, (by the end of which I have no doubt the crews of the vessels would be much reduced in numbers, and those that survived greatly debilitated,) the party would be wholly thrown on the greasy, rancid, salted water fowl, which I believe most persons will agree with me in thinking would increase the fatality of scurvy, if it already existed, or cause that dread disease if it had not previously made its appearance.

This may account rationally for so few white men having been seen by the natives.

Again, "as to all the dead being found at or near the same place."

Nothing is more natural or more easily accounted for by a person of experience in the Arctic Seas, and whose mind is properly constructed.

Let us for a moment picture to ourselves a party of gallant men reduced by want, and perhaps disease, to great extremity, pushing their way to the mouth of a large river, such as the Back, the ice on which they expected would break up in a short time and permit them to embark in their boat. Having arrived near such river the strength of some had failed, so that they could not travel even when unattached to the sledge, and the others were unable to drag them. What step would brave men take in such a difficulty? My reply would be—cling together—stop, and let the stronger endeavor to kill game for the support of themselves and the weaker until the ice broke up, then embark, turn by turn, in the boat, and thus travel with much greater ease and speed than when on foot.

To show that this opinion is not a mere fancy or fiction on my part, I may mention that my first feeling on hearing the mournful tidings was one of regret that I had not been with the suffering party—a feeling difficult to analyze, but which must have arisen instantaneously and without reflection, from an idea that my greater experience of Arctic travelling and hunting might have been useful to those in extremity and danger.

I state this not as anything praiseworthy or commendable on my part, but to explain what I think would be the sentiments of any man having the ordinary amount of courage and love for his fellow man.

Another point to which I would for a moment advert is the tragic event connected with the last days of our countrymen.

The Esquimaux whom I saw at Pelly Bay preceded me to Repulse Bay, and, when I returned, were living in the most friendly terms with the three men left in charge of our property there. None of these men understood a word of the Esquimaux language, yet I was informed by them, before I had communicated any of my news, that they believed a party of white men had died of starvation far to the westward, and that they had been reduced to a very dreadful alternative before death. On my asking my informants how they had discovered this, they replied by the signs made them by the natives.

It may be demanded why I did not give all these reasons in corroboration of my statements in the report to the Admiralty? The answer is simple: I kept such for my more detailed report to the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company, which circumstances, to which I have alluded in a previous communication that appeared in your paper, have prevented me from completing.

I may add, in support of what I stated a few days ago regarding men carrying with them useless articles on having to abandon their ship in the Arctic Sea, that I have since learned from the best authority—Sir John Ross himself—that in effecting his wonderful escape, after a three years' detention in Prince Regent's Inlet, he distributed his silver plate among the men rather than leave it behind, and thus brought most of it to England with him.

Should you think these remarks worthy of your notice, you would oblige me much by giving them insertion. I have the honor to be, sir, your very obedient servant, JOHN RAE.

Tavistock Hotel, Nov. 6.

The Maine Law in the United States and Canada.

[From the London Chronicle, Nov. 10.]

It is stated that the new Canadian Parliament has signalised itself by passing a bill, by the enormous majority of 90 to 5, for prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. And the fact is not improbable, since, in the last Parliament, a similar measure was only defeated by a narrow majority, and it is well known that the teetotal party made a great effort at the recent elections. Canada is the second English colony which has given in her adhesion to the principle of the Maine Liquor law of 1851; and it is significant that she has gone beyond New Brunswick in the severity of her penal prohibitions. The New Brunswick law of 1852 permits the sale of malt liquors and cider; but the Canada law, by interdicting, in the most general terms, both the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating beverages, confiscates both brewery and distillery, and shuts up the alehouse as well as the dram-shop. There can be no question that this event, assuming the above statement to be true to the letter, is of considerable importance. It marks a distinct era in the so-called abstinence movement; and it is the first experiment on a really large scale, of legislative interference with what we are accustomed to consider the rights of individuals in this matter. Considered both in its economical and social aspect, the fact is of large consequence.

It is easy enough to understand the immediate motives for such a measure. The precedent of the Maine law, which substantially prevails in four other States of the Union—while its principle has, to a greater or less extent, been adopted in no fewer than eight—was likely enough to find friends and imitators across the Canadian frontier. But the mere fashion of adopting the institutions of the United States would scarcely account for the Canadian bill, still less for its alleged all but unanimous success. Political motives, and deference to a popular cry, we suspect to be at the bottom of the affair. But the phenomenon still remains to be accounted for. Here is a community enjoying very liberal institutions—its Parliament, especially at this moment, necessarily reflects the popular feeling—yet it interferes, on the very largest scale, with personal liberty. Sumptuary laws have always been considered the expression of a despotic and unconstitutional form of government; but since the days when royal proclamations regulated the length of peaked shoes and the cut of the beard, nothing so tyrannical as the present measure has been thought of. The Czar Peter's reforms, in all the plenitude of Russian autocracy, were less severe than these voluntary rigidities of Canada and New Brunswick. Of course, it may be said that the whole thing is only the revival of the old New England Puritanism; but what we have to account for is this revival.

Strictly speaking, the affair cannot be regarded as a triumph of abstinence principles. Rather the reverse. Religion owned its inability to convert the world when it took to the inquisition and the rack; and prohibitory laws, directed against intoxicating liquors, are a practical confession that moral arguments have failed. *The whole array of lectures, leagues, pledges, and tracts, acknowledge their weakness when they resort to the last and most persuasive rhetoric of fine and imprisonment.* The change is from moral force to physical force; and the earnest advocates of temperance have little reason to congratulate themselves on the Canadian law. It proves, at any rate, their weakness. For ourselves, and for all who are earnestly concerned in checking intoxication, and in protesting against drunkenness on moral and religious grounds, we are disposed to regret this success, if such it is to be called. A fatal reaction is sure to follow—at any rate, it always has followed, even in the New England States, every attempt to compel external decency by severe legislative restrictions on personal liberty. The old Puritan regulations against drunkenness were twice as severe as those recently embodied in the Maine laws; and yet, in spite of them—or, as many think, in consequence of them—the New England States became conspicuous for immorality and intemperance.

After all, these prohibitory laws are, and ever must be, of unequal incidence. Even now, in Maine itself, every man who can import a hogshead of brandy or a pipe of wine, can get as drunk as he pleases at home. And if, for social purposes, we are resolved to make drunkenness impossible in the poor man, we ought to guard against its possible commission by the rich man. It may be true, and in one sense it is, that drunkenness is a grave social offence; but unless we treat intoxication as equally criminal in every class of the community, we are legislating unjustly. If it is the duty of the State to interfere on behalf of a moral virtue, it must do its work thoroughly; and great as may be the benefits of compelling sobriety, the compulsion must be total. In other words, the social advantages of lessening drunkenness are more than counterbalanced by the immoral spectacle of a law which permits exceptions to its principles in the case of all who are rich enough to afford the luxury of setting it at defiance.

Further, the law in taking the place of moral sanctions, ought not merely to be equal but consistent. Not only must it prohibit intemperance in the matter of drinking, but in that of eating. Paley tells us that the quantity of corn consumed in distilled liquors is a sufficient reason for prohibiting its use in the form of alcohol. On the same principle the State is bound to see that there be no waste, not only in the matter of grain consumed in distillation, but in flour profligately expended in pastry and other luxuries. If it is a robbery of the national storehouse, and if it unnecessarily enhances the price of corn, to permit a single bushel to find its way to the distiller's, second courses and soups are equally an unjustifiable waste of the common stock of beef and mutton. We must have sumptuary laws against the table as well as against the bottle. We must interfere with the dish as well as with the glass—with tobacco no less than with rum. Velvet and satin are equally an offence with port and sherry. Nor can we stop here. Temperance is only one of the majestic circle of Christian graces or moral virtues. But if the Legislature is bound to step in between a man and his conscience in one case, why not in all? Drunkenness is the ruin of families—it is a profligate waste of health and means—it entails not only on the sinner, but on all connected with him, an incalculable amount of poverty and misery. We admit all this to the full. But so does idleness—so do incontinence and adultery—so does living beyond one's income. Are we to have a Maine prohibition specially directed against every breach of the moral law? If not, why against intemperance alone? Moralists and thinkers will perhaps add that, after all, special prohibitions do not touch the root of the evil. Intemperance is only the accidental sign of general moral corruption. A man who is a drunkard does not labor so much under a specific and local weakness as under a total abeyance of moral restraints; and the experience of six thousand years proves the inability of merely secular prohibitions to cure this inveterate evil. Barbarism and vice, in their most hideous forms, may and do exist in communities where intoxication is impossible.

On general grounds, therefore, we more than question the policy of the recent Canadian measure; while, as a tyrannical interference with the freedom of manufactures and trade, it runs directly counter to all recent experience and to the accredited laws of industry. It is a mere sophism to say that the Maine law only expands the principle embodied in our excise laws. We do not make the manufacture and consumption of ardent spirits expensive on moral grounds, but on purely fiscal ones. The object of taxation is to make those contribute to State purposes who have the means of so doing. The fact that a man spends money on wine and spirits is an available proof that he has money to spend—that he indulges himself with luxuries is a distinct evidence that he has the wherewithal to contribute to the public treasury. We enhance the price of his liquor, because he is a taxable subject; and we interfere with distilleries and dramshops, not to discourage the manufacture of ardent spirits, but only to take care that every drop of liquor shall pay its modicum to the revenue. The moral purpose of the Maine and Canadian liquor laws is, at all events an innovation. It may be for good or evil, but it cannot be seriously defended by an appeal to the principle already accepted in our excise regulations; and we state this because a recent Edinburg reviewer has, not a little to our surprise, vindicated such legislation by this strange argument.

Mademoiselle Cruvelli.

The following paragraph appears in the Paris *Patrie* of November 7, and shows that the mysterious affair of Mademoiselle Cruvelli has been arranged:—

It is in consequence of a regrettable misunderstanding that the absence of Mademoiselle Cruvelli put a stop to a representation at the Opera, the person directed to inform the administration of her departure not having acquitted himself of his commissions. Mademoiselle Cruvelli, frightened at the annoying effect which ensued, has not dared hitherto to appear before the public. Comprehending now how much the prolongation of her absence might aggravate her involuntary fault, she has demanded and obtained authority immediately to resume her service at the Opera.

The Bank of England.

The return from the Bank of England for the week ending the 4th of November gives the following results, when compared with the previous week:—

Public deposits	£2,858,100	Increase	$952,587
Other deposits	10,932,023	Decrease	509,488
Rest	3,136,875	Increase	4,328

On the other side of the account:—

Gov. securities	£11,524,492	Increase	£563,730
Other securities	14,155,089	Decrease	401,823
Notes unempl'd	6,366,340	Increase	279,915

The amount of notes in circulation is £20,503,610—being a decrease of £332,285, and the stock of bullion in both departments is £18,526,026, showing a decrease of £52,406, when compared with the preceding return.

Issue Department.

Notes issued	£26,969,950
Government debt	£11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	12,969,950
Silver bullion	—
	£26,969,950

Banking Department.

Proprietors' capital	£14,553,000
Rest	3,136,875
Public deposits (including Exchequer Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	2,858,100
Other deposits	10,932,023
Seven days and other bills	1,120,999
	£32,600,997
Government securities (including dead weight annuity)	£11,524,492
Other securities	14,155,089
Notes	6,366,340
Gold and silver coin	555,076
	£32,600,997

Nov. 10, 1854. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.'S CIRCULAR.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 10, 1854.

We have to report a steady cotton market during the past week, without change in prices. The sales have reached 41,070 bales, of which speculators have taken 2,580, and exporters 4,500; but still a quiet feeling exists, and the demand is freely supplied at the following quotations:—Fair Orleans, 6½; middling, 5⅝; Fair Mobiles, 6; middling, 5¾; Fair Upland, 6d; middling, 5¾; Ordinary, 5¼ a 5; Inferior 4 a 4½d.

The stock of cotton in this port is estimated at 671,000 bales, of which 316,000 are American, against 716,000 bales at this period of last year, and 440,000 American.

Trade generally is dull, and the probabilities of a protracted war, and the high prices of corn, are causing some uneasiness. In Manchester great irregularity exists in the prices of yarns and goods, and occasional forced sales are made (of goods) at a great sacrifice.

The light stocks of grain and flour in the ports, with the probabilities of a small foreign supply for some time to come, have caused a further advance in this market. White wheat is quoted at 12s. a 13s., and red 11s. a 12s. for 70 lbs. Western Canal flour, 43s. a 43s. 6d.; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 44s. 6d. a 45s.; Canada, 44s. a 44s. 6d.; Ohio, 45s. a 46s.; and sour, 40s. per barrel. White Indian corn, 45s. 6d. a 46s. 6d.; yellow, 44s. 6d. a 46s.; and mixed, 44s. 6d. per quarter; being an advance in the week of 6d. per bushel in wheat, 3s. 6d. per barrel in flour, and 3s. per quarter in Indian corn. Nothing doing in turpentine. Rosin in demand at 4s. 9d. a 5s. per cwt.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

In addition to the news published in yesterday's HERALD, we give the following items of intelligence from the different states of South America:—

CHILE.

Our files of the *Diario, Mercurio* and *Mensajero* are to the 14th October.

There is no political news. Congress has again been prorogued for twenty days. During the session just concluded, the Chamber of Deputies has been engaged upon a bill to allow and regulate joint stock companies.

The report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs states that owing to the increased trade between England and Chile a new treaty has been negotiated, and in a few days will be signed and presented to Congress. He further states that Peru and Ecuador have accepted the offered mediation of Chile in the settlement of their differences.

A rumor is in circulation that a legation is at once to be sent to the United States.

It is reported that Mr. Francis S. Astaburuga, now Intendante of Coquimbo, and formerly Secretary of Legation at Washington, is to be appointed Charge d'Affairs near that government.

Messrs. Allan Campbell and M. Buschenthal have returned from their inspection of the country between Valparaiso and Rosario, with the view to its suitability for a railroad to the base of the Andes and then across the Pampas to the Atlantic, and have reported favorably thereon. They estimate the cost at twenty-six millions of dollars.

The First Lieutenant of the French ship of war Aventure, M. Louis Edward Lafosse, fell from his horse and was instantly killed He was buried with military honors, all the French, English and Chilian officers following him to the grave.

A vein of gold has been discovered in the streets of Santiago, in the Cerro de Santa Lucia, in the very centre of the city. Arrangements are made to work it.

The American Minister, near the government of Chile, David Starkweather, Esq., with his family, arrived in this city on the 11th October, in the British mail steamer from Panama.

A seaman named William Cummings died suddenly on Sunday, 8th October, on board the American bark Hermoine, anchored in the bay. He was an American, and shipped a few months ago at Tahiti. He had gone to bed as well as usual, but in the morning was found in an expiring condition. Medical aid was procured from the Chilian war steamer Cazador at once, but it was too late.

The result of the late census has been published, and gives the population at 1,406,276, being an increase of 106,276, or about twelve per cent in the last ten years.

On the 14th October the schooner Idosa arrived at Conception, with a steamer of 130 tons on board, intended for the navigation of the Bio-bio.

At Valparaiso business is reported brisk. Large arrivals of goods have taken place, while extensive purchases have been made at the same time for Mexico and Guayaquil. The Bolivian trade has also revived. The sales for exportation have amounted to $300,000 during the fortnight. The home trade is dull. Some description of cottons are held at in advance. Stocks of silk, woollens and linens full; steel, iron, copper, yellow metal, zinc and cut nails in brisk demand; lead plentiful. Stocks of all classes of oil, low; brandies unaltered; claret, in wood and port, dull; sherry in demand, with cargoes on the way. In provisions generally the stocks are abundant and sales moderate.

In active produce flour still continues dull, with large stocks; a fall of 25 to 50 cents per bag of two quintal has been submitted to and this article is now quoted at $7 50, six months credit. Wheat and barley are also very dull. Hides saleable; copper very scarce, at advanced rates. Nitrate is quoted at 18 reals, no sales.

Freights.—Ores Tongoy to Liverpool £5 10s.; Guano to Liverpool, £4 10s.; San Francisco, $10 to $12. Nothing doing to Australia.

H. B. M. steamer Dido arrived on the 11th from a cruise. The French corvette Aventure sailed on the 7th for Callao and Marquesas.

PERU.

The news from this republic is interesting, as it leads us to hope that the revolution will soon be brought to a close by the overthrow of the Echenique administration. Even this we can glean from the government papers, however unwilling they may be to admit the defeat of their party.

The *Heraldo* of Lima, of the 25th, in its summary of news, says that it regrets to announce that at the time of writing, the prospect of the re-establishment of order is more distant than fifteen days ago.

By the last mail we learned that the government forces held a position near the town of Jauja, with the object of cutting off General Castilla's supplies and forcing him to leave his strong position and give them battle on their ground, but instead of forcing Castilla to this move, he (Castilla) made a movement to the right, with the intention of intercepting the communication to the capital. The move was effected so secretly that the government forces were taken by surprise and obliged to leave their position, and, by forced marches, to fall back on their rear guard, with the intention of preventing the revolutionists from reaching the capital.

When General Castilla left Oroya, says the *Heraldo*, President Echenique marched for Chucapalca (a position nearer Lima), being obliged to ford the river Oroya, the bridge having been broken down to impede his progress; and if was expected that at Chucapalca he would have forced the revolutionists to a battle.

But Castilla, leaving the government forces on his right, continued his march to Moroccocha, destroying all the bridges on the way. Echenique followed him, and reached Casapalca, a point where he found himself entirely commanded by the position of Castilla's forces in Morococha, and from which it was impossible to dislodge him, owing to the nature of the ground not permitting the movement of the artillery and cavalry.

In this state of affairs, the President determined to fall back on the capital, which he reached on the 25th October, with 500 cavalry, leaving the artillery to follow the rest of the army, amounting in all to 4,500 men, besides the 2,500 quartered in Lima.

General Castilla's army is said to consist of about 3,000 men.

The same journal publishes the following address of President Echenique to the members of the Council of State on his return:

EXCELLENT SIR—I should present myself before the government, after having gained the victory, but I have had to contend against an enemy who never sought the combat, and who has avoided it whenever we sought it. I come, sir, to give a moment's repose to the army, after which you will again see me go forth to fulfil my duty.

At the conclusion of this brief spech, Gen. Medina verbally replied:—

MOST EXCELLENT SIR—It is evident that the sacrifices made up to to-day to put down the revolution have been impotent, but the brilliant army that accompanies your Excellency, and your Excellency being at the head of it, leads us to hope that peace will soon be established throughout the republic, and that the noble efforts of your Excellency will be rewarded.

On the return of the President becoming known to the people, great dissatisfaction was manifested, and crowds gathered in the streets, shouting for Castilla. The troops were called out, and guards placed over the palace and other public buildings. Various revolutionary proclamations and placards were published, and in a few instances the people and the soldiers came into collision. The *Heraldo* does not mention that any lives were lost, but private advices state that six or eight were killed on both sides. All business was suspended, and the stores and shops closed.

In Callao likewise the popular feeling in favor of Castilla was very apparent.

Private advices inform us that at the moment of the steamer's leaving Cabao Castillo was very near Lima, if not actually in the city. This, though probable, may not be correct, and we only give it as a rumor.

From the foregoing account, published by Echenique's organs, we leave our readers to judge of the real position of affairs. To us it appears certain that Echenique is on his last legs; that he has not the courage to meet Castilla, even supposing public opinion was with him, which it certainly is not. We should not be surprised, therefore, if some fine morning we find a Peruvian war steamer at anchor in our bay with the ex-President on board.

The Lima *Foreign News* of the 14th Oct. says that Henrietta's party, which left this city on a gold seeking expedition of the Amazon in May last, have just returned after a fruitless search. They prospected on the Colorado river, and on several other smaller mountain streams, finding gold, but in very limited quantities.

ECUADOR.

[From El Progreso of Guayquil.]

THE REVENUE.

According to the report of the Minister of Finance, lately presented to Congress, we perceive that the receipts of the national treasury for the year just concluded, have amounted to $1,310,583 1 real, and the expenditure to the sum of $1,278,319 2½ reals, leaving a balance in the respective treasuries of $32,263 6½ reals.

The internal debt, without reckoning that of the province of Esmeraldas, reaches $732,331 6½ reals; the amount of the census paid over to the public treasury, $2,814,954 3½ reals, and the amount due to $835,836 1½ reals.

The importation of foreign goods amounted to $1,914,645; the exports to $1,872,843 in country produce, and $246,805 in gold and silver.

GOLD MINES.

The *Progreso* of the 12th September says:—

Gold is found in abundance in the province of Cuenca. Dr. Mariano Marino has taken out 5 arobas (25 lbs. each). At the present time many companies are formed, to one of which Colonel Castlari is attached, and we know that after a few days work, a dividend of twenty ounces each was paid.

The city of Cuenca is situated in a most beautiful valley; it contains about 20,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom are amiable and hospitable, like all the rest of the people of Ecuador.

In this country, strangers who come to live by their labor, and behave themselves with propriety, are highly esteemed. Many of them are married in many parts of the republic, and are highly thought of for their good qualities.

The ports of the republic are open to all who wish to honor us, and come and live in Ecuadorian society, and aid us in the progress and credit of the country, and in working this new California "Cuca."

The country is becoming more settled every day, and it is very probable that the liberal course adopted by Gen. Urbini will finally tend to the progress and developement of the country.

The province of Guayaquil, in which is the principal port of Ecuador, is inhabited by an industrious mercantile people. It is only three or four days' journey in summer from Guayaquil to Cuenca, and in winter about six, and the cost of making the journey about twenty dollars.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Our advices from the Argentine Provinces are not later than those previously received.

The Sandwich Islands.

THE ANNEXATION QUESTION—KING KAMEHAMEHA'S INTERVIEW WITH THE BRITISH CONSUL.

The San Francisco papers contain indignant articles concerning the conduct of the British Consul relative to the annexation of the Sandwich Islands to the United States. The *Placer Times* says, "we were recently informed that three British men of war, the Amphytrite, the Rattlesnake, and the Trincomalee, had been ordered to Honolulu as a material force demonstration, in support of the presumptuous and ridiculous threats of a protest by Consul General Miller, against the annexation of the Islands to the United States. The following is the speech said by the *Placer* to have been delivered by Gen. Miller to King Kamehameha, on the annexation of the Sandwich Islands to the United States, delivered at the Palace in Honolulu, at a secret session of the King, Chiefs and Privy Council, on the 18th of September, 1854.

General Miller spoke, in substance, as follows:—

May it please your Majesty—As the representative of Her Britannic Majesty's government, I have sought this interview in order to lay before your Majesty the sentiments of my government in regard to your Majesty's sovereignty.

The subject of the annexation of these islands to the United States, is a matter of daily conversation in Honolulu, and it is even asserted that a treaty is in course of negotiation to affect that object. These rumors, taken in connection with certain newspaper articles published in the United States, and the studied reserve and want of frankness on the part of your Majesty's Minister of Foreign Relations towards myself, imposed upon me the necessity of asking for this audience, to ascertain, if possible, from your Majesty, if any change of sovereignty was contemplated, and to give my reason why no such project should or could be entertained without a violation of good faith with my government.

I am aware of the countenance and support that the project of annexation to the United States has received from high official functionaries at Honolulu, which has given rise to considerable excitement among British residents. I consider it my duty to remind you that the treaty entered into with the Sandwich Islands by Great Britain, was based on the express condition that your Majesty, your heirs and successors, are bound to extend at all times, to British subjects, the same advantages and privileges as may be granted to citizens of the most favored nation; and that the joint declaration of England and France, of the 29th November, 1843, was founded upon the clear understanding that your Majesty was to preserve your kingdom as an independent State. I beg, therefore, to acquaint your Majesty, in the name of my government, that any attempt to annex the Sandwich Islands to the United States would be in contradiction of an existing treaty, and could not be looked upon with indifference by the British government. I would further observe, that no monarch whatever has a right to alienate his kingdom, or enter into a negotiation with that view, without the concurrence of his people.

I cannot believe that your Majesty would for one moment entertain such a scheme without an official notification to the British government of a desire to alienate your sovereignty and that of the kingdom. And I feel bound to protest against the project, gotten up by American merchants, landed proprietors, and other citizens of the United States, and not being sanctioned by the Hawaiian constitution and treaty stipulations.

I still hope these rumors may prove unfounded, and that your Majesty may maintain your independence, recognized by the whole world, and guaranteed by England and France, who are now in closer alliance than when that guarantee was given. But should your Majesty still desire to transfer the sovereignty of your islands, there are many and urgent reasons why a closer connection with Great Britain should be preferred to that of any other nation. Nothing could be more fatal to the future happiness and welfare of your Majesty and your people than annexation to the United States, and I cannot give my reasons against such a project more fully than I have done in a memorandum I prepared some months since, to submit to your Majesty and chiefs. [Here Gen. M. read a paper which he had drawn up in English, and Judge Robertson being present as Gen. M.'s interpreter, read the Hawaiian version.]

This paper declares that the effect of annexation would be to make slaves of the natives; that slavery is recognized by the constitution of the United States, and that all persons of dark color are liable to be sold into slavery; that natives, from their color, could not enjoy citizenship in the United States, and that no treaty provision to that effect would be recognized by the American people. That there is no distinction of rank in the United States, no titles of nobility, and that the King and chiefs would lose their rank and position, and be despised on account of their color. That the institutions of the United States were demoralizing and corrupting, and destroyed the amenities of social life. That there was no real security to person and property there. Referred to the *Wive Kolokia*, (Adultery laws of this kingdom, &c.)

General M. continued by reading telegraphic despatches and comments of the NEW YORK HERALD and *Tribune* of June 20, in reference to annexation—referred to the State of California as an example of the ill effects of annexation; represented the native Californians under Mexican rule as happy and contented, inhabiting a country rich and lovely in the extreme, possessing large herds and natural pastures, with every luxury and comfort at their doors. "But a change came over the spirit of their dream." In an evil hour Mexico, yielding to the necessity of the times, ceded California to the United States, and by the treaty of cession provided for the protection of the lives and property of such Mexicans as should remain in the country. And what was the result? California at once became the rendezvous for cut-throats, thieves, filibusters and lawless men, and the poor Mexicans were robbed of their herds, had their lands taken from them, and in many instances, for simply protecting their property, they were wantonly and cruelly murdered. The treaty obligations to protect them were disregarded, and the boasted power of the United States was trampled under foot; society was unhinged, property cast adrift, and the bowie knife and pistol became the law of the land. The few poor Mexicans that remain are monuments, not of the wisdom of their laws or the power to enforce them, but as living witnesses of the violation of the plighted faith of a treaty obligation. The country has not improved since in morals, the printing press and school house have failed in their mission, California has no laws that she can enforce, and disorder, wild riot and crime still pervade the community; men are hung in open day without forms of law, and there is no security for person or property within her borders. Every paper that reaches us from there teems with murders, squatter riots, and lawless acts. [Here Gen. M. read some newspaper extracts.]

These are the scenes that your Majesty must contemplate as the result of annexation—these are the ills that your people will be subjected to. I would not overdraw the picture—but I almost imagine that I can lift the veil of the future and see the remnant of your people gathered around some favorite chief, divested of his lands, reduced to beggary and want, who, as he surveys the ruin and desolation that surrounds him, and views the beautiful landscape that surrounds the graves of his fathers—yields up his spirit, and with his last breath wafts a sigh for his beloved *Hawaii nei*, and a curse upon those who betrayed her trust.

The law of primogeniture and the English colonial system, have recently been assailed in a public address by a distinguished gentleman, (alluding to Mr. Gregg's Fourth July oration,) and he felt called upon to allude to those topics. The law of primogeniture was a good and salutary law; one that kept up the necessary distinctions in society—the proper checks and balances of social life. As to the colonial system which is so severely assailed, (I know not for what reason, save that it is so admirably adapted to the condition of these islands,) I have no defence to make; it needs none at my hands. In these despised colonies slavery is not tolerated, and there is no distinction of color. Titles of nobility exist, and your Majesty and chiefs would retain your rank and position, and your subjects would enjoy all the proud privileges of British colonists, should these islands ever become a British colony. I do not know that Great Britain desires such a connection—I have no instructions on that subject, and merely intimate the advantages that might accrue to your kingdom from such a connection.

Under these circumstances I have to beg that your Majesty will take no action on the subject of your Majesty's sovereignty, till such time as I can receive instructions from my government.

I regret the necessity that compels me to allude to the conduct of your Majesty's Minister of Foreign Relations, His Excellency R. C. Wyllie, in terms of disapprobation; but such is my disagreeable duty. Some twelve months since, in conjunction with the commissioner of France, I had the honor, at a private audience with your Majesty, to present the joint protest of the representatives of England and France, and the conduct of Mr. Wyllie was most extraordinary. He not only supplied Mr. Severance, United States Commissioner, with a copy of the protest, but published his reply, and suppressed my rejoinder. A long rigmarole of a reply to the joint protest was sent forward by the same mail that carried the joint protest which was designed for your Majesty's ear alone. That Minister's conduct towards her Britannic Majesty's government is not marked by that frankness and candor that should characterize the intercourse between two friendly Powers. It is a misfortune to your Majesty's government that so much relating to the department of foreign affairs is published. There appears to be a perfect mania to publish by that Minister. I do not complain individually of a want of courtesy from that gentleman; but if less were published by that department, there would be less bad feeling engendered in this community.

I thank your Majesty for the attention with which you have listened to my communication, and shall be happy to hear your Majesty's reply.

Here Gen. M. concluded his speech, after occupying one hour and fifteen minutes in its delivery.

At the end of the interview, which lasted an hour and a quarter, it pleased his Majesty to reply to the following effect:—

"I have heard what you have said to me in the name of your government. I am not sure that I have clearly understood it all. But I shall consider it so far as I may be able to recollect it. I would prefer that, on all matters which relate to my sovereignty, in which my chiefs and people have a deep interest, communications should be made in writing, so as to prevent misunderstandings and mistakes either by me or them.

THE ENGLISH ASSUMING THE PROTECTION OF GREYTOWN.

[From the Polynesian (Sandwich Islands), Sept. 23.]

In giving publicity to an article under the above caption in our issue of the 16th instant, the inadvertant omission of any remarks in reference thereto has, we regret to say, been construed into an approval on our part of the exciting and slanderous language of the Kingston *Morning Herald*, a British colonial newspaper published at Jamaica.

We are obliged to Capt. Bailey, of the United States ship St. Marys, now in this harbor, for calling our prompt attention to the subject, and for stamping with unqualified falsehood the slanderous charges against the gallant commander of the Cyane and the people of the United States.

In publishing the letter of Capt. Bailey we improve the occasion to say, that in reproducing the article in question our prominent idea was, to lay before our readers the official notifications contained therein, signed by Joseph W. Fabins, U. S. Commercial Agent; and by G. N. Hollins, Commander U. S. ship Cyane. These we regarded as important in an historical point of view, as containing the reasons for the action subsequently taken by Capt. H., which resulted in the bombardment and destruction of the town.

In regard to the violent and abusive language employed by the Kingston *Morning Herald*, we deemed it so malicious and insulting, and at the same time so false and reckless, as to prove a sufficient antidote to its own malignity and impudence, in the mind of every one of our readers.

The wholesale charge of filibusterism against the people of the United States, in the face of President Pierce's late message—the action of Gen. Wool in San Francisco, and the last six months' cruise of the Portsmouth, under direction of the department at Washington—is equally absurd, and can only emanate from those whose vocation it is to retail slanderous charges against the institutions and people of the United States. In allowing the article to appear in the *Polynesian*, we had no other motive than to afford our readers a hearty laugh at an explosion of gasconade as harmless as one of *Punch's* squibs, or Mrs. Partington's drollories.

In the sometimes difficult task of making selections from our foreign files for our columns, we must our readers will not be too sensitive, if we should occasionally omit an expression of opinion in regard to the truth or falsity of what we may happen to re-produce. When we give due credit for foreign extracts, that our readers may know their origin, they will receive them for what they are worth. We vouch for nothing of the sort. But important and valuable information is often so mingled with spleen and ill-humor as to be inseparable; and yet the information may be worth the sacrifice. In such cases, as in the one under consideration, the *animus* is usually so apparent as to prevent the reader from being misled.

The following is the letter of Capt. Bailey, alluded to above:

U. S. SHIP ST. MARYS, HONOLULU, S. I., September 16, 1854.

SIR—I observe in your paper, the *Polynesian*, of this date, an article which originally appeared in a British paper, published at Kingston, Jamaica, filled with the rancorous hatred which characterizes a portion of the British press towards the government and people of the United States.

As the article is published without comment on your part, and may mislead some of your readers, I beg to inquire whether it is your intention to endorse the charges therein contained against Captain Hollins, of the Cyane, and the people of the United States?

I pronounce the whole article of the Jamaica paper a tissue of falsehood. Captain Hollins is personally known to me, and a more gallant, honorable, high-minded, straight-forward officer does not serve in the navy of any country.

The charge of intoxication is grossly false, as Captain Hollins is not addicted to the habit. The chastisement which he gave the filibusters at Greytown, I have no doubt, was in strict compliance with orders from the United States government, and fully deserved.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. BAILEY, Com. U. S. Navy.

E. O. HALL, Esq., Editor *Polynesian*.

Since the preceding was written, we have received the following communication from the Hon. D. L. Gregg, Commissioner of the United States, upon the same topic. The remarks already made are as applicable to this, as the communication for which they were particularly penned, and we refer to them as explanatory of our motives for republishing an article which has justly given offence to men whose friends have been slandered, and whose country has been vilified:—

HONOLULU, Sept. 19, 1854.

SIR:—I must beg to call your attention to an article in the *Polynesian* of Saturday last, purporting to be copied from the San Francisco *Herald* of August 14, in which are embodied extracts from the *Kingston Morning Herald* and *Jamaica Englishman*, containing the most malignant slanders against the government, the navy, and the people of the United States. Had the entire comments of the San Francisco *Herald* appeared in connexion with these extracts, or had you accompanied them by remarks of your own, exposing their base and venomous character, I should not have thought it to trouble you. It was probably your idea that such slanders carried with them their own refutation, and needed no contradiction. Ordinarily, this would have been a just and proper view to take of the matter. But here, I think, a different case is presented, from the fact that the *Polynesian* is the official organ of the Hawaiian government. The duties of its director and editor are defined by law. He is an agent or officer, bound in express terms, to "explain in an inoffensive manner, the policy of His Majesty's government, as the same may from time to time be given him in charge," and he is explicitly directed not to "insert articles of a nature offensive or disparaging to other friendly powers to have publicity through the columns of said newspaper." Hence, the position of the *Polynesian*, under these circumstances, gives a peculiar force and significancy to its contents.

The article to which I have referred, standing as it does without explanation or comment, is offensive and disparaging to the United States—a power with which the Hawaiian government is on terms of friendship. As it goes forth to the world, it would reasonably be concluded by those unacquainted with your own sentiments, and those of your government, that its infamous assertions were endorsed. I am conscious there was no intention of any such thing, but at the same time I must say, and you will probably admit, that there was inadvertence either in the publication of the article, or in omitting to accompany it with rem