IMPORTANT DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

An exceedingly interesting debate took place in the House of Commons, on Friday, March 31, on the army estimates. Mr. Fox Maule made a long speech, of which the following is an extract:—

I think that when we look at the condition of our Colonies—when we regard the state of our army, with reference to our Military relief—when we consider what we have to do at home, in Ireland—and when we consider the necessity of this country having at command, at all times, some considerable amount of disposable Force, we shall find sufficient reasons for supporting the vote which I shall conclude by proposing to the House. (Hear, hear, hear.) Now, I assume in the first place, that there is no man in this House who is prepared to say that we ought to leave our Colonies in a defenceless condition. (Hear, hear.) I take it for granted that our Colonies are worth preserving; (hear hear, hear;) that if we are bound to preserve them, of course we are bound to protect them. It is my opinion that, in all our Colonies, our establishment is at this moment the lowest possible peace establishment; and I believe that if honorable gentlemen will look at the Report of two Committees which sat in 1834 and 1835—Committees appointed to inquire into our Naval and Military expenditure—they will find that in most of *our* Colonies—and to the exceptions I shall more particularly allude—the Military establishment was kept in the very lowest possible condition, namely, in the lowest condition which was compatible with a peace establishment. (Hear, hear.) In fact, I may state that, in the Mediterranean, in Malta, in Corfu, our Military establishments are barely enough to meet the absolute want of maintaining the peace and security of those places. (Hear, hear, hear.) I hold it that properly ought to be protected, and that a proper Military Force, on such a reduced system, is desirable, both for protecting property in this country and for defending ourselves against a foreign foe. (Hear, hear,) In order to take a clear and distinct view of this question, regarding a Military Force, let us look to Canada. Since 1835 many changes have taken place in Canada, and those events have shown the desirableness of having a proper Military Force in our Colonies. In 1835, we had 2,095 of Military Force in Canada; and I must say that all the occurrences which took place in that country only serve to show us the necessity of a proper Military establishment. (Hear, hear.) Since that period, it is true that the resources of Canada have been more fully developed than they were at a previous period; but that is not the question now before us. The question which we have to consider is, whether we shall reduce our Military establishment to a lower estimate than at present—an estimate that is the lowest which would be useful for all effective purposes. Let us look at the duties which our Military Force has to perform, and the stations in which they are quartered; for that is the only way in which we can form an estimate as to the amount of Force required. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Hume contended that in the present state of financial embarrassment, with a large excess of expenditure over income, they were not warranted in voting one man or one shilling more than the usual wants of the country required. Considering the recent increase in the amount of the police force in England, and especially in Ireland, and also considering the numbers of the yeomanry and militia, and of the coast-guard and the enrolled pensioners, he was convinced that there was nothing either in the internal or external condition of the country which could warrant us in maintaining so large a force as 113,000 men. During the years 1835, 1836, and 1837, the military force did not exceed 86,500 men, and in 1844 Sir R. Peel settled it at 100,000. He proposed to reduce it to that amount now, and he was of opinion that that reduction could be made without discharging a single soldier, by merely stopping the recruiting of the army. He concluded by moving an amendment to that effect.

Mr. P. V. Smith opposed the amendment, this not being a time to reduce our armaments, because, in his opinion, it was not improbable that foreign countries might find it convenient to rid themselves of their own surplus population by an aggressive war. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Osborne protested against the constant increase in the standing army, and pointed out a number of savings, amounting altogether to £570,000 per annum, which might be made even without reducing the army by a single man.

Col. Sibthorp was astonished to hear such sentiments from one who for sixteen years had been a distinguished officer in H. M.'s service. He (Col. Sibthorp,) was opposed to any reduction which could injure the efficiency of any branch of that service on which the safety and welfare of this country depended; and he should most certainly support the Government in any proposition they considered necessary for the maintenance of the British army.

Sir William Molesworth supported the amendment at considerable length, and urged the expediency and justice of extending the franchise, and conceding other reforms at once instead of waiting until they should be compelled to grant them by the pressure from without. (Hear, hear.) The vote for last year (exclusive of India,) was 108,398 men; the vote proposed to be taken for this year by the Hon. Gentleman, the Secretary at War, was 113,847 men—an increase this year of 5,449 men, which occasioned an increase in the gross estimate of the effective forces of the army to the amount of £147,639.

Mr. Cobden said, that if they voted £7,900,000 for the navy, and £7,700,000 for the army, there would only be some £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 on which they could deal in the way of retrenchment, and they could do nothing for the people. He was prepared for the great discontent which would arise in the country. (Oh, oh!) Honorable Gentlemen were jeering and laughing at him; he wished they would come some morning and read the letters he got from the country. He believed the Honorable Gentleman opposite knew as little of the state of feeling among the middle classes of the country—(Oh, oh!)—and they had not a partisan among the working classes of this country—(Oh, oh!)—as M. Guizot did the day he was sent to England. (Groans.) How did they propose to make up this money? He believed that it was understood by the Ministry that a majority of the House would not vote for the increased income tax. Last year they had a deficiency of £1,800,000; this year there was an evident deficiency of about £3,000,000, making altogether an addition to the debt of £4,800,000. They were voting away the money, though they had not got it; but how did they propose to get it?—Was it by a new tax? If so, what tax would they impose? Could there be anything more fair than that they should lay it upon property? Were they prepared to raise it by a probate and legacy duty? Was it not a reproach to the common sense of the country, that they should not first think of the way of raising the money? Did they intend to go to the Bank for it at the risk of producing another crisis? Did they intend to repudiate, or to become bankrupt? The great danger was from the finances; we should be better with a surplus revenue, and fewer ships and soldiers than we should be by having these augmented armaments and a large deficiency in the revenue. Where was the danger from abroad? Hon. gentlemen talked mysteriously about the state of Europe. Why, every post brought news that other nations were too much engaged in their own country to come and attack us.

Lord John Russell, after alluding to the troops necessary in India, Australia, Canada, and other colonies, and to prevent such disgraceful riots by mobs of thieves as recently occurred, without putting well disposed subjects to the trouble and expense of arming for their own protection, said that a consideration of the state of foreign affairs was sufficient to show that this, at all events was not the time to propose a reduction of our forces.—(Hear, hear.) It did seem to him that while there was nothing to induce them to add to estimates originally proposed, still it would not be wise or prudent to make a sudden diminution. (Hear, hear.) No man could say that affairs would remain as they were now for any considerable time to come. "At the same time," observed his Lordship "I am happy to say, speaking at this moment, that there is nothing to call upon England in any way to interfere, even by way of formal remonstrance, against any proceeding that has taken place. There is nothing in the present state of affairs which has affected our position, or indeed obliged us to make any protest or remonstrance whatever with regard to what has taken place. I pass, therefore, from the consideration of these concerns." His Lordship then observed, that if next year the revenue did not increase, and if it were found impossible materially to diminish the expenditure it would be time enough then to consider how the deficit was to be made up, and what kind of taxes or burdens it might be necessary to impose on the country. (Hear, hear.) It was the duty of Government to consider whether there were any taxes that pressed unduly on any portion of the people, and whether they could be more equitably adjusted. (Cheers.) He should be most happy to reduce expenditure, but he now called upon the House to reject the amendment, feeling convinced, as he did, that the force proposed was necessary for the purposes and essential to the safety of the State.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr. Bright spoke at considerable length in support of the amendment. Alluding to the circumstances which rendered so large a force necessary in Ireland, he asked what had become of all those measures of reform and justice for which the noble lord, when in opposition, had carried on so fierce, he might say so ferocious, a party warfare.—(Hear, hear.) Let them look to her political situation at the present moment. She had next to no constituency—almost no registry. True, she sent 105 representatives to that House, but she suffered under inequalities and wrongs with respect to her political institutions, which could not be denied—(hear)—and which had been admitted to a greater or less degree on all sides of the House. She had, moreover, a Church Establishment, which, were it not—(cries of "question.") He thought he could detect an Irish voice in that cry of "question." (An Hon. Member here shouted "No, no," in an accent so decidedly Milesian, that the House was in an uproar of laughter.) She had, he repeated, a Church Establishment which, were it not that there was a Church Establishment in England as well, would not last in Ireland for a single session. (Hear, hear.) In one word, there was to be found in Ireland a condition of things so monstrous, so incredibly vile, that in some years to come their children or their grand-children would find it difficult to believe how their forefathers could have tolerated it for one hour without having at least made an effort to remedy it. (Hear, hear.) Last year more of their fellow-subjects died in Ireland of positive starvation—yes, literally perished of famine and pestilence in their hovels, in the workhouses, or by the side of the high roads—than England ever lost of her people in any war, ancient or modern, in which she had ever been engaged. (Hear.)

On a division, the numbers were, for the amendment 39, against it 293; majority for Ministers 254.

S. W. Molesworth then moved that the vote be reduced by 5449 men, the number expected to arrive from India within the year, which was negatived by 246 to 45.

CHINA.

(From the Friend of China of Feb. 24.)

Much anxiety has been entertained as to the steps Sir John Davis would take in the event of Keying's not complying with his demands, to do which he had to the 20th inst.—In Hongkong the naval and military forces were ordered to be ready for service by the 15th. The troops were drilled and practised with scaling ladders, &c. The seamen were trained to boat service and artillery; and both arms were in full expectation of an attack upon Canton, or some other warlike demonstration. Orders had been sent to the straits for reinforcements; H. M. steamer Medea was hurried on to China, the frigate Melampus is daily expected; while the Scout and Childers have been recalled from the coast. Much zeal and enthusiasm have been evinced; but it would appear they have been thrown away. The Plenipotentiary's heart chilled as the time for action approached.

The measures which the British government will adopt are of course conjectural. A war, however, appears unavoidable, in as much as the Canton province will be occupied by a British army—the treaty in all its integrity enforced—the people coerced—and security taken for the good faith of the Chinese for the future. Europeans are disabused of old erroneous ideas as to the strength of China. It is a vast, inanimate, disjointed empire;—and is at this moment at the mercy of the weakest maritime power in Europe. *In the South the people are all but in open revolt; and the presence of a foreign army would certainly be followed by an insurrection.* We have seen that Keying acknowledges the helpless condition of the controlling power, by leaving a matter of the most serious consequence for the "self-prohibitions" of the people. The whole western frontier is in commotion, from Burmah almost to Siberia.

Famine desolates the finest central districts, and more than all, the spirit of the country is crushed by the late war. What can she oppose to the demands of any power? The talk of a war party in China is a mere delusion; were Lin in Canton to-morrow, so far from *evoiling himself of the spirit of hostility against foreigners, which he loved to excite in days of yore, he would adapt himself to the altered state of circumstances.* Nothing, however, will be obtained from this treacherous people but at the point of the bayonet. Negotiations will only end in deception; strong measures are called for, and nothing should be left to the good faith of the Chinese. They do not understand the term; truth is not in them, and in dealing with them this should never be overlooked. Napier, Elliott, Pottinger, and Davis, have all been baffled with by this cowardly but wily race. Future diplomatists may take a lesson from the history of the past, and treat with the Chinese as an honest man requires to treat with a sharper. *Six months after a British force took possession of Canton we would have an Ambassador at Pekin,* and the war, so far as we are concerned, would never extend beyond the Canton province. At this present moment 1,000 junks are loading rice at Shanghai to supply the starving population in the immediate vicinity of the capital. Not an ounce of it could pass one 12 gun brig anchored in the river, were such an order given. Two small vessels stationed at Chin-keang-foo and Hwa-chou, would starve the government into submission without shedding a drop of blood.

If war with China is inevitable, no power ever had a better cause than England now has; and whatever may be the result the responsibility rests solely with China.

THE DUBLIN REPEAL PRESS.

Whilst the great mass of the people are purchasing pikes and fire-arms of different descriptions, the press is not backward in instructions as to the mode of using them. The *Dublin Nation* and the *United Irishman* are, of course, the most explicit in their teaching. The latter lays down the following rules:—

"2. Rifle and pike clubs should practice themselves in marching, countermarching, wheeling to the left and right, in slow march, quick step and trot, in line, in files by sections, &c., whenever and wherever possible.

"Some drilling of this kind is essential to the well-being of pikemen. 'The pike,' said Emmet, 'the weapon of the brave.' We shall need it generally for three purposes—First, to charge in street-fighting on columns of infantry. Second, to charge on artillery in a bog, or deep miry field, or rutty, broken up or blocked road, or where a horse or two is shot, or the drivers and gunners otherwise put out of countenance. Third, to hold a road across against retreating or advancing columns while riflemen or musketeers throw in their fire from the ditches, or wooded or rocky hills, or other position, on the flanks and rear, or flanks and front of the column. Fourth, mixed with riflemen and musketeers to defend the front of a ditch or rampart or wood, against a bayonet charge. Fifth, to defend the open flanks of a ditch or covered way in the line of which are riflemen or musketeers. Sixth, to meet a cavalry charge. Seventh, to charge in lines of greater or lesser length.

"Pikemen, unless exquisitely disciplined, should never charge in lines of great length. The necessary length of line in charging must depend on the ground of advance, the position to carry, and the length of line of bayonets opposed to you. But it may be taken as an axiom, that the shorter the front charging, the better for pikemen incompletely disciplined. In all cases they should never charge less than three deep. The pikes of the second rank should be passed between the men in the front rank, and the pikes of the third rank should be held in readiness, their points reaching over the heads of the front rank, as low as possible—thus

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a a a a a a
 b b b b b
c c c c c c
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The ranks being so disposed, the pike of each b is extended between two a a; and considering that a good pike is ten feet long, and that, therefore, the pikes of the second rank will extend five feet or so in front of the front rank, and so be equal to a rank gun and bayonet in the hands of the front—you offer to a line of musketeers of a length equal to your line of pikemen double the number of their points—in other words, for every bayonet extending five feet, or so, they can bring to bear, (viz., those of their front rank,) you bring two pikes,—one extending between eight and nine feet in front, (viz., those of the front rank,) and extending four feet or five in front, (viz., those of the second rank,)—a capital disposition. The pikes of the second rank should be held horizontally on a line with those of the front rank.

THE LONDON ROYAL HIGHLAND SOCIETY.

The anniversary festival of this venerable society took place on the 22nd March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, and, although the battle of Alexander may now, as an event worthy of commemoration, appear to have lost much of that novelty which makes men hail with enthusiasm the recurrence of particular days, yet the attendance of members and guests to do honor to the 21st March was numerous and distinguished, and the utmost enthusiasm and good feeling prevailed among the company within the walls of the Freemasons' Tavern; at least, the society seems to have accomplished its mission, for there the dress, the manners, and the language even of the ancient Highlander were revived last evening, and, we are bound to add, with striking and picturesque effect. Many of the gentlemen present were arrayed in the garb of old Gael, and mingled with the tartan were uniforms of officers, young and old, and belonging to the different branches of the military service. As a mere spectacle, therefore, the dinner was a sufficiently brilliant affair, but better far than outside show, there was an evident cordiality of tone and loyalty of feeling prevalent among the company, which is justly attributable to the national and patriotic character of the Highland Society. The society fulfils no definite utilitarian mission, but its years, and the numerous and thriving institutions to which it has given birth, secure for it the affection and regard of all Scotchmen. Nor can any one attend these annual festivals without feeling that it has strong claims to the support and encouragement which it receives. The Chisholm, who last night filled the chair, succeeded admirably in developing the sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the Throne, which formed so marked a characteristic of the old Highland character; and his hearty and animated manner, in proposing the different toasts of the evening, must have recalled the minds of the company (many of whom are North Country lairds) to the importance of keeping alive among their people the ancient spirit, that devotion and chivalry of disposition for which, amid st many defects, they used to be distinguished. Among the company present were Lieutenant-General Sir James Macdonell, Lieutenant-General Sir James L. Lushington, Sir Evan Mackenzie, Bart., G. Brehmer, Esq., Russian Consul, General Pereira, the Rev. Dr. Cumming, Capt. Lamont, R. N., Captain Forbes David, Mr. C. Guthrie, Capt. Gay, R. N., Dr. S. Chisholm, Dr. Power, Mr. Charles Sutherland, Mr. J. M'Tavish, British Consul at Baltimore, Mr. R. R. M'Ian, Mr. H. S. Cameron, and Mr. Holmes.

The Chisholm, in proposing the health of Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, said, that in conformity with good policy unless they were good Chartists, politics were excluded from the society; but, in the presence of such events as were at present agitating Europe to its very centre, he could not help congratulating the assembly upon the tranquillity which they enjoyed under the reign of their beloved Queen, whose limited monarchy he believed was the sure guarantee for the preservation of our well ordered civil and religious liberty.—(Loud cheers.) He hoped that he had not, in saying this, violated the rules of the society, but he could not, without doing violence to his feelings, avoid expressing himself as he had done, impressed as he was with the idea that the health of Her Majesty on the present occasion, particularly among Highlanders, called for more than a wonted response.—(Loud cheers.)

The other members of the Royal family having been toasted in due order, and with Highland honors,

The Chairman gave "The Army and Navy and the Indian Army."

Sir J. Macdonell returned thanks for the army, Captain Gay for the navy, and Sir J. Lushington for the East India Company's Service.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming responded to the toast of "The Church" in eloquent and appropriate terms.

Many other toasts were given during the evening, and, among them, the health of The Chisholm was not omitted.

There was music of all kinds—vocal and instrumental, and each excellent in their kind. Mr. Angus Mackay, piper to Her Majesty, was there with six young coadjutors from the Caledonian Asylum, playing all at the same time, but not different tunes, as was the fashion of old in the highlands. There was also a capital juvenile brass band, drawn from the same institution as the young pipers. Miss P. Horton and Mr. Sinclair favoured the company with some fine old Scotch airs, exquisitely sung, and, as if all this were insufficient to keep up the spirit of enjoyment, some of the gentlemen got up a Highland reel. They went through this characteristic dance in a very animated manner; but the taste was at least questionable which admitted a servant of one of the company present decked out in a gaudy Highland dress to take part in the performance.

One of the most prominent features in the festival was Sergeant M'Naughten, a gigantic Highlander, who in the full Celtic garb stood behind the president's chair, and gave each toast in Gaelic, pronounced with extraordinary emphasis. This formidable personage regulated the cheering by the sweeping of his broadsword.—*London Times.*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN LONDON.

Yesterday (St. Patrick's Day) the 65th anniversary dinner of the benevolent Society of St. Patrick, instituted for the educating, clothing, and apprenticing of poor children born of Irish parents in or near London, was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, the Marquis of Clanricarde, President of the Institution in the chair. The attendance on this occasion was little more than 50, being a great falling off as compared with the anniversary meetings of former years, which have generally been attended by at least four times that number. The cause of this decrease was not particularly explained; but perhaps to a small extent, it was attributable to the debate in the House of Commons, on Sir B. Hall's proposal to extend the income-tax to Ireland, by which many Irish members must have been prevented from being present. The gallery was, however, well filled with ladies, who, speaking generally, have been very liberal friends of the Institution. At the principal table, right and left of the noble chairman, we observed the Earl of Shelburne, Sir William Somerville, M. P., Sir Ralph Horwood, Sir George Colthurst, Mr. R. J. Tennant, M. P., Mr. E. K. Terrison, M. P., Mr. Bellew, M. P., The O'Gorman Mahon, M. P., General Caulfield, Major Moore, Mr. J. Hartley, Mr. J. M. Russell, Mr. J. R. Todd, Mr. T. H. Burke, Mr. W. Newton, &c.

The noble Chairman proposed in succession "The health of her Majesty,"—and intimated the reception of her Majesty's usual contribution of 100 guineas. "The healths of the Queen Dowager, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family, and the army and navy," for which General Caulfield returned thanks; all which were drunk with the usual honors.

The noble Chairman then proposed "The health of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland," and observed that, whatever might be the political opinions of gentlemen present, all must agree in admiring the unwearied attention and incessant industry with which his Excellency had applied himself to the discharge of the high duties of his station, and the constant and unremitting zeal with which he had endeavored to promote the best interests of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland. (Cheers.) He had, therefore, other claims upon their gratitude than any which could flow from the fact of his being a contributor to the amount of £50, annually to the funds of the institution. The health of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was then drunk with loud cheers.

Sir W. Somerville returned thanks in the name of the Lord-Lieutenant. Having the high honor of serving under that distinguished person, he could confidently say that there was no one better entitled to the thanks of an Irish assembly than he was—no one whose efforts were more energetic, more continuous, and more unceasing for the good of Ireland. (Cheers.) His great object was to develope the resources, too long neglected, of that magnificent portion of the Queen's Dominions; and he felt certain that the favor with which his name had just been received, would if possible, urge him forward to increased exertions in the cause of Ireland, and the best interests of that country. (Cheers.) It would afford him much satisfaction amid the many cares and multiplicity of business with which he was surrounded, to know that in that assembly composed of gentlemen of different opinions, but all united by the common bond that attached them to their beloved country, his efforts were fully appreciated and understood. (Cheers.) He might state that His Excellency had charged him to assure them of the interest he took in the affairs of this charity; and how gratifying to him it was to know that the children of the Irish poor located in this great metropolis were not neglected but received that care by which, not merely their education in youth, but their morals and success in after-life were attended to. (Cheers.) In conclusion he should have much pleasure in conveying to his Excellency a knowledge of the flattering manner in which his health had that night been brought forward and received by a respectable an assembly of Irishmen.

The chairman then proposed, "Success to the Benevolent Society of St. Patick," and observed that they could not take a better mode of showing the interest which they felt in the welfare of their poor countrymen around them than by taking care of their children and educating them, apart from all considerations of a sectarian or party character. The noble marquis then pointed out the great benefits conferred by the society is not merely educating the children of poor Irish, but apprenticing them and continuing to look after their moral interests till they were in some degree capable of taking care of themselves and pursuing habits of industry. He regretted that the attendance on this occasion was not so great as in former years, nor such as, from the number of Irishmen in the metropolis, they might have expected. Still he did not feel any despondency with respect to the society as he believed its interests would not suffer by any want of the necessary contributions, and he had no doubt with returning prosperity to the country they would see increased prosperity to the institution.

The toast was drunk with great applause.

Here about 150 of the children under the care of the Institution were marched round the room, the band playing "St Patrick's Day." About 550 boys and girls are receiving the benefits of the society, but it was inconvenient to introduce a greater number into the room. The children presented a cleanly and healthy appearance, and their presence excited considerable interest.

A number of other toasts followed, among which were "The fair contributors to the institution,"—including her royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, the Countess of Chesterfield and Lady Kinnaird; also "The absent children,"—including the Duke of Leinster and Leinster, the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The Earl of Shelburne returned thanks.

"The health of the noble Chairman" was proposed by the Earl of Shelburne, and the noble Marquis returned thanks. He then proposed "The health of the President Elect," (the Earl of Lincoln, who was prevented being present by other duties.

"The healths of Sir W. Somerville and Mr. Bellew," (the members of Parliament present,) "The Stewards," and "The Ladies," were successfully given, and the party separated shortly before 11 o'clock.

The band of the Coldstream Guards was in attendance, and a selection of songs, glees, madrigals, &c., was sung, under the direction of Mr. Hobbs, assisted by Miss Williams and Miss A Williams, Master Turle and Master Gissent, Messrs. Blewitt, Francis, Lockey, Knowles, Machin, Reuch, and H. Phillips.

NAVAL FORCES ON THE COAST OF IRELAND.

The following correct statement of the naval forces on the coast of Ireland, under the command in chief of Rear Admiral Mackay, the commander-in-chief at Cork, and Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., the commander-in-chief of the Channel squadron, will not be uninteresting to our readers:—

SIR C. NAPIER'S SQUADRON.	Guns.	Men
St. Vincent, Capt. S. C. Dacres, at Cork	120	650
Prince Regent, Capt. W. F. Martin, Cork	92	580
Cumberland, Capt. P. Moresby, C.B., Cork	81	615
Resistance, troop ship, Com. G. Lowe,	8	130
Additional Marines		300
Amphion, scr. fr., Capt. W. J. Williams, Cork	30	320
Dragon, st. fr., Capt. W. H. Hall, Kingstown	6	195
Total	340	3200

THE HON. D. R. MACKAY'S SQUADRON.		
Crocodile, fl.-ship, Lieut. Com. Prothemoe, Cork	22	88
Gipsey, tender, and *Gossamer*, tender, Cork	2	11
Madagascar, fr., store depot, Com. Mann, Tarbert	2	42
Andromeda, fr., store depot, Killybegs	4	43
Andromache, fr., store depot, Galway	2	32
Zephyr, st. v., Lieut. Com. Ludd	1	19
Avon, st. v., conveying food to distressed districts	2	60
Rodamanthus, st., conveying supplies on account of the Society of Friends,	2	60
Bloodhound, iron st., Limerick	1	55
Athlone, st. Galway	2	46
Lucifer, st. v., Sligo and Killybegs	2	60
Total	40	515

The above lists show the total force of both squadrons to be three line of battle ships, one corvette, one transport ship, three steam ships, and nine tenders, with two steam frigates, and six steam vessels. Thus—18 ships, 350 guns, and 3715 men.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE.

The *Nenagh Guardian* announces, in the following statement, an interruption to the brief tranquillity which succeeded the recent special commission in Tipperary. This atrocious outrage was perpetrated on the very day that the spring assizes commenced for the North Riding of the county:—

"The intended victim of assassination, in this instance was Mr. Robert Lloyd, of Longfordstage, than whom there could not be a more excellent gentleman in every respect. He was always a kind friend to the poor, and accordingly benient and considerate to his tenantry. He is universally respected and justly esteemed for his benevolent qualities. On Saturday last he was walking in his demesne, in company with his brothers, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, when he heard the cry of the hounds at Longford wood, upon which, he took the nearest route towards the place, at the same time separating from his brother, who went in a different direction. Immediately after, parting from his brother, Mr. Robert Lloyd perceived a man following him in a suspicious manner, and on his approaching within 20 paces of Mr. Lloyd he asked the fellow what he was doing, or where he was going, upon which he sternly replied, 'I am going to look at the hunt;' and on Mr. Lloyd pursuing his course, and facing towards the hounds the cowardly assassin said to him, 'You may stay where you are, as the hounds are coming this way.' Mr. Lloyd then stopped for a moment to know if such were the case, when the ruffian pulled out of his pocket either a short gun or pistol, and took a deliberate and unerring aim at Mr. Lloyd, who, unfortunately was unarmed. The assassin fired; Mr. Lloyd fell on his knee, and on his looking round, he saw the assassin, whom he knew, running away. Mr. Lloyd limped home, suffering the most excruciating pain and bleeding profusely, for the ball had perforated the thigh, at about six inches underneath the groin, and within half an inch of the main artery. Constable Cosmore, of Lisduff station, having received information of the occurrence, went with a party of police to the scene of the outrage, and vigilantly searched the neighborhood, but without effect; but from proper arrangement and accurate information, Mr P. Morgan arrested in his own house, at 11 o'clock at night, a man named Martin Ryan, who lived within a quarter of a mile of Mr. Lloyd, by whom he was fully identified the following day, and lodged in Nenagh gaol, charged with the outrage; the cause assigned for which, was that a tenant of Mr. P. Lloyd, to whom Mr. H. Lloyd is agent, was under ejectment for non-payment of rent. It is supposed that through the active exertions of Mr. Morgan the existence of a conspiracy to murder Mr. Lloyd will be brought to light, and that the parties involved therein will in due course of time be apprehended and brought to justice. Ryan will not be tried these assizes, in consequence of Mr. Lloyd being unable to attend to prosecute. Mr. Lloyd, we are happy to say, is not fatally wounded."

THE REPORTED DISAFFECTION IN THE MILITARY AND CONSTABULARY FORCE IN IRELAND.

There has been so much said in the late English and Irish papers, relative to this subject, that we deem it but justice to insert the following flat contradiction of the erroneous statements put forth. We copy from the *Montreal Courier.*

The papers by the *America* arrived in town yesterday morning. The London Military papers positively contradict the stories afloat of disaffection in the Army and Police in Ireland. The rumor that several of the 83rd were arrested and to be tried for dancing with the peasantry around a bonfire, in honor of some repeal proceedings, is contradicted on authority; no such occurrence having taken place.

We extract from the *Naval and Military Gazette* the following article on this subject, and we are quite sure that if any importance were really to be attached to the rumors we should find some notice of them in this or its sister journal, the *United Service Gazette*:—

We have perhaps more extensive information than the Military Authorities themselves of the *feelings* of the Army. Our correspondents in every Regiment at home alike breathe a high spirit for loyalty and a spitting contempt for Revolutionists or Rebels. From Ireland we often receive letters descriptive of the splendid discipline of the troops—their martial bearing, steady conduct, and unflinching allegiance to their Queen. Mingled as our soldiers are among the very worst characters in the towns and villages in which they are quartered, and necessitated to resort to public-houses from having only canteens in which to spend their spare time, we believe that Her Majesty's soldiers set a noble example of faith and loyalty, and very often reject with good temper, but stern rebuke, the insidious or open attempts of the disaffected to tamper with them. The soldiers of Her Majesty are right-hearted, true, and trusty, and wisely leave to those who understand politics the discussion of them, contenting themselves with strict obedience to their orders, and reverence of the oath they swore at their enlistment—to defend their Queen, her crown, and dignity, against all her enemies. Long may this noble spirit actuate the gallant Army of the United Kingdom!

The greatest possible precautions throughout Ireland have been made to render the Barracks secure against a sudden attack. Every Barrack has been provisioned and supplied with extra ammunition. The troops are practised to man the defences by signal, every man rushing to his post exactly as when they beat to quarters on board a man-of-war. Moveable columns of Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry, are formed—street-firing is constantly practised—and every exercise connected with the attack and defence of towns, carefully taught. The Army in Ireland is in a high state of discipline, and if the rebels wish to try their strength against the soldiers, we wouldn't wager the world to a cracked bell in favor of the red-coats and cross-belts, against the blouses and frieze coats—the pikes and shillelahs. Old Blakeney would soon give a good account of young Mitchell and Co.

Since writing the above we found the following paragraph, strongly confirmatory of our opinions, in the able Irish Correspondence of the *N. Y. Courier & Enquirer*:—

The papers are filled with rumors of the disaffection of the constabulary and military,—and the putting of the metropolis under martial law; the spread of the rebellious spirit in England and Scotland, in the towns where Irish Repealers and English Chartists abound; and so on. They are all groundless. The worst is, the filling of the minds of the distressed, the thoughtless, the reckless, and the lovers of plunder; and the alienation of the generous and benevolent,—or the filling them with despair of improving those who are so thankless and easily misled.

The Irish papers received yesterday positively deny the report, which first originated in a Cork paper, that Earl Roden, Professor Butt, of Dublin, and other Protestant gentlemen, hitherto conspicuous for their loyalty, have joined the "Confederation." The silly address published in many of the journals and purporting to be signed by a body of influential Protestants, advising the Lord Lieutenant to recommend the restoration of the Irish Parliament, is laughed at by all the loyal journals; it appeared in the *Evening Mail*, a Conservative paper, in the first instance, but no one knows who was its author, and the only signature attached to it is that of a Mr. Ferguson, a quondam writer on Antiquarian subjects in the *Dublin University Magazine*, but not hitherto known as a politician. The document has evidently been concocted by some "Old Ireland Repealer" with the design to entrap men of vacillating principles, and if possible bring into the ranks of the O'Connell section of Repealers a body of moderate men, in order that that party may overbear the influence of the Young Irelanders. We are happy to find that the Government has the support of all the respectable propertied Roman Catholics, and that the Protestant ranks are unbroken. In our next we shall endeavor to find room for the reply of a large body of the Dublin Orangemen to the overtures of the would-be Separatists. It is a prompt, manly, and decisive refusal to co-operate, and so explicit of their intentions in case of rebellion, that no man can misunderstand it. The same spirit pervades the whole of the Irish Protestants. The contempt and neglect of years cannot destroy their loyalty to the Crown.—*Montreal Evening Courier.*

EMIGRANTS TO CANADA.

Lord STANLEY complained of a bill which had been brought into the Canadian Legislature, imposing a tax of 10s. without distinction of age, on all emigrants to Canada, and containing other vexatious clauses, and asked whether it was the intention of the Government to ask Her Majesty to give it Her Royal Assent?

Earl GREY thought some of the provisions could not possibly be carried out, particularly the 5th and 6th, imposing on masters of Vessels, under a penalty of £5 in each case, a duty which they could not possibly perform. It was very natural that the Canadians should feel strongly on the subject, as the expense which the Colonists had incurred last season, from sick emigrants, forwarding others, and so on, amounted to £14,000; in addition to which the most frightful calamity had been entailed on the Province, by sick emigrants having introduced fever and other diseases among the inhabitants. (Hear, hear.) It was a delicate thing to give any advice to Her Majesty with a view to annul an Act of the Canadian Legislature. He should, however, address a Despatch to the Governor General strongly recommending an amendment of some of the most objectionable clauses, and he hoped it would reach him before the Bill had passed both Houses of the Legislature. It would not be well to interfere with the acts of the Colonists, especially on a question, the merits of which they were peculiarly able to judge, and when it was so evidently the interest of the Canadians to encourage emigration. (Hear.)

After a few inaudible words from Lord Monteagle and the Marquis of Lansdowne, the subject dropped.

The above extract from the proceedings of the House of Lords will be read with interest by the people of Canada. It is an evidence that all parties in England have come to the conclusion that the people of Canada know best how to manage their own affairs, and that there is no occasion for Imperial interference. One expression used by Earl Grey we must take an exception to; he says that "it is evidently the interest of the Canadians to encourage Emigration"—granted, but not such an Emigration as that of last year. An Emigration which is to cost the Province the lives of its most valuable citizens; which is to bring pauperism and pestilence to our shores, and entail an enormous expense, which we have no funds to meet, cannot be conceived to add anything to the prosperity of Canada. Emigration properly conducted, and sending here a good and respectable body of men, is the best thing we could have; we have room and to spare for a few more millions of people, but those must be people who can maintain themselves; no country in the world can be benefitted by an incursion of paupers.

Montreal Courier.

THE ST. LAWRENCE AS AN OUTLET OF CANADIAN PRODUCTIONS COMPARED WITH THE ARTIFICIAL NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

This question is, we learn, likely to come before the citizens of Quebec in a peculiarly interesting form. Some parties at Toronto, deeply interested in the exportation of breadstuffs from Canada, and who have anxiously searched into the causes of cheap and dear transit through our waters, as well as that vital question for Canada, the souring of flour have come to the conclusion that the only method of cheap transit to the Ocean, as well as prevention of the souring of the flour, is direct communication from the Upper Lakes to Quebec without trans-shipment, and that in a class of vessels which will allow the flour at once to be placed on board the Ocean going ship from the vessels in which it arrives from the interior, thus saving the expense and damage of trans-shipment, storing, and warehousing, and the consequent necessary exposure to the heat and sun.

In order to accomplish this object they have constructed a vessel of a very light draught of water, carrying an enormous load and at the same time of sufficient strength to navigate the lakes with safety in the worst weather. She is propelled by two high pressure engines of nearly 100 horse power, of a very compact form, and with her wood on board only draws three feet four inches of water (3 feet 4 inches,) from that down she takes 1000 barrels per foot of draught, so that she will navigate the rapids of the St. Lawrence with over 3000 barrels, and if descending by the canal is capable of carrying to Quebec 4,500 barrels, she can also pass the Welland Canal with the same load.

By this vessel, therefore, an uninterrupted communication can be maintained without trans-shipment between Chicago and Quebec, and if the business is only followed up by a line of similar vessels, the whole reception of agricultural produce from the Western Lakes will, in the course of a very few years, be transferred from Montreal to Quebec.

The vessel in question is called the Western Miller, and is chiefly owned by Messrs. Goodenham and Worts of Toronto, one of the most successful firms of merchant millers in Canada West, and whose brand stands so deservedly high in the British market; she receives her first cargo in the course of a few days for Montreal, her second trip will most likely be direct to Quebec, where our citizens will have an opportunity of examining her.

A further notice will be given on this interesting subject when the vessel has completed her first voyage.—*Quebec Mercury.*

THE WIDOWS' DOWER.

Notwithstanding the country very generally condemned Solicitor General Cameron's sweeping measure of last Session, we still believe the public are anxious to see a judicious alteration of the present Law of Dower.

What would give general satisfaction, we think, would be to have the law so amended as to allow widows the right of Dower to all landed property possessed by the husband at the time of his death (which might not be required to pay his debts;) and perhaps also in that which he may have owned in his lifetime, but which he had sold without her concurrence—but in this case it should be only her thirds of the value or rental of the property at the time her husband parted with it, and not of the increased value which the industry of the purchaser may have given it.

And in our opinion the widow should not have a right of Dower in lands which were merely exchanged for other lands; for this in effect would be giving her two-thirds, or more, as the case may be, instead of one, of the original property of the husband.

And we conceive that no contemplated measure relating to Dower would be perfect, except provisions were made for the past.—We allude to numerous cases where Dower was intended to have been released or barred, but where from ignorance of the law—and pardonable ignorance too—the parties did not give legal effect to what they intended to do. Such for instance where a woman joined with her husband in the conveyance, and signed the Deed, but in which there happened to be no clause barring Dower. Such cases, as well as others where some legal or technical form has been omitted, have been quite common in the early transaction of business in the country.

Now however justly averse our Legislators may be to *expost facto* laws, yet what is evidently required in this case to further the ends of justice, is a declaratory Act, making valid and legal all transactions of this nature where the parties evidently acted in good faith, and intended to have executed a complete title, including bar of Dower. This instead of being an act of injustice to any one would be considered by all honest