

## VERKOOPING VAN Kostbaar Vastgoed, IN DE KAAPSTAD.

DE Ondergeteekende heeft last gekomen van den Heer J. BLOEMEKEN, te Verkoopen, op

OP DINGSDAG DEN 27STE,

MET LIBERAAL BONUS,

1. Die verkeerslyke Handelsplaats in de Langestraat, hoek van de Langemarkstraat, bevattende een ruime WINDEL, Woonhuis met 5 Kamers, Keuken, Dispens en Achterplaats met geryfde Pakhuizen. In dit Huis is sedert aantallen jare een bloeijende en wistgevende Handel geleveren geworden.

2. Het nette kleine WOONHUIS, annex bovenstaande, in de Langestraat, bevattende 4 Kamers, Voorhuis, Keuken, Dispens en Achterplaats; mede een goede plaats voor eenen Winkel.

3. Het drie-dubbele PAKHUIS, in de Langemarkstraat, ter geschrift voor eenige Nering.

4. Dat stevig en luchig WOONHUIS, in de Langemarkstraat, bevattende 6 grote Kamers, twee grote vlaanderen, Keuken, Dispens, fraaije Achterplaats, Achtertrekken, ens.

Dese Eigendommen zyn altoos goed verhuurd geweest, hebben do ghour opgebragt, zyn zeer kostbaar gebouwd, mit kajatenhouten Platen, en zeer voordelig gelegrondt, bieden den kapitaal een gewenste gelegenheid ter belegging, daar men altoos verzekerd kan zyn van hoge huur en fatsoenlike huurders.

J. G. STEYTLEER, Gz. Afslager.

## Publieke Verkooping VAN GRAAN, VEE, ENZ., AAN KOEBERG.

DE Ondergeteekende zyne Plaats DASSEVALLEY, gelegen aan Koeberg, na zyne kinderen verhuurd hebben, zal w'daan publice verkoopen op

Woensdag den 28 Maart,

500 Mullen KOREN  
500 dito HAVER  
150 dito GARST

2 Spas gedreesseerde PAARDEN

20 AANTELMERRIES

18 Extra vette OSSEN

6 KOELLEN di's vroeg in den Winter zullen Kalven

100 MERINO OOIJEN

2 WAGENS

2 Dubbel-voor PLOEGEN, en een andere dito

1 Ez.

Aan Kooiers boven £20 zal een jaar credit gegeven worden.

J. VAN SCHOOR, Sen.

J. G. STEYTLEER, Gz. Afslager.

## PUBLIEKE VERKOOPING VAN Kostbaar Vastgoed, IN DE KAAPSTAD.

DE Ondergeteekende heeft last ontvangen van den Heer J. BLOEMEKEN, te verkopen op

VRYDAG, den 30 MAART, 1855,

MET LIBERAL BONUS,

1. Dat uitgescheld, stevig gebouwd en voordeilig gelegen EIGENDOM, in de Langestraat, bevattende een geryfde en gezellige ingang WOONHUIS, voorzien van alle gemakken, hoende 7 fraaije Kamers, Dispens, fruitkamer, Watervloer, en een goede Achterplaats, grote Stal en Buitengewoon huur; alsmede 3 fraaije Winkels onder het Huis, hoest wel gelegen voor de Bezighied, en altoos zo deugdige huur op.

W. C. A. MOLLER, Eenige Curator.

8 Maart 1855.

C. J. C. GIE, Eenige Curator.

2. Dat uitgescheld, stevig gebouwd en voordeilig gelegen EIGENDOM, op de Hoek van de Walle en Langestraat, in Book I, No. 74, bevattende een ruim WOONHUIS en WINDEL, groot en stevig, onlangs niet bestreke, een geryfde HUIS annex altoos goed verhuurd, en een PAKHUIS. Dit Eigendom is zeer geschikt voor den handel, en brengt altoos goede huur op, en dat het live ambevale kan worden aan Kapitaal, en een goede en wistgevende belegging van Kapitaal.

J. G. STEYTLEER, Afslager.

3. Dat uitgescheld, stevig gebouwd en voordeilig gelegen EIGENDOM, in de Langestraat, bezittende een geryfde en gezellige ingang WOONHUIS, voorzien van alle gemakken, hoende 7 fraaije Kamers, Dispens, fruitkamer, Watervloer, en een goede Achterplaats, grote Stal en Buitengewoon huur; alsmede 3 fraaije Winkels onder het Huis, hoest wel gelegen voor de Bezighied, en altoos zo deugdige huur op.

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enem's troops on the other side of the Caucasus, notwithstanding, a great disparity of force. Such was the unequal conflict sustained with success by the defenders of the coast of Finland, of the convent of Solovetsky, and of the port of Petropavlovsky in Kamtschatka. Such, above all, is the heroic defence of Sebastopol, signalized by so many exploits of invincible courage and of indomitable activity, as to be admired and done justice to by our enemies themselves.

"Beholding, with humble gratitude towards God, the toils, the bravery, the self-denial of our forces both by land and sea, and also the general outburst of devotion that animates all ranks of the empire, we venture to recognise therein the pledge and augury of a happier future."

"Penetrated with our duty as a Christian, we cannot desire a longer effusion of blood, and certainly we shall not repel any offers and conditions of peace that are compatible with the dignity of our empire and the interests of our well-beloved subjects. But another and not less sacred duty commands us, in this obstinate struggle, to keep our selves prepared for efforts and sacrifices proportioned to the means of action directed against us."

"Russia! my faithful children! you are accustomed to spare nothing when called by Providence to a great and holy work; neither your wealth, the fruit of long years of toil, nor your lives—neither your own blood, nor the blood of your children. The noble ardour that has inflamed your hearts from the first hour of the war will not be extinguished, happen what may; and your feelings are those also of your Sovereign."

"We all, monarch and subjects, if it be necessary—echoing the words of the Emperor Alexander in a year of trials similar to those of to-day, the sword in our hands and the Cross in our hearts—know how to face the ranks of our enemies, for the defence of the most precious gifts of this world, the security and the honour of our country."

"Given at Gatchina, the fourteenth day of the month of December in the year of grace 1854, and the thirtieth of our reign."

The appointment of General De Berg to the command in chief of Finland, in the place of Rokosowski, under whose term of office Bomarsund fell, is thought to imply more than a censure on the dismissed officer. General de Berg commanded at Revel, and won the favour of the Czar; and it is supposed, that as hostilities with Denmark and Sweden are expected at St. Petersburg, De Berg has been appointed to meet the emergency.

A letter from St. Petersburg, dated the 20th December, gives a curious sketch of the business of the Russian Ministers—

"The Ministers, Nesselrode, Dolgorouki, and Panin, have a great deal to do. The first had to abandon his favourite pleasure of playing at whist and cards; Dolgorouki is required to present every day an increase of the army; and Panin to present a new register of voluntary donations. Unfortunately, most of these augmentations only figure on paper."

Poland is in an unhappy condition: provisions rising in price; hard cash scarce; the exportation of sheep-skins prohibited; in short, trade is stagnant, misery staring us in the face, the poverty almost insupportable, and the whole country on the eve of a general bankruptcy."—Speculator, January 6.

## UNION BANK.

No. 17, ST. GEORGE'S-STREET.

Capital £150,000.

—oo—

DIRECTORS:

JOHN SHERPHERD, Esq. Chairman.  
F. S. HERNING, Esq.  
NICHOLAS STENHOUSE, Esq.  
J. C. SCHICKERLING, Esq.  
F. G. MYBURGH, Esq.  
D. G. DE JONGH, Esq.  
A. V. BERGH, Esq.  
C. H. HODGSON, Esq.,  
E. LANDSERG, Esq.

"THE BANK allows Interest on Fixed Deposits, after the following rates:—

For 3 months and under 6 months, at 3 p.c. per annum,  
6 do. do 12 do. 3½ do.  
12 do. ..... 4 do.

Applications for Discounts attended to on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS, in each week.  
THOS. HUDSON Cashier.

TENDERS FOR BUILDING  
THE  
MALAGAS CHURCH.

THE Undersigned, duly authorized thereto, hereby invite those who may be disposed to tender for the construction of the Church at this place, to attend the Meeting of the Committee here, on THURSDAY, the 12th APRIL next, for the purpose of personally viewing the locality and becoming acquainted with the particulars, as the Committee propose to call for Tenders on the day following:

THE BUILDING IS TO BE:—  
80 feet long { exterior work.  
32 " wide " "  
20 " high under the beam.

The Walls to be three feet thick, to be built of Stone.  
Six Oval-shape Windows  
One large Door  
One small ditto } all of Teak.  
Two " Windows } H. J. DE MELANDER,  
J. B. MOOLMAN,  
H. J. DENYSSSEN.

Malagas, March 10, 1855.

Paarl.—Commission Sale  
ON WEDNESDAY, the 21st INST.

WILL be sold all sorts of Merchandise, viz., Linen, Baftas, Voercls, Slips, &c. &c. Sugar, Coffee, Rice, Soap, Candles in boxes, Crockery, Glass and Earthenware, some very dry Drills of different dimensions, a Glass Shop Case.

Also will be sold for account of the Estate of the late Mr. J. O. MINNAAR:—  
4 well trained Cart and Saddle Horses, 2 Saddles, 5 Shares in the Paarl Omnibus Company with the dividend declared; some Household Furniture, and 5 Shares in the Paarl Bank.

March 6, 1855.  
STEYTLER & SMUTS.

£. per pound  
Goods to be sold without reserve will have the preference.

1300 extra fat Wethers and Wether Goats.

ON THURSDAY, the 22d instant, the Undersigned will cause the above number of extra fat Wethers and Goats to be publicly sold on the farm of Mr. JAN DE WAAL, Saxenburg.

Paarl, March 7, 1855.  
Messrs. De VILLIERS & HAUP, Adams.

24 RIVERS.

1500 extra fat Cape Merino Sheep.

ON THURSDAY, the 22d instant, the Undersigned will cause to be publicly sold at the place of Mr. R. PEARL, 24 Rivers, the above number of extra fat Sheep.

H. L. BOSMAN, Jr.  
Paarl, March 12, 1855.  
Mossel & Vos, Adams.

Slaughter and Draught Oxen.

On MONDAY, the 26th March 1855.

THE Undersigned will sell at the Place Stickland, (Mr. Brey's), 40 EXTRA FAT SLAUGHTER OXEN, and 30 DRAUGHT OXEN, also in good condition, which cattle he is now bringing up with great care.

THOS. HEATLIE, Mr. J. G. STEYTLER, Esq., Auctioneer.

## THIRD CLEARING SALE, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, Without Reserve,

In the Insolvent Estate of R. CLARENCE,

At the Stores, Darling-street, (Keizersgracht),

by Mr. R. D. JONES,

On Wednesday,

The 21st MARCH, 1855,

Commencing at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon,

With the remaining of Glassware,

China, Earthenware, &c.,

Consisting of a splendid assortment of Cut Decanters,

Breakfast, Dinner, Tea, and Dessert Services, TOILET SETS, Jugs, Flower Pots, Filters, Water-coolers, Glass Milk Pans, &c., &c., &c.; also, LAMPS and SHADES, Beechives, &c.

At 3 o'clock will be sold

The extensive assortment of WINES, (in great variety) SPIRITS, LIQUEURS, and BEER, all of the choicest growths and best brands. In this is comprised BRANDY,

and RUM, in bond or duty paid; after which REFINED SPERM and SEA-ELEPHANT OIL, in bulk, (about 800 gallons), IRON TANKS for ditto.

We all, monarch and subjects, if it be necessary—

echoing the words of the Emperor Alexander in a year of

trials similar to those of to-day, the sword in our hands and the Cross in our hearts—know how to face the ranks of our enemies, for the defence of the most precious gifts of this

world, the security and the honour of our country.

"Given at Gatchina, the fourteenth day of the month of

December in the year of grace 1854, and the thirtieth of our reign."

The fourth Clearing Sale,

TO INCLUDE

COFFEE, Java and Mocha

CANDLES, Real Sperm and Composition

TEA, Souchong, Scented, (sundry kinds), Hyson,

Orange Pekoe, in large and small boxes, and HOWQUA'S MIXTURES in packets

PRESERVED MEATS

VEGETABLES

DRIED " "

PRESERVED MILK

MACKEREL

EDWARD'S PRESERVED POTA-

TOES

SARDINES, (in Bond and Duty paid)

SPLIT PEASE

BOTTLED FRUITS, JAMS, & JELLIES

lot

NON-PAREIL WEIGHING MACHINE

POWERFUL FLY-WHEEL COFFEE MILL

A SYKES' HYDROMETER

SHOP FITTINGS, UTENSILS, DESKS, &c., will be held

large lot, fresh and good, well worthy the attention of Masters, or Chandlers.

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# THE ZUID-AFRIKAAN.

Cape Town, March 19, 1855.

Parliament was opened at noon on Thursday last by his Excellency the Governor, in the state room at Government House. The members of the Council and Assembly, headed by the President and Speaker, having taken their seats on the right and left of the throne, his Excellency entered the room and was received by both Houses standing. Having ascended the throne he saluted both Houses who, having returned the compliment, took their seats. His Excellency then read his opening speech, which concluded the ceremony, and both Houses retired to their respective chambers.

An abridged report of proceedings during the first two days of the Session, is given below.

Our readers probably expect that we should offer some opinions on the Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament. We fully agree that it is about the most interesting subject now before the public, but we shall abstain on principle from any hasty comments on a document, which enters rather fully into some of the most important questions, that are about to occupy the collective wisdom of our legislators. It has been observed with equal truth and propriety that a Governor's Speech, on such an occasion, must be expected to differ widely in its character from a speech from the Throne at the opening of the imperial Parliament, the greatest merit of which is known to consist in affirming nothing.

While we admit that every one is at liberty to express opinions on Sir George's opening speech, we would also caution those, who have been privileged with hearing it read, or have at most hastily perused it, against giving vent to crude criticisms on a piece of composition, which is evidently the result of deliberate reflection, founded on personal observation, and which is entitled to some respect, not only because it emanates from the highest functionary in the Colony, but also because it bears the stamp of candor and bespeaks an earnest desire of co-operating with our Parliament, in promoting the real interests of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions. It is from such motives as these, that we feel loth to speak of this subject otherwise than in the language of commendation, for the present, and shall reserve any comments, which we may deem it expedient to make, until the Opening Speech shall have been a few days longer before the public.

The friends of Dr. Tancred will be happy to learn that his sons, not many years ago pupils at Dr. Changin's Establishment in this town, are very successful in their studies abroad. The junior brother is still at Boulogne, where he has obtained no less than seven prizes and eight distinctions, while the elder, Master Augustus, is about to take a bachelor's degree at Paris. In the examination of the former year the two sons obtained eighteen prizes between them. We derive these particulars from private correspondence. From the same source we learn that Master Emilie Holland, likewise one of Dr. C.'s boarders not long ago, is at the head of a class of seventy-five boys at the Edinburgh High School, and stands a fair chance of obtaining the medal for mathematics.

On Thursday last, the day on which Parliament was opened, the Speaker of the House of Assembly gave an entertainment to the members of Parliament at his residence in Kloof street. It was 11 o'clock before the company separated well satisfied with the evening's enjoyment.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.—On the motion of Mr. Barry, the Governor's speech was read and entered on the minutes. Mr. De Wet urged the expediency of fixing the time for the ordinary meetings of Council; upon which it was moved by Mr. Godlonton and resolved, that the Council should sit every day, Saturdays excepted.

The standing committees of last session were re-appointed, as also a finance committee.

A leave of absence was granted to Mr. Joubert, on account of ill health.

Notices of motion were given by Mr. Godlonton and Sir A. Stockenstrom for papers relative to the recent excitement on the frontier. The two being nearly identical, Mr. Godlonton withdrew his.

Mr. Wright presented a petition from 92 inhabitants of Malmesbury division against the burgher law, which was referred to the Committee.

Mr. De Wet, after stating that he had received a petition from the Tukburgh presbytery against the voluntary principle, the presentation of which he would defer till another opportunity, gave notice of his intention to ask the official members whether any precautions are observed in transporting gunpowder or other ammunition across the town.

He then resolved to adjourn till 2 o'clock on Friday, to receive the reply to the Governor's address, drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16.—Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on Glacial Land and Frontier Defence, appointed last session, were re-appointed.

Mr. Reitz gave notice of his intention to move on the 2d instant, for leave to bring in a Bill for the creation of Divisional Councils.

Mr. Ebdon gave notice of his intention to move that an address be presented to the Governor, praying that the Bill for extending trial by jury to civil cases, passed last session, be immediately promulgated, or that his Excellency would state whether there was any legal impediment to the Committee appointed to draft a reply to the Governor's opening speech, submitted the same for the approval of the Council. This reply, which expresses gratitude to his Excellency for the minute and luminous exposition of his views on the public affairs of the colony and the adjacent territories, and gives a promise of cordial support in every well-considered scheme for the welfare and happiness of all classes of His Majesty's subjects, contains the following observations on the intimation contained in his Excellency's speech that some persons "interested in the welfare of British Kaffraria, had petitioned the home government for the introduction of emigrants from the work-houses and free-labor convicts".

The Legislative Council remark with mingled feelings of regret and gratitude upon that part of your Excellency's communication which alludes to the introduction of convicts into British Kaffraria. That such a proposal should have been made is a matter of equal sorrow and surprise to them, arising from a conviction of the irreparable evils which must necessarily spring from the admission into this colony, or territories adjacent, of the convicted criminals of the Parent State. Viewing this proposition as fraught with the direst evils to British South Africa, the Legislative Council is grateful to your Excellency for the promptitude with which the subject has been met, and for the unequivocal and decided discouragement which has been given to a proposal so utterly subversive of the vital interests of the country, and so opposed to the wishes and expressed opinions of its inhabitants. This Council concurs most fully with your Excellency in the sentiments on this subject you have submitted to her Majesty's Government, which they

feel assured are so pregnant with importance as that they cannot fail to have their due weight upon the Councils of the Queen."

The draft was adopted, and it was resolved that it should be presented to the Governor by the whole Council on Monday (this day), at a quarter-past 1 o'clock.

A return of passes and contracts, registered in the office of the Clerk of the Peace of Colesberg to 31 Dec. 1854, was laid on the table.

The Col. Secretary brought a message from the Governor conveying drafts of the following Bills, which were read a first time—the second reading being fixed for the 30th instant:—

1. For the better administration of Justice.

2. To amend the law relating to Aliens.

Copies of the reports and correspondence laid on the table in the House of Assembly, were also laid upon the table of the Council by command of the Governor.

Mr. Wright gave notice that he would move on Monday for the re-appointment of the Committee of last Session for inquiring into the best means of introducing agricultural labor, suitable to the existing wants of the colony.

Council then adjourned till one o'clock on Monday (this day).

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.—Mr. Speaker, having read his commission to swear in members, Mr. Cawood took the oaths as member for Graham's Town.

The Governor's speech was read, and ordered to be printed and distributed amongst the members.

Mr. Fairbairn gave notice that on Tuesday he would move the appointment of a committee on Standing Rules and Orders, to consist of Messrs. Jarvis, Ziervogel and the mover.

The House then adjourned till 2 o'clock on Friday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16.—The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Meintjes presented two petitions from the inhabitants of Bruntjes Hooge, Somerset division, praying that the report of the select Committee on Crown Lands, of 8th Sept. last, may be adopted.

Mr. Potz presented a petition from the gaoler of Fort Peddie, for an increase of salary. The application being for a money grant, a debate ensued, when the motion that it be received was, upon a division, rejected by a majority.

A message was received from the Governor transmitting the three following Bills, which were read a first time:—

1. For the better organization and regulation of an armed and mounted Police Force upon the Eastern frontier of this Colony.

2. For granting compensation to certain persons in the Kat River, for the loss of even to which they were respectively entitled.

3. For the general management and regulation of the customs in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Secretary to Government laid upon the table various papers—bills on the Namaqualand copper mines and the bays and harbours of that coast; correspondence relative to the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor and the creation of judicial and other establishments on the frontier;—application of the President of the Orange Free State for an annual grant from the Cape government; and conditions under which it is proposed to enrol pensioners for service in South Africa.

Mr. Barry presented two petitions from the inhabitants of Swellendam against the 6th clause of the Burgher Law, which, after some discussion, was withdrawn, no such law being at present before the House.

Notices of motion were given by various members.—Adjourned till 2 o'clock on Monday (this day).

A SAD PICTURE.—The following is addressed to us by a farmer in Lower Albany:—

"This day (Wednesday) is the last of the month, and a sad month it has been. My son has about 50 head of cattle, all more or less infected with the lung-sickness. Twelve have already died, and his only horse died in less than 26 hours. Between doctoring the sick, and making pits to bury the dead, a total hindrance is put upon all other work. Meat, milk, and butter are gone, and bread and tea are our only food. There is a wonderful change in the times and weather for the worse, which causes a general despondency—at least it is so with my house."

We regret to hear from almost every district that there is no signs of abatement, either in the horse or lung-sickness, and that the ravages made by them are deplorable.

The country is well nigh denuded of horses, and you observe many respectable farms either travelling in a wagon or on foot, from place to place. Around Saloum and at the Mission Station of Farmerfield, these diseases have been very fatal, and the lung-sickness has now appeared amongst herds of cattle that have hitherto escaped, and were indeed inoculated about nine or ten months back.

It is thus practically proved that inoculation is of very doubtful benefit. In Lower Albany we believe it is now spreading very generally, and in its track leaves scarce a hoof behind. In Mr. Aldrich's Field-Cornetey, no fewer than 100 horses have been carried off by this disease.

Mr. Meintjes and his two sons-in-law, having lost upwards of 50. The auctioneer at Bedford is, also, unable to hold his monthly sales, as farmers cannot attend. These diseases, added to the tightness in the money market, cause a general despondency, which is felt, more or less, in every district of the colony. Where, or when it will end, who can tell? The sheep farmer too is now anxious to bring his clip to market, but he is prevented, with risk to the loss of his oxen, or from fear of those he has left, becoming infected with the fatal malady.

The following is an extract of a letter from Mr. W. Stanton, Jr.:—

I regret to state that such are the losses sustained by the farmers owing to the lung-sickness, and the unprecedented severity of the horse-sickness this season, that numbers are nearly all dead, but the lung-sickness is the worst of all calamities. From all that I can gather, INOCULATION meets the case, provided it is done in a proper manner, and the humour is taken from a slaughtered beast in the early stage of the disorder. But I am now giving it a trial under my herds; and as I believe this will fairly prove the thing, I shall lose no time in laying my experience before the public. I assure you both farmers and traders are suffering severely as all transport is totally put a stop to, indeed these diseases and troubles are producing despondency upon many of our simple farmers, some of whom are preparing for a journey to the Salt Lakes, where all things are found in common."—G. T. Journal, March 10.

## Original Correspondence.

### THE DISTRICT OF CLANWILLIAM.

The mouth of March will soon be ended. Will the Central Road Board now fulfil its promise "to make a commencement with the improvement of the roads by the beginning of 1855"? Notwithstanding needless and useless inspection tours during ten years, it has been thought right once more to waste the public money in selecting three lines for survey, whilst the public opinion has been declared in favor of *Pikenerkloof*. It is said that the project of these last three surveys has been placed in the hands of Mr. Bain, superintendent of roads and geologist of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and the inhabitants of this neglected district will soon see whether the public opinion will be respected or insulted, and whether the public interest will be decided dependent upon the whim of a single individual, who, although deserving of the greatest praise for his indefatigable efforts to perfect himself and be useful to the public, yet cannot, in the absence of a scientific education, be considered to have the right to pronounce a decisive judgment.

Now will the Central Road Board, with submissive subserviency, defray the general desire of the inhabitants, or consider itself sufficiently independent to act for itself?

A SUBSCRIBER TO YOUR PAPER.

## Foreign Intelligence.

By the *Ellen Rawson*, which left England on the 12th January and arrived here on Thursday last, the mail which was expected by her has arrived. Some extracts from papers brought by her, will be found elsewhere. Though of a date prior to that received by the *Masareiges*, the

following letter from our London Correspondent will not be found uninteresting:—

London, January 5, 1855.

You cannot fail to feel the present interruption to your postal communication with England, especially since there is no immediate prospect of any change for the better. Whilst the Colonies of Australia are thrown back upon sailing vessels for the conveyance of their mails it is scarcely to be hoped the Cape Colony will become once more a steam packet station.

Six weeks have elapsed since I had an opportunity of writing you and though it is true, no very important event has occurred during that time, it is annoying not to be able to keep you better advised of what is going on in European affairs.

The whole circle of news may be compressed in the following:—

Parliament has been hastily summoned for the despatch of urgent business and adjourned over Christmas. The siege of Sebastopol progresses slowly. The Emperor of Austria has signed a treaty with France and England against Russia.

Her Majesty opened Parliament on the 12th Dec., in speech of the usual brevity, making no more allusion to passing or coming events than was absolutely necessary and indeed casting no new light upon any political topic whatever.

Some allusion was necessarily made to the emergency which had called the houses together at that unusual period. A proper tribute was paid to the valour of the allied armies in the Crimea, and a spirited determination was expressed to prosecute the war with energy and unanimity. Beyond this there was literally nothing.

It was to be expected that on such a subject there would not be much difference of opinion even between Lord John and Mr. Disraeli, any more than between the Earls of Aberdeen and Derby. We were, however, scarcely prepared for the perfect accord which was exhibited between all parties and sections of politicians in both houses. There was indeed a species of argumentative dissent dropped in here and there by a Derby or Ellenborough, but not more than sufficed to impart a pleasant poignancy to the debate in question.

If, as is commonly reported, the Czar reads the *Times* with daily regularity, he will hardly fail to be somewhat disgusted at the one common expression of determined hostility to his rule and power, in the debate of the 12th December. It cannot fail to make a sensible impression in more than one country. Already the French people are highly gratified and delighted with the Parliamentary "vote of thanks" graciously accorded their army and navy in the Crimea, a proceeding quite novel and therefore the more pleasing to them.

While we were congratulating ourselves on the happy state of unanimity exhibited by our Legislators, and whilst the Commons were engaged in discussing very placidly the clauses of the unobjectionable Militia Bill, the public was staggered out of its propriety by the introduction into the House of Lords of a measure as novel as it is repugnant to the national feelings. This is no other than what is termed a "Foreign Enlistment bill,"—to enable the authorities to beat up for recruits in foreign countries to the extent of 15,000 men, bring them into this country, and keep them here until trained and required abroad in active service.

The Lords disapproved of the principle of the measure and failed to see its necessity. Nevertheless they allowed it to come down to the Commons who received it with the utmost disgust, whilst outside but one deep and long shout of contempt is raised for its promoters.

Ministers simply maintain, that it is both necessary and expedient to form a reserve force, and hence although Ministers are more anxious that the various clauses shall be got through rapidly, and the measure become law before the recess, there seems no probability of this being managed.

What turn the cards may take ere Parliament re-assembles in the middle of January, it is impossible to tell. Austria may have declared war; or Prussia may have joined us, as rats quit a falling house; the Czar may have given in, but Disraeli will not be found wanting from his front seat opposite Lord John.

The election in Maybole to replace the late Lord Dudley Stewart has remained in favor of Lord Ebrington.

At length there appears a probability of something definite, coming out of German politics. The Emperor of Austria declares that he will draw the sword against the Prussians, should they not accept the absolute terms offered by the Westphalian Powers, on or before January 1st.

Events in that direction would seem to be drawing to a crisis, for we learned only the other day, that a strong body of Cossacks had crossed to the Turkish side of the Pruth and destroyed a large store of hay and corn belonging to the Austrian troops.

Prussia now seeks to form a separate alliance with the Western Powers, in preference to joining in the Treaty of December 24.

Our ministers still shrink from declaring what their policy will be in regard to the neutral trade with Russia via Prussia, deferring any declaration on the subject until after the recess.

France continues to pour forth her men and stores towards the East with uniminished activity. There is less publicity given to such things in that country, but not the less energy and determination.

Our own embarkation of troops has now pretty well cleared, although the shipment of military stores, food and clothing, will go on as briskly as ever.

Recruiting proceeds briskly throughout the country and volunteers from the militia for foreign service are coming forward in considerable numbers on all sides.

Sir C. Napier has at length arrived from the Baltic where he has completely seized the Russian ports. Many of his fleet are being fitted up as troop ships and store transports for the Black Sea, where they may be employed until the return of spring gives the signal for fresh operations in the Baltic, on a more worthy scale, it is to be hoped, than those of the past year.

Let Mrs. Herbert also know that Miss Nightingale and the ladies will tell these poor noble wounded and sick men that no one takes a warmer interest, or feels more for their sufferings, or admires their courage and heroism more than their Queen. Day and night she thinks of her beloved troops. So does the Prince.

"Reg. Mrs. Herbert to communicate these my words to those ladies, as I know that our sympathy is much valued by these noble fellows."

their heads towards the harbour and managed to get safe inside, secure from further attack. It is thought that this is only the prelude to a general sally of the Russian fleet, emboldened as they are, by the absence of all our sailing ships of war who are in winter quarters.

In addition to General Cathcart who fell at the Battle of Inkermann, we have to lament the loss of another officer from your colony, Lieutenant-Colonel Beckwith of the Rifle Brigade, who has since fallen in the siege operations at Sebastopol, commanded the infantry of the force emplaced against the Dutch Boers, north-east of the Orange River in August, 1848, and was present in the action with and defeat of the rebel Boers at Boom Plaats, in which he succeeded to the command of the troops on Lieutenant-Colonel Buller being seriously wounded. He belonged to the 1st Battalion, and had been in the army 26 years. No regiment has distinguished itself in the Crimea more completely than the Rifle Brigade, whether in the field or against the fortifications.

Several of our papers, both political and literary, have severely criticized the recent enactment of your Legislature, in reference to the admission into your Colony of foreign subjects of British Authors. They complain against the illiberal principle which is thus exercised against our writers, as emanating with a peculiar ill grace from a colony which has just received a new and more liberal constitution.

It certainly does not augur favorable for the future career of your Legislative chambers that one of its first enactments should have been so tinged with narrow-minded ungenerous selfishness, and though the Secretary of State is not likely to advise Her Majesty to give her royal sanction to the measure, the stigma will nevertheless attach to those who would have made it the law of the colony.

