Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

On New-Year's day 1840, while seated in a comfortable arm-chair, thinking of what would be the consequence of passing the proposed Bill for the amendment of the Charter of King's College, I fell asleep, and dreamed as follows:

I found myself on the level ground in front of King's College, where a person of singular appearance was gravely walking up and down. He wore no gown, and had nothing at all clerical in his look or dress. I felt irresistibly impelled to approach and salute him. He returned the salute courteously, and stopped in his walk as I confronted him. I told him that I felt a good deal puzzled by the altered appearance of a place where every object used to be familiar to me. I wished to speak to the Vice President Could he inform me where he was? "My dear Sir," said he, "there is no such officer, nor has there been for nearly ten years. Where in the world have you lived all this time, not to know that in the year 1840, exactly ten years ago, the constitution of King's College was *amended* by the Colonial Legislature, and that the Queen's *liberal* Government sanctioned the alteration." (I observed a slight sneer in the way of uttering the words *amended* and *liberal*.)

"Surely you are jesting with me," said I. "I know that there are schemes for altering the Charter, but I feel very confident that they will not succeed. The good sense of the country will prevent it."

The Gentleman laughed heartily—Assured me that I was entirely mistaken, and knew not either in what year of the Christian Aeri I existed; hoped I had not been uncomfortable during the long trance I must have been in. Said it was the most amusing occurrence that he had ever heard of, and that he should be most happy to cultivate my acquaintance.

"Well then," said I, "pray tell me, in the first place, with whom I have the pleasure of conversing.'

"I have the *honor*, Sir," (a slight sneer upon *honor*) "to be the President of this College under the amended Charter."

"You surprise me greatly," said I. "What, I pray you, has become of my friend Dr. Jacob, whom I come hither to see?

"Oh!—he was so disgusted by the *improvements* (sneer) introduced by the change, that (wearily in my opinion) he threw up his engagements, and has, I believe, left the country altogether. At all events he quitted the College, and made a vacancy for your humble servant. I am not sure that the College is benefited by his departure; but it was a benefit to me, has been so at least during the last nine years; but I confess I have a strong foreboding that my presidency is drawing near its close."

I presume that he saw in my manner signs of increasing astonishment, for his merriment increased. For some time I could not reply to him—He therefore proceeded. "I suppose you will be enquiring after some others of your old acquaintance here; but I am sorry to say I can give you little satisfaction, They are all gone; every thing but the stone work of the building is changed; and *that* is getting sadly out of repair. It signifies little, however; for the end of the whole concern is pretty evidently at hand."

As he said these words, we were walking up and down the level space together. At the close of the sentence he stopped short, and eyeing me with a countenance expressive of much warmth and humour, he lifted his hat from off his head, and bowing profoundly, told me with much gravity that he rejoiced exceedingly at my having met him at as I did—and that, as soon as I could recover my speech, he would be happy to answer any question I might chose to put to him, for the satisfaction of my curiosity.

I made an effort at once, and told him that I supposed the thing must be as he said it was, however strange, and wonderful—and that, emboldened by his assurance, I should proceed to put a few questions to him.

"Do so, my dear Sir, I shall be delighted to answer them, and promise to tell you truth."

"Begin then, if you please, with an account of the amendments which you 'told me were made in the College Charter, in the Session of 1840, which you say took place ten years ago, but which I tho't myself was now just going to be holden."

He smiled and said "In that Session very great changes were made. The Bishop ceased to be Visitor, although a stand was made, by a numerous and highly respectable party in the country, to retain him. The ecclesiastical constitution of the College was changed into a Legal one, the Judges and most eminent of the Law officers composing the council. They could not agree upon any Test, and therefore abolished the Test altogether. The Professorship of Divinity was opened to Candidates of every persuasion—although a stand was made, first to confine it to members of the Church of England, and when that failed, to members of the Church of England or of the Church of Scotland. All persons receiving a salary out of the funds were made incapable of a seat in the Council. And all fees were abolished."

"Do you mean to say," said I, "that all these changes were effected in that one session?" "Not exactly," he replied, "but a majority of the two Houses recommended these changes, notwithstanding a vigorous opposition from a considerable minority in both, which comprehended, I must confess, the most respectable and enlightened members of both, altho' they are no friends of mine; and the changes were afterwards effected in consequence. It was evident, from the commencement of this conflict, that such would be its result. For the greater part of the minority went so far along with those of the other side as to admit that some change in the Constitution was necessary to the well working of the Institution, and contentment of the Public. They allowed that the old Council was so badly constituted, that the College never could get on well, without such a change as could not be made under the first charter; and of this admission the other side of course took great advantage. We are agreed, they said, about the necessity of some change. Why then not make, while we are about it, such a change as will give general satisfaction? A great part of the community would just as willingly have the charter remain as it is, as be put off with such an alteration as you would make in it. Nothing short of a radical change will answer their wishes;—and that we must have."

Ah! said I, "*that* is just what I always expected. But, as you say the radical change has actually been effected, pray tell me how it was received by those whose good pleasure was so much consulted.—Were the public generally pleased at this change?"

He assumed a knowing look, and said—"It happened, in this case, just as it always does in similar cases, when the public have been led by the nose to make a fuss about a matter which no more concerns *them* than the man in the moon, for the benefit of a few designing agitators. There was great shouting in certain quarters, at the triumph they conceived themselves to have gained. It was thought a great thing to have abolished the office of Visitor, and turned over his power to the House of Assembly,—for *that* was the practical effect of the alteration—Glorious, to have not a single parson in the Council—Heavenly, to have no test that would exclude the Devil himself from office in the college. Every religious sect rejoiced greatly, at the thought of having the Chair of Divinity opened to its members, and at the certainty of having graduated men to fill their pulpits; and a mighty rabble, who under no circumstances would have had a fee to pay, rejoiced in pure benevolence that the College officers would no longer receive any from others. But all this joy was of the shortest possible duration; and even before the close of the Session, it changed into discontent, and the work of agitation recommenced. The several sects began to calculate the chances of the one Chair of Divinity ever being occupied by a Professor of their own Denomination; and found it so doubtful, that they all with one consent began separately to petition that the Charter might not be altered in the way recommended. The Legislature did its best to content the fools by ordaining, in its next session, that there should be a Chair of Divinity in the College for each sect that did or might exist; but they took care not to promise that they would provide a salary for each Professor. At length it was settled by the Imperial Authorities that *they* it should be—That each sect might have its own Professor, provided that it found the means of maintaining him. At the same time it was discovered that the permanent Act, by which the endowment of the College was secured, was now virtually repealed, and that the endowment was altogether at the Assembly."

Ah! said I, "all my forebodings justified!—When once they meddled with the Charter, of course they would not stop till they had done all the mischief in their power. The consequences of such a change as you describe, I can easily imagine; but let me not deter you from giving me all the particulars"

"I shall be happy to give you every information. The first effect of the alteration was a public declaration from the Bishop, that he would no longer recognise degrees conferred in this University as qualifications for Holy Orders. This was laughed at when it first come forth; but it proved a heavy blow to us. It soon had the effect of depriving the College of those whom I must confess to have been the most respectable class of Students, who transferred themselves to other places of Education.

At first, as you may suppose, each sect founded a Professorship of Divinity. The Church of Scotland did so. The Church of England did not. But they were, generally speaking, very badly provided for. The first Professor of the Scottish Church, assumed precisely the same airs of superiority over the Sectarian Professors, as an Episcopalian Professor would have done. He was indeed, I must confess, by the superiority of his education, entitled in some measure to do so; but the others would not see *that*, nor admit that he had any superiority whatever. He was rather an ill-tempered man, addicted to the use of strong, indeed rather abusive language for a Clergyman, and this got him into difficulties. He soon found himself so uncomfortable that he could not remain; and the Presbyterians, having now found out the folly of their past proceedings, wisely determined to come down with no more money. At the same time the General Assembly of the Scottish Church thought it necessary, for the credit of the Kirk, to follow the example of the Bishop, and to declare that Divinity degrees of our conferring would not be recognized by them."

"And this," said I, "was all the fruit which the Kirk gathered from the Agitation of which it had been the leader! If they would have calmly reflected upon the matter, they might from the beginning have foreseen that such would be the case.—I do not think they merited a better fate."

"Oh no!" said my companion, "The whole country have been long of opinion that they were rightly served; and they themselves are very sensible of their folly."

"But you have not yet told me any thing," said I, "about your own appointment to the Presidency."

"*All* in good time," he answered, "The former President, who you know was the Archdeacon, and to whose gratuitous exertions the College under the old Charter was considerably indebted; when he saw the turn that things were likely to take, gave out that he should no longer take any trouble about the College, if these reforms should be effected; and begged that he might be relieved from any further connection with an Institution, which could no longer, in his opinion, promote either piety or order. He was taken at his word. It was no longer required that the President should be an Ecclesiastical person; and some men of weight at the time declared that it was more consistent with the spirit of the Age, that he should be a layman, and one of *liberal* opinions on the subject of religion.—And in truth it might well appear absurd to commit to a person of a different character the government of such a city of confusion, as the concern was surely about to become. I thought I was just the man for them. I could undertake to deal impartially with all parties, as I held them all equally in contempt. I was connected with powerful men in the House of Assembly, who knew my capacity and willingness to serve their purposes, while I could at the same time serve my own, and who easily obtained my appointment."

"I have no doubt," I replied, "but that they choose very judiciously. You are a *scholar*, of course:—and I perceive plainly that you are quite a *man of the world*."

"Not much of a scholar between ourselves," he replied—"but quite enough for the purpose. A scholar would be quite thrown away upon this College, as it is now constituted. He would not be half so well fitted for the management of the concern, as I flatter myself that I am. I believe indeed it would have gone to destruction before this time, but for *me*. But, to say the truth, it would have been no misfortune to the country, if it had done so."

"I presume, sir, that you are a Professor."

"Yes sir,—Professor of modern Literature, at your service, I chose that Professorship, being no great Classic or Mathematician. My forte is Politics; and I need not tell you that my politics are *liberal*; for those are the only politics, by which a man can thrive in this world now-a-days; I at least should have no chance of thriving by any other. It was my *liberalism* that recommended me to my present office, and enables me to retain it. Churchmen call me an Infidel;—and, although I do not wish you to make it public. I confess they are not far wrong. Indeed, if I had been more of a Christian when I assumed this office, all that I have seen of religion since I have been here would have been enough to put me out of conceit of it."

At this point of our conversation, something induced me to turn more directly towards him; and just at his elbow, on the opposite side of him from that on which I stood, I saw an object which instantly rivited my attention, exciting in me a painful sensation of loathing and dread.—The eyes of the figure which were remarkably piercing and malevolent, were fixed upon me with a look of seeming triumph, an unearthly laugh burst on my ears, followed by the words distinctly pronounced—"*mine mine*"—and immediately the figure vanished, I knew not whither.—I looked earnestly towards my companion; but perceiving no sign of his having seen or heard any thing. I thought it best to say nothing about it;—and, after a brief interval of silence, the conversation was thus resumed.

"I thank you, Sir," said I "for the information you have given; but pray tell me more of the working of the new arrangement."

"I told you," he replied, "that we became dependant upon an annual vote of the Assembly. But they were pretty bountiful to us, for several years. It would be unreasonable to blame them for not endowing a chair of divinity for every sect in this Province. Their refusal, however, excited great dissatisfaction in various interested quarters, and they were pestered with a multitude of insolent Petitions. Within the College, the dissatisfaction was greater than any where else.—You have already heard that the Church of England would have nothing to do with us,—and that the Church of Scotland soon gave us up. Our disorders next disgusted the Methodists; and they withdrew from us. The New Light Professors, of whom we had several (whose lights, altho' all new, were different) still remained, and do remain. We have still three of them. But a more wretched, ill conditioned, crossgrained set of fanatics were never seen.—They are very badly supplied by the sects they represent, and are incessantly grumbling at the House of Assembly and every body else.

"For some years our Students (so called) were numerous. The Sectarians all wanted Degrees, to shew off with; and the abolition of Fees facilitating the acquisition of them, very many got them. But that did us harm instead of good. Our Degrees, having become cheap and common, soon ceased to have any value. They fell into contempt. No gentleman, for some years past, has condescended to take one, or to send a son to our College. The Students we have are such a set of rapscallions, that I solemnly declare I should be ashamed to muster them in any public place. And our Professors—but of *them*, my dear sir, you shall have a specimen before we part."

At this instant, he stopped and assumed the attitude of one listening to a sound, which I also began to hear in the direction of the College.—"Come along with me," he said quickly "there is now a capital opportunity, I hear old Sheepshanks lecturing his class. He always, on such occasions, altho' the class is small, and the room also of moderate dimensions, screams loud enough to be heard half a mile off. Come along.—He conducted me to a place from whence, without being noticed, we could see the interior of the room, and hear what was said. The Lecturer seemed to be in a high state of excitement. His subject was mysterious, and his mode of treating it as little as possible likely to profit those who heard him. His audience, about 12 in number, were all apparently of a very low class in society I had seen enough of this, and turned away, my companion observing as we went—"you have seen our chief Fanatic and his disciples they are a goodly set, worthy of each other. But *that* is the only orderly Lecture room in the establishment, at present. I must try to get you a sight of our other two New Lights."

We ascended the steps into the Hall; and there by good luck both of them were. They were in conversation with each other, a number of the students looking on from a little distance, and enjoying their discourse, which appeared to be of a contentious nature. They were in fact in high dispute (which the president told me was a common occurrence) and too much taken up with it to notice, either us, or the Students around them. They were pacing up and down the Hall, and getting more and more wrathful every moment. Presently I observed among the Students the same mysterious figure that I had seen a little before without doors. His horrid eyes were again fixed upon me; and as I watched, I saw him approach one of the disputants, on that side which was turned away from his antagonist: and the wrath of the Professor waxed hotter in consequence. Immediately after I saw him in the same manner beside the other; and *he* too grew more inflamed. In a moment after they were exchanging heavy blows; and amidst the exulting shouts of the students, who witnessed the conflict, I heard again the same unearthly laugh, and the same cry of "*mine, mine*," as I had heard outside a little before. But nobody, except myself, seemed to notice the sound.

We again went forth, my companion chuckling. "We are a nice set are we not? should you not like to be President of such a College? But I let them take their own course, and quarrel as much as they please, if they do not disturb me. I need not tell you that there is no compulsion to attend the Lectures in Theology. The students attend what Lectures they please, or none at all, if such should be their pleasure. And the Lectures of these two are always a scene of disorder and tumult, to which it would be difficult to find a parallel. Such is the state of Theology among us. Beautiful! is it not! Except *that* small congregation of fanatics you saw yonder—our students are all at this time, either of the highly liberal School who believe little or nothing, or young Papists who seem to come hither for no other purpose than to throw every thing into confusion, and hurry on the downfall of this Institution. Party spirit runs very high among them, on all subjects to which they give any attention. Politics constitute the favourite pursuit of all: and precious politics they are. Talk of the disorders that used, as I hear, to be so much complained of before the Reform. They were not worth mentioning, compared with those to which I am a daily witness, and to which possibly you yourself may be a witness before you leave me."

"But what does the Reformed Council say to all these things?"

"The Council have long given up the matter in despair. A considerable part of its members are highly respectable persons, who see these proceedings with grief and indignation. For some years they went on making Statute upon Statute, with a view to correcting our disorders. But they were only laughed at here. The hands of the Council are very much tied up by the Assembly, in which there is a strong party greatly disposed to patronize such proceedings as these, instead of putting them down—to which party my own friends belong. And the Council itself is not what it used to be. Some of our highest Law Officers are nominees of the Irish Demagogue. I need say no more. Those who remain of the old school have long ceased to attend the meetings of the Council. They are sufficiently occupied in endeavouring to stay the progress of Revolution in the Country, and maintain the *humbug* of British connection; and they leave the College to its fate."

"And *what* do you think that fate will be?"

"To go to the Devil, of course," he said; "nor does it signify how soon."

"And in that case what will become of you?"

"That I cannot precisely say. But I am endeavouring to provide against such a contingency. The whole country is in a pretty state, my chief patron in the Assembly is on the revolutionary side, and hopes shortly to get constituted President of the Independant State or Republic of New Brunswick, should he succeed, I depend upon being taken care of; for I have been useful to him and may be so again. But I do not feel very certain on the subject. The Loyal party are very strong and more united than formerly by a sense of danger; and they may defeat us. We shall soon see if they do, then I suppose I must fly the Country." But look there, said he, and see what some of my Lambs are about.

I looked in the direction in which he pointed, and observed a tall pole with a red cap on the top of it, at the foot of which stood an orator, who was vehemently harranguing a considerable part of the Students, all of them presenting a wild, disorderly, shabby and radical appearance. And I saw the mysterious figure passing rapidly from one to another; and wherever he came the disorder seemed to increase. His eyes all the while seemed fixed upon *me*, and made me shudder. Presently the whole crowd passed rapidly by us, evidently with some mischief in view. They came up to the part of the building in which Sheepshanks was still discoursing, and surrounded the place. Some in the midst of the circle appeared to be busily at work; but their proceedings were covered by others, so that we could not see them. "What are they about?" said I, "mischief, of course," said the President, "but it will not be safe for me to inquire too closely. Let them do what they please, and every one look out for himself." I watched them anxiously. The figure again appeared among them. Presently a commotion arose. All began to run away shouting, in different directions. The figure appeared for an instant all alone, and his eyes were on me as before. The unearthly laugh again reverberated in my ears, followed by the words, "*mine*, all *mine*"—and then a frightful explosion which shook the earth on which I stood—and I awoke. P.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MR. EDITOR,—I live a long ways from your City, away up about the Joggins, and have only just received your paper with the "Circular Memorandum" of Sir John Harvey to "the Heads of the Civil Departments and Members of the Executive Council in New Brunswick," accompanying the copy of a Despatch let loose from the Colonial Office by Lord John Russell—Its a queer Despatch that for a *liberal* Minister, but it's a mere bagatelle to its accompanying Memorandum which makes it a *sine qua non* that if any Officer of Government or Executive Councillor (although selected from the House of Assembly in consequence of his being a leading Member thereof, in accordance with the despatch of the then Colonial Minister, Lord Glenelg,) shall "avow sentiments adverse to the policy of the Governor," that in such case they shall cease to be Honorables, and be displaced from office.

This is death to Independance! We all regret up here that Sir John should have such a bad memory,—we regret extremely that he should not always have practised what he now preaches; we cannot forget what his conduct was upon assuming the administration of the Government of this Province; at that time, every Officer of the Government, every individual in the Province who had supported the administration of his predecessor, Sir Archibald Campbell, was treated by him with the most marked contempt and neglect;—Sir John did not at that time seem to approve of the system of Officers of Government supporting the Executive; he preferred chiming in with those who had opposed his predecessor and harrassed and insulted him in every way in their power; but the party which he joined were the popular party, and the leaders of that party are now Honorable Privy's; but should it please Providence to allow the sense of the Country again to be taken, His Excellency will no doubt find them where they ought to be,—quite in the back ground. In great haste Yours, &c.

JACOB GRINDSTONE.

Westmoreland, Jan. 14.

CUMBERLAND BUTTER.—50 Firkins Prime Cumberland Butter, (a superior article for family use,) for sale by

JOHN & JAS. ALEXANDER.

King street, January 17.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JAN. 31, 1840.

Latest European dates received are from Liverpool to the 14th December, and from France to the 17th; both by way of New York.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—The Governor's speech at the opening of the Session, will be found in our columns. From it we are glad to find that our *Trade, Revenue*, and *Financial affairs*, are flourishing beyond any former period. His Excellency, *again*, very judiciously, calls upon the Legislature, to commit the care and superintendance of the "Great Roads" throughout the Province, to salaried Officers, to be appointed by, and responsible to the Executive Government.

ANOTHER FIRE.—We have this day to record another of those distressing calamities which have so frequently visited this City. In our last number we mentioned the destructive fire in Germain street; this morning, about ½ past 4 o'clock, completed the destruction of three buildings in Sidney street, it was fortunate that the night was wet and water easily procured. But for this circumstance and the strenuous exertions of the gallant 69th and Royal Artillery, the whole block would have been in ashes. Scarcely sufficient time has elapsed to ascertain the true and exact particulars, but from observation and numerous reports, we believe the following statement to be correct. The fire broke out about 4 o'clock in a new building owned by Mr. G. T. RAY. Some suppose it originated from the workmen who were working by candle light: others hold the more general opinion that it was the work of an incendiary, as the carpenters were working in the upper story and the fire it is said broke out in the cellar: it is earnestly hoped that if the fire was caused by evil disposed wretches that they may be discovered, and as an example, meet with the heaviest punishment. We cannot help again recommending to the public the necessity of establishing a properly organised Fire Club, composed of young Men of respectability above the age of sixteen, under an efficient Leader. The company should be divided into several Departments; to one division should be assigned the Hooks and Ladders, to another the Engine and so on. Our young men could not show their patriotism in a manlier way. The Firewardens as they are at present, are hardly of any use; it is ludicrous to hear the bawling thro' trumpets to men who will not obey, and those who are willing to be useful can in the present state of things find nothing to do. Let every citizen ask himself these questions—had the Military been absent from the City, *how far would the late fires have extended?* And who so well could have protected the property of sufferers from depredators?

MURDER.—A Coroner's Inquest was held on Wednesday last, on view of the body of Jane Wise, who was found dead in St. James' street, with marks of great violence appearing on her body.—After having heard all the evidence that could be obtained, the Jury brought in a verdict of *Wilful Murder* against some person or persons unknown.

The Rev. I. W. D. GRAY, M. A., has been appointed Rector of this Parish, in consequence of the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Gray, who still retains the situation of Chaplain to the Garrison, and is to receive an annual stipend from the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

WATER COMPANY.—We are informed that the spirited stockholders, notwithstanding the many difficulties under which they have hitherto laboured from non-payments of many defaulters, are determined to pursue with renewed energies, in their laudable undertaking of supplying the principal streets of the City with an abundant stock of water; and for which purpose, fresh orders have been sent to Europe for an additional number of water pipes, so as to recommence their works early in the ensuing spring.

EFFICIENCY OF THE CITY POLICE.—Almost nightly we are informed of misdemeanours being committed in our streets, against either persons or property; and yet no effectual check is put to those disgraceful proceedings.—*Robberies, Murders, and Fires*, seem to take place alternately; but intelligence of any of those acts, can never be obtained from the Police. Such being the state of our present arranged Police, would it not be well, and indeed does not necessity loudly call for it, that the Citizens immediately convene a public meeting, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of Watch tax paid annually; the number of Watchmen employed: the wages given to those persons: the the manner and arrangement nightly pursued for the patrolling of every street in each Ward of the city; and if the means be found deficient, and the funds of the Corporation exhausted; some better plan be adopted for the preservation of the lives and properties of our numerous citizens, than is now used, or that has hereto been followed.

The Nisi Prius Court which opened on the 14th, will terminate its sittings to-day. We are informed that the number of cases on the Docket for this Circuit is seventy-three—a greater number than at any previous Circuit. Many of the suits were of much importance and had been pending for several Terms. If the remark made by a learned Judge be true (and it can hardly be doubted) that "much litigation is a sure sign of the extent and prosperity of commerce," then Saint John is, and must be in her commercial pursuits eminently successful.

The business of the Court proceeded very rapidly in consequence of the punctual attendance of the Jurors, which was a pleasing circumstance, as the irregularity of their attendance at the August Circuit was productive of disagreeable results to all parties, but more especially to the suitors. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will either impose a heavier fine or devise some way by which the administration of justice may not be delayed. A very large number of Criminals were also tried at this Circuit: and we should suppose that if crime continues to increase, the duty of trying both the civil and criminal actions will become too labourious for a single Judge to perform.

Smith Clarke has been found guilty and sentenced to death at Halifax for the murder of James Bossom, on the 8th August last.

ROBBERIES.—On Tuesday night, 21st inst., the Auction Room of Mr. S. M. Chamberlain, in St. John street, was forcibly entered through a back window, and two watches and about 7s. 6d. in coppers, taken.

On Thursday night, 23d inst., the office of Wm. M'Cannon, Esq., on Hendrick's Wharf, (Ward street,) was broken into by forcing two locks on the back door, and two half-eagles were taken. The thieves also broke through the partition between the stair-way leading to Mr. M'Cannon's office, and Mr. Ira Mosher's shop, whence they took a number of blue paper parcels containing in copper coin fifteen shillings.

About eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, the key of Mr. Joseph Gunnison's store, in the alley leading to the end of Tilton's Wharf, was missed from the door, and supposed to have fallen through an aperture in the wharf: the lock was taken off and another key fitted and the door looked about nine o'clock in the evening. On Friday morning, however, it was evident that the key must have been stolen by some person, as the door was found open, and the desks in the office forced and ransacked,—but a small sum, in change, was all the money the thieves obtained. The robbers by breaking through a partition leading to Mr. Gunnison's office, made an entrance into Mr. Wm. Scammell's store, the desks and drawers of which they rummaged, without finding any money.

Captain Caleff's chest, in the cabin of the brig *Napoleon*, lying at the South Market Wharf, was overhauled the same night, no doubt by some of the gang who committed the above robberies; but as money appeared, from their neglect of valuable merchandize in the stores, to be the only commodity they were in search of, and as none was left in the chest, they were in this case completely disappointed.

Yesterday, a lad named *Mackintosh*, who, we are informed, had been tried before the Supreme Court on Monday last for stealing, but was cleared by the ingenuity of his counsel, was arrested, charged with being concerned in these robberies, and underwent examination. He has been committed for trial. The watches taken from Mr. Chamberlain's have, we learn, been recovered. We trust that he will now receive his deserts.

Such a number of daring burglaries call loudly for increased vigilance on the part of the City Watch, as well as on the authorities to add to or remodel that body if necessary.—*Courier.*

HALIFAX, January 25.

"Mr. Howe moved that a committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to ascertain by whose authority a military force was despatched to the Court House on Monday evening last, and to inquire what emergency had occurred requiring the assistance of the military on that occasion. Committee—Messrs. Howe, Forrester and Bell.—*Recorder.*

COLONIAL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT!!—The first act, of *Responsible* government, has already commenced its blessed work in our sister Province of Nova Scotia.—The leading Radical reformers of the House of Assembly, have appointed a committee of their body, to demand (from Sir Colin Campbell, the Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Forces,) by whose authority a military force was despatched to the Court House on Monday evening last, and to inquire what emergency had occurred requiring the assistance of the military on that occasion. This is exercising the powers of a Colonial Local Assembly, with a high hand; the Representative of our Sovereign, in the judicious exercise of his military and Civil capacity, as head over all, is to be made amenable to the Members of a Provincial Assembly.

It appears by the Halifax newspapers, that the trial of two persons for felony, at the Supreme Court, had excited much attention throughout that town, and the populace had crowded the Court room to such an extent, that the gallery was obliged to be cleared. The tumult and noise from the mob without doors, was so great, that the learned Attorney General was repeatedly interrupted; and he was under the necessity of stating to the Court before the close of the trial, "*he could not but regret, "and deeply regret the scenes of riot and disturbance "which had interrupted their proceedings in a trial of "so much importance.*" With those glaring facts of *riot and disturbance*, known to every individual Member of the House of Assembly, yet, the reformers of that body, in their imaginary dream of *Imperial* power, under *Responsible* government, are determined to test the powers of the *Sovereign* in affording military protection for the escort of convicted felons, or for the peace and safety of the inhabitants.

The Reformers in the Assembly of New Brunswick, must now follow their leaders in Nova Scotia for *Responsible* government, and demand also from the Lieutenant Governor, by whose authority, a portion of the *Military* was despatched (a short time since) to the *Court House in King's County*; and to inquire what emergency had occurred requiring the assistance of the Military on that occasion.

What a pity it is, that the wise-acres of the Colonial Assemblies, do not immediately transport themselves in full power into the *Imperial Parliament*, and then appoint a Committee, to wait upon, and demand from the *Queen* by whose authority, a *Military force*, is daily despatched to the Palace, and to inquire what emergency occurs requiring the assistance of a *Military force!!*

Capital Joke! Colonial Radical Assemblies, to have the full and entire command of all the Queen's troops in the Colonies!!!

THE 7TH FUSILIERS.—We omitted in our last publication to notice the exemplary conduct of the 7th Fusiliers, under the command of that gallant officer Major Stewart, on the occasion of rescuing two policemen from a furious mob last July, the principals in the riot being convicted at the last sessions, and amply punished for their lawless proceedings. The conduct of both the commanding officer and the men, who so promptly executed his orders in assisting the civil authorities, deserve the marked approbation of the inhabitants, and we regret they did not express their sentiments in a suitable manner, on the subject, before the departure of Major Stewart's detachment. Had the gallant officer waited till he could obtain the order of a magistrate, two policemen would have been killed on the spot: he however did not stand upon *etiquette*, or wait till he could ascertain wether the military could be called out or not; in which case the two men would have been sacrified. No, he proceeded in quick time to the scene of action—rescued the policemen—arrested the leading rioters, and lodged them in the county goal. Such conduct being of very rare occurrence, we think it highly deserving of public approbation, and we hope will operate as a salutary lesson to those deluded people who imagine that the military are not warranted in cases of emergency to assist the civil powers.—*Carlow Sentinel.*

Opening of the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Fredericton, N. B. 28th January, 1840.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came in State to the Council Chamber, and having commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:

"*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"WHEN I reflect upon the many unequivocal manifestations on the part of the Inhabitants of this loyal Province,—of their anxious desire and firm determination to remain in indissoluble connexion with that Glorious Country, "Our Parent State," under the shadow of whose protecting Power they feel themselves in the enjoyment of a degree of Rational Liberty which has probably never been attained under any other than British Institutions,—it is with, if possible, an increased degree of Pride and Satisfaction, that I again meet you in Provincial Parliament: for the purpose of co-operating with you, as the Representative of a Gracious and beloved Sovereign, to whom the Happiness and Prosperity of all Classes of Her Subjects are dear, in the consideration and adoption of such Measures, as may, in our concurrent judgment, tend to increase that Happiness—to promote that Prosperity—and to call forth the varied Resources of this highly favoured Portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

"Upon the actual condition of the Province, I rejoice in being enabled to offer you my hearty congratulations:—Its Trade and consequently its Revenues and Financial Affairs are flourishing beyond any former Period. The unavoidable increase in the expenditure of the past year, owing to the Proceedings of a Neighbouring State, has been happily met by a corresponding increase of the Revenue; accordingly I have the satisfaction of informing you that every demand upon the Provincial Treasury, arising out of the Emergency to which I have averted, has been fully met, under your appropriation, by the *Surplus* Revenue of the Current year, without imposing upon me the necessity of disturbing those for other Services. The product of the Harvest though not perhaps quite equalling the sanguine expectations which were at one time entertained, has yet been such as to leave our valuable Agricultural Interests without any reasonable ground of complaint,—in a word, there is nothing in the internal condition of the Province to cause regret, nor any thing in its external Relations to excite uneasiness or alarm.

"I now proceed to advert to the ordinary business of the Session, and I know not that I can do this better than by recalling to your consideration some of the Topics referred to in my Address to you at our last Annual Meeting,—adding such observations as change of circumstances may appear to render necessary or expedient

"With regard to the "Great Roads," my impression remains unchanged as to the advantage of committing the care and superintendence of them, if only as an experimental measure, to Salaried Officers, appointed by and responsible to the Executive Government, as the best mode which has occurred, or has been suggested to me, of ensuring uniformity in the System of their Construction and repair, as well as Economy in the outlay connected with this very important branch of the Public expenditure: With regard to that leading to Lower Canada, I invite your attention to the Report from the Supervisor which will be laid before you, and by which you will, I trust, find that the sum which your liberality placed at my disposal in the improvement of that very important Line of Communication, has been usefully and judiciously expended, and the views and recommendations of Her Majesty's Government, with reference to the proposed improved Post Communication between England, Halifax and Quebec so far carried out:—A further appropriation will, however, be requisite for the completion of this Road, as well as in aid of the passage of the Mails across the Bay of Fundy—which I accordingly recommend to your favorable attention.

"With reference to the "Coast and Harbour Fisheries," I have received from the zealous and intelligent Naval Officers, who have been lately employed in their protection, several valuable practical suggestions, which shall be communicated to you, and I rely upon your extending to this valuable branch of the Provincial Resources, all due encouragement and Protection.

"A Despatch from Her Majesty's Colonial Secretary of State will be communicated to you, upon the subject of an Exploration, by a properly qualified Civil Engineer, of the best Line for a Canal to connect the Bay of Fundy with the Gulph of Saint Lawrence. On the subject of the Expense which may attend this Exploration, I am ready to communicate with His Excellency the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors of the Sister Provinces, should such be your wish.

"The Representations which have reached me from the Sheriffs, as well as the Inmates of some of the Prisons of the Province, have induced me to institute Enquiry, which has satisfied me that their improvement, as well as that of the condition of the incarcerated Debtor, calls for the interposition of a humane Legislature—Documents connected with these views will be laid before you.

"Persuaded as I am, and as is the Queen's Government, that in no part of Her Majesty's North American Colonies are the Interests of the Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Country more humanely attended to than in New Brunswick, it is only necessary for me to remind you, that the present Season has been hitherto adverse to their Pursuits and to recommend them to your compassionate Protection.

"I feel that I ought not to refrain from again inviting your attention to those Interests upon which the ultimate Prosperity of New Brunswick appear to me to depend, in a far higher degree than either upon its Timber or Mineral Treasures, valuable and apparently exhaustless as are the latter—I refer to those of Agriculture;—of the most proper mode of giving encouragement to these Interests, you will yourselves be the fittest judges.

"As intimately connected with this subject, I would request your attention to a communication which has been addressed to me by an Association composed of Individuals of high station, wealth and influence, called the "North American Colonial Association of Ireland" (and of London), who profess themselves desirous of acquiring Land in this Loyal Province, and of co-operating with its Legislature and its Government in the introduction into it of a valuable Class of Settlers, under fixed and well considered Regulations, and upon receiving from the Province such reasonable aid and encouragement as it may be disposed to offer in promotion of this most important object. The high price of labour, owing to the insufficiency of its labouring population, which prevails throughout the Province, is confessedly cramping the enterprise and exertions, and otherwise operating most injuriously upon its Commercial and Agricultural Interests, and this consideration would alone appear to me to offer sufficient inducement for entertaining a proposition which I understand to go to the extent of ensuring a regular and adequate supply of that valuable class of our fellow Subjects, to whom encouragement and assistance is proposed to be given to enable them, whenever so inclined, to settle upon Lands of good quality, to be previously selected and purchased by the Association for that purpose. I cannot too strongly recommend this Proposition, and the subject of "Immigration" generally, to your serious and favorable attention, under the conviction which I feel that by no other measure can the prosperity of the Province be more certainly and rapidly advanced, than by the judicious outlay of capital in the introduction of a respectable class of Emigrants.

"I have deemed it to consist with my Duty to the Province to cause several of our Frontier Battalions of Militia to receive a certain degree of Training, during the past summer, which has been done in a manner highly creditable to the Officer whom I selected for the performance of this useful service.—Five Thousand of our Militia have had the benefit of this Training—and I rely upon your liberality to enable me to continue a system of Instruction which, while it affords satisfaction and confidence to the Militia themselves, has the effect of greatly encreasing the efficiency of that loyal, brave and Constitutional force,—for a limited number of which I have also felt it proper to cause Provision to be made of suitable Uniform Clothing of good quality, in order, in the event of any Emergency occurring, to guard against the inconvenience and suffering to which some of them were exposed during the last Winter.

"There are other matters upon which I will communicate with you by Message.

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.*

"I have given directions for full and detailed Accounts of all Receipts of the Public Revenues, as well as of the Expenditure under the Acts of Appropriation and otherwise, to be laid before you, and I rely with unabated confidence upon your disposition to make all due Provision for the Exigencies and probable Contingencies of the Public Service during the ensuing year.

"*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"I will not conclude this Address without expressing to you the confident expectation which I entertain that the result of the exploration of certain parts of the Disputed Territory which has been recently made by Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty for that purpose, will enable Her Majesty's Government to advance such propositions to that of the United States, as the Basis of the settlement of the momentous question involved, as must lead to its early, amicable and final adjustment. In the mean time I would express my hope that sentiments of moderation and forbearance may prevail on either side."

FIRE.—A barrack erected, but not finished, at York Redoubt last summer, took fire on Thursday night, about 12 o'clock, and was burnt to the ground. Occasionally flashes, supposed to be of shells and powder, were seen bursting amidst the smoke and fire, from town.—*Acadian Recorder.*

THE BOUNDARY.—We find the following paragraph in the Augusta Age of Tuesday:

We understand that Governor FAIRFIELD has received, in reply to his letter to the President of the 23d ult., a letter from Mr. FORSYTH, Secretary of State—by which it appears, that prior to the reception of the Governor's letter, the President had received information from another quarter, of the late movement of the British troops upon the disputed territory, and had immediately made it the subject of representations to the British Minister at Washington, who is now in correspondence with the Colonial authorities, upon the subject. A further reply is soon expected by the Governor.

CAPTAIN DREW.

CHARLES POULETT THOMSON;

In answer to their address of the 11th inst. the Governor General has to acquaint the House of Assembly that, by a despatch received from the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, with reference to the joint address of both Houses of the Legislature of this Province, requesting Her Majesty to confer some mark of Her Royal approbation on Andrew Drew, Esquire, of the Royal Navy, it appears that that question is still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Toronto, December 16, 1839.

KING'S COL