British News.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, January 25.

Measures Relating to Ireland.—Lord John Russell, in a speech of great length, brought forward the whole state and condition of Ireland, and moved for leave to bring in a bill to render valid certain acts done under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant, and also a bill for the improvement of private estates in Ireland, according to the spirit of the Treasury minute of the 1st of December last. The noble Lord began his statement by saying that he never stood so much in need of the indulgence of the house, though he had never less occasion to ask that indulgence, as the house had already given sufficient proof of its willingness to grant it. He then proceeded to give a general view of the condition of Ireland under the infliction of the potato failure, which he described as only imaginable by supposing a famine of the thirteenth century acting upon a population of the nineteenth century. He then entered into a general statement of what had occurred during the recess, showing what the government had done in furtherance of the acts of parliament, and how far the measures taken had been successful, and how far they had failed. Notwithstanding the pains taken by the Board of Works, it was impossible at first to find trustworthy persons; and afterwards their labours so enormously increased that in was impossible for any public board to perform them effectually. The establishment of the Board of Works consisted of 11,587 officers; the presentments made in 285 baronies amounted to £2,410,216; the number of labourers employed last week was not less than half a million; the amount of money expended in labour during the month of December was £585,000, and in the three weeks of the present month, £485,000; and the estimated expense of the whole month of January was between seven and eight millions sterling. Such was the magnitude of the employment afforded, and such the labours which the Board of Works had to superintend and direct. These immense undertakings had many concomitant difficulties; a rate of wages was first found defective; task work was then tried, but that, too, was evaded by a demand for higher prices; and farmers, with from twenty to sixty acres of land, actually sought, and, in many instances, obtained, the government employment, thus receiving the money that ought to have been given only to the really destitute. The noble Lord then proceeded to state the measures which he intended to submit. It appeared to him desirable to form relief committees, empowered to receive subscriptions and donations from the Government, to establish soup kitchens, to distribute food, not requiring the best of work, but allowing the people to employ themselves on their farms, and to raise food for the next harvest. The government would endeavour, by means of preparatory measures in Ireland, and next by a bill in parliament, to give effect to this arrangement. Sir J. Burgoyne would be entrusted with the management of this important business, and would be assisted by the Board of Works, the Commissariat, the Poor-law Commissioners, and the constabulary. This would be a measure of immediate relief. With respect to the sums expended, and now being expended, he did not think the whole of the burthen should be laid on Irish property. He would propose, on a future day, an arrangement by which, in each succeeding year, when an instalment should be made, one half should be remitted. And he would here assure that the advances had been issued out of the balances of the Exchequer, and not out of the consolidated fund, and that no issue of Exchequer-bills had been made to meet the demands of this emergency. It was proposed then to make advances under the principle of Mr. Labouchere's Act, and the Lord Lieutenant's letter, and the Treasury minute of the 1st December, to be repaid in 22 years, It was also proposed to make advances to the amount of £50,000, to be repaid by the end of the present year, to enable proprietors to furnish seed for the harvest. These were the measures which would be immediately laid before parliament. But there were others to which the government invited the serious attention of the House, and which would subsequently be brought forward. One was a bill founded on the Drainage Act and terms of the Treasury minute of the 1st December, providing that where the improvement of an estate by drainage and reclamation produced a certain value, advances should be made. It was proposed also to consolidate and amend the Drainage Act now on the statue book. It was likewise proposed, on the principles of public works, for the state to undertake the reclamation of waste lands in Ireland, and to devote a million of money to that purpose. If the proprietor should refuse to till the land, and also to improve it, it was proposed to empower the government to take it from him, paying him not above 2s. 6d., per acre per annum. General drainage and making roads would be all the government should undertake, and the lands reclaimed should be either let or sold, after having been divided into small lots for farms; and this with the view of raising up a large class of small proprietors. Another class of measures for the relief of the destitute would also be submitted to parliament.—One, for the more effectual relief of the destitute poor, would enact that guardians should give relief to infirm and permanently disabled persons; and it was proposed, in cases where the work houses were full, that the guardians should be instructed to give out-door relief to the able bodied, but relief in food only. It would also be incumbent on the relieving officers, in cases of urgent distress, to relieve without waiting for the board meetings. All these measures, the noble lord said, should be introduced without delay. But there was also a measure under consideration for granting greater facilities for the sale of encumbered estates. Also one on the subject of the fisheries. With respect to emigration, the noble lord said he did not intend to make any large proposition. Though parliament might assist, the extravagant expectations entertained of the inteference of the legislature on this head never could be fulfilled; all that parliament could do would be to afford proper facilities. His Lordship concluded his very elaborate exposition by saying that he did not believe the population of Ireland to be excessive, considering the extraordinary resources of the country, neither did he despair of the elevation of the Irish people from their present deplorable state. England and Scotland, at present peaceable and flourishing, were once in a condition as bad as Ireland is now, and yet they had triumphantly emerged from their calamities. So he trusted and confidently hoped would Ireland. A beneficent government could do much; but there were things which neither the Crown nor the legislature could effect; and, without a spirit of self-reliance, self-exertion, and co-operation, Ireland would never right herself. There was no doubt of the fertility of her soil, or of the industry of her inhabitants. But they had defects: and happy would it be for England, and happy for Ireland, could the foundation be now laid for future prosperity; and could the Irish be taught the motto, "Help yourself, and Heaven will help you," they would yet find that there are uses in adversity.

Sir R. Inglis could not allow the Premier's speech to pass without expressing his cordial approbation of it. It was deserving of admiration, not so much for what it contained, as for what it omitted; and the noble lord had exhibited extraordinary ability and tact in keeping clear of any subject that could embarrass the question.

Lord G. Bentinck eulogised the tone, temper and language employed by Lord J. Russell in making his statement. The only fault he found with the scheme was that it did too little. Fifty thousand pounds for seed would scarcely suffice to sow seed in five baronies, and would be next to doing nothing at all.—With respect to public works, he hoped some measure would be devised to stimulate and encourage the construction of railways. No other scheme would so immediately afford employment as one for the encouragement of railways; and if the government would not propose a measure of the kind, his lordship gave notice that he would ask for leave to introduce one which he had prepared; and he would propose it, not in hostility to the government, but as an auxiliary to their measures. The case of Lord de Freyné proved that government could with advantage lend money to Irish landlords, and why should not ten thousand Irish landlords be found to apply for loans and benefit their estates as he had done?

Mr. Roebuck [illegible] any scheme for taking from the English [illegible]ple for the aiding of Irish landlords.

Mr. Bellew, Mr. [illegible]milton, Lord Bernard, Mr. Hume, Sir W. Ver[illegible], Mr. Tuite, and Mr. Smith O'Brien, made a fe[illegible] observations, generally approving of the plan [illegible]e government.

Leave was given t[illegible]rd J. Russell to bring in the two bills moved f[illegible]nd they were read a first time.

Jan. 28.—Mr. Roeb[illegible] gave notice that it was his intention to propose [illegible] addition to the plans of Government, with respe[illegible] Ireland. 1. That the Revenues of the Irish C[illegible]ch be made applicable to the education of the Ir[illegible]eople. 2. To extend the property and income [illegible] to Ireland. 3. To make such an alteration in [illegible] Poors' Removal Act as would enable all parishe[illegible] England and Wales to remove paupers to the as[illegible] parishes to which they belonged, at the expen[illegible]f those parishes.

Lord G. Bentinck gave no[illegible] that on Wednesday next he would ask for lea[illegible] bring in a Bill to stimulate prompt and profit[illegible] employment, by the encouragement of railways [illegible] Ireland.

Friday, Jan. 29.—Mr. F[illegible]das begged to ask what were the intentions [illegible] government in regard to the increasing destitut[illegible] in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, o[illegible]ving that the Drainage Act was inoperative in [illegible]tland, where the distress was very great.

Sir G. Grey stated that the Gov[illegible]ment did not contemplate establishing any gen[illegible] system of relief in the Highlands and West[illegible] Islands, in addition to measures they had alreat[illegible]aken. The means adopted by the Government re[illegible] to give advances under the Drainage Act, a[illegible] they had come most opportunely in aid of [illegible]fying the proprietors of the probable increase in [illegible] value of their lands from drainage, and of the [illegible]vantages which would accrue from the very ex[illegible]sive employment of the population in the co[illegible]tion of the improvements. The government [illegible] established depots for the sale of food. The[illegible]nsisted of two frigates, one at Tobermory, anot[illegible] off the Isle of Skye; to which were attached go[illegible]nment steamers, with a number of commissariat [illegible]ficers, who were directed to make inquiries in [illegible] districts; and he believed those means would [illegible] very extensively available for the supply of food [illegible]here otherwise great want of the necessaries [illegible] life would be experienced.

Mr. Ross inquired if any correspondence [illegible]ad taken place in reference to the case of Mr. Wi[illegible]law, a gallant British officer, who had been tre[illegible] by General Rosas as a pirate, and who had b[illegible] murdered after being shockingly mutilated [illegible] Buenos Ayres!

Lord Palmerston said, as different accounts h[illegible] been given of the unfortunate transaction, the A[illegible]miralty had instructed Sir T. Herbert, the admira[illegible] on the station, to make inquiry and report upon the case. That report had not yet been received. With regard to the proclamation of Rosas, that British subjects acting under the authority of their country should be treated as pirates, of course there was but one way in which those who were entrusted with the honour of England could act after such an announcement.

Public Income and Expenditure.—The official document of the public income and expenditure for the year ending the 5th of January last, laid before parliament on Wednesday, was issued on Saturday. The total income for the year was £53,790,138 7s. 5d., and the expenditure £50,943,830 8s. 3d., leaving an excess of income over the expenditure of £2,846,307 19s. 2d. The balances in the Exchequer, on the 5th of January, 1846, amounted to £8,452,090 0s. 0¾d., and on the 5th of the present month they were £9,131,282 7s. 10¾d.

Guy Fawkes.—On Tuesday, Sir Augustus Clifford, with a party of the yeomen of her Majesty's Body Guard, made the usual search in the vaults beneath the House of Lords, preparatory to the opening of parliament.

Disappearance of the Light of all Nations on the Goodwin Sands.—The recent severe gales have swept away all that remained of the beacon known as the Light of all Natious, on the Goodwin Sands. It will be recollected that it was partially erected at the expense of Mr. Bush, with a view of averting the casualties that occur on those dreaded shoals, but, meeting with overwhelming difficulties, it was abandoned. The iron caisson that formed the foundation was sunk in the sands to a depth it was thought sufficient to meet all inroads of the weather, it being filled with concrete and other hard material. The works had been raised 52 feet above low-water mark, when a subsidence took place, and notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions were made to overcome it, the completion of the erection was given up, the treacherous character of the sands rendering it impracticable. Capt. Bullock's beacon, erected in 1840, higher up the sands, braves the weather in the most successful manner.

The subscription of the Society of Friends in England, for the relief of the suffering Irish, amounts to £22,000, which averages £5 from each family, rich and poor.

The third subscription list of the British Association for the relief of the distress in Ireland and Scotland, has been published. It amounts to £48,825. and is followed by additional subscriptions which carry the above sum to at least £60,000. To this must be added the fund raising by the National Club, which may be estimated at nearly £10,000, and the "Ladies Relief Association" for Ireland only, at the head of which is the Queen Dowager. All, therefore that mere charity can do to alleviate this terrible calamity, is being done.

The sum of £2500 was collected in the chapels of Brighton on Sunday and the Sunday before, in behalf of the destitution in Ireland and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

The Common Council of London have voted £2,000, with acclamation, for the relief of the distressed Irish and Scotch.

The King of Hanover has transmitted for the relief of distress in Ireland the sum of £1000, as the contribution of the Duke of Cumberland and Chancellor of the University of Dublin.

The Established Church of Scotland has already raised £6500 in aid of the destitute highlanders.

Starvation.—One of the male paupers admitted into the Tralee Workhouse on Tuesday, died next day, being unable to eat from intense exhaustion. On the *post mortem* examination, not a trace of food could be found in his stomach.

Skibbereen.—One hundred and forty deaths occurred in the Workhouse at Skibbereen, from 1st of December to 1st of January!!!

The accounts from the highlands and islands of Scotland are truly awful. The labouring population of Sutherlandshire, Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, Argyleshire, and of the Hebrides and Zetland Islands, are at this moment threatened with starvation. Already have many of these poor people perished from cold and hunger.

The grain destroyed in the manufacture of strong drink in Great Britain is about 6,500,000 quarters annually; which made into quartern loaves, would reach three times round the globe!

Mr. O'Connell has allowed his tenants a reduction of 50 per cent. upon their rents.

On Wednesday, London was darkened by a dense fog, which made gas-lights necessary in all the shops and other places of business. The navigation of the river was altogether suspended.

The number of deaths in London during the week ending the 2nd inst., amounted to the extraordinary number of 1,510. This is the largest number registered in any one week for the last seven years, and exceeds the average of the last five winters by 442.

An Irish gentleman, in a letter to the Agricultural Society, recommends the use of mangel-wurzel as an ingredient in bread. He says he has tried it with great success.

Three children narrowly escaped death at Nottingham on Thursday, from having eaten a green ornament from a twelfth cake. The colour was produced by Scheele's green, which is a deadly poison.

The Army and Navy Club are going to astonish London with the most magnificent clubhouse ever yet built.

A fire took place on Sunday, at a house in Queen-street, Glasgow, when property to the amount of upwards of £80,000 was destroyed.

The French government has prohibited the exportation of pulse and potatoes during the next six months.

There has been an increase of at least £20,000 excise revenue in Limerick, upon the consumption of spirits alone in the past year.

Thirty-seven of Her Majesty's Ships, of which 28 are steam vessels, whose collective horse power is above 7000, with a total tonnage of 24,321, and the united complements of the whole number about 3000 officers and men, are employed on the coasts of Ireland and Scotland, conveying relief to the distressed population.

Sir Harry Smith.—This distinguished officer, the "Hero of Aliwal," is expected to arrive in England early in April next. Ill health is the cause of the veteran's present return.

Governor of Ceylon.—Viscount Torrington has been appointed to this important office.

The French Royal Family.—We can state, says *De Esprit Public*, that the Duchesses of Nemours, DeAumale, de Montpensier, the Princess of Joinville, and the Duchess of Saxe Cobourg (Princess Clementine) are all in an interesting situation.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Saturday the 20th of Feb., in committee of Supply, a number of grants were passed; some of them inducing a pretty large amount of discussion, on account of the anxiety of the new Members to get acquainted with the grounds on which those applications had formerly been sustained. Among the grants passed were £400 for the Madras Board; £300 for the Sackville Wesleyan Academy; and £250 provisionally, for the Baptist Seminary in Fredericton. Some debate arose on the latter grant, Mr. Steeves putting the question, why any distinction had been made in the amount, and the condition upon which it had passed? The discussion here took a pretty wide range; embracing the College, the Collegiate School, the Sackville Academy, and the Baptist Seminary. It was stated that there were only twelve students in the College; 35 in the Seminary, and upwards of one hundred in the Wesleyan Academy, which latter was highly approved of. The different Principals of these establishments were all highly eulogised, but the prevailing opinion seemed to be that the Baptist Seminary should be in St. John, the latter place being from some conclusions which we did not understand, called the most central position.

Monday, Feb. 22.—On motion of Mr. Partelow, the House went into Committee of the whole, in consideration of a Bill to provide against the navigation of any of the Rivers or streams within his Province being impeded by Railway operations. His Honor the Speaker intimated to the House that the Bill under consideration had been framed and brought in in consequence of a dispatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he assumed there would be no objection to the Bill being. The Bill was accordingly sustained without division, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Gilbert presented a petition from some 250 Farmers of King's, Queen's, Sunbury, and York counties, praying that a duty might be laid on deadeats imported into this Province. Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ba[illegible]lie, by leave, presented a Petition from Justus S. Weimo[illegible] and John Barberie, Esquires, together with one hundred and fifteen others, inhabitants of Kings' County, praying that an Act may pass to regulate the measurement of Cord[illegible]ood in the City of Saint John.—Referred to Committee.

The Honorable Mr. Baillie, by leave, presented a Petition from [illegible]ry Fisher, Junior, and ninety-eight others, Merchants, [illegible]eholders, and Inhabitants of the County of York, setting [illegible]th, that the present establishment in Fredericton for the [illegible]vention of Smuggling is inadequate to the duties re[illegible]ved, and praying that measures may be adopted to give the Officer in charge greater facilities in the discharge of his duty.

Tuesday, F[illegible] 23.—The Charlotte County scrutiny has closed and Mr. Boyd keeps his seat: the following is the report of the Committee:—

"The Select committee appointed to take into consideration the petition of Bartholomew R. Fitzgerald, against the Return of James Boyd, Esq. as a Member for the County of Charlotte, having considered the allegations in the said Petition, and having heard Co[illegible]el, as well on behalf of the Petitioner, as of the sitting Member, are of opinion, and do Report to the House, that the said James Boyd, Esq., is duly seated one of the Members of the said County in General Assembly. The Committee further, and unanimously, Report that the said Petition was not frivolous nor vexatious."

Consequently each party pays his own expences.—*Head Quarters.*

Hon. Mr. McLeod presented a petition from Philip Furlong, and a large number of the inhabitants of King's County, praying that the By Laws or Ordinances made by the Corporation of St. John may not affect them in reference to a market, unless such laws shall receive the sanction of the Governor and Council. [illegible]e observed that the corporation in making such stringent laws not only hurt the Country, but that the City suffered also.—Every one blamed the corporation, and he (Col. McLeod) feared that something was wrong.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that he gallant Colonel laboured under a mistake in reference to the corporation. The citizens of St. John had at considerable expense built a Market House, and some high minded people in King's ad chosen to find fault with its necessary regulation.

Mr. Partelow brought in a petion and Bill for the incorporation of the South Bay Boom Company, and also read the report of the Select Committee who had waited on his Excellency in the subject of the petition of Mr. Stephens in relation to the lease of the minerals of Northumberland; on which occasion His Excellency had said h would consult his Council.

Mr. Ritchie read a Petition opposed to the incorporation of the South Bay Boom Company, and in doing so remarked that he acknowledged the necessity after what had happened last year, for some place to collect and secure timbe. He had however been instructed to present the Petition, which he did without offering any opinion of his own on the subject.—The House afterwards went in Committee of the whole on a Bill for dividing the Parish of Harvey in Albert into 3 Parishes.—Upon which, after a straggling debate, progress was reported. The bill was supported by the Albert members, and opposed principally by Mr Partelow. The bill brought by Mr. Partelow, for incorporating the New Brunswick Railway Company was afterwards passed with amendments, afterwhich Mr. Taylor presented the Petition of R. E. Ketchum and others, praying that Mr. Drake may get a grant to enable him to run his Steam Boat between the Grand Falls and the St. Francis.—*Reporter.*

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Lauchlan Donaldson, Moses Vernon, William Wright, and Alfred Smithers, Esquires, together with one hundred and sixty others, residents in the City of Saint John, and other parts of the Province, praying that a Grant may pass towards accomplishing the requisite Surveys and preparing Maps for carrying into effect the Act for incorporating the New Brunswick Railway Company. *Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of Railways, to report thereon.

Mr. Vail, by leave, presented a Petition from Henry A. Scovil, Esquire, and one hundred and eight others, inhabitants of Springfield, in King's County, praying that an Act may pass whereby no Law of the Corporation of the City of Saint John may be binding upon them, unless sanctioned yearly by the Governor and Executive Council.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, *Resolved*, That a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Laws now in force relating to Marriage, and report thereon to the House by bill or otherwise. *Ordered*, That Mr. Partelow, Mr. L. A. Wilmot, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Wark, Mr. Steeves, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Thomson, do compose the said Committee.

On like motion of Mr. Partelow, *Ordered*, That the Petition of the Revd. A. M'Leod Slavely and the Reverend James R. Lawson, praying for certain alterations in the existing Marriage Acts, and which was presented to the House on the sixteenth instant, and ordered to lie on the Table, be now referred to the said Committee.

Wednesday, February 24.

To-day about 1 o'clock the House took up the order of the day, and resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on Ways and Means to raise a Revenue. Mr. Taylor in the Chair.

Mr. Partelow rose, and in a long Speech embraced the various topics connected with this subject. He alluded to the important Act by which the Imperial Parliament had authorized the Colonial Assemblies to repeal the Bill on differential duties, and remarked that it was probable the Legislature of Nova Scotia would at once abolish them, and enact such a tariff as would meet the wishes of the Colonies in relation to American importations. The important Bill to which he had alluded, had come out with other Despatches, without any comment from the Home Government, and it would therefore be necessary to couple any Revenue Bill which might now be passed, with a suspending clause in order to insure its success at home. He alluded to the probable consolidation of the Custom House Establishment, and the probability that a great part of its present duties would be transferred to the department of the Treasury; but in the absence of definite information, he thought the House had better confine itself to the present Revenue Bill.—After going into a statistical comparision of the last few years as regards the Revenue, he remarked that he would at once take off the duties from Live Stock imported from Nova Scotia, and he went on to say he would be in favour of increasing the duties on all foreign articles of consumption, and at the same time render the inter-Colonial Trade as free as the winds; being fully satisfied that the Colonies can never prosper except under one general system of unrestricted trade, and reciprocal kindness and fair dealing.

Mr. Boyd would not like to see a Revenue Bill passed, until the subject of differential duties involved in the late Imperial Act, was first disposed of. His view was that all articles for the consumption of the poor should be admitted duty free; and the duties on all Luxuries should be increased. At present some articles of common use were retained on the Revenue Bill, which added little to the general stock; and his plan would be, to strike off altogether such articles as fell below a thousand pounds, and let them come free to the people. Bread stuffs especially should be exempt, and unless they were made so he would feel it his duty to dispute every separate article of the Bill, which would thus be thrown open.

Mr. Wark said if the suggestions of the last hon. Speaker were adopted, there would be little or no Revenue to dispose of. The Road Committee in anticipation of the money, had recommended an appropriation of £27,000 for that service, and if the Ways and Means to raise a Revenue were stopped, the Road money must be stopped also. Upon the whole, it might be better to pass the old Revenue Bill, and in the mean time, instead of removing the inter-Colonial duties, let the Government be empowered to do so, in the event of the other Colonies doing the same.

Dr. Earle followed, with a pretty long speech in favour of protecting the Agriculturists. While the Colonies were engaged in taxing each other, the Americans were permitted to come into St. John with their dead meats, and thus the agricultural interests of the Country—interests upon which all others were based,—were suffered to pine away in neglect, and thus affect to a great extent all the improvements of the Country. The business of Lumbering must, he said, soon fail, and if in the present time—the time of opportunity—means were not taken to advance, through a reasonable and moderate protection, our farming interests, we must soon become the poorest of the poor, unable to compete with foreigners in trade, and unable to raise or manufacture our necessaries at home. His suggestion would be to relieve the inter-Colonial trade, and increase the duties on foreigners; for although the principle of Free Trade had triumphed at home, it yet must be remembered that England is an old country, having vast manufactories of her own, and consequently able to open on equal terms her ports to the world; while N. Brunswick on the contrary had no manufactories, and no exports except Lumber. What was suited to the one, could not therefore in the present state of things be applied to the other.

Dr. Thomson would sanction no protection except what would be required for the purposes of a Revenue. Indeed he could see no reason in protecting distinct interests; for in protecting one, justice requires that all others should be protected also, and thus the whole object would be nullified. He would adopt the old Act, or something like it; for he saw no authority yet communicated to the House to Legislate upon the Act of the Imperial Parliament. Even if a new Act were passed, it would have to be sent home for the royal assent; which could not be obtained for some months to come, during which time the Country must remain without a Revenue Law, unless the old one were now adopted. To this might be added a clause to remove the duties off Flour; but as for imaginary protection, it only encouraged smuggling, and there was too much of that done in St. John already. The old Revenue Bill had done well for two years; and it would be wise to let it extend to a third.

Mr. Hannington said, that there was no information before the House to warrant honorable members in Legislating on Imperial duties, and if an Act were now passed to repeal them, it could not go into effect prior to its being assented to at home, where a long discussion must arise on the subject of the Customs. Upon the whole he supposed the Revenue Bill would not differ widely from that of last year, nor would he wish to see the duties lowered on any articles except Tea and brown Sugar, nor raised except it were deemed necessary for the repairs of the Roads and the other necessary services of the Country. With regard to the article of Spirits it was lamentable to see the amount of it imported during the last year. No less than 189,000 gallons had paid the duty, and it might be assumed that half as much more had been smuggled! ("yes and still dry," by Mr. Barbarie.) He did not however see that increasing the duties would avail any thing, as the probability was that in such a case, the more would be smuggled. He would as the hon. member from St. John, (Mr. Partelow) if in his plan which contemplated the removal of the duties from articles manufactured in St. John, in relation to Nova Scotia? (Mr. Partelow. "Yes from all.") He (Mr. H.) would own that fair: but would Nova Scotia adopt the same system?—He feared not. He feared their object was—and he was guided by past experience—to secure our Markets and at the same time hold their own. He was therefore in favour of a moderate protection to secure our own interests, although to avoid a long and expensive discussion he would pass the old Revenue Bill, and let it stand another year. The honourable member closed his speech with some observations in favour of agriculture, which evidently shewed his *particular* attention to the interests of Westmorland.

Mr. Gilbert said he feared the Agricultural interests were on the point of being neglected; and that the same thing would be said of the new Bill which had been said of the old one, namely, that it was to suit Manufacturers, Shipbuilders and Merchants, in opposition to the Farmers. He would however appeal to a new House of Assembly, whether such a state of things should be suffered to continue; or whether the back bone of the Country should be neglected for any secondary interest. All the Farmers asked, was little—they wanted nothing more than to protect them by levying a duty on imported meats.—Let the Farmers get a Market for their beef, and even though it might be at the low rate of 3d. per pound, they would be satisfied. He had the other day presented a Petition to this effect, from individuals situated in almost all the Counties in the Province; and he would once more address himself to the new members, as he knew the old ones went on the principle of "caw me, caw thee," and it was no use to appeal to them.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot observed that the hon. member from Charlotte, (Mr. Brown) who had called the system of Protection a "relic of barbarism," did not seem to understand his subject. He (Mr. W.) thought that there were among the protectionists persons as liberal and intelligent, as any to be found among the Free Traders. The greatest men in the United States were in favour of Protection, and this he was enabled to maintain as recent divisions in the House of Representatives had clearly defined the relative position and strength of parties. Indeed those people could not be ignorant of the fact that under a system of Protection their Country had grown to its present greatness in the scale of Nations. In England—which had also arrived at her present greatness and power, under a Protection system—there had been great agitation of late, and the Free Trade party had triumphed, owing to the treachery of Sir Robert Peel, who had first promised to defend, and had, then forsaken his party;—but still the fact remained unaltered—England had grown wealthy under her old policy, and it yet remained to be seen how far she would prosper under her present regulations.—(Here the hon. member went at considerable length into the natural and acquired resources of the Province, expressing his regret at the want of encouragement to our own Artizans and Fishermen, who were thus excluded from availing themselves of the advantages of their station, by the superior encourgement held out by the Americans, to people engaged in similar callings.) Under this foolish policy of ours it had already become apparent that although we had the raw materials for almost every branch of local manufacture, yet the value of real property had fallen during the last 20 years! Our Lumber Trade was our best, but should we reduce the duties on our importations, in order to stimulate that branch of business? or would our Agriculture and Lumbering be protected by cheap imports? (Mr. Wilmot occupied nearly an hour in speaking; but our limits do not admit of our giving more than the above sketch.)

Dr. Earle followed on the same side; and Mr. Brown retorted, giving a general answer: after which the Resolution moved by Mr. Wark, to authorise the Government to remove the inter-colonial dutics, in the event of Canada and Nova Scotia doing the same, was put and lost; and progress was reported.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

February 25.—This morning the House got through several Bills, Petitions and appropriations in Supply, with a good deal of promptitude. Several of the Resolutions in the latter service brought up smart debates, which of course we have not room for in this day's impression.—About 3 o'clock, Mr. Ritchie submitted to the House, the Report of the Select Committee appointed to investigate the Correspondence between the Lieut. Governor and the Master of the Rolls, on the subject of the Court of Marriage and Divorce, of which we took a running synopsis while he read it. It goes on to state that under the Law, which it quotes, His Excellency had power to appoint either of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or His Honor the Master of the Rolls, to preside at the said Court;—that in accordance with his authority he had appointed the latter to preside as Vice President of the Court, in his room;—That it became the duty of that officer to act, under the Governor's instructions;—That the Master of the Rolls had declined acting—and was wrong in so doing;—That the urgent business of the Court is neglected. Under these circumstances the Report is accompanied by a Bill, framed we suppose by the same Committee, authorizing His Excellency to organize a special Court to sit on the third Tuesday in June next, for the dispatch of business connected with the Court.

Hon. Mr Hazen said there should be a clause in the Bill compelling the attendance of the parties interested.—Mr. Ritchie answered that he considered the matter to rest between the Master of the Rolls and the Executive, and it was their business to require his attendence.—Hon. Mr Hazen. "My learned friend mistakes me, I did not mean the Master of the Rolls, but parties having business in the Court." Mr Ritchie apologized for the misunderstanding; and after His Honor the Speaker had explained, that the Report, although *accepted* was not yet approved by a Committee of the whole, the case was adjourned till to-day.—*Ib.*

THE OBSERVER.

St. John, Tuesday, March 2, 1847.

Relief for Ireland and Scotland.—The sums paid into the hands of Thomas Merritt, Esq., Treasurer to the Relief Committee appointed at the Public Meeting held in this City on the 2d February, for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions to aid in the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland and Scotland, were as follow:—

King's Ward, City St. John,	£246	15	4
Queen's Ward, ditto	214	18	2
Duke's Ward, ditto	31	19	1
Sidney Ward, ditto	41	18	9
Charity Ball,	122	10	8
St. Malachy's Church,	102	0	0
Trinity and Saint John Churches,	42	12	0
Free Presbyterian Church,	30	0	10
Reformed Presbyterian Church,	16	5	0
St. Stephen's Church,	8	4	8
Congregational Church, Union St.	8	0	0
St. Peter's Church, Portland,	27	4	0
St. Luke's Church, Portland,	11	9	2
Churches in the Parish of Lancaster,	4	7	8
St. George's Church, Carleton,	3	4	6
Mr. Duval—Family and School-boys,	3	6	7
Parish of Portland,	100	11	5
" Simonds,	48	16	1
" St. Martin's,	12	5	6
Sussex Vale, (King's County,)	30	0	0
Total,	£1106	9	3

Of the above amount, £100 sterling was remitted by the Mail on Saturday last, to the Provost of Edinburgh, to be distributed among the most destitute in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, according to his directions; and the remainder was forwarded agreeably to the annexed resolution, passed at a meeting of the Committee, held at the Mayor's Office, on Thursday last:

"*Resolved*, that the amount of money apportioned for Ireland be forthwith remitted to the Lord Lieutenant, with suggestions from the Chairman of this Committee, that the money was contributed by the inhabitants of this City and County, for the purpose of affording relief to the suffering poor in that country—and it is particularly desired, that it be distributed among the most destitute, with as little delay as possible."

In addition to the above, the St. Andrew's and Highland Societies of this City remitted to Scotland, by the mail on Saturday, £300 sterling, for the benefit of the sufferers in the Highlands.

The St. John's Lodge of Freemasons also remitted to Ireland and Scotland, the liberal sum of £50 sterling; and Hibernia Lodge, £30 currency.

The remittances, through the Bank of British North America, on Saturday, from individuals to their friends in Ireland,—chiefly in sums of £5,—amounted to £1,083 sterling.

The above remittances amount in the aggregate to £2,509—of which £1,433 were in sterling.

The New-Brunswicker says—"The crowd at the Banks on Saturday was very great, and in order to give the parties forwarding money to their friends ample time to deposit their letters in the Post Office, our obliging Deputy Postmaster General, John Howe, Esq., kept the Office open half an hour beyond the usual time of closing, which kindly act saved many from the unpleasantness of disappointment."

Miramichi.—At Chatham, a public meeting was held on the 17th ult. at which £180 was collected for the relief of the famishing sufferers in Ireland, and committees were appointed for obtaining further subscriptions. It was also resolved, that a *Tea Party* should come off at Chatham on St. Patrick's Day, for the benefit of the funds,—all the necessaries for which were kindly offered by the Hon. Joseph Cunard, (chairman of the meeting,) and the *party* is to be held in the large moulding loft at his ship yard.

At Douglastown, on the evening of the 22d ult. a *Soiree* was held for the benefit of the destitute in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and the committee announced that they would be able to remit by the mail, £100 sterling.

Fredericton.—A public meeting on behalf of the Irish and Scotch sufferers, was held at Fredericton on the 13th ult. at which the Hon. Thomas Baillie presided. Several resolutions were adopted, from which we copy the following:—

On motion of William End, Esq., M. P. P., seconded by Spafford Barker, Esq.,—

"*Resolved*, that a Committee of twelve persons be named, who shall forthwith take up subscriptions, for the purpose of affording relief to those who are suffering from famine in Ireland, and some parts of Scotland."

Ordered, that the following Gentlemen be requested to act as the Committee, contemplated by the foregoing Resolution, viz.:

The Hon. Thomas Baillie, Messrs. Joseph Gaynor, Charles McPherson, Patrick Kirlin, Dennis O'Leary, James Johnson, Peter Slean, Thomas R. Robertson, Robert Fulton, Asa Coy, Benjamin Wilhappter, and Bernard C. Friel.

Halifax.—A public meeting to devise measures for aiding the distressed peasantry of Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland, was held at Halifax on Monday 22d ult. £443 was subscribed at the meeting, and committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions in the several Wards of the city.

Quebec.—Neilson's Gazette of the 19th ult. says: "The collections in Quebec for relief to the sufferers in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland, amounted yesterday to about £2000, including a separate collection and the Odd Fellows' contributions." A paper of the 20th, says that the subscriptions had reached £2790.

Irish Relief Subscriptions in the American Cities.—In New York, up to the 19th ult. $30,000 had been subscribed, and the amount was daily being added to. 3000 barrels of corn meal had been purchased by the committees, to be sent to Ireland.—At Albany $2,139 had been subscribed. At Oswego $1000. At Poughkeepsie $500. Members of the N. Y. Senate, $208. Utica $750. Brooklyn, $750. Workmen at Dry Dock, Brooklyn, $800. New-Haven, $900. Worcester, Mass. $350. Welcome Farnam, Esq., of Worcester County, $1000 "for the relief of the starving people in Ireland." The workmen in the U. S. Armory, at Springfield, Mass. $400. Savannah, $10,000. New Orleans, $7000. Society of Friends, Philadelphia, $8000. Baltimore, $3,500. New Bedford, $3,200. Catholic Churches, Boston, $7387. Pittsburgh, $2000. Jersey City, $1000. Newark, $1525. Rochester, $1097. St. Louis, $1250. Catholic Church, Hartford, $600. Board of Brokers, Philadelphia, $300. Officers and Cadets at West Point, $300. Eastport, $141. From all parts of the Union we see accounts of increasing contributions in money and provisions; the above are but a few of the principal contributions.—The Ward committees in Boston were receiving gratifying subscriptions at the latest accounts, but they had not made any report of the amount received.

The Irish Emigrants in the United States sent to Ireland in the year 1846, the very large sum of $1,001,650—of which $808,000 was remitted from New York; $170,150 from Philadelphia; and $23,500 from Baltimore.

Ordination.—At the Cathedral Church, Fredericton, on Sunday last, 28th ult. by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Messrs. R. D. Palmer, A. B., and W. Jaffrey, Students in Divinity at King's College, Fredericton, were ordained Deacons.—At the same time, the Rev. J. McGivern, A. B., Missionary at the Tobique, Rev. T. W. Robertson, Missionary at Lancaster, Rev. H. W. Tippett, Curate at St. Stephen's, and Rev. A. V. Stuart, Missionary at Stanley, were admitted to the Holy Order of the Priesthood.—The Candidates were presented by the Venerable the Archdeacon.—The Rev. F. Coster, and the Rev. E. J. Roberts, took part in the services of the day.—His Lordship the Bishop preached a very eloquent and faithful sermon from Matthew xxviii, 20: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."—The Rev. R. D. Palmer, we understand, has had the Mission of Springfield assigned to him; and the Rev. W. Jaffrey, that of the Parish of St. Mary's.

Mechanics' Institute.—Last evening, P. Stubs, Esq., entertained a crowded house with an interesting Lecture on *Railways*.—Under the direction of Mr. Pratt, the Engineer, the model locomotive, with cars attached, was made to course its rounds on a circular model railway constructed on the platform. The experiments with this little machine were very successful, and quite to the taste of a highly gratified audience.

Next Monday evening, Mr. Duval will lecture on *Mahomet and the Koran.*

Dreadful Accident.—A fatal instance of the evil practice of coasting down hill, took place about 6 o'clock last evening. Three boys were coasting rapidly down Carmarthen-st. hill on a sled, and when opposite Queen street, came in contact with a waterman's horse and sled just coming out of the latter street; the boys not being able to stop their sled, ran between the hind legs of the horse and the shafts of the water sled, by which a lad named Daniel Laughton, aged we learn about 19 years, was instantly killed, another had one of his legs broken, and the third received considerable injury. We trust that this melancholy accident will