# PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

## THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

To His Excellency Sir WILLIAM MACBEAN GEORGE COLEBROOKE, K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Representatives of Her Majesty's Faithful and Loyal People in this Province, offer our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech delivered at the opening of the Session: and Your Excellency may rely on our disposition to apply ourselves to business in that spirit of unanimity, which is the best proof of a proper zeal for the public good.

While we deeply sympathize with those of our fellow subjects in the United Kingdom, still labouring under suffering and privation, we feel duly impressed with thankfulness to that Almighty Being who has blessed this favoured Province with a Harvest, in some respects, more than usually abundant.

The House of Assembly, at all times recognizing the Education of the People as an object of paramount importance, has never hesitated, under any aspect of financial affairs, to make liberal provision for its furtherance and support. We are happy to adopt those sentiments, so frequently recorded, by assuring Your Excellency that our most devoted attention shall be given to a subject inseparably connected with the welfare and true happiness of the public.

Any improved system for the management of Prisons shall have our especial notice; and we feel it a duty incumbent upon us to support such proposed ameliorations in the Criminal Laws, as may punish and reform the offender, without involving the safety of society.

Our early attention shall be given to the alteration recently made in the Poor Laws of the United Kingdom, with a view to their adoption, so far as applicable, to this Province; and it will be to us a matter of great satisfaction if successful in the discovery of any means by which the Immigrants of the poorer classes may be induced to extricate themselves from misery and distress, by accepting that independence which the present state of this Colony secures to temperance, industry and perseverance.

A settlement of the question respecting Indian Reserves is of great importance, not only to the Aborigines, but also to those by whom portions of some of the Reserves have been occupied and improved; and we earnestly hope that such measures may be adopted as will bring this subject to a satisfactory adjustment.

We are gratified to learn that the prosperous state of Commerce has amply sustained the Revenue of the Province for the past year.

To the Public Accounts, as well as to the various Returns and Reports relative to the Roads and other Public Works, when received, we shall give due consideration.

In making the advance in relief of our fellow subjects in Newfoundland, when suffering under the calamity which laid waste their City, your Excellency justly appreciated the feelings which we trust may ever prevail among the Inhabitants of Her Majesty's North American Colonies.—We thank your Excellency for that confidence which anticipated an Act of the Legislature, and we shall cheerfully concur in the measure by making the necessary appropriation.

While we regret that the labours of the Commssioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government to investigate and report upon the Boundary between this Province and Canada, have been retarded by the lamented death of one of the Officers engaged on that Service; it is gratifying to learn that the final adjustment of this important question will not be materially delayed, and that the jurisdiction of New Brunswick so long undisputed, is still maintained.

The connection of the Provinces by a Line of Railway is a matter of vast importance in a National as well as Colonial point of view; and we are glad to find that an examination of the Country, with a view to that object, has been in progress, and will be speedly resumed.

The Despatch from the Governor General, relative to the establishment of an Electro Magnetic communication between Halifax and Quebec, and the Reports on this highly important undertaking, when laid before us, shall have our best attention.

We are highly pleased to receive Your Excellency's congratulations on the prospects which at this time appear to be opening to the Province. Having been always satisfied of the impetus which improved means of intercourse must give to the settlement and cultivation of our territory, (the facilities and capabilities of which have been but recently ascertained,) the usual modes of communication by Great and Bye Roads have ever claimed a considerable share of Legislative attention, amply repaid, however, by the consequent rapid improvement in the condition of both early and later settlers; while experience of the past inspires us with ample reason for continuing our care of these modes of intercourse, we are ready to adopt and encourage, consistently with our limited pecuniary means, those recent improvements in rapid communication, which, aided by British enterprize and capital, would doubtless tend toward the developement of our vast and varied resources. That success may attend these undertakings, and that they may be the means of diffusing settlement, cultivation and civilization over the wilds of our Province, thus extending and perpetuating the glory of British Institutions, is our fervent prayer.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen,*

Accept my acknowledgments for your dutiful and loyal Address.

Being well aware that the prospect of realizing any benefit to the Province must depend on your co-operation and support, I rely on your zeal for the public interests at this eventful period; and I can assure you, in return, of my anxious desire to facilitate your labours in bringing the Session to an honorable close.

FEBRUARY 1.

Mr. Partelow rose and said that during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, an Act had been passed, authorising the Colonial Assembly to repeal the Acts on discriminating duties, such action of the Assembly to be nevertheless subject to the final decision of the Home Government. The subject involved in this was of vast importance to this colony; and viewing it in that light, he had prepared a resolution submitting the consideration of the subject to the Committee on Trade.—Mr. L. A. Wilmot suggested that a correspondence on this subject be opened with the neighbouring Colonies, and Mr. Carman made some observations on the subject, which we think related to the consolidation of the Customs.

Mr. Hanington read a petition from individuals at the Bend of Petitcodiac, praying for the appointment of Fire Wards in that vicinity, and brought in a Bill to that effect.

This morning the Bill Incorporating the Miramichi Mechanics' Institute, was read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Street, from the Committee of Privileges, to whom was referred by Resolution of this honorable House, passed on the 29th ultimo, on the question arising upon the Election of the Honorable Hugh Johnston, a member of the Legislative Council, to a seat in this House, as one of the members for the County of Queens', reported, that they have had the subject under consideration, and that the said Honorable Hugh Johnston was at the time of his Election, a member of the Legislative Council, and still holds his seat in that body, as appears by the said Resolution. Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that under these circumstances he is not by Law eligible to be elected to serve as a member of this Branch of the Legislature. At the same time your Committee conceive it would not be proper or expedient for this House to declare such Seat vacant, or for the Speaker to grant his Warrant for a new Writ to issue, until the expiration of the time limited by the Rules of this House for the presenting of Petitions against the return of members. *Ordered*, That the Report be accepted.

TUESDAY, February 2.—Hon. Thomas Baillie, moved the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That a select Committee be appointed to take into consideration and report upon the best method of surveying and laying out the vacant Crown Lands, having regard not only to the present and future settlement and cultivation thereof, but also to the disposal, by licence, of the timber growing thereon.

Mr. Taylor thought it better the resolution should lie on the table a few days, as a new Government was about to be formed, who would probably be disposed to take it up.

Mr. Partelow said large sums had been drawn from the Treasury, a few years since, for the purpose of prosecuting surveys, and but little benefit had been derived therefrom, and if the present object was to incur a similar expenditure, he should set his face against it.

Mr. Brown spoke in favor of the measure. The incorrectness of our surveys, and the bad feelings arising therefrom, were matters but too well known.

Mr. Connell spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Hannington would agree with the hon. mover of the resolution, that the present system of surveys were imperfect; but thought it questionable whether the house should interfere. He hoped the resolution would be allowed to lie on the table for a few days.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot thought the measures proposed was necessary. If the Government did not pay attention to such matters, the house must. He should support the resolution, especially as there were reasons to expect a large number of emigrants next summer, for the settlement of whom on Crown Lands facilities should be made.

Hon Mr. McLeod thought it better the resolution should be laid on the table for a few days. Something, it was evident, must soon be done, as the litigation the present system led to was ruinous.—A case arising out of it was lately tried at Kingston, which occupied the Court four days, and the evidence of different surveyors conflicting with each other, seemed but to increase the confusion.

Mr. End said some hon members who showed a disposition to oppose the resolution, would act directly contrary to what they had hitherto professed to be one of the great objects of their lives; they had always expressed themselves anxious to receive *information*, and now they would reject a resolution which had for its object the gaining of information.

Mr. Wark thought an alteration in the system of surveying Crown Lands was required. At present all sorts of lands are surveyed, whether good or bad and roads made in any direction, according as application may be made, and without design or order. This should not be the case, but hardwood ridges, or lands fit to settle upon, should first be surveyed, and then roads made to and through the said lands, in the manner which would best throw them open to the settlers.

Mr. Gilbert was opposed to the resolution.

Mr. Barberie supported it.

Mr. Ritchie was in favour of the resolution.—Some better system than that hitherto adopted he considered highly necessary. He wished to impress upon the minds of hon. members the necessity of encouraging the settlement of the wilderness lands, and of encouraging the agricultural interests; for whatever resources we might have, he considered agriculture as the first, and of paramount importance. [Hear, hear.] He wished to see something done to encourage the settlement of emigrants among us—those hardy pioneers, who would gladly go into our forests and cultivate them, if we would but let them. He thought that greater facilities should be offered them than heretofore; perhaps it would be well to survey the lands in lots, and give to each settler 50 acres free of charge, reserving to him other lands which he might have when he could pay for them. Something like this, he thought, would be an inducement to emigrants to remain here, when they come, and would be no loss to the Government or the revenue.

Hon. Mr. Baillie did not wish to force the resolution upon the house, nor make himself a party to it in any shape. It carried, and it should lead to any action, it would only create labor for himself—although it would be labor he should in no wise shrink from, as he believed it to be the duty of every man who had the welfare of the Province at heart, to do his best towards settling the wild lands.

The resolution was then carried, and the following members appointed a Committee to report thereon; viz: Messrs. Baillie, Hazen, McLeod, Ritchie, Read, Porter, Hannington.

Mr. Barberie presented a Petition from B. R. Fitzgerald, of St. Andrews, against the return of Mr. Boyd as one of the Representatives of the County of Charlotte, and claiming to be himself duly elected.

*Magistrates decisions under the Merchant Seamen's Act.*—Mr. Ritchie moved an address to the Lieut. Governor, praying for full and complete returns of all decisions against Masters of Ships in the Port of St. John, made before Magistrates appointed by the Crown, or Aldermen of the City, from the 1st January 1844, to the 1st January, 1846. The hon. member, in offering the resolution, remarked, that many masters and owners of vessels had been summarily mulcted in Saint John, and had been obliged to pay large sums of money claimed by seamen as wages. That some of those decisions were of the most absurd and annoying nature, and arbitrary beyond measure on the part of the Magistrates, from whose decision there was no appeal.—That the owners of certain ships had thereby suffered considerable loss, and that if such things were allowed to continue, it would have the effect of driving shipping from our shores, instead of encouraging them to come and trade with us.

Mr. Partelow seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot moved for leave to bring in a Bill to secure a more efficient supply of Seamen at the Port of St. John.

Mr. Fisher moved a resolution for an address to his Excellency, praying that returns may be laid before the House of all Fees collected by the Judges of the Supreme Court during the last three years.

Mr. Fisher also brought in a Bill to vacate the seats of members in certain cases.—*Loyalist.*

FEBRUARY 3.—*Distress in Ireland and Scotland.*—Mr. Partelow offered a Resolution pledging the House to go into special Committee of Supply on Friday next, in order to pass a Grant for the relief of our fellow subjects at Home, who are now suffering from famine.

Mr. Barberie said that charity began at home, and that it had enough of objects in New-Brunswick. The same failure had arisen here; and there were ample means of laying out our spare money in relieving the sufferers. He hoped the House would pause before it came to such a Resolution. It would throw all the business of the Session out of its ordinary routine; and after all, the trifle which could be spared would be a mere drop in the bucket—not one tenth so much as has been given at home by a single individual. He thought no arguments used could induce him to change his opinion, or to believe that the money could not be laid out as charitably in New Brunswick.

Mr. End expressed himself impatient to see the present measure brought forward; the sympathies of his heart were in favour of his poor suffering countrymen; and although he would not wish to see New Brunswick the first to adopt such a measure as that contemplated in consequence of the many urgent claims upon its funds, still he was glad to find there would be no occasion for its initiation here, as Nova Scotia and many places in the United States had set the example. It was better he thought, that the House should in the present instance come to a conclusion, because certain hopes would be raised, which it would be cruel to disappoint hereafter in Supply.

Mr. Fisher said if there were any error in giving for such a purpose, he for one, would err on the right side, and grant £1,000 or £1,500 to assist in alleviating the distress of his fellow creatures. He would also give freely; for we had the means in our power, and the demand made was one of the most pressing necessity. It was heart rending to read in the public papers, the scenes of want and misery transpiring in Ireland. Among others he recollected one—it was a poor little girl whose last words were a supplication for a few grains of corn to alleviate her hunger.

Mr. Hanington was in favour of a Grant, which he supposed would be about £1000 sterling. This, though small, would show our sympathies for the distress of our fellow subjects, and tend to a certain extent to relieve their sufferings.

Mr. Brown said, that when the Committee of Supply rose last year, they found themselves in funds to the amount of £8,000 more than they had anticipated. The House was therefore amply prepared for an act of kindness, and although the relief might be no more than a drop in the bucket, yet the feeling would be duly appreciated and bring its own reward. Both in the United States and Nova Scotia they had already manifested their bounty, and most certainly New Brunswick, which was much better able than either of them to spare a Grant, should not be slow to follow the good example. He also thought that in addition to the relief contemplated to be sent home, there would still be enough left to assist the destitute in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said he hoped no opposition would be offered to the Resolution; and he had not contemplated any thing of the kind.

Mr. Barberie rose to explain. He felt no disposition to withhold a Grant where it might be wanted; but he thought the Emigrants now in the Province would require all that could be spared, and he thought their claims should be first attended to.

Mr. Wark spoke warmly in favour of a Grant; and expressed his regret that a single voice in the Assembly should be raised against it.—Often he said, had the people of these Colonies experienced the bounty of their fellow subjects at home; and now that there was opportunity and ability to reciprocate, he had trusted there would have been no opposition.

The motion then passed, Mr. Barberie alone dissenting.

The Bill for incorporating Fire Wards at the Bend was read a third time and passed without opposition.

Mr. Barberie moved that the House do on the 18th day of February, go into consideration on the Petition of B. R. Fitzgerald, Esq.

Mr. Connell read and handed in the petition of John Dibblee, Esq. praying that a Tax may be imposed on Wild Lands.

FEBRUARY 4.—This morning several Local Bills received some a second, and others a third reading.

Hon. Mr. Baillie read the Petition of James Drake, for assistance in running his new Steam Boat from Grand Falls to the St. Francis. Petition referred to the Committee on Trade.—On Mr. Brown introducing a Bill for Incorporating the Charlotte Agricultural Society, Hon. Mr. Hazen said he would not object to it, but he thought it much better to introduce a General Bill for all the Counties in the Province.

Mr. Boyd presented a Petition from the Magistrates, &c. of the County of Charlotte, praying for an alteration in the Great Road from Fredericton to St. Andrews. Mr. Brown as we understood him, was not favourable to the Petition, and some observations were made by other members, to the effect that the people of Charlotte had fully proved, that they "did not know their own minds.—(laid on the Table.)

Mr. Boyd presented the Petition of the Widow of an old Medical Officer, and on some difference being apparent as to what Committee it should be referred to, Mr. Gilbert suggested the Committee for the Widows of "Old Soldiers," to which His Honor the Speaker replied, that no such Committee was in being. After some further business of a local nature the House adjourned.—*Reporter.*

Hon. Mr. Hazen, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House, a series of reports upon the following subjects—*viz*: Railroads, Electro Magnetic Telegraph, Forest Trees of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c., accompanied by a recommendation for their early publication. Mr. H. moved that four or five hundred copies be printed for the use of the Legislature. He thought that perhaps the printing might be done at St. John much more expeditiously than at Fredericton—the publishers at the latter place being at present very busy.

Mr. Hannington contended, that if the printing was done out of the Royal Gazette Office, the printers of Fredericton should have an equal chance.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said his only object was to get them printed with despatch, he did not care where the work was done.

Mr. Fisher did not like the idea of one printer being selected, let the job be put up for competition, and then all would have fair play.

The Surveyor General suggested, that in order to avoid partiality, the work should be tendered for.

Hon. Mr. Hazen would repeat, that he cared not where the work was done. He however, could not understand why such a clamour had been raised for merely mentioning the St. John Printers.—The Printers of Fredericton, were absolutely supported by the funds of the Province, they received one hundred and fifty pounds each for Reporting, besides the enormous sums granted to the Queen's Printer annually.

On motion of Mr. Hannington, it was referred to the Committee on Public Printing to report upon.

On motion of Mr. Tibbetts, Hon. L. A. Wilmot was added to the Lumbering Committee,

Mr. Wark presented a petition from the Justices of the Peace for the County of Kent, praying to be reimbursed for expences incurred in the relief of shipwrecked and distressed Emigrants.

Mr. Ritchie, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency with an address, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to cause returns to be laid before the House, relative to the operation of the Seamen's Act, in St. John—reported that they had attended to that duty, and that His Excellency was pleased to say that the wishes of the House should be complied with.—*News.*

FEBRUARY 4.—Mr. Earle, by leave, presented a Petition from Peters Yeamans, Ebenezer L. Burpe, Esquires, and fifty others, Freeholders of Queens' County, setting forth, that at the last Election of members to serve in this General Assembly for the said County, the Honorable Hugh Johnston, then and now a member of the Honorrble the Legislative Council, was nominated as a Candidate, and elected and returned as one of the Representatives for the said County; and inasmuch as the Petitioners are of opinion that such election and return are unconstitutional, they pray that the Return of the Sheriff may be so amended, that John Earle, Esquire, a Candidate for the said County at the said Election, may be allowed to take his seat as a member therefor.—Petition received and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMMITTEES.

PRIVILEGES.—Street, End, Fisher, Ritchie, Barberie.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,—Partelow, Taylor, Woodward, Rankin, Boyd, Cranney, McLeod.

ROADS.—Hayward, Partelow, Fisher, Tibbetts, Gilbert, Earle, Brown, Steves, Hannington, Wark, Rankin, End, Barberie.

LUMBERING INTERESTS.—Tibbetts, Taylor, Rankin, Porter, Read, Hayward, Hannington, L. A. Wilmot.

TRADE.—Partelow, Rankin, Porter, R. D. Wilmot, Read, Taylor, Tibbetts, Botsford, Wark, L. A. Wilmot, Woodward.

AGRICULTURE.—Wark, L. A. Wilmot, Miles, Connell, Gilbert, Vail, Carman, Read, Barberie, Thomson, Landry, Steves, R. D. Wilmot, Jordan.

LIGHT HOUSES.—Boyd, Cranney, Partelow, R. D. Wilmot, Taylor.

EDUCATION.—Brown, L. A. Wilmot, Wilson, Wark, Street, Earle, Steves.

ALLOWANCE TO SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Botsford, Gilbert, Steves, Connell, Miles, Cranney, End, Jordan.

FISHERIES.—Thomson, Woodward, Hannington, Read, McLeod, R. D. Wilmot, Boyd.

EXPIRING LAWS.—Ritchie, Street, L. A. Wilmot.

RULES OF THE HOUSE.—Hazen, Baillie, Ritchie, End, Wilson.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY.—Hazen, L. A. Wilmot, End.

FINANCES.—Wark, Brown, R. D. Wilmot.

CONTINGENT EXPENCES.—Ritchie, Partelow, Rankin, Taylor, Brown.

PRINTING.—Partelow, L. A. Wilmot, Barberie.

ORDINANCE OF FEES, &c.—Street, Ritchie, Carman, Fisher, Barberie.

NAVIGATION.—Tibbetts, Baillie, Porter, Carman, Botsford, Hayward, Barberie.

POST OFFICE.—Wark, L. A. Wilmot, Woodward.

**MOUSTACHES.**—The *Limerick Chronicle*, a great military authority, says: "In the ensuing year, the British army, infantry, as well as cavalry and artillery, will assume the congenial military moustache."

## Communication.

[FOR THE OBSERVER.]

MR. EDITOR.—The interesting proceedings of the Public Meeting on the 2d instant, on the subject of the Destitution at present prevailing in the Mother Country, have suggested the propriety of presenting a few reflections, through your columns, on this important subject. It is pleasing to find, after the difference of opinion which existed amongst us in reference to what was the great topic some time since, that objects of a benevolent character have now presented themselves, regarding which in so far as it is our duty to succour the wanderer and relieve the distressed, there can be but one desire to preserve the spirit of unity. I refer in connection with what is more immediately the subject of this communication, to the efforts that are now being made to establish a HOME for the SAILOR. Surely the men who expand the sails of Britain's commerce; the men "who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in the great waters," have peculiar claims on our generosity, and we trust that our Legislature, and our Patriots, will acknowledge the necessity and the importance of this duty, and consider it not merely a work of gratitude, but an act of justice, to provide for their comfortable accommodation, when they reach our shores. Their cause has been very feelingly advocated by "J. B." in your last paper, and I rejoice that the plan is under the direction of Gentlemen, who will make every laudable effort, judiciously to apply the funds that may be raised for this purpose.

Allow me, Sir, to urge the strong claims which are made on public sympathy, for another very important purpose—the alleviation of our countrymen who are in the furnace of affliction—claims which are supported by every sentiment of humanity, and which must come home with power to every generous mind.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments," saith the Saviour, "and this is my commandment, that ye love one another." And how are we to testify our love to our fellow-creatures, who are suffering under the heaviest trials that life is heir to? Is it by casting merely a pitying eye of commiseration on those who were once so happy, but are now so desolate? Is it by turning a deaf ear to their moving complaints, and saying unto them "be ye warmed and filled"? No! It is by reaching forth our hands with liberality to relieve their necessities, and supply their wants—It is by sending on the wings of mercy substantial proofs of our benevolence, to afford them unexpected deliverance, and then the blessing of those who are now the victims of disease and want, wafted from the Highlands of Scotland, and from the glens and mountains of Ireland, shall descend on our heads like the early dew, and their sighs, through our exertions, shall be exchanged for the grateful breath of praise.

Allow me to present your readers with a few of the very many facts which might be stated as shewing the alarming progress of this wide-wasting calamity in Ireland. The Cork Examiner says, "The Rev. J. Barret, on last Sunday, made a collection in the Chapel to purchase a bier to take the dead bodies to the grave-yard, *without coffins*, as being hitherto tired of making collections towards burying them."—Again, "Out of a population of 11,000 of the poorest beings on the earth's surface, 707 only are employed, and the rest are in the most abject and horrible state of destitution. They are dying in tens, and twenties, famine is sweeping them off faster than did the Asiatic Cholera when it was most malignant, the inhabitants of the lanes and alleys in the towns of Ireland."—A correspondent of the Freeman's Journal says, "I have up to the present time been obliged to buy coffins for four who died of hunger. I dread that before many days our cabins, our roads, and our fields will be strewed over with dead bodies.—The Rev. Peter Ward, of Clare Island, writes "that a great majority of the inhabitants are literally starving, that many of them have died for want of food, that there are at the present time two hundred families without the means of support, who have fruitlessly endeavoured to obtain employment." The Rev. Gentleman describes their cries as resembling birds of prey screaming for something to feed on! It is his opinion that unless immediate relief be afforded, the most appalling consequences may be expected to ensue.—These extracts present a whisper only of many a woe fraught tale, and surely it is a God-like work to assist in the season of their melancholy destitution, those who are "just fluttering on the verge of Eternity," and who only anticipate that their famine shall be prolonged till death itself shall close the scene.

There can be no doubt that the success of this work, so far as this City is concerned, will depend very much upon the exertions of the Committee, appointed for soliciting contributions, and attending to the other arrangements connected with this investment. With such an immediate stimulus as is furnished by the distressing tidings which have reached us, we have no doubt but that the Gentlemen chosen for this purpose will proceed with SYSTEM, PUNCTUALITY, and PERSEVERANCE. And we trust that they will feel their duties the less arduous, from the encouragement given to them by all those who are willing to shew their benevolence towards our afflicted fellow subjects, whose distressed condition ought to be so sincerely the object of our commiseration, as Men, and our compassion as Christians. Convinced that the surest foundation of a Nation's happiness consists in the temporal and spiritual well-being of its inhabitants—that where human wretchedness reigns society is corrupted in its morals to the very core—that poverty leads to vice, and consequent ruin, both here and hereafter—let us, as we have opportunity, seek to cheer the hearts of those, whose fields have been swept by the Angel of destruction, whose horizon is darkened by many a gathering cloud, and whose exhausted strength not even famine can compel to further exertion. Thus by the diligent use of all the means placed within our power, whilst we supply the best conservative elements of the social body, we shall avert from the beloved lands around which our affections love to linger, not merely the causes of local disaffection, but those Divine chastisements under which they suffer, and which if unremoved, may prove but as the forerunners of darker sufferings—of deeper, & deadlier woes. Great therefore is our responsibility, and if we do our duty in this matter, yielding under the influence of right motives, only a mite of our perishable possessions, glorious will be our reward. S.

# THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1847.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—In the House of Assembly, on Friday last, upon the motion of Mr. Partelow, the sum of £1,500, sterling, was voted towards the relief of our suffering fellow subjects in Ireland and Scotland.

The question of the new differential Duties, lately passed by the Imperial Parliament, has been referred to the Committee of Trade, and information on the subject has been requested of the Executive.

The following summary of proceedings are extracted from the Fredericton Reporter.

Hon. Mr. Hazen laid a message before the House from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, communicating a despatch from the Colonial Secretary, dispensing in future with the usual State Oaths, and substituting instead, the Oath of Allegiance. Also another commending the patriotism of the recent House of Assembly, in placing £10,000 at the disposal of the Government, for the protection of the Country.—Another also, communicating Her Majesty's pleasure to refund to the House the amount drawn from the Revenue, for running the Line under the 4th article of the Treaty of Washington, but disallowing the Claim for refunding the amount expended in relation to the disputed Territory.

Hon. Mr. Hazen laid before the House sundry Government Messages, principally relating to the proposed Railway and the Electro Magnetic Telegraph, throughout these Provinces. These documents are exceedingly lengthy, and the place and mode of their publication elicited some remarks of a sectional character.

Mr. Partelow read the Petition of several highly respectable Merchants, Shipowners, and others, setting forth the necessity for a Harbour of Refuge in the vicinity of St. John, and pointing out Dipper Harbour for that purpose. Referred to the Committee on Navigation.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia has voted £1000 Sterling to assist in alleviating the distresses of the starving population of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last Friday evening, George Otty, Esq., entertained a respectable audience with an instructive lecture on the "Quadrupeds of New Brunswick." The interest excited by the lecture was much enhanced by the exhibition of stuffed specimens of all the Animals in question, which Mr. Otty had brought in from the Museum. These he introduced to his attentive audience, according to their classification by scientific Naturalists—first, the Ruminantia, including the Moose, the Caribboo, and the Deer,—next, the Carnivora, including the Wolf, the Black Bear, the Fox, and the Lucifee or Wild Cat—and thirdly, the Rodentia, including the Beaver, the Musk-Rat, the Skunk, the Marmot, the Mink, the Mole, the Squirrel, &c.

Last evening, Mr. P. LeSueur delivered a second lecture to an overflowing house, on "Affectation, in some of its most prevalent forms." He was severe but humorsome, and kept his arrested audience in great good humour for upwards of an hour and a half. The Doctor, the Minister, and the Lawyer, came in for their share of satire, as well as the *Dandy*, in the numerous catalogue of prevalent forms in which AFFECTATION exhibits itself.

Next Friday evening, Dr. Paterson will resume the subject of Electricity. The History and Theory of the Leyden Jar will principally occupy attention. Measured electric shocks will be communicated to Ladies and Gentlemen desirous of receiving them, by means of the Medical Electrometer.

Next Monday evening, Rev. Mr. Irvine will deliver a lecture, embracing a "Comparative View of the Male and Female Intellect."

☞ The Sacred Music Society will give a Concert at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, to-morrow evening. The programme will be found in another column. It promises a rare treat.

The TEA-FESTIVAL of the Young Mens' Total Abstinence Society, was held on Friday evening last, in the basement of the Union Street Church. Nearly six hundred persons sat down to a bountiful repast, prepared by the Lady patronesses of the Temperance pledge. A number of excellent speeches were made, and the whole affair passed off in excellent style.

WEATHER.—Remarkably mild for the last seven or eight days—almost a continual thaw—no frost.

The steam ship Hibernia arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning, and left in a few hours after for Liverpool. She had only 36 passengers from Boston for England: but the mail was one of the largest ever sent from America. All the passengers from this city embarked in the Hibernia.

The Electric Telegraph from Toronto to Buffalo is now in operation along the whole route, and the journals of Toronto publish in the morning, news from the city of New York of the previous evening, received by this line. By means of the Electric Telegraph, a man placed at Toronto, on the north side of Lake Ontario, can enjoy an agreeable *tete-a-tete* with his friends on the borders of the Atlantic, nearly a thousand miles distant.

At a late meeting of the subscribers to the Electric Telegraph, at Quebec, it was resolved that the Company adopt the name of the *Electric Telegraph Association of British North America.*

*Massachusetts opposed to the War.*—The resolution brought before the Massachusetts Legislature for appropriating $20,000 to aid the Volunteers of that State for Mexico, has been lost by a decisive vote of 190 to 47!

The packet ship Garrick, from Liverpool for New York, which was ashore on Squam Beach, New Jersey, was got off on the 29th ult., after discharging her cargo, and was towed to New York. She received but little damage.

Steamers brought up from the Garrick the steerage passengers, 360 in number. From one of the passengers (says a New York paper,) we learn that twelve of their number died on the passage, and one female, aged 17 years, died from exposure after the vessel went ashore. Many of the children were thinly clad, without shoes and stockings, and several of them had their feet badly frost-bitten. The citizens at Whitehall very promptly administered to their several necessities. Taken as a whole, we do not remember seeing such a miserable number of passengers landed upon our shores.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—The New Orleans papers furnish accounts of the loss of the steam towboat Phœnix, whose boilers burst on the 21st. ult., near the head of the Passes. Twelve persons were killed by the explosion, the pilot, mate, second engineer, steersman and two deck hands of the Phœnix, and six passengers of the manchester, one of the vessels in tow.

CHARITY BALL.—It will be seen by an advertisement in another column that it is proposed to have a Ball on the 15th instant, the proceeds of which are to applied towards the relieving the distress at present prevailing in Ireland. It is expected to be a brilliant affair, and we trust it will be liberally patronized, and that a large sum will be realized from the praiseworthy exertions of the benevolent gentlemen who have undertaken the management of the affair.—*Courier.*

LAUNCHED, on Saturday morning, from Messrs. Ruddock's Yard, in Portland, a splendid copper-fastened Ship, of 780 tons, carpenters' measurement. She is named the "*Charles Saunders*," and is pronounced by judges one of the finest vessels built at this port. She is owned by Mr. John Mackay.—*Ib.*

SHIP BUILDING.—Considerable activity will be manifested during the ensuing Spring, in that most profitable branch of our Domestic Industry.—SHIP BUILDING. No less than Fourteen large Ships and Barques are at present building in this Harbour—some almost ready for launching, and others in a forward state. Many more, we believe, are building at Quaco and other outports. Several are building on the River—at the Oromocto and other places. The largest ship ever built in this Province, which will measure about 1500 tons, is now on the Stocks, at Messrs. Owens & Duncan's Ship Yard, Portland.—The splendid new Steamer, building at Courtenay Bay, to run on the River, is fast approaching completion, and will be launched and ready at the opening of the Navigation. She is owned by Capt. Akerly, and Messrs. T. Barlow & Co., by whom her Engines and Machinery are entirely constructed.—*Herald.*

## RELIEF FOR IRELAND.

Pursuant to Advertisement, a Public Meeting was held in the Court House on Tuesday the 2d February, 1847.

The High Sheriff having read the requisition which led to his calling the Meeting, requested that it might be organized by the appointment of a Chairman and Secretary; when, on motion of Major Poyntz, seconded by Mr. Sheriff White—

His Worship the Mayor was called to the Chair, and Mr. Smithers appointed Secretary to the Meeting. The Chairman explained the object of the Meeting.

On motion of John H. Gray, Esq., seconded by Mr. William Parks, it was

1. *Resolved*. As the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the deep distress at present prevailing among our fellow countrymen in Ireland and Scotland, loudly calls upon us, not only for sympathy, but for succour—and that it is our duty, as well as our most earnest wish, to aid them in the dark hour of that affliction with which God has been pleased to visit them.

Mr. Gray, in moving the foregoing Resolution, read statements of the actual distress existing both in Scotland and Ireland, and spoke in an eloquent and feeling manner in support thereof.

On motion of William Jack, Esq., seconded by Henry Porter, Esq., the following Resolution was carried unanimously—

2. Whereas, in the opinion of this meeting, the whole population of this Province, without distinction of creed, politics or origin, will cordially unite with us in their sympathy and their contributions; and that an opportunity being now afforded of expressing their sentiments through their Representatives now assembled—therefore

*Resolved*, That an humble petition be presented to the Provincial Legislature, praying that such sum of money as the finances of the Province will warrant, be granted towards the relief of the present distress in Ireland and Scotland.

Mr. Jack then read the draft of a Petition embodying the purport of the foregoing Resolution, which was unanimously adopted—and on motion of Henry Porter, Esq., seconded by J. H. Gray, Esq., it was

3. *Resolved*, That it be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, on behalf of this meeting, and transmitted by the former to Fredericton without delay.

On motion of Robert Keltie, Esq., seconded by Major Poyntz, it was

4. *Resolved* unanimously, That in addition to any grant which may be made by the Provincial Legislature, a list be opened for voluntary contributions for the like purpose, and that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect.

On motion of Charles Doherty, Esq., seconded by Major Poyntz—

*Resolved*, That Committees be named for the several Wards in the City, who shall personally wait upon our fellow citizens and solicit their respective contributions,

The Committee was then named as follows, with power to add to their numbers:—

His Worship the Mayor, *Chairman.*

Mr. Alderman Porter, Major Poyntz, and Mr. George Carvill, for *King's Ward.*

Mr. Alderman Smith, Mr. James Macfarlane, and Mr. Assistant Alderman Keans, *Queen's Ward.*

Mr. Alderman Harding, Mr. John Kerr, and Mr. Assistant Alderman Hagerty, *Duke's Ward.*

Mr. Alderman Vanhorne, Mr. John M. Robinson, and Mr. Thomas Merritt, *Sydney Ward.*

Mr. Alderman Coram, Mr. William Olive, and Mr. Samuel Strange, *Guy's Ward.*

Mr. Alderman Bond, Mr. Whipple, and Mr. R. Salter, *Brook's Ward.*

*For the County*—Messrs. Keltie, Gallagher, James Travis, Payne, Nugent Creighton, Menzies, Jas. Moran, Carman, Brown, Hawks and D. Vaughan.

5. On Motion of the Rev. Mr. Staveley, seconded by Mr. W. E. Moore, it was

*Resolved Unanimously*, That it is respectfully desired by this Meeting, that the Clergymen of the different Churches should make a Collection in their respective Congregations at an early opportunity, for carrying out the object of this meeting.

6. On Motion of Mr. W. H. A. Keans, and seconded by John G. Campbell, Esq. it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Alfred Smithers, Esq., the Manager of the Bank of British North America, for the accommodation afforded to individuals of this community in sending money to relieve distressed friends in Ireland by the last Mail, and for the arrangements proposed for further extending that accommodation, so that the poorest may have the means of sending their mite to their more destitute relatives.

L. DONALDSON, Chairman.

A. SMITHERS, Secretary.

The Chairman having left the Chair, Major Poyntz was called thereto; when, on motion of Alderman Porter, seconded by John H. Gray, Esq. the thanks of the Meeting were given to His Worship the Mayor for his great ability and gentlemanly conduct while presiding over the Meeting; and to Mr. Smithers, for the efficient discharge of the duties of Secretary.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Avery, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Irvine, the thanks of the Meeting were given to the High Sheriff, for calling this Meeting in accordance with the wishes of the Requisitionists.

NEW COLLEGE CHARTER.—As many of our readers who wish for information on the subject, may not be able to procure the Royal Gazette in which the Bill is published, we subjoin the following synopsis of its contents for their benefit:—

The Administrator of the Government is to be Visitor of the College, instead of the Bishop: (this Officer has the power of disapproving all statutes within two years after they are enacted by the Council, of enquiry into the conduct of any of the officers of the college, &c. &c. &c.) The Chief Justice, instead of the Governor, is to be Chancellor. The President of the College, as also the Professors, to be appointed by her Majesty, or successors, by the Visitor on her Majesty's behalf; and the President need not, as is required by the charter, be the Arch-Deacon, or a Clergyman of the Church of England. The College Council is to consist of fifteen ex-officio, and other members, viz., the Chancellor, the President of the College, the Master of the Rolls, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Secretary of the Province, the Attorney General, and nine others, to be nominated by the Visitor, who has the power of suspension vested in the Chancellor: seven Members of the Council to form a Quorum: the members of the Council need not be graduates of this or any other College. No religious test required of any Members of the Council or Professors, except the Professor of Theology, who must be a Clergyman of the Church of England. Any person taking a degree in Divinity, need only in addition to the oath now required by the Charter, declare his belief in the old and new Testaments, and in the doctrines of the Trinity. Divine service to be performed in the College agreeably to the forms of the Church of England. A statement of the College Funds, Officers and Students, &c. &c., to be laid by the Registrar before the Legislature annually, within 14 days after its meeting. Any member of the Council may propose alterations in the statutes without the consent of the Chancellor. Finally, the original Charter to remain in full force, except as by this Bill amended.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

WESLEYAN ACADEMY, MOUNT ALLISON.—The commencement of the fifth year's operation of this successful Institution, is attended with encouraging evidence that it continues to command public confidence and patronage. On the