The members of the Commons, with the Speaker at their head, then retired, and the Lords Commissioners left the house to unrobe. Several new peers were then introduced, and the house adjourned. At five o'clock their lordships returned. Some notices were given, and

The Earl of Powis rose and moved the address in answer to the speech. The noble Earl began by congratulating the house and the country on the establishment of peace with foreign powers. He then adverted to the special mission of Lord Ashburton to America, and the happy result of that mission, which had answered the most sanguine expectations of the country. In short, the great question touching the boundaries of America had now been settled, and hence it was reasonable and fair to expect that the basis of a permanent good understanding between the two countries had been established. Our relations with China, too, called for the language of eulogy and gratulation, when the difficulty of conveying our troops was considered. The next subject he would call the attention of the house to was the termination of the war in Afghanistan. It would be unmanly in him not to refer to the great loss of life, not only of English troops, but of natives in that war. The result, however, was alike satisfactory to the country, and honourable to the British flag; and it was to him a source of satisfaction to find that the services of the troops had been so properly noticed by her Majesty. The noble earl then adverted in terms of eulogy to the treaty entered into with the Emperor of Russia, and which would have great tendency to improve the mercantile affairs of the country. He wished it was in his power to turn with equal satisfaction to the present state of the country, for he could not conceal it from himself that the agricultural and manufacturing districts were extremely depressed; and although the alteration made in the tariff might in some degree account for deficiencies in the revenue, he was afraid that they were to be attributed to other and more serious causes. The noble earl then concluded by referring with pride and satisfaction to the enthusiastic reception her Majesty recently received from her Scottish subjects on her visit to that country. The noble earl then read the address, which, as usual, was an echo of the speech.

The Earl of Ellenborough seconded the address In doing so, the noble earl apologised for his inefficiency, inasmuch as the present was the first time he had had the honour of addressing their lordships. It was gratifying to know that the country, both internally and externally, was in a state of profound tranquility. However much the loss of life in the East was to be deplored, it was satisfactory to reflect that the war which occasioned that loss had not its origin in any political cause. He did not take a gloomy view of the falling off in the state of the revenue, which he could trace to recent changes in the commercial regulations of the country. He alluded to her Majesty's visit to Scotland, the loyalty displayed by the people, and expressed a hope that her Majesty might be induced to go there again at no distant period; promising her, in their name, a still better reception. He briefly noticed that paragraph in the speech relative to Affghanistan, eulogising the conduct of the troops who were recently engaged there; also the peace which had been happily concluded between China and this country, as well as what had been effected in Syria, and the arrangements entered into between the Russian Government and Great Britain. He considered the present occasion as one unfit for political discussions, and, believing their lordships would concur with him in that opinion, concluded with expressing a hope that their lordships would come to a unanimous opinion upon the address which he had now the honour of seconding.

The Marquis of Lansdowne said that the speech from the throne was most judiciously framed to prevent any objection being taken to it, but yet the subjects it referred to were so important that it was impossible to pass them over without observation or remark. He approved of the silence of the speech upon the subject of the corn laws, for if they were invited to sanction the success of the measure of the last year, in that case he must have dissented from the address, because, in his opinion, all laws relating to the importation of corn should be framed so as to interfere as little as possible with the usual course of trade. With respect to the treaty with the United States of America, he was, on the whole, glad that it had been ratified. With reference to the allusion in the speech to the liberality of parliament enabling the government to bring the hostilities in China and Affghanistan to a close, he must say that he did not know of any act of liberality on the part of the parliament, unless it was this measure of the President did not give an accurate representation of what had passed in the negotiations. We had not claimed the right of search, which was a belligerent right. What we had claimed was only the right of visitation—the right to visit a vessel bearing the American flag for the purpose of ascertaining whether she be really American, which, if on that visit she should turn out to be, she must be liberated, even though she should clearly appear at all points a slaver. He owned himself surprised that America, surrounded as she was with small states, by every one of which she was in danger of having her flag assumed, should resist a rule, the establishment of which would be so much for her own advantage. It was his duty to tell the House of Commons, that not only had Lord Aberdeen's despatch of December, 1841, upon this subject been maintained in all its principles, but during the 14 months since elapsed there had not even been so much as an attempt on the part of the American government to answer it. On the subject of finance, he admitted that there was a great deficiency. He had stated last year that, in addition to the deficiency which he had found on coming into office, he proposed to cause a further deficiency still. He had remitted duties on 700 articles; reductions had all taken effect; but the Income Tax imposed to meet them had not yet come into productiveness Undoubtedly there had been a great falling off in the excise, mainly on the article of malt; but that had arisen in a great degree from the very unfavorable harvest in 1841. There still, indeed, existed severe distress; but let not the house infer thence that there must needs be a permanent diminution of consumption. Another cause of the late falling off had been the disturbed state of the manufacturing districts. This was not a fit occasion for entering at large upon financial statements; but he did now discern some favourable changes on which he could not forbear from founding good hopes. It was complained that the speech announced no new measure with respect to corn. He had no such great measures of change to propose as gentlemen seemed to expect. Whenever he should make a change it would be a change accordant to the principles he had propounded; but he must always remember that in this country the general rule had been protection. He believed the reduction which had already taken place in the price of the necessaries of life had actually verified his prediction that the Income Tax would be compensated by the general cheapness of living.

Lord John Russell adverted to the rumour that Lord Ellenborough had at one time countermanded the march of the troops to Affghanistan, and said that that rumour should be cleared up before the house agreed to a vote of thanks to the Governor-General of India. He was glad to hear that it was supposed, when the Income Tax came into full operation, that the revenue would equal the expenditure, but he must say that experience strengthened all his objections to the Property Tax.

Sir C. Napier condemned Lord Ashburton's treaty.

Mr. Wallace was sure the speech would be received with dissatisfaction in every quarter of the kingdom.

Lord Stanley entered into a defence of the Governor-General at considerable length, and in reply to Lord John Russell's observations respecting the appointment of Lord Ashburton to negotiate with the Americans, contended that a more proper selection could not have been made, as was proved by the result of the negotiations.

Lord Palmerston replied to the noble lord.

After a few words from Sir R. Peel in explanation,

Sir R. Inglis, Mr. Villiers, Lord Howick, and several other hon. members addressed the House, but no amendment was moved, and the address was ultimately agreed to, after which the House adjourned.

A communication from St. Petersburgh says—"During the war between England and China, the supply of tea at Kiakhta increased to a surprising degree. Peace having been concluded, the supply is now likely to fall off and the price to rise. At this year's fair at Nishny Novogorood, there was 4,500 chests more brought to Kiakhta than in 1841: but nearly one-half of this extra supply remained unsold. Of the Ziegelthee, as it is called, on account of its form, and which is in great favour with the nomadic tribes of Siberia and among the lower classes of European Russia, and about 6,000 chests were brought to the fair, and not one remained unsold."

The British Queen Steamer.—The Politique of Brussels states, that the British Queen steamer was so much damaged in her last voyage that it will cost a considerable sum to repair her. "It is said," remarks the above journal, "that, in case the Chambers will not grant a sum sufficient to repair her, the Ministry intends selling her in her present state."

Lord Melbourne, who has been very ill, has sufficiently recovered to see company.

The accouchement of the Queen is expected to take place in March or the beginning of April.

Sir Robert Peel has been engaged in a controversy with the currency-men of Birmingham, represented by the Chamber of Commerce in that town. The Chamber contends that a sure remedy for every social evil is to be found in the establishment of a new paper currency by government!—making the said paper a legal tender, receivable in payment of taxes, and limiting the amount to twenty millions sterling. The Premier combats these views. The correspondence is voluminous.

A destructive fire broke out on the 5th ult. in the extensive workshops of Messrs Foster and Stewart, joiners and builders, Liverpool, which were soon destroyed. The estimated loss is £12,000.—The workmen, who had the whole of their tools destroyed, have suffered severely by the calamity. A handsome subscription to reimburse them has been made.

Captain Bloomfield, an Englishman, accompanied by two other gentlemen, arrived at Trieste, commissioned by his Government to draw up a report respecting the condition of the roads in Bavaria, Tyrol, &c.; and to furnish estimates of the probable duration of a journey from Trieste to London, with a view of providing materials for determining on the expediency of forwarding the overland Indian mail through Germany. Captain Bloomfield's report is highly favourable. He particularly praises the excellent post-office organization in the Austrian states.

A vast mine was sprung at Dover, on the 26th ult., to blow up the Rounddown Cliff, which stood next to Shakspeare's Cliff, the object being to make a roadway instead of a tunnel, for the south-eastern railway. The quantity of gunpowder was 18,500 pounds. 1,000,000 tons of chalk were dislodged by the shock, which settled gently down into the sea below. The blast would save the company £1000 worth of labour. Sir John Herschel and a number of scientific men were present, as also an immense assemblage.

LIVERPOOL, February 4.

Assassination of Sir Robert Peel's Secretary.—Mr. Drummond, sir Robert Peel's private secretary, on the 20th ult., left Downing-street about half-past three in the afternoon, in company with the Earl of Haddington. They proceeded together as far as the Admiralty, where he left the earl, and walked to the banking-house of his brother, at Charing-cross. On his return, while near the Horse Guards, he was shot at from behind. The assassin walked close up to Mr. Drummond, and actually put the muzzle of the pistol into the back of the unsuspecting gentleman. He then fired. Immediately after the pistol was discharged a policeman, who had witnessed the act, rushed up, and seized the criminal. In the meantime he had returned the pistol with which he had shot Mr. Drummond to his breast, and had drawn out another loaded pistol from the same place, and was in the act of pointing it at Mr. Drummond, when the policeman seized him and pinioned his arms from behind. The pistol was discharged, but, the aim of the assassin being thus diverted, the contents did not touch Mr. Drummond, nor was any other person injured by them. The name of the assassin is Daniel M'Naughten, a native of Scotland. He had on his person when apprehended about £15, and a receipt deposit for £750 in a Glasgow bank. He was immediately conveyed to prison, and the following day brought up at Bow-street police-office. After the facts had been stated, during which the assassin preserved the coolest demeanour, he was asked if he wished to make any observations. He declined doing so; but after leaving the bar, he expressed a wish to make some remarks, and was led back again. He then stated that the tories of his native city had persecuted him at home and abroad—had disordered his mind, thrown him into consumption, and attempted to murder him. Mr. Drummond lingered five days, and expired from the effects of the wound on Wednesday, the 25th ult. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against M'Naughten, when, after being again brought up at Bond street, was committed to take his trial at the Central Criminal Court for the murder. The assassin mistook Mr. Drummond for Sir Robert Peel, and it is clear that had he not been mistaken in the identity of his victim, the premier would have fallen by his hand. A general feeling of regret for the untimely end of Mr. Drummond pervades the public mind. The unfortunate gentleman was in his 51st year, and in personal appearance was not unlike his principal. The assassin had been hovering round the public offices for several days before he perpetrated the bloody deed. Opinions differ as to his insanity, but all the accounts concur in representing him as a person of a gloomy cast of mind.

The Court.—Windsor, (Sunday Evening).—Sir Robert Peel left town yesterday, immediately after the conclusion of the examination of the assassin M'Naughten, at Bow street, for Windsor, proceeded to Slough by the Great Western railway, and arrived at the Castle a few minutes before three o'clock. The right hon. baronet had an immediate audience of Her Majesty, and remained at the Castle for upwards of an hour. The Queen was informed yesterday, for the first time, that the murderer of Mr. Drummond had admitted he had imagined it was Sir Robert Peel whom he had shot, and not the unfortunate gentleman who had fallen a victim to the murderous attack of the prisoner. Her Majesty, upon this circumstance being related to her, is said to have evinced the most gratifying emotions at the providential escape of the right hon. baronet, mingled with feelings of the deepest pain and regret for the melancholy fate of Mr. Drummond. Sir Robert Peel took his departure from the Castle for Slough shortly after four o'clock, and returned to town by the railway.

The Army.—It is said that Sir H. Hardinge purposes to bring forward several measures which he recommended when giving his evidence before the committee on military punishments. Among others we understand that the comfortless state of the soldiers' barrack-room will be remedied, and that many of the useless and harrassing regulations will be done away with; for instance, a soldier will now allowed to smoke in his room; he is not allowed to sit down on his bed, nor to mend his shoes in his room. Such absurd restrictions ought to be removed. The crowding together of the men is also another annoyance; the rooms ought to be better arranged, and not more than 12 or 14 men should be put into them. We trust that these and many more beneficial alterations may be introduced. We are, however of opinion that nothing can be effected to make the soldier contented while serving, except limited engagements, and and an alteration in the issue of the bounty, so that the recruit may join free from debt, and commence his career on his full daily pay.—*Naval and Military Gazette.*

War Office, Jan. 17.—Memorandum.—In commemoration of the distinguished services and of the gallantry displayed by her Majesty's troops which have been recently employed on the coasts and in the rivers of China, her Majesty has been graciously pleased to permit the under mentioned Corps, viz—18th (Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot, 26th (the Cameronian) Regiment of Foot, 49th (the Princess Charlotte of Wales's or the Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot, 55th (the Westmorland) Regiment of Foot, and 98th Regiment of Foot, to bear on their colours and appointments, the word "China," and the device of "the Dragon."

More Cannon for the Porte.—On Monday afternoon nine cannon, eight of them having a bore of 10 inches in diameter, were shipped on board the Scotch brig Hebe of 237 tons register, Captain Henderson, lying in the St. Katherine's Dock, for Constantinople; 40 tons of shot and shells have also arrived in the dock, to be shipped on board the Hebe for the same destination. The guns, &c., are said to be for the Grand Sultan.

Scotch Church Question.—A very important circumstance has occurred in the features of this question since Sir J. Graham's letter to the Moderator was published. On Friday last, in giving his opinion in the other Church case, Lord Jeffery (whose elaborate opinion in defence of the veto has been always held up by the leaders of the dominant party in the Assembly as the best statement of their case, and of the principles on which they hold the judgements of the House of Lords to be an invasion of their independance) declared in most distinct terms that he was now satisfied that the case had been rightly decided by the Court of Session and by the House of Lords—that the Church had gone against the provisions of the statute law of the land, and that the Courts had jurisdiction to restrain that excess of power.—*Times.*

Miss Turton, who perished in the Conqueror, East Indiaman, the melancholy shipwreck of which, off the coast of France, we recorded last week, was daughter of T. E. M. Turton, Esq., once a candidate for the representation of this city, and who accompanied the late lamented Earl of Durham, as his private Secretary, to Canada. She was eighteen years of age on the day of her death.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

Such is the congenial state of the weather and the fitness of the land that on Tuesday, the 24th inst., Mr. George Atkinson, a tenant of the Marquess of Londonderry, at Seaham Hall Farm, commenced sowing beans in the open fields; this is a rare occurrence, as it has not happened since the year 1819.—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

The mildness of the weather at present excites general wonder. In London, during the greater part of the day, we have had beautiful sunshine with gentle westerly breezes and a temperature as mild as in the month of May. In the morning at eight o'clock, the thermometer stood in an exposed situation, at 56, an occurrence which probably does not happen on the 28th of January once in half a century.

Testimonial to Mr. Emerson Tennent.—We cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of calling the especial attention of our readers to the splendid gift of the calico printers of the United Kingdom to Mr. Emerson Tennent. The plate constituting this magnificent testimonial, cost, we understand, £1,200, and is designed to mark the gratitude of its donors for services in carrying through Parliament the Act for the protection of copyright in design, in all branches of art and manufacture.—*Mail.*

Excellent Irish pork is selling here in the grocer's shops at 4½d. and 5d., and the "hands" or shoulders at 3½d. per lb. Still our country-grown pork maintains its former price—8d. or 9d. per lb.; but as the Irish pork is equally good, the English must decline in price.—*Brighton Herald.*

One of the first things brought under the consideration of the House of Commons, will be the provision for the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, on the occasion of her marriage. It is doubtful whether it will be alluded to in the "Speech;" but it is understood that, despite the great depression and distress, and all that sort of thing, which is just now so prevalent, 2000*l.* a year is considered too little for pin money; and the sum which the faithful Commons will be called upon to vote, will be 3000*l.* a-year. Considering the character and merits of the Princess, this may not be too much; but in matters of this kind the condition of the payer ought to be thought of as well as the merits of the receiver.—*Cheltenham Looker-on.*

Commercial Treaty with Austria.—The principles of Free Trade are spreading in quarters where hitherto all lies been restrictive and exclusive. The Government of Austria has become convinced of the benefit arising from freedom of trade and low import duties; its own experience, from the reduction of the sugar duties having been followed by a very great increase of consumption, having tended much to enlighten it on the subject. In pursuance of its new light, we are happy to say, a commercial treaty has been formed by Austria with England, Prince Metternich having in the course of last autumn had interviews with Mr. Macgregor, of the Board of Trade, for the purpose. It is rumoured that English merchandise will be admitted into the vast dominions of the Emperor of Austria, which have a population of *thirty-five millions* of souls, on exceedingly favourable terms. We are not, however able to say whether the treaty is actually concluded, as we are assured that the Austrian Government wished to stipulate for the admission of its corn into England, on duties correspondingly favourable.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Opening of the new Church at Ventry.—This new church, which has been built for the accommodation of the converts from Popery in the immediate neighbourhood of Ventry, was opened for the first time, for the celebration of Divine service. The celebrants were the Rev. Charles Gayer and Rev. Thomas Moriarty. The former preached a most suitable and impressive sermon in English; and afterwards Mr. Moriarty preached in Irish to the assembled congregation, in his usual felicitous and forcible manner. Lord and Lady Ventry; Messrs. Thompson and Standish; the Rev. Messrs. Goodman, Ware, Thomas, Sandiford; and a good many of the respectable gentry of the neighbouring country attended. The attendance of converts was very numerous.—*Kerry Post.*

Sir Robert Peel, in the house of Commons, was dressed in deep mourning, in respect to the memory of the late unfortunate Mr. Drummond.

Cape of Good Hope.—We have Cape of Good papers to 6th Nov., which bring very unsatisfactory intelligence from the frontier. It appears that the Dutch Boers who have been gradually increasing on the territory of the native tribes beyond the Orange River, have publicly disclaimed all allegiance to British authority, and set the judicial power of the colony at defiance. Justice Menzies, one of the puisne judges of the colony, happened to be at Caleburg, on the Orange River frontier, when the account of this proceeding of the Boers reached him who, upon his own authority, published an edict, declaring all the territory in South Africa lying to the eastward of the 22d degree of east longitude, and to the southward of the 25th degree of south latitude, not belonging to the crown of Portugal, or in possession of the natives, annexed to Great Britain. The object of the judge on the spur of the moment was evidently to prevent the Boers from sheltering their disobedience under the pretext of being beyond the boundary line of the colony; but as soon as the account reached the Governor Sir Thomas Napier, he disclaimed the proceeding of Judge Menzies by public proclamation. It is quite clear, however, that the whole line of the frontier is in a very unsettled and unsatisfactory state, and that it will require the employment of a considerable military force for some time to reduce the Boers to obedience.—*Mail.*

THE LATE MR. DRUMMOND.

The late lamented Mr. Edward Drummond was of Christ Church. He was matriculated on the 23rd of October, 1810, but never, as we believe proceeded to a Degree, being removed to the Treasury at an early age. During his residence at Christ Church he was remarkable for his agreeable conversation and manners and for his uniform good nature, and was the general favourite in the University, which, afterwards, he appears to have been in the wider sphere of official and fashionable life.—*Oxford Herald.*

Funeral of the Late Mr. Drummond.—The day of the funeral has not yet been fixed, but we understand his family have resolved that the interment shall take place in the Church at Charlton, near Woolwich, of which parish the Rev. Arthur Drummond, brother of the deceased, is rector. It may be recollected that Mr. Perceval who was shot in the lobby of the House of Commons by Bellingham, was interred in a vault in this church—a singular coincidence that two persons engaged in political affairs, who had fallen by the hands of the assassins, should lie beside each other in death.—*Observer.*

One of the last official acts of the late Mr. Drummond was to write an order by direction of Sir Robert Peel, for summoning a cabinet council.

We understand that Mr. Stephenson, jun., secretary to the Premier, will succeed Mr. Drummond as Chief Private Secretary, and Mr. Arbuthnot of the Treasury, supply the place of Mr. Stephenson.—*Standard of Monday.*

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 24, 1843.

The Royal Mail steam ship Acadia, arrived at Halifax on Friday last, in 12 days' passage, having been detained at Liverpool until the 5th instant, in consequence of a severe gale. The Mail arrived here on Monday. The news by this post does not fully confirm our previous anticipations of commercial and manufacturing prosperity; but confident hopes are entertained that the approach of spring will shew a progressive improvement.

A summary of the latest English intelligence, with the Queen's Speech and abridged Parliamentary debate will be found in preceding columns.—The tone of the House of Commons in regard to the United States, leads to the belief that they think themselves as far as ever from a confirmed peace with America. It would not appear that members were in possession of the fact of Mr. Webster having over-reached Lord Ashburton, but intelligence of Franklin's map and the cheat practised by the American Government had reached England previous to the sailing of the packet.

The new Governor General of Canada was to leave England in the steam packet of 4th March.

It will be seen by our extract that a foul murder has been committed in the streets of London, on the person of Mr. Drummond, Sir Robert Peel's chief Secretary—in the broad day time, and in the midst of the passing multitude. A true bill has been found against the assassin, who is represented by some parties to be *insane.* This disorder is of late become much too *fashionable* among those who without compunction would not hesitate to deprive the nation of a beloved Queen or Her Majesty of faithful servants.

The news from India is not of much importance. China affairs remain nearly the same. The army has evacuated Affghanistan, not however without being attacked in the Khyber Pass by the Ghilzies: the first division under Gen. Nott accomplished the passage without disaster, the remaining divisions experienced the loss of several men.

Lord Seaton is said to have been appointed Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands in succession to Sir Howard Douglas.—*Morning Chronicle.*

At the Court at Windsor the 1st day of February 1843, present the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council: her Majesty having been pleased to appoint the Right Honorable sir Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart, and G.C.B. to be Captain General and Governor in Chief of the provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and of the Island of Prince Edward; and Governor General of all her Majesty's provinces on the continent of North America, and of the Island of Prince Edward; he this day took the usual oaths appointed to be taken by the Governors of her Majesty's plantations.—*London Gazette.*

The Revenue.—The Revenue tables exhibit an appalling deficiency £922,630 on the year, £940,062 on the quarter! A scrutiny of the figures does not mitigate the anxiety created by the totals. The decrease on the year in the Customs is £284,375; in the Excise, £1,173,614; in the Stamps, £218,346; in the Taxes, £209,319; and the total decrease on those four main branches of the revenue is £2,425,554. That is the index of the real falling off which *has* taken place in the country's yearly means.

China.—The intelligence from China comes down to the 13th of October. The following, taken from the *Hong-Kong Gazette*, is the only news:—"The Hong merchants monopoly is at an end.—Masters of tea from Nankin have been forwarded to Hong-kong by her majesty's plenipotentiary; the price is moderate, and the report on their quality is generally favourable. The Calliope has gone to Formosa to bring away the crew and passengers of the Ann. On the 15th September, 6,000,000 dollars, the first instalment of the 21,000,000 dollars has been paid. The Blonde takes 3,000,000 dollars, the Modeste and Columbine about 800,000 dollars each, home; the Herald, 1,000,000, and Clio, 1,000,000 dollars, to Calcutta. The Endymion proceeds to Bombay, the Calliope to Hong-kong.

A dreadful hurricane, in which a great number of ships were wrecked, and accompanied by a fearful loss of life, swept the south and west coasts of England on the 13th ult.: it also extended its ravages throughout the greater part of western Europe. We copy the following disasters, principally from Willmer and Smith's *European Times*:—

The American ship John Cumming, Captain Thayer, from Savannah, which was at anchor in Boulo Bay, the sea made complete breaches over her. Although much damaged, with the prospect of one time becoming a total wreck, she was ultimately got into the Prince's basin, in a damaged state. The American ship St. Petersburgh, from New Orleans, was in a perilous position, off the port, but owing to the promptitude of the pilot, who ordered the masts to be cut away, succour arrived in the morning, and the vessel and her crew were saved. The Adirondack, Captain Hackstaff, from New York, had two men blown off the main yard, and two others maimed by being blown on deck during the night. The captain himself was personally injured. A Scotch schooner, called the Hale, from Creetown, on the south coast of Scotland, became a total wreck, off Crosby Point. The crew consisted of five persons, but the captain only was saved. The Vernon, which sailed on the morning of the storm from Liverpool for Glasgow, between which ports she plied as a trader, was wrecked off New Brighton, at the entrance of the Mersey; the captain and two of the crew drowned, the others carried off by the life-boat, in a dying state, but ultimately restored. The schooner Isabella, of Belfast, bound to Runcorn, was wrecked off West Hoyle. Two flats were driven ashore at Hoylake. The schooner Portland, of Glasgow, was cast ashore at Southport, crew saved. The Oceola, from the United States, arrived with the decks swept of everything. The Santon, from Calcutta to this port, was driven ashore in Ballyteigue Bay. Captain Huxtable and two of the crew drowned. On land, in the vicinity of Liverpool, the fall of a house in Epworth-street, which buried a family under its ruins, all the members of which were, however, ultimately got out without much injury; the tumbling of chimneys and chimney pots in various directions, with thousands of the good citizens passing a sleepless night, owing to the violence of the storm, constituted the only disasters. At Lytham, a small hamlet on the sea shore, thirty miles north of Liverpool, two lighters, the Union and the Brothers, were wrecked. The crew on board the former were saved, but the captain and seamen belonging to the latter were drowned.

A fine ship called the Conqueror, from Calcutta to London with a valuable cargo, and many passengers, was driven ashore on the coast of France, and out of seventy-eight persons on board, but one was saved, a servant boy of the ship. Another vessel from the East Indies, the Jessie Logan, was wrecked in the same gale off the coast of Cornwall, the cook was drowned. The ship England, for Africa was lost in the channel; crew saved.

The most sweeping loss of life occurred on the coast of the county Down, in Dundrum Bay, among the shipping craft which belong to Newcastle, and Annalong, a little fishing village near Kilkeel. The following communication, dated Newcastle, details the tragic result:—"A most awful catastrophe has befallen this village. No fewer than forty-six fishermen, belonging to Newcastle, perished in the storm. Such a scene of desolation, lamentation, and woe as this place presents has seldom been witnessed. But the melancholy calamity has not been confined to our immediate locality alone. A few miles further up the coast, at Annalong, twenty-seven other individuals were lost, making an aggregate of seventy-three! About 20 of the poor creatures belonging to that place who were lost have left wives and children, who were entirely dependent upon them for maintenance; many others were the chief support of aged parents. As nearly as can be ascertained, sixty children have been left fatherless. Thus, along with the pangs of bereavement which the survivors have to suffer, the great bulk of them, will, consequently, be reduced to the very lowest state of destitution.

The Sarah, from New York to Hull, was lost on the Goodwin sands; crew saved. The Lily, of Liverpool, with two other vessels were driven on the Taunton sands at the same time and totally wrecked. The Douro, of Liverpool, bound to Oporto, was lost on the rocks westward of Scilly, and all her crew perished. The schr. Dart, with two of her crew were lost at Orford Haven. The steamer Monk was driven on the North Bank, Carnarvon, on the 6th ult. and out of thirty persons on board, twenty four met a watery grave; a life boat was usually stationed here, but unfortunately happened to be absent at this particular time, and in a situation where it was found impossible, against a strong tide and gale of wind to reach the wreck.

The Mediterranean appears to have been severely visited by the storms that caused so many calamities last week in the Channel. The merchant vessel Metela, of Marseilles, coming from Martinique, was wrecked off the coast of San Remo; two other vessels of Marseilles, the Trois Freres and St. Catherine, were lost in the Roads of Philippville, and three others at Bona. The packets from the Levant and Algiers were eight days in arrear. The *Semaphore* of the 15th states, that the wind raged with such violence at Genoa during several days, that the inhabitants residing near the pier had been obliged to abandon their houses, where their lives were in danger. Several vessels had been thrown on the Italian coast.

The following decision by the highest authority in England will go far towards docking Colonial Legislatures of some of their vaunted privileges. The decision is given in the case of Dr. Keeley against Mr. Carson, Speaker of the House of Assembly in Newfoundland, caused by arrest and commitment for an alleged breach of the privilege of the House.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL—Wednesday Jan. 11, 1843.

(Present:—Lord Campbell, Lord Chief Justice Tindal, Mr. Baron Parke, Mr. Justice Erskine, and Judge of the Admiralty Court.)

KEELEY V. CARSON.

Their lordships met this morning for the purpose of giving judgment in this case, which had been twice argued.

Mr. Baron Parke—The great importance of the principal question in this case induced those of their lordships who heard the first argument to request that a second might take place before themselves and other members of the Judicial Committee. The case has been again argued before the Lord Chancellor, Lords Brougham, Denman, Abinger, Cottenham, and Campbell, the Vice-Chancellor of England, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Mr. Justice Erskine, Dr. Lushington, and myself; and I have been instructed by their lordships to state the reasons for the advice which they will give to her Majesty to reverse the judgment of the court below. The judgment was given in favour of the defendant, upon a demurrer to several special pleas to an action of trespass for false imprisonment, by which the acts complained of were justified by the defendants, as Speaker of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, by the other defendants as members of that house, and by one as messenger in aid of the serjeant-at arms, upon an arrest and commitment for an alleged breach of privilege of the house. Several objections were taken of a formal nature in these pleas, which it is unnecessary to state, as the opinion of their lordships is not founded upon any of those objections. The main question raised by the pleadings, and applying equally to the case of all the defendants, was whether the House of Assembly had the power to arrest and bring before them, with a view to punishment, a person charged by one of its members with having uttered insolent language to him out of the doors of the house, in reference to his conduct as a member of the Assembly—in other words, whether the house had the power, such as is possessed by both Houses of Parliament in England, to adjudicate upon a complaint of contempt or breach of privilege. * * * The question, whether the House of Assembly could commit, by way of punishment, for a contempt in the face of it, does not arise in this case. Their lordships are of opinion that the House of Assembly did not possess the power of arrest, with a view to adjudication on a complaint of contempt committed out of its doors, and, consequently, that the judgment of the court below must be reversed. * * * The whole question is reduced to this—whether by law the power of committing for a contempt, not in the presence of the Assembly, is incident to every local legislature. The statute law on this subject being silent the common law is to govern it, and what is the common law depends upon principle and precedent. Their lordships see no reason to think that, on the principle of the common law, any other powers are given than such as are necessary to the existence of such a body, and the proper exercise of the functions which it is intended to execute. * * * We feel no doubt that such an assembly has the right of protecting itself from all impediments to the due course of its proceedings. To the full extent of every measure which it may be really necessary to adopt to secure the free exercise of their legislative functions, they are justified in acting by the principle of the common law. But the power of punishing any one for past misconduct as a contempt of its authority, and adjudicating upon the fact of such contempt, and the measure of punishment, as a judicial body irresponsible to the party accused, whatever the real facts means essentially necessary for the exercise of its functions by a local legislature, whether expressive or not: all these functions may well be performed without this extraordinary power, and with the aid of the ordinary tribunals to investigate and punish contemptuous insults and interruptions. These powers certainly do not exist in corporate or other bodies assembled with authority to make byelaws for the government of particular trades or limited numbers of individuals. The functions of a colonial legislature are of a higher character, and it is engaged in more important objects; but still there is no reason why it should possess the power in question. It is said, however, that this power belongs the House of Commons in England; and this it is contended, affords an authority for holding that it belongs as a legal incident by the common law to an assembly with analogous functions. But the reason why the House of Commons has this power, is not because it is a representative body with legislative functions, but by virtue of ancient usage and prescription, the *Lex et Consuetude Parliamenti*, which forms a part of the common law of the land, and according to which the High Court of Parliament before its division and the House of Lords and Commons since are invested with many peculiar privileges—that of punishing for a contempt being one. And, besides this argument from analogy would prove too much, since it would be equally available in favour of the assumption by the council of the island of the power of commitment exercised by the House of Lords, as well as in support of the right of impeachment by the assembly—a claim for which there is not any colour or foundation. Nor can this power be said to be incident to the legislative assembly by analogy to the English courts of record, which possess it. This assembly is no court of record, nor has it any judicial functions whatever; and it is to be remarked that all these bodies which possess the power of adjudicating upon, and punishing, in a summary manner, contempts of their authority, have judicial functions, and exercise this as incident to those which they possess, except only the House of Commons, whose authority in this respect rests upon ancient usage. Their lordships, therefore, are of opinion that the principle of the common law, that things necessary pass as incident, does not give the power contended for by the respondents as an incident to, and included in, the grant of a subordinate legislature. * * * We decide according to the principle of the common law, that the House of Assembly have not the power contended for. They are a local legislature, with every power reasonably necessary for the proper exercise of their functions and duties; but they have not what they have erroneously supposed themselves to possess, the same exclusive privileges which the ancient law of England was annexed to the House of Parliament. The judgment, therefore, will be reversed, and there must be a new inquiry of damages, unless the parties can agree amongst themselves. They ought to consider it as a mere question of right to be tried, and therefore not a case for damages.

Sir Charles Bagot.—We regret to state that the latest published official bulletins of the Governor General's health give no hope of his ultimate recovery; on the contrary, his demise is daily expected.

New Organ.—The *Sacred Music Society* show a full disposition to present always some improvement, and render their Concerts worthy the public diversion in their favour. They have recently purchased an Organ, which will be a powerful and pleasing addition not only to their future Concerts, but to the Hall of the Mechanic's Institute, where we understand it will be immediately erected.—This instrument was imported from England a short time since for a gentleman in Fredericton, in whose residence it received slight damage in consequence of fire, and was sold by the Insurance Company.—The injury will be repaired here without delay.

The Rifle Company of First Battalion City Light Infantry give a Ball on Tuesday evening next at the *St. John Hotel.*

St. John Debating Society.—Subject for Wednesday evening—"Resolved, that the Americans were justifiable in asserting their Independence."

The House of Assembly on Monday went into Committee on the re-instatement of Mr. Baillie; part of the published proceedings on which arrived in town last evening. We shall notice them fully next week.

A Committee has been appointed by the House to prepare a Law authorising a Provincial Loan of £80,000.

[*From the Provincial Reporter.*]

House of Assembly, Thursday, Feb. 16.—This day's business commenced with the Commitment of a Bill for the destruction of Wolves and Bears, when after some discussion as to its detail, it passed the house.

Mr. End presented a petition from L. Barns, relating to the interference of the officers of Her Majesty's Customs, at the late election in the City of St. John, which he wished to go to the house for discussion; he thought it highly improper for Government officers to interfere with popular rights.

Mr. Hazen said that they had an undoubted right to exercise their Elective franchise.

Mr. End said that he did not intend to deny that they had a right, but he thought they should not interfere.

Mr. Williston moved that an address be presented to His Excellency, praying that he would be pleased to give information to the house relative to King's College, as to management, expences, &c.

Mr. Brown said he understood that information had been furnished. A Committee was then appointed to take the Address to His Excellency.

Mr. Barbarie brought forward the question of Post Office charges on Newspapers, Journals, &c., and read the instructions to the Deputy Post Master-General. Mr. B. then said that if that was to be the state of things, if he had the power to give such instructions, and make such charges, it was time her Majesty's Government was consulted on the subject. Mr. Phair the Postmaster of Fredericton, (he said) was not to blame, he was only acting up to his instructions. He would therefore move that a Committee be appointed to address His Excellency on the Subject, and that an address be drawn up to lay at the foot of the Throne, praying a remedy. The Committee was then appointed, and composed of Messrs. Barbarie, Hill, and Fisher.

The house then went into a Committee of the whole, on a Bill, to abolish imprisonment for debts under £5. (Mr. Connell in the Chair.)

Mr. Brown explained that the Bill had undergone a revision, and alteration to meet the objections offered by Messrs. Partelow and Barbarie, when it was before the Committee previously; a good deal of opposition being offered to the Bill, it was proposed to be postponed for three months, on which the house divided and the postponement was negatived. The Committee then proceeded with the Bill, and it was passed as amended.

Friday, February 17.—Mr. Connell by leave presented a Petition from Carleton County, praying an alteration in the Election laws.

Mr. Wilmot moved that the business relative to the scrutiny between Messrs. Street and Williston, be postponed until a future day. Mr. Williston and Mr. End stating as reasons, that they had not been able to obtain the necessary certificates; that no person had been deputed to act in the absence of the Register, and in the event of his examining the Registry, he would have to make a second application and be subject to pay the fees thereon.

Mr. Barbarie explained that if they were not prepared, they might have been, the delay was their own faults. The Committee, however, he said could be struck, and if they thought it necessary to give time, they could do so. He knew they could have no fair excuse to offer, it was only for the purpose of procrastination; he would state in his place that no double charge would be made at the Registry. It was not justice to Mr. Street, to delay the scrutiny, it was also trifling with the house.

Mr. Williston rose to reply when his honor the Speaker requested him to withdraw; he having been heard already.

Mr. Partelow said he could see no good reason why the Committee should not be struck: he could not help thinking that it looked very like a design to put off the time.

Mr. Scoullar coincided with Mr. Partelow.

Mr. Botsford said the Petitioning Candidate had his list filed, and that was a very important matter, and gave a decided advantage to Mr. Williston.

Mr. Fisher thought that all important.

Mr. Wilmot said he was not aware of that or he would not have moved for a delay.

Colonel Allen said it altered the case altogether, and that time he thought could not then be given.

The house went into a Committee of the whole (Mr. Hanington, in the Chair,) on a message from his Excellency, containing Despatches relative to public departments, &c. which was read at the Clerk's table First a Despatch relative to the Vacating of seats, in certain cases.

Mr. Speaker gave his opinion that Members accepting office should make the same known, and if he did not do so, let them pay a fine for every day they neglect to do so. The Speaker of the house he said could issue his writ for an Election in case of the death of a member.

Mr. Simonds thought that a Register of Deeds and Wills, should not be a Member of that House, his office was an important one, and he should not be absent from his office.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, the house went into Committee of the whole, in cons