

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

CARRIVAL OF THE CIRCASSIAN.—The railway Company's Steamer "Circassian" arrived at a very early hour yesterday morning, in 18 days from Galway. She encountered very heavy weather, got short of coal, and burned all her spars.

The following extracts from one of the latest papers by this conveyance, appear to comprise all the important news she brings:— "N.B.R."

A few words spoken the other day by an adventurer who, ten years ago, could not command credit for his dinner at a tavern, have shaken all Europe to its centre. The public stocks have fallen in price in every market, Government couriers are flying about from embassy to embassy with urgent despatches, and to the imaginations of all publicists the horrid form of war is present, arrayed in its most voluminous terrors. Of course, the impertinence of M. Louis Napoleon did not, of itself, suffice to produce those large effects; but men know that a mine of discontent and irritation underlies the surface of European society and as they momentarily expect it to explode, they watch every chance spark with nervous anxiety. The offensive manner and Imperial words addressed by M. Louis Napoleon to the Austrian Minister on New Year's Day were, in truth, but a flash; but that was sufficient to show how gloomy is the war cloud that now darkens the horizon, and to indicate the point where it is likely to burst. It is in Italy now, as it was in the days of "Mon Oncle," that the struggle between France and the rest of Europe will probably begin, and to all appearance the time is close at hand. It is said as we learn from this morning's telegraph, that every thing is ready to start a grand army across the Alps. The Commander-in-Chief, the General, the Aide-de-Camp, the regiments, and the engineers are all fixed upon, and in half an hour the telegraph could communicate the order to advance. On the other hand the international attitude of the Italian Government is such as warrants the world to expect an explosion that will give an excuse for French intervention. The Lombards are in a ferment of hatred to the German stranger, so that the youths in the University of Pavia cannot be allowed to reassemble without strengthening the Austrian garrison by the addition of four guns and a battalion of infantry. The King of Naples dare not allow Madame Ristori to recite a line of three words from which a national idea might be extorted. On the other hand, the House of Savoia is preparing, as the "Times" phrases it, to cast the die once more and strike boldly for the Crown of Italy. The Mazzinian faction, having lost its blighting influence, and the noble example of Sardinia has drawn the better Italian men towards a national standard, by proving to their minds the possibility of a national constitutional government. Garibaldi again appears upon the scene; but it is now in the service of a legitimate yet popular King that he is to marshal his general band. What combinations these movements will lead to is yet but matter of conjecture. The "Times" exhausts the category of hypotheses, and concludes that Austria will at first, at least, be placed in an isolated position; and that it is not improbable that France and Russia may come to an understanding for a concerted attack upon her. In that case, the Czar might again be expected to join in a new partition of Austrian provinces, while the French empire would again extend its despotism, under the name of liberation, over the Italian States. The end would, in all human likelihood, be not different from what it was in 1815, and who can say what the experience of the beginning of the century will exert any influence upon the event of its middle close? If Great Britain could be supposed to have learned any wisdom from the past, we might hope that she might scrupulously hold aloof from any participation in the coming conflict. Such is unquestionably the only fitting policy for this country, but it will no be possible to follow it out if there be any climatic meddling in the "im-broglio" under the notion of maintaining close political relations with France; or if any aid be given to her ambitious despot in advancing his designs, as though they were compatible with popular freedom and good Government abroad, being what they are at home. Britain cannot without discredit and danger, join with any of the contending par-

ties. Her proper position is one of armed neutrality; her duty to preserve the police of the ocean.

The fire at Valparaiso causes a claim of 284,000 pounds on English insurance offices including Liverpool and London 132,400, Royal of Liverpool 54,000 pounds.

Mr. George Dundas, M.P., has been appointed lieutenant governor of Prince Edward's Island.

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1859.

WE regret that the St. John's papers did not come to hand in time to enable us to copy His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Legislature. The address was an admirable one, the prominent point being, very properly, the Fishery question, upon the false interpretation of which by His Excellency's predecessor, much difficulty and positive loss to the Country has arisen. It must be a source of great satisfaction to our Fishermen to be thus convinced of the correct view taken by the Governor upon that important subject, and to be assured that the full weight of his experience and mature judgement, will be brought to bear upon the Imperial Government with such effect, that British Subjects may never again be dispossessed of their homesteads by Foreigners, even tho' it should unfortunately happen, that the same would be countenanced by an unjust Governor, supported by an indifferent and truckling Colonial Ministry.

The subject referred to next in importance, is that of the reduction of duty on Fish in the Brazils, and we believe that no effort will be spared by His Excellency to induce the Home Government to exercise its dearly-bought influence with those of Spain and Portugal to induce them to follow in the same course.

We learn also from the Speech that Harbor Grace is debited with 4000 Pounds for improvements since the fire, we should like to see published a proper statement of names of recipients and of amounts awarded to each, dissatisfaction has been expressed by some, and it is right that the public should be informed of the particulars.

We cannot at first view, enter particularly upon the various subjects embraced in the Speech. The suggestion as to local assessment for water supply and other improvements, is a step in the right direction. If His Excellency had thought proper to recommend to the last Session of the term, the necessity for readjusting the basis of Representation so that all parties may have justice done them, and hinted the propriety of purging the Assembly of placemen, the opening Speech might, we think be pronounced perfect.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

Sir.—It cannot be denied that we are much indebted to the freedom of the Press, for the advantages we enjoy. Through it, those in power, have been made to hear the public voice, and feel the pressure of public opinion;—and where is the power that can long sustain itself against the voice of public opinion? Much good has been effected in Newfoundland through the influence of an independent Press; but, although much has been done, much remains to be done. It must be admitted that the public at large are much indebted to the present Government for the many wholesome improvements which have been lately accomplished. All will admit that "Free Trade" is a great benefit to the people of Newfoundland the many Light-Houses which have been erected for the safety of the fishermen of the Country, as well as for the mercantile interest, large sums of money which have been voted for education of the youth of all classes of the country. Then if we look to the Capital

great improvements are observable, and still greater are in contemplation. Harbour Grace is next in importance. Here also some improvements have been made. A large sum of money has been granted for widening our street, and in remunerating those whose property was taken to accomplish a public good. The Government has also granted to this town a Police establishment, this also is an improvement, which notwithstanding all the efforts used under the old system could not be obtained. But, Mr. Editor, I wish to show through the medium of your Independent Journal, that we in Conception Bay have not had our full amount of justice done. Passing over many other matters I would refer to the Police. In the first place they are too few, and badly paid. In St. John's I find a police-man gets fifty-five pounds stg. yearly, with many other advantages. In Harbour Grace, the same class of respectable men get only forty-five pounds stg., with scarcely any, or no advantages. The chief Constable of St. John's receives 100 pounds stg. yearly, the chief Constable of Harbour Grace, equally respectable, and whose duties are equally important receive 70 pounds stg. per year. Now Sir, you cannot but acknowledge that this is not doing justice to the Police of Conception Bay. This will appear when you take into account the high prices of provisions in this place, compared with the prices in St. John's. Forty pounds in St. John's would be equal to fifty pounds in Harbour Grace.

Similar remarks would apply to other offices. The Sheriff of the central District gets £300 stg. yearly and £50 for his Bailiff, which I conceive is a limited sum for so important an office. While the Sheriff of the Northern District, whose duties extend from Cape John to Holyrood, gets £300 out of which he has to pay £50 to a permanent Bailiff. Now Sir, when you take into account the extensive district of the Northern Sheriff, with the large amount of responsible duties which he has to discharge, you will see that he labours under disadvantages to which the Central Sheriff is not subject.

The Gaoler at St. John's, receives £150 stg. yearly, while the Gaoler at Harbor Grace with duties equally important gets only 90 pound stg. making a vast contrast betwixt the salaries of the two principal Gaolers, equally responsible.

Now Sir, I think that these matters only require to be brought fairly before our Government, in order to obtain justice. We wish to see our officers as independent and as well supported as the officers of the Central District. And why not? All must admit that the members who have represented this district have laboured hard for its welfare, and I have no doubt they will not cease their exertions until they have obtained for the district of Conception Bay all we are entitled to.

A LIBERAL

The above communication having come to hand anonymously, it should, according to rule, have been rejected, but considering the subject of much importance, and that it was fairly treated, we were induced to overlook the irregularity.

As partiality is ever the index of despotism, equal right can only result from the proper exercise of responsible principles. Our Ministers would do well to remember their pledges when seeking to secure the rems of Government.

From the Express.

BURNS' CENTENARY DINNER.

On Tuesday evening, being the Hundredth Anniversary of the birthday of Scotland's national bard, the auspicious event was celebrated by a Public Dinner in the Masonic Hall. Shortly after six o'clock, about 140, consisting of natives of Scotland and gentlemen of Scottish descent, with their guests, sat down to a sumptuous dinner, furnished by Messrs. Lash. The chair was ably filled by William Boyd, Esq., supported on his right by J. S. Cliff, Esq.,

W. M. of St. John's Lodge of Free Masons on the Rev. D. MacRae and the Rev. Charles Pedley, and on the left by F. B. T. Carter, Esq., the Rev. M. Harvey and Adam Scott, Esq. The Vice-President's chair was occupied by G. G. Geddes, Esq. By permission of Colonel Law, the band of the Royal Newfoundland Companies was in attendance and played appropriate airs during the evening. The whole proceedings were conducted with much harmony; and the memory of the gifted bard, and the warm admiration of his works seemed to influence all alike—his countrymen and guests of other nationalities. All appeared to feel that they were bearing part in a celebration co-extensive with the settlement of Scotia's sons in almost every country on the globe.

The following is a list of the toasts, which were ably, and in several instances eloquently responded to by the Revs. M. Harvey; D. MacRae and C. Pedley, by J. S. Cliff, F. B. T. Carter, R. J. Piment and W. V. Whiteway, Esqrs., Dr. Dearin, Dr. McKen and several others. Several songs were sung, adding the hilarity of the evening, and the whole proceedings terminated shortly after one o'clock yesterday morning, when those who remained until then all left together. Not the least interesting part of the proceedings was the narrating by Mr. J. Johnston, who had seen and conversed with Burns, of some incidents of the poet's life. We are under the necessity of omitting a report of the speeches, owing to the length and several of them not admitting of abridgement.

The following were the toasts:—

- 1 The Queen.
- 2 The Immortal Memory of Burns.
- 3 His Excellency the Governor.
- 4 The Army and Navy.
- 5 The Legislature.
- 6 The Bench and the Bar.
- 7 The Clergy of the Island.
- 8 The Land of Cakes.
- 9 The Land we live in.
- 10 Lady Bannerman and the Ladies.
- 11 The Deputy Principal Grand Master.
- The Worthy Masters of St. John's Avalon Lodges, and the Brethren of the Mystic tie.
- 12 Our Guests.
- 13 The Poets of Great Britain and Ireland.
- 14 The Poets of Terra Nova.
- 15 The Press.
- 16 The admirers of Burns all over the World.
- 17 The Sprising Memory of Wallace and Bruce.

DIED.—On the 23rd ult. James Monohan, a native of Goffs Town, County of Wick, Ireland. Aged 86 years, and a resident of this Country 43 years.

NOTICES.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF NEWFOUNDLAND

A DIVIDEND on the paid up Capital of this Company, at the rate of Six per Cent. per annum, for the half-year ending 31st December, 1858, will be payable at the Banking House in this City, on and after the 10th instant, during the usual hours of business.

(By order of the Board.)

R. BROWN, Manager.

Jan. 6.

1000 tnds. Sydney COAL, Cheap. BUTTERFORD BROTHERS.

ASSURANCE

Lombard Street
Decimus J. Esq.
Octavius J. Esq.
William C. Esq.
John Davis Esq.
George H. Esq.
George A. Esq.
Charles E. Esq.
James A. Esq.
Henry G. Esq.
Thomas H. Esq.
Benjamin Esq.
Mathew W. Esq.

WARRANT

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