The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 12, 1850.

The steamship *Europa*, 13½ days from Liverpool, with the Mail of the 26th January, arrived at Halifax on Friday evening, and the news was received here same night by Telegraph. The mail arrived on Sunday morning.

Commercial affairs, though less buoyant than at last accounts, were still in a satisfactory state.

The Cotton market was brisk, and the sales of the week previous to the departure of the steamer amounted to 83,000 bales, at an advance of from ⅛d. to ¼d.

The Corn Market continued languid—best Western Canal Flour 24s. 6d. to 24s.; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 25s. to 25s. 6d.; New Orleans, 24s. to 24s. 6d; and Indian Corn steady at 31s. to 31s. 6d. for white; 29s. to 29s. 3d. for yellow; and 28s. 6d. to 29s. for mixed.

Cash remains abundant, but is expected by the large discount houses to become tighter, in consequence of the large accession of speculation bills, and the operation of the Russian loan.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 26.—*Pine Timber.*—Stock of Pine is large. Sales of the month consist of two cargoes Quebec, at 13½d. and a cargo of Restigouche, at 12½d. No late sales of St. John Planks—latest sales, one cargo of Spruce, one of Pine, at £7 11s. 6d. per Standard; cargo of Shippegan Yellow Pine, £8 per Standard.—*Boards and Scantling*—Import largely exceeds last year, so also the consumption. Last sale—Boards at 11 11-16d. per foot; Scantling at £7 per Standard.—*Birch*—prices rule firm; demand good for fresh and good qualities. Last sale St. John, with cargo, at 11d. per foot, and a part at 13d. per foot.—*By Telegraph to News Room.*

The tonnage employed in the Foreign and Colonial Timber trade, in the past year, amounts to 472 vessels, 239,921 tons, against 397 vessels, 216,394 tons, in the previous year: the Colonial trade showing an excess in every article, while the Baltic exhibits a very marked decrease. The consumption exceeds last year in almost every article, but the stocks, in nearly every instance, are heavier.

The Iron market is firm, with prices somewhat improved.

There were 90 ships building at Sunderland on the 31st Dec. last.

ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The Enterprise and Investigator, (the Behring's Straits expedition,) under the command of Capt. Collinson, C. B., have taken their final departure from Plymouth, on their long and perilous voyage, in search of Captain Franklin and his companions. The ships will be towed through the Straits of Magellan, and touching at Valparaiso for water, &c., will proceed forthwith to the Sandwich Islands, and thence to Behring's Straits, pushing on to the eastward, in the hope of reaching Melville Island before the winter sets in. Further instructions, however, will be sent to them in the month of March, *via* Panama. God grant them success.—*London paper.*

CUSTOMS REVENUE AT MANCHESTER.—The customs receipts at this place for the years ending 5th January 1849 and 1850 are as follows:—Year ending 5th January 1850, £319,335; ditto, 5th January 1849, £249,668. Increase for the year 1850, £69,667.—*Manchester Examiner.*

Customs Revenue at Belfast.—The customs return of this port, for the year ending the 5th Jan., shows a very gratifying increase of £12,191 2s. 2d. over the previous year, the gross total in 1849 being £256,126 16s. 2d, and, in 1848, £234,282.

TRADE OF SHEFFIELD.—It affords us much pleasure to be able to state that the general revival of the staple trades of Sheffield, to which we have of late occasionally referred, continues steadily to progress, and that men of extensive observations and experience regard it as the commencement of a period of unequivocal commercial prosperity.

Dundee is one of the most active and thriving commercial and manufacturing towns in Britain.—Its population has increased rapidly since the year of Reform. The manufactures and shipping of Dundee have experienced a corresponding increase.

THE POOR OF LIVERPOOL.—Such is the distress experienced by the poorer classes of this town during the present inclement season, that no less than five or six hundred poor creatures assembled for relief round the doors of the District Provident Society on Friday. Barriers had to be erected, but such was the crush that the barriers were broken down, though very strongly made. No injury, we are happy to say, followed.—*Liverpool Chronicle.*

GOLD FROM ABROAD.—During the last year the West India packets have brought £1,648,270, the produce of the mines of California, Mexico, Central America, and the Pacific States of South America. Of this amount, it is estimated that about £100,000 in gold has come from California, direct, or *via* Lima and Valparaiso, where much Californian dust is melted into ingots for England. The Peninsular and Oriental steam packets have brought from Alexandria, £728,857 "gold and silver coin;" from Constantinople, £383,510 "gold and silver;" from Spain and Portugal, £310,000.—Total of the year, £2,678,655.

The quantity of gold procured from the mines in the Ural Mountains during the first half of last year amounted to 669,000 of which 407,000 was on private account, and 232,000 for the Russian Government.

Another New York Packet Ship lost.—The splendid New York packet ship Hottinguer, Capt. Bursey, has fallen a prey to the fury of the elements, and, from the tenor of the last accounts respecting her, a melancholy loss of life attended the disaster. The Hottinguer sailed from Liverpool for New York on the 10th inst. She had twenty-nine cabin and steerage passengers, together with a crew of thirty men and boys, and had a full freight, of various descriptions of goods. She had only passed as far as Blackwater Bank, which is off the coast of Wexford, when she struck on one of the dangerous ledges of rock which lie concealed in that quarter. This occurred on the morning of the 12th. On the occurrence of this mishap, a part of the crew and all the passengers were sent ashore. Captain Bursley and thirteen of his men remained on board, determined not to leave the ship while there was the remotest chance of saving her. On the following morning, the 13th, the ship floated off Blackwater Bank, and bore away before the wind, and struck on Arklow Bank, where she afterwards went to pieces, and, sad to relate, Captain B. and 12 of the noble band who determined to see the last of their ship, met a watery grave. At the time the passengers left the ship, her situation seemed to be utterly hopeless—the hold was full of water, and the sea making a clear sweep over her. It was with extreme difficulty and peril that the passengers and seamen were passed into the boats—the sea heating with dreadful violence on the banks.—The passengers were unable to take anything out of the ship except the clothes they had on at the time. The boats happily succeeded in reaching the shore, although with extreme difficulty, as they were seven miles at sea from the land.—Capt. Bursley, who was on board the ship, up to the time she struck on Blackwater Bank, is a passenger on board the Europa.

COAL MINES.—There are upwards of 3000 coal mines in Great Britain, which employ nearly 250,000 men, women, and boys. The working capital invested is estimated at £30,000,000, the annual "get" of coal at 34,000,000 tons, and the value thereof at the pit's mouth at £10,000,000.

WHAT A PENNY DOES.—In 1839, 2,600,000 of letters were posted; in 1848, 320,000,000.

FEMALE EMIGRATION.—We are informed that the Court of Directors of the East India Company have most liberally contributed the sum of two hundred pounds towards Mr. Sidney Herbert's fund for the Promotion of Female Emigration.

GLASGOW AND NEW YORK.—A large Screw Steamer is being constructed on the Clyde to run from Glasgow to New York. She will be launched in a few weeks.

The deaths in Glasgow last year, including those by cholera, were 11,170—being only 352 more than in the preceding year.

It was stated by Mr. Portal, M. P. at the Basingstoke agricultural meeting, that the Bank of England, with its £17,000,000 of bullion, pays only £150 per annum to the poor rates.

The crack screw steamship of-war of France, "La Pomone," so highly praised as a model for our marine, has been beaten all to sticks in a trial of speed with the "Arrogant," British screw steamer, which beat the former by twenty fours hours in a race of three hundred miles.

General Sir Charles Napier is scolding his subordinates in India about derelictions in *military* discipline; and his cousin, *Admiral* Sir Charles Napier, is equally on the alert at home in scolding all and sundry about *naval* mismanagement. The Napiers must have their full swing in this *sublunary* world.

THE ORNAMENTAL WATERS OF THE LONDON PARKS were on Monday thronged with skaters and sliders, and it is calculated that at least 30,000 persons were on the ice during the day.

THE WEATHER.—Dublin is just now a western Siberia. The cold, which for the last four days, has been almost intolerable, last night reached its climax, and after long threatening there was a fall, though a slight one, of hard dry snow between two and three o'clock this morning. From the state of the temperature there is every prospect of a season of unusual severity in these latitudes.

THE WEATHER.—The rigorous cold, which has for some days been experienced, increased yesterday to a degree of the greatest intensity. It was, undoubtedly, the coldest day we have had this season, and certainly betokens that the winter will be one of protracted severity.—*Glasgow Mail.*

The weather throughout the United Kingdom, also in France, has been more rigorous than for many years.

The *Hull Advertiser* announces the loss of seven fishing smacks and crews (37 men and boys). It is supposed that the vessels perished during the gales of the 27th and 28th of December.

On Monday night, Buchanan House, in the parish of Buchanan, Stirlingshire, the Scottish seat of the Duke of Montrose, was totally destroyed by fire. It was delightfully situated in the neighbourhood of Loch-lomond.

In France, the war against the press continues.—The *Reforme* has been suspended, and *La Presse* seized.

A Royal Commission has been issued and published in the *Gazette* for the promotion of the "Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations" in the year 1851. The first person named is that Prince whom the Queen "delighteth to honour." It begins "Victoria, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith; To Our most dearly-beloved Consort His Royal Highness Francis Albert Augustus Charles Emanuel, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, and Field Marshal in Our army." In the same heraldic style are named the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Ellesmere, the Earl of Rosse, Lord Stanley, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Archibald Galloway (Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company), Sir Richard Westmacott, Sir Charles Lyell, Mr. Baring, Mr. Barry, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Cubitt, Mr. Eastlake, &c., &c. These Commissioners are appointed to carry out the objects of the Exhibition—the introduction of colonial and foreign products, the site for the exhibition, the prizes, and other arrangements. They have also the power to name local commissioners to aid them. The proclamation states that the sum of £20,000, in name of certain trustees, has been invested, in order to be awarded in prizes and medals. There is no doubt that abundance of specimens will be sent to the great exhibition. The difficulty of the Commissioners will lie chiefly in selection. London will be benefitted by the competition, as thousands from all parts of the kingdom, and from foreign countries, will crowd to see the princely show. The more important benefits to be reaped by such a display of works of science and art—the skill, the talents, and resources of all nations—cannot be calculated.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851.—Her Majesty the Queen has contributed £1,000, and Prince Albert £500, to the funds for the Exhibition of the Products of the Industry of all Nations.

THE SCOTTISH FISHERIES.—A very interesting report on the fisheries of Scotland, by Captain Washington, has just made its appearance in a blue book. He describes the sad loss of life and property on the east coast of Scotland in the disastrous storm of August 1848; 124 boats were lost, and 100 men drowned on that occasion. He recommends measures for the improvement of harbours of refuge; for abolishing various pernicious practices among the fishermen, particularly the immense consumption of whisky; for introducing a better build of boats, either wholly or half decked. He describes the value of the Scotch fishings as immense. In 1848 there were cured 900,315 barrels of herrings—value about one million of pounds sterling—besides 364,951 cwt. of cod and ling; giving employment to 15,082 boats, 69316 fishermen, besides 97,477 persons curing, and to 5097 crews carrying salt and export fish. He estimates the value of boats, nets, lines, &c., (all belonging to the fishermen) at £1,250,078 sterling. Talk of California indeed! Here are greater treasures by far. Although most commodities of general consumption are at present cheap in London, yet fish maintains high prices; in proof of which a lady told me that she was the other day asked 30s. for a turbot and 12s. for a cod in Hungerford Market—prices above her commission.—*Inverness Conr.*

JUVENILE ENTERTAINMENT.—On New Year's Eve the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a juvenile entertainment, in the Mansion-House, to several hundreds of the young children of the citizens. The company entered the Egyptian Hall at about seven, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress themselves gaily led off a country-dance with a young partner each. At ten o'clock the amusements were varied by the introduction of Mr. Love, the polyphonist, who, from a stage erected for him in one corner of the room, delighted and mystified the young people with his clever ventriloquisms. At eleven the parents of the children arrived, and assumed a wise control at the sumptuous supper-table. After supper, dancing was resumed, till near the hour of twelve; when the bands paused, the dancing ceased, and amidst silence soft chimes were played in low, undulating tones as if waited by the rising and falling breeze. At midnight, a deep-toned bell tolled the hour; the gas lights waned simultaneously, in signification of the departing year; when twelve o'clock had struck the light again sprang up, and the hall was in its former blaze of illumination. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress seated themselves at the upper end of the hall, and shook each young couple by the hand as they passed; a courtesy they acknowledged with sweet wishes of a "happy new year." And so the "company" departed, young and old in equal delight.—*London paper.*

TWILIGHT DEATH OF THE "LION QUEEN."—On Saturday evening last an inquest was held at the Golden Lion Inn, Chatham, before J. Hume, Esquire, coroner for West Kent, touching the death of Eliza Biggin, a young girl aged seventeen years, who was killed on the previous evening by a tiger in the establishment of Mr. George Woodwell, which had arrived in that town for exhibition on the preceding day. The deceased, who was denominated "the Lion Queen," had the honor of performing before Her Majesty some time since. She was a niece of Mr Woodwell's. It was her business to go into the cage and perform with the beasts. On Friday evening, shortly after nine o'clock, she went into the den in which a lion and tiger were kept, for the purpose of performing some of the tricks played by exhibiting them jointly with the former animal. She had been in the habit of these exercises, but had gone through the part for the performance, extending her head and neck into the lion's mouth in a particular part of the cage, when the tiger being in the way, the animal struck it slightly with a paw, which was extended in her hand. The beast then seized the unfortunate girl, carrying her close to the ground, and, in the presence of the spectators, tearing her dress, causing the fatal wound in her neck, of which she died in a few minutes. The animal was secured by the keeper, and the girl was taken home in a state of insensibility.

At Stockton, on Tuesday last, a dwelling house occupied by three families was destroyed by fire; and an old lady, named McGeorge, in whose apartment the fire originated, was burnt to death.—Same night, two buildings were burned at Lewiston, Maine, in one of which the town records were all destroyed.

At Fredericton, on Tuesday last, the thermometer is stated to have been as low as 32° to 33° below zero.

The steamship *Niagara* arrived at Halifax from Boston, at 2 o'clock on Friday morning, and again took her departure for Liverpool at 5 o'clock, with 80 passengers.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the Mutual Insurance Company was held at the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, the 4th instant. The Secretary, agreeable to the Bye-Laws of the Company, submitted his Annual Report, by which it appeared that the number of unexpired risks on the 31st Dec. (to which period the accounts are made up) exceeded that of any previous year. The losses during the past year amounting to £1777 12s., with all other claims against the Company, had been promptly and satisfactorily adjusted. The Report was adopted, and the following Gentlemen elected Directors for the present year:

Joseph Fairweather, S. L. Tilley.
Thos. M. Smith, Jas. W. Lawrence.
and Z. Ring.

At a meeting of the Directors, held the following day—

Joseph Fairweather, Esq. was chosen President; Isaac Woodward, Esq. appointed Secretary, and J. M. Robinson, Esq. Solicitor.

The Company made a liberal donation of Ten Pounds, towards purchasing a new Fire Engine for No. 5 Volunteer Company.—*Com'rce.*

ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Directors of the St. John Agricultural Society, on the 31st ult. the President reported that the Society's funds for the year 1849 amounted to £[illegible], which was more than sufficient to obtain the premiums given. It was resolved that the Society should import good ploughing cattle, to be here early in the Spring, and to be furnished to Members at cost and charges. A circular to that effect was ordered to be issued.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. John McLardy delivered a very excellent lecture last evening, on "Human Progress." He reviewed the remarkable progress in civilization, and consequent eradication of many of the barbarous practices and modes of punishment &c., which prevailed in Europe, and even in our own Mother Country, at so recent a period as a century and a half ago; he alluded to the Institutions which now exist for the reformation and support of the ignorant and depraved, while former generations exhibited a cold indifference in these matters; the ample facilities now enjoyed for advancement in literary and scientific knowledge; the astonishing improvements in the arts and sciences; the more recent inventions of railways, electric telegraphs, &c.—by all of which Human Progress was most abundantly proved.

On Monday evening next, Mr. Watters will entertain the Members with a lecture on "Poetry."

Two women, named Nancy Jordan and Eliza Lindsay, were found frozen to death on the ice between Appleby's Shipyard, and Long Island, Kennebeckasis, on the 31st ult. and were supposed to have perished on the night of the 29th, while on their way home from the City. They both resided on Long Island; the former has left a husband and family; the latter was a widow, and has left three young children.

At Fredericton, on Tuesday last, the thermometer is stated to have been as low as 32° to 33° below zero.

The steamship *Niagara* arrived at Halifax from Boston, at 2 o'clock on Friday morning, and again took her departure for Liverpool at 5 o'clock, with 80 passengers.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the Mutual Insurance Company was held at the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, the 4th instant. The Secretary, agreeable to the Bye-Laws of the Company, submitted his Annual Report, by which it appeared that the number of unexpired risks on the 31st Dec. (to which period the accounts are made up) exceeded that of any previous year. The losses during the past year amounting to £1777 12s., with all other claims against the Company, had been promptly and satisfactorily adjusted. The Report was adopted, and the following Gentlemen elected Directors for the present year:

Joseph Fairweather, S. L. Tilley.
Thos. M. Smith, Jas. W. Lawrence.
and Z. Ring.

At a meeting of the Directors, held the following day—

Joseph Fairweather, Esq. was chosen President; Isaac Woodward, Esq. appointed Secretary, and J. M. Robinson, Esq. Solicitor.

The Company made a liberal donation of Ten Pounds, towards purchasing a new Fire Engine for No. 5 Volunteer Company.—*Com'rce.*

ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Directors of the St. John Agricultural Society, on the 31st ult. the President reported that the Society's funds for the year 1849 amounted to £[illegible], which was more than sufficient to obtain the premiums given. It was resolved that the Society should import good ploughing cattle, to be here early in the Spring, and to be furnished to Members at cost and charges. A circular to that effect was ordered to be issued.

The grey returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was killed by a male tiger, whilst exhibiting in its den, and expressed a strong opinion against the practice of allowing persons to perform in a den with such animals.

RUSSIA.—So then, after all, it is quite true that there *has been* a great conspiracy in St. Petersburg. The Russian Government itself tardily admits it, very much in the style of a Chinese proclamation. Our readers will remember, of course, that reports of such an affair got into circulation many months ago, though the French and English journals in the interest of the Czar, contradicted or laughed at them. The public were confidently assured that revolutionary doctrines could obtain no currency in Russia, where the love of order and the Emperor constituted, it was said, the people's principal article of faith.

At length, however, it is announced, in the *St. Petersburg Journal*, with the formal authority of Government, that there really was a conspiracy, originating in a secret society, the object of which was to establish liberal institutions, which the Emperor's organ is pleased to confound with anarchy. How far the ramifications of this secret society extended, the world will never, perhaps, be able to discover, because so absolute is the despotism of the Czar, that it is able to repress the feelings, tongues, and opinions of nearly sixty millions of men.

It is with the utmost difficulty that anything transpires to the rest of Europe from Russia. But the fact that there had been a conspiracy came out soon after its suppression, though the conspirators were tried by a secret military tribunal, and in the fury of the moment, all condemned to death. But more mature reflection convinced the Czar of the policy of changing his sanguinary course, since all the relatives of the individuals thus victimized would have become conspirators in their hearts, and seized on the first opportunity to overthrow his Government. He therefore commuted the sentences of death into those of exile to Siberia, imprisonment in remote fortresses, or forced service in the army. Of the exact number of the conspirators, no idea can be formed, though it be very certain that it was so great that even the Russian Government shrunk from the idea of inflicting punishment on the whole, under pretence that the majority had been seduced by wicked and designing persons; they were set at liberty.

But the few who had been selected to be made examples of, are to be compelled to figure in a social tragedy of the most dreadful kind—up to the last moment are to kept in ignorance of their intended fate, and led to the foot of the block or the gallows, where alone they are to learn that, instead of passing at once to eternity, they are to work, chained in the mines of Siberia, or to wear out their lives in dungeons, or be set to massacre the Circassians at the bidding of despotism.

The Imperial proclamation is an excellent imitation of similar documents by the mandarins of Ching Tae, or the Brother of the Sun and Moon himself.—*Glasgow Mail, 21st Jan.*

ROME.—It is said that want of money prevents the Pope from returning to his capital, and that France has offered funds to His Holiness. The Archbishop of Bourges is stated to be the bearer of this offer made in the name of the French episcopacy.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Cape of Good Hope papers, of Nov. 15, have been received, at which date the convict question remained in much the same unsatisfactory state as when the previous vessel quitted that shore. The Neptune still continued off the Cape; and although petitions after petitions had been presented to the governor, Sir H. Smith, praying that he would order the Neptune away, he peremptorily refused, assigning as his reason that he would not commit "an act illegal, impolitic, and of dangerous example." The colony was quiet; but several of the shopkeepers who had furnished the Government with provisions were utterly ruined, the contracts having refused to purchase of them any longer. Threats of actions for damages had been made by some of the tradesmen so circumstanced; but it was not expected that, if trial followed, the object sought would be obtained.

BOMBAY, Dec. 17.—Majors Edwardes and Nicholson, and some other officers, are about to proceed to England, and are expected at Bombay for the purpose of embarkation. Major Edwardes will, I believe, take home the celebrated diamond, the *koh-i-noor*, which is intended as a present for Her Majesty. He will also probably be the bearer of a parcel of the wedding garments which were prepared for the intended bride of Dhuleep Singh, and which are to be sent to the Queen in consequence of an expression of the royal wish to see some of the attire worn by the Seikh ladies.

The Marquis of Dalhousie was expected at Moultan on Christmas-day, and the Commander-in-Chief at Peshawur on the 16th instant. Lady Dalhousie, it was believed, would proceed home, and the Governor-General would accompany her to Suez.

The Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, at the opening of the Session, recommends to the attention of the Legislature a number of important subjects connected with the public welfare, and which should receive the most devoted attention of the Representatives of the people, in order that some measures that will tend to revive the prosperity of the Province may be adopted.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. John McLardy delivered a very excellent lecture last evening, on "Human Progress." He reviewed the remarkable progress in civilization, and consequent eradication of many of the barbarous practices and modes of punishment &c., which prevailed in Europe, and even in our own Mother Country, at so recent a period as a century and a half ago; he alluded to the Institutions which now exist for the reformation and support of the ignorant and depraved, while former generations exhibited a cold indifference in these matters; the ample facilities now enjoyed for advancement in literary and scientific knowledge; the astonishing improvements in the arts and sciences; the more recent inventions of railways, electric telegraphs, &c.—by all of which Human Progress was most abundantly proved.

On Monday evening next, Mr. Watters will entertain the Members with a lecture on "Poetry."

Two women, named Nancy Jordan and Eliza Lindsay, were found frozen to death on the ice between Appleby's Shipyard, and Long Island, Kennebeckasis, on the 31st ult. and were supposed to have perished on the night of the 29th, while on their way home from the City. They both resided on Long Island; the former has left a husband and family; the latter was a widow, and has left three young children.

At St. Stephens, on Tuesday last, a dwelling house occupied by three families was destroyed by fire; and an old lady, named McGeorge, in whose apartment the fire originated, was burnt to death.—Same night, two buildings were burned at Lewiston, Maine, in one of which the town records were all destroyed.

At Fredericton, on Tuesday last, the thermometer is stated to have been as low as 32° to 33° below zero.

The steamship *Niagara* arrived at Halifax from Boston, at 2 o'clock on Friday morning, and again took her departure for Liverpool at 5 o'clock, with 80 passengers.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the Mutual Insurance Company was held at the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, the 4th instant. The Secretary, agreeable to the Bye-Laws of the Company, submitted his Annual Report, by which it appeared that the number of unexpired risks on the 31st Dec. (to which period the accounts are made up) exceeded that of any previous year. The losses during the past year amounting to £1777 12s., with all other claims against the Company, had been promptly and satisfactorily adjusted. The Report was adopted, and the following Gentlemen elected Directors for the present year:

Joseph Fairweather, S. L. Tilley.
Thos. M. Smith, Jas. W. Lawrence.
and Z. Ring.

At a meeting of the Directors, held the following day—

Joseph Fairweather, Esq. was chosen President; Isaac Woodward, Esq. appointed Secretary, and J. M. Robinson, Esq. Solicitor.

The Company made a liberal donation of Ten Pounds, towards purchasing a new Fire Engine for No. 5 Volunteer Company.—*Com'rce.*

ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Directors of the St. John Agricultural Society, on the 31st ult. the President reported that the Society's funds for the year 1849 amounted to £[illegible], which was more than sufficient to obtain the premiums given. It was resolved that the Society should import good ploughing cattle, to be here early in the Spring, and to be furnished to Members at cost and charges. A circular to that effect was ordered to be issued.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Fredericton, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1850.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following SPEECH:—

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

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

"It is with great regret that I announce to you the decease of an illustrious Lady, the Queen Dowager of England, whose kindness and benevolence had endeared Her to the English Nation.

"At the close of your last Session, I expressed a confident hope that, by the blessing of Providence, an abundant Harvest might restore the prosperity of the country. I now with sincere pleasure congratulate you on the Crops which have been vouchsafed to us. I trust, with equal confidence, that our Commerce may revive, and that such Manufactures as the Province can advantageously carry on, may thrive within our limits.

"Another ground for thankfulness on the part of the people of this Colony, is the fact that we have been spared the ravages of that disease which has proved so fatal in England and elsewhere.

"In pursuance of the Resolution of the House of Assembly, passed in the last Session, Professor James Johnston has visited this Province, and after traversing it in every direction, has prepared a Report, which will be placed in your hands. I am persuaded that the publication of his views, with reference to your Agriculture, will greatly tend to promote an Immigration of a satisfactory character, and will stimulate the industry of those who have perhaps hitherto undervalued the resources of their native Country.

"I earnestly recommend to your consideration Professor Johnston's suggestions. I think it especially important that an accurate Survey and Report on the extent and probable productiveness of our Coal Field, should be obtained from persons practically conversant with the working of that mineral; and that a plan for imparting Agricultural instruction to all classes, should form the subject of your deliberations.

"A most important change has taken place in the Navigation Laws of the Mother Country—a change which cannot fail to interest this Colony. I know that fears have been entertained by many persons as to the effect of this alteration on the trade of New Brunswick. I may be sanguine, but I confidently hope that these fears will prove groundless; and that the advantages of Ship building enjoyed by this Province will enable us to compete with any Nation, whilst the removal of restrictions on the cargoes of British Ships in Foreign Ports will create an increased demand for those Vessels, which form one of our staple exports.

"It will be for you to consider how far it is expedient to address Her Most Gracious Majesty, under the provisions of the Imperial Act, with reference to the Coasting Trade of this Province and the other North American Colonies. The Members of the several Executive Councils of Canada, Nova-Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New-Brunswick, who met at Halifax in the course of last Autumn, felt, I believe, the full importance of increased facilities for Trade, and I know that Her Majesty's Government at home, are anxious to concur in any measures which, by promoting greater freedom of intercourse, whether between the Colonies themselves or other Countries, will allow our Commerce to expand and develope itself.

"I am deeply impressed with the great commercial importance to Canada and New Brunswick, of improving the means of communication between the Bay of Fundy and the River Saint Lawrence. In order to derive the full benefit from the Act of last Session, authorising an outlay on the Survey and improvement of the River Saint John, I applied for the services of an Officer of Royal Engineers from Canada. This aid Her Majesty's Government was pleased to afford; and I have much pleasure in stating that a careful Survey of the Rapids and Rocks impeding the Navigation between Fredericton and the Grand Falls, has been made by the joint labours of Captain George Bent, of the Royal Engineers, and Mr. John Grant; the final Report itself, with the detailed Plans, is in a state of forwardness, such as may, I trust, allow of its being laid before you in the course of this Session.

"An able Report by Mr. Wilkinson, on the Railway between Shediac and Saint John, will also be laid before you, and I shall be glad to find that any steps may be taken to promote so important an undertaking, consistently with the Financial Resources of the Province.

"A Report from Mr. Perley on the Fisheries of our Coasts will receive at your hands the consideration which the importance of the subject warrants.

"I trust you may be able in the course of this Session, to revise and consolidate the principal Laws of the Province, so as to present them in a form less complicated than that in which they now stand. A measure will be laid before you having this object in view.

"The Parliament of Great Britain have passed an Act, enabling the Colonial Legislatures to deal with the subject of the Post Office. I think you will be able to frame such a measure as will materially relieve the people of the Province, and facilitate the transmission of Letters within its limits.

"The Act regulating the Common Schools requires renewal and revision. The zeal which you have hitherto shown in the cause of Education, makes me confident that you will devise means for extending its benefits and improving its character.

"I regret that I have no definite information which I can afford you with reference to the settlement of the Canadian Boundary, but I know that the subject is under consideration, and that its importance to the welfare of New-Brunswick, as well as Canada, is appreciated.

"The Act relating to the Corporation of Saint John has been brought into operation. I have every reason to believe that the Police of that City is properly organized, and answers the purpose for which it was intended.

"I have taken care that rules and regulations should be framed for carrying out the Act of last Session on the subject of Lands sold by the Crown. I wish you to consider whether that Act can produce its full effect without some modification of the Tax on Emigrants. It is essential, however, that due security should be maintained for the protection of the health of Passengers, and that object is greatly facilitated by recent enactments of the Parliament of Great Britain.

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

"The Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure for the past year will be laid before you without delay. You will see with satisfaction that the moneys paid into the Treasury show a considerable improvement in our Finances, and I trust you will find that at proper economy has been exercised in expending the same amounts of our revenue.

"In the course of your passing any Act imposing Duties on Imports, I earnestly recommend for consideration the expediency of promoting Commerce, by insuring greater certainty in our Revenue Laws.

"The mere fluctuations of Markets render commercial speculations hazardous without the additional risk attaching to the shipment of goods, whilst the rate of Duty which those goods may have to pay is wholly conjectural.

"I am persuaded that such uncertainty is more injurious to the shipper and importer, and consequently to our own Revenue, than a higher Tariff would be on which they could calculate beforehand with tolerable security.

"I trust you will not suppose me desirous of suggesting any course which should imply a diminished controul over the Taxation of the Province by the Representatives of its People.

"Under all circumstances, in your hands must rest the discretionary power of altering the Duties, and in your hands must remain the appropriation of the moneys so levied.

"These Constitutional rights would not be affected by the adoption of a Bill exceeding in its duration the ordinary period, and whilst on the one hand it would be perfectly understood that the Provincial Legislature might alter or repeal any of the Duties at any moment, the Merchant would feel secure that no such change would take place without due deliberation, and without a special reason for such a course.

"This is virtually the state of things in England, and this, I am fully persuaded, would be the principle most likely to foster Commerce in our own Province.

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

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

"I cannot conclude this Speech without expressing to you distinctly my own convictions on one or two Constitutional matters of the highest importance.

"I believe, in the first place, that it is most desirable to define more accurately the responsibility attaching to the initiation of money votes. This can only be done by throwing such responsibility on the Executive Government.

"The undisputed right to originate money votes is vested in the House of Assembly; and the Members of the Executive Council, it is now understood, practically retain their seats only so long as they are presumed to enjoy the confidence of the people, expressed in the Legislature.

"To the people therefore, through their Representatives, as well as to the Crown, they are strictly responsible: and although the burthen of being answerable for the introduction of money votes would be a heavy one, that burthen might be lightened by leaving to local control such local charges as no central Government can by any amount of vigilance efficiently check. Local control over local charges, presents moreover advantages of its own with which every man of English race is sufficiently familiar. Economy would be promoted—habits of self-reliance and self-government would be fostered—and the elements of true political freedom would be developed by the management of the affairs of each separate district.

"I believe too, that an Audit based on powers more stringent and more searching than those which now exist, would ensure greater regularity in all our Accounts, and would give confidence to the public at large.

"It implies no mistrust of the people or the Legislature of this Province to advocate principles and measures practically a part of the Constitution of England, and of the Constitution of other Colonies, where free and Responsible Government is acknowledged as completely as in New Brunswick.

"In themselves these measures would bring to the Representative of Her Majesty, and to Her Majesty's Councillors, nothing but an amount of trouble and responsibility from which they are now exempt.

"I name them to you with the full conviction that they contain the best means by which the people may be assured that their expenditure will correspond with their probable income—that the credit of the Province will be properly upheld—and that no abuse of Public Money is likely to take place with impunity.

"I will only add that I believe such changes may be combined with an actual and immediate saving to the Provincial Revenue.

"I could not properly incet you in this, the last Session of the present Assembly, without imparting frankly my hope, that in the course of your deliberations you may, at any rate, pave the way for measures such as these to which I have adverted.

"To those deliberations you will now proceed, and I entertain a conviction that they will be guided by a spirit of loyalty to the Queen, and zeal for the public welfare, worthy of the Province. When we last met, we had to look back upon a year of war and tumult in Europe,—the wrecks of mighty States seemed to float around Great Britain, and to justify our confidence in the strength and soundness of those institutions, by help of which she had, under Providence, ridden out the storm;—that confidence therefore you have every reason to maintain unimpaired, and it will always be my duty to foster and encourage it by all constitutional means."

After the members had returned to the House and the Speaker taken his seat, the Hon. Mr. Partelow asked leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to the Provincial Penitentiary.

His Honor the Speaker then read the Governor's Speech. After which, C. P. Wetmore, Esq., Clerk of the House, informed the Speaker that the office of Assistant Clerk had become vacant in consequence of the demise of the late George Lee, Esq. He (the Clerk) would beg leave to nominate T. R. Wetmore, Esq., as a person competent to fill that office. On the nomination being put from the Chair, Mr. Ritchie moved as an amendment, that George J. Bliss, Esq., be appointed Clerk's Assistant, on the ground that he (Mr. Bliss) had a superior claim, in consequence of his past services as out door Clerk. An animated debate ensued, in which several members took an active part—some contending that the right of appointing the Assistant rested with the House; while others considered that the Clerk should have the privilege of choosing his own Assistant, because he (the Clerk) was responsible for the proper performance of the duties, and would therefore be cautious in making a selection.

On the nomination of T. R. Wetmore, Esq, being put to the House, it was rejected by a majority of 1—Yeas 13; Nays 17.

Mr. End then moved that the appointment be made by the House. Mr. J. A. Street moved as an amendment, that the Clerk have the privilege of nominating his Assistant, subject to the approval of the House, which amendment was carried by a division of 20 to 10. G. J. Bliss, Esq., was then proposed and unanimously appointed Assistant Clerk.

This being disposed of, the Hon. W. McLeod moved an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech, which he read. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson, who moved that the further consideration of the Address be postponed until Monday next, which was agreed to. The Address is a lengthy document, and one which will, no doubt, call forth some hot discussion. Considerable time having elapsed before the office of Assistant Clerk was disposed of, the House was engaged until about half-past 4 o'clock in appointing Committees. The question of Reporting and Printing the Debates during the present Session was slightly touched. The Committee to whom that knotty piece of business was referred have not yet done anything definite in the matter. The question is to come before the House to-morrow.—*Saturday's New Bruns.*

FEB. 8.—Hon. Mr. Hannington inquired if there was any motion before the House; if not, he wished to inquire with regard to reporting and printing the debates of the present Session. A Committee was appointed last Session to consider that question and report upon it. He believed that all the members of the Committee were then present, and he considered it a proper time to make known to the House how the matter had been arranged. He wished to see it settled in the early part of the Session.

Mr. Ansley (Chairman of the Committee) explained. He said the Committee had met, but could not arrive at any definite conclusion. They intended to meet on the subject again, and he hoped that they the Committee could agree to some satisfactory resolution and be able to report thereon.

Considerable time was then occupied in receiving petitions, principally of a private or local nature. They were mostly from school teachers, and widows of the "revolutionary heroes," their "humble prayers" being cash.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the better security against fire in the City of St. John. Leave granted.

Hon. Mr. Hannington asked leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate the Shediac Grind Stone and Mining company. Leave granted.

Mr. Ritchie moved that a select committee be appointed to consider and report upon the further reduction of the contingencies of the house, which was received, he (Mr R.) took occasion at an early date to tell hon. gentlemen that before the close of the session he intended to press the measure. He deemed such reduction called for to meet the exigencies of the country, and he would strenuously advocate it.—(This was the only important measure brought up to-day.)

Hon. Mr. Partelow fully agreed with his learned colleague (Mr. R.) He thought the measure proposed was a good one, and he would support it.

Mr. R.