Dominion Parliament.

(Gazette Report.)

OTTAWA, February 9, 1882.

The fourth session of the fourth Federal Parliament was opened this afternoon with more than ordinary ceremony.

His Excellency arrived at the Parliament buildings at 3 o'clock, and was received with a Vice-regal salute fired at Nepean Point by the Ottawa Field Battery. A guard of honor of the Governor-General's Foot Guards was in attendance at the buildings. The Vice regal party consisted of His Excellency the Governor-General and Mr. and Lady Frances Balfour; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stephenson, Lt.-Col. DeWinton, Col. Dyde, A. D. C. to the Queen; Col. Gzowski, A. D. C. to the Queen; Capt. the Hon. W. Bagot, Major Stewart and Capt. Prevost, A. D. C.'s, Col. Irvine and Capt. Cotton. They were accompanied from Rideau Hall by an escort of the Princess Louise Dragoons, under command of Capt. Stewart and Lieuts. Gourdeau and Coleman.

The Senate Chamber was brilliantly illuminated, and although tickets of admission were procured with much difficulty, owing to the regulations which have been established recently, the galleries were crowded to excess. So great was the press, that several ladies fainted, and they were with difficulty removed to the corridor. One portion of the gallery was devoted to ladies in full dress who could not be accommodated on the floor, but in the division of the gallery devoted to the public, standing room could not be obtained after half-past two o'clock. Upon the floor of the Chamber there was a large and brilliant assemblage, the soft and varied hues of the ladies' dresses forming a marked contrast with the brilliant uniforms of His Excellency's suite and the official dress of the Ministers and the Judge of the Supreme Court.

His Excellency, immediately upon his arrival, proceeded to the Senate Chamber, accompanied by Major Short, A. D. C., Captain Prevost, A. D. C., Captain the Hon. W. Bagot, A. D. C., Mr. Balfour, Colonel Stuart, Colonel DeWinton, Governor General's Secretary. Immediately behind His Excellency were Colonel Dyde, A. D. C. to Her Majesty the Queen, Colonel Gzowski, A. D. C. to Her Majesty the Queen. The Commons having been summoned to the bar of the Chamber, he then read the following:—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE:

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The hope I expressed at the close of the last session, that on the re-assembling of Parliament we should be able to congratulate ourselves on a season of peace and prosperity, has been fully realized. Canada has been favored with a year of great prosperity. Her farmers have enjoyed a plentiful harvest and remunerative prices. Her manufacturing and other industries have been and continue to be developed under favorable auspices. Her trade and commerce have been steadily increasing, and peace and order prevail within her borders. For these various blessings we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all good things.

THE LATE PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

The Chief Magistrate of the United States has been cut off by the hand of an assassin, and it is fitting that the sorrow of our people, for a loss which was not that of our friends and neighbors alone, should be here adverted to as another instance of the sympathy which unites in brotherhood the British empire and the American Republic.

THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

During the recess I had the pleasure of visiting the Province of Manitoba and of traversing the extensive prairies of the Northwest, and from personal examination can sincerely congratulate Canada on the possession of so magnificent and fertile a region, to be inhabited, I trust, in the course of years by millions of thriving and contented subjects of Her Majesty. The immigrants have not confined themselves to Manitoba and its vicinity, but are scattered over the country westward to the base of the Rocky Mountains, and from the international boundary to the banks of the Northern Saskatchewan. It is, therefore thought that the time has come for the division of the territories in four or more provisional districts with an appropriate nomenclature. This subject will be submitted for your consideration.

INDIANS.

During my journey I was met by numerous Indian tribes, all expressing confidence in the continuance of the traditional policy of kindness and justice which has hitherto governed the relations between the Government and the aborigines. I regret, however, to say that the necessity of supplementing the food supply of the Indians still exists and is likely to continue for some years. Every exertion has been made to settle the Indian bands on reserves and to induce them to betake themselves to the raising of cattle and cultivating the soil. These efforts have met with a fair measure of success, but we can only expect by a long continuance of patient firmness to induce these children of the prairie and the forest to abandon their nomadic habits, become self-supporting and ultimately add to the industrial wealth of the country. The influx of a white population has greatly increased the danger of collision between the settler and red man, and in my opinion renders an augmentation of the Mounted Police a matter of urgency. Your sanction to this increase will be sought.

CIVIL SERVICE.

The report of the Commission appointed to investigate the existing system of the Civil Service will be laid before you, and a measure on that subject submitted for your consideration.

LEGISLATION.

The decennial census having been taken last year, the duty of reconsidering and readjusting the representation in the House of Commons is imposed upon you. A measure for the purpose will be laid before you. Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you. Among them will be bills for the winding up of insolvent banks, insurance companies and trading corporations; for the consolidation and amendment of the laws respecting the Dominion lands; for the amendment of the Acts relating to the Supreme Court of Canada, and bills in the amendment of the Acts relating to the Supreme Court of Canada, and bills relating to the tenure of office of Judges of County Courts, and to fugitive offenders within the Empire, and your attention will be called to the present anomalous position of the Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The work of construction on that portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Prince Arthur's Landing and Winnipeg is being pressed to completion, and it is confidently expected that in July next railway communication will be established between those places. The section between Rat Portage and Winnipeg, one hundred and thirty-five miles in length, has been completed and transferred under the terms of the contract to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company by whom it is now operated. Considerable progress has been made on the eastern section, commencing at Callander station, and the vigorous prosecution of the work on that portion of the line during the present year provided for. In British Columbia the work upon the section between Savonas Ferry and Emory's Bar is being carried on with every prospect of its completion within the time specified in the contract, and the line from the latter place to Port Moody, which has been carefully located during the past season, is now being placed under contract with a view to its completion at the same date as the same section from Savona's Ferry to Emory's Bar. Upon the sections to be constructed by the railway company the work has been most energetically carried forward. During the past summer the road has been graded for the distance of two hundred and eighteen miles, and of this one hundred and sixty-one miles is completed and open for traffic. The company have in addition graded eighty-nine miles of branch lines.

THE INTERCOLONIAL.

I am pleased to be able to state that the traffic on the Intercolonial Railway has largely increased, and that this line was during the last fiscal year, for the first time in its history, worked without loss to the country.

WELLAND CANAL.

The works on the Welland Canal were so far advanced that the waters on Lake Erie were introduced for its supply in July last, and in September the new portion of the canal between Allanburg and Port Dalhousie was opened for traffic.

THE BRAZILIAN STEAMSHIP LINE.

You will be pleased to know that a monthly line of steamers which has been subsidized under the authority of Parliament is now plying between the Dominion and Brazil, with good hopes of a mutually profitable trade.

FACTORY LABOR.

The report of a Royal Commission issued to enquire into the question of factory labor, and into the best means of promoting the comfort and well-being of the workingman and his family without undue interference with the development of our manufacturing industries, will be laid before you, and I invite your earnest consideration of this report.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you. It will be satisfactory to you to find that the expenditure has been less and revenue considerably more than the estimates of last year, leaving a surplus of over four millions of dollars. A portion of this sum has been used in the reduction of the public debt by the redemption of matured debentures, bearing six per cent. interest, and the remainder applied to the payment for public works chargeable to capital account. The necessity of issuing the debenture loan, authorized by Parliament for those purposes, has therefore been obviated.

The estimates of the ensuing year will also be submitted, and will, I trust, be found to have been framed with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I now invite your attention to the several subjects mentioned and to the general business which will come before you, with full confidence in your ability and patriotic desire to forward the best interests of the country.

(Herald.)

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS.

On the members of the Commons returning to their chamber the first business done was the introduction of new members. Hon. A. W. McLelan, of Colchester, vice McKay, resigned, was introduced by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper. He received a cordial reception, from the members. Mr. George Guillot, of West Northumberland, vice Hon. Jas. Cockburn, was introduced by Sir Leonard Tilley and Mr. Thomas White, Mr. F. X. Cimon, from Charles voix, vice Perreault, unseated, was introduced by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin, Mr Jas. Reid, the new member for Cariboo, B. C., vice Thompson, deceased, was introduced by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper. A good deal of interest was evinced in Mr. McDougall's introduction. He was greeted with great applause. The only Grit member introduced was Mr. Crouther, of West Northumberland, vice Keller, deceased. He entered the House between Messrs. Blake and Patterson, of Brant. He was introduced amid the death-like silence of the Opposition. This was too bad, and Hon. Dr. Fortin, taking pity on both Mr. Crouther and his party, led off with applause on the Ministerial side. This reminded the Opposition that Mr. Crouther was one of them, and when they had sufficiently recovered their lost senses they gave him some half-hearted applause. The other new member, Mr. Irving, of Carleton, N. B., who replaces Mr. Connell, deceased, was not present.

Immediately after this Sir John introduced a bill relating to oaths of office, the annual report on the Parliamentary Library was presented, and House adjourned.

THE SENATE.

In the Senate, after the departure of His Excellency, new Senators were introduced as follows:—Senator McKay, of Colchester, Senator Donald McInnis, of Hamilton, Senator Ogilvie, of Montreal, and Senator Skead, of Ottawa.

THE PRESS.

After the adjournment of the House, His Honor the Speaker sent for the members of the press gallery. They were cordially received by him in his private apartments. In a few words he referred to the work of the press and the high position it occupied in Canada. Though occupying a separate gallery, it was itself a parliament. It is a noteworthy incident, unprecedented in the history of the press gallery, that all but three members are total abstainers.

Hon. Mr. Caron, Minister of Militia, is going to entertain the press men at dinner during the session.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Members are loud in their praise of the government's energy displayed in the promptness with which the annual reports have been prepared.

The following will be laid before Parliament as soon as the Address is passed:—Public Works, Public Accounts, Auditor General's Report, Trade and Navigation Returns, Weights and Measures, Militia Report and the Report on the Minister of Railways' Land Returns. This is unprecedented in the history of the House, and shows that Canada possesses a business-like as well as a paternal government.

REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

OTTAWA, FEB. 10.

Mr. Bergeron, amid cheering, moved the Address in reply to the Speech. Mr. Geo. Guillet, the youthful member for West Northumberland, seconded, making a capital speech, the various points being dealt with in a vigorous and effective manner.

He spoke very highly of the Governor General's efforts to induce immigration to Canada, and referring to the special effort to induce female immigration to the North-West humorously declared that "generations yet unborn would rise and call him blessed." (Laughter.) Referring to the large cost of maintaining North-West Indians, he declared that it was much cheaper to feed than to fight them. We had to take our choice between the two; we choose the noblest, most humane and cheapest. He quoted numerous figures showing

THE PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE

among the Indians. Some six hundred dwelling houses have been erected by them. He justified the increase in the number and expense of the North-West police. They maintained order and prohibited the liquor traffic which had it been allowed full play must have led to disastrous consequences. The great progress made by the Pacific Railway would be received by the country with the most unbounded satisfaction. He quoted a number of extracts from Grit speeches showing the "wild character" of the North-West wilderness, the utter madness of building the road, etc., and declared that the fact that a large portion of the road was now completed and that the most sanguine hopes were just about being realized seemed almost a dream. (Cheers.) Every Grit prophecy has been falsified. (Cheers.) He congratulated the Government on the opening up of

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH BRAZIL,

and hoped that the government would soon succeed in establishing improved commercial relations with Spain and France. He paid a glowing tribute to the National Policy and gave testimony of its gratifying success in his own constituency. The work formerly imported from Maine is now made in Coburg. An express and baggage car manufactory has been established and in a few weeks a car spring factory will be in operation. Wages have increased twenty per cent. The output of manufacturers has more than doubled. The farmers are happy and contented; they find a home market and have plenty of money. (Hear, hear.) There was plenty of work for all. The National Policy has inaugurated an era of unprecedented prosperity. There is no dissatisfaction, no falling off in the revenue, no estrangement from the mother country, no retaliation from the United States. The policy has been a grand success. The people support it. The Grit opposition to it is as

INSANE AS IT IS UNPATRIOTIC.

The people have been appealed to again and again, and have reaffirmed their faith in it. Why do the Grits persist in flying in the face of the country? It can only result in their utter defeat. The best portion of the Reformers and Reform journals support the policy. Then why do not the faction cease haggling? What, he asked, is the Grit policy in Ontario? They denounce the duty on coal. In Nova Scotia it is the duty on flour that is denounced. He appealed to them to join in sustaining a grand national policy and building up a grand nation.

The Hon. Mr. Blake was received with cheers as he rose to reply. He said it was not his purpose to prolong the debate to any great length and thus obstruct the business of the house. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address upon the manner in which they had acquitted themselves. He rejoiced in the improvement of the country as much as any one, but claimed that this was due to Providence and not to the National Policy. The support of the North West Indians was a grave question. He believed that they should be compelled to support themselves rather than depend on the government for food. He complained that reference to the enlargement of Manitoba had been omitted, and complained that the immigration to the North West had not been from foreign countries as was anticipated, but from the older Provinces, which would be a serious question for the Provinces. The proposal to divide the North-west into four districts might be a wise one. He regretted that we were not promised a measure for the greater facility in the transfer of land in the North-west. It appears that a policy has been adopted for the more rapid construction of the Canada Pacific than was propounded last year. It had leaked out that the Syndicate did not want to build the North Lake Superior section, because of the onerous nature of the work and the barren nature of the country but the Government insisted on an all Canadian route and gave the syndicate a larger subsidy than would otherwise have been necessary. Now it turns out that this Lake Superior section is a very valuable one and the syndicate themselves are now only too anxious to build that section of the road. An important change of policy to his mind is that the payment of the subsidy instead of being spread over ten years would now have to be made within five years. That money would have to come out of the general taxation. Opposition prophesies were being fulfilled. Not only were the syndicate gobbling up connecting lines but local railways; charters in Manitoba were being disallowed. A year ago the building of the Lake Superior road was insisted on and all references to the Sault St. Marie road were denounced as unpatriotic and treasonable. What were the facts? Not only were the syndicate running their main lines very near the Sault but they proposed running to the Sault itself by a branch, and there was no objection from the ministerial side. The condition of our law regarding fugitive criminals was a disgrace. A better understanding with the United States ought to be come to. His policy in reference to the north west lands was "the land for the settler, the price for the public." He denounced the government land regulations and the frequency with which they were changed. The present was a policy for speculators and the middlemen rather than a policy for the settler. It would be the duty of Parliament to discuss the whole question of disallowance.

Sir John (hear hear.)

The banking circulars of the Finance Minister were preposterous. No minister ought to make the demands, and no bank ought to respond to them. He denounced the Government for informing the people from the hustings that the taxes on tea and coffee were to be taken off, before the fact was communicated to Parliament. No mention was made of it in the speech. The stereotyped arguments on the immorality of surpluses were duly repeated. He heartily concurred in the paragraph referring to the assassination of Gen. Garfield, and said it was a painful comment on the civilization of the 19th century, that the assassination of two presidents had occurred during so short a time. He paid a graceful tribute to Sir John on his restoration to health.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

Sir John Macdonald was received with loud applause. He said he agreed with Mr. Blake in a *few* things, among them his congratulations on the able manner in which the mover and seconder had performed their duty. Mr. Blake had said that the Government had given one day of thanksgiving to themselves and only one day to providence and he (Mr. B.) seemed to grudge that one day. (Laughter). At any rate he did not appear to be very happy on that occasion. We had great cause for thankfulness to providence and returned thanks. He was glad that Mr. B. had come to the conclusion not to prolong the debate on the speech. That custom was getting obsolete and the quicker we get to work the better.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.—I am glad to see that you have changed your mind.

SIR JOHN.—Not being a bourbon I do sometimes change my mind or sometimes I forget. (Laughter.)

We have been charged with taking a leaf out of the book of the Opposition. He did not object to doing that. He was glad to accept any good thing from the Opposition. Not being reformers we sometimes found things to reform. (Laughter.) That was not the case on the other side of the House. He disagreed with his friend Mr. Blake that the emigration of farmers from the older Provinces to the North-West was to be regretted. That was for the interest of all the Provinces. Those who left Ontario or Quebec did not abandon their farms and houses but sold them. They were worked on a larger scale and thereby improved. (Hear, hear.) He defended his administration of the Indian affairs. Mr. Blake might give warning but unfortunately his warning did not prevent the disappearance of the buffalo. But the buffalo had disappeared and the Indians had to be fed and taught to farm or be allowed to starve. He was glad to say that his efforts had been very successful. The wildest Indians were learning to become practical farmers; there had been a partial return of the buffalo but that had been a drawback because the Indians had left their farms and gone hunting, but only to return to their farms again. He believed that the food had been judiciously distributed. He admitted that Indians were lazy and had to be taught to work but no civilized Government could allow them to starve meanwhile. He justified the increase in the mounted police force. That was done to prevent a collision between Indians and white men. Starving Indians were very apt to shoot the white man's ox, and the white man was apt to shoot the Indian. The shooting of one Indian might lead to a disastrous Indian war. That must be prevented at all hazards. It is proposed to increase the force to 500 men which was absolutely necessary. He was glad to say that the cost of the force per man had greatly diminished. He never admired the astuteness of Mr. Blake more than he did when attempting to find fault with the Syndicate for finishing their contract in five years instead of ten years. (Hear hear and Laughter.) The Syndicate were exhibiting wonderful energy, and remarkable resources. Within five years unless previously slain by the vigorous assaults of the Opposition, he hoped to go across the Continent and visit his constituents on the Pacific. Excessive rates could not be charged because the government reserved the right to revise the rates from time to time. The rates must be levied with a due regard to the service rendered and the syndicate had been duly notified that the government would revise the rates from time to time in the interests of the people. He defended the land regulations. The interest of the immigrant was most carefully guarded and the actual settler was most thoroughly protected. Notwithstanding this the government had not forgotten their promise to make the land recoup the country for the $25,000,000 subsidy to the syndicate. (Hear hear.) It would not only do that but would pay for all its own improvement. Not only that but it was now a certainty that the sum netted by the sale of North-west land would more than recoup the country for every cent contributed by the tax payers of the older provinces in the past. (Loud cheers.) He fully agreed with Mr. Blake that the laws relating to fugitive criminals should be reformed, but this could only be done through the Mother Country. The efforts of Sir A. T. Galt had been eminently successful, not only in London but also in Paris and Madrid. He was happy to say that in the event of the final failure of a commercial treaty between England and France, the Mother Country had consented to allow Canada to arrange its own trade relations with the French republic. (Loud cheers.) The opposition complained that the government were going to take off the tea and coffee duties. Sir Richard had put them on and the Liberal Conservative Government by the favor of Providence and the grace of the gentlemen opposite were going to take them off. Sir John concluded an admirable address delivered in the best of humor and form, with a touching reference to the assassination of President Garfield.

No other opposition member rose to speak and the address was passed without division and ordered to be engrossed and presented to the Governor-General.

Reports were presented as follows:—Public Works, Militia, Public Accounts, Report of Auditor General, Trade and Navigation Returns, Inland Revenue.

Scores of notices of motion were handed in covering a great variety of subjects, which it is said will require the services of a small army of clerks for some months.

The Union Advocate.
Established 1867.
NEWCASTLE MIRAMICHI, N. B.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 1882.

PROTECTION VS. FREE TRADE.

In a young country such as ours, with so many of its industries in their incipiency, it is one of the requirements of good government that the trade policy of the country shall be of such a character as shall tend to develop the manufactures already started, and to open up other channels in which the capitalist can invest his means with a sure prospect of a good return. Had the late Government instituted such a policy, in response to the many deputations of those interested in manufactures, the Reform party would not now be at so low an ebb as it evidently is, with no prospect of a return to power for years to come. Even when the Grit party was at the zenith of its power, the by-elections furnished satisfactory proofs that the people, as they watched with regret the decline of many of the manufactures of the country, were dissatisfied with the one-sided and home-endangering policy, and determined to institute a true reform by lending their aid to effect a change of administration. This fact was patent even to Independent journals, such as the Montreal *Star*, which said—"The record certainly proves that whilst Mr. Mackenzie's Government lost in popularity, very appreciably, Sir John's Administration rather more than holds its own, which is quite an exceptional thing for any Government to do." The policy of protection instituted when the present Government returned to power has been attended with the most satisfactory results—drooping industries have been quickened into new life—capitalists, inspired with new hopes for the future, cheerfully invested their means in the extension of new industries already established, and in promoting new enterprises—startling deficits have given place to surpluses which are vastly more satisfactory to the people—and the country, the Grits themselves being witnesses, is in a more prosperous condition to-day than for years past, much of which is attributable to the wise policy of preventing foreign manufacturers from making Canada a field for their own enrichment. In this particular the United States have for years set us an example—for years the statesmen of that country excluded as far as it was possible to do so, the manufactures of Canada and other countries from competing with their own, the result of which is seen in the great strides taken in manufactures—the country prosperous and rapidly paying off its national debt. With such an example for their imitation, Sir John Macdonald and his confreres acted wisely in taking a leaf out of our neighbor's book,—the wisdom of which will be more evident as the years roll on. Comparing the position of Canada to day with that of five or six years back, we say, with a foreign contemporary "let well enough alone, *severely* alone." The people want no material change in our trade policy, which has done so much to bring the country to its present prosperous condition. The following, from the New York *Independent*, is applicable to our own country, and will be endorsed by all who are not thoroughly blinded by that partizanship which can see no good unless it emanates from a certain party. The following is the article referred to:—

TARIFF AND PROSPERITY.

"We believe, as a nation, that we should, from year to year, like corporations and individuals, look squarely in the face our business affairs, and endeavor to find out our exact financial condition and prospects. It is well enough to consider what other nations have done and are doing to promote their own growth and prosperity; but we hold, after all, that it was wise, proper, and best for us to manage our own affairs in our own way, with an eye to our own protection and prosperity, independent of all other nations. We are now prospering under our tariff laws, and do not believe in tampering with them, except in a very limited way. It is right and proper to reduce our taxes as fast as we can in safety to all interests; but it would be madness for us to open the gates and allow ourselves to be flooded with merchandise from every cheap-labor country on the globe, to the damage of our own people. Other countries are beginning to see that, while there may be some special benefits in their free trade—but, looking at the unprecedented prosperity of this country—they are beginning to see also that there are two sides to the question. * * * We like the views of the venerable John Thompson, which he has plainly expressed in a few words. He says that, "under the influence of a protective tariff, the country has prospered beyond parallel and grown beyond precedent. Why, then, experiment with free trade? Free trade would," he said, "bankrupt thousands of establishments and throw millions of dependent, deserving operatives out of employment. This would bring with it a panic, a destruction of credits, in short, a revulsion which, like the revulsion of 1873, would carry depression and despair everywhere. The good results of protection are measured by our prosperity. The bad results of free trade may possibly be measured by bringing the product of European and Asiatic labor in competition with American labor."

Let well enough alone, *severely* alone, we say."

The Dominion Parliament.

The representatives of the people are now assembled in the Commons, there being only few absentees, our own representative among the number. The Government are to be congratulated upon the good showing of the finances, there being a large surplus—the result to a very great extent, of the policy instituted by the Government soon after its accession to power. In his budget speech last session, the Finance Minister stated that if there were no negotiations going on for a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and if the state of the public purse would allow it, he would this session reduce or abolish the duties on tea or coffee. We hope to see the duties altogether abolished. They were imposed by the late Government, as an evidence of its regard for the poor people of the country, who use tea to a very considerable extent, and in the present prosperous state of the finances can very well be dispensed with. We hope also to see the stamp duties done away with. The revenue from bill stamps is only a drop in the bucket, and as this impost is a frequent source of annoyance to business men of both sides of politics, its abolition would be hailed with pleasure. Another source of revenue which might be abolished or largely reduced is that of postage on newspapers, so far as it relates to papers mailed direct from the office of publication. The number of newspaper men who succeed so well in the business as to be able to accumulate wealth is but small indeed; and every burden placed upon their business makes it the more difficult for publishers to meet all the required outlay in connection therewith. Still, the system of compulsory prepaid postage is preferable to the old system, which gave much trouble and annoyance to the postal officials, some of whom have at times lost the postage rather than return the paper of a grumbling subscriber to the publisher. We have heard of a movement on foot to petition the Government to amend the Postal Act so as to allow newspapers to pass free through the mails in the counties in which they are issued. For our own part, we ask for no privilege which cannot be shared in by the city daily press, whose circulation extends into neighboring counties. Should any amendment be made, it should be so framed as to confer its benefits, be they great or small, upon the city and country publisher alike. The newspaper is a public educator, and in a country as free as our own it should be allowed to go on its mission, daily and weekly, unhampered by those burdens which, in order to secure necessary revenue, are applied to other sources of industry.

Social.

We hope there will be a good attendance at the Social to be held here on Friday evening next, in aid of Stewart's Cornet Band. The object is truly a worthy one.

New York Correspondence.

NEW YORK, Feb., 1882.

MESSRS EDITORS.

The country this side of the boundary line has, as you know, been the scene of many contentions and conventions to which the Canadian side has been a stranger. Anti-Slavery meetings, Anti-Mormon meetings, Womens' Rights Societies, &c., &c. Some of these have ceased thro' success, others are still being carried on; among the latter the agitation for female suffrage. Those interested in this subject have for two days been holding their Annual Convention in Chickering Hall. On hearing of a Women's Rights Meeting the first natural impulse seems to be to titter, and the second to go and see what they are about, what they have to say and what kind of people compose the audience and occupy the platform.

The audiences at the different sessions have been large and of a very nice class of people, the female element of course largely predominating; with a few men here and there, like a few leaves of chaff blown in among a great deal of wheat. The men looked very placid, though I daresay they were scared within an inch of their lives, for fear the women were going to take away some of their long cherished rights. For instance—the right to get up first on a cold morning and make the fire; the right to go down cellar for coal when the servant maid is out; the right to give up their seats in a crowded horse car and let the ladies have them, etc., etc. These are rights they have long enjoyed and ho doubt will defend even to death. But none of the lady speakers proposed to wrest them from them or even asked to participate in them on an equality. Seeing this, I suppose was the reason they entered apparently with such hearty sympathy into the cause for which the women were contending; for one of the noteworthy things about their meeting was, that the most enthusiastic women suffragist was a man; Prof. Wilcox, a lawyer, young and handsome. He, with another gentleman, sat on the platform with the ladies, who were all nice looking and stylish—Josh Billings to the contrary.

The delegates were from different parts of the Union and are nearly all married, and it naturally occurs to one to wonder how their husbands and homes are getting on while they are thousands of miles away attending Conventions. They all seemed well posted on law, constitutional questions, political economy and kindred subjects, and if their husbands are equally well up in housekeeping, darning stockings and taking care of babies, no doubt the domestic affairs of these matrimonial couples manage to push along quite comfortably.

The leaders of this movement are exceedingly clever, energetic women. The work they have accomplished, the ever increasing influence they are having in politics and with the Press, and the number of political "dead ducks" they have left in their trail where public men have opposed them and the victories they have won the last two years, are astonishing when one considers the enormous difficulties they have had to contend against and go far to impress one with the conviction that they will finally triumph.

Another question agitated in New York at present, is the founding of a great public library or number of libraries. There are several extensive ones now, but it is claimed they do not half satisfy the voracious American appetite for information. The Cooper Union and Astor Library are two of the most prominent, the latter being the most extensive. It is a large and very handsome building with a very valuable collection of ancient and modern works, and you feel when you are in it that you are surrounded by a boundless sea of knowledge, and you have something like the satisfaction a glutton feels when he sits down to a table loaded with dainties. But Astor Library does not feed intellectually half as many people as Cooper Library, for its short hours and rules and regulations are all adapted to the people of elegant leisure. The handsome appointments of the building, the noiselessly swinging doors (which you are requested in gilt letters to close softly,) the muffled footsteps, the whispering librarians, the whole high tone of the place, not to mention its funereal stillness would be painfully aristocratic to the people who go to Cooper Union. The Cooper Union Library, tho' it has not the pretensions nor the comforts, and only occupies part of one floor, has advantages the other has not. It is open from 8 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night, and half the day on Sunday. It has all the daily papers and monthly magazines, and you feel when you are there that you are among reading people, for the immense main room with five others opening into it are always full, and you see all who are there. During the month of January alone 47,643 people read there. At Astor Library the people are scattered thro' the building and lost, and you feel there are only about a dozen eccentric people in New York who read.

The Lenox Library is not very extensive and is visited more for the sake of its manuscripts, curious old books and works of art. There are autograph letters from Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Cromwell and other celebrities, which are quite legible and you can read at your leisure. There is a room devoted to beautiful objects in porcelain, Sevres china, ivory and alabaster. On the upper floor is a hall for statuary and a large room for paintings. They are all very fine and by known artists, and there is one that is worth going to see for itself alone. I refer to Church's Cotopane. I do not know anything of *technique* or *chiaroscura* or other points or a picture, but any one knows when a picture holds them, when you forget it is a picture and think only of the scene it attempts to picture. This is the effect of that picture.

The Historical Society Buildings is another place of interest, if you feel in the mood for mummies and such like, and its large picture gallery contains some very celebrated old pictures, and requires more than one visit to do justice to it.

O. A. P.

Presbytery of Miramichi.

Failing to receive a report of the proceedings of the late meeting of Presbytery, we take the following from the *Sun*:—

The Presbytery of Miramichi met in Douglastown on the 7th. This is the first stated meeting held there since the congregation became a separate charge with a minister of its own. The minister, the Rev. James Murray, was very active in promoting the comfort of the members. There were 10 ministers and 2 elders present. Of those absent some, no doubt, were detained by the state of the roads after the late storm, while a very few are hardly ever present.

The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Herdman reported as to the Restigouche mission field. He said that so far the committee had been unable to get a missionary. He had corresponded with all the colleges, but the reply was that every capable man to graduate in theology next spring was already engaged. He himself had made two tours through the lumber camps, and he had distributed and sent into the woods a considerable amount of literature, which had been sent to him by Rev. D. W. Gordon of Ottawa, who is the convener of the Lumbermen's mission in the Ottawa Valley. The report was adopted and the diligence of Mr. Herdman commended.

Mr. M. Carter, of Redbank, on the North West Miramichi, reported as to that section. He had advertised for missionaries to labor in the camps but had not as yet obtained any one. He also had sent reading matter into the camps to a considerable extent. It was ordered that what funds are on hand be expended in buying suitable reading for those who are in the woods.

It was agreed to bring the Lumbermen's Mission before next meeting of Synod; Messrs. M. Carter and Herdman to state the case.

Reports of Mr. Maxwell and McDonald, catechists, of work done in Escuminac (Province of Quebec) and in Kouchibouguac respectively, were read and approved, and small balances still due were recommended to be paid by the Home Mission Board.

It was agreed to apply for five catechists for the ensuing summer for the following fields: 1 Metapedia and Flatlands; 2 Escuminac; 3 New Bandon; 4 Caraquet, etc; 5 Kouchibouguac.

A call from New Carlisle, Hopetown and Fort Daniel, very cordial and unanimous, and very largely signed, in favor of Mr. F. W. George, was laid on the table. By an effort, promises have been made to the extent of $400 and a manse, and the Supplement Board was asked for $200. The charge is a scattered one and very remote, on the northern side of Bay Chaleur, and the people there need sympathy and support. Mr. George was present and intimated his acceptance of the call, and trials were prescribed, and the ordination and induction were arranged to take place on the 15th March. Messrs. Herdman, Lindsay and Nicholson were appointed to conduct the services.

A report of visitations and missionary meetings held in the congregations on the South West and North West branches of the Miramichi, was handed in by Mr. Nicholson, and read by the clerk. It was an interesting and encouraging report, and showed that the work done was attended by good results.

The Clerk reported that, as ordered by Presbytery at last meeting, he wrote to absent members respecting missionary contributions. He read replies received from Messrs. Johnstone, Lindsay and Robertson, and reported that he had got no reply from Mr. Boyd. The Clerk was ordered to write again, asking for explanations.

The trials of Mr. Angus Sillars for license were heard and approved, and after the usual questions were put and answered he was licensed in due form by the Moderator, who suitably addressed the young man. Mr. Sillars signed the formula of adherence to the Westminster Confession of Faith.

The college endowment fund was considered. A paper was read showing that Mr. Houston had been appointed by the College Board to co-operate with the Presbytery in the interests of the fund. All present reported as to the state of their congregations in the matter, and a resolution was passed urging the completion of the project so far as can be, in the bounds of the Presbytery.

The next stated meeting is to be held in Newcastle, on the second Tuesday in April, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

In the evening a public meeting was held, when there was a good attendance of the congregation. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Nicholson on Family Worship; by Mr. Houston on whether parents who do not obtain baptism for their children are entitled to sit at the Lord's table; and by Mr. Arthur, on the duties of Church members. The addresses were good and highly appreciated.

The Local Parliament

Will meet at Fredericton to-morrow, the 16th inst. The members of the Government are now in Council, and we have no doubt will be able to give a good and satisfactory account of the year's transactions, when they meet the people's representatives. The meeting of the Legislature will take place under the most favourable circumstances; a handsome building has been erected, which is a credit to the Province as well as to the enterprising contractor, (Wm. Lawlor, Esq., of Chatham) who has so well and faithfully performed his work. Fitted with all the modern improvements, it will indeed present a striking contrast to the old, dimly lighted and wretchedly ventilated edifice in which members and reporters too frequently lost their health, and were unfitted for the performance of legislative or journalistic duties. A delegation lately visited Ottawa with reference to New Brunswick's claims upon the Dominion Government for the reimbursement of the sum of $150,000 spent in constructing the Eastern Extension Railroad, which now forms a part of the Intercolonial. This sum, with interest, is a just and equitable demand, and should be added to the exchequer of this Province. There is another claim which has been brought to the notice of the Dominion authorities—that of the extra expenditure annually incurred by this Province in providing for the short term prisoners who formerly were incarcerated in the St. John Penitentiary at the expense of the Dominion. Since the erection of the Penitentiary at Dorchester, under Government control, these short term prisoners (for any term under two years) have been provided for at the expense of the Province. The Local Government very properly ask that the subsidy be increased to an extent sufficient to cover the extra expense annually incurred. These claims are based upon equity and justice—they should be fairly met by the Dominion Government, and perhaps have been. We hope to hear from the Provincial Secretary when he presents his Budget Speech that a satisfactory settlement has been reached in the matters herein referred to.

That $1.50.

In our last issue we directed attention to the fact that Mr. D. G. Smith had charged and been paid by the County the sum of $25 in payment for work which he had contracted to do for $23.50. The Manager replies as follows:—

"The *Advocate* is as well aware of the reason why the $1.50 extra was charged and allowed by the printing committee as Mr. Smith is, but it has always been the policy of that paper to treat him in the spirit manifested in the above paragraph. By an error on the part of those who furnished the copy of matter to be advertised for the price named in Mr. Smith's tender, a by-law which had not been passed—occupying some $4 worth of space—was published and subsequently the correct by-law was sent to the ADVANCE and it also was published. A portion of this expense — $1.50 — was added to Mr. Smith's tender and allowed."

The Manager then proceeds in his characteristic and untruthful style, to indulge in personal references,—accuses Mr. J. J. Anslow of "nosing round" endeavoring to work out this dollar and a half problem, and that he induced his friend Councillor Adams to move some kind of a resolution to prevent Mr. Smith being paid. Now to the facts. On the afternoon in question Mr. J. J. Anslow took the senior partner's place at the Council Board, as reporter, in order to be present at the argument of R. Lawlor, Esq., in behalf of the liquor dealers. While there Mr. Smith's account was passed, the first item in it being for publishing the accounts, etc., $25.00. As Mr. R. B. Adams, (the gentleman who asked us to tender for the work) had informed the Messrs. Anslow that the amount of Mr. Smith's tender was $23.50, it was certainly proper for Mr. Anslow to ask Mr. Adams for an explanation. Mr. Adams, replied that he believed Mr. Smith's tender was for $23.50. Wishing to consult the tenders in his office, Mr. Adams moved that the account of Mr. Smith be reconsidered, which the Council in its wisdom, refused to do. Mr. Anslow *did not request Councillor Adams to make any motion*, so that he had no reason to feel crestfallen over the fact that the motion was negatived by the votes of Councillors who would have acted differently had they but known the circumstances. Mr. Smith's resort to personalities, shows that he is "cornered." That is a field in which he is at home, and as it affords him pleasure to revel in the "gutter" we propose to leave him there until a sense of what is due to the public as a journalist enables him to act a manlier part. That Mr. Smith's plea of extra work done is a fraud is shown by the following note received from Mr. Adams:—

MR. ANSLOW.

DEAR SIR.—Under the heading of "A Mare's Nest" in last week's *Advance* appears an explanation giving the reason why Mr. D. G. Smith charged and received $25.00 for printing done on behalf of the Municipal Council of Northumberland in 1881. Now, sir, as one of the Printing Committee at the time I have merely to say that the explanation of D. G. Smith is false in every particular, and I now ask him to prove that his statement is correct. The statement made by the Messrs. Anslow is a fair statement of the facts as they took place, and the mere fact of D. G. Smith making a charge of $25.00 for work which he agreed by tender to do for $23.50, proves that he was either dishonest or forgetful, and the least that can be said of it is that he accepted $1.50 which was neither legally nor morally due.

I am, yours respectfully,

R. B. ADAMS.

Chatham, Feb. 13, 1882.

In his last issue the Manager asks "What is Truth?" He asked the same question years ago, and as he is apparently anxious to obtain some knowledge of a virtue of which he is now totally ign