

that many of our readers, will be happy to see this abridgment of their letters continued in our next number.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

The Rev. Mr. M'Farlane, of the Martyrs' Church Paisley, has agreed to accompany the first Scotch Colony to this island. The Committee very cordially availed themselves of his willingness to go forth on so important an undertaking; and, from Mr. M'Farlane's tried faithfulness and success, they anticipate the very best results, in regard to the religious prosperity of that colony. This is, we believe, the first instance in which a system of colonization, on commercial principles, from our country, has been begun with any thing like a due regard to the spiritual welfare of the emigrants. Let us earnestly implore the Divine countenance on behalf of our excellent brother and his interesting flock.

We are happy to learn that the "Bengal Merchant," with upwards of one hundred and fifty settlers, cleared at the Custom house of Port-Glasgow on Friday last, and was afterwards hauled out to the River, from whence she was to sail on Tuesday the 29th of Oct. Previous to the vessel leaving the harbour, several members of the Presbytery of Paisley, and of the Session of Martyrs' Church, accompanied the Rev. Mr. M'Farlane on board the ship. The passengers appeared to be respectable; and every arrangement was made on board to insure their comfort. Their reception of Mr. M'Farlane was of the most encouraging kind. Some of them—previously entire strangers—came up to him, took him by the hand, and, with tears in their eyes, expressed, in affecting language, the delight they felt in being accompanied to their future homes by a minister of the Church of their fathers. We earnestly hope that this mission, begun under such favourable auspices, will be blessed of God for the promotion of the spiritual interests, not only of the settlers, but of the native inhabitants.—*Home and Foreign Missionary Record.*

It will be seen by our extracts from the latest American papers, that the weather there has been very boisterous. On the 15th inst. a most severe gale was experienced at Boston and other places, which proved very destructive to shipping and human life. Among the list of disasters we notice the schr. Henry Davenport, of Annapolis, on shore at Hospital Island.

We are indebted to Mr. Keefer for a Boston paper of the 21st inst. received by the schooner Dart. Congress has at last elected a Speaker, Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, by a majority of 91 over the Van Buren candidate.—The next arrival will no doubt put us in possession of the President's Message.

We have given, in another part of our paper, a Letter of Instruction from Lord John Russell, to the Governors of the North American Colonies with regard to the tenure upon which certain offices are in future to be held. This document has created no little surprise throughout the colonies, and affords matter for deep reflection to every thinking mind in Nova Scotia. Its effect, for good or ill, will entirely depend upon the use made by the Representatives of Her Majesty, of the power thus delegated to them.—*Journal.*

#### MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE,

Yesterday at two o'clock, p. m. His Excellency, attended by his Staff, proceeded to the Province Building to open the Legislative Session. His Excellency was received at the entrance by a guard of honour of the 23d Fusiliers, and on the stairs and landing to the 2d Council Chamber, by the Lt. Inf. Company of the 1st Halifax Regt. under Capt. Anderson, and by the Rifle Company of the 3d Halifax Regt. under the command of Capt. Clarke—the whole commanded by Major Slayter, of the 1st Halifax Regt. Salutes were fired on the parade by the artillery, on His Excellency's arrival and departure. Immediately on the arrival of His Excellency at the Council Chamber, the Assembly were summoned, and the Session was opened with the following,

#### SPEECH:

*Mr. President, and Hon. Gentlemen, of the Legislative Council,*

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

I have been principally induced to call you together at this early period, from its having come to my knowledge, that the requisitions of the Act for the regulation of Grand Juries which passed in the Session of 1838, have not been duly attended to, whereby important criminal proceedings have been already delayed for want of legal Grand Juries, and great public inconvenience must necessarily follow, unless a speedy remedy shall be afforded by the Legislature. I therefore most earnestly request your immediate attention to this subject, so important to the administration of justice.

I shall take an early opportunity of laying before you the Despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies

in reply to the Addresses and Resolutions adopted by you in the last Session, and to the various other communications on the state of the province, which were recently brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government by the Delegates selected from both Houses to proceed to England for that purpose. But I cannot forego the pleasure of immediately quoting the following expressions of the Right Hon. Secretary:

"In discussing the subject adverted to, it has been my anxious endeavour to arrive at the conclusion most calculated to meet the wishes and promote the interests of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in Nova-Scotia. The attachment which they have invariably displayed to the Mother Country, the liberality and gallantry with which on a recent occasion, at a crisis of peculiar difficulty, they came forward to tender to Her Majesty their personal and pecuniary assistance, in the maintenance of Her authority on the North American Continent, entitle them to every consideration which it is in the power of the Crown to bestow."

At the commencement of the last Session, I informed you that it was contemplated to substitute Steam Packets for the Sailing Vessels, now employed in the conveyance of the Mails, between Great Britain and Halifax; and I have now the gratification to acquaint you that an arrangement has been concluded, (at the annual charge of £60,000 Sterling to the Mother Country,) for the running of Steam Packets, twice in every month, between Liverpool and Halifax, and also between Halifax and Boston, and between Pictou and Quebec, as long as the St. Lawrence is navigable; and I have peculiar satisfaction in adding that this arrangement, which must be attended with such important benefits to all these Colonies, was brought about by the enterprising spirit of a Novascotian Merchant, at a time when difficulties had unexpectedly occurred which might have otherwise prevented its early accomplishment.

In my former address to you on this subject, I intimated the expectation that was entertained, that the colony would, as far as depended upon it, further the general object by improving the several mail routes to Quebec; and I have reason to believe that had there been any certainty that the scheme would have been carried into effect in the ensuing season, ample provision would have been made by the Assembly, in aid of the liberal views of Her Majesty's Government.

The same expectation is repeated in the Despatch announcing the completion of the arrangement, which reached me some time after the close of the last Session. It thereupon became my duty to lose no time in endeavouring to prevent the disappointment of that just expectation, and the question arose whether I should convene the Legislature for the purpose of laying the Despatch before them, or, anticipating their approbation of the necessary improvements, and thus save a year, without putting the Province to the expence and inconvenience of an extra Session.

On consulting with my Council I was induced to adopt the latter course; and though to draw money from the Treasury, without the sanction of a law, is scarcely justifiable, still I feel persuaded that, under the circumstances I have mentioned, you will readily concur in providing for the small expence I have authorised on this service; and I have also the fullest confidence that the requisite funds will be placed at my disposal, for carrying on, along the whole extent of the several lines of communication with Quebec and New Brunswick, the improvements which, on my own responsibility, I have commenced.

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

I have directed the Public Accounts to be laid before you, with as little delay as possible, and I trust that you will find that the Supplies granted to Her Majesty have been faithfully applied.

I have also directed the usual Estimates for the support of Her Majesty's Government to be prepared, with every regard to Economy, and I confidently rely, that, with an increasing Revenue under your control, you will grant the necessary Supplies with your usual liberality.

I rejoice to state that I have not had occasion to avail myself, except to a very small amount, of the means which at a period, as it was supposed, of impending hostilities, you loyally and manfully placed at my disposal, for the equipment and organization of the Militia. I feel convinced, should circumstances require the services of this Constitutional Force, that you will again display the same noble spirit which you evinced on that occasion.

*Mr. President, and Hon. Gentlemen, of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen, of the House of Assembly,* I rely on your proceeding with unanimity and despatch to the consideration of the various subjects requiring your attention; among those that chiefly merit it at the present period, are; the re-enactment of the Law relating to Common and Grammar Schools,

with such modifications and amendments as your experience of its operation in the several counties may have suggested—the more extensive diffusion of religious education among the people,—the encouragement of agriculture and of the fisheries, and the adoption of more effectual measures than have hitherto been resorted to, for preventing the encroachments of foreigners on our fishing grounds,—the improvement of our system of expenditure on the main roads with a view to their being immediately placed and then maintained in a thorough state of repair,—and the establishment, in the town or vicinity of Halifax, of a Provincial Penitentiary—an Orphan House and a House of Industry.

In the promotion of these, and all other measures, which may tend still further to improve the resources, and to confirm the prosperity, which, under Divine Providence, this Colony now enjoys, you may depend on my hearty concurrence.

The Newspapers received by the Eastern mail yesterday, announce the arrival of the late Governor General of British America at Plymouth, in 22 days from Quebec, and contain also the Governor General's Message to the Legislature of Upper Canada, on the contemplated Union of the two Provinces, and rumours of an intended invasion of brigands from the United States, both at Hamilton and Prescott, in the Upper Province.

**THE SEASON.**—Hitherto, with the exception of the storm on Saturday last, the weather has been uncommonly fine and moderate for the season. The New Year has arrived, and we have yet scarcely felt the approach of winter. Time however, has not less surely sped its course, and while the return of this day admonishes all "so to number their days, that they may apply their hearts unto wisdom," it reminds us, at the same time, of our obligations to those kind friends, through whose continued patronage the Guardian has hitherto been, and under Divine Providence, will long, we trust, continue to be, supported. And while we would assure them that our best exertions shall ever be used to merit the continuance of their favours, we would desire to add our sincere wishes, for many future years of health and prosperity, in this life, to our Readers and all that are dear to them, and in the world to come life everlasting.

**TEMPERANCE.**—A monthly meeting of the Halifax Temperance Society, was held at the Old Baptist Meeting House, on Monday the 23d ult. Some conversation took place on the evils produced by intemperance; on the symptoms of reviving energy among the friends of the Temperance cause, and the increasing countenance given to it by the public journals; and on a proposition, which however met with little support, to relax, &c. &c. &c.

**SEVERE GALE.**—We experienced a very severe gale from the eastward on Saturday; but although it blew severely for several hours, with a very heavy sea, there was fortunately but little damage done among the shipping.—One small vessel belonging to Jedore was sunk, and some others had their sides chafed against the wharves.—*Journal.*

*Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Halifax, 28th Dec. 1839.*

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will hold a Levee at Government House, on Wednesday next, (This Day), the 1st January, at a quarter past one o'clock.

**HALIFAX LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.**—At the last meeting the following Resolution was passed:

*Resolved.*—That the Members of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, be invited to attend the meetings of this Association, during the ensuing session of the Legislature.

**Master Mariner's Society.**—The second yearly report of the Master Mariner's Society, states,—that the Society's credits amounts to £68 10—its members 30.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Frederickton Reading and News Room Institution, on Tuesday the 3d ult. after reading the Report, and awarding the thanks of the meeting to their Committees and benefactors, a Silver Snuff Box, with a suitable inscription, was voted to the Honorary Manager, ARCHIBALD SCOTT, Esq. formerly of this Town, for his valuable services in organizing the institution and bringing it into its present efficient state.

Cross Island Light, at the entrance of Lunenburg Harbour, has been in operation since the first Dec.

For the Remainder of Halifax Head See page 223.