

LATEST NEWS.

From the Halifax Times.

The Ship John Porter, arrived last evening from Liverpool, bringing London dates to the 17th, and Liverpool to the 19th October. Their contents are not of much interest. A summary will be found below.

GENERAL SUMMARY.—A public dinner was given to Mr. Spring Rice, in Limerick, on the 12th October. The news from Spain is conflicting, and not to be relied on. The quarrel between the French and Swiss governments, had almost amounted to open rupture. The evacuation of Sistrin by the Russians had been completed, but the late commandant has left upwards of 100 pieces of cannon and a great quantity of ammunition, as a present from the Emperor to the Porte. It is reported at Constantinople, that negotiations for a new commercial treaty were on foot between the English ambassador and the Turkish ministers. The Sultan and the Ulema (heads of the law and religion) were at open war—the enmity between them and the sovereign is as great as that which existed between Mahmoud and the Janizaries—this state of schism cannot last long, and in Constantinople it was expected, they were on the eve of a tremendous catastrophe. The representatives of the Colonies in Paris, have addressed a petition to King Louis Philippe, in which they set forth their grievances and represent the damage they sustain from the extension taken by the culture of the beet root. They demand either a reduction of the import duties on Colonial sugars, or the free and direct export of their produce to foreign countries. The Board of Ordnance at Woolwich have announced to the Anti-Dry-rot Company, that they intend to adopt the process in Kyan's patent, in all the works carrying on by that branch of the public service.

The students of Glasgow University propose inviting Lord Lyndhurst to be their Rector, in the place of Lord Stanley, who retires in November. A demonstration had been made by the British squadron in the Tagus for the protection of the young Queen, by changing the position from the usual anchorage to one more commanding—her ministers had taken the alarm and remonstrated with the British officers, but to no effect—they had also conferences with her Majesty on the subject, who expressed a determination to stand by her subjects to the last. It was given her to understand that the moment she set her foot on board a man of war, she should cease to be Queen of Portugal.

Major Wright, with 2 captains, 5 subalterns, 15 sergeants, 15 corporals, 9 drummers, and 250 privates of the Woolwich division of Royal Marines embarked on Friday, Oct. 15, on board the Rhadamanthus steamer, to join our squadron in the Tagus. The Pluto steam vessel takes ordnance stores, a detachment of Royal Marines and Royal Marine Artillery, for the north coast of Spain.

THE BEE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 7, 1836.

CHEAP KNOWLEDGE.—The following is a draft of a Petition intended to be presented to both branches of the Legislature of this Province, to which the attention and co-operation of all British North Americans are respectfully solicited:—

THE PETITION OF ——— AND OTHERS, HUMBLY SHewETH,

That your Petitioners, in common with all other, his Britannic Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, in the North American Colonies, feel a deep and lively interest in any

measure that may have a tendency to promote the best interests of the Colonies themselves, and the empire at large. They cannot therefore view without concern the results flowing from the operation of that part of the Imperial Act 3 and 4, W. IV. c. 59, which prohibits the importation of Books into the Colonies, from foreign Countries "such as are prohibited to be imported into the United Kingdom."

Your Petitioners cannot doubt that the said recited clause, together with the *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent. imposed on all Books and Papers imported into the Colonies from foreign ports, were framed for the purpose of protecting the British Author and Manufacturer. If they succeeded in establishing this object, your Petitioners could have no reasonable ground of complaint; but it is notorious that not only foreign Books but American reprints of British Works, are introduced clandestinely, thus completely frustrating and defeating the intention of the said recited Act, depriving the Colonial Revenue of the amount of duties, and engendering a vast amount of immorality. Your Petitioners would further remind your Honorable House, that those concerned in the Book Trade in the Colonies, do not participate in the contraband trade in books and papers—as their importations are all subjected to inspection by the Officers of H. M. Customs: the illicit trade is carried on by means of passengers and masters of vessels, and in numerous other ways, along the whole line of the American Frontier.

Your Petitioners are of opinion, that no Act of Legislation can effectually protect the rights of British Authors beyond seas; and therefore, they are of opinion, that the desire which is manifested among the Colonists for useful knowledge, ought to be legalized and brought within a their scanty means, by removing the restrictions complained of, and abolishing or reducing the high *ad valorem* duty.

Your Petitioners are the more encouraged to ask for the bonus sought for, as they believe our Gracious Sovereign and his enlightened Cabinet are not disposed to withhold anything from his faithful subjects in the Colonies which may have a tendency to promote their pecuniary and moral interests.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to forward a memorial to H. M. Ministers praying for such relief as in your Wisdom the foregoing premises may seem to require, and to solicit the co-operation of the other Branches of the Colonial Government in the same; and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

UPPER CANADA.—OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—The Parliament of U. Canada was opened on the 8th November, by His Excellency Sir F. B. Head. The House of Assembly chose Archibald McLean, Esq. Speaker, to which His Excellency was graciously pleased to give his approbation; after which, as is usual, he delivered an Address to both Houses—recommending among other things, the following subjects for their consideration:

1. The final settlement of the question of the Clergy Reserves—those had proved a fruitful subject of discussion in the former House, but through the influence of the clergy, they had been prevented from having them appropriated to educational purposes.

2. He then directs their attention to the inefficient state of King's College, and trusts that the Province will shortly be indebted to their deliberations for the means of bestowing a liberal and refined education.

3. The disposal of the School Lands and the promotion of general education.

4. He laments the crowded state of the gaols and the length of imprisonment suffered by persons charged with crime, and suggests as a

remedy the increase of judges!! We could spare him 5 or 6 of ours.

5. He suggests the propriety of establishing a Provincial Asylum for lunatics.

6. For the purpose of opening communications and facilities for the transmission of agricultural products to markets, he recommends erecting a great Western rail road, and an inquiry into the affairs of the Welland Canal. The latter recommendation has no doubt originated in the late exposure of the concern by W. L. McKenzie, Esq.

7. He recommends a survey of the River Ottawa, for the purpose of connecting by means of the waters of that river, Lake Huron, with the ocean.

8. He calls their attention to the neglected state of the roads throughout the Province, and recommends the adoption of a more efficient system; and that the statute labor and grants of money be more scientifically, economically, and impartially expended.

9. He adverts to the stopping of the supplies by the last House, and the consequent embarrassment to the public service.

10. He promises to cause the public accounts and estimates for the expenses of the Civil Government, for the current and ensuing years to be laid before them.

Lake all Sir Francis' state documents, the Address abounds with flowery imagery and flights of imagination, which may please the conservative ears of his present Parliament; but will be viewed with suspicion, if not with disgust, by the large and respectable body of reformers, which his government contains.

We have received a file of the Newfoundland Patriot, bringing the dates down to the 14th ult. The elections there were terminating most ingloriously for the Tories; and we are sorry to add, that some scenes of riot and bloodshed had occurred in which the very hustings were torn to atoms and scattered to the winds.

We have to apologise for publishing an erroneous statement of the Poll for Colchester, last week. In the absence of any other information, we gave a statement brought to Pictou by a man belonging to River John, and did not know it was incorrect till Mr Smith arrived—which was after our paper had gone to press. Mr Archibald and his friends will therefore, we trust, accept of this explanation, to show that we did no intentional wrong.

We rejoice at Mr Archibald's triumphant return, which is only what we anticipated, and it affords us the highest pleasure that the Province, and we trust, the cause of reform also, are to have the benefit of his splendid talents once more. Novascotians should not forget, that had he chose to abandon the cause of the people, he might long since have been at the Council Board, and enjoyed other emoluments far exceeding those he is now in possession of; but neither should he forget, that a heavy responsibility attaches to his present election—particularly if he be chosen Speaker. Nova Scotia needs many important measures of reform, and with his experience, influence, and abilities, and a new House, he can accomplish every thing.

PICTOU TOWNSHIP ELECTION.—On Monday last, the Poll was opened here for the election of one Township Member, by J. W. Harris, Esq. Deputy Sheriff, when H. Hatton, Esq. was proposed by Mr McLeod of New Lairg, and seconded by H. Blackadar, Esq. A. Patterson Esq. was then proposed by Mr R. Dawson, and seconded by A. P. Ross, Esq., who rose to speak, but was so frequently interrupted by cries of "Poll, poll," &c., that at length he was obliged to sit down without being heard. Mr George McDonald then attempted to speak