NEWS BY THE CALEDONIA.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 3.

The Corn Laws.—The Duke of Buckingham presented 100 petitions against any alterations in the corn laws. The petitions were chiefly from places in the Counties of Buckingham, Suffolk, Derby, and Southampton. The noble Duke said the petitions were agreed to and signed before any announcement on the subject of the corn laws had been made in another place. The petitioners, at least many of them, had since that announcement corresponded with him (the Duke of Buckingham), and he was able to say that one and all of them viewed that announcement with alarm; satisfied that if the present system were materially changed, it would endanger the peace of the country. (Hear.) The noble duke then called their attention to a speech on the corn laws delivered on a former occasion by the noble viscount at the head of the government, in which the noble viscount said that any agitation or discussion on the corn laws would inevitably lead to commotions dangerous to the peace of the community; he (the Duke of Buckingham) sincerely trusted the noble viscount would remember the words he had used on former occasions, denouncing all agitation on the subject of the corn laws, and that he and his colleagues would guard against any such agitation.

Viscount Melbourne said, having been so pointedly alluded to, he could not let the present opportunity pass without observing, that the speech quoted and others made by him were never intended to convey the idea that the corn laws were never to be interfered with. He had, however changed the opinion he had formerly held, that opinion being entirely based and grounded upon particular and temporary circumstances. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of Ripon said, he heard the observations of the noble viscount with deep regret. (Hear.) He did not know what the country would think of his noble friend (Melbourne): this, however, he knew, that his noble friend would never be able to carry on the government of the country. (Hear.) He should like to know upon what ground the measure was to be introduced? Was it under a protecting duty, or by taxation—taxing corn for revenue? (Hear, hear.) Was the noble viscount would do what no other country in the world would do, and it would be the most disagreeable measure that ever was forced upon a reluctant parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Viscount Melbourne rose and said, with emphasis, that the principle of the measure would be one of protection. (Immense cheering.)

The Earl of Winchelsea denounced any interference with the present system as imminently dangerous to the peace of the country. He called upon the noble viscount, in God's name, not to adopt any measure likely to lead to a tax upon bread. (Hear, hear.) The people of this country knew their interests—they knew that cheap bread meant low wages. (Hear, hear.) To pursue such a course would be the downfall of the noble viscount's government, which indeed would be a blessing to the country. (Cheering.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Friday, April 30.

THE BUDGET.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer rose and said that when he came forward last year he had anticipated that the expenditure would amount to £49,499 000, and the income to £48,641,000; leaving a deficiency of £858,000. The actual results of the year had been less favourable than he had anticipated, for though the expenditure had amounted only to £49,285,000, the income had only reached the sum of £47,443,000 leaving a deficiency of more than £1 850,000. The right honourable gentleman then went over the revenue tables, and enumerated the several items in the customs and excise in which there had been a falling off or an increase. Among those in which a more marked falling off had taken place, he enumerated currants, molasses, spirits, sugar, tea, wine, and sheep's wool; but for the decline in each of these a reason would readily suggest itself to the house. The diminished revenue from sugar and molasses Mr. Baring attributed to the exorbitant price to which that article had risen; the anticipation of a commercial treaty with France had naturally tended to interfere with the duty arising from wine; and in the diminished consumption of spirits Ireland bore a large share—but, however that circumstance might inconvenience his statement that evening, he should be ashamed of himself if he did not allude to it with sincere pleasure. The revenue from the post office had fallen short of his expectations; but that was owing not to a deficiency in the anticipated increase of letters posted, but to the increased expenses which had become necessary in consequence of the opening of railroads, and of the great augmentation in the business of the office. For the ensuing year, he calculated that the national expenditure would be—

Interest on the Debt	£29,424,000
Other charges on Consolidated Fund .	2,400,000
Army	6,587,000
Navy	6,895,000
Ordnance	2,075,000
Miscellaneous	2,935,000
Extraordinary expences for Canada . .	180,000
Expedition to China	400,000
Making a total of . .	£50,731,226

The items having been given in round numbers, the total would not exactly agree with them, but the total was as he had given it. The chancellor of the exchequer next entered on the terms of the revenue which he anticipated for the ensuing year. The customs he expected would produce £22 000,000; the excise, £14,000,000; the stamps, £7,130,000; and he thought he might rely upon it that the total revenue would not fall short of £48,310,000. This would leave a deficiency of £2,421,000 to be provided for. Mr. Baring entered into some explanations to show that the permanent deficiency, which he would really have to provide for, would be £1,700,000, as several items of the expenditure of next year were of an extraordinary character. Under these circumstances, it became necessary to find some means to make up the revenue of the country to £50,000,000. No taxation could be so injurious as a permanent disorder in the national finances; and the sum they had now to provide for was so large as to make it absolutely necessary for them to act with some degree of boldness. The question was, how to do so. Should ministers fall back upon taxes which they themselves had not long ago repealed—the house tax, for example, or the tax on coals? Should they impose taxes on things that had hitherto been exempt—place a legacy duty on real property, or a tax on agricultural horses? Were they to lay a tax upon new articles of strength, which had come into existence since the system of taxation, such as gas or steam? Ought they to adopt the once execrated, though popular plan of a property tax? Or might they not make some new arrangement of existing taxation, so as to obtain the needed supplies without adding to the burdens of the people? He was sure that two articles, sugar and timber, had already suggested themselves to the house, as those with whom it was his intention to deal. The present duty on colonial timber amounted to 10s. a load, and on Baltic timber 55s. This duty Lord Spencer had proposed to modify by raising that on colonial to 20s, and reducing that on Baltic timber to 55s. a load. Mr. Baring intended to adopt the proposition of his noble friend. From this change in the timber duties Lord Spencer anticipated an increased revenue of £750 000, but would be content with £500,000. Mr Baring said he should be content to take the same sum as Lord Spencer. He next explained that the alteration which he intended to propose in the sugar duties would still leave a protection of 50 per cent to colonial sugar. He meant to leave the duty on colonial sugar at the present amount of 24s per cwt; but that on foreign sugar, now amounting to 63s he should propose to reduce to 36s per cwt. From this change in the sugar duties he expected an augmentation of £900,000 to the revenue, but he would estimate it only at £700,000.—From sugar and timber, then, he looked for an increase to the revenue of not less than £1,300,000; which would still leave a deficiency of 400,000 to be provided for. His noble friend had that evening given notice of his intention, at an early period, to submit the question of the corn trade to the consideration of the house; and if the propositions of his noble friend were agreed to, he should be under no uneasiness respecting the 400,000. If they were not agreed to, it would of course become his imperative duty to make provision by direct taxation. Mr Baring went on to ask the house to look at the present aspect of public affairs. There was the German League extending its influence and increasing its protective duties; there was the American tariff; and there was the treaty with the Brazils, the renewal of which would soon have to become matter of negotiation. But it would be in vain to press upon those nations a liberal line of policy, if this country were to keep up prohibitions under the name of protection: they would retort, "We hear what you say, and we see what you do." If there was any intention whatever to admit the produce of foreign countries, the house would feel that they ought not to delay and postpone until they lost the markets of the world, and had nothing left but to give way with regret and despair.

The Timber Duties.—The proposed alteration in the timber duties has created a feeling of alarm amongst the ship-owners and merchants connected with our North American Colonies, which it is difficult to describe. If the chancellor of the exchequer succeeds in raising the duty on colonial timber from 10s. 6d. to 20s., as much as the first cost, and reducing the Baltic timber from 55s. 6d. to 50s., it will be the death-blow to our colonies, utter ruin to the ship-owners, and to one of our most valuable nurseries for raising our best sailors; finally, this is pure and equality fall on our manufacturers, who are the principal consumers of Canadian timber and deals, for the purpose of packing cases, and for which the Baltic red pine is not suitable and all this is to be done to benefit the Prussian ship-owner and land owner, thus depriving England of employment for 15 000 seamen.

The chancellor of the exchequer asserts that a protecting duty of 20s. will still be retained in favour of the colonial timber, and he fancies his plan secures this protection, but it will do nothing of the kind, and this will be shown by an examination of the working of the duties, viz.:

By Liverpool *sale* measure, Dantzig timber pays 1s. 3d. per cubic foot duty while Dantzig plank, used for building purposes, pays but 10d. per cubic foot duty; or, in other words, the Prussian manufactured article (the plank) pays one-third less than the raw material or the log timber; the difference of 5d. per foot is therefore a clear bounty given to Prussian labour, and, as a consequence, acts as a discouragement to English labour.

Canadian plank receives no advantage over timber, at least not more than about *one farthing* per foot, which is not worth consideration.

If, then, Prussian plank pays *now* only about 43s. duty per load, instead of 55s. 6d., and Canadian plank pays, say 40s. per load, the protection would appear to be 33s. per load; but, calculating the freight from Dantzig and Memel at 20s per load, and the freight from Quebec at 40s, the real protection is only about 13s., as the *duties now stand* between the manufactured plank from Prussia and Canada; and, therefore, if the proposed *alteration in the duties* takes place, it will be at once seen, that so far from any *protection at all* being afforded to our colonies and shipping, it will be *a boon fit bounty* to Prussia. Surely the people of England cannot wish, nor will they allow such injustice to be inflicted on themselves and their deserving colonial brethren.

Had the chancellor of the exchequer proposed to reduce the duty on Baltic timber to 40s., leaving the duty on plank as it now stands, and reduced the duty on colonial timber to 8s 6d, all parties might have been satisfied, without any loss arising to the revenue.

If we are to have more taxation, why not commence with the post-office, and charge 2d. for the ½ oz. instead of 1d. on the ½ oz., increasing the charge with the increase of weight as at present? Neither the poor nor the rich would feel this alteration, and an additional million would be secured to the treasury.—*Liverpool Mail, May 4.*

LONDON, Monday May 3, 12 o'clock.

The British funds opened this morning at the closing prices on Saturday; but they have since become heavy, from the general opinion entertained by the speculators that ministers manifestly intend a dissolution of parliament, and which will, of course, call for considerable sales of stock, in order that candidates may meet the expenses consequent upon general election. In addition to this, the hint that an income-tax may eventually be resorted to, has a downward influence upon the holders of stock. Consols for money are now 89¾, and for Account 90; Exchequer bills, 12to 14 pm.

LONDON, May 3.

Owing to the agitation into which the corn trade has been thrown by the announcement of Lord John Russell's intention to propose the substitution of a moderate fixed duty, the corn market was this morning completely stagnant, and no operations entered upon, except by the most needy buyers, who were compelled to supply their immediate wants.

Affairs of the East.—A deputation from merchants connected with the China and India trade had an interview with Viscount Palmerston, in the course of the week, on the subject of the recent events in China. It would appear that the deputation rested their complaints mainly upon two points—namely, the inadequacy of the indemnity proposed to be paid by the Chinese government to this country, and the want of any sufficient security having been provided for the personal safety and independence of British residents in China, by the arrangements which Capt. Elliott was said to have entered into with the Chinese plenipotentiary. The answer of Viscount Palmerston was, we hear, to the effect, that as yet he was acquainted only with the principles agreed to between the plenipotentiaries—namely, that the emperor was to cede to the British crown a territorial possession in China, that an indemnity was to be paid to the British government, and that the official intercourse between the two countries was for the future to be conducted on terms of perfect equality. As yet his Lordship knew nothing beyond the admission of these important principles; and as it was expressly stated that the details were to be the subject of further negotiation, it necessarily followed that it was impossible for his Lordship to come to any conclusive opinion as to the acts of the British plenipotentiary, until in full possession of the details of the further negotiations so alluded to. This, we believe, substantially describes what occurred at the interview between the foreign secretary and the deputation, but of course we can speak only from report.—*Observer.*

The Army.—A general order has been issued from the Horse Guards on the subject of the punishment of a soldier of the 11th Hussars in the Riding House at Hounslow on Sunday fortnight, under the direction of the Earl of Cardigan. The conduct of the noble earl is condemned in terms of well merited censure, such as we trust will prevent any repetition of the offence.

Lord Cardigan.—The Authorities at the Horse Guards have decided that this nobleman shall take the earliest convenient opportunity of selling out. The noble Earl has consequently received notice to quit. The Sunday flogging affair has proved the last drop in the full cup of official endurance.

It now affords us much gratification to communicate to the army our belief that Captain Anthony Reynolds, of the 11th Hussars, will next week be brought to full pay of the 14th Light Dragoons, selling out in the same Gazette to Lieutenant Tonge.—*Naval and Military Gazette.*

The steamer *President* cost £80,000; engines 500 horse power; 2 100 tons. Several at Cork held shares. The Commander, Lieut. Roberts, R. N., is a married man, with five children, who reside in London; he is a native of the county of Cork, and was distinguished by putting an end to the slave trade in a portion of the west of Africa, where he commanded a brig of war.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

It has been arranged that the port of arrival and departure for the *British Queen* from and to New York, will in future be Liverpool instead of London.

In answer to a question put by the Rev. Dr. Blake to Mr. O'Connell, as to when he would bring the question of repeal before parliament, that gentleman said he would do so when he had 2 000,000 of repealers enrolled; and when he had 4,000,000, he said, the repeal would be carried.

Splendid Dress for the Queen.—A dress is making in Bethnal Green for the Queen to wear at the ball in May, for the encouragement of the British silk-manufacture. The pattern is a rich white satin ground splendidly brocaded with gold, the brocade representing the oak-leaf with sprigs of the leaf interspersed, and the acorn attached. It will be a most costly piece of workmanship, as there is a large quantity of gold woven on the satin, which measures thirty yards. The machinery on which it is formed is upon a new principle; and it takes a whole day to make three-quarters of a yard. The same pattern will be generally adopted by the lady patronesses of the ball; only that the gold is reserved for the leaves on the Royal dress alone. The weavers announce a new invention, which is to produce portraits of the Duke of Wellington and the Queen Dowager in black and white silk, so admirably done as to be scarcely distinguishable from a painting.—*Colonial Gazette.*

On Monday, the Duke of Wellington, as a Grandee of Spain and Knight of the Golden Fleece, attended at Buckingham Palace, by appointment of the Queen of Spain, and invested Prince Albert with the insignia of the order of the Golden Fleece.

General Sir Refane Shawe Donkin, M. P., K. C. B., terminated his existence at Southampton, on Saturday, by hanging himself. He was Surveyor General of the Ordnance and had been 63 years in the Army.—Colonel Fox is spoken of as his successor.

Letters from Alexandria to the 7th April contain no news, except that the plague was on the increase throughout Egypt. Mehemit Ali had retreated to a country-house, and Ibrahim Pasha had shut himself up in his palace at Cairo.

Sir George Arthur, late Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, is to be made a baronet.

An island has been discoverd between the Cape of Good Hope and Australia, in which there are valuable coal mines.

Business in the Manufacturing Districts was very dull.

Shocking Affair at Liverpool.—On Thursday morning, Mr. William Jenner, a cotton-broker, residing in Roscommon-street, Everton, in a fit of insanity, superinduced by too serious reflection upon losses in business, shot his wife and one of his sons in the head, and was about to shoot another son and himself, when the lad escaped and gave the alarm. Mr. Jenner is about 60 years of age. The son was killed on the spot; and his wife dangerously wounded.

The ship Recovery, of Dublin, for Quebec, with 300 passengers, has been totally lost in Pooldoy. Passengers all saved.

A large woolen manufactory at Rochdale, belonging to Messrs. Butterworth, of Summer Castle, was destroyed by fire on the 26th ult. Loss estimated at £30,000.

Explosion.—A dreadful explosion took place at Willington Colliery, situated between Newcastle and North Shields, at the moment when thirty four men and boys were in the pit, of whom three only escaped destruction.

Timber Duties.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his annual financial statement, on the evening of the 30th April, and related his plans of raising the revenue for the current year.—The following is an extract of a letter on the subject, from Henry Bliss, Esq., (our indefatigable Provincial Agent in London) to the Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence in this city, dated London, 31 May

"On Friday night the Budget was brought out, the boldest and most extraordinary one ever witnessed in this country. The whole protective system is struck at the root. The most vital and important of all productive interests, the Agricultural, the West Indian, the British North American and the Shipping, are not only simultaneously attacked, but to an extreme that seems to threaten destruction to a very large portion of the whole three at once. The proposal is to reduce the duty on foreign Sugar from 63s. per Cwt. to 36s.; to add 10s. a load to the duty on Colonial Timber, and take 5s. from the duty on foreign; while, though the exact scale of reduction on Corn is not expressly announced, the plan is understood to be, to reduce the present duties to a fixed charge of 8s. a quarter. I need not tell you what consternation and anxiety such a proposal has spread among all classes of the interests affected. Nor is it to be dissembled on the other hand, with what exultation and delight the announcement has been received by the partizans of Free Trade, a very numerous, intelligent, and indefatigable class. You will observe by the newspapers the several severe defeats by which the opening of the Budget has been preceded, and the imputations thrown out, that the Ministry neither expect nor desire to carry it, but having resolved on a dissolution are only seeking a theme of popular excitement for the new election.

Of course it is the resolution of all our friends here to oppose this measure. To-morrow we hold our first meeting to consider of the means to be adopted There can be little doubt, I think, that if we are able to bring about a combination of all the interests attacked, we shall easily defeat the Government. The danger is, however, that Ministers will protect themselves with avowing the anti corn-law principle, and will by either postponing its application or by a higher rate of duty, neutralize the landed interest and perhaps turn many of them against us. Yet even so, with the assistance of the West Indians and the Ship-owners, I trust in the goodness of our cause we shall make a hard fight, and am far from despairing of a successful issue, in the present parliament."

The following Petition to Parliament, prepared by Mr. Bliss, had been signed by nearly all the merchants in London engaged in the Colonial Timber Trade.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned, Merchants of London, engaged in the trade to the North American Colonies,

Most Humbly sheweth,

That after careful consideration of the new Resolutions and Bill for regulating the trade of the British possessions abroad, your Petitioners are convinced that a measure so extreme must prove deeply injurious to their interests, and to the industry and commerce of the United Kindom, and of the North American Colonies.

That the regulations of trade hitherto existing for those Colonies have been found so wise and beneficial, that with no other part of the world do we carry on a commerce so important to our manufactures, trade, and navigation; with no other part have our trade and navigation so rapidly and constantly increased; in none are our investments so secure; from none are our returns so certain; nor is there any example of a country's advancing more successfully than the North American Colonies have done, in population and prosperity, under the hitherto existing regulations for their trade.—Since the year 1806 their population is stated to have increased from about 500,000 to 1,500 000; their imports from all countries from about one million and a half to upwards of five millions of pounds sterling yearly; and the whole tonnage employed by their exports from 124 247 tons to nearly 1,300,000; almost the whole of which trade, and the whole of which navigation are purely British.

That great as these results already are, they seem capable of further and permanent extension by perseverance in the same means, the protective regulations of trade, by which these results have been accomplished.

That regulations so eminently successful, where such success is the only test of merit, ought not, your Petitioners submit, to be disturbed, without the greatest caution, and the most evident advantage, or urgent occasion for the change. The measure now proposed, however, appears to your Petitioners to be unattended with any of these requisites.

1st. The reduction of these protecting duties from a varied scale of fifteen, twenty, and thirty per cent, to an uniform charge of only seven, is considered by your Petitioners to be a very precipitate and extreme measure. It is altogether at variance with the differences which exist in our means of producing different manufactures. It is utterly inefficient as a protection in those of the most consequence. The reduction is greatest upon those articles in which our manufactures are most pressed by their foreign competitors. It is greatest also upon those articles on which the protecting duties are highest in the United Kingdom. And what your Petitioners conceive to be quite a curiosity in our laws of trade, the duties thus reduced in the Colonies will amount only to between a third and fourth of the duties still continued in the United Kingdom for protection on the same manufactures.

2d. The advantages to be derived from the measure proposed are altogether suppositive, and as your Petitioners believe will never be realized.—On the contrary, your Petitioners are convinced, from much experience in the trade and their intimate acquaintance with all its rivairies and relations, that in manufactures of apparel, cordage, coarse cottons, glass, leather, silk, tallow, paper, and some others, it will be impossible for us to compete with the United States of America, and other foreign countries, in supplying the North American Colonies under the duties so reduced.—The subjoined table of what our exports in those articles were in 1839, to the Colonies and the United States respectively, will at once exhibit how great a trade is sacrificed, and at the same time afford some evidence of the certainty of such a result, consideration being had that the population of the United States exceeds 17,000,000, and that of the Colonies but 1,500,000.

VALUE OF BRITISH AND IRISH MANUFACTURES EXPORTED IN 1839.

	To Br. North Am. Colonies.	To U. States America.
Apparel, Slops, Haberdashery and Hats,	£270.277	£180,347
Cordage,	97.327	6 691
Cotton Manufactures,	688.403	1,144 749
Glass,	33.970	22 050
Leather,	71.985	42 863
Painters' Colours,	31,551	42.002
Silk Manufacture,	136 750	410.093
Soap and Candles,	77.661	2 843
Stationery and Books,	55.342	63.958
Aggregate of the foregoing value.	1,267,168	1.945.597

Population to which the foregoing were sent—Colonies, 1,500.000; United States, 17,000.000.

There are some further and very important productions, which, without the existing duties, could not be considered beyond the reach of competition with foreign countries. Among other manufactures of such a character, there was exported to these Colonies, during the same year, of earthenware to the value of £34 825, (being more than to any foreign country, except the United States and Brazil). Of hardware, £144.103 (being twice as much as to any other foreign country, except the United States.) Of iron and steel, £248.431, (being more than to any country, British or foreign, with the same single exception.) Of linen, £125 318. Of woollen, £463.222, (being more than to any other country, British or foreign, except the United States and Germany.) And with the addition of Holland to the last mentioned exceptions, the aggregate of all our exports, £3.047.671, to the British North American provinces, was greater than to any foreign country, while the freights of the imports from those Colonies into this country in the same year gave employment to 2148 ships, 709.846 tons, and 28.349 men; an amount beyond all comparison or example in our trade, from any other country of the world.

But as the proposed measure embraces not only the Northern Colonies, but all British possessions in America, it is necessary to present a similar view of our trade to all these possessions, in comparison with that to the United States, in order thereby to exhibit more fully what the amount is of British wealth and industry at stake in this question, and how dependent it is upon those protecting duties, which have prevented our possessions deriving their supplies from the same rival source as the United States, and made the use of British manufactures in the former so much greater than in the latter, in proportion to the respective population of both.

VALUE OF BRITISH AND IRISH MANUFACTURES EXPORTED IN 1839.

	To Br. Possessions in America.	To United States.
Apparel, Slops, Haberdashery and Hats,	£602,234	£180,247
Beef, Pork, Fish, and other victual,	393.066	1,407
Cordage,	115.405	6 691
Cotton Manufactures,	1,956,253	1,144.449
Glass,	94.750	52 060
Leather,	266.979	42.863
Painters' Colours,	61.935	42,063
Silk,	175.217	41,093
Soap and Candles,	267.928	2 843
Stationery and Books,	105.111	64 958
Aggregate to foregoing	4 038,906	1,946.614
Total of all Exports of	7 034.269	7,839.204
Home productions,		

Population to which the foregoing were sent—British Possessions, 2,600,000; U. States, 17,000.000.

British Tonnage thence inwards—British Possessions, 906.561 tons; United States, 92.482 tons.

In addition to the articles above enumerated, it should not be omitted that our manufactures exported to all the British American possessions, in the same year, amounted to the value in metals of £816-001; in earthenware, £76.624; linen, £491.226; and woollens, £598.179; and a variety of less important articles, not specified in official returns, amounted together to £470.055; so that there is scarcely a single department of our industry which is not more or less implicated in the proposed alteration.

It would be superfluous to pursue a comparison of our whole British American trade and navigation, with reference to our intercourse with any other country, British or Foreign, the superiority is so excessive. But of this entire and immense trade your Petitioners feel bound to reiterate the same conviction they have before expressed, that in the principal articles above enumerated, and in some others not there particularized, the new duties will have no other effect than to transfer to foreign countries, the industry, wealth, and power of the British Empire.

And as respects the Third Clause of the Bill, permitting the importation of Tea into the Northern Colonies, by inland carriage or navigation, on payment of an additional ten per cent, on the amount of duty chargeable on Tea imported from the United Kingdom, your Petitioners humbly submit, that this sudden transition from one extreme to another, in regulations of trade, cannot fail to be seriously injurious to the capital (known to be considerable) which has been embarked in importing this article on the faith and encouragement of the hitherto existing laws. The foreign duty, now substituted for prohibition, is so trifling, and so evidently inefficient for protection, that even the object and principle of this clause become obscure. Whatever these may be, the application will neither be uniform nor constant, nor even practicable; for the duty on Tea from the United Kingdom is different in different Colonies, and in all depends on Provincial enactments; and in some parts no such duty now exists.

3rd. With regard to the urgency of any occasion for the measure proposed, your Petitioners believe that none was ever more uncalled for in this country, none less likely to be ever demanded by any interest or any industry, unless those of theorists and disputants alone. And certainly the North American Colonies have never complained of the existing duties; never asked for their reduction; never expected, never desired it should be made. On the contrary, their amount has been increased by colonial enactments in many instances and in some so recently as during the present year. And your Petitioners feel persuaded, that, besides other reasons which the Northern Colonies must have, to regard this proposal with apprehension and repugnance, they would see with peculiar dissatisfaction the protection on their trade in wood to the Southern Colonies reduced to one third of its present amount; and at the same time both the Northern and Southern, the manufactures of the United States obtruded upon the Colonies at so low a duty, while the duties of those States remain so exorbitant, not only upon British manufactures, but upon almost all Colonial productions, and no attempt made to procure an abatement, on the part of that country for a reduction, otherwise so gratuitous by this. But your petitioners feel no less persuaded that the Northern Colonies will feel still more adverse to the proposed measure, upon the higher grounds of its being contrary and dangerous to the colonial policy of the British empire, and to its whole protective system, without which these provinces could never have so prospered nor ever have been so peopled, and upon which their trade and industry almost entirely depend.

Unless, therefore, and until your Honourable House is prepared to reverse the entire commercial basis of this country, and annihilate all protecting duties in agriculture as well as manufactures, trade, and navigation, your petitioners most humbly hope that the present very moderate charges, which secure the preference British industry in the Colonies, may not be reduced to, at least, a lower amount than imposed for that purpose in the United Kingdom. It is not for your Petitioners here to discuss the policy of free trade for a country so burthened and situated as our own; but as the advocates of that policy are all agreed, that if it be good for anything, it is peculiarly applicable to the Corn Laws, your Petitioners submit, that by first applying that policy successively to every other industry, the burthen of agricultural protection is daily rendered less supportable, and the effect is becoming much the same, and the present question ought to be so considered, as if in a country where a free trade has been previously established, what is termed the monopoly of bread were proposed to be introduced.

In setting forth the case thus earnestly and at length, your Petitioners hope to be excused, on account of the great stake they have in this question, as far as it relates to the Northern Colonies, and as far as it relates also to the Southern, on account of the immense trade and industry put in peril, by a measure which your Petitioners conceive to be most inconsiderate, unnecessary, and extreme, and pregnant with the most fatal results to the United Kingdom and its dependencies.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that the Fourth Clause of the Bill, reducing the protection on British manufactures, may not pass; that the Fifth Clause may be amended by striking out as much as relates to shingles, staves, and lumber; and that the Third Clause may be struck out of the Bill or be amended, by making the duty imposed on Tea imported by inland carriage into the Northern Colonies more uniform, certain and efficient.

DOMESTIC.

From the Courier of Saturday.

We have much pleasure in stating that our late excellent Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Harvey, has been solicited to accept the Government of Newfoundland in the most kind and flattering manner, and that he is to have a salary of £4000 a year, with a promise of succeeding to the Government of Nova-Scotia on Lord Falkland's departure, which will be in August next, when Lord Sydenham leaves for England, and Lord Falkland succeeds him as Governor General. The general movement in the Province in Sir John Harvey's favour has done him much good, and we rejoice to hear that such prompt steps have been taken to re-place him in these Colonies.

Judging from recent proceedings in Newfoundland, and the discordant materials of which the population is composed, a Governor of Sir John's talents and experience appears to be much wanted in that Colony, to restore, by a mild and equitable administration of affairs, harmony and good feeling among its distracted and divided inhabitants.

We understand that Sir John Harvey has received a very flattering despatch from the Colonial Secretary, conveying to him Her Majesty's Gracious permission to accept the grant of £1500 sterling, voted by the Legislature of this Province for the purchase of a Service of Plate.

The Britannia Steam Ship.—It is with extreme regret we have to state that the *Britannia*, from Boston when approaching Halifax Harbour on the afternoon of Tuesday last, struck on the Sisters, near Sambro Light House—the fog being extremely dense at the time, as it had been all day. The ship was backed off the reef almost immediately, and proceeded up the Harbour, when she was taken to the Dock Yard for examination, and, after being lightened of her fuel, but little injury could be discovered, and the leakage had stopped, but it was not deemed prudent, nevertheless, to continue on her voyage to Liverpool, without a more thorough survey. We understand there was a pilot on board the steamer at the time of the accident. She had eighty-five passengers, all of whom, with the exception of six, were on their way to England.

The Halifax Royal Gazette states that Sir John Harvey and Lady Harvey, with their respective suites, and Captain Nugent, 36th Regiment, had taken passage in the Britannia.

The following is a copy of a letter addressed to Capt. R. B. Cleland, by the passengers who were on board the Britannia at the time of the accident.

"Steam Ship Britannia,
19th May, 1841.

"*Resolved unanimously*, That the Passengers in the Steam Ship Britannia, many of whom were deeply interested spectators of the imminent danger to which that vessel was exposed on the 18th of May, in approaching the Harbour of Halifax, from striking on a reef of rocks, in a dense fog, with a pilot on board, acquit Capt. Cleland of all responsibility for the injury which the Britannia sustained, and feel themselves indebted to his coolness and intrepidity, under Providence, for their escape."

In consequence of the delay that would be caused in repairing the *Britannia* at Halifax, it was determined to proceed to Saint John, where there is sufficient rise and fall of tide to enable her to be placed on blocks, and be repaired without the trouble and consequent expense of *heaving down*, which would be necessary in Halifax. The Britannia accordingly arrived at this port yesterday, performing the run in thirty hours. We understand she makes but little water, and when placed on the berth, it is expected the necessary repairs will be completed in a few hours.

Her arrival there created an unusual sensation, and crowds of persons of all classes flocked to get a sight of her as she came up the harbour, which she did in fine style, coming in under at 1 p. m. off Reed's Point. She is a magnificent vessel, although her outward appearance is not very prepossessing, the hull being chiefly painted black, but her interior arrangements are splendid. Captain R. B. Cleland, commander of the ship, has her, is a universal favourite with his passengers, and gains golden opinions on every voyage. In addition to the above highly complimentary card from his passengers on the occasion of the accident off Halifax, in which he is represented as all brave, and cool, and is given him for his intrepid conduct on the trying occasion, we have before us a Boston paper containing three complimentary letters to Capt. Cleland, and noticing two pieces of Plate now manufacturing for him, both the gift of his passengers.—One is for his skill and exertions during a boisterous passage from Liverpool to Boston in February last, and the other for his conduct on his last passage from Liverpool to Boston. These are the spontaneous presents of grateful hearts who are acquainted with the character of the "gallant Captain", as he is familiarly styled in Boston. Nor are his deeds of daring confined to his ship alone, for, whether on sea or land, he is ever the ready adventurer in noble act. On his last visit to Boston, as we learn from the paper to which we have referred, by his presence of mind and physical strength he snatched the lady of a respectable citizen from before a runaway horse, at the risk of her life, and thus, at the risk of his own life, saved her from an instant and shocking death; and while in Liverpool in April, on hearing the screams of a drowning woman, he jumped into the Clarence dock in his full dress, at the risk of being delayed in keeping her afloat until he made a rope fast round her, by which she was hauled on board the steamer from which she had fallen—being the sixth person he has rescued in the same way. For these several services to humanity, Captain Cleland received the heavy thanks of a numerable individuals, and several medals from Humane Societies.

The Britannia will return immediately to Halifax after being repaired, and proceed on her voyage to Liverpool. We do not doubt but she will soon cause much uneasiness in England, but it is pleasing to find that no loss of life has attended the casualty, and that damage to the ship is but trifling.

Emigration.—Official intelligence was received by the first May Mail on Thursday, at the Government Emigrant Agent's Office in this City, of the sailing of the undermentioned emigrant vessels from ports in Ireland, for St. John:

Royal William,	from Cork,	with 146	passengers.
Thomas Hanford,	Cork,	150	....
Louisa,	Cork,	210	....
Rowena,	Cork,	200	....
Gratitude,	Cork,	153	....
John Wesley,	Cork,	103	....
Rangoroo,	Cork,	95	....
Wilkinson,	Belfast,	61	....
Harmony,	Dublin,	85	....
Londonderry,	L'derry,	185	....
Cherub,	L'derry,	160	....

Making, with those previously published and others reported in the newspapers, an aggregate of about *four thousand* individuals, now on their way to this City from Irish ports.

New Paper.—Mr. W. H. Sewell, who recently purchased the *City Gazette* establishment, issued a new paper on Thursday, under the title of "*The British American*,"—the *Gazette* and *Temperance Advocate*, published by Mr. Tull, being discontinued. The British American is well got up, and we hope will prove a source of profit to the young adventurer.

Melancholy Accident.—On Saturday last Mr. Peter M'Laughlin, of Cranbury head, below Musquash, went a short distance from the shore in his boat, accompanied by his three sons and a hired man, named William Ruddy, for the purpose of cutting sea-weed. The boat being heavily loaded, filled with water in consequence of the increasing wind. Ruddy and one of the boys, drifted a short distance, and sank; the father caught his other sons, and after a severe struggle succeeded in getting them on shore; one of them survived only half an hour after landing, the other, we are glad to hear, is well. An Inquest was held on Wednesday, before Dr. W. Bayard, Coroner, on view of the body of John M'Laughlin, and a Verdict returned accordingly.

From the New-Brunswick Royal Gazette, May 19.

In publishing the following extract from the Appropriation Act, passed during the last Session of the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor recommends to the Sheriffs of the Counties to call Public Meetings of the Inhabitants, with a view of forming Emigration Societies in their Counties; early intimation of the formation of such Societies to be given to the Lieutenant Governor, in order that their co-operation may be rendered effectual in the present season throughout the Province. A number of Emigrants being expected soon to arrive, it will be desirable that information of the existing demand for their labour should be obtained and facilities afforded to the Emigrants to proceed at once to those parts of the Province where they may obtain immediate employment, and an ultimate settlement.

It will be necessary that statements should be forwarded of the sums collected, in order that the requisite authority may be given for the issue of the portion of the public grant fixed for each County.

"To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, the sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds, for the purpose of encouraging and promoting Immigration to this Province; the said sum to be apportioned among the several Counties within the same, at and after the rate of sixty pounds to each County, and to be paid accordingly, on a satisfactory certificate being furnished the Commander in Chief for the time being, that an equal amount has been subscribed and paid by any persons associated together for the purposes intended by this grant in the County for which such appropriation is to be applied, which said sum for such County, together with the said grant, making together a sum not less than one hundred and twenty pounds for every County which may avail itself of such appropriation, to be expended as may be best considered advisable for the encouragement of Emigration by any such Association, and that an account of the expenditure be laid before the Legislature.

By order.
WM. F. ODELL.

THE OBSERVER.

St. John, Tuesday, May 25, 1841.

The English Mail, per steamer *Caledonia*, with dates to the 4th of the present Month, arrived in this city on Thursday. We have given a variety of extracts, in preceding columns. The Chanceller of the Exchequer, it will be seen, had made known his plans regarding the Timber, Sugar, and Corn Duties, to all of which, it is expected, there will be a very strong opposition, and it is doubtful whether ministers will be able to carry either of the measures. There is some expectation of a dissolution of Parliament.—Ministers had been defeated on several clauses of the Irish Corporation bill, which was lost.

The steam ship *President*, we regret to state, was still a missing vessel.

Yesterday, (24th of May,) being the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birth, a Royal Salute and *feu de joie* were fired at noon by the Troops in this Garrison, who were reviewed on the occasion by Lt. Col. Mounins, 69th Regt., Senior Military Officer in the Province. The Troops made a handsome appearance, and performed a variety of evolutions with the most exact presision.

Her Majesty's brig Racer also fired a Royal salute and manned her yards at noon, in honor of the day. She was splendidly decorated with a profusion of flags.

The Concert given by the *Sacred Music Society*, last evening, at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, in honor of the anniversary of Her Majesty's birth, was numerously attended. The performances throughout were of a very superior order, and gave much delight to a highly respectable auditory.

We have great satisfaction in being able to announce to our readers that Her Majesty's Government are about contracting for an additional line of steamers to these Colonies, giving us a weekly communication with the Mother Country, and that His Excellency Sir William Colebrooke intends representing the great benefits that would accrue to the public generally, and more particularly to the Government, if the new line, which would run every alternate week, were required to come to this port direct; the present line to go to Halifax as usual. It appears to us highly desirable that our citizens, especially the mercantile part of them, should immediately represent in their true colours the great advantages that the port of St. John affords for this purpose; and support to the utmost of their power the exertions of our worthy Lieutenant Governor, who already shews himself so warmly interested in our behalf.

The steam ship *Britannia* was placed on blocks at Mr. Thomson's ship yard, Portland, at high water on Sunday, when it was found that the forward part of the fore foot and keel were but slightly injured, and some of the copper about