## BRITISH NEWS.

### NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.

LONDON, JAN. 15.—Dutch Papers to the 12th inst., arrived this morning. The following is an extract :—

*Hague, Jan.* 10.—Their Excellencies Sir Charles Bagot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty, and M. Pebber [Preble], Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of North America, have this morning received from the hands of His Majesty the Act which declares the derision given by his Majesty, as umpire, in differences between Great Britain and the United States, respecting the determination of the frontiers of their respective territories."

LONDON, JAN. 17.—Sir Howard Douglas, the Governor of New Brunswick, arrived at the Foreign office about one o'clock yesterday afternoon, in a carriage and four, with despatches from the Hague. Sir Howard, it is understood, is the bearer of the decision of the King of the Netherlands (as umpire) respecting the disputed territory between the United States and the colony of New-Brunswick. Copies of the dispatches were forwarded to the Cabinet Ministers in town.

*Liverpool, Jan.* 24.—While the diplomacy of all Europe has been immersed in questions purely European, and while the King of the Netherlands may have been supposed [illegible] occupied of all the individuals whose interest they effect, a matter has been for some months past debating at the Hague, under that monarch's auspices, of a nature very remote from all those to which his attention might be thought exclusively devoted. We allude to the American Boundary question, left, as will be recollected, some two years since to the arbitration of King William. The 20th of this present month was the day to which his Majesty was limited by the terms of the arbitration ; and while the ambassadors of England and the United States, at the Hague, fully expected the Royal umpire would, from late circumstances, have demanded an extension of time, they were agreeably surprised, a few days ago, by a notification, that the decision was already formed, and that it would be delivered to them for the information of their respective governments on Monday last the 10th inst. On that day the King accordingly handed to Sir Charles Bagot and Mr. Preble duplicates of his award. On a point of such consequence we feel it necessary to speak with caution, as the question may eventually become of national importance far greater than that which seems implicated in it now. But if our information be correct, and we may almost vouch that it is so, the King of the Netherlands, has decided the points submitted to him in a way that must give ample satisfaction to British interests, as far as they may be considered involved in the matter at issue.

It would be, perhaps, premature to state precisely the terms of the decision. That the principal point at issue, the northeastern boundary of the United States, is decided in favour of English claims, and contrary to American pretensions, may be enough to satisfy the public. That much may be relied on as the result. To the provinces of New-Brunswick and Canada the decision will be deemed of vital importance. How it may be received by the Government of the U. States we do not undertake to prophecy.

LONDON, JAN. 25.—*Increase of the Navy.*—It is understood that Ministers have resolved upon an immediate increase of the naval force of the empire, and that five ships of war are to be put into commission. Yesterday there was a report current that orders had been sent down to the coast, for the purpose of having ready 2,500 of the Coast Blockade, to make up the complement of men required for such vessels of war.

The amount of Revenue accrued during the quarter ending 5th Jan. was £12,660,034 ; being a diminution as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1839, of £29,480. "The Customs and Excise show a deficiency of £120,000, which is to be accounted for by the repeal of the beer and leather duties ; but in other branches there is an increase of £90,563, which reduces the deficiency to the small amount stated." Upon the whole year, as compared with the preceding one, there was a deficiency of £640,450. The actual surplus revenue of the country, beyond its expenditures, during the year ending 10th Oct. 1839, was £2,679,523 ; which amount was to be applied towards the extinction of the national debt!

In England, fires, and disturbances were still kept up, though the courts were trying the rioters by droves, and many convictions were constantly taking place.

Advices from Paris of the 12th of January, give a wretched account of the state of money matters there, and the distrust naturally resulting from it among commercial men.

The trade of Sheffield, at psesent, is such as to afford employment to all who will work, though the scale of remuneration is but low.

LONDON, JAN. 25.

CALL FOR GOLD.—*Mr. O'Connell's call (says the Dublin Evening Mail, of Monday last) has brought, and will bring, ruin on thousands of those infatuated and deluded beings who have obeyed his mandate. As a matter of prudence, indeed, of necessity, the banks have been constrained to reduce their discounts, and although many innocent persons must consequently be the sufferers, yet we will confess that we are not displeased that Mr. O'Connell has exhibited such a proof of the malign and mischevous influence he possesses, or of the mode in which he is capable of calling it into action. We copy the following from the Limerick Chronicle of Saturday. 'The insidious menaces employed in Dublin were, it is evident, neither idle nor visionary ; they have been conveyed by post to all parts of Ireland ; but in this city and its adjoining districts only do they appear to operate with effect. Since Wednesday, a sudden mania for gold has impelled a number of the ignorant peasantry, and some of the lower class of townspeople, to exchange their notes for the precious metal. The Bank of Ireland and the Provincial Bank afford the applicants every facility for this purpose, and the utmost promptitude is evinced to satisfy every claim of the kind. But what is the result of this wanton and mischievous movement against two such highly respectable and powerful establishments? The ordinary business of both banks is of necessity suspended ; that accommodation which they furnished with such benefit to the public is for the present withheld, and a temporary stoppage put to the discount of bills! Thus the system of agitation has inflicted a grievous injury upon every man engaged in trade, and a whole community suffers for the sin of a rash and restless individual. The merchant, shopkeeper, artisan, and labourer, are all equally involved in embarrassment. Hence an almost total stagnation in every branch of trade, a rapid and unparalleled decline in the value of all articles of consumption—all species of provision and agricultural produce, besides every sort of general commodity in the market. The rates of money are contracted, the merchant will not buy, the farmer cannot sell, and the landlord receives no rent. In this deranging state of things, the shopkeepers must of course participate ; and all ranks of society bend under such a combination of misfortunes and difficulties. This day many car which came in from the country, laden with pork, butter and corn, returned without market, and in one commercial house, yesterday, fifty men were discharged. The merchants are resolved, in any shape, to discountenance the absurd run made upon the banks, and, to show the country people the folly and mischief of their conduct, refused purchasing, even on the most advantageous terms, at this day's market. Thursday night, inflammatory notices were posted in manuscript, through various parts of this city, by some ruffian incendiary, headed 'Gold for Rags!' The run of Ireland this day, commenced paying off in gold, even all the Branch Bank notes of that establishment. Major M'Namara, M. P. and the gentry of Clare, yesterday, issued circulars through the country from Ennis—condemning the absurd panic which has been created in the money market. Perhaps it would be judicious not to notice the subject at all. The gentry of this county have also published a similar manifesto, stating they will receive most cheerfully, from the tenantry, Bank of Ireland or Provincial Bank notes in payment of rent, and from the country people generally, in every transaction or dealing.'*

*From the Liverpool Albion, January* 17.

The struggle between the Irish Government and Mr. O'Connell is becoming extremely active. Affairs in the sister island appear to be rapidly drawing to a crisis. It is impossible, indeed, that the agitation which now disturbs the peace of Ireland can long continue.—Either the Government must put down the agitation, or the agitators will attempt to put down the Government. Legal authority cannot maintain itself, if daily assemblages of agitators are permitted to usurp the very functions of the Executive, and to make the King's subjects their obsequious slaves. The mass of the Irish people are as much at the beck of Mr. O'Connell now as they were during the stormy period which preceded the settlement of the Roman Catholic question. He can move them now, as he moved them then, with as much ease as the showman moves a set of puppets.—The peace and the tranquility of Ireland depends upon his will.

The Government must, in such a state of things, be extremely anxious to prevent Mr. O'Connell from "shaking the isle from its propriety ;" but how are they to prevent him from carrying on the profitable work of agitating Ireland as long as he pleases? He is skilful and wary, and will not readily fall into the snares which are evidently spread to catch him. Hitherto he has contrived, not merely to embarrass but to baffle the Government.—It is evident, however, that the war of proclamation and counter proclamation, which has been carried on with unexampled vigour during the last fortnight, cannot continue much longer, without weakening the Government, and encouraging the agitators and their unfortunate dupes. Authority must not, therefore, be bearded with impunity. The agitator must be crushed by the strong arm of the law, and rebellion nipped in the bud.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 26.

IRELAND.—The putting Mr. O'Connell under prosecution, for sedition, has produced considerable impression, and will, probably, either hasten on a crisis or prevent it. Whether Government possess sufficient means of convicting him, or his legal cunning may have left him some tortuous path for eluding the laws, are, we apprehend, matters of much less consequence than the determination which Ministers have shown to proceed with vigour against all incipient attempts at rebellion. Nothing is more certain than that the matter is brought to an issue on the question, not whether the Union shall be repealed, but whether the plot which is maturing under that pretence,—a pretence, however, so thin as to veil nothing of the real intention from the public eye, shall be accomplished. At the same time, since this design is carried on under a legal object, to promote petitions for a separate Parliament, the case is surrounded with greater difficulty, as the Government is obliged to frame its measures very much on the principle of interpreting overt acts by concealed intentions—a dangerous principle, we allow, in ordinary cases, and one which ought to be well watched. On the other hand, it would make both Government and the nation to appear equally blameable and ridiculous were it to suffer rebellion to organize and arm itself, and to grow up into a state of complete separation to strike the first blow, under the cover of meetings and associations to promote a legal end, when the very language and character of these proceedings make it manifest to all, that they intend something far beyond the ostensible object. Mr. O'Connell says no, in one breath, and yes in another ; he denies directly, and then affirms by a periphrasis which his followers well understand. If he were a man of honour, the case would be different ; but who depends upon either, and the paltry quibbling of the lawyer, and the glossy speeches which he makes to wheedle the Protestants, are too well understood to make his professions of any account. The whole character of the proceedings is that of rebellion without the usual honesty of it, and though the circumstances of the case place Government in a situation of delicacy, because they must seem to trench upon several sacred public rights in order to secure the public safety, yet these circumstances are so well appreciated by the public, that its acts will receive a liberal interpretation.

This country demands from it the most vigorous application of its powers to suppress the seditious movements in Ireland, for assuredly it is not prepared to assent to the dismemberment of the empire ; and Ireland demands it also—for we have yet to learn that the demagogues and the mob at their heels are Ireland. The Protestants and the loyal and peaceable part of the Catholics, the proprietors of the soil, merchants and trades people are at least Ireland as well as they, and they demand protection from the spoliation of their property, from the despotism of mobs, and from a persecuting popish ascendancy.

We are glad to find that there are exceptions among the Catholic priests, and that all do not, at least openly, encourage the agitation. The body of them, however, give their influence to it, and they are now stimulated by high influence. Their conduct might, at first sight, appear rather inexplicable. To the wild democracy and republicanism taught by the demagogues, they are in theory, doubtless, opposed—the French revolution, so fatal to popery, they must abhor—and yet they incite the populace who chaunt its praises in songs, and march under tri-coloured flags—but the truth is, that the hope of ascendancy to their church by the separation of the countries is a temptation they cannot resist, and they trust to their influence to quell the stormy elements which they now excite against England, and to mould the Government to their own views, when once they have got it into their hands. In this they might, probably, be disappointed—but they will not be suffered to try the experiment. That Ireland is distressed is certain, so is England—both require attention, and even bold measures for their relief. But radicalism, and resolution are the only enemies of necessary ameliorations, and if the country is pushed by reckless demagogues into extremes, it will rather rally round what might be amended, than put itself in the hands of popular violence.

## NEW-BRUNSWICK.

### LEGISLATIVE DEBATES.

(Continued from Supplement.)

*Wednesday, March* 2.

Mr. Harrison presented a petition from T. R. Wetmore, Esq. Clerk of the Peace for Queen's County, praying permission to lay a statement of facts before the House relating to the payment of certain Grain Bounties by him in the said County.

The petition was read. It was a very long document, and contained a detailed refutation of a certain petition which had been lately presented by Mr. Gilbert. The former petition was from 37 inhabitants of Queen's County, complaining of undue practices in respect to the payment of certain grain duties, by an agent appointed by the said Clerk of the Peace. The petition was, after some discussion, rejected.—The present petition was brought forward, with a view of explaining the real facts of the case, and thus removing the unfavourable impression which might have been produced, in regard to the conduct of the present petitioner.——Considerable discussion took place, as to the propriety of receiving this petition, inasmuch as the former petition of complaint had been rejected. It was finally decided, that the petition should not be received ; but in the course of the discussion, several hon. members took occasion unequivocally to declare their conviction, that the petition contained a very ample and satisfactory declaration of facts ; that the petitioner's conduct required no justification ; and that the present petition had to all intents and purposes, removed every unfavourable impression as to the character of the petitioner, which might have been produced by the former petition of complaint against him.

Mr. End contended for the reception of this petition, on the ground that, altho the former had not been received, yet its statements had been listened to by an eager and attentive public. The hon. gentleman observed, that it was well known how prone people in general were, to listen to charges against public officers. The former petition had contained charges of very heinous offences, which had been eagerly listened to by the public. Doubtless, therefore, the deeply wounded feelings, the injured sensibility of the party, had rendered him anxious to remove the unfair impressions which that vile petition might have produced. He naturally wished an exculpation as public as the charge had been. An hon. member for St. John, (Mr. S. Humbert) had said, that this petition, being an exculpation of offences which had not been proved, was unnecessary, and came with no very good grace. But he (Mr. End) hoped no such heterodox doctrine would ever be preached in that house; or, if preached, that it would instantly be rejected.—Too much had been said in the house, about public officers. A vast deal of eloquence had been displayed, by some hon. members, in making general charges against public officers, but with, as he (Mr. E.) believed, very little wisdom. Without any motion, any resolution, any matter whatever before the house—sometimes, it was true, under promises of petitions to sustain them, which petitions had never appeared, and could not, in truth & justice, ever appear—long tirades had been uttered, containing a great deal of matter, which, if uttered in any other house or place, he (Mr. E) would unhesitatingly designate as slanderous and defamatory——

Mr. Simonds called to order.

Mr. End believed he was not out of order. If he were convinced of the contrary, he would not hesitate to submit to the house. He would at all times be extremely sorry to excite the indignation of the house, and particularly of the hon. member from St. John. (Mr. Simonds) whose feelings seemed so sensitive, and who was so well skilled in the usages of Parliament ; but he (Mr. E.) contended that he was in order.

Mr. S. Humbert, Mr. Partelow, and Mr. Chandler, considered the hon. member to be out of order.

Mr. Clinch, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Cunard considered otherwise. The last named gentleman observed, that for himself, he (Mr. C.) would, while he had the honor of sitting in that house, claim liberty of speech. Any member had an undoubted right to express his opinion of the conduct of other members. He (Mr. C.) would maintain that right. He would maintain the right to express such opinion in as strong language as he could—

Mr. Harrison moved the standing order of the house.

Strangers were accordingly ordered to withdraw. On our re-admission, we found the question respecting the reception of the petition re-arguing, and before the termination of the discussion we left the house.—The petition was rejected.

*Thursday, March* 3.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. Simonds moved the re-consideration of the Resolution, declaring it expedient to lay a small ad valorem tax on British merchandize ; which tax he feared might be made use of as a weapon, by those parties in the Mother Country who desire the alteration of the Timber duties. After considerable discussion, the motion was negatived. Messrs Simonds, Cunard, S Humbert, and Partelow, advocated the re-consideration.—Messrs. Scott, End, and Slason, opposed it.—Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Taylor were in favour of the proposed duty, but thought that at present, it might be expedient, for the reason stated by Mr. Simonds, to postpone the measure.

Mr. S. Humbert moved a resolution, for laying a further duty on all manufactured iron ware, & on all hard bread imported from the United States. The hon. member considered that these articles could well bear an additional duty, and that it was very necessary, as they could be equally well manufactured in the Province.——Mr. Slason said the duty was already very considerable.—We could not hear the remainder of the hon. gentleman's remarks, but we understood him to oppose the motion, and to make some remark on the *ingenuity* of the Americans.

Mr. Cunard asked, if the house was to consider the ingeniousness of the Americans as a reason for not taxing their productions. He (Mr. C.) thought these articles very fit subjects for taxation. The people of this province could manufacture them themselves. Encouragement ought to be given to our own genius, and not to that of foreigners. The tax could not be made too high, if its collection could be secured.

Mr. S. Humbert, in reply to Mr. Slason, observed, that the hon. member's reasoning was deficient in strength. He (Mr. H.) could beg lease to say, notwithstanding the ingenuity of the Americans, that we boast of being able to manufacture iron ware as strongly, and as handsome as the Americans, and cheaper too. There were two iron foundries now in operation in St. John. One is well established, and the other getting on. These ought to be encouraged. They ought even to have bounties given them. The low tax on American productions which can be equally well made at home, was a great injury to the Province. It caused a great deal of money to be sent out of the country. It was sending our heart's blood out of the country for things we can get at home. The foundries in St. John could manufacture iron ware enough to supply the whole Province, and cheaper than it can be imported. So much for large ware.—As to nails ; they can be got much better and cheaper from the Mother Country than from the United States.—As to hard bread, ship bread. It was true, we all want bread ; but if we can get it at home as well as from abroad, we should encourage its manufacture at home. He (Mr. H.) knew, that the bakers of this Province can make hard bread, as good as that of the U. States. By encouraging its manufacture at home, another benefit would arise. The merchant, where he now imports two barrels of hard bread, would import only one of remanufactured flour, & thus save a freight. Bread of all kinds ought to bear an additional duty.

Mr. Partelow observed that all the arguments of his hon. colleague proved the impropriety of imposing any duty at all. If we could manufacture articles cheaper than they can be imported, there would be no necessity for importing them. Bread already bore a tax of 25 per cent. If additional duties are imposed, a great proportion of the bread will be smuggled.

Mr. Slason concurred. As to the ingenuity of the Americans, it was no doubt very likely that the manufacturers of St. John were quite as ingenious. He [Mr. S.] however, thought that imposing such high duties on articles of importation, was not the way to assist the Ways and Means of raising a revenue, as it would only prevent their lawful importation. If bread already paid 25 per cent. duty, that was a good reason why no more should be imposed.

Mr. Cunard and Mr. S. Humbert briefly replied.—The resolution was carried.

Mr. Weldon moved a resolution, for imposing a small ad valorem duty on tea. If sugar, molasses, &c. were to be taxed, which were articles coming from a sister colony, (the West Indies), he saw no reason why tea, which was a foreign production, should not also be taxed.

Mr. S. Humbert objected to laying a duty on *all* teas. He would have some exceptions. Tea was now become a common necessary of life ; next to bread, if not above it. The poor use tea very greatly. To tax the poor for their little luxuries, which they obtained by hard labour, would be very impolitic and hard. He had no objection to a duty on fine teas, which were only used by the rich, who could afford to pay for it. But he would not tax the coarser teas, which the poor consumed. He would move, that the resolution should be worded, "certain qualities of tea," and that in the revenue bill the qualities should be specified.

Mr. Simonds thought the House should encourage the importation of tea, instead of laying a tax on it. Tea was universally used in the country. Ardent spirits should by all means be discouraged ; but tea and molasses were absolute necessaries to the poor. He (Mr. S.) thought the House might as well tax flour and other necessaries of life, as tax tea.

Mr. J. Humbert opposed the tax altogether, because it could only amount to a trifle at best. The coarser qualities of tea were mostly used throughout the country ; and a tax, therefore, on the finer sorts would produce no advantage.

Mr. Dow concurred. Some years ago, a tax had been imposed on tea, and had amounted to nothing. Every man in the country must have tea as well as bread.

Mr. Partelow repeated his arguments, expressed on the former sitting of the committee of Ways and Means, respecting the importation of tea through Nova Scotia and the propriety of taking off all tax from it when imported direct from China.—He observed, that tea was almost a necessary of life. He was disposed also to take off all duties from sugar and molasses.

Mr. Slason opposed the motion. He thought a tax on tea might have the effect of counteracting the design of the E. I. Company, of sending a tea ship direct to this province. It might also encourage smuggling.

Mr. Chandler was of the same opinion. The poorest people in the land use tea. What would be the amount of a duty on fine teas? It would be very small. [*Mr. Partelow.*—Amount £400 a year.] He would not be for taxing it. In the first instance, he (Mr. C.) had been for taxing it, while it came through Nova Scotia, but he had since been informed, that all tea so imported into this province ebbs is the drawback.—A tax on tea would operate as a tax on the poor.

Mr. S. Humbert was as much averse to taxation as any man ; but it appeared to him there was no fairer object of taxation than fine tea. If the revenue is falling off, where should we get resources from? What should we tax? Bread? No. But tax those articles which the rich use, and not those consumed by the poor. Such things as brandy, hollands, & geneva, were mere luxuries, and were therefore taxed. Fine teas were equally luxurious, and they were now imported at half the price they formerly cost. If the rich would have fine teas, let them pay for it ; if not, let them use coarser. He (Mr. H.) certainly would not tax the coarser kinds. He would second the views of Mr. Partelow, as to not taxing tea imported direct from India.

Mr. Cunard thought it had been satisfactorily stated, and he believed nobody had been prepared to disprove, that a tax on tea would increase smuggling. If a duty on fine tea would be an object to the revenue, he (Mr. C.) thought it a fit article for taxation. But he believed such a tax would amount to nothing. He thought, also, that a tax on tea would only encourage smuggling. If it were not for that, he would have no objection to the measure.

Mr. End opposed the motion ; not because a small duty would encourage smuggling, for which he thought a remedy could be provided ; but because tea was a matter of necessity to the people at large. If a duty were laid on tea, it would in great measure be paid by the poor ; by the moral poor ; those who do not go to gin shops ; the very poor who have engaged to promote the objects of temperance societies, and who have renounced ardent spirits for tea. He (Mr. E.) thought the tea pot a very noble, a very proper successor to the decanter, and wherever it was seen it should be encouraged. It should by no means be taxed.

Mr. Speaker doubted as to the encouragement of smuggling, by imposing a small duty on tea. He did not think a small increase of duty would be injurious. He had his doubts on the subject. It had also been objected, that such a duty would operate as a tax on the poor. This he was not at present prepared to dispute ; but while the house was legislating in behalf of the poor, he would call their attention to another subject ; viz the duty on molasses. Molasses was an article much more necessary to the poor than tea, and ought therefore to be rendered cheap. It was pretty well known, that many persons use molasses who cannot afford to use tea. Such persons use various kinds of herbs, which they find in the woods. They also manufacture good coffee, from rye and other grain ; & this, with a little molasses in it, makes a very comfortable meal for many a poor man. But the duty on molasses is to be continued. It was last year proposed to take off the duty altogether, but the proposal was negatived. He (Mr. Speaker) did not know whether it would be expedient to remove the duty on molasses ; but he thought, while that duty was continued, there certainly might be also a moderate duty on tea.

Mr. Taylor supported the motion. As to the argument that a tax on tea would affect the poor, he thought that in legislating for the whole country, the poor ought in some measure to bear a portion of taxation, as well as others, in proportion to their means and consumption.—He could not acknowledge that the proposed duty would encourage smuggling. It would be too small a duty for that. It would not offer a sufficient premium for smuggling. He did not consider tea was become such a necessary of life as argued by some.—Coffee is taxed, which comes from a part of our own country, the W. Indies ; therefore tea which is wholly a foreign production, should be.

Mr. Wyer opposed the motion, on the same grounds as already urged ; and also observed, that as the Americans were taking off the duty, we ought also to import tea free of duty, otherwise it would be smuggled from the United States.—At present the price of tea was very reasonable ; every poor man could get it cheap ; and were was a better beverage than tea.

Mr. Scott was rather surprised at the arguments against the tax. It was the first time he had ever heard it said, that tea was a necessary of life, even more so than bread. It was certainly true, that "man did not live by bread alone," but that does not say he must live on tea.—It had been argued, that the people were get used to tea, and therefore they must have it. But he (Mr. S.) thought it only urged them into extravagant habits. The same argument might be used in favor of any article ; tobacco for instance.—He felt convinced that too much tea was used by the poor. Coffee was much more a necessary to them, and yet that pays a duty. Tea only leads to more expence. Coffee can be well sweetened with a little molasses ; but a cup of tea is not worth drinking without loaf sugar. He (Mr. S.) would certainly object to the resolution being passed in any other than its present shape. He would tax all teas. He would not define the qualities that should pay duty. He could not draw such a nice kind of distinction. He would tax all consumers of tea equally, according to their use of the article. It would be very unfair to make any distinction. Tea was a fair article for taxation.

Mr. Clinch considered there was no foundation for the fear as to smuggling. The only quarter that could be feared, would be from our neighbours of the United States. We could not hear the Hon. Member's observations perfectly, but we understood him to say, that since this province had imported tea by way of Nova Scotia, it was cheaper in this country than it would be had at Liverpool. He thought a small duty might operate advantageously and without any great hardship.—The resolution was negatived *in toto*.

STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

On the motion of Mr. Partelow, the House went into Committee of the whole, in consideration of the general state of the province.—Mr. Ward in the Chair.

Mr. Partelow stated the object of the Committee, and particularly mentioned the civil list, the custom house system, the casual revenue, the crown land office, &c. as subjects for consideration, together with all other matters of general importance. He suggested that it might be better to make a joint discussion of all these matters, and stated that he had prepared a few resolutions, which he would submit to the consideration of the Committee. He would first notice, that it appeared from the speech from the throne at the opening of the Imperial Parliament, that his Majesty has unreservedly surrendered to his subjects all his casual revenues ; consequently, it was most probable that the casual revenue of this province would come under the control of the provincial legislature. It would therefore be advisable, that some resolution should be passed, to regulate the payment of the civil list. He believed the civil list was paid out of the casual revenue. By his Majesty's direction, the casual revenue would become part of the public funds of the province, and the payment of the civil list would therefore be under the control of the House. If the House should obtain the control of the casual revenue, it would also obtain that of the amount raised by charges on tavern licences. He believed there was at present a discretionary power vested in the commissioner of crown lands, to make this charge what he thought proper. He (Mr. P.) believed that officer to be a conscientious and upright man, but he [Mr. P.] had been informed, that he had thought it expedient to raise the charge for licences ; and if this unlimited power should ever be improperly exercised, the commissioner so acting might put a stop to the lumber trade altogether, by raising the licence charge to a prohibiting amount. The Hon. Member read a very long resolution, declaring it expedient to obtain full information as to the amounts, sources, and application of the casual revenue, the amount of salaries and fees to custom house officers, &c. and various other matters, and resolving that an address be presented to his Honor the President, requesting him to order such information to be laid before the House. The Hon. Member observed, that if sentiments similar to his own should be entertained by the House, he intended to move this resolution, and following it up by proposing an application to the throne or the parliament, on the subject of the casual revenue and civil list ; and also a separate address relative to the custom house, with a view of obtaining the provincial control over that establishment. He [Mr. P.] would give those officers fair and equitable salaries, but not to the extravagant amount at present paid.

Mr. Slason thought these subjects so very important, as to require very serious and deliberate attention. At present, therefore, it might only be necessary to pass some short resolution, declaring it necessary to consider them, which resolution the Chairman might report, and ask leave to sit again. Then, when the Committee should resume its sitting, the whole matter might be fully entered into. Members would then be prepared, and much unnecessary discussion might be avoided. After various lengthy and general observations on the principal subjects mentioned in the resolution, (which, from their great extent, we are unable to transcribe in full,) from Messrs. Cunard, S. Humbert, Taylor, Chandler, Brown, Weldon, Partelow, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Simonds,

Mr. Weldon moved, that that part of the proposed address to his Honor the President, relative to the returns from the custom house, be struck out.

Mr. Weldon said, that the House already had custom house returns before it. He thought it improper that the custom house question and the casual revenue should be blended together in the address. The former was not a matter of doubt. As to the latter, there was a doubt, whether it would be under the control of the legislature or not. The House knew by the returns before it, what sums had been paid into the custom house, and the amount of salaries, compensation money, &c. It was, therefore, not necessary to ask for such accounts.

Mr. S. Humbert objected to Mr. Weldon's motion. It was true that the House knew what amount the Custom House officers retained for services mentioned in the returns, but it did not know what the salaries actually were. The House wanted to know whence those sums were derived, and by what authority they were so appropriated.

Mr. Ward concurred. The House certainly knew what the custom house charge was, but there were certain revenues belonging to it, of which there was no account.—Large sums were paid by the public to the custom house ; and he (Mr. W.) believed, that out of the sums so received from the people, about 5 or 6 per cent. was put to other purposes than any of which the house had any account.

Mr Wyer also concurred, and paid a testimony of thanks to Mr. Partelow for moving the resolution. He (Mr. W.) thought it full time to consider the matter. Large sums were collected in the Province, by persons over whom the Legislature had no control. It was not known how those sums were expended ; and he hoped the house would not rise from the present session, without fully proceeding in the matter.

Mr. Clinch observed, that there were certainly a great many topics embodied in the resolution. He thought the casual revenue question quite enough for the house to enter upon at this time. It is true that by the Constitution, all those sums from which the Casual Revenue is derived, are immediately under the control of the King—but on the principle that power lodged in the hands of any ruler or government, should be exercised for the benefit of the party governed. He (Mr. C.) could never suppose that his Majesty ever intended to avail himself of his prerogative in this respect, in any other manner than what would comport with the interest of the people of this Province. This being to be conceived a just and equitable view of the case, it was worth while to observe how widely the practice differed from it—the present operation of the casual revenue was extremely burdensome and oppressive to the people of this Province ; there were few but had felt the ill consequences of it.—A person was sent out here from home, with powers greater than any Roman Pretor or Proconsul was ever entrusted with, not indeed to levy contributions as the Republic used to do upon the conquered provinces, but what I consider far worse, to claim the fee simple of the whole country. Should any one think that he (Mr. C.) had taken too strong a view of the subject, let him examine and see whether he was not borne out by facts—Were not the Lands and Timber of the country sold by that Officer, and disposed of as though they were his own private property?—Were not contributions levied upon the people of this Province in the shape of timber duties, and enforced by a set of agents the most effective for carrying arbitrary measures into execution that ever existed in any Country? If the Duke of Wellington's scheme of employing quarter master serjeants in the Treasury department had been preferred, it could not have been attended with more decisive results. He alluded to the seizing officers, (most aptly denominated as such) and too well known throughout the country ; but as the House might not be so well acquainted with them, he would step to give a description as near to be traceable. The term *Harpes* had been, on a late occasion, full ere on successfully applied to the law fisheries of this province. He (Mr. C.) asserted he might apply it to those of whom he spoke, without dread of an *ex officio*, and, by combining the sagacity of that fabulous bird, together with the swiftness and avidity with which a hawk pounces on its prey, something like a correct idea might be formed of a seizing officer. These gentlemen were no charge upon the funds of the casual revenue—their emoluments were derived from an allowance for losing our timber birches, and a share of all seizures which of course made them more alert and eager. Mr. C. thought the Government at home must be ignorant of the extent and importance of this revenue—the very name conveyed to it perceptions meaning—it was modestly titled casual, a word synonymous with accidental, which it was very far from being. It was in fact better paid and more certain than the ordinary revenue of the country. There were no bonds taken—there was no delay in collection—no losses from bad bonding or insolvent debtors—no commission to the Attorney General ; it was the ready cash that was paid. Then with respect to the duration of it. If we look forward to the time when all the timber and all the lands in the country, now remaining, are to be sold by the same process now going on, and converted into money, it would seem more proper to style it—the Permanent or Consolidated Revenue.—There was a pernicious idea held out that this revenue was spent in the province. That, however, was in some measure retrenching the province that it should be so spent. But such an expenditure was by no means the fact.—There had been a few thousands granted to the College for instance, and one to the Miramichi sufferers, which at the time was raised up as a very generous donation. He (Mr. C.) thought otherwise, considering the urgency of the case, and how much Miramichi had contributed to the casual revenue.—Some small grants had likewise been made for churches, and schools, and roads, very useful objects, he admitted, but the whole together bearing no kind of proportion to the gross amount, of which every one must be sensible, who knew any thing of the immense quantity of lumber of different descriptions, manufactured in the province, the whole of which paid duties. The question, then, naturally arises, where does the money go to? He (Mr. C.) could not for a moment suppose, that his Gracious Majesty wanted it in behalf of his Royal prerogative, by putting any part of it in his own pocket ; it must then go to swell the fortunes of individuals, or as he had one of fancy, it may be in the vaults of St. John Bank (this, however, he doubted). But as either case, it was so much money