

And constellations, a word signifying a number of stars taken together. The cluster resembling an animal with a projecting tail, is called the *Great Bear*; the cluster resembling a man with his sword by his side, is called *Orion*, that having been the name of a fabulous hero of antiquity. The whole expanse of the sky has thus been supposed to be covered by figures of men, women, beasts, fishes, and other objects all of which are delineated upon our celestial globes.

The largest star in the sky is one in the south, called *Sirius*, or the *Dog-Star*. If we could suppose it to be equal in size and light to our sun, we should know that it is distant from us the inconceivable space of two millions of millions of miles. But one of the stars has been calculated to have a diameter three thousand times greater than our sun, so that the distance of *Sirius* may be somewhat less. It is certain, however, from other calculations, that the distance is not less (whatever more) than nineteen millions of millions of miles. Light travels at the rate of a million of miles in five seconds: now, it will take a year and a half to travel from some of those conspicuous stars. Other stars have been calculated to be forty-two thousand times more distant than *Sirius*: accordingly, the light which they bear in our eyes, when we look at them through a telescope, must have left them sixty-three thousand years ago, and been travelling a million of miles every five seconds ever since.

The stars are less numerous in some parts of the heavens than in others. If we were in a stripe of plantation around a field, we should see fewer trees towards its sides than in the direction of its length. Just so do we see more stars in one place than in another. There is a vast luminous belt which stretches across the heavens, and is called the *Milky Way*. This is simply an appearance produced by the comparatively great extent of space occupied by the stars in that direction. When inspected through a telescope the milky light is found to be produced by a dense mass of stars at all degrees of distance. So numerous are the stars in the *Milky Way*, that an astronomer, directing his telescope to it, saw fifty thousand pass in a single hour.

Some of the more conspicuous stars, when inspected through a telescope, are found to consist of two, which revolve round it in a greater or less space of time, and of various colours—some blue, and others reddish, and others green. These are called *Binary Systems*—binary signifying the condition of two in connection. Other stars, again, make periodical changes in their size and brilliancy, apparently in consequence of an alternate advancing and retiring, in and out of our sight. Some of these grow less and bigger in the space of two or three days; others in all spaces of time within five hundred years.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

[The following Documents, with those published last week, were laid before the Assembly by Rupert D. George.]

Downing Street, 6th July, 1836.

Sir,
I have received your Despatches of the 18th March, No. 19, and the 2d May, No. 28, on the subject of the proceedings which have taken place during the last session in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, relative to the Fees received by the Chief Justice and Puisne Judges. I have had the honor to lay at the foot of the Throne the Address from the Assembly, enclosed in your Despatch, No. 28, and His Majesty has commanded me to desire, that you will express to the House of Assembly the satisfaction with which he has received the assurance of their attachment to his Person and Government.

The subject to which the Address from the Assembly refers, is one of much importance, and I have accordingly devoted to it, and to the representations by which it is accompanied, my serious attention. I do not, however, propose on the present occasion to enter upon the discussion contained in those Documents, or to examine how far the original establishment of the fees to which they relate was consistent with the law and the constitution. It will be sufficient to

observe, that their uninterrupted receipt during the period of 50 years, appears not to be disputed, nor is it denied, that on two occasions, special Acts were passed by the Assembly for their commutation; this latter fact would, indeed, appear to involve a recognition of their legality by the Provincial Legislature.

But relying on that argument, I must observe, that, adverted to the long series of years during which they have been regularly received, and the considerable proportion which they bear to the whole emoluments of the Judges; His Majesty, however, anxious at all times to meet the suggestions of the House of Assembly, cannot but hesitate to accede to the proposal of an immediate and uncompensated abolition. His Majesty, however, has no desire to maintain these fees, if an equivalent remuneration can be provided for the Judges in lieu of them. You are aware that, in consequence of the limited amount of revenues at the disposal of the Crown, it is not in His Majesty's power to provide such a compensation, without the assistance of the Assembly of the Province.

You will therefore, have the goodness to bring the subject again under the notice of that House at its next meeting, and you will explain to them the considerations by which His Majesty feels himself precluded from complying with their address. His Majesty confidently trusts, that the House will recognise the justness of those considerations; and that, in any future steps which may be adopted on the subject, they will not fail to entertain the claims of the present Judges to be protected in the receipt of the emoluments attached to their respective offices at the time of their appointment.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c.

(Signed) GLENELG.
Major General Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B. &c. &c.

Downing Street, 6th June, 1836.

Sir,
With reference to your Despatch of the 19th March, No. 19, and to my answer of the 12th April, No. 26, I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, the copy of a letter addressed to my under Secretary, by direction of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, on the subject of the address to His Majesty, from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, soliciting His Majesty's attention to the claims of the settled inhabitants and natives of the Province, to be considered eligible to such appointments, as may become vacant therein.

I have to desire that you will communicate the substance of this letter to the House of Assembly as an answer to their Address.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GLENELG.
Major General Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B. &c. &c.

Downing Street, 12th April, 1836

Sir,
I have received your Despatch of the 19th March, No. 19, transmitting an address from the House of Assembly to the King, soliciting His Majesty's attention to the claims of the settled inhabitants of the Province of Nova Scotia, to be considered eligible to such appointments, as may become vacant in that Province.

In acknowledging the receipt of this Address, the King commands me to express to you, the satisfaction with which he has observed the sentiments contained in it—of attachment to his Person and Government.

On the general question of the appointment to Offices within the Province; the King commands me to assure you, that the principles laid down in my Despatch to Sir F. Head, of the 5th December, 1825, and to which the House of Assembly allude, are considered by His Majesty's Government as no less applicable to Nova Scotia than to Upper Canada. It appears, however, that the situations to which the House more particularly refer, are those in the Customs Department. But as the Province of Upper Canada contains no Port for the admission of Sea borne goods, nor consequently where it would be necessary to enforce the English Laws of navigation, the principles regulating the appointment of Officers for that purpose, could not be embodied in Sir F. Head's instructions. His Majesty has, therefore, referred the whole of that branch of the subject of Patronage, which relates to appointments in the Customs, to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, under whose peculiar cognizance it is officially placed, and I shall accordingly have the honor of addressing a further communication to you respecting it, as soon as their Lordship's report shall have been received.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GLENELG.
Major General Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B. &c. &c.

Downing Street, 16th June, 1836

Sir,

I have received your Despatch of the 2d May, No. 27, transmitting an address to the King, from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, praying that His Majesty will be pleased to dispense with any further requisition which exacts of them those oaths which gave cause of offence and trouble to the consciences of several portions of His Majesty's Subjects in this Colony.

I have had the honor to lay this Address at the foot of the Throne, and the King has commanded me to desire that you will state to the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, in reply, that His Majesty has the strongest disposition to relieve his loyal subjects of that Province, of whatever religious denomination from the necessity of taking any oaths to which they may entertain a conscientious objection. But without a more full explanation of the objects of the complaints from the House of Assembly, and without knowing more distinctly what are the oaths to which objection is made by them, and under what authority these oaths are imposed; His Majesty cannot form any opinion as to the course which will be proper to adopt, with reference to this Address.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GLENELG.
Major General, Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B. &c. &c.

Treasury Chambers, 14th May, 1836.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, to request you will state to Lord Glenelg, with reference to the representation contained in the address to His Majesty, from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, relating to the appointments on the establishments of the Customs Department, transmitted in your letter of the 20th ultimo, that my Lords are entirely of opinion that the natives of Nova Scotia, as well as those of the other Colonies, are equally eligible to situations under His Majesty's Government, with the natives of the United Kingdom, and my Lords will pay every attention to any claims which may be transmitted to them and recommended by the Governor; but that to confine the Customs appointments to the natives of the Province, would be contrary to the regulations of promotion in the service—to the practice of the Government in the United Kingdom, and open to many objections; and my Lords cannot accede to such a proposal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. Y. SPEARMAN.
James Stephen, Esq. &c. &c.

LATEST NEWS.

From the Halifax Royal Gazette, February 15.

By the Acadian, which arrived this morning, we received Boston Papers to the 11th inst. from which we make the following extracts:

Boston, February. 11.

FROM EUROPE.—By the arrival of the packet ship *England*, at New York. London papers to Jan. 2. and Liverpool to the 4th, are received. They bring news of a favourable state of the money market, and also of the cotton market.

On the 24th, 25th and 26 of Dec. a snow storm of great severity prevailed throughout England, and interrupted the communications from abroad, as well as the progress of the mails throughout the country.

A new attempt was made on the life of Louis-Phillippo on the 27th of Dec., by three assassins, each armed with pistols, while he was on his way to the Legislative Chambers, for the opening of the session. One only of the assassins fired, and the ball broke the glass of the royal carriage, and passed between the heads of the King's two sons, but the King was not hurt. The assassins were arrested.

The King proceeded to the Chamber and opened the session by a speech. He congratulates the Chambers on the prosperity of the country, on the pacific assurance which he receives from all foreign Princes, and on the security of the peace of the world. He laments the fatal dissention which prevail in the Peninsula, and applauds himself for not having interfered in the internal affairs of those countries. He laments the losses which have been sustained in Africa, and intimates an intention to