Provincial Legislature.

[*From the City Reporter.*]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, April 15.

MR. GRAY'S SPEECH ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

[*Continued from fourth page.*]

The hon. Attorney General said in his amendment, let them send home a strong remonstrance. Of what use would that be? What did the Colony of Massachusetts do when the Home Ministry attempted to usurp an improper authority over her? Did she remonstrate? No; but she insisted on her rights, and *acted*; and that day a flame burst forth which had blazed over the two hemispheres, and was not yet extinct. He would now quote again from Lord John Russell's speech, the passage in reference to the Canadian Rebellion Losses Bill. His Lordship thus expressed himself:—

"I may say, however, that my opinion is very strong that it was a matter for the Local Authorities to decide; but I mention this as an instance of the difficulty there would be in drawing a precise line, and to show that any attempt to draw such a line would be most likely to raise disputes as to whether a particular law came within, or stood without that line. I believe that any man acquainted with the administration of the Colonies, will come to the conclusion that *it is only in rare cases that the authority of the Crown ought to be interposed, and that with respect to local affairs, the Executive and Legislative authorities of the Colony are the best judges.*"

Thus strong measures were only necessary upon great occasions. Strong measures, then, were necessary when the Colonial Secretary violated the principles laid down by Lord John Russell, and usurped a power vested in the local authorities, and the Executive Council should have resigned. Had they done so, when the news reached England, it would have startled the Ministry, and set the matter before them in such a strong light, that a similar act would never have been perpetrated. The hon. Secretary had intimated that the Executive Council would have resigned under ordinary circumstances. Now, what extraordinary circumstances existed in the Province at the time; the country being profoundly quiet, and every thing going on as usual?

Hon. Secretary—"I will tell you by and bye."

Mr. Gray—Well, he hoped the hon. Secretary would make out a case; that he would bring forward such facts as would convince the Committee; although he did not know how that could be done, for if a resignation of the Colonial Ministry was required in ordinary cases, it was doubly so in extraordinary cases.

He next came to the consideration of the mutilated Despatches. If the people of the Colony have the management of their own local affairs, it was necessary that all possible information should be furnished them. The only excuse which would have availed the Government aught, would have been for them to assert that what was cut out had no bearing upon the matter. This excuse they had not availed themselves of—they could not assert it, or they would have done so. What conclusion, then, could the Committee come to, but that the parts withheld had a bearing upon the subject, and that the Government had some object in view in mutilating the Despatches,—that they were actuated by improper motives? In England, certain information was kept back having reference to foreign countries, while negotiations were pending, but it was laid before the Commons when the negotiations were over. Information was asked by that House the present Session, upon matters that were settled, and yet parts of it had been withheld. The hon. Attorney General had all but admitted that the Government was wrong. He would amend the Resolution to the effect that the contents of the Despatches should be sent down "as far as was consistent with the public service," but he should have added, "and all that is consistent with the public service has been sent down." He (Mr. G.) contended that, as the matter is all over, it was consistent with the public service that the country should have the whole.

He next came to the subject of salaries. By the terms of the Civil List Bill, the Province was bound to pay £14,500 to support certain officers and establishments therein mentioned. He believed that he differed in his opinion from some hon. members on this subject. He held that it was best to keep faith with public officers, and that it was their bounden duty to do so. He would keep faith, no matter at what sacrifice; he believed the Province would gain by it in the end. With regard to retrenchment, where retrenchment was in their power he was not in favour of extravagant salaries, but they should be governed upon this principle: not to try how little they could get the offices filled for, but for what amount could they get them filled *properly*, and the duties properly discharged. A man might be found who would take the situation of Lieutenant Governor for £100 a year; another who would take the Secretaryship of the Province at £50; and another the Attorney General's situation for £30; but that should form no rule to go by. Supposing they put a man in the hon. Secretary's place with a salary of £300 a year, they would effect a saving at first, but the duties might be improperly discharged, and confusion might follow, with a loss to all who have business to transact in the office, and a final loss to the Province. He agreed with the hon. Secretary that Government should be more generally carried on by Heads of Departments, who should be compelled to secure seats in the Assembly; but when the men filling those situations would be forced to leave their business in other parts of the Province, and come to reside in Fredericton, upon an uncertain tenure, they must have fair salaries, or proper men would not be found to do it. He had heard the sum of £400 named as a sufficient salary for the Provincial Secretary. He would not go for reducing it to that amount, and did not think £600 a year too much. If they reduced salaries to a very low scale, it would throw all the public offices into the hands of wealthy families, who could afford to fill them for the sake of the honor and power attached to them, or into the hands of needy speculators, who would make up for deficiency of salary by dipping their hands into the public chest. It would lead to Swartwout-ing, and by saving hundreds they might lose thousands. These were his opinions, and he expressed them fearlessly, for he desired a seat in that House no longer than he could fill it with honor. He was not aware that the majority of his constituents differed with him in opinion upon this subject, but if they did, they might choose another in his place. He agreed with the Resolution, that the power was in our hands, but considered it the true policy to give public officers a fair remuneration, and ensure the proper management of public affairs, rather than to save immediately at an ultimate loss. He had got returns of the direct taxes paid in several of the Counties of the Province; from these he found that the average amount paid annually in Westmoreland, was five pence a head; in Queen's, six pence; and in some of the Counties a trifle more. This was very burdensome taxation, surely! (Laughter.) Instead of grumbling about what they had to pay, it would be his endeavour to carry such measures as would cause the Province to prosper; he would improve the people by giving them the management of their own local affairs, and not take up the time of the Legislature upon such trifling matters as should never come before them, (hear, hear). He had felt since he had a seat in that House, the responsibilities and duties of a Legislator, and he was more than ever convinced that they should be calm and deliberate, and do nothing rashly. If they did not discharge their duties conscientiously, but yielded to every proposition that might be made, the people would have reason to curse the day they sent them there. He would trespass upon the time of the Committee no longer; but he believed that the amendments were calculated to involve the liberties of the people, and that if they did not support every one of the Resolutions, posterity would demand at their hands the liberties of the country now entrusted to their safe-keeping. (much applause).

Mr. Barberie said this was the most extraordinary debate he had ever heard. If a stranger had stood in the lobby early in the Session, listening to the debate then going on, and came back again after two months' absence, he would hear the very same speeches. Government was tried then and acquitted, and now they were put upon a second trial; and he supposed that if, after spending three or four days in debate, the Government should be again acquitted, in a few days' time the subject would be brought up again. He considered it a strange mode of proceeding: their time was being wasted in unnecessary discussions, while the business of the country was neglected. (The hon. member here read the first Resolution.) He had no particular fault to find with that Resolution. He believed the House had a right to demand the despatches, and that they ought not to be mutilated; but the Address referred to in the Resolution was not in accordance with the Resolution; the latter complained of the Despatches sent down in reply to the Address of the 21st February not being satisfactory, "the same being merely extracts of despatches, while full copies were asked for." That was not correct, for the word "full" was not in the Address; if it had been, he had no doubt but the despatches would have been sent; and as the word was not in the address, the Lieutenant Governor should not be censured for sending down extracts.

With regard to the second Resolution, he would go with the first part of it. The present Government agreed with the principle; but when they went on to say in the Resolution that the Government ought to have resigned, he could not agree with them. There was a material difference between the late appointments and the appointment of Mr. Reade, six years ago. That House and the Executive Council had no control over Earl Grey. If the Council had resigned, the country would have been left without a Government, for even the opposition admitted that if they had resigned, no others could have been found who would have taken office to support the principle against which they contended. And what would Earl Grey have cared about their resignation? It would not affect him in the slightest degree. It was useless to talk to John Bull in that way, for we are a British dependency, and must submit. He was surprised to hear some expressions from the hon. and learned member who preceded him. He had argued that to remonstrate would be useless, and that we should *insist* upon exercising what we considered to be our rights. If to remonstrate was useless, how could we insist? Must we rebel? That was the only course left if reasoning failed, and he was not prepared to adopt that extreme course yet. Making use of threats might be attended with serious effects. They were anxiously waiting the fate of two Railway Facility Bills, sent Home for Her Majesty's approbation, and if we threatened to withdraw our allegiance, it might prove fatal to those Bills. It was impossible to drive John Bull by threats; but our course was to reason with him, and he would listen to us.

The hon. mover of the Resolutions had complained that the Government had brought down no measures of retrenchment. Had they intended so to do, they would have been prevented by the Resolutions now before the House. They had been on the table about six weeks, and of course the Government could bring forward no measure while they were pending. He (Mr. B.) agreed that the Despatches were wrong—that Earl Grey had usurped a power which properly belonged to the Colony—but these despatches were binding on the Government; they completely tied their hands, and they could not work in the face of them. If the hon. and learned member who last spoke, and the hon. mover of the Resolutions, were in the Government, they could not act in opposition to the despatches,—they could do nothing but remonstrate. It was unfair to censure the Government for what they could not help—for pursuing the course which the members of the opposition must adopt themselves should they take office. If the Resolutions should be sustained, he would like to see the opposite party in power, and see how they would attempt to carry out their own doctrines. He maintained that it was impossible to carry out these doctrines in the face of the despatches. He agreed with the principles of the third Resolution, but they could do nothing but remonstrate, for the reasons he had already stated. With respect to the fourth Resolution, he agreed with the preamble, but he would repeat that the Government was bound down by the Despatches, and could not act in the matter, and the Resolution censured them for not acting. He saw what was the object of the framers of the Resolutions, but he hoped hon. members would not be led astray by it. He would support the amendment, which approved of the doctrine laid down in the Resolution, but stated why the Government cannot act. The next Resolution was in reference to Bounties. He agreed with the doctrine laid down, but what he complained of was that a Resolution of want of confidence in the Government was attached to it, although their hands were tied and they could not act. Here was a piece setting forth sound doctrine, and there a piece censuring the Government, dovetailed together in the most jesuitical manner. With respect to the Resolution in reference to the reductions of Salaries; it was the first time he had ever heard that the hon. Attorney General approved of the principles of Earl Grey's despatch on the subject. If a word was dropped in debate from which an inference might be drawn, was it to be taken up and embodied in a Resolution? He had never heard of such a thing before. The Resolutions contained mixed up together a great deal that was good, and a great deal which honorable members could not support. The pills were gilded over to induce them to swallow what was nauseous. The last Resolution censured the Government for not bringing down a measure for the encouragement of Agriculture.—The House had, early in the Session, appointed a Committee on Agriculture, of which he was a member, and what had they recommended the Government to do? Why, nothing! About twelve different schemes had been proposed, as thus: Will you have a Model Farm and Training School?—Will you have one Grand Provincial Fair and Exhibition? Will you have more than one? Will you grant Bounties on Flax Mills, &c.? Will you send round a proper person to lecture on Agriculture? All these questions, and several others, had been asked, but they agreed upon nothing. How then could they expect the Government to move in the matter? He would ask the hon. mover of the Resolutions what he had done for the Agriculturists since he had been in the House? He must have been converted since 1847, for he was then opposed to the Agricultural class; but he had come forward upon the present occasion charging the Government with this and that, making use of nearly the same words as he did in the first of the Session; the Government was acquitted then, but somehow or other the verdict had been set aside, and a new trial granted, and it was for the House—the Jury—to say once more whether Government was guilty or not guilty.

The hon. member here quoted from the Journals of 1847, showing one of the divisions on the Revenue Bill, and endeavoring to make it appear that Mr. Ritchie's sentiments had changed since that period.

Mr. Ritchie—"Turn over the leaf and read what you will find there." (Mr. B. did so.) Mr. Ritchie continued—"That takes the edge off the other."

Mr. Barberie thought the hon. member found himself in a hobble, and next day brought in another resolution to get himself clear. He had merely read the first resolution to show that the hon. member flew off the handle sometimes as well as others. (Laughter). (Mr. Ritchie,—"I did'nt fly off then.") He (Mr B.) considered it the duty of every member of the House to do all he could to encourage agriculture, whether he was in the Government or not, (Hear hear) and not ask the Government to lead the way in every thing. He should support the amendment to this resolution, as every word of it was correct. He had very little more to say on the subject. He wished to place the responsibility where it should be, but to hold men responsible for what they could not help was absurd as well as unjust. If the Executive Council had resigned on the news being received that Earl Grey had made appointments to the Bench, it would not have made any difference in the appointments, while the country would have been left without a Government, and all would have been chaos and confusion. He considered the present discussion taking up the time of the House to no purpose. It was a second trial for the same alleged offence; the speeches were nearly the same; the best interests of the country meanwhile were lost sight of. The people did not care who filled the public offices, provided the duties were properly discharged; but they would soon find out that certain hon. members came there to talk, and cavil, while the business of the country was neglected. He supposed they would impeach Earl Grey next! He thought it would be much better for them to go home about their business than spend their time in this way.

Mr. Crane said he rose to say a few words on the subject. He would go for the first Resolution, because he believed all the Despatches should be laid before them. He was not disposed to trust to any one's discretion as to what should be kept back; although he agreed with the hon. speaker that the word "full" was not inserted in the address. Still he would go for the Resolution as it stood, without any amendment, as it was a matter in which the rights of the people was involved. He had listened with much attention yesterday to the hon. mover of the Resolutions, who promised to tell the Committee what was meant by the term "Responsible Government," but he must confess that he was not much edified. He believed that the system was not yet understood in this Colony; he also believed that it was differently understood in England. One of the Resolutions declared that the doctrine laid down in the Despatches, coming as it did after the system of Responsible Government was ceded to us, was a mockery and a delusion. Now who was the author of these Despatches? Earl Grey. And who was the author of the Resolutions? It was the hon. and learned member for St. John. They were at variance with each other, and which should he believe? The hon. and learned member had quoted Earl Durham and held him up as good authority; but he (Mr. Crane) did not estimate that authority very highly. His Lordship had crossed over to the American side, and saw how their Institutions worked, and then concluded that the same Institutions would work in this country; but he had made one grand mistake—he forgot that we were dependencies. The hon member had next quoted from Lord John Russell, and drew his conclusions therefrom, that we should have full control in raising a Revenue and expending it, and in appointing all officers in the Province and fixing their pay. If we possessed these powers, we should be only nominally a Colony, but in reality independent. It was evident from the Despatches recently received, that Earl Grey put another construction upon the constitution ceded to us. In reference to the late appointments to the Bench, he conceived that the Lieutenant Governor had done right. He called his Council together and asked their advice; they differed in opinion, and the line in Council was signed by a bare majority. The Councillors were soon scattered over the Province—which had often been felt as a serious disadvantage—he Governor could not get them together again at that inclement season of the year, and under these circumstances he sent Home all the facts to Earl Grey, but did not recommend any particular course. Earl Grey certainly violated our constitution when he made the appointments, but he did not think the Executive Council of this Province were called upon to resign.—They had remonstrated, and that was all they could do.—The difficulty lay between that House and Earl Grey, and as the thing happened but a few weeks before the meeting of the Legislature, he thought the Executive Council did right not to resign, but to hold on and lay the case before the House. The Resolutions touched on several subjects, but in his opinion the most important of them was the reduction of salaries. In his County, if you meet a farmer and ask him how he is getting along, his whole cry is, "I cannot live at all, the salaries at Fredericton are so high; they are more than the people of this Province can pay."—(The hon member here contended at some length that the vote of Want of Confidence moved early in the Session, and the notice of the present Resolutions, given several weeks ago, had prevented the Government from introducing any scheme for the reduction of salaries)—There was no doubt but a scheme for the reduction of salaries, if introduced, would be carried by acclamation. The Resolution stated that salaries should be consistent with the public service. That was merely matter of opinion, and the Resolution should have been more explicit. A great deal had been said on both sides about rural economy. He had listened to those professional men talking very gravely upon this subject, and wondered where they got their information; and as he listened they had almost persuaded him that they were right, and that he, who had been farming all his life time, was altogether wrong, and knew nothing about it. The Agricultural Members may now go home and tell the people in the rural districts that a glorious era was commencing, for the lawyers were about to take them under their especial protection (laughter). When the hon. member began to talk about meat and molasses yesterday, he thought he was going to describe how it should be prepared. The hon member's culinary knowledge might be great, but he warned him how he interfered with the ladies' department. He (Mr. C.) would support him, however, whenever he suggested any real improvement (laughter).

April 24th,

Mr. Hannington proposed a Resolution that Mr. Baillie refund £1298 paid him in excess up to 1847, and all amounts since unpaid.

Mr. Ritchie thought that this was useless, explained the conduct of the former Committee, and said their report was made up without proper information; he wished to proceed by Bill to reduce the salary.

The Attorney General proposed as an amendment, that the Law Officers be directed to institute proceedings for the recovery of the amount.

Messrs. Taylor, McPherson, Fitzgerald and others, spoke.

It was the general opinion that it would be no use to sue, for the money could not be got.

The amendment was lost and the resolution carried by a large majority.

Mr. Hannington next proposed a resolution that the Offices of Surveyor General and Postmaster General should be made political, and that these officers should hold seats in the Executive as soon as the change could be conveniently carried out.

Mr. Barbarie said they had too many Generals in the House already, he wanted no more of them, there had been no peace since they got them there, the object was to make offices political and then attack the Generals in flank and rear, and open the offices to others.

Mr. Hannington said, he had pledged himself to take no office, and would not; therefore this would not apply to him: thought for this reason he was the fittest person to propose the resolution.

Mr. Fitzgerald proposed that the Treasurer should be added.

Mr. Robinson seconded—amendment lost.

The resolution was supported by the members of Government, and carried by a large majority.

Friday Evening, April 25.

This morning, Mr. Hannington moved a Resolution that there be but four Judges, including the Master of the Rolls, which was carried by the following division. Ayes—Messrs. Partelow, Hannington, Crane, Scoullar, Chapman, Tilley, Stiles, English, Beardsley, Hatheway, Johnson, Hayward, Needham, Gilbert, Ryan, Botsford and Fitzgerald—17. Nays—Messrs. Street, Rankin, Barberie, Gordon, Ritchie, Gray, Montgomery, Macpherson, McPhelim, Robinson, and Porter—11.

Mr. Scoullar moved a resolution in favour of yielding up the Initiation of Money Votes in favour of the Government, to which Mr. Johnson moved as an Amendment that it do not come in force until the establishment of Municipal Corporations. The Amendment was lost, 23 to 11, and the orginal Resolution carried, 12 to 16.

The House passed a grant of £500 for the encouragement of the Fisheries by a large majority. The Supplies closed to-day.

Mr. Earle afterwards moved a re-consideration of the Resolution in favour of giving up the Initiation of Money Votes to the Executive, which was carried, 22 to 14. Mr. Needham then moved that it be postponed until next Session, when the motion was sustained, 20 to 16. The House then adjourned.

Fredericton, 26th April.

On motion of Mr. Gray, the Bill to give further facility to the European and North American Railway was taken into consideration and passed by a majority of 17 to 15.

Messrs. Montgomery, Earle, Gordon, Johnson, Street and Cutler spoke against it; the chief argument was that it had been brought up too late in the Session—that they should pause before giving further grants.

Mr Street said if he thought this necessary for the success of the undertaking he would not oppose it, but thought they should pause until a survey had been made, and they had obtained more information.

Mr Partelow, who voted against, it made a speech as much in favor as otherwise. Mr Rankin also opposed it.

Mr. Barberie spoke repeatedly against it.

Messrs. Gray, Hannington, Ritchie, Needham, Scoullar, and Robinson, spoke in favor

Some slight amendments are under consideration—one for empowering the Government to give licences for lumbering on the land until the stock is paid up.

The Bill gives five miles of all ungranted lands on each side of the line.

Second Despatch.—The Railway Facility Bill was read a third time after a determined opposition from Messrs Barberie and Johnson, and much confusion.

Division on third reading—Yeas, Messrs Ritchie, Hannington, Scoullar, Crane, Chapman, Tilley, Williston, Purdy, Botsford, Ryan, McLeod, Wilmot, Needham, Gray, Porter, Robinson, Fitzgerald and Hayward—18.

Nays—Messrs Street, Rankin, Partelow, Stiles, Gordon, Earle, Montgomery, Barberie, Taylor, English, Johnson, Beardsley, McPhelim, Cutler and Gilbert—15.

Immediately after, Messrs Hannington, Tilley and Botsford left by steamer *Reindeer*.

On motion of the Attorney General, the House went into consideration of a Bill to fix the salaries of the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, and the Secretary, immediate those of the Surveyor and Auditor Generals, and the abolition of the office of Receiver General, in prospective.

Mr. Street stated that he did not think that the Secretary's or Solicitor's salaries too high; that of the Attorney General might be reduced to £500. He used his former arguments to show why the other salaries should only be dealt with in prospective.

Mr Gilbert proposed a list of Salaries, beginning with the Governor at £1000, to be taken, en masse, as this was the only way a reduction could be effected; if taken one by one nothing could be done. This amendment was declared unparliamentary and lost.

Mr Johnson proposed an amendment to make an immediate reduction in the office of Governor, Surveyor, Auditor, Receiver, Master of the Rolls, and others.

Mr Ritchie said the Bill amounted to nothing, it would effect a saving of only £100.

The Speaker advocated a reduction in the offices of Surveyor and Auditor General. The Receiver General's office should be abolished. The agreement made by the House with the Master of the Rolls should be adhered to, and the reduction of the Governor's salary should be prospective.

Mr Wilmot thought we should pay no salary to the Governor. The Home Government should pay him while he was nominated by them—if he was elected, then he would pay him £1500.

Mr Partelow thought while so high a salary was paid by the Province to the Governor people must be discontented, they should fix what the Province would pay, and let the Home Government pay what besides they might think sufficient to support the dignity of the office.

Mr Street agreed that a reduction should be made for future Governors, but it would be indelicate to ask the Governor to sign a Bill reducing his Successor's salary. The proper mode of proceeding was by address.

Mr. Gray repeated what he had before said of reduction of Salaries—thought for future Governor £1500 sufficient—had a right to reduce other salaries but it would be impolitic.

Mr Barberie said the men who clamoured for reduction had gone away.

Mr Taylor thought it two late to introduce so important a measure.

Mr Earle was not satisfied with the Bill, it did not go far enough, thought it best to proceed both by Bill and remonstrance.

Mr Crane said if they really desired reduction they had better separate what they could effect, from what they could not, than destroy both by joining them.

Mr Cutler thought £1000 too low a salary for the Governor.

Mr Robinson said, they had reduced other salaries one fifth, and would they reduce this £2000, and make the salary lower than that of the Governor of P. E. Island? Progress reported—The question is to be resumed on Monday.—*Notes Room.*

On Wednesday the scrutiny between Messrs. Boyd and Fitzgerald was adjourned over till the next session.

The Speaker's ball came off on Wednesday evening. It was a brilliant display of elegance, beauty, and fashion; and the number of guests present could not have been far short of three hundred. The lovers of music were spell-bound by the rich harmonies which thrilled forth from Mr. Olivier's Orchestra.

The members' pay bill has passed the Council. The noisy advocates of Reform, or of something else which they do not understand, may well afford to be a laughing stock for the Province at fifteen shillings a day.

In the Legislative Council on the 15th, the Hon. Messieurs Robertson, Saunders, Hatch, and Odell, were appointed a select Committee to prepare an Address to Her Majesty on the subject of an Elective Legislative Council.—*Corr. Courier.*

Monday Evening, April 28.

The House went into Committee to-day and passed a Bill imposing a duty of 2s per ton on all Hacmatack knees exported from the Province. The Bill to come into operation on the 1st Jan. next.

The Attorney General's Bill for reducing salaries was rejected by a vote of 15 to 11. Mr. Scoullar moved a Resolution to give the Surveyor General a retiring allowance of £500 yearly, which was passed, 23 to 5. Mr Crane's Resolution to reduce the salary of our future Lieutenant Governor to £1500, passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr Partelow a resolution was passed to refund the duty paid on Wheat imported into the Province.

The Appropriation Bill was engrossed and sent up to the Council. All the other Bills on the files of the House were postponed until the next session, including the Bills moved by Mr Needham relating to St. John, and his Law Reform Bill.

Captain Robinson moved an address to the Governor praying him to remit the duties on wines and liquors paid by the Officers of Her Majesty's Troops, during the past year, which was carried, 14 to 12. The Legislature will be prorogued on Wednesday.—*New Bruns.*

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, APRIL 29, 1851.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The U. S. mail steamer Pacific, Capt. Nye, arrived at her wharf at New York on Saturday, 19th, at about eleven o'clock. She left Liverpool at 2 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, the 9th inst., making the run from dock to dock in nine days and twenty-one hours, the quickest passage ever yet made. Large icebergs were seen in lat. 45 lon. 47.

The steamship Asia arrived at N. York on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, from Liverpool—she brought 79 passengers.

At half past one o'clock on the morning of the 18th the Pacific saw the steamer Baltic, bound to Liverpool, in lat 42 10, lon 65 30.

In Parliament Lord John Russell's Ministry still maintained their position, they are well sustained on the Papal Aggression Bill, and on the assessed taxes Bill they had a majority of 73. Almost all the Bishops had issued circulars, expressing a firm determination to resist the Papal Aggression. The Continental news is not of much interest.

Government was sustained in the House of Commons on an important financial question on the night of the 7th. M. Herries had moved an amendment to the income tax bill, proposing to reduce it by two-sevenths, (£1 500,000) but after a long discussion the amendment was rejected by a vote of 278 to 230, giving a Ministerial majority of 48.

The duty on Foreign Timber has been reduced one half.

The Liverpool Courier announces that Captain Mathews, late of the Great Western and City of Glasgow, has accepted the command of the steamship Great Britain, which is expected to resume her trips across the Atlantic in the course of a few months.

The prices of staple articles and the course of trade do not seem to have experienced much change since the sailing of the Africa.

Lady Franklin, worn out with "hope deferred," is at length seriously indisposed.

The cost of the war in China to Great Britain was £3,000 000, all of which has been nearly paid.

The last Caffre war cost the Government of Great Britain more than two millions of pounds sterling.

The British Revenue.—With one very trifling exception, the Quarterly Return exhibits an increase in all the chief sources of revenue. In the three first and largest heads, this increase is in spite of considerable remissions of duty. Notwithstanding the further diminution, last July, in the duties on sugar, the produce of the Customs for the quarter ending last Saturday is £115,682 more than for the corresponding quarter last year; notwithstanding the sacrifice of the duty on bricks, the produce of the Excise is £121,063 more; and nothwithstanding the extensive modification of the Stamp Duties, they have increased to the amount of £9883. In the quarter's Property tax there is an increase of £20,342, and in the Post Office of £41,000. On the other hand, the Assessed Taxes for the quarter are put down £9,447 less than last year, and there is a decrease of £25 986 under the head of Miscellaneous items. On comparing these various heads of increase and decrease, it appears that the total ordinary revenue of the quarter has increased £372 537. All things considered, this must be pronounced a very gratifying, not to say surprising, result.

The buoyancy of the revenue in the face of last year's reductions is still more striking in the comparison of the whole year ending last Saturday with the previous year. The reduction in the duties upon sugar, which took effect last July, and which therefore would tell upon three-fourths of the year, was estimated beforehand to entail an annual loss of £331,073 to the revenue. In fact, however, the total customs of the year have increased as much as £195,290. The abolition of the duty on bricks, which has affected the whole year, was estimated to entail an annual loss of £456 000. In fact, however, the total produce of the Excise is £232 211 more than for the previous twelvemonth. The loss by the sweeping reduction of stamp duties, also affecting the whole year, was estimated at £520,000. The result is that the stamps have indeed decreased, but not half as much as was expected—only £248 905. The annual produce of the property tax has fallen off £62 869—an inconsiderable difference, perhaps, where the total amount is nearly five millions and a half, but yet one that requires explanation. The Crown lands, it is well known, are in an unaccountable state, and their revenue is put down at the fixed sum of £160,000 per annum. On the whole, the ordinary revenue of the year is greater by £245,744 than the previous year, though the three reductions of duty last year on sugar, bricks, and stamps, were estimated at no less than £1 307,073. But for these reductions it is fair to assume that the year would have presented an increase of a million and a half. The above comparisons are confined to the ordinary revenue; but owing to an increased repayment of advances, the increase of the revenue from all sources is £446,119 on the year, and £283 051 on the quarter.

Admission of Jews to Parliament.—The following is the text of the new bill to regulate the mode of administering the oath of abjuration to persons professing the Jewish religion:—"Whereas Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish religion are by law capable of being elected to serve as members of the House of Commons, and of holding divers offices in respect of which they are or may be required to take the oath of abjuration; and it is expedient to direct in what manner that oath should in all cases be administered to persons professing the said religion: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that whenever any of Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish religion shall present himself to take the said oath of abjuration, the words 'upon the true faith of a Christian' shall be omitted out of the said oath in administering the same to such person; and the taking of the said oath by such person professing the Jewish religion, without the words aforesaid, in like manner as Jews are admitted to be sworn to give evidence in courts of justice, shall be deemed to be a sufficient taking of the oath of abjuration.

The returns of the goods received for the Industrial Exhibition for the week ending on the 5th inst., were 7823 packages from foreign countries, 987 from British colonies, 27 from the Channel Islands, and 9626 from home contributions. In compliance with numerous requests, the removal of the trees from the interior of the Crystal Palace had been commenced.

The French refugees in England have published a solemn denial of the slanders of the British press as to their intentions.

"Old Ireland" has achieved a triumph. The Limerick corporation have, by a division of 17 to 9, rescinded the vote of censure on Mr. John O'Connell. The learned gentleman is now qualified to hold rank in the "Irish brigade."

The construction of a railway across the Isthmus Suez is officially announced. Abbas Pacha, who is, it is said, under the influence of the Consul-General of England, has just publicly declared that he will commence the work immediately. Half the people employed on the line are to be English.

A lady residing at Strabane has sent to the exhibition a knitted lace scarf, containing 12½ miles of thread, and 3,375 000 stitches. It is nine feet ten inches in length, and three feet wide, and is only 3¾ ounces in weight.

Her Majesty's government has recently requested from the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, the American Minister in London, facts in relation to the criminal laws of the United States.

A World's Convention of Mechanics and Working Men is to be held in London, during the Fair of 1851, for the purpose of effecting an interchange of opinions in relation to the state of labor and the condition of the working classes in all parts of the world.

The two sons of the late Sir Robert Peel were opposed to each other on the Papal Aggression bill: Sir R. Peel voted in favor of it, and Mr. Frederick Peel against it.

The Nepaulese Ambassador, Jung Bahadoor, has been received with great state in his own country; he has already arranged for the construction of a grand road from the capital to the frontier—the first fruits of his visit to Europe.

The rumor recently in circulation as to the bad state of health of Marshal Soult, appears to be unfounded, as a letter had been received from him of a late date, which makes no mention of any indisposition.

The splendid winter palace of the Sultan's brother-in-law, Mehemet Ali Pacha, at Constantinople, has been consumed by fire. The loss is calculated at $750,000.

A party of British officers have been attacked at Aden, by Arabs, whilst asleep in their beds, and one of them, Capt. Milne, murdered. Lieut. M'Pherson was wounded, but is now doing well.

M. Eugene Sue has been elected by the French National Assembly president of the second committee, by 18 votes against 17 for the Duc de Broglie.

Austria is binding Italy with a net of her own railways. A line is to run from Venice to Leghorn, crossing Lombardy, the Duchies of Parma and Modena, the Legations and Tuscany. All the commercial interests of those countries will be sacrificed to the military exigencies of the ruling power. Woe to the conquered!

France.—A new Ministry has been formed in France, consisting of the following members:—M. Baroche, Foreign Affairs; Roucher, Justice; Fould, Finance; Leon Faucher, Interior; Boffet, Commerce; Chasseloup Lanbat, Marine; General Randoer, War; Magne, Public Works.

Spain.—The receipts of the Spanish Treasury for the month of February amounted to 108,931,000 reals, being an increase of 9,205 reals over those of the same month last year.

Denmark.—Advices from Copenhagen are of the 2d inst.

The papers publish the text of the propositions which will be submitted to the Assembly of Notables.

They declare the integrity of the Danish Monarchy under the same Government representation—fleet and flag. The case of Lauenburg, however, is reserved for future consideration.

The Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg will remain part of the Germanic Confederation.

They will have their own Diets; in all State questions they will be represented in the Council.

The Duchy of Schleswig will have its seperate Diet and Administration.

Certain institutions will belong to the two Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

Austria and Prussia.—The latest advices from Berlin announce that it was believed there on the 5th inst. that Austria would consent to return to the Frankfort diet.

Cape of Good Hope papers to February 11, have come to hand. The intelligence is more satisfactory. Forts White and Cox had been relieved by the troops sent for that purpose under Colonel McKennon. The attack on Fort Beaufort was hourly anticipated.

The Railway.—The Railway Land Facility Bill, in favour of the European and North American Railway, introduced by Mr. Gray, and which passed the House of Assembly on Saturday, also passed the Legislative Council yesterday. The Bill cedes to the Company five miles of the ungranted lands on each side of the track.

The Legislature, it is understood, will be prorogued tomorrow, after a Session of 31 days, having opened on 6th February.

The Halifax papers give hints of disagreement and disunion existing in the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, and that some of the members have tendered their resignations, which, however, were not accepted.

We fully agree with the following remarks regarding the office of Postmaster General, which we take from the *New-Brunswicker* of this morning, and trust that the Resolution passed by the House of Assembly on the subject will be re-considered and annulled before any further action is taken in the matter:—

The Postmaster General.—A resolution has passed the Assembly making the office of Postmaster General political. We do not clearly comprehend the subject: but if it be the intention of the House to create a new office, the people will strongly oppose it as there will exist no necessity for burthening them with a Postmaster General when the department is placed under our own control. The efficiency of the Post Office will be in no way increased by an additional officer, but it may rather be rendered less satisfactory to the public. What the Legislature should do, would be to bestow the office of Postmaster General upon our present active and attentive Deputy Postmaster, continuing the salary as at present, without making the office political and abolish the office of Surveyor. There is no reason why another office should be created, except it may be that some corrupt supporter of the Government wants to obtain a sinecure, as a reward for his service in sustaining the present Administration, at least we cannot imagine any other cause.—The truth is, if we are to have a Deputy Postmaster, we want no Postmaster General; all that is required will be a change of names, the duties being the same. Then, why the office should be made political we have yet to learn. The business of the office requires the attention of the Deputy Postmaster constantly in his office. It is unlike any other public office in the Province, and one which cannot be neglected. As for having a Postmaster General and a Deputy Postmaster General besides, is all nonsense. The people will not pay £500 or more per annum for the purpose of supporting any man for walking about the streets of Fredericton with his hands in his pockets; and if this is the intention of the Resolution passed by the House, the sooner it is rescined the better.

A great fire occurred at Kingston, Canada, on the 22d instant, by which about forty houses were destroyed in the principal part of the City.

The iron steamer *Conqueror*, which was sunk last Fall, some distance above Quebec, has lately been raised and taken to the shore, to be repaired.

Our marine column presents quite a list of vessels which have arrived within the last day or two. On Thursday, the harbour presented a very gay appearance, from the number of ships arriving, and the efficiency of our Harbour Master, in directing them early to their berths at the Wharves, was most conspicuous.—*New Brans.*

About forty square-rigged vessels have arrived in port since last Wednesday, several of them with full cargoes of spring goods for our merchants, and much activity is perceivable in all directions.

A plan is being agitated for the purpose of connecting St. John's, N. F., via Capes Ray and North, with Halifax, New York, &c., by Telegraph. The plan, if carried out, will do much towards the advancement of Newfoundland.

The number of emigrants that arrived at the city of New York, on the 19th inst., was 3,913—making a total this year to the 19th inclusive, of 17,295.

The Postmaster General of Canada has addressed a Circular to the Postmaster of that Colony, directing them that when Newspapers or Periodicals shall have been refused to be taken by the party to whom the same shall be addressed it shall be their duty forthwith to address and return the same to the respective Publishers, stamping them with the post-mark of your Office, and writing on them, "*refused*" "*not called for*," "*removed*," or "*dead*," as the case may be. Such Newspaper or Periodical to be returned free of charge.

The first arrival at Quebec this season from sea was the ship Toronto, from Liverpool, bound for Montreal. She arrived on the 20th instant.

Jamaica.—The Kingston Standard, of the 9th inst., says:—"Our very enterprising citizen, Mr. Wemyss Anderson, has imported two spinning wheels from the United States, one for cotton and the other for flax, for the purpose of endeavoring, if possible to draw attention to the manufacture of home-made yarns, for knitting stockings, and other articles of domestic use.

Earl Grey.—"Lord Grey is a by word of hatred in the Colonies. In difficult times, when the Colonists required to be conciliated and won to calmness, if not to sacrifice, he has played off his airs of pride and contempt till he has driven them into angry resistance. He has aggravated his measures by worse manners. How wicked—how absurd, of the colonists to be enraged when they are bullied by an Earl—a co-heir of the Whig right to misgovern them."—*London Chronicle.*

Rail-Car Collision.—A serious collision took place on the Rail Road at Geneva, on Thursday, occasioned by the carelessness of a switch-tender. While the express train was waiting for the accommodation train, it was run into at the height of its speed by the latter, smashing five cars to atoms and badly maiming five persons.

The Charleston Mercury says that Captain Whitty, of the British bark Express, which arrived there from Liverpool, on the 6th inst., states that when four days out he discovered two females concealed in barrels, in which they had been clandestinely rolled into the vessel, and subsequently that several other persons were discovered concealed in the hold among the cargo.

Jenny Lind at the Mammoth Cave.—The *Nashville Union* states, on the authority of an, informant, that Mons. Bellett of the Jenny Lind troupe, received a drubbing at the Mammoth Cave at the hands of "some Kentuckians" for ridiculing their efforts to make themselves agreeable to Jenny.

From California.—The most striking incident in the news from San Francisco to the 15th of March, brought by the Prometheus at New York, are the fire at Nevada, by which that city was almost wholly destroyed, with a loss of one million dollars and the case of disturbances of the peace which have occurred in several places where less violence and more regular modes of proceeding might have been hoped for.

From Gold Bluff.—We learn that the black sand brought down from Gold Bluff by the steamer Chesapeake, has been assayed by Messrs. Moffat & Co., and it yielded $3"14