British News.

(From the Britannia.)

WHIG FAITH.—Eighteen hundred years ago, Pontius Pilate, addressing the Great Fountain of all Truth, asked "What is Truth?" Since then, what mighty revolutions have been effected in the condition of mankind! Empires have fallen, and new ones have arisen from their ruins; the customs and language of the world have changed; the light of civilization, after having been checked for a time, has burst forth with a brighter and more universal blaze; and philosophers and men of science have been unceasingly employed in investigating the mysteries of the moral and natural world. And during all these centuries and changes, the one book which as Christians we recognise as the sole standard of truth, has been slowly working its way onward, though subjected to the closest scrutiny of the most piercing intellects—though opposed, proscribed and contemned—yielding light and instruction in the darkest times, heralding the dawn of a brighter day, and leading to that fulness of knowledge which it is now our privilege to enjoy. Yet in this nineteenth century, a Cabinet Minister, of the most enlightened nation in the world, rises in the midst of its representative wisdom, and repeats the question of the Pagan Pilate, "What is Truth?" Could a severer satire be imagined on our boasted refinement?

Amongst the members of a Cabinet singularly unprincipled, we regard Mr. Macauley as the most unscrupulous, daring, and dangerous. His language is, usually, that of practical infidelity. He habitually scoffs at belief, in whatever shape it appears, as bigotry; and is so wild a democrat, that he considers one man's opinion as good as another's. He regards universal incredulity as universal wisdom, forgetting that Raleigh has aptly described it as "the wit of fools." He has one answer for every argument founded on the Christian and Protestant character of the nation, and that is the question of Pilate—"What is Truth?" And by this he is usually successful in silencing his opponents, for the house is no place for a theological or ethical argument. This practice answers another purpose. It goes forth to the country on the authority of a Cabinet Minister, delivered in the House of Commons, that the only difference in religious belief, is in men's opinion; and that the creeds of Unitarians, and Trinitarians, of Christians, Atheists, Socinians, and Jews, are all equally true and equally entitled to respect. We quote his exact words in the recent debate on the bill for the Removal of Jewish Disabilities. "Who was to decide on points of faith?—who was to say which was the true religion? The Catholics and Protestants were in direct opposition to each other—they could not both be right. The Unitarians and Trinitarians were opposed to each other; they could not both be right." In this shallow strain did Mr. Macauley continue; the whole substance of his argument being, that as there were such diversities of religious opinion there could be no truth in any. How happily has Bacon described such men, as "certain discursing wits who count it a bondage to fix a belief; affecting free-will in thinking as well as in acting: and which are of the same veins as the sects of philosophers that be gone, though there be not so much blood in them as was in the ancients."

With Mr. Macauley's private opinions we have nothing to do. He may be as liberal in his belief as in his politics without reproach from us. But does he not, as a minister of the Crown, owe some respect to the feeling and the established religion of the country? Is it seemly or decent that, while the State publicly professes a pure form of Christianity, and consecrates its institutions and its acts with the solemn rites of religion—while even the daily proceedings of the Legislature are opened with the prayers of the church, a leading member of the Government should insult, with his cold, sceptical sneers, the sincere religious belief of the empire, and industriously labour to disseminate through the land the most heartless species of infidel philosophy. Follow out Mr. Macauley's argument a little farther than he found it convenient at the moment to carry it,—proceed on the assumption that because there are diversities of opinion there can be no truth,—and you are led irresistably to the conclusion that the "Age of Reason" is as good a book as the Bible, and the worship which the French, in their moments of madness, offered to a wretched female, as pure as that which we now profess. Of all forms of infidelity, that is the most dangerous which, despising the maxims of authority, and neglecting the light of experience, argues that there are no errors, however wild, but which may possibly be true, because persons are found insensate enough to believe them.

That is something more than liberality; it is the very essence of Jacobinism. The spirit is the same, whether bursting in ferocious denunciations from the leaders of a Cordelier Club, or breathed in polished language from the lips of the representatives of Modern Athens. It leads man on by easy stages from doubt to ridicule, from ridicule to blasphemy, and from blasphemy to the wildest excesses of a brutalized nature.

It is worthy of remark that Mr. Macauley's expression had no natural connexion with the subject on which he spoke. They were artfully thrown out to feel the public pulse, and to ascertain how far arguments in favour of unlimited scepticism might be pursued with impunity. We believe that Mr. Macauley will find himself mistaken if he imagines such sentiments will find favour with any party, except among the small cluster of sophistical rationalists whose hearts are too cold for belief of any kind, and whose understandings are too narrow for the comprehension of anything above the evidence of sense.

We subjoin two extracts from the speeches of Lord Melbourne, made in 1839 and 1840; which, to satisfy the minds of our readers as to his consistency, they will do well to compare with the Corn Law *mania*, declared to be *now* a **CABINET MEASURE.**

"On the 14th of March, 1839, in opposing the resolutions moved by Lord Fitzwilliam, he declared that even if the house were in a situation to legislate as with a blank sheet of paper before them, 'he should much doubt the wisdom of establishing laws which must make a large manufacturing population dependent on foreign countries for a supply of corn. But, in the actual position of the question,' said he, 'when I consider the various and complicated interests which we have to protect, and find my noble friend proposing to leave the whole agricultural interest without protection, I declare before God, (such were his memorable words) 'that I think it is the wildest and maddest scheme that ever entered into the imagination of man to conceive.' A little afterwards he said—'In my opinion it is not wise to depend on foreign countries for a supply of food; and I think that, even at the sacrifice of some portion of our manufacturing prosperity, we ought first to provide for the national safety and the national independence. * * I am not, in any respect, bigoted to the existing corn-laws; but it must be felt and admitted on all hands, that *change is in itself a great evil.* Therefore, I for one am not ready to make any change, unless it can be plainly shown me that the change would be for the better; *and so much the better as to make it worth while.*"

Such were Lord Melbourne's opinions (if it is not an abuse of language to attribute opinions to such a man) in the month of March, 1839. And in June, 1840, he used the expressions quoted by the Duke of Buckingham in Monday's debate:—

"His noble friend (Lord Fitzwilliam) had carefully abstained from stating what it was that he meant to do—whether his object was to have a fixed duty, or a diminution of the present ascending and descending scale: but *whichever of these alternatives was his noble friend's plan*, as he saw clearly and distinctly that that object would not be carried without a violent struggle—without causing much ill blood, and a deep sense of grievance—without stirring society to its foundations, and leaving behind every sort of bitterness and animosity, he did not think that the advantages to be gained by the change were worth the evils of the struggle, by which their lordships might depend on it, the change could alone be effected. They had seen great changes at no distant period—changes which had stirred society from the bottom—which had excited man against man—divided the whole country into parties—and left behind the deepest feelings of discord and enmity. He, for one, was not for adding to those feelings, by rashly venturing to stir and agitate them; and upon those general grounds he felt himself justified in saying 'No' to the motion of the noble lord."

Such is the person who is said to rule the destinies of England. We say, briefly, Agriculturalists, arise!

That Chinese legislator, (not Confucius by name, but in action truly so,) Captain Elliot, has been recalled, and the miserable treaty entered into with the Chinese authorities, rejected for want of ratification at home.—We verily believe the Minto family have nearly fifty placemen in various portions of the British Empire; as to their fitness for office, that is foreign to Whig faith and policy. The name of Elliot is at once a passport to place and power. The whole clan of them are now fattening on the resources of the country, giving us a lively example and commentary of a non-patronage Government. One, however, is off the list.

Horrible and Atrocious Murder at Mitchelstown.—A rumour has been afloat in Fermoy to-day of a most heart-rending murder committed in the neighbourhood of Mitchelstown. The rumour, as I have it, is that a policeman's wife, near her confinement, was travelling alone from her husband's station, where he was on duty, to her mother's house.—It is stated that on the way she got ill on the road, and requested a man who was passing to call some female from the next house to her assistance, offering him a shilling for doing so, in taking which from her purse she exposed a pound note, to the view of this monster, who took up a stone and dashed her brains out. He then ran off, but was pursued by some man who happened to see the atrocious deed. To complete the tragedy, it is stated that the woman, although dead was delivered of twins, and that the husband, being apprised of what had occurred, ran to the spot armed and, on seeing his lifeless wife and the two dying infants, he instantly stabbed to the heart the villain who had been captured by the countryman.—*Limerick Standard.*

TEA.—Yesterday there was considerable excitement in this market, and a large business was done both by speculators and the trade, but chiefly by the former: Company's Congou, which opened at 1s. 10d. cash, soon rose to 2s. a 2s. 1d per lb., but almost immediately after receded to 1s. 10½d.: during the afternoon however the price rallied to 1s. 11½d. and finally closed at 1s. 11d. per lb. sellers. The sales in free trade descriptions were chiefly in the black and lower kinds of green, and 1s. 10d. to 1s. 10½d. cash was obtained for low Congou and Twankay. To-day the market was quiet and prices drooping, the ardour of speculators having abated. Company's Congou opened at 1s. 10½d., but declined during the day to 1s. 10d., to 1s. 10½d. per lb.

OILS.—Of common Fish Oils the following are the latest prices. South Sea Oil £35 to 27 10; according to quality; Pale Seal £31; Cod Oil £29 10s., per ton. There is some enquiry for the common Fish Oils for exportation.

TALLOW.—The price of this article has not varied very materially, during the week; the quotations however, are a little lower, being 47s. 3d. on the spot, and 48s. for 3 or 4 months of the year. The demand pretty good for the season of the year.

TIMBER.—The timber trade at present employs about 150,000 tons of shipping, and 10,000 seamen. There is no doubt whatever that the differential duty of 30s. in favour of the Baltic timber will operate almost as an annihilation to the Canada trade. The Baltic timber is not only preferable for houses, but ships; and a vast traffic will consequently be opened up between this country and the Baltic ports. But our ships, in place of being benefited thereby, will, we fear, be losers; for the Baltic trade will principally fall into the hands of Baltic shipowners, who build and support their ships at one-third less charge than the British shipowners. In the trade to Canada, we had no competitors, but in the trade to the Baltic, we will have a host of Prussians, Danes, Russians, Norwegians, Swedes, &c. To be sure, the public may be benefited by all this, but if any great interest suffer, will not the public also be injured? Besides, the colonies will sustain extensive injury—in fact, ruin—by the sudden and extensive alterations of the duty; so that both at home and in the colonies, it is more than probable, the contemplated alteration in the timber tariff will be productive of serious loss.—*Tyne Pilot.*

LAUNCH OF AN IRON STEAM-VESSEL.—A beautiful iron steam-vessel, of about 200 tons measurement, was launched on Thursday week, from Mr. John Laird's building-yard, North Birkenhead. She was named the Lady Flora Hastings, and is intended, we understand, for Demerara. Her engines are now putting on board by Messrs. Fawcett and Co., and she will, it is expected be very soon ready to sail for the West Indies.

An engineman was killed last week, near Tredegar, by the bursting of a boiler. The deceased had wedged down the safety valve of the engine, with the view of getting up sufficient steam to take the load up the inclined plane, leading to Sirhowy works, at once, instead of performing two journeys as usual. The boiler could not bear the additional pressure, and burst. The reaction of the steam jerked the whole body of the engine forward the almost incredible distance of 50 yards, clear of the ground, testifying too plainly the enormous pressure which had thus madly been got up, and a melancholy warning to others, who almost daily jeopardize their lives in a similar manner.—*English Paper.*

QUEEN'S BENCH, May 13.—FRANCIS v. HUTCHINSON.—The defendant in this case was the Capt. of the ship Greyhound, upon a voyage from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to India, China, and some other places. The plaintiff was a seaman employed as boatswain during the same voyage, and he and the other seamen entered into an agreement with the captain as to the wages and services of the crew. In the course of the voyage it happened that in consequence of some occurrences on board the ship the captain placed the boatswain in confinement, and subjected him to corporal punishment. This infliction was made the subject of a preceding action between the same parties, and upon that occasion a verdict was given for the plaintiff, damages £100. The present action was brought to recover the amount of the wages which the plaintiff alleged to have become due to him for the whole voyage in question, which commenced in May, 1838, and was concluded in September, 1840. The punishment occurred in March, 1840, from which time the plaintiff was disrated and prevented by the captain from doing any active duty, but retained on board the ship until its arrival in London. About £57 of the wages had been paid, and the jury, without any hesitation, found for the plaintiff for the remainder, which was about £28.

The melancholy death of Sir Frederic Johnstone has been the general subject of conversation during the week. The circumstances, as currently stated and generally believed in the best informed circles, were as follows:—Sir Frederic, in company with Mr. Borthwick, was returning to Eglintoun Castle, at which both had been visitors for several days, from a dinner party at a gentleman's seat a few miles distant. Sir Frederick rode forward, and was found by Mr. Borthwick lying on the ground and bleeding profusely. The latter took him up on his horse and conveyed him to Eglintoun Castle, where the unfortunate baronet expired soon after his arrival. An alarm had previously been given at the castle by Sir Frederick's horse galloping up to the stables without a rider, his knees broken, and the saddle much damaged. Lady Louisa Johnstone is staying with the Dowager Countess Craven, at Hainstead Lodge, near Newbury. The late Sir G. F. Johnstone was son of the sixth baronet, by the youngest daughter of Charles Gordon, Esq., of Cluny. Born 1810; succeeded 1811; represented Weymouth in the Parliament of 1832. Sir Frederick was married only a few months ago to the Lady Louisa Frederica, daughter of the late and sister of the present Earl Craven.

London, May 15.

BANKING AND MONETARY AFFAIRS.

If we are informed correctly, a document of very great importance has been called for by the select committee of the House of Commons, to which the inquiry into the national question of "Banking and Currency" has been delegated, relative to the great advantages which have arisen from the establishment of the "clearing house" of the city private bankers. A return of the amounts that have passed through the "clearing house" on account of the private bankers, entitled to use, has recently been made to the select committee, which gives details, as we are assured, of a most extraordinary nature. We have not yet been put in possession of this return, though almost hourly expected. It will show, we are assured, that the benefits conferred upon the mercantile as well as the banking interests by the formation of such an establishment are all but incalculable. This is a strong ground, recollecting the rapidly increasing business of the joint stock banks of the City of London, for these latter institutions being admitted to the clearing house in Lombard-street, or of the formation of a similar establishment to be exclusively used by the banks just named.—In our next week's article we shall doubtless be enabled to speak more in detail upon this subject.

There has been an increased demand for money this week, in all probability arising from the expectation that is generally entertained that a dissolution of Parliament must take place before long. It would be extremely gratifying to us, if we could state with any degree of confidence that there was a prospect of better times, as respects full employment of capital. Until there is an improvement in the export trade it is scarcely possible to anticipate that money can be in better demand than it is at present for useful purposes.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.—The public sales of produce that have taken place this week have been, on the whole rather considerable. East Indies, West Indies, and Brazilian produce has not met that ready sale that might have been anticipated.

Brazilian Slavery and Slave Trade.—It has been stated to us by a Brazilian gentleman as a fact, that five successive Ministers in Brazil have been in favour of the gradual abolition of slavery. The Brazilian finances are in such a state, that means for its immediate abolition, by compensation, do not exist. The plan of abolition generally approved of in Brazil is, to declare all children borne after a certain date, free; and, the difficulty in that case, is how to provide means of supporting and educating them. As to the Brazilian slave trade it is a fact, notorious in the Brazilian trade, that the orders for goods known to be used in that horrible traffic have been annually declining for some years past.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JUNE 11, 1841.

MR FOX AND MR. WEBSTER.—Mr. Fox's demand for the release of M'Leod has been laid before Congress; but from the lengthy and tortuous answer given by the new Secretary, Mr. Webster, who is so proverbially fond of long speeches, there does not appear any prospect of M'Leod's immediate liberation. The British Minister, Lord Palmerston, has already allowed too much time to be wasted in useless correspondence on so important an object as the unlawful imprisonment of a British subject by a foreign power. Mr. Webster *pretending* not to understand "precisely the meaning intended by the "British Government conveyed by the instruction "to Mr. Fox," would willingly renew and continue the correspondence *ad infinitum*, knowing at the same time that the British Government were fully justified in the destruction of the vessel and her piratical crew, wherever and whenever she could be found. Mr. Webster's memory, we know, is very treacherous, or he would have remembered the conduct of his own Government officers in the Floridas towards Spain and the subjects of that Nation, and of their invasion of that territory in time of peace, being fully recognized and authorized by the American General Government, for offences said to be committed, not half so flagrant as those committed by American citizens on the Canadian territory.—Mr. Webster's sophistry contains no better arguments than those made use of by his predecessors, amounting to the same dignified conclusions, "that "the American nation has one set of laws for their "own guidance, which they are pleased to call the "laws of nations," but another set of laws quite different in their meaning for justifying their acts of aggression, spoliation, and differences with all other nations.

Time was, when England would not have allowed the liberty of her subjects to have been so trifled with, nor would a second answer have been sent to any such sophistical nonsense as that set forth by the two American Secretaries, Messrs. Forsyth and Webster.

MOB RULE.—For two or three nights past, our City has presented the most disgraceful scenes from the assemblage of nightly ruffians surrounding the Circus establishment now exhibiting. Several respectable citizens have received severe contusions from the throwing of stones and other missiles, and it is now become too dangerous for persons to visit the Circus after sunset. A fault there must be somewhere; if the Mayor of a City grant a license to persons for public exhibition, those persons are at least entitled to protection from a lawless rabble, and when the Civil posse are found insufficient to keep the mob in subjection, it is the paramount duty of the Chief Magistrate to strengthen his Police immediately; hundreds of special constables if necessary, should be instantly sworn in, and immediate and severe examples made of some of the rioters;—rather than our streets should exhibit such disgraceful and degrading scenes, to the danger of every respectable inhabitant, the aid of the Military should be resorted to. The idea of remonstrating with a furious yelling mob, is too ridiculous; nothing but the strong arm of the law, energetically exercised will take effect, and that should be done without delay.

COLONEL PRINCE.—This gallant Officer was entertained by a Public Dinner at Amhertsburg, Upper Canada on the 23d April, given to him by his Electors.

We invite attention to Messrs. Beyer & Leitch's Advertisement in this day's paper, of a splendid collection of Music and Musical Instruments. The Piano Fortes are all from manufacturers of high standing, and whether designed for ornament or real utility, we believe the collection will surpass any heretofore imported into the Province.

HALIFAX, June 8.

Capt. Cunningham, of the schr. James William, from Antigonishe, reports that on the 30th ult., 11 o'clock, A. M. he spoke the American Packet Ship *Samson*, Capt. Smith, from London for New York. She had struck a rock on the night of the 28th, and was endeavouring to get into White Head. There were 180 passengers, all of whom had been landed safe. At the Captain's request, Capt. Cunningham took the letter bag and delivered it to the Collector of this port, Hon. T. N Jeffery, by whom it has been forwarded to the Post Office, from whence it will be sent to Boston in the Acadian packet, which sails to-morrow. The ship is in want of immediate assistance from Halifax, and we understand that the Dock Yard schooner will be despatched to her without delay. There was another vessel (a brig) close by where the Samson struck, a total wreck.—*Times.*

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—The Transport barque England, arrived on Saturday last, in 28 days from Cork, with 15 officers and 210 men for the 64th and 69th Regiments, and 15 men for the Royal Artillery.

Yesterday, the transport Enterprise, arrived from Cork, in 29 days—with 60 men for the 8th, 60 for the 36th, 51 for the 37th Regiments, and 10 officers.—*Ibid.*

DETERMINED SUICIDE.—A man supposed to be one Aaron Gates, was discovered on the 25th ult. in a pasture belonging to Mr. John Mills, within three quarters of a mile of the Town of Annapolis, hanging to an apple tree, his knees bent under him and touching the ground, and quite dead. He had evidently been suspended for several hours. No particular cause could be assigned for the rash act, but he had been seen the day before wandering about the neighbourhood in search of employment. The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of *felo de se.*—*Ib.*

SHIP PARAGON.—It appears from an article under the United States head, in this paper, that the ship which struck the Paragon has arrived at Philadelphia; she is named the Susquehanna. An attempt is made to exonerate the master from all blame for neglecting to relieve the P. in her distress; the excuse for his apparent indifference is plausible, perhaps it is incontestable. It is alleged that on board the Susquehanna, the confusion of the crash, and anxiety for self preservation were so powerful at the moment after the concussion, as to preclude the possibility of hearing any cry of distress or discerning any marks of the disabled ship. We fear the captain and crew of the Paragon abandoned her rather prematurely, for she was discovered afloat and boarded on the 11th ult. by two ships, the Liverpool and Quebec Packet, bound to New-York, notwithstanding the opinion of those who escaped, that she had 8 or 9 feet of water in the hold, and was in a sinking condition when they left her. On Thursday afternoon the schooner Curlew, under command of capt. Townsend, was dispatched on a cruize to the eastward of Sable Island, in search of the wreck. From the statements of the latitude and longitude wherein the Liverpool and Quebec packet found her, we infer that she has been driven south by west by the wind; the current runs in an opposite course where she is drifting. In three days she moved 1 deg. 31m. south, and 30 m. west from the spot where her own crew left her.—*Ac. Recorder.*

We understand that the well known Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield has arrived in Canada on some Government Emigration business. We are not yet apprized in what official capacity.—*Toronto Patriot.*

CHATHAM ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR.

The following is a copy of the Address from the inhabitants of Chatham, which has been presented to Sir William Colebrook:—

To His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Sir William M'Bean George Colebrooke, K. H. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, embrace this early opportunity of congratulating your Excellency on your safe arrival in this Province; and to assure your Excellency of our firm attachment to Her Majesty's person and government.

Governed by mild and equitable laws, and possessing unbounded freedom, the inhabitants of this Province have every reason to be thankful that it is their happy lot to be residents of a portion of the British empire, and we assure your Excellency that we shall at all times lend our ready aid in upholding those laws and cheerfully co-operate with your Excellency in all matters tending to the peace and prosperity of the Province, and the benefit and comfort of its inhabitants.

We most respectfully invite your Excellency to embrace your earliest convenience to visit this side of the Province, and by personal observation inform yourself of its capabilities, and the wants of its inhabitants.

We regret that indisposition has prevented Lady Colebrooke and the other members of your family from accompanying your Excellency, but we sincerely hope, that through the interposition of an All Wise Providence, but a short time will elapse before they will join you in renewed health, when we beg your Excellency will convey to her Ladyship and to them, our hearty congratulations on their recovery and arrival, and our best wishes for their continued health and prosperity during their residence in this Province.

The following is His Excellency's Reply to the above.

To the Inhabitants of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the Address which you have presented to me on my arrival, and for the expression of your attachment to Her Majesty's person and government.

It is very gratifying to me to recognise in this distant quarter of Her Dominions, a just appreciation of the principles of the British Constitution, and so firm a disposition to uphold them. As Her Majesty's Representative I shall at all times be prepared to co-operate in promoting the prosperity of the Province, and the welfare of the Inhabitants.

The enterprising spirit of your community is not unknown to me, and I hope to have an early opportunity of visiting your flourishing settlement. I return you my sincere acknowledgments for your good wishes towards Lady Colebrooke and the other members of my family, who, on their arrival, will participate with me in the feelings which your cordial recognition has been calculated to call forth.

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Government House, Fredericton,
May 20, 1841.

QUEBEC, May 27.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—H. M. Troopship Athol, Commander P. C. Bellamy, arrived this day from Barbadoes, in 26 days, having on board one half of the 70th Regiment, consisting of the following officers, men, &c.:

Captains—Whyte, Graham, and Dunford; Lieutenants—Reynolds, and Edwards; Ensigns—Pilling, and Young; Surgeon Mahare. Total, 8 officers 215 men, 21 women, and 33 children.

The Athol sailed from Barbadoes on the 1st inst. at 8, p. m.; and H. M. troop ship Sapphire sailed at the same time with the other half of the 70th Regiment. The Cornwall, and the Somersetshire, transports, with the 74th Regt.; and the Bogue, and the Prince Regent, transports, with the 14th Regiment, sailed from Barbadoes six hours before the Athol. The Abercrombie, transport, was to sail from Barbadoes on the 2d of May, with the whole of the 80th Regiment on board.

Yesterday the Athol passed off Crane Island, the ship Albion with drafts of the 14th, 68th and 23d Regiments on board.

H. M. (hired) schooner Gulnare, Capt. Bayfield, R. N. sailed this day, on her summer surveying cruise in the gulf of St. Lawrence. It is understood that she will winter, at Prince Edward's Island.—*Mercury.*

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., MAY 25.

Departure of the Governor.—His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mrs. Prescott and family the hon. Mr. Crowdy and Mrs. Crowdy, took his departure yesterday in the brig *Lady Stafford*, for Cork. His Excellency was escorted to the place of embarkation by the Administrator of the Government, and members of Her majesty's council—by the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, and Clergy of different denominations—by the Naval, military, and civil authorities—the St. George's charitable society, and a large number of the inhabitants in general. On the vessel getting under weigh, His Excellency was loudly cheered by the crowds assembled on the wharves, and a salute was fired from the Garrison.

On Thursday last, being Ascension Day, the Foundation stone of the Roman catholic Cathedral, intended to be erected near Fort Townshend, was laid by the Rev. Dr Flemming. Notwithstanding that the weather was rather unpropitious, an immense concourse of persons (estimated at from 8 to 10 thousand) walked in procession and attended the imposing ceremony. A subscription list was opened on the ground, in aid of the fund for building the edifice, when the large sum of about £2600 was subscribed.

NEW YORK, June 2.

Destruction of the National Theatre.—This beautiful Theatre was entirely destroyed on Saturday morning last. The fire was discovered about seven o'clock, and in little more than an hour the interior and the roof were consumed, and nothing remained but the bare walls, and those in a most dangerous state. So rapid was the progress of the destroying element, that nothing of value was saved, except the books and papers of the box office.

Mr. Russell, the treasurer, occupied apartments over the box office, and succeeded in rescuing his wife from a horrible death. This was accomplished with difficulty, the lady being almost in a state of nudity.

A handsome four story brick house adjoining the theatre in Leonard Street, owned and occupied by a Mrs. Brown, was, with its furniture, very much injured, and one young woman was killed by the falling of a part of the rear wall of the theatre, on a rear building connected with Mrs. Brown's house. Alderman Adams narrowly escaped with his life, being knocked down by the falling wall, and bruised. A fireman was also severely wounded on the head, and another man saved his life, but broke his leg by jumping from a window, and a girl about fourteen years of age was considerably injured by escaping from a second story window.

The French Protestant Church adjoining the theatre in Church Street, and three dwellings adjoining it in Franklin Street, were more or less damaged, but saved from destruction by the exertions of the firemen. The theatre with its contents was worth about 100,000 dollars; the insurance on the building was only 25,000 dollars. The building was owned by a company. The scenery, wardrobe, &c., was owned by Mr. Wilson, the former manager. Mr. Burton, the manager, has lost 25,000 dollars in wardrobe, properties, books, &c., and was not insured for a cent. There is no doubt but this was the work of an incendiary, as on Friday evening it was discovered that the theatre was fired in *eight* places, the whole of which were extinguished, and the performances went on. It is said that Mr. Burton remained until two o'clock on Saturday morning, and left two watchmen, who had not been long gone when the fire was discovered. A man named George Shiers was taken into custody on Friday evening on suspicion of being the incendiary, and another man, Thomas Hurd, was apprehended on Saturday as his accessory. The investigation was not concluded at the time we write this notice.

Since the above was in type we learn that the evidence tends to implicate some person or persons higher in power than either of the two at present in custody, but the names are not allowed to be given. It is also stated that one of the men is anxious to turn States' evidence, and disclose the whole facts.

MONTREAL, May 29.—We omitted in our last to notice the departure of His Excellency Lord Sydenham for Kingston. He started on Wednesday at a little before two o'clock, P. M., in an open broucha, accompanied by Major Campbell, the military secretary, and in a very heavy fall of rain. A guard of honor and the band of the 73d regiment were in attendance at his residence. We regret to say his Excellency's appearance told plainly the severity of his late illness.

On the afternoon of the day preceding the Governor General's departure, his Excellency stood as sponsor at the baptism of the second son of the hon. Peter M'Gill; the godmother was Mrs. General Clitherow, and the name of the newly baptised infant is "Sydenham Clitherow."—*Transcript.*

A Quebec paper states that two females are missing since the late falling of a part of the rock, and are supposed to have been among the victims.—Workmen are still busy in searching for their bodies; yet has there already been a fight who shall occupy the remaining houses, and this in the teeth of a Report by the Royal Engineers "that the spot has been examined, and that part of the Cape, on each side of that which is fallen, threatens to come down, and that it will most certainly come down, sooner or later."

The gross number of Emigrants that had landed at Quebec on the 25th instant, was 9000, and twenty more ships were at that time reported. Of these, 5500, as near as may be, had reached Montreal up to Thursday evening. One male emigrant had died on the passage up, on board of the Canada, steamer. They still complain from Quebec, that many of those who plead destitution, refuse to work at three shillings per day.—*Ib.*

KINGSTON, (U. C.) MAY 25.—To give our readers at a distance some idea of the trade of this port, we state for their information that messrs. McPherson & Crane despatched via the St. Lawrence 12,000 barrels flour between Tuesday morning last, and Wednesday at 11 A. M., and received during the same time from 9 to 10,000 barrels. Our forwarders are all most actively employed, and are doing a more extensive business this spring than has ever been done before, and notwithstanding the immense increase of storage accommodation, which has been erected during the past year, yet nearly as much more could be occupied.

MELANCHOLY.—We regret to learn by the Canada [London] Enquirer of the 19th inst. that a most melancholy event occurred in the neighbourhood of that town a few days previous. It appears that on the afternoon of the 14th instant, Lieut. Winniett, of the 83d Regiment, had gone out in good health and spirits to take a ride on horseback along the banks of the River Thames. He was seen about 5 o'clock, and twenty minutes after his horse and dog came back to a farm house, while he was missing. The next day they were taken into London, and suspicion immediately arose that all was not right. Although the whole garrison, with several hundred civilians commenced an active search, his body was not found until noon of the Sunday following. Mr. P. Schram, messrs. Schofield, and one or two other gentlemen, accompanied by three Indians, in coming down the river in three canoes, discovered the body at the bottom, almost entirely covered with sand. It was taken into London, and an inquest held, which resulted in a verdict of "Accidentally drowned." It is supposed that the unfortunate officer had been endeavouring to ford the river on horseback, when the horse must have wheeled over and the lamentable catastrophe occurred. His funeral took place at 3 o'clock on the 17th, attended by the full Regiment to which he had belonged, together with a numerous and respectable body of civilians. The shops of the town were closed, and all business suspended during the imposing scene of the funeral service. Lieut. Winniett was well known in the town; and having been beloved by the Regiment, and all of his acquaintances, his melancholy fate will long be deeply deplored.

HAVANA, May 15, 1841.—The Agent for the line of British Steam Packets arrived here a few days since, and has to-day made arrangements with the government that they shall be allowed to enter free of mud machine dues, which are 1 3-4 rs. and 1 per ton. Also, that the coal for their use shall be imported here free of duty—the first one will be here in September. There are to be eight principal ones of 1100 tons burthen, two of which are to start together from Southampton, on the 1st and 15th of each month. One comes direct here and proceeds hence to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence home. The other goes first to Kingston and thence here, and hence home. There are likewise to be six branch boats to run between the West Indies, the Spanish Maine, the Gulf of Mexico, touching at the mouth of the Mississippi, and this place and Kingston. Also, to Halifax, touching at New-York.—*Corres. New York Express.*

FROM FAYAL.—Brig Harbinger, Capt. Brown, from Fayal 11th inst., arrived at this port on Saturday. Nothing had been heard at Fayal concerning the ill-fated President, and the rumour concerning her, received via Quebec, if it obtained credit in any quarter, is now entirely dissipated. Capt Brown left a French steamer at Fayal, which arrived from the coast of Africa a few days before he left.—*Boston Courier.*

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MIRAMICHI GLEANER.]

The House of Assembly last year, with only four dissenting voices, passed the following resolution—'That the accountability of Public Men to those whose interests are to be affected by their acts, is an essential feature in every free Government, without which there can be no effectual security against official misconduct,' &c. At the time this resolution passed, I was not a little puzzled to know what it meant, whether it was intended we were really to have 'a new and improved constitution,' or whether it was meant as a rider to Sir John's 'Circular Memorandum.' I do not yet know what it means, whether it means any thing, or whether it is placed upon the journals as a mere mockery, for as matters now stand it is nothing else. In what manner are our Public Men 'accountable to those whose interests are to be affected?' The Executive Council and Members of the House of Assembly are public men, the Inhabitants of the Province are 'those whose interests are to be affected by their acts.' The Council and House of Assembly then, are accountable to us, and accordingly to the opinion expressed in this resolution, without this accountability 'there can be no effectual security against official misconduct.' Under our existing laws there is no means of bringing them to account. The House of Assembly are elected for seven years, and until that term expires, we have no controul.—Their acts of the last session clearly shew that they did not intend that this resolution should apply to themselves, and that they did not mean what they said. A bill was introduced, making it imperative on all those accepting office, to resign their seats, a law now rendered absolutely necessary. This law of course applied to Executive Councillors, then we could have some check 'against official misconduct;' but the very men who voted for the resolution opposed this bill, and among the first were the Executive Councillors. Another bill was brought in, limiting the duration of Parliament to four years; this again would have been a check upon their acts, but it was likewise lost by a large majority. Public men ought not to be afraid of being called to account by those to whom they are accountable. All men are liable to err, and if theirs were mere errors in judgment, if they proceeded from the head rather than the heart, they would be excusable; but the errors of the House of Assembly have been wilful, proceeding from motives tending to their own interests rather than to those of their constituents.—They have acted in such a way as to trammel and embarrass the Governor. They have constrained him to place the administration of the Province into their hands, and they have squandered the revenues to secure and increase their influence. Their acts speak this insulting language to the present Governor.

'We have to inform your Excellency that Sir Archibald Campbell changed the system in this Province, of appointing Members of the House and Council, as Supervisors and Commissioners: that he opposed us in our bargain with Lord Glenelg, in reducing the pay of his successor, by which means we could have controul over the Representative of the Sovereign; and see how we treated him.' Although we knew Government House was out of repair, and so leaky that His Excellency could not sleep dry in his bed, we would not grant anything for repairs. We gave him but £400 for Provincial Contingencies, and we rendered his administration as embarrassing as possible, and we sent him from the Province with a vote of want of confidence. But mark the difference—so soon as Sir John Harvey assumed the government of the Province, and yielded to us his prerogative, we gave him more than was required for repairs, we newly furnished his dwelling; we furnished him fuel; we voted him £1000 per annum for contingencies, for the expenditure of which we asked no account; we gave him £500 per annum in addition to his salary from his arrival, and to continue during his stay in the Province; and when he was recalled by his Sovereign, we voted him £1,800 out of the revenue of the Province, and waited upon him with an Address, and we exerted our influence to the utmost to get up Addresses throughout the Province. Now if your Excellency will but act as Sir John did; if you will but keep in check and intimidate the members of the Legislative Council holding public offices, and appoint others, together with the Members of this House, as Supervisors and Commissioners, and also appoint our relatives and friends to all the vacant offices; in short, if you will allow us to govern, we will treat you as we did Sir John; we will increase your pay, we will make your abode comfortable, we will vote you large sums for contingencies; and if you are extravagant, and spend more than your income, and become embarrassed, *we will vote you a Service of Plate.* But if you will not, if you will hold the prerogative of the Crown in your own hands, and honestly and manfully support the dignity of the Representative of our most Gracious Queen, we will serve you as we did Sir Archibald, and send you from the Province, with a vote of a want of confidence, and exert our powerful influence to prevent the people from Addressing you.'

It is a melancholy fact, that the constitution of the Province is destroyed; we no longer have the three branches, each depending upon, and supporting each other. To talk of the three branches is perfectly preposterous, and to assimilate our Legislative Council to the House of Lords is an absurdity. Their independence is destroyed—look at Lord John Russell's despatch and Sir John Harvey's 'Circular Memorandum' in which he plainly tells the Public Officers, that they must be prepared to support the views of the Executive, or resign office. Should the Legislative Council then be principally composed of men holding public offices? Can they be assimilated to the Peers of England, who hold their seats independent of the Crown, and stand as a great barrier between it and the people. Our Legislative Council, or miniature House of Lords, at present consists of seventeen members, besides the Chief Justice; to None of whom the Despatch and Memorandum will apply. Three are Supervisors of Roads; one receives the annual appointment of Mayor of the City; and two are extensive timber merchants and mill owners, who frequently have questions to be settled and determined by the Governor and Council; and in addition to all this, the Council are paid by the House of Assembly. Thus then the Governor controls the Council, and it is very evident that the House has controlled the Governor,—whether this will continue to be the case, remains to be seen.

The people of this Province are too loyal tamely to submit to this state of things; they admire, and will contend for the constitution of England in all its purity; they will not consent to have their own privileges abridged, neither will they trench upon the prerogatives of the Crown.

The working of this '*New and Improved*' constitution will be better understood by giving as an example the grant of £1800, about which so much has been said and written, that I shall content myself with the mention of it, and should feel glad if it could be expunged from the journals, and for ever buried in oblivion.

It will be recollected that some time last year, the Governor General placed a small body of Her Majesty's troops on the disputed territory for the protection of the inhabitants. Sir John Harvey wrote a letter to the Governor of the State of Maine, stating that he had recommended their withdrawal. This breach of insubordination in an inferior, offended the Governor General, and Sir John was recalled by Her Majesty. He of course did not write this important despatch without consulting his Council, four of whom are Members of the House, who having got his Excellency into so severe a scrape, thought something should be done to convince him that it was an unintentional blunder; and what means so ready for them or so acceptable to him, as a grant of money, accompanied by an address. The happy expedient was immediately set in motion, and actively canvassed in the committee rooms, and at their lodgings, and the four Councillors by their influence, patronage, and promises of 'good things to come,' succeeded in carr