THE LEGISLATURE.

(From the City Reporter.)

WEDNESDAY, April 9th.

[illegible] LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the House went into Committee of the whole on a bill to provide for the payment of the President and Members of the Legislative Council; Mr. Williston in the Chair.

Mr. Steves thought it was useless to debate this bill, for he believed the House would never think of sustaining it. Last Session the House had, almost unanimously, passed an Address to Her Majesty, praying that the other branch might be made Elective. That was the desire of the people, and to that wish Her Majesty had responded.—But the Council had resisted both the Sovereign and the people, and thrown out the bill introduced by a member of the Government. Although it might affect himself, as being the means of preventing members of that House from being paid, he should oppose the bill, he therefore moved that its further consideration be postponed three months.

Mr. Hatheway rose to second the motion.—When he saw the Council resisting public opinion, throwing out bill after bill the lower House had passed to meet the requirements of the country, and meddling with matters connected with the revenue, he was more than ever convinced of the necessity of taking the power of appointment to the other branch from the hands of the Government, and placing it in the hands of the people. Government had brought down a bill in the other branch to make the Council Elective, and in spite of the Government—as it would appear—and the people, it was rejected. But why did not the Government introduce the measure in the popular branch, and allow them to deal with it first? or why did they not fill up the Council with men whom they knew to be favourable to the measure? Did they not know the feelings and predilections of the Odell family? and did they not know what course the Hon. Mr. Odell would pursue? He must say that he did not think the Government was sincere in the matter: (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Partelow,—"Yes, they were."

Mr. Hatheway,—If they were sincere they could have carried their measure. They were all-powerful in the Council when they chose, but upon the occasion referred to they had made use of their influence. If they appointed a person favourable to the bill instead of the Hon. Mr. Odell, and had filled up the two vacancies by persons also in favour of the bill, it would have been carried, as they would thus have gained three votes, while the opposition would have been one less.

Mr. Beardsley would support the motion for several reasons. He believed as a general principle that members of both Houses should be paid for their labour; but when he saw the Council stubbornly resisting the extension of the elective franchise, which the people must and will have,—when he saw them rejecting bill after bill passed by that House, which the circumstances of the country required, he could not consent to pay them for such services. It had been said that some of them would not serve unless they were paid, but the country would be better without them. He heard within a day or two that they were likely to throw out the bill passed that House recently to abolish the Judges' Salaries. It was thus the other branch opposed all measures of retrenchment and reform. Who were the representatives of the people? Why, the members of that House; and should they they not decide what revenue should be collected, and what burthens removed from the people's shoulders? But at present they could not; they were controlled by the other branch. What had become, he would ask, of a bill that had passed that House several week since for the payment of its members, and sent up to the Council? Nothing had been heard of it—they were evidently keeping it back to coerce afford to come there and serve his constituents without pay, but when he found a desire on the other branch to coerce that House, he would willingly sacrifice his own pay, and would oppose the present bill had he no other reason than to resist an attempt at coercion.

Mr. Johnson agreed with what had been said about the Council resisting the wishes of the people. That resistance, however, could not long prevail; the people had asked for a change and it must come. He had no reason, however, to doubt the sincerity of the Council in opposing innovations, although he thought them wrong. He would not oppose the present bill as a measure of retaliation, for the Council had as much right to independant action as that House; and the hon. and learned member for Carleton should have recollected, when he spoke against that House being coerced, that it would be equally wrong for them to attempt to coerce the other branch. He (Mr. Johnson) had made up his mind that the Councillors ought not be paid, and should vote for the postponement of the bill.

Mr. Wilmot said he disapproved of hon. members being influenced by anything that had taken place in the other House, in the decision they might come to with regard to this bill. The members of the other branch had the same right to act according to their judgment as the members of that House. Those who thought the Councillors should be paid ought to support the bill, independent of all other considerations; and least of all should they be influenced by the question whether or not they would get paid themselves.

Capt. Robinson felt no hostility towards the Council for rejecting the Elective Council Bill. He differed from what had been asserted by some hon. members as to the people being anxious for the Council to be made elective. He knew that the people in Charlotte are quite contented with the other branch as at present constituted. The question had been agitated for years, and not a single petition had been received against the change. He believed that if all the people in the Province were polled a majority of them would be found against the measure. He had made up his mind that Councillors ought not to be paid, and should oppose the bill on that ground; but he thought it would test the patriotism of some hon. members.

Mr. Ritchie differed from what had fallen from the hon. Member who had just spoken. He believed that if there was any one thing the people of this Province were unanimous in it was to make the Council elective. It was his opinion that the Legislative Council, as a general principle ought to be paid; but the present Council had vetoed and outraged public feeling, and the onward march of improvement to such a degree that he could not vote for their pay.

Mr. Tilley was surprised to hear from the hon. Member for Charlotte the expression about testing their patriotism. He hoped their was no hon. member in the House who would vote for this bill merely to induce the Council to pass the bill for the payment of Members of the Lower House. There should be nothing like coercion on the part of either House. Were the Councillors elected by the people, he would say they ought to be paid, but as it is, they are supposed to represent the wealth and intelligence of the country, and being selected by the Government had no claims upon this House, and should not expect the House to provide for them. Since he came to that House he had been mortified at the attempts made to influence hon. members by allusions to the other House. He had heard a member mention a member of the other branch by name, as authority that the said branch will do this or that, thereby endeavouring to influence the votes of this House. He considered this practice very wrong indeed.—Every measure should stand or fall by its merits, without reference to what might occur elsewhere. In reference to what had been said about the Council being too much under the influence of the Government, he claimed from it, the experience of the present Session showed that the Council was not enough under Government influence.

Dr. Tremaine explained the Constitution of England, showing that the Commons were formerly paid, but the Lords never were. The lower House were peculiarly the servants of the people, for whom they had to work not only during the Session, but during the recess, thereby incurring trouble and expense. He thought they ought to be paid. With the upper House it was quite different. They were chosen for their wealth and station.

people and the Crown. He did not think they were entitled to pay.

Mr. Hanington thought the people were generally in favour of making the Council elective. The matter was discussed throughout the country at the last general election. The people did not give the late House much credit for passing the Address to Her Majesty in favour of Elective Councils, as they said it was done just at the close of the Session, to gain a little popularity, but they approved of the movement. He believed that the people had fully made up their minds on the subject, and although they might be resisted for a moment, elective Councils must and would come. As to paying the Councillors, he had always opposed it, and should still do so. The present Council occupied an anomalous position; they owed no responsibility anywhere: they owed none to the people, who had no voice in their appointment; they owed none to the lower House, whose measures they rejected day after day; and they owed none to the Government, whom they had resisted: (Laughter.) With respect to their own pay, it should not influence the vote of any hon. member in that House.

His Honour the Speaker was surprised to hear hon. members talk about withholding the pay of Councillors because that body had rejected some of their measures. Last year, when the Address was passed to Her Majesty, the reason urged why a change was necessary, was that, under Responsible Government the Council was dependant upon a Government who were dependant upon the Assembly, and therefore could not exercise that unbiassed judgement which was necessary. Now the House complained of the Council throwing out bills, and resisting both this branch and the Government. What did the House expect of the Council? If they were not to have the power to exercise a check upon the House, they might as well not be in existence; and if they were to exercise that power, it was not for the members of this House to say whether they were right or wrong. He was in favour of elective Councils, but he would have them shorn of their power.

Mr. Needham would never support a bill to pay men who had acted as the Council had done the present Session. They had rejected measure after measure which the house thought necessary and the people approved of, they had resisted the wishes of the people and the Government in reference to the Bill for Elective Councils, and now they came to this House and asked for pay. He considered that all legislators elected by the people should be paid by the people, but while the Councillors were appointed by the Government, let them look to the Government for their pay.—Hon. members talked of not coercing the other House, but what was that House trying to do? What had become of the bill passed the Assembly for the payment of its members? It had been sent to the Council about two months ago, and why had it not been taken up in its proper order, and either passed or rejected? No; they were keeping it back, waiting to see if this bill would pass. He would oppose this bill were it the last vote he would ever give.

Mr. Gray said the question with him was not what the Council had done, or subject for the consideration of that House. The Council had in some things differed in opinion with the lower House, but in others they had agreed; the Council had given their assent to several very valuable measures. When the other branch chose to reject a measure, it was not for a member of the lower House to question his motives. He considered that every man that laboured for the public should be paid. He was in favour of elective Councils, but would pay the present Council up to the hour of their dismissal. If it were right to pay the Councillors, they should be paid, irrespective of their conduct. Upon these grounds he would support the bill.

(More or less was said upon the subject by Messrs. Taylor, English, Barbarie, Cutler, Macpherson, Gilbert, Hayward, Scoullar, Earle and Botsford, but as no new feature was elicited, we here close our report.)

Upon the question for postponement being put, the Committee decided as follows:—*Ayes*, Hon. Mr. Partelow, and Messrs. Crane, Hannington, Botsford, McPhelim, Cutler, Johnson, Read, Montgomery, Ryan, Purdy, Earle, Gilbert, Hayward, Scoullar, Taylor, Hatheway, Pickard, Macpherson, English, Beardsley, Rice, Robinson, Fitzgerald, Thomson, Wilmot, Ritchie, Needham, Tilley, and Steves. *Nays*, Hon. Mr. Rankin, and Messrs. Gray, Porter, Barberie and Chapman.

DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

MONDAY, April 14th.

On motion of Mr. Ritchie, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on the state of the Province, Mr. Scoullar in the Chair.

Mr. Ritchie said that in submitting the Resolution he had prepared upon the subject he felt that he was calling the attention of the House to one of the most important discussions that ever took place on the floor of that House, or that affected, or would affect, the well-being of the country, as it involved principles of the utmost importance to the country. In the remarks he should make upon the subject, he wished studiously to avoid any personal remarks that might offend any one, but to treat the several questions involved upon general grounds. The first resolution he should offer was thus:—(the hon. member then read the first Resolution,—already published—and then observing that it was unnecessary for him to read the whole of the resolutions, he explained the nature of the other five.) The preamble to the first resolution merely asserts that irresponsible government has been ceded to this Province; (hence the question arose, if the privilege of managing our own affairs has been ceded us, have we not the right to have every despatch to and from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, affecting the welfare of this Province, laid before them? From this they were led on to the consideration whether Earl Grey had not assumed and exercised an authority vested in the colony, and which was breaking down that system of responsible government that had been ceded. The next consideration was whether the Local Legislature, under responsible government, ought not have the power of regulating the salaries of public officers, and the resolutions called upon the House to express the opinion on the subject.—If the House should coincide with him in opinion, and sustain the resolution, then it would be for them to say whether the Government in expressing their satisfaction, at the sentiments contained in Earl Grey's Despatch, and in bringing forward no measure of retrenchment, had discharged their duty to the people. The same principle would apply to the Despatch in reference to bounties, and the acquiescence of Government. In order to arrive at a proper conclusion upon these subjects, it was necessary first to inquire what is responsible government? What was the meaning of the terms "Local Government," and "the Legislature having control over local matters?"

He did not consider it necessary to go into the history of this Province, for he believed it would be generally acknowledged that, up to a few years since our public affairs were managed in a manner very far from giving satisfaction to the people.—It could not be necessary for him to call the attention of hon. members to the State of affairs a few

taken place between those who called for a change in their constitution and those who opposed it, and blood was shed. It could not be necessary to advert to the history of Lower Canada, where the House of Assembly stopped the supplies, and an open rebellion took place. It could not be necessary to quote from the history of Nova Scotia, where, although no rebellion took place, there was a severe and protracted struggle. It could not be necessary for him to call the minds of hon. members back to the period in our own history when the Lieutenant Governor took it upon himself to resist reform, in opposition to the people on one side and his Sovereign on the other, when men sought and obtained office both in and out of the colony, not because of their own merits,—not through the recommendations of the people's representatives, but by all sorts of improper influences. All these things were familiar to the minds of hon. members. But what steps did the Home Government adopt at that period to enquire into the causes of that dissatisfaction and apply a remedy? They sent out Lord Durham to Canada—a man of vigorous intellect, and high mind—as Her Majesty's High Commissioner, to examine into the causes of the rebellion, and to report thereon. His Lordship was a man of penetration. He looked beneath the surface, and then he saw the causes which led to the disturbances and confusion, in the interference with the officers of the country by the Home Government, and by irresponsible people residing in the colonies. Men who did not know what was and what was not for the interests of the colonies, and who had no immediate interest in the colonial welfare, exercised the power of appointing those who filled the public offices. And what remedies had His Lordship proposed? He would presently read from his Report and see, and compare it with the power granted us under the responsible government system, and see whether Earl Grey had not recently attempted to take back upon the old, irresponsible system. Earl Durham had thus described the state of things in Canada in, and previous to, the year 1838:—

"There seems, indeed, to be an idea, that the character of representative institutions ought to be thus modified in colonies; that it is an incident of colonial dependence, that the officers of government should be nominated by the Crown, without any reference to the wishes of the community, whose interests are entrusted to their keeping.—It has never been clearly explained what are the imperial interests, which require this complete nullification of representative government."

He was prepared to show that these despatches from Earl Grey were calculated to produce the state of things shadowed forth in the extract he had read; they struck at the very root of representative institutions, and would, if tolerated, make our system of government a mockery and a delusion. He would now read another extract from Lord Durham's Report. (The hon. member then read as follows)—

"The Governor has been enabled by this system to shift responsibility on the Colonial Office, inasmuch as in every important case he was, in reality, carrying into effect the order of the authority to which he was responsible. But the real vigour of the executive has been essentially impaired; distance and delay have weakened its decisions; and the Colony has, in every crisis of danger, and almost every detail of local management, felt the mischief of having its executive authority exercised on the other side of the Atlantic."

Here His Lordship had pointed out in the strongest manner the danger of vesting the controlling power on the other side of the Atlantic, and the injustice it inflicted on the colonists; but the same thing now when more alarming is to be demned: in mutilating the Despatches they were encouraging a system of secret correspondence which ought not to be allowed, for it was inconsistant with local self Government. The hon. Attorney General had stated that he carefully examined the Despatches before he accepted office, and found that he could accept because they were satisfactory to him. But why not let the House see them, and say whether they approved of them? It was thus the Executive Council shifted responsibility on the shoulders of the Lieut. Governor, and he shifted on Earl Grey. He would be prepared to show as he proceeded that the Despatches were so mutilated as to break off abruptly the moment they came to an important part; and he would quote again from Lord Durham's Report to show his opinion of the effects of this mystifying every thing. (The hon. member then read as follows)—

"One of the greatest of all evils arising from this system of irresponsible government, was the mystery in which the motives and actual purposes of their rulers were hid from the colonists themselves. The most important business of Government was carried on, not in open discussions on public acts, but in a secret correspondence between the Governor and the Secretary of State. Whenever this mystery was dispelled, it was long after the worst effects had been produced by doubt and misapprehension; and the Colonies have been frequently the last to learn the things that most concerned them, by the publication of papers on the order of the British Houses of Parliament."

"The secresy of the proceedings adds to the irresponsibility of the body; and when the Governor takes an important step, it is not known, or authentically known, whether he has taken the advice of this Council or not, what members he has consulted, or by the advice of which of the body he was finally guided."

Had his Lordship been writing about this Province and its Government at the present moment, he could not have found words more applicable to our position. What had this practice done for us in 1846? An old and highly respected public officer had been wronged by the mutilating public documents then, as was still the practice. The whole truth of the matter never transpired until the present Session, when it was too late to do him justice. If the whole had been laid before the Legislature at the following Session, he had no doubt but the representatives would have insisted that he should be reinstated, (hear hear) but so much time had been suffered to elapse that it could not now be done. He mentioned this as a startling instance of the injury done by mutilating the Despatches a venerable Judge had been wronged—had been sacrificed, and it was not until five years afterwards that the representatives of the people were made acquainted with the circumstances. He should dwell no longer upon this point, for he believed there were very few hon members in the House but would say that all the despatches called for, without mutilation, should be laid before them, and would consequently support the first resolution. In reference to the second resolution he would quote once more from Lord Durham:—

"I know that it has been urged, that the principles which are productive of harmony and good government in the mother country, are by no means applicable to a colonial dependency. It is said that it is necessary that the administration of a colony should be carried on by persons nominated without any reference to the wishes of the people; that they have to carry into effect the policy, not of that people, but of the authorities at home; and that a colony which should name all its administrative functionaries, would, in fact, cease to be dependant. I admit that the system which I would propose would, in fact, place the internal Government of the colony in the hands of the colonists themselves; and that we should thus leave to them the execution of the laws, of which we have long entrusted the making solely to them."

"A perfect subordination, on the part of the Colony, on these points, is secured by the advantages it finds in the continuance of its connection with the Empire. It certainly is not strengthened by a vexatious interference on the part of the Government, with the enactment of laws for the regulating the internal concerns of the Colony, or in the selection of the persons entrusted with their execution. The colonists may not always know what laws are best for them, or which of their countrymen are the fittest for conducting their affairs; but, at least, they have a greater interest in coming to a right judgment on these points, and will take greater pains to do so than those whose welfare is very remotely and slightly affected by the good or bad legislation of these portions of the Empire. If the colonists make bad laws, and select improper persons to conduct their affairs, they will generally be the only, & always the greatest sufferers; and, like the people of other countries, they must bear the ills which they bring on themselves, until they choose to apply the remedy."

These were the last extracts he should quote from Lord Durham's Report. These contained the principles of responsibility,—there was the key to what the British Ministers conceded to the Colonies,—that they should make their own laws, and appoint persons to carry them out; if bad they alone would suffer for it; the people would feel the effect of bad laws or bad appointments, and in a case of that kind they themselves must apply the remedy. It was in accordance with Lord Durham's suggestions that responsible government was ceded to the colonies, and thus it was evident that it was the intention to cede the power to manage their own local affairs, free of all domination or dictation. The Imperial Government did not concede to the colonies any power where the imperial interests might be affected; they reserved to themselves all power relating to making or altering commercial arrangements with foreign countries, but they conceded to them the control over local affairs. How, then, could self government in affairs purely local be carried out, if the Colonial Minister can with one breath say you shall not give a bounty to encourage the the growth of hemp, or for the encouragement of any other branch of industry, and hold in his own breast the power to appoint all our public officers, and to ignore all our bills. Was not this depriving us of a power once ceded to us? When in 1848 the hon. Mr. Huzen brought down to that House a message from the Lieutenant Governor introducing a copy of the Despatch from Earl Grey to Sir John Harvey, dated March 1847, it was announced as not being confined to Nova Scotia, but equally applicable to all the North American Colonies. Resolutions were then introduced by Mr. Fisher, which passed the House by an overwhelming majority, thus adopting the system in the most solemn manner. Again, on the 5th of March, 1850, when the Bill forming a constitution for the Australian Colonies was under discussion in the House of Commons. Lord John Russell in his speech alluded to the Rebellion Losses Bill passed in Canada in 1849. Now if there ever was a local measure passed in the colonies in which the interference of the Imperial Government was justifiable, it was that. It must have been most galling to many loyal men, and setting a dangerous precedent, as it went to remunerate for their losses the men who had risen in arms against the Government; not only against the Government of the Colony only, but against the power of the Queen on this continent; the measure therefore might be supposed to affect the Empire at large. But what did Lord John Russel say? (Here the hon. member quoted some passages from Lord John Russell's Speech.) Thus His Lordship had described exactly the powers conceded by responsible government,—the management of their own local affairs—announced that those principles were in full operation in Canada, New-Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and that he considered it far better not to interfere with the [illegible] ment—after the Premier had announced that we had the power to manage our local affairs, and that it was far better we were left to do so without any interference, he would ask would that House tamely submit to the dictation contained in the Despatches received within the last year from the Colonial Secretary, and allow him to appoint the officers of the Province? Why, if they submitted to this, what might they not expect? Should they be told by Earl Grey that they should not appropriate a portion of the Provincial Revenue, earned by the sweat of the brows of the labouring classes, to encourage a branch of home industry? In another part of his speech Lord John Russell had alluded to the salary of the Governor of British Guiana. The salary of that officer had been fixed at £5,000 a-year, but the colonists objected to paying that large sum. The Premier in commenting upon it, recommended the colonists to pay the sum, but stated that it was a matter purely for their own consideration, as the management of their own money was vested in their own hands. After that doctrine laid down by Britain's Prime Minister, how could that House, or the people of this colony, submit to the dictation in the Despatches before them? The people of British Guiana were told that they might do what they chose with their own money, and might even fix their Governor's salary at what amount they thought proper; the people of Canada were told that they might do as they liked with their own money, even though it should be appropriated to pay losses sustained by rebels; but the people of New Brunswick were told another story, they were told "you shall not do what you please with your own money; you shall not give bounties, and you shall not fix the salaries of your own officers!" and this after the principles of responsible government had been solemnly ceded to them! Would not the members of that House prove recreant to their duty if they tamely submitted to such dictation? At a crisis like this the House should be in possession of every information of what had been said and done by Executive Ministers, and of what was now doing; this was no time to receive mutilated Despatches, breaking off at the point where something like information was coming. The advisers of His Excellency should be held responsible for these mutilations; if not, who should be, or where would responsibility rest? He considered it their bounden duty to advise His Excellency to send down such despatches as were asked for in full, and if he refused to comply it was their duty to withdraw from his government. What was responsible government for, but to give the Legislature power over local affairs, and enable the different branches to work harmoniously together. What course had been adopted by the Executive? By looking over the Journals he perceived a number of Despatches sent down in full. There were then upon the engrossing of Acts; another upon the salary of the Surveyor General; another in reference to an Elective Legislative Council; another in reference to the Registry of Ships in the United States; another about foreign Ships sailing up the River St. John; another upon reciprocal trade with the United States; another upon the coasting trade with the United States, and upon the Halifax and Quebec Railroad; another in reference relating to the St. Andrews Railroad; another in reference to trade with the West Indies; another in reference to Revenue officers acting as Commissioners of Customs; another upon Fives Fares and Navigation Laws; another upon the shipment of Sailors at St. John.—These Despatches, referring to local matters, were all in full, but the very first Despatch they came to calculated seriously to affect the interests of the colony,—the one in reference to the Commercial Policy, what was it? Why, it was merely an extract! These upon minor subjects all began with the word "Sir," and ended with the word "Grey," with the date and everything in full.—This was the case with all the despatches whenever it mattered not whether they were in full or not, but the moment they came to an important Despatch they found it mutilated. The next Despatch he should notice was the one in reference to the Surplus Civil List, and the Reduction of Salaries. The letter was a subject that came before the House and was adjourned upon last Session; a Bill was passed, which was lost elsewhere; under these circumstances—the matter being unsettled—the Colonial Secretary and the head of the Local Government must have known that the subject would come up for discussion this year, but down comes a despatch from Earl Grey tying their hands, and in direct opposition to the will of the people as formerly expressed. By this Despatch the Lieutenant Governor was entrusted to stay the hands of the House, and not allow them to go on. These being the circumstances, he would assert that if there ever was a matter, purely local, in reference to which the people ought to receive every information, it was this. Well, down it comes, acknowledging a Despatch from the Lieut. Governor, thus:—

Sir—I have now to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 27, of 1st May last, enclosing certain resolutions of the House of Assembly, dated 24th April, in favor of the transfer of the Supplies of the Civil List Fund of the Provincial Treasurer, the reduction of the Salaries of the present Judges of the Supreme Court, Surveyor General and Master of the Rolls, and abolition of the office of Receiver General."

But there, just as it came to the point where it might be fairly inferred the Lieutenant Governor tendered some advice, it broke off abruptly, and furnished with seven asterisks! Would the people be satisfied with that? The hon. Attorney General had seen what was kept back, and it met his views, and he formed his Government upon it; but what were the House to infer? Perhaps it met the views expressed by the hon. Attorney General last year, when he was opposed to the reduction of Salaries? Perhaps it was of that nature that the Government *dare not* lay it before the House; (Hear hear) lest they rise up in their might and purge the Government? In another part of this Despatch, relating to the Surplus Civil List, he found the following passage:—

"Therefore, to make over this sum to the Provincial Treasurer, would be to deprive the Social Government of a fund to which it may look, to meet those possible exigencies, which may at any time occur, and which might render it different to carry on the public service on its regular footing."

There he found asterisks again. Now what plausible pretence could be set up why the remainder of the paragraph had been withheld? Perhaps it went on to say that this surplus would strengthen the Government, and render it independent of the House should the latter stop the supplies! It was impossible for the House to know, and members kept in the dark would have their conjectures and suspicions. If the part kept was of such a nature that the Government knew it would not be approved of by the people, thus was it most necessary that the people should see it; and if it was not of that nature why was it withheld? The next paragraph in the Despatch was in reference to the House yielding up instituting of Money Votes, but there were only three lines, succeeded by eight asterisks. Would not hon. Members like to see what was kept back? Of course they would, but they were kept in the dark, and left to their own conjectures. But the House had expressed their dissatisfaction with this course, and had by address called for further information. What was the result? Why, another mutilated Despatch was sent down on the third of March, full of asterisks, and minus the Attorney General's estimate, which should have accompanied them. In no less than six different places had the scissors been applied, and portions of the Lieut. Governor's Despatches to Earl Grey cut out. It was evident that these paragraphs contained something which the Governor did not wish the House to know, or why mutilate them? He held the Executive Council responsible for what the Governor had written, and in compliance with the Address of the House, the whole should have been furnished them. He (Mr. Ritchie) entertained a very high opinion of the Lieutenant Governor as a man and a gentleman. He believed him to be a man of high character, well educated, and talented, and he found him courteous. He did not wish to say one word which could hurt his feelings but [illegible] the Commons's opinions upon the salaries of public officers in this Province amounted to nothing. Under the responsible government he was not the ruler of the Province, but the power rested in the hands of the Executive Council, who were responsible to the people. If this system was not to be carried out they had better know it at once, and return to the old responsible system. What was the tenor of that portion of the Governor's Despatches he had condescended to lay before them? It was evident that he did not write with the intention of bringing out a reply in accordance with the doctrines laid down by Lord John Russel in the speech from which he (Mr. R) had already quoted. Immediately after a line of asterisks and immediately after a preceeding line of asterisks, His Excellency had written thus:

"The commutation of the Judges Fees is so desirable in itself, that it might be admitted at once, if the Legislature concurred, and the present Judges did not object."

That is, they might commute the fees if the Legislature wished, *and the Judges consented!* By the same rule the Legislature might pass a bill to reduce the Lawyer's fees if they wished and the *Lawyers consented!* (Laughter) But it was evident to any one who read this Dispatch that the pith and marrow was kept back.—the very parts which the House wished to see were clipped away by the Government scissors. He would tell the hon. Members of the Government that such conduct must inevitably lead to doubt, suspicion, and mistrust. He would next call the attention of the Committee to another Despatch from the Lieut. Governor to Earl Grey, on the subject of the late appointments to the Bench. He found the following paragraph detailing what took place subsequent to the famous Council meeting in October last:—

After the transaction of the usual business, the Council broke up, and members who reside at a distance returned to their homes on the afternoon of the 25th, or the morning of the 26th, the Attorney General, Mr. L A. Wilmot, called at Government House, and read to me a letter which he had written the previous evening after the Council broke up, to his absent colleagues, practically withdrawing his signature from the recommendation made in the morning by himself, and by the majority of the Council."

Here followed a line of asterisks, the narrative abruptly breaking off just where it was beginning to be interesting. Hon Members must know that novels are not always published first in a seperate form, as was formerly the custom, but Dickens, and several other celebrated novelists, published monthly parts of their new works in the magazines. Now it was an object with these to break off in the midst of some interesting scene, leaving the reader in the utmost state of anxiety to see the denouement

(To be Continued.)

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

[*From our own Reporter.*]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FREDERICTON, Tuesday, April 15th, 1851.

The House at an early hour went into Committee of the whole on the State of the Province. The speakers were as follows:—Mr. Gray for the resolutions; Mr. Barberie against all but the first; Mr. Beardsley in favour of the first and third, but against the rest; Mr. Crane against all but first; Dr. Thomson against the whole; Messrs. Tilley and Hatheway in favour; Capt. Robinson against the whole; and the Attorney General in reply to some remarks of Mr. Hatheway's. The debate continued five and a half hours without intermission.

LATEST FROM FREDERICTON.

[*By Telegraph for the New-Brunswicker.*]

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 16.

The House threw out the Bill to-day, which was sent down from the Legislative Council, for incorporating a Library Committee.

The great debate on the State of the Province was afterwards resumed. Mr. Cutler took the floor and spoke in favour of all the Resolutions. Mr. Johnson followed on the same side. Both speakers exhibiting the weakness of the Government, and the necessity for immediate action on the part of the House. Mr. Botsford supported the first Resolution, but opposed the others. Mr. Gray then made a short speech in explanation. Mr. Hanington followed in an able speech. He supported all the Resolutions witty and sarcastic speech from Mr. Needham, who supported all the Resolutions, and by a few words from Mr. Wilmot, who will take the floor in the morning.

The Chronicle.

SAINT JOHN, APRIL 18, 1851.

OUR TARIFF.

The Tariff of *any civilized country, spite of all* that is, or can be stated by *speculative "Free Traders," must form the index by which the* country's *prosperity or depression must be* judged. In this Province the passing of a Revenue Bill has always proved the knot of Gordius to our Legislature. More errors have crept in, and greater damage has accrued to the Commerce of the country through this branch of our public management, than perhaps all other sources put together. We have seen by the carelessness of our representatives, in framing a bill for Revenue, that an extra session has had to be convened to correct errors, or the business of the Province would for the year following have proved a perfect blank, and in all probability been the cause of many mercantile failures. Again we have seen that by laying an impost on the productions of our neighbours of the Sister Province, (in accordance with Downing Street dictation) that we have virtually driven away the best business of the city, and all but annihilated our intercourse with our fellow Colonists. Just with such a disaster are the people of this Province threatened at this moment. A Revenue Bill has passed the house and is now in full operation, which taxes all importations from whatever quarter, and we find on enquiry at the Treasurer's office, that Cattle and other productions from Nova Scotia have actually paid the duty contemplated to effect American produce only, and as an unavoidable consequence will at once put a period to all further traffic with our brethren on the south side of the Bay of Fundy. It would appear that the Revenue Bill passed this session, was predicated on a high protective principle, for the purpose of meeting our American neighbours on their own terms, and has been read by our best authorities as an abrogation of the Act of Reciprocity for the government of our Intercolonial trade, and that importations from any of the Colonies must be met with precisely the same imposts as those from the United States. A good deal of stubbornness has been manifested both by the upper and lower house, on this question, hence the difficulty—while on the contrary had that degree of unanimity and harmony prevailed which the country has a right to expect from their lawgivers, the business of the country would not have met with so rude and uncalled for a disaster. We have received from the Nova Scotia papers the Tariff of that Province, which unlike *ours* has made in her Revenue Bill a proper provision to meet any contingency to which they may be reduced by the uncertainty and illiberality of the United States. In that Bill, the Governor and Council are authorized, in sections for that purpose made and provided, and without calling the House together to correct blunders, to meet the Tariff of the United States as may be deemed necessary, while differential duties in relation to Intercolonial trade are fully and amply provided for, and that too directly in the teeth of Earl Grey's despatches. Nova Scotia not having the fear of the Colonial Secretary before her eyes, has also contrary to his despatches, given a bounty to the Fisheries, which together with other regulations which will not square with the microscopic views of Downing street, but are absolutely necessary for the salvation of that sinking country, will serve to prove to British statesmen that although transatlantic, we possess the feelings, the passions, and the dogged determination to assert our rights, in the same strength and purity as our brethren, who reside within the sound of Bowbells.—As Colonists we feel our dignity and integrity called into question; this state of things cannot, must not last. We of this country are either a people, or we are not—and it is high time that the question was answered from the right quarter. Mr. Howe has spoken to Earl Grey in language that cannot be misunderstood, and it becomes the bounden duty of us as a people to sustain him. The duty now of both houses is to take up the Magna Charta, [the Revenue Bill] of Nova Scotia, and endorse it to the better: let us make a Revenue Bill, by which Colonists can live: let us give Bounties to make valuable our natural resources, and to encourage Domestic manufactures: let us in short do all that may become us as an enlightened people, irrespective of unconstitutional pressure, come from what quarter it may. We have many grievances to be redressed—we have many rights denied to be insisted on—and the day is not far distant when a Treaty offensive and defensive must be obtained from the Parent State, fully defining our position, politically and commercially, and placing us beyond the caprice of a British Cabinet, whether it be Whig or Tory. It is by respecting ourselves that we shall be respected, and as Nova Scotia has in this important crisis taken the initiative, it were worse than cowardice in New-Brunswick, not to stand with her—"shoulder to shoulder."

ACCIDENT.—Yesterday a large ship, building and owned by Mr. Smith, at Courtenay Bay, was launched from his building yard. On launching the ways her keel struck the sand and she fell over on her side. Several persons were slightly injured by the chains, &c. which fetched way and ran down to leeward of the dock.

☞ In reply to the enquiry of Mr. Geo. Stockford, relative to his conduct in taking a machine to the Lunatic Asylum, we beg to be distinctly understood as intending no censure whatever to him, *but to the authorities under whom he acted.* We have always held that the Messrs. Stockfords are the most efficient men in our Constabulary force, nor have we up to this time seen any cause to alter that opinion.

☞ We have received only part of Mr. Ritchie's speech on the state of the Province.