

ENGLAND.

BRITISH SHIPPING INTEREST.

To the Editor of the London Morning Journal. Sir—If you should deem the following observations on the state of the Shipping Interest, worthy of a place in your valuable columns, you will perhaps think them...

Table with columns: Ships, Tons. Data for 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850.

It is not uncommon to allege, as a cause of the present unexampled distress of the Shipping Interest, that the country at present possesses too many ships, and that the competition consequent to this, produces these disastrous effects...

It is evident from the falling off in our Shipping, that the cause of the present distress must be looked for elsewhere than in an excess of British tonnage. In short it is impossible, under the present circumstances of this country, for British shipping to compete successfully with foreigners...

To wish the climax, let us suppose a maritime war should then commence, where are the Senators to come from to man our Navy and to carry it in triumph, as heretofore, to the uttermost parts of the globe?

Captain Ricketts is to be the new Governor of Sierra Leone, vacant by the lamented death of Col. Lumley. We believe, however, that it is the intention of Government shortly to abandon that dreadfully unhealthy climate.

A morning paper throws out—we know not whether to call it a report or a conjecture, that on the retirement of Lord Anglesea, which has been often spoken of as not improbable, no Lord Lieutenant will be again appointed in Ireland, but that the government of that Island will be managed in a manner similar to that of Scotland.

The propriety of abolishing the office of Lord Lieutenant has been often discussed among politicians, and has been often brought under the notice of Parliament. Within the last ten or twelve years much has been done, and as yet with good results, to remove the appearance of a separation between the administrative power in Ireland and that of Great-Britain.

The Treasury were first consolidated; the separate revenue boards for Ireland have been subsequently abolished, and the subsequent improvements in the several departments, in correctness and impartiality, have been generally acknowledged. The restraints on commercial intercourse have been removed. Whether in the present condition of Ireland it would be safe to dispense with the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, who from the ample powers with which he is invested, may exercise a large discretion on any emergency, may be doubtful; but we have no doubt that the abolition of the appearance of a separate government in Ireland would be a very fit part of a set of measures for the pacification of Ireland, of which catholic emancipation should be one.

When the laws have ceased to make that difference between the civil rights of catholics and protestants which, whatever the nature of the administration may be, must make the catholics discontented, the next step to be taken should be to convince all parties in that kingdom that the government regarded them with an equal eye—a conviction which would never be so complete under a Dublin Government, as if all the acts of the executive power were seen to emanate directly from persons confessedly far above the influence of local dissensions. No man seems to have behaved himself with greater dignity and propriety in the administration of Ireland than the Marquis of Anglesea; but it is miserable to observe the anxious, and no doubt baseless speculations bruited in Dublin on the influence which may have been exercised on his government, now, by his having had a conversation with Mr. O'Connell, or then, by a visit from the Earl of Anglesea. All this is incompatible with the belief which ought to be inspired (and justified) that Ireland is subject to one inflexible and impartial rule, as England; and that the executive Government, which in truth cannot do much, will act fairly when it acts at all.

The laws of England are nearly the same as those of Ireland, while they have little resemblance to those of Scotland. The communication with Ireland is now as rapid and safe as with Scotland. To keep up permanently the

phantom of a separate government in Ireland, will be justified by no irremovable peculiarity of circumstances, and it will only tend to prevent that entire union between the two countries, which it will be for the interest of both to seek to effect.—Globe.

It is now certain, from the return of a majority of electors in his interest, that General Jackson will be the next President of the United States; and the results of his elevation will be looked to with some curiosity, both as it may affect the temper of the American Government in its foreign relations, and the struggle now carried on in the United States themselves, between the friends and enemies of the new restrictions on trade.

General Jackson seems, when he was first a candidate for the Presidency, to have had little to recommend him except his military successes; for though in his own State he had filled a number of offices, civil as well as military, and judicial as well as administrative, he was not known to any considerable portion of the American electors except as a General. The support he at first received was the ebullition of the pride of the Americans in their military successes, of which they are quite as proud as if they had nothing else to be vain of. The few facts by which foreign nations are enabled to judge of the fitness of General Jackson, to be entrusted with the administrative power of a country, and especially the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, have not made an impression in his favour; they have conveyed the idea that he is a violent man, not unlikely to embroil the U. States with foreign powers, by appealing to the vanity of the nation to support his own rashness.

It is to be hoped that the examples of the prudent men who have directed the affairs of America for the last half century, and the interest of the people in peace, will keep General Jackson in the path which his predecessors have marked out for him, even if his character has not been too hastily judged of from particular acts. Nothing would be more injurious to the world, than that America should prove the truth of the accusation brought against free governments—viz. that in their relations with foreign states they are more disposed to injustice and war than even despotic monarchs.

In the course of the contest for the Presidency, it is probable that the personal characters of the candidates, whose names serve as rallying points for the parties, have been lost sight of, and that the triumph of one of them is regarded as the success of one set of political views, rather than as an approbation of the conduct of the man. The friends of Gen. Jackson have generally been hostile to the new Tariff, and their success may encourage them to make efforts for the removal of some of its restrictions.—London, December 16.

TRADES &c. IN LONDON.—A person who calls himself an idler has made the following calculations: there are in London, according to the latest and most authentic records, 4,092 inns, taverns, and public houses; 2,211 tailors; 1,759 grocers; 1,715 bakers; 1,668 boot and shoe makers; 1,426 merchants; 1,343 butchers; 1,318 physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, &c.; 1,212 carpenters; 1,008 cheesemongers; 4,105 lawyers, barristers, special pleaders, &c.; Baring & Co. the wealthy London Bankers, have negotiated a Loan of 2,000,000 dollars, with the Planter's Association, a company recently formed in Louisiana, for cultivating the soil, and exporting the productions of that country.

Hops imported from Van Dieman's Land, are of so superior a quality as to have sold for 8s. a pound.

Two parties are struggling in the money market; one, the bankers, endeavouring to make it appear that money is scarce; the other, the merchants and traders, that it is comparatively abundant. To-day the increasing scarcity has been the general subject of conversation among brokers, one of the most eminent says he will not discount any bill below four per cent. That rate has in fact been obtained for a Government Treasury Bill.

Encke's comet was seen very satisfactorily at Deptford, on the clear evening of Friday, at six hours. Its nucleus appeared as bright as a star of the fifth or sixth magnitude; its coma about 3 min. in diameter, and rather of an oval than of a circular form, but no appearance of a tail. Such is the first certain account we have of this luminous visitant of our sphere.—Literary Gazette.

Lost Stars.—Among lost stars are noted three in the constellation Hercules, besides others in Cancer, Perseus, Pisces, Orion, and Coma Berenices.

The French Societe de Geographie have given a prize of 12,000 Francs (nearly £500) to M. Auguste Caille, the enterprising traveller who reached Timbuctoo.

SUTTEES.—At a late meeting of the Proprietors of East India Stock, the Chairman stated that the number of suttees in 1824 was 572; in 1825, 639; in 1826, only 518; being a diminution of 121, as compared with 1825. That, Mr. Poynder said, was at the rate of eight and forty human sacrifices for each month during those two years.

Mr. Hume observed, that at a moment when meetings were held in every part of the country to petition against the custom—it behoved the East India Company to take effectual steps to put an end to it. He for one, entered his protest against the opinions of those who maintained that these sacrifices were in accordance with, and were authorized by, the religion of those over whom they ruled in India; and his decided feeling was, that no danger whatever would arise in India. (Hear) He conceived that even if a trifling disturbance (and trifling it must be, if there were any disturbance at all) were likely to be occasioned by such interferences, still they were bound to interfere in order to overthrow a system which was at variance with all the feelings of humanity and morality.

PORTUGAL.—The total population of the kingdom at one time was, it is well known, four millions, and at the present day it does not amount to more than 2,225,000. Lisbon, which once contained 500,000 inhabitants, does

not now contain more than 300,000. To this depopulation is joined an entire exhaustion of finances. Notwithstanding the treasures Portugal derives from Brazil, the coffers of the state are always empty. The specie circulated over the kingdom does not exceed 20,000,000, and it would be less if the Government did not depreciate the silver currency by alloy.

SCOTLAND.

The celebrated Dr. Chalmers made his debut as Professor of Theology in the University of Edinburgh, on the 10th November last. He was attended on the occasion by the Lord Provost and the Magistrates of the City, the Rev. Dr. Baird, Principal of the University, together with most of the Professors and a number of Clergymen. The College yard was crowded at an early hour by Students and others, eager to gain admission to hear the Doctor's opening lecture, who were not deterred from their purpose by showers of snow and hail, and it was with difficulty that a strong party of police were able to preserve order outside. The Lecture took place in Dr. Duncan's class room, as affording most accommodation, and many took the precaution of gaining admittance to the Medical Class at 9, that they might be in waiting to receive Professor Chalmers at 11. He was hailed with acclamations; but as the applause was rather noisy, the Rev. Principal as soon as it had subsided, said that "he was not at all surprised that the arrival among them of the distinguished Professor should excite lively emotions; but such a demonstration as had just been made was not academic, and he trusted that it would not be repeated." During the course of the Rev. Dr's eloquent prelection, however, the enthusiastic applause of the audience could not be repressed, which led him to say, on announcing his intention of instituting academic examinations, that he would be much more delighted with responses from the heads than the heels of his Students. The Edinburgh papers contain an outline of the introductory Lecture, which was concluded amid the universal admiration of those who heard it.

The Rev. Dr. Cook, of Laurencekirk, succeeds Dr. C. as Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, and (says the Fife Herald) "from the specimen of his powers exhibited in his first Lecture, we trust our Alma Mater will continue to hold its head pre-eminent among our Scottish seminaries." Dr. Cook is the author of many learned works, and from the ability with which he drew up the Report of the Royal Commissioners on the state of the Aberdeen Universities, he has been selected to prepare that of the same body on the state of the University of Edinburgh.

PROVINCE OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

FREDERICTON.

On motion of Mr. Chandler.—The House went into Committee of the whole, in further consideration of the Joint Address of the Council and Assembly, to His Majesty upon the subject of the disposing of Crown Lands.

Resolved, that this Committee, deeming it a matter of the utmost importance to the future welfare of the Province, that the present system for the Sale of Crown Lands should be annulled, are induced to accede to the proposed draft of the address to His Majesty on the subject, though the Committee cannot but express their extreme regret that His Majesty's Council object to the addition of a clause, praying that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit the Legislature to suggest some alterations in the former System, before the same is permanently re-established, this Committee thinking that improvements may be made, which are equally beneficial to the interests of His Majesty in this Province.

The Resolution being handed in, was again read at the Clerk's Table. Ordered, that the report be accepted, and the address engrossed; and further ordered, that Mr. Chandler, inform His Majesty's Council that the House have agreed to the Joint address.

On motion of Mr. Chandler.—Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to bring under the notice of His Majesty's Government, the wishes of this House, respecting the adopting a system for the granting of Crown Lands in this Province, as expressed in the Resolution of the Committee of the whole House this day.

Ordered, that Mr. Chandler, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Ketchum, be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency with the address.

Mr. Bliss, Master in Chancery, communicated to the House, that the Council had agreed to the address prepared by the joint Committee of the Council and Assembly, on the subject of the present system of disposing of the Crown Lands; and that they had appointed Mr. Shore, and Mr. Justice Botsford, a Committee, with such Committee as the House shall appoint to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and request he will be pleased to transmit the same to the House before His Majesty's Council.

Mr. Wyer, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the address of yesterday, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to direct to be laid before the House an account of Seizures made by the Revenue Cutters Elizabeth and Deiance, and the manner in which the seizures have been disposed of, reported, that His Excellency was pleased to say he would direct the proper Officers to lay the necessary information before the House at the opening of the next Session.

The joint and humble Address of His Majesty's Council, and the House of Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, in General Assembly convened. MAY WE PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.—The Council and House of Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, beg leave, with sentiments of the most profound respect, to approach your Majesty on a subject, that most seriously concerns the settlement and advancement of the Province.

They beg leave most humbly to submit for your Majesty's most Gracious consideration, that by the return of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, it appears that he has sold under the new System of disposing of the Crown Lands in this Province, between the 30th day of June in the year 1827, and the 31st December last, 187,336 acres, for which there has been received in payment, the sum of nine hundred and sixty-five pounds sixteen shillings and four pence only; that from this sum the incidental expenses attending the Sales, amounting to five hundred and three pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence, are to be deducted, leaving the sum of four hundred and sixty-one pounds seventeen shillings and seven pence, as the net amount of the purchase money.

That this sum, together with the deposits which have been made by purchasers, on account of survey expenses, amounting to forty-nine pounds ten shillings, are not sufficient to defray the expenses incurred in the Surveyor-General's Department for the surveys, made under the new system, pursuant to his directions, amounting to the sum of six hundred and sixty-one pounds.

That about the lots have been sold subject to a proportionate part of the expenses of survey, it is reasonably to be inferred from the indulgence shown to the purchasers, many of whom are in indigent circumstances, that the payment of these expenses in many instances, will be evaded.

The Council and Assembly humbly conceive, that the above statement is sufficient to shew, how vain must be the expectation of raising a Revenue from the sale of Crown Lands in this Province; while on the other hand, the injuries eventually to arise from a system, so eminently calculated to demoralize the people, and to sap the foundation of all those political obligations, which would bind them to the Mother Country, are abundantly manifest to all who are conversant with the condition of New-Brunswick.

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Altho' there may not be on the lands now sold, any considerable quantity of Pine Timber, fit for His Majesty's use, yet there is in all of them an abundant supply of very valuable Timber of other descriptions, which, by the mode now pursued, is permitted to be monopolized by the people indiscriminately, without any value paid therefor to the Crown, or any security that the actual settlement of the Country will be advanced; for it is well and publicly known, that in many instances, this monopoly is the object of the Purchasers, who when they shall have attained it, and disposed of the Timber, will abandon the land denuded of most, if not all, of its present value, and thereby rendered unfit for settlement by others. The Purchasers will be thus trained to practice deliberate fraud upon the Government, by evading the payment agreed on, and some of the most valuable lands in the Country, by pursuing this system, which permits them to occupy the same for seven years free of expense, either of quit rent or purchase, independently of the injury to be done to the Crown, by the loss of the land, and thus deprive Emigrants who may arrive here, as well as the descendants of those loyal men, whose firm attachment to their King, led them to encounter the hardships incident to the first opening of the wilderness, when they shall be in situations where they would be willing or able to form permanent settlements.

Instead of a loyal, industrious, and sturdy Yeomanry, when lands are held in free and common socage, and the means of maintaining that spirit of detestation to the King, and firm attachment to the British Constitution, which led to the first settlement of this Province, and which, if cherished and supported, would render New-Brunswick a highly valuable appendage to the British Crown, the new system will be the means of raising up a class of men, who, are of idle habits in general, and stand low in the public estimation, and who, holding their lands by a temporary and precarious tenure, would take advantage of the facility of placing themselves under a foreign jurisdiction, upon a promise of being secured in their possessions without payment; a promise which will be readily made by our Neighbours upon any occasion that may offer.

The means heretofore in the power of the Governor and Council, and used by them for ascertaining the characters and condition of the persons to whom allotments of land were made, are by the present system, entirely done away, as all persons, of whatever description, are indiscriminately permitted to purchase, and traces of the most valuable land are thrown, it may be said, gratuitously into the hands of persons who will yield to the temptations above stated.

That in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, the great and increased expense of taking out a Grant of Land under the new system, and the restraint which it imposes on the settler, by compelling him to purchase a lot not the object of his choice, which is in general influenced by some local cause, have retarded the settlement of this Province, to a considerable extent, for they beg leave humbly to state, that in the years 1825 and 1826, two hundred and sixty-two Grants of Land, comprising five hundred and six Grantees, were passed, while under the new System, no Grants have as yet passed, and only nine have been applied for.

That in this Province there are many millions of acres of wilderness, upon the settlement of which, the future prosperity of the Country must depend; that in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, no one circumstance could contribute more to the accomplishment of this important object, than facility in obtaining a Grant of Land, and at low and moderate expense. The Council and Assembly, grateful for the many blessings they enjoy under your Majesty's paternal Government, which is distinguished for its solicitude to promote the prosperity and happiness of any part of your vast Empire, however remote its situation; most humbly pray that your Majesty will take into your most gracious consideration, the present system of disposing of the Crown Lands, by sale, and to grant such relief in the premises as to your Majesty in your great wisdom, shall seem meet.

W. BOTSFORD, W. CRANE, E. B. CHANDLER, J. R. PARTELOW, J. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Mr. Allen, from the Committee appointed to examine into the state of the New Government House, and to report the result of such examination to the House, having attended to that duty, reported, that owing to the want of funds, it was found impossible to make such particular examination as would be necessary, in order to make a full report to the House at this Session, and they recommended that they may be allowed to make a report of the state of this Building, at the next Session of the General Assembly.—Ordered, that the Report be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Crane.—It appearing to this House that Treasury Bonds to a large amount, taken many years ago, were remitted to the late Attorney General for the purpose of being sold, and the proceeds thereof have not been paid into the Treasury, nor any account whatever rendered to this House.—Thereupon resolved, that it is the opinion of this House, that immediate measures should be taken to prevent loss to the Public; and that the House of Assembly be furnished with information on the subject, in order that they may be able to judge whether the injury sustained in consequence of the delay in collection has been occasioned by the neglect or default of any and what Public Officers.

The House of Assembly do hereby recommend to your Majesty's most Gracious consideration, as well as the joint Committee of Council and Assembly, to collect information upon the subject of Penitentiaries, and to report the result thereof to the House at the next Session of the General Assembly.—Ordered, that the Report be accepted.

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the Council Chamber. The House attended, and being returned, Mr. Spenser reported, he had addressed His Excellency in the following terms:—"May it please your Excellency, I beg leave to present to your Excellency on behalf of His Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects the Commemorative Address of the Council and Assembly for raising a Revenue in this Province."

"A Bill further to increase the Revenue of the Province by imposing a duty upon all Rum and other Spirituous Liquors, that shall be distilled within the same."

"A Bill to appropriate a part of the Public Revenue, for the services therein mentioned."

"To which Bills I pray your Excellency's assent."

That His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the following Bills:—"A Bill to prevent a failure of Justice, by reason of variances between Records and Writings produced in evidence in support thereof."

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