UNITED STATES.

NOTE OF PREPARATION,—AMERICAN PRESS vs. GREAT BRITAIN.

(From the New-Yorker.)

TROUBLES WITH ENGLAND.

The attentive observer of recent events will not be surprised that we express the opinion that the course of events on our Northern and Eastern borders is tending rapidly and surely to a serious rupture and probably a *war* between the United States and Great Britain! This opinion has not been lightly or hastily formed; we shall be deeply grateful if the future shall prove it mistaken—but unfounded it cannot be.

That we are totally unprepared for a war with the most formidable Naval power on the globe—that England would sweep our commerce from the seas, burn our seaports, ravage our borders, slaughter thousands of our people, and probably send the flame of fierce insurrection through our Southern States, before we could commence the fight in earnest—are obvious enough. That we should eventually vindicate our National fame, drive the enemy from our territory, and probably retaliate upon them some of the evils they had inflicted upon us, is very probable. But would this be worth its cost of one hundred thousand lives, five hundred millions' worth of property, and the loss of half a century to the cause of Virtue, Happiness and Social Progress? We think not.

We should be more easily reconciled to the course of events if any vital consideration of life or liberty were involved in the questions at issue between the two nations; but there are none. In the North-East, we are wrangling about a shadow. True, a large extent of wild land is nominally in dispute between the two nations; but we have a clear legal and moral claim to most of it, and can undoubtedly obtain by compromise *three fourths* in extent, *nine-tenths* in relative value, and *ninety-nine hundredths* in positive value to us of the whole Disputed Territory. We can secure all except a forlorn region of ice and barrenness North of the St. John River, which we do not want, but which is very important to Great Britain as commanding her communication between the Canadas on the one hand and New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia on the other. Then why not offer a generous and manly compromise? Great Britain does not need the Aroostook country—we do not want the sources of the Restigouche; and though the letter of a treaty of '83 may give them to us, the *spirit* and intent do not, or are at last questionable.—Why should not our Government evince its wisdom and enlightened policy by daring to be magnanimous?

But the gory portent of War looms largest just now on our Northern frontier; and here it is not difficult to perceive, though it may require some courage to assert, that *our* people are entirely in the wrong. They have been so from the first. They commenced by organizing an expedition against Great Britain in the streets of Buffalo in open day—our prominent citizens directly countenancing or conniving at it; our Federal and State authorities 'sympathizing' or passive. That expedition took unopposed the arms and munitions belonging to the State, crossed over to Navy Island in Niagara River, belonging to Great Britain, but easiest of access from the United States, whence it was daily supplied with provisions, munitions and volunteers. From this petty island a war on Canada was kept up for weeks, while not a foot of the main land was possessed by contestants of the British authority. A steamboat began to ply daily between this island and the adjacent landing in this State, carrying over arms, provisions and recruits to the insurgents, without which they could not have maintained their position. This boat, lying at the wharf on the American shore, was attacked in the night by a British party, her crew driven ashore, one of them killed on the shore, the boat set on fire and run over Niagara Falls. For an alleged participation in this act, (under the orders of his superiors,) McLeod is now imprisoned in this State, to answer for his offences against the peace and dignity of a Lockport mob, which has assumed at once the functions of Legislature, Judges, Sheriffs, and perhaps executioners. We trust this novel Court of Errors will temper its discreet judgments with mercy!

Now the Burning of the Caroline, if considered as an isolated act, was a flagrant outrage on the integrity of our soil; but can it justly be so considered? Who were in fact supreme in the vicinity of that act at the time—our Federal and State authorities, of the 'sympathisers' with Mackenzie and Van Rensselaer? We must look practically at this business, and not at a part, but the whole of it.

Our Government can never be permitted to forget the doctrines which it laid down in defending Gen. Jackson's highhanded proceedings in Florida in 1818—his capture of forts, towns and garrisons belonging to our ally the King of Spain. We then maintained, with all the ability of which John Q. Adams is master, that the nation which cannot govern its own territory and cause its people to preserve a strict neutrality between neighbouring belligerents, *has no right to claim inviolability from that belligerent which may be aggrieved by its secret hostility or injured by its incapacity.*

This is certainly high ground—it is susceptible of great and dangerous abuse—but it is *our* doctrine, not that of an enemy. Let us consider how it would apply to the case of the Caroline before we proceed to inflict outrage and wrong (so far as the individual is concerned) upon the person of McLeod, or rush to war for a redress of our grievances in that high-handed but not unprovoked transaction.

From the New-York Sunday Morning News.

THE WAR MANIA.

Our Citizens are constitutionally subject to mania of different descriptions—but the mania most dangerous of any, and the most difficult to cure without the subject carrying the marks of it to the grave, proceeds from our extreme thin skinnedness, and our sensibility on the subject of *national honor*—aye, national honor, as if our national honor could be promoted by our rushing unprepared into a conflict with one of the most powerful nations upon earth; and receiving, in plain English, a sound drubbing, to cure us of the spirit of gasconade, which we inherit with our foreign extraction. We know this remark will be resented as offensive, but it is not so when rationally examined. Let us take first our seaboard—thousands of miles—entirely exposed, and we add, utterly defenceless against modern warfare. Let us take our navy—weak and inefficient—only a few ships in commission—what we have manned with difficulty from the inadequate supply of seamen—the rest in ordinary, or rotten. Our navy yards few and unequal to the emergency of sudden war—the most salutary measures for national defence obstructed or paralysed by party feeling, as in the case of the naval dock yard at Brooklyn, the last session of Congress. If we were then too poor to authorise its construction, have we since become rich enough to rush into a war? Our army, where is it? Echo answers where—a few soldiers hunting the Indians in Florida, and perishing ingloriously in its swamps and everglades. Our commerce exposed in every quarter of the world. Our merchants subjects to sudden bankruptcy and ruin—and the whole history is told in a few words our preparation for war.

We know the sufferers under the war mania will talk loudly of our success during the revolution, of the glorious battle of New Orleans, of our naval victories during the last war—of the courage and patriotism of the American people—granted—all granted—but have they reflected that within a few years the face of war has been changed, the tedious operation of seiges abandoned. Every thing carried on now by "coup demain," and that which before required weeks or months, and even in the time of Napoleon was considered impracticable, is now effected in a few hours, by the late deadly destructive improvements and inventions in modern warfare. If they doubt this, let them look at St. Jean d'Acre, successfully resisting the great conqueror Napoleon himself, and battered about the ears of old Mehemet Ali in a few hours. Let them look at St Jean d'Ulloa, the citadel of Vera Cruz, dismantled and captured by the Bourbon boy, the Prince de Joinville, in short order. And what have we to compare with these fortresses? Oh! we have the battery to begin with, why it would not be a breakfast for a sloop-of-war with the Paixham guns; and a bomb or two thrown into the midst of it with the deadly precision of modern warfare, would soon render it untenantable. The fortifications at the narrows—but have we reflected that the steamships which have lately visited us here commanded by British officers could pass them in the night, that those men are expert pilots, know all the soundings and depths of water, and might be employed against us with deadly effect, or if they did not choose to risk this, they could run in close with the land, put men enough on shore to carry these fortifications, or at least to keep them in employment while the steamboats come up to the city, and blow it about our ears, retiring as they came in, or they might land 10,000 men on the Long Island shore, and before we are aware of it, Brooklyn be in their possession, the work of ruin completed, and the enemy only traced in the devastation left to mark his progress. And the picture we have given of New York will serve for every seaport town through the Union. Our pursuits have been so peaceful and so entirely commercial, that preparations for war have been lost sight of; and it is therefore, not only idle, but preposterous in us to speak of war, without a navy, without an army, our coast defenceless, our commerce every where exposed, without seamen, and we may add, without knowledge, or at least without practical experience in modern warfare, and with experienced pilots to our cities and seaport towns in officers of other nations, and foreign engineers well acquainted with the actual position and strength of every fortification in the United States. Why a single war with a powerful nation like Great Britain, if she put forth her energies, would, in our present defenceless condition, give us the work of half a century to repair.

We should be like a peaceful Quaker encountering a celebrated prize fighter, and although he might have all the courage and determination of the other, or even more physical strength, yet wanting his science he would carry the marks of a combat of fifteen minutes with him to the grave. War is now emphatically a matter of science in which the practised and experienced fighter has all the advantage, and numbers or spirit is matter of little account. And if we take the Ocean, we will find ourselves unequally matched there again. Our enemies have learnt a sore lesson in the last War, and if we enter upon another with Great Britain it will be a war for glory, hand to hand and gun to gun, in which Americans have no doubt as to results, but a war in which they will endeavour to cripple us and break us down in every way. Superior skill, superior force, will be brought to bear upon us—equal contests will be shunned, our few ships will be captured or compelled to hide themselves, and what equality will there be in a contest between one of our 74's, and the British Queen or President, for example, fitted out with all the improvements of modern warfare, she could not escape her, the Steam-ship would take her position, dismantle, capture, or sink her in an hour. It is well perhaps for the cause of humanity that war has become now such a deadly strife among nations, as to make the unprepared look aghast at the idea of entering into it. If we wish for war, let us count the cost before we begin, and place ourselves in a position for it before it comes. Let us recall the 28 millions loaned the States, and apply it to defence and preparation, before we venture to swagger and talk big. Let us multiply our steamships, and ships of war, let us fortify our coasts, and increase the ways and means of transportation from State to State. Establish dock-yards and palaces as military depots, habituate ourselves to all the modern inventions in warfare, and then if war must come, and cannot be honorably avoided, we may enter into it with a hope of glory and success, but at present it is perfect nonsense to talk of it. Do not let our citizens be offended at plain and wholesome truth, we are no doubt a great people, a glorious nation, but let us bear in mind the saying of poor Richard, if you will not hear reason she will suelry rap your knuckles.

Abridged from the Courier & Inquirer of New-York.

Seizure of American Vessels by British cruisers.—We have had recent occasion, in connection with the affair of the Tigris, to direct public attention to the outrages committed by British cruisers upon American commerce on the coast of Africa. These outrages have been more numerous and more unjustifiable than we at first supposed; and are to be traced directly to the cupidity of trade, under the guise of an enlarged philanthropy. Our commerce with Africa is highly valuable and important. It was first opened on the Eastern coast, where there is a large and increasing market for our fabrics. With the most indefatigable spirit of enterprise our merchants have sought out such places of commerce as would give them some return for the hazards they have run of life and property in opening trades with uncivilized beings. Of this character is a very large part of our commerce with Africa, which the sagacity of the English government (always alive to the interests of their commerce and manufactures) has discovered is worth the risk of all their present molestations.

Failing in their attempts to undersell us, and thus drive us from the trade of Africa, the next step of the English government was to harrass our commerce. Their cruisers fired into our vessels, taking out their captains by force, detaining them as prisoners under guard, overhauling their cargoes on the pretence of search, examining their invoices and other papers in order to arrive at a more intimate knowledge of the trade, and endorsing their shipping papers with insolent and insulting comments. Thus, it will be remembered, the Jones was siezed at St. Helena by the Dolphin; the crew taken out and held as prisoners until they had all signed a paper which probably was thought sufficient evidence to condemn her at Sierra Leone, where she now lies at the mercy of the lawless plunderers, the Court finding nothing to substantiate the charge against her, notwithstanding the precaution taken at St. Helena to manufacture the most cogent proof of which the case would admit. Almost simultaneously with the seizure of the Jones was that of the Tigris, at Ambriz, on the coast, by the Water Witch. Immediately afterwards the Sea Mew was seized at the same place by the Persian. All these simultaneous seizures indicate a concert of action and a mutual understanding, that can be explained only on the idea of general orders from the home government.

The assigned cause of the seizure of the Jones is the circumstance of her having had on board some codfish for ship stores, which slaves had been known to eat; and a few rough boards for dunnage which are generally used for slaves, with two or three pair of hand-cuffs which vessels carry to confine mutineers. The allegation against the Tigris, in the suit now pending at Boston, is that the captain employed a native boy to wait on the cabin in capacity of servant, a practice common among all trading vessels, and even on board these very British cruisers. The seizure of the Sea Mew was on account of her having on board 3,020 feet of rough pine board, used in dunnaging her outward cargo: for which all the crew, except the captain and cook, were taken out and put on board the Persian; the captain kept in close confinement while she was sent to Sierra Leone, under charge of a British officer and crew. In the mean time a large portion of a very valuable cargo is left upon the coast, to the rapacity of these self-styled guardians of human rights, who have made themselves amenable to our laws as pirates, and ought to be demanded of the English government to be tried as such.

It is not difficult to assign motives for the conduct of these British cruisers, in the fact that they are entitled to one half of all the property which they can confiscate. Such prizes would warrant the purchase of any number of Portuguese affidavits at a very liberal compensation. These considerations, however, are of little importance in the view we take of the object. We look at the question solely in a national point of view; and desire only to direct public attention and stimulate our government in the adoption of measures to protect the rights of our citizens, and vindicate the honour of our flag.

Our foreign relations have been shamefully neglected during the administration of Mr. Van Buren. His cabinet have lost sight of our national interests and honour. They have submitted in silence to a series of outrages and insults on the American flag, more aggravated than those which were the cause of our last war with Great Britain. Our trade with the most important ports has been for years blockaded, on the most frivolous pretences, without remonstrance or rebuke. Our vessels have been visited and their masters treated with insolence; they have been searched and plundered, and yet we hear nothing of retaliation or redress. We hope and believe that the time is at hand when a better policy will prevail; a policy that will not only protect our merchants in the prosecution of a lawful commerce, but re-establish their rights, and retrieve the honour of the American name.

(Extract from the Boston Times.)

NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.—From the date of the treaty of Ghent, in 1805, to the present day, this question has been continually in negotiation, which has resulted in nothing; and in the mean time the British Government have proceeded from one pretension to another, each more arrogant than the last, until it claims a portion of the state of Maine as a part of Lower Canada, when it well knows that in every public act, relating to this territory, from the reign of James I., the territory thus claimed was excluded expressly from the boundaries of that province. And while the British Government has thus proceeded in her march of arrogance towards ourselves, it has been continually extending its empire over other parts of the world, until its sway is unequalled for extent, by that of any empire, ancient or modern. The whole history of the British nation, since the discovery of the Western continent, and more especially since the reign of George I., displays a spirit of aggression, of conquest, of dominion, of contempt for the rights of other nations, which the Romans never exceeded in the period of their highest ambition; and never was this spirit more active than at present. Having subdued and impoverished India, this insatiable people are driving their trade of aggression into the centre of Middle Asia; and, as if this were not enough, they are waging a war against the Chinese, which, for audacity of aggression, for contempt of all rights, either of individuals or communities, equals any recorded in the worst periods of antiquity. To this we may add the attack upon Egypt; which, in moral character, is precisely like the attack of a highwayman upon a traveller.

INSURRECTIONARY MOVEMENT OF THE LOCKPOKT MOB AGAINST M'LEOD.

[*From the Montreal Courier.*]

We regret to state that information reached us late last night upon the subject of Mr. Mc Leod's situation at Lockport, which gives much ground of alarm for his safety whilst it reflects deep disgrace upon the American name and institutions.

Bail having been procured to the amount of 5000 dollars for the appearance of Mc Leod to stand his trial, and the Judge having accepted the bail, and signed an order for his release, the mob of Lockport rose on Wednesday night last in considerable numbers and gathering tumultuously about the gaol prevented the Judge's order from being executed. Portions of the mob paraded the town with drums beating and military ensigns, under excitement as great as if the American territory had been invaded. They then organised a meeting for discussion upon the subject, forcing the Judge who had signed the order of release to leave his bed and appear before them to give an account of his conduct. Having sent a deputation into the gaol to report to the Sovereign People that Mc Leod was actually there in safe custody, their majesties abstained from further violence, simply guarding the gaol during the night, and bringing two pieces of cannon for their protection against assault.

On Thursday morning a warrant of arrest on civil process was served upon Mc Leod from Buffalo, the object being thereby to give the colour of law for his detention. Of course no man can be found bold enough to offer bail in the civil action.

Upon this event we have no comments to offer. If the laws in the United States are to be evaded, or violated with impunity, the Judges overawed, and every principle of justice trampled under foot by the congregations of lawless and ferocious miscreants beyond the power of restraint, it is not difficult to conjecture what will become of a country so utterly given over to anarchy.

We believe there is no doubt whatever that Mc Leod although bailed would have stood his trial, and by undeniable evidence have obliged any impartial jury to acquit him.

The American government must, like every other, be amenable to the law of nations, and the time is now about gone by, when the disreputable and dishonest plea will be recognised, that the general government is not liable for the offence committed by individual States.

The United States at present present a most extraordinary spectacle of a living libel on freedom of speech, of person, and of property—a disgrace to human kind."—*Montreal Herald.*

PAPINEAU, THE YOUNGER.—An animated debate took place in the New York Assembly, a few days since, on a memorial from Mr. Papineau, son of the Canadian Patriot, asking that he might be admitted to practice as an attorney in the courts of the State. Objection was made to granting the petition, on account of his being on alien. On the other hand, the case of the illustrious Emmett was cited as a precedent, and one member avowed that the fact of his being driven from his country for holding opinions adverse to British domination, was sufficient claim, and that the case of such a man should appeal to us with more than common force. The petition was finally granted, only two voting against it.—[American paper.

COMMODORE NAPIER.

We think that a more fitting opportunity than the present could scarcely be found for introducing to our readers some account of the brave Commodore Charles Napier; which we cannot do more characteristically than in his own words.

"I have," said the gallant officer, during an electioneering contest at Portsmoth, in 1833, "been asked who I am? I'll tell you: I am Captain Charles Napier, who five-and-twenty years ago commanded the Recruit brig, in the West Indies, and who had the honor of being twenty-four hours under the guns of three French line-of-battle ships, flying from a British squadron, the nearest of which, with the exception of the Hawk brig, was from five to six miles astern the greatest part of the time. I kept flying double-shotted broadsides into them. One of these ships only, the Hautpoit, was captured by the Pompey and Castor, the other two escaped by superior sailing. Sir Alexander Cochrane, my commander-in-chief, promoted me on the spot into her. At the siege of Martinique, the Æolus, Cleopatra, and Recruit, were ordered to beat up in the night, between Pigeon Island and the Main, and anchor close to Fort Edward; the enemy, fearing an attack, burnt their shipping. At daylight in the morning, it appeared to me that Fort Edward was abandoned; this, however, was doubted; I offered to ascertain the fact, and with five men I landed in open day, scaled the walls, and planted the Union Jack on the ramparts. Fortunately I was undiscovered from Fort Bourbon, which stood about one hundred yards off, and commanded it. On this being reported to Sir Alexander Cochrane, a regiment was landed in the night, Fort Edward was taken possession of, and the mortars turned against the enemy. I am in possession of a letter from Sir A. Cochrane, saying that "My conduct was the means of saving many lives, and of shortening the siege of Martinique." I had once the misfortune of receiving a precious licking from a French corvette; the first shot she fired broke my thigh, and a plumper carried away my mainmast. The enemy escaped, but the British flag was not tarnished. On my return to England, in command of the Jason, I was turned out of her by the admiralty, because I had not interest; but, as I could not lead an idle life, I served a campaign with the army in Portugal as a volunteer, when I was again wounded. At the battle of Busaco I had the honour of carrying off the field my gallant friend and relative, Colonel Napier, who was shot through the face. Busaco was not the only field where he shed his blood; at Corunna he was left for dead; but thank God, he escaped with six wounds. On my return to England, I was appointed to the Thames, in the Mediterranean; and if I could bring the inhabitants of the Neapolitan coast into this room, they would tell you that from Naples to the Faro Point there was not a spot where I did not leave my mark, and brought off with me upwards of 100sail of gun-boats and merchant vessels. I had the honour of running the Thames and Furieuse into the small mole of Ponza, which was strongly defended; and before they could recover from their surprise, I captured the island without the loss of a man. I was then removed to the Euryalus, and had the good fortune to fall in with two French frigates and a schooner. I chased them in the night close into Calvi, in the island of Corsica, passing close under the stern of one, plumpering her as I passed; and though we were going eight knots, I tried to run aboard of her consort, who was a little outside, standing athwart my hawse; the night was dark, the land close, and she succeeded in crossing me, but I drove her ashore on the rocks, where she was totally wrecked, and her consort was obliged to anchor close to her. The Euryalus wore round, and got off, almost brushing the shore as she passed. These ships were afterwards ascertained to be *armee en flute*, mounting 22 guns each, and the Schooner 14. From the Mediterranean I was ordered to America; and if my gallant friend Sir James Gordon were here, he would tell you how I did my duty on that long and arduous service up the Potomac: he would tell you that, in a tremendous squall, the Euryalus lost her bowsprit, and all her top-masts, and that, in twelve hours, she was again ready for work. We brought away a fleet from Alexandria, were attacked going down the river by batteries, built close to what was the residence of the great Washington, and I was again wounded in that action in the neck. On the peace taking place, I went on half-pay, where I remained till I was appointed to the Galatea, which ship I commanded for three years on this station; and I hope and trust that I have faithfully done my duty during that period to my king and country."

In continuation we may observe that in 1833, Captain Napier succeeded Admiral Sartorius in command of Don Pedro's fleet, and achieved a signal victory over the more numerous and powerful squadron of Don Miguel, which the gallant Englishman, with his British followers, captured at a single blow, by boarding. He now commands the Powerful, of 84 guns, with the rank of Commodore on the Syrian coast. This intrepid and enterprising sailor is the eldest son of the Hon. Charles Napier, R. N., of Merchistoun Hall, in the county of Stirling, and was born on the 6th of March, 1786.

GLASGOW, January 1st.—On inquiring recently into the subject, we were surprised to learn from Captain Miller, that the tee-totallers in Glasgow amount to more than 36,000 strong, of whom 10,000 are Catholics. These are composed of two or three societies, and all of them are on the increase. In fact, the new-year's day festivities during the last three or four years have entirely lost the character of brutality which belonged to them, and we have no reason to assume that they will pass off less creditably on this occasion.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Saturday, Feb. 6.

On the motion of Mr. Palmer,—That the House do now proceed to the Order of the Day, to go into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to limit the duration of the Assembly; and upon the question the House divided—Yeas, 9: Nays 16—whereupon it was decided in the negative; and the Order of the Day accordingly discharged.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Thomas Barlow, Daniel Leavitt, George A. Lockhart, and others, Merchants and Traders in the City of Saint John, praying that measures may be adopted to introduce a Copper Coin, of the proper value, in lieu of that of a spurious and valueless description now in circulation. Ordered that the said petition be received and lie on the table; and on motion of Mr. Partelow, Resolved, that the said petition be referred to a Select Committee to report thereon, by Bill or otherwise. Ordered, that the Hon. Mr. Weldon, Messrs. End and Partelow do compose the said Committee.

Mr. Partelow presented a petition from William Eagles, Michael Fisher, Barnes Travis, and others, inhabitants of the Parish of Portland and St. John, praying Legislative aid towards the completion of a Canal from the head of South Bay to the Main River Saint John, near to Indian Town. Ordered, that the said petition be received and referred to the Committee on Internal Communication, to report thereon.

Mr. Woodward moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to authorize the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, to lay out and open a Street in the said City, in continuation of Saint John or Water Street, (so called) southwardly to the prolongation of Saint James' Street.—Leave being granted, the Bill was read a first time.

Mr. Brown presented a petition from Wilford Fisher, of Grand Menan, in the County of Charlotte, setting forth that he had, with others, been most unjustly charged with the setting fire to the Episcopal Church at that place, and was consequently subjected to a prosecution for the alleged offence; that after a full trial and investigation into the matter, he had been acquitted by the *unanimous* voice of the Jury, and that too, without their having retired from the Jury box to deliberate upon their verdict; that the charge had been a most cruel and groundless one, and subjected the petitioner to a very heavy pecuniary expense, as also occasioned most serious loss in other respects; and prays that his case may be taken into consideration, and such relief in the premises extended to him as may be deemed just and reasonable.—Having read the petition, it was then moved—that the said petition be received, and referred to a Select Committee to examine and report thereon.—Upon the question, the House divided as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Barberie, H. T. Partelow, Street, End, Palmer, Taylor, Beardsley, Gilbert, J. M. Wilmot, Hayward, Owen, Brown, Woodward, Hill, Rankin—16: Nays—Hon'bls. Messrs. Johnston and Weldon, and Messrs. Boyd, M'Leod, Freeze, Jordan, L. A. Wilmot, Partelow, Wilson, Haningten, M'Almon—11: whereupon it was carried in the affirmative.—On motion of Mr. Brown, Resolved, That a Committee be now appointed to take the Petition under consideration. Ordered that Hon. Mr. Weldon, Messrs. L. A. Wilmot, Allen, End, and M'Leod, do compose the said Committee.

Mr. Woodward presented a petition from Robt. Payne, James Gallagher, Esquires, and 38 others, inhabitants of the Parish of Portland and the City of Saint John, praying that the Public Wharf situate at the termination of the Road leading from the said City to Indian Town may be extended. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee on Internal Communication to report thereon.

Mr. Taylor presented a petition from Leonard R. Coombes, and 57 others, freeholders and inhabitants of Fredericton, in the County of York, and the neighbourhood thereof, and of other parts of the Province, praying that an Act may pass limiting the duration of the Assembly to the period of four years. Ordered that the said petition be received and lie on the table.

Mr. Partelow presented a petition from James Whitney, of the City of Saint John, praying Legislative aid to enable him to keep up with efficiency, a regular Steam Communication from that place with the City of Boston, in the United States of America. Ordered, that the said petition be received and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Barberie moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to increase the representation of the County of Restigouche.

Mr. Hill moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to erect a part of the County of Charlotte into a sparate and distinct County. And upon the question, the House divided—Yeas, 6; Nays, 20—whereupon it was decided in the negative.

Mr. M'Leod presented a petition from Ass Davidson, John Brittain, William Pywell and 516 others, inhabitants of King's County, praying that an Act may pass authorizing an increased Representaion for the said County; which he read.—Ordered, that the said petition be received and lie on the table.

Mr. M'Leod moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to increase the Representation of King's County. Leave granted. The Bill was subsequently brought in and read a first time.

Mr. Rankin, by leave, presented a Petition from the Reverend Robert Archibald, Francis Peabody, Esquire, and 106 others, of the County of Northumberland, setting forth, that Petitions had at various times been presented with a view to procuring certain alterations in the Charter of King's College, which shall admit members of the Church of Scotland to a full and equal participation in all its rights, privileges, and immunities, as contemplated in the Act of Union, and praying that no alteration be sanctioned in the said Charter which shall not admit such free communication; which he read.

Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Several other Petitions of a similar nature were presented—One from the Rev. James Souter, and 130 others, of County of Northumberland—From Alex. McLaggan, and 145 others, of same County—From Rev. Dr. Birkmyre, and 106 others, of Fredericton—From Alex. Wright, and 115 others, of Westmoreland County—From Rev. Mr. McDonnell, and 118 others, of Gloucester County—From John Jardine, and 125 others, of the County of Kent.

Monday, Feb. 8.

Mr. Partelow moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to authorize the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of Saint John, to levy an assessment to pay off the County debt, and to assist in paying the General Contingent Expenses of the same.—Leave granted, and the said Bill being brought in, was read a first time.

Mr. Woodward, by leave, presented a petition from Edward L. Jarvis and others, comprising the Grand Jury for the City and County of Saint John, together with E. DeW. Ratchford and 14 others, inhabitants of the said City and County, praying that an act may pass authorizing the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate and establishing a Police for the said City and Parish of Portland.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the table.

Mr. Woodward moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to establish an efficient system of Police in the City of Saint John and Parish of Portland.—Leave having been granted, the said Bill was brought in, and read a first time.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, praying that no Act may pass authorizing the appointment of a Stipendary Magistrate and paid Police force, in the City of Saint John, for the reasons stated in the said Petition.—Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

The Honorable Mr. Weldon, by leave, presented a Petition from James Long, Esquire, and 55 others, inhabitants of the Parish of Dundas, in the County of Kent, praying that the Shediac River may be established as the Boundary Line between the County of Westmorland and the said County of Kent.—Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr. Palmer, by leave, presented a petition from James Brewster, Esquire, and seven others, Justices of the Peace for the County of Westmorland, together with 440 other inhabitants of the same County, praying that the western part thereof may be erected into a separate and distinct County.—Ordered, That the said petition be received and lie on the Table

The Honorable Mr. Weldon, by command of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, laid before the House—Return from the Custom House at Saint John, showing the existing Shipping belonging to that Port and Miramichi, on the 31st day of December last.

Mr. Palmer moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to erect the western part of the County of Westmorland into a separate and distinct County, and to provide for the Government and Representation of the same.—Upon the question for granting leave, the House divided—Yeas, 10; Nays, 14.—Whereupon it was decided in the negative.

The Honorable Mr. Speaker laid before the House—Return in abstract from the Mechanics' Whale Fishing Company, showing the state of the affairs of that Company from its first formation up to the 1st September, 1840; also, List of Persons owning Stock in the Company, at the same period.

The Honorable Mr. Johnston, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered the following Message:—

"J. HARVEY, *Lt. Governor.*

"The Lieutenant Governor informs the House of Assembly, that in the month of March, 1839, three hundred and ten Great Coats, obtained from the Ordnance Store, were issued to the Militia, then on duty, and retained by them; for these Great Coats, payment has been demanded, by order of the Board of Ordnance, at the estimated value of one shilling and sixpence Army sterling each, for defraying which expense, the Lieutenant Governor recommends that provision be made. "J. H."

Mr. Woodward, by leave, presented a petition from John Walker, of the City of Saint John, Merchant, praying for a loan of money to assist him in completing the Building now in the course of erection at the said City, for the purposes of a Bonded Warehouse, Treasury, Custom House, and other Public Offices; for the reasons set forth in the said petition.—Ordered, That the said petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr. Hanington, by leave, presented a petition from William C. Smith and 19 others, Merchants and inhabitants of Shediac, setting forth the great inconvenience to which they are subject in consequence of no Officer of the Customs being stationed at that place, and praying that measures may be adopted to remedy the same.—Ordered, That the said petition be received and lie on the Table.

The Honorable Mr. Johnston, by leave, presented a petition from Thomas Trafton, Jeremiah Drake and James Macgregor, Commissioners of Sewers for the City and County of Saint John, setting forth, that the Aboideau at the entrance of the City, on the Great Line of Communication between Saint John and the Nova Scotia Line, is in a very dangerous state; and praying that a grant may pass towards the rebuilding and completing the same.—Ordered, That the said petition be received, and referred to the Committee appointed to ascertain what sums are required for the improvement of the Roads throughout the Province.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a petition from the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, setting forth the large amount to which the City has been made liable by the operation of widening and repairing certain Streets in the Burnt District, (so called,) and praying a further pecuniary grant towards relieving the City from so grievous a burthen.—Ordered, That the said petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Wednesday, February 10.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot gives notice, that unless the information on the following points, in connection with King's College, for the years 1838, 1839 and 1840, are laid on the Table by the 18th instant, he will move an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the subject:—

1st.—A particular account of the Income and Expenditure:

2d.—The number and names of Professors and the distribution of Professorships:

3d.—The number and names of the students—shewing whether residents or non-residents:

4th.—An account of Lands sold or leased since 1837—shewing for what price and at what rent:

5th.—The names of the Graduates (distinguishing the Degrees) since the establishment of the said College; together with the names of those Students who have completed their Theological studies; and the names of those who have had the benefit of Scholarships during the same time.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

The Bill for paying Grand and Petit Jurors in the County of Carleton, was read on Saturday a third time in committee and passed.

Monday was chiefly occupied in reading petitions, being the last day for receiving private petitions.—Mr. Fisher introduced a Bill vacating the seats of Members of the Assembly in certain cases.—A Bill to extend the Jail limits of the County of Carlton so as to include the dwelling-houses within the district, to the necessity of which we alluded last autumn; was finally read and passed on Monday.—Mr. Fisher's Bill for taxing wild lands, was arrested at its last reading by a proposal to exempt the Lancaster Mill Company from its operation; and a Rider to that effect being attached to the Bill, there was a majority of two against passing it, with that clause. A Bill of a similar nature under another title, was then introduced by Mr. Fisher. A Bill regulating the drawing of Jurors, was read and passed.

On Tuesday a Bill to assess the County of Charlotte, to pay off its debt, was read and agreed to. Another, to alter the sitting of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and general sessions of the Peace for the County of Sunbury, from the third Tuesday to the second Tuesday in January, was passed in Committee.—A Bill for the naturalization of Aliens, was read a third time, and passed.—[Sentinel, Feb. 10.

Mr. Street's Bill for the better administration of justice, which had been twice before the House in Committee on previous days, and the first clause of which had been passed, was again taken up on Wednesday. The object of the learned mover was merely to introduce a Bill simplifying the pleadings in Courts of Justice, and to commute the Judges fees, allowing them a fixed sum in lieu thereof. It also went to authorise the Judges to frame a table of fees, and the first clause contained a provision to that effect; providing that such table shall be laid before the House; and not go into operation, until approved of by Resolution of the House. A similar Bill was sent up to the Legislative Council last year, but was lost in consequence of its containing a clause also commuting the fees of the Clerks of the Supreme Court in the same manner.

The Bill was opposed by Mr. End and other gentlemen, upon the ground that the practice of the Courts does not require altering, and that the table of fees ought to originate with the Assembly. And it was when the House were in Committee the second day, that the clause was amended, making the enforcement of the table, contingent upon the Resolution of the House.

On Wednesday when the subject again came up in Committee, Mr. End called the attention of the Committee to the Clerk's fees, which he proposed should also be commuted. This was opposed by Mr. Street, and supported by other members, who were in favour of the measure; and upon the committee dividing, there appeared a large majority in favour of the motion. The salary of the Clerk of the Supreme Court was therefore fixed at £500, and the commutation of the Judges' fees, as respects the present incumbents, was fixed at £150. The Bill was then passed, and agreed to by the House.

Some conversation took place on Wednesday, in consequence of a statement made by the Hon. Mr. Johnston, one of the Commissioners for Government House, as to the state of the bank in front of the building. He stated that he had caused a scientific person to examine the place; and as it was probable that £1000 would be required to secure the bank, the Commissioners did not feel authorised to incur that expence. After some discussion with reference to the subject, it lay over till next day, when it was understood a report and estimate would be presented.

Mr. Boyd brought in a Bill to enable the Justices of the Peace to assess the County of Charlotte, to pay off the County debt; the order of the House having been dispensed with for that purpose.

On Thursday the House resolved itself into a Committee, for the consideration of the Bill for limiting the duration of the Assembly; when after a discussion of three or four hours it was negatived by a large majority.

A Bill passed the House yesterday altering the division line between the Parishes of Kingston and Norton.

A Bill to divide the Parish of Wakefield in the County of Carleton, also passed the House yesterday. We believe a similar Bill passed about three years since, which was rejected by the Legislative Council, very much to the disappointment and inconvenience of the inhabitants of that extensive parish.

The Committee in the case of Wilfred Fisher, yesterday reported against the House interfering with the general principle of law, that the Queen pays no cost; and concluded by an expression of regret that the petitioner had been subject to much hardship and expence, having been found innocent of the charge by the Court and Jury.

Various petitions in favor of taking the duty off flour and salted provisions, were yesterday upon motion of Mr. Brown, referred to a committee to report upon.—*Ibid, Feb.* 13.

Communications.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

MR. EDITOR,—From the weekly returns of Imports from the United States, (which will be found on reference to your journal,) it will be observed how much the Farming Interest of this Province requires protection. We are willing that our friends, the Novascotians, should occasionally supply our Markets, but it is preposterous to have all our sea-port towns glutted with *Foreign* dead meats, while the Native Farmers do not obtain a remunerating price, and the Country is now well stocked with stall f d Beef, waiting a period to arrive at which the owners can afford to sell.

The Mercantile community must be blind to their own interest, and the Representatives of the People for the Agricultural districts very unmindful of their duty to their constituents, if this matter is not brought to the light. It is a mistaken policy to reduce the price of provisions to the lowest ebb, particularly as this is not a manufacturing Country. It would seem that the sole object is to cheapen the markets for the Lumberer, and the few distressed persons that may reside in the Towns, but if there is not a change for the better, we will anortly be all poor together, and vastly increase the number of that description of citizens.

The Farming and Labouring classes constitute the greatest proportion of the community, (the latter being provided by the former,) and through them the Merchant and Vender of Goods, in a great measure, finds consumption for their Importations. And once compel the Farmer to dispose of his produce below the cost attendant on its cultivation, and away goes the prosperity of the Province. He must in his own defence wander from this country in some other new Colony, where the fruits of his labour will be more reasonably rewarded. Only consider the situation of the Shopkeeper when he is compelled to sell his goods below the rates at which he had laid in his stock,—immediate ruin is the consequence. The Farmer is similarly circumstanced, with this exception, that his downfall is more gradual, but down he must come, and then our flourishing Province, of which we so proudly boast, will recede in the same proportion as she advanced.

It is to be hoped, Mr. Editor, that our Legislature will do something more than grant a few hundred pounds to the Agricultural Societies, as a quietus to the anxiety manifested by a few members of the House, who endeavour in vain to call the attention of the majority to the subject.—It may be considered a matter of certainty if the Agricultural classes of the community do not receive a little more encouragement, and that ere it be too late, that the ill effects will be far and severely felt. Yours, &c. A. FARMER.

February 16, 1841.