determined were they that woman shall tell all in the confessional, that it is there laid down as a rule that, unless they did they should not have absolution. The Church of England did not teach that such pleas as the following were scriptural grounds for absolution :—"May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of the blessed Virgin Mary, and all saints, whatever good you have done, or evil you have suffered, be unto you for remission of sin, increase of grace, and the word of eternal life." Our Church teaches that remission of sin is by Christ alone. The Rev. Gentleman went into this argument at great length; in which he warned the meeting against the zeal and proselytising spirit of Rome, who had emissaries every where—in the garrets, in the cellars, in the dining rooms, and in the counting-houses; and he and other Protestant clergymen could not be blamed, and called uncharitable, for warning their followers. And gentlemen of the liberal press will abuse us for the most bigotted, narrow-minded, persecuting wretches that ever were known. (A laugh.) He was sorry that some of his religious brethren was so thin skinned about this same liberal press. (Applause.) For his own part, the only feeling he experienced when he saw such attacks upon him—and he generally did see them, for some kind friend always took care to send him the paper which contained any abuse of himself—was compassion for the writer who had so exposed himself. (Applause.) The rev. gentleman touched very briefly on the third head of his discourse ; namely, education. He was for "no surrender" on this point ; and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer could levy an education tax, and direct the collector to put down to what sort of education the tax-payer would wish it to be applied—Church of England, Romanism, or Dissent—he knew on which side would be a preponderating majority ; and it would be shown that the Romanists and Dissenters were guilty of what they charged upon Protestants, that they want our money to educate their children. (Tremendous applause.) The reverend chairman concluded by saying the next business will be to read the report.

Mr. Hardy, the Secretary, then read the report, which was a lengthy, though a well written, document, in which the position of Protestantism with reference to Romanism was reviewed. It contained a touching allusion to the recent sudden removal of the late Dr. Tattershall, one of the vice presidents and an able champion of the Protestant cause and the church ; and it concluded by applying to that much lamented minister the beautiful lines of Bishop Heber :—

"Thou art gone to the grave, but we will not deplore thee,
Since God was thy ransom, thy guardian, thy guide,
He gave thee, He took thee, and He will restore thee ;
And Death has no sting, for the Saviour hath died."

The Rev. W. Pollock proposed the adoption of the report, and, in doing so, paid the Rev. Chairman a high compliment for his straight forward unswerving advocacy of Protestantism—a course marked by utter disregard of worldly advantage, and more likely to obtain for the Rev. Canon a cross than a crozier. He drew a melancholy picture of the state of things in this country. The church betrayed ; the constitution broken ; the well-springs of learning in our universities poisoned ; the learned and pious of our church going over to the exploded delusions of Rome ; England forgetful of her privileges, and Ireland and some of our colonies delivered, bound hand and foot, to Rome. He alluded to the late case of the perversion of a youth by his tutor at Oxford, and the dispensation granted to him by a Romish bishop to continue, apparently, a true member of the Church of England, and to the Maynooth grant. Popery was a curse, and the minister was in a difficulty ; and to get out of the difficulty, he added to the curse, like a man too hot heaping on coals, and poking the fire. So much for the policy of the grant. Then for its morality. We had made our Queen swear popery was damnable, and then send more money to increase its ministers, its agencies, and its means of propagation, with her blessing to her Irish subjects. Then with regard to the author of the measure, he would not say much of him. Other people might have been deceived by him, but he never had. In 1829 an act of treachery unparalleled was recorded against him. He perhaps ought not to say unparalleled, for he had lately matched it in his treachery to the Protectionists. (Applause.) He hoped he was not uncharitable ; but he never, as a public man, had said one word in favour of sir Robert Peel. He ever believed him to be a true disciple of Caiphas, who would sacrifice purity to peace, and Christ to expediency. (Applause.) The reverend gentleman dwelt at some length on recent events, the extinction of Protestant feeling excited in the country by the Maynooth grant, by the agitation of the free-trade question, because that question touched the pockets of men, and concluded by inculcating a patient and determined perseverance in the cultivation of Protestant principles, as the means of protecting them from Romanism.

The Rev. F. Parry seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. B. Owen, of Bilston, moved the reappointment of the officers for the ensuing year. He discussed at some length the best polemical weapons with which to controvert popery. The two first and principal ones were the Scriptures and the spirit of prayer, and the next is the forty stripes save one (the thirty-nine articles,) by which the world distinguishes the doctrinal standard of the Church of England. The reverend gentleman, in a speech of great power and eloquence, demonstrated and illustrated this position. He never feared Rome ; he considered her modern exertions were the throes of her expiring existence ; and compared the recent liberal reforms of the present Pope to the new wine in the parable, which burst the old bottle. The rev gentleman's speech was characterized with the most remarkable felicity of illustration, and we regret the lateness of the hour precludes the possibility of our giving a more lengthened report.

The Rev W. Falloon seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

After a few words from the Rev Chairman, the Doxology was sung, and the meeting separated at half past ten o'clock.

Employment of the Poor in Ireland.—The cost of employing the Irish poor on public works amounted to £97,085 6s. in the month of October, and to not less than £347,061 16s. 1d. in the month of November ! The expense in the present month of December will not be much less than half a million, for there was an increase of upwards of 120,000 men in the number of labourers employed on these works between the first and the last week in November. The last week's payments in that month amounted to the prodigious sum of £117,591 1s. 4d., and the last day's payment to not less than £14,058 8s. 3d. It is quite idle to expect that sums as these will ever be repaid by the Irish landlords, unless they are expended on works of real utility, and thus made the means of creating a fund for their own repayment. It they are spent on useless roads, or frittered away unproductively in any other manner, a weight of debt will soon be accumulated, on the owners of property in Ireland, which will drive them to desperation, and make not merely repealers, but separatists of them all, unless the government consents to free them from their obligations, by throwing them on the nation. As there seems to be no longer any doubt that many millions of money will have to be expended in Ireland, in furnishing employment to the poor, we would again suggest that these vast sums should be expended in draining the whole of the cultivated land of Ireland systematically, and in reclaiming and colonising the immense wastes of that country. Thorough draining, wherever it is well done, pays at least ten per cent. on the original outlay, and the millions of waste lands in Ireland, if properly reclaimed, would furnish two or three millions of persons with both food and employment for ever. At present, millions of public money are expended on works, many of which will add nothing to the value of the land, or to the amount of permanent employment for the poor.—*Liverpool Times.*

The Limerick papers contain accounts of a desperate attempt to assassinate a gentleman of the county of Clare, for sending his wheat to market.

The injunction obtained by Mr. Henry Russell, to restrain Mr. Smith from performing several songs alleged to be his composition, has been dissolved by the Court of Chancery.

Important Decision.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, the right of aliens to be members of incorporated joint stock companies, was brought before the court on demurrer on a mandamus issued against the officers of the customs at Liverpool, for refusing to grant a British register to the Ecuador, the last steamer built for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, on the ground that some of the shareholders of the company were foreigners. All the bearings of the case were ably and fully argued *pro* and *con* ; and the precise and lucid judgment delivered by Lord Denman, not only decides the special case, but establishes a most important general principle in international law. The mandamus is issued. The question was raised under the Navigation laws.

The Repeal Association.—The usual weekly meeting of the Repeal Association was held on Monday, in Conciliation Hall. N. V. Maher, Esq. M. P., was called to the chair. The hall was very much crowded. Some subscriptions having been handed in, a letter was read from Mr. Doughey apologising for the term "a lie," which he had applied at a recent Young Ireland Meeting to some statement made by Mr. O'Connell. With the respect to the condition of the country, Mr. O'Connell said that he deeply regretted to be obliged to announce that the state of the country, was tenfold worse than it was that day week. The frost had set in, and cold and hunger were doing their work ; in fact, starvation was stalking through the land.—In Connaught, there were no less than forty-seven deaths from starvation within the week : not merely reports of deaths, but forty seven cases in which coroners' juries returned verdicts of deaths from starvation. Mr. O'Connell then made his statement for the day. It had reference to the reconciliation amongst the two sections of the repealers, and to that alone. He stated that he did not regret the proposition for a conference, though he thought he had not been met in a proper spirit. Still he had always acted on the principle that the true magic in politics was to be always in the right, and the next best course to place one's enemies in the wrong.—He thought he had done that by the course he had taken. Mr O'Connell then adverted to the question of "the forces," insisting that that was of vital importance to be discussed. That, with any thought of physical force, the association would be an illegal body ; that he thought it stood the members therefore upon their lives to prevent the entrance of the young Irelanders until that should be decided by the legal gentleman named upon the conference.—If their decision upon the question of the law should be against him he would summit ; if it was with him, then those gentlemen who had seceded should abandon their principle before they could return.—Mr. O'Connell then, in order to impress upon the public mind more forcibly the efforts he had made to reconcile Mr. Smith O'Brien, proceeded to read a letter from the Rev. J. Miley, D. D., a Roman Catholic clergyman in Dublin, and who acted as Mr. O'Connell's messenger of peace on the occasion, in which the Rev. gentleman gave an account of his mission and the result. After something like a row, occasioned by Mr. O'Neil, who deprecated the reference to lawyers, the rent was hastily announced to be £101.

Highland Bonnets for India.—Some orders have arrived in this town, from the East Indies, which in former days would have received the spirits of the old wives and youngsters in the Bonnet Hill, employed in knitting Highland bonnets ; but alas ! this branch of industry has long since fled to another quarter. An enterprising gentleman, who lives near the Bonnet Hill, and who had been in the habit of sending Highland bonnets abroad some time ago, received an order from the East Indies for eleven hundred and fifty bonnets for a regiment of Sepoys, with the measurement of every one of their heads to one fourth of an inch. He has received advice of their arrival with high praise for the good taste and excellent fit displayed in the execution of the order, with the measurement of the heads of another regiment of Sepoys, twelve hundred and eighty-two strong ; also other two orders for about two thousand five hundred bonnets from Ferozopore, from two commanding officers who have each raised a new regiment of Seikhs, with the measure of their heads. It may be interesting to phrenologists to learn that the size of the heads of the Sepoys is not nearly so large as that of the Seikhs. —*Dundee Advertiser.*

RUSSIA AND CIRCASSIA.

The *St. Petersburg Journal* announces that the Russians obtained, on the 16th ult., a great advantage over the troops of Shamil. This account states that he was forced to fly, leaving eight hundred men on the field of battle ; that he had lost four pieces of cannon, twenty-one caissons, several colours, three hundred prisoners, and the axe which he had always carried before him. The account also declares that the Murides pursued the mountaineers, and took from them all their booty which they had amassed in the beginning of the campaign. Shamil is said to have entered Weeden on the 21st ult.

TAHITI.

The French troops had surprised several of the posts established by the natives, but had themselves suffered severely in the encounter. The commander, M. Bruat, was killed in the affray, and his aide-de-camp lost his legs. The natives reported their loss at five killed and two wounded, and represented the French to have had one hundred killed, and nearly as many wounded. The court martial on Captain Bonard, of the Uranie, charged with having attached the natives of Huahine without orders, had acquitted him, and Admiral Hamelin had sailed for California, taking with him M. Moerenhout, appointed consul at that place. The state of Tahiti appears to be truly wretched. Trade and agriculture have been entirely abandoned and in order to starve the natives into submission the French are said to have destroyed the bread-fruit and other trees upon which the unfortunate people depended for subsistence.

Communications.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

Sir,—As Mr. Woodward, the President, and Mr. Ritchie, the Senior Vice-President of the Mechanics' Institute, have gone to Head Quarters to attend to their Legislative duties, I take upon me to beg of you to present my respects to your correspondent in yesterday's *Chronicle*, who signs himself "A Member," and to say to him that I shall be happy to have an interview with him, that I may communicate to him some information on certain points concerning which he appears to have received some wrong impressions. Let him be assured that I as well as the other Directors, will be happy to receive any hint or suggestion, given in a calm and friendly manner, that may tend to improve the Institute, in any of its departments.

If you are not personally acquainted with "A Member," be pleased to insert the above request in your next, where it will meet his eye, and oblige

Your's truly,
JAMES PATERSON,
Vice-President.
St. John, Jan. 30.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.

Sir,—Observing a communication in your paper of Friday last, over the signature of "a Member," animadverting upon the conduct of the Directors of the Mechanics' Institute towards Professor Jack, on the occasion of his recent visit to this city, I have to request that you will make room in your columns for a few observations, which I deem it expedient to make in reference thereto.

While every man who accepts a trust, though unaccompanied by emolument, must be understood as pledging himself to diligence and faithfulness in the discharge of it, and is, accordingly, censurable for misconduct or inattention, he has a right to expect *fair dealing*, at least, from those whom he has consented to serve ; and that, even when in error, he will not be exposed to rough or *uncourteous* treatment at their hands. Whether the officers of the Mechanics' Institute have experienced either courteous or *honorable* treatment from 'a Member,' and whether that personage has been actuated by purity of motive, a little attention to the following observations will enable your readers to determine.

I would observe in the first place, that if your correspondent is what he professes to be 'a Member' of the Institute, he should be aware that there is a method of making known and obtaining redress for individual or collective grievances, without troubling the public with them. Had he preferred his complaint at any monthly meeting of the members, the subject of it would, no doubt, have been fully investigated, though, perhaps, such a course would not so well have served the purposes of detraction.

Your correspondent, after alluding to the declension of interest in the Institute, on the part of the public, skips to the conclusion that it is traceable alone "to the want of the common courtesies of life towards those gentlemen who have felt sufficient interest in the welfare of the Mechanics' Institute, to devote their time and talents to maintain its reputation ;" and he illustrates his position by the case of Professor Jack, whom, he asserts, *not one* of the Directors ever went to welcome, or to offer assistance to, in preparing the apparatus for his lecture.

Had your correspondent condescended to inform himself on the subject, he would have ascertained that the writer of this communication, to whom the duty especially appertained, called on Professor Jack at an early hour of the morning after the arrival of that gentleman in this city—that not finding him at his lodgings, he left his card, and proceeded forthwith to the Hall of the Institute, where, learning from the keeper that the Professor had been there, but had gone out, he resumed his search, and espying him in King street, in company with another gentleman, introduced himself as the Corresponding Secretary of the Institute, and at the same time informed him, that he had been in quest of him for the purpose of tendering his services—stating that he should be most happy to render whatever assistance lay within his power to bestow. These the Professor dispensed with, saying that the gentleman at his side had undertaken to assist him, and that he also expected to see Dr. Paterson. Whereupon the undersigned, in substance, intimated that if he (Professor Jack) should require any thing, he had only to make the want known, and it should be attended to ; and, taking leave, heard no more from the Professor.

With respect to the alleged filthy state of the Philosophical Apparatus belonging to the Institute, it may be observed that if what "A Member" states is indeed true, the fact of its being found by the Professor in an unfit condition for the performance of experiments, is owing to his having obtained admission to its place of deposit without the knowledge of Dr. Paterson in whose charge it was, and before the Dr. had an opportunity of ascertaining whether it had been properly cleansed, in pursuance of directions which he had given for that purpose, some of the instruments having been in use a few days before. It may be added that Dr. Paterson paid the Professor all the attention in his power supplying him with some of his own apparatus.—Your correspondent toward the close of his paper, gives the public to understand that he has "not ascertained whether Professor Jack has received, any thanks for all his trouble." Very possibly not—'twould be singular indeed if a person so utterly ignorant of the subject on which he has undertaken to enlighten your readers, had ever made such a discovery. Perhaps his acquaintance with the usages of public bodies in general, and of the St. John Mechanics' Institute in particular, will be enlarged by the information, that the thanks of that body are never conveyed to the Lecturers until the close of the Season, when the Corresponding Secretary attends to that duty in pursuance of a general vote passed for the purpose.

Your obedient servant,
W. R. M. BURTIS,
Corresponding Secretary Mechanics' Institute.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Messrs. Editors.—It is said that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.—If the conductors of the Courier are inclined to commence a war against private character with you, it might be charitable to advise them to consider the consequences. In a *Christian* community, I should think the less said the better, as there *may be private* characters that would not make a very good *public* exhibition.

CAUTION.

FOR THE CHRONICLE.

Messrs. Durant.—I am not much accustomed to writing for Newspapers, but your observations upon the publication of Mr. Howe's letters in the Courier, have excited my attention, and as an old inhabitant, perhaps you will allow me to offer an opinion.—I recollect your Father—I think he was in partnership with Chubb, and died under the impression that Chubb would continue a friend to his family, and made him an executor.—I have always looked upon Chubb as a good natured individual, and believe he was never suspected of writing an editorial ; and therefore I am disposed to exonerate him, if anything should appear in his Paper deserving condemnation.

Now, in this controversy about Howe's letters, I have observed, that while you have acted wholly upon public feeling (and a feeling, I will say, worthy of the descendants of Loyalists) the Editor of the Courier, (whoever he is,) has acted a most low, and despicable part. I had, I confess, until now, a considerable respect for the Courier newspaper ; but if it is to be conducted in future, as it has been lately, every good subject must set his face against it.—You state, I observe, that it has been conducted in this manner for a long time : I suppose you mean with respect to the selections. I believe the proprietors have been looking more to their own interests than those of the Province.

But, instead of being met by fair, manly argument, I see you are now accused of living upon charity. Even this is better than being liable to the charge of dishonesty. If you had the estates of several Bankrupts in your possession, you might be living in affluence upon the property of Widows and Orphans. What you have, I believe you obtained honestly.

But there may be others, like myself, surprised to see the Courier disgraced by the lowest personalities, instead of being upheld by respectable argument, and while they read its despicable editorials, exclaim, is this the pretended leading journal of New-Brunswick ? Its contemptible falsehoods would disgrace the lowest paper in the Province. Is the Editor one of us, whose fathers sacrificed every thing to their loyalty, or is he a republican interloper ? Who is this republican *under Secretary*, whose baneful influence is every where felt ? Who is this *secret no-body*, whose pestiferous breath polutes the political atmosphere of the whole country, and who takes such apparent delight in sowing the *Seeds of rebellion* ? If there is such an enemy to the principles of our fathers among us, let us know it, and let him be held up to public scorn. I trust there is still enough of public virtue amongst us to consign such a republican miscreant to political oblivion. An open, manly foe, would only excite our valour ; while a secret, cowardly knave may carry off our children while we are asleep.

My Boys, you will forgive my enthusiasm—my father's old rusty sword, which he brought with him from New-York, caught my eye at the moment, and I recollected the charge he had given me never to forget my duty to my Sovereign. I am ready to rub up the old, honoured, weapon, and to wield it against the enemies of my Queen, whether secret or avowed.

THE SON OF A LOYALIST.

☞ Blanks, Handbills, and Job Printing of all kinds, executed at the Chronicle Office at lowest prices.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 5, 1847.

The Distress in Ireland.—In our last we gave extracts from British papers received by Mail, shewing the pitiable state of distress and starvation to which the poorer classes in Ireland are at the present time reduced.—This is not only the case in that part of Britain, but also in Scotland—it exists in France, Belgium, and many other places on the continent. But from the first named our accounts are truly heart-rending—the people suffering the most extreme misery, and dying of exposure and starvation. The condition of the masses is represented to be frightful in the extreme, and if ever the offerings of the benevolent were required it is now.—Many may be the causes to which this state of things is attributable, and in which the peasantry themselves are principally to blame, but it is no time now to inquire where such faults may be or have been—relief must be furnished, and that without delay. There is a mass of untold misery in almost every parish, the description of a fractional part of which would make the blood run cold, and letter writers state it to be too horrid for delineation. The public works are totally inadequate to the crisis ; and altho' the government are doing what they can, it never yet befel them to be required to give employment to a whole nation. A letter says "oh ! what a combination ! cold, damp, pain, sickness, hunger and nakedness, and this multiplied on every one of a miserable domestic group, by seeing it endured by all the rest. May a gracious God keep us from knowing what it is, by personal experience !" "On the coast of Ireland many of the peasants now live upon sea-weed."

This alarming state of deprivation now endured by our fellow-countrymen in Scotland and Ireland, has occupied the attention of this community during the present week, and on Tuesday a Public Meeting was held at the Court House in this city for devising suitable means to render succour to those in distress. Appropriate resolutions were passed, and Committees appointed for each Ward in the city to procure subscriptions. A Petition to the Legislature, for aid to be sent, was also prepared and read, and has been transmitted to Fredericton. This latter we conceive to be the *only really efficient and prompt* manner of giving the required relief—it will then come from all classes in the country, and we would say to the House of Assembly—let the sum be worthy of the source from which it comes, and suitable to the extreme exigency of the case.—However bountiful, it will never be missed from our Treasury, when designed to such a charitable object ; while it will not only raise the character of our Province and its rulers high in the estimation of a revered Sovereign and a British public, but ever be held in grateful remembrance by those for whom the succour is more particularly designed, and by their anxious friends and relations scattered all over the world.

Concert.—The Sacred Music Society of this city intend giving a Concert on Wednesday evening next ; particulars of which will be given in a programme previous to that evening.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Monday evening last, Doctor Paterson entertained a large audience, many of whom were young persons, with instructive experimental illustrations of some of the most important laws of the Electric Fluid.

George Otty, Esquire, will deliver a lecture this evening on the *Quadrupeds of New Brunswick*, and on Monday Mr. LeSuer will resume the subject of *Affectation.*

Monsieur LeChaudelec.—We are pleased to find that this gentleman is handsomely patronized as a French teacher. It adds testimony to the increasing good taste of our fellow citizens. His method of instruction is facile and purely Parisian.

Reporting the Debates.—This subject has been brought up and discussed in our new House of Assembly ; the argument concluding by a resolution from Mr. Partelow to the effect that the House will make no provision for Reporters the present Session ; which was carried.—This is as it should be, and it is hoped that the House will, for once, adhere to their Resolution in this matter. If we recollect right, on *two* former occasions the House came to a similar conclusion, yet their favourite printers were afterwards paid, for a service which in any other country the publishers of newspapers are glad to perform for their own advantage. But such, of late years, has become the system in this Province, that if followed up, it will be quite a respectable drawback upon the Provincial Revenue, something like £500 having been paid for that service last Session—an object which need not cost the Province one penny. In conversation on this subject with a leading contemporary, a short time since, he remarked "only let it be *positively* known that "the Legislature will make no grant for reporting, "and that the Fredericton press will not do it without such stimulus, we shall send a reporter ourselves."—So say we, and if our new Legislators strictly adhere to their present Resolution—independently of a great saving to the Province—the object will be more honestly accomplished, and the next Session will witness more Reporters in the House than at any former period.

It is the happiness of the people of these Colonies to enjoy a degree of political freedom and security, which no other people ever enjoyed on the face of the earth. Protected by the most powerful empire which the world ever saw, without being required to contribute any thing to the maintenance of that protection, they "sit under their own vine and fig tree, no one daring to make them afraid."

It naturally fills the mind with indignation, to see attempts made to convince a people so circumstanced, that their political condition is an unhappy one, and that they are oppressed. An intimate knowledge of human nature, however, will prevent our being greatly surprised that political demagogues should arise, base enough to resort to any means, in order to make themselves important.—But the efforts of such unquiet spirits would be comparatively harmless, if the Press should refuse to disseminate their pernicious principles. When, therefore, a public journal, boasting of its wide circulation, lends its columns to the diffusion of disloyalty and discontent, a public offence is unquestionably committed, which imperatively calls for adequate punishment.

An offence of this kind, however, was lately committed by the *Courier*, of this city, in the uncalled for re-publication of political letters of a most pernicious tendency ; and, as the oldest conservative journal in the Province, we felt it to be our duty to express our unqualified disapprobation of the course pursued by our contemporary. Irritated by our remarks, the Courier has exhibited the true spirit of *liberalism*. We have not, however, descended to personalities, nor ever, replied to them. "If," indeed, "from the profoundest contempt, we should ever rise into anger, he would find that all we have yet said of him was but lenity and compassion." With the dignity, on the contrary, which became a conservative journal, we have treated the question as one entirely of a public nature ; and having administered the chastisement due to the offence, we now dismiss the subject, but with the remark, that on any future occasion of the like nature, we shall again resume our indignant pen.

The first Journals of the proceedings of the Legislature were not received in St John until this morning. We shall give copious extracts from these sources of information in future numbers.

New-Brunswick Railway.—We are informed that advices were received by last Mail from England, regarding this project in a most favourable light : and preliminary measures have so far progressed, that stock lists will shortly be opened, and the work go in operation the ensuing spring.

Temperature.—There occurred 12 cold snaps ranging from 0.12 to 11d Fah. at St. John in Jan. 1846, with an aggregate of the averages above the 0, deducting all belows, amounting to 376d.

In like manner, in Jan. 1847, 15 cold snaps of similar frigidity, 553d.

The nearest estimate of the measure of snow and sleet fallen from the first flurry, 25th Oct. 1846 to 31st January 1847, 8 feet 8 inches.

The Dwelling house of Mrs. Morrison, widow of the late Donald Morrison, Richmond, was burned to the ground on the 22d inst. A man by the name of Glenn, with a family consisting of a wife and four children, occupied the farm as a tenant, and lived in part of the same building.—*Woodstock Telegraph.*

Disaster.—On Monday afternoon, off Harbour de Lute, the pilot schooner Cherub, belonging to Messrs. Sargent and Hugh Maloney of this port, was run down by the schooner Calais, of Eastport, bound to Saint John. The collision could only be attributed to the carelessness of those on board the "Calais." The "Cherub" was close on a wind at the time, and having her canvass between her and the other vessel, could not possibly afford the only person on deck, an opportunity of seeing the Calais until she ran aboard. The Cherub lost her masts sails, and bowsprit ; and was so much injured in the hull, that she was in danger of sinking, and with great difficulty was got into Eastport.—*Charlotte County Gazette.*

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

This being the first Session of the present House of Assembly, shortly after one o'clock, P. M. His Honor Judge Carter entered the House for the purpose of swearing in the Members. Out of 39 members, 35 were present, the absentees being Mr. Jordan, Mr. Smith (who has lately suffered the deep affliction of losing his wife,) the Hon J. Montgomery (who is, we believe, on his way to England) and the Hon. M. Johnson, (who, being a member of the Legislative Council, declines serving.) The members present were all sworn, with the exception of Mr. Woodward, who being a member of the Society called 'Friends' were permitted to *affirm*.

At a quarter past two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite, having arrived, the Usher of the Black Rod commanded the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber, where the Hon Wm. Black, as President of the Legislative Council, conveyed His Excellency's commands to the House that they return and proceed forthwith to the Election of a speaker. Immediately on re-entering the House, Mr. Partelow arose and proposed the Hon. John W. Weldon, from Kent, (late speaker,) as the most fit and proper person to fill the chair. Mr. P. spoke on the singular ability with which Mr. Weldon had presided over them for the last four years—his high character and his intimate acquaintance with Parliamentary Rules ; and spoke of him in highly eulogistic terms. He said it was his wish that Mr. Weldon be elected unanimously, and irrespective of politics. It had become now, a common practice for Legislative bodies to elect their speakers irrespective of their political opinions. Such had of late years, been the general practice in England, from the time Sir Charles Manners Sutton down ; and he hoped it would be adopted here.

Mr. Rankin rose to second the motion ; and he would take this opportunity of adding his testimony to the high encomiums the mover of the Resolution had very justly bestowed on Mr. Weldon, for the able and respectable manner in which he had presided over the last House.

Mr. Fisher, in rising, said he fully agreed with what had fallen from Hon. Members, that a speaker should be elected irrespective of his politics—this had not been done at the meeting of the last House, and he thought the rule had then been unwisely departed from. (Here the Hon. Member referred to the retention of Mr. Abercrombie, and Mr. Labouchere, as speakers of the house of Commons, during periods when the party to which they belonged was in the minority.) If Mr. Weldon be now elected, he hoped it would be fully understood and so go abroad that the house had elected him irrespective of politics.

The House having by their silence testified their acquiescence in Mr Weldon's election, Messrs Partelow & Rankin rose and conducted him to the Chair.

The speaker then briefly and in a handsome manner returned thanks. In regard to what Hon Members had been pleased to say in praise of his past conduct as speaker, he begged leave to say that past experience had admonished him that he could not preside with utility, and to their satisfaction unless members of the House would generally support him by their confidence, their candour and kind co-operation ; and these he was certain they would accord to him. He begged once more to tender them his sincere thanks for what they had done him.—*Loyalist.*

Jan. 29th.—Mr. Gilbert moved a Resolution the purport of which was—That as the hon. Hugh Johnston had not taken his seat in that House pursuant to the Sheriff's return, that his hon. the speaker do declare the seat vacent, and issue a writ to the Sheriff of Queens for the return of a new Member.

Mr. Partelow objected to the phraseology of the Resolution ; it was a question whether Mr. Johnston, being a Member of the Legislative Council at the time of the Election did not make him ineligible for a Candidate, and if so, whether the the votes polled for Mr. Johnston were not entirely thrown away, and the Candidate standing then up on the Poll Book entitled to his seat.

Hon. Mr. Hazen thought the matter had better be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. Ritchie thought the Resolution premature, inasmuch as the House had nothing to act upon—The Freeholders of the county might petition before the 14 days expired, and then the subject would be fairly and legitimately before the House.

Mr. Gilbert said the Resolution might be considered premature ; yet he trusted the House would not wait 14 days before some action was had in the matter. Hon. Member would recollect that in the meantime the Country was unrepresented.

Mr. Hannington thought that some action should be taken in the matter at once—the very fact of Mr. Johnston then occupying a seat in Council was in his opinion sufficient ground to act upon.

Mr. Brown said he thought the Resolution then before the House was in proper shape, and required no alteration. The Sheriff's return showed that Messrs. Johnston and Gilbert had received a majority of votes which were returned for Queens—this did not admit of a question. Mr. Johnston had, by refusing to take his seat, vacated it, and in his opinion a new writ should issue at once.

Dr. Thompson thought a Committee had better be appointed to examine the journals of the Council and if Mr. Johnston's name was found recorded there, that would be proof positive that he did not consider himself a member of the Lower House ; in such case, he was of opinion that the candidate who stood next on the Poll Book, should take his seat ; by adopting this course, a great expense would be saved, both to the Province and County.

Mr. Botsford was of opinion, that the House had not sufficient facts before them to proceed upon—the question was, whether Mr. Johnston was, or was not a Councillor ; he thought the report of a Committee would perhaps be the best source of information.

Mr. Partelow moved an amendment to the resolution, referring the whole matter to the Committee of Privileges to report upon.

Mr. Ritchie said that justice would seem to require that the seat should not be declared vacant, as the County might yet petition, and Mr Earl take the seat without further trouble.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot thought the observations that had just fallen from the hon. and learned member who had just sat down, worthy of consideration.—If Mr. Johnston at the time of the Election was really ineligible for a Candidate, it was certainly plain that Mr. Earl stood second on the Pool Book : perhaps the best way would be to refer the subject to the Committee of Privileges, and let their report be recorded on the journals.

Mr. Gilbert said that Mr. Johnston had informed him, that he did not intend to take his seat ; he therefore thought the proper course would be to open a new writ, and let the constituents choose for themselves.

After some farther conversation the question was taken on Mr. Partelow's amendment, which was carried without a division.

Jan. 30th.—Mr. End, from the Committe appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's opening speech, submitted a draft which he read in his place. The House went into a Committee of the whole, in consideration of a draft of an address in answer to His Excellency's opening speech—Mr. Woodward in the Chair.—Some considerable discussion arose from the fifth paragraph, which refers to the introduction of some portion of the English poor laws.

Hon. Mr Hazen said that some amendment was certainly required to the poor laws at present in existence in this Province. Under the present system, the paupers belonging to country parishes found their ways into the towns and cities where poor houses were erected, and consequently became chargeable upon their inhabitants ; this was the case to a very considerable extent both in St. John and Fredericton, whose inhabitants had very just cause of complaint. He trusted some steps would be taken to move this evil.

Mr. Boyd concurred in what had just fallen from the hon. and learned member from St. John. The same evil complained of as existing in Fredericton and Saint John, also prevailed very considerably at St. Andrews.

Mr. Hannington objected to the introduction into this Province of any portion of the English poor-laws—he did not yet learn that the poor laws at present in operation in this Province, required amendment. he had never seen any difficulty in their operation. As to the remark which had fallen from the two hon. members who had preceded him, he thought they were not borne out by facts ; he did not believe that the poor of the country parishes flocked into the cities and towns. (From Mr. L. A. Wilmot—*it is true.*) There might be cases where poor Emigrants lately arrived, thronged the cities and towns—but that class of persons were properly chargeable upon the emigrant fund. In the cases of the other class alluded to, he thought when a poor man could not find employment in the towns, he generally found his way into the country where he could always obtain work, instead of the very reverse being the case.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot would never consent to the introduction of any portion of the English poor laws in this Province—many portions of them were disgraceful to humanity. (Hear ! hear !)

Mr. Ritchie reprobated in strong language the practice at present adopted in the country parts of the Province of setting up their paupers at public auction, and selling them like dumb brutes—which he designated as unchristian, unfeeling, and inhuman—(hear, hear.)

After some further remarks from hon. members, the Chairman reported the draft as agreed to, with some few amendments.—*News.*

Awful Accident.—A horrible catastrophe occurred on the Reading (Pennsylvania) Railroad on Thursday evening, about 8 o'clock. A train of empty coal cars had proceeded about 9 miles from the city, above Manayunk, when, on arriving at Mill creek, the locomotive exploded with tremendous force, killing seven men, who were on it.—The sight, as described to us was truly horrible.—The trees in the vicinity were strewn with portions of the mangled forms of the men. So awful had been the explosion, that not a particle of their clothing nor features could be indentified. The fragments were scattered far and wide, some being found a quarter of a mile distant. The locomotive and tender were blown to pieces, and the atoms scattered in every direction. Six of the men killed were employed on the cars, and the seventh was a passenger, who had a pass to go to Pottsville on the train. They all belonged to Port Richmond, except this man. The fragments were gathered together as well as possible, and the coroner of Montgomery county being summoned, held an inquest on them. The only name known is that of the engineer, which was Jacob Sulzburger. As all the men on the train were congregated around the furnace to warm themselves, there is no living witness left to tell how the accident occurred. All hands were killed, and all that can be said about it is but supposition. The great shock of the explosion was heard by the persons residing in the vicinity, and they were attracted to the spot by it. It is supposed that the hands were careless, and that there was too little water in the boiler, which caused the explosion. There are also rumours afloat which throw the blame on a fireman, who is said to have a spite against the engineer, but this, no doubt, is all idle talk.—*Philadelphia Messenger.*

Pay To-Day and Trust To-Morrow.—The clerk of the United States House of Representatives having sent an order for several copies of "The Chronotype" to be sent to members of Congress, with the usual offer of pay at the close of the session, the editor responds to the application as follows :

"We take this mode of replying that we do not furnish the Chronotype on trust. If Uncle sam wants it from this date to the 4th March, he is hereby informed that he may have it for sixty-two cents, in advance, which he may send us in gold, silver, or copper, or go without the paper. This is the way we treat all others, and we do not see why we should treat differently an old gentleman who is squandering his money in quarelling with his neighbours, and who has less gumption in finance than any one of the thousands of individuals who have heretofore subscribed for our 'valuable paper.'

The Pennsylvania Volunteers.—Col. Wynkoop has found it necessary to commit to the civil authorities of New Orleans, twenty unruly members of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. An affray occured in the tavern in that city on the 11th instant, in which a member of the Cadwalader Grays received a gun shot wound. It appears that they went into the tavern and called for some liquor. The bar keeper demanded the money first. The soldiers refused, and some altercation took place, when the bar keeper took hold of a loaded fowling piece, and discharged it at one of the volunteers, wounding him dangerously with small shot in the head. The bar-keeper, and two others in the house were subsequently arrested by the military, who handed them over to the civil authorities. The wounded man is said to be a native of Wyoming.

Episcopal Clergymen.—There are now in the United States thirteen hundred and seventy-three clergymen of the Episcopal Church ; and two hundred and eighty-eight candidates for Holy Orders.

A Feat by the Mexicans.—The Mobile ... bune has a letter dated U. S. ship Princeton, ... 30, which says :—The Mexicans have at las... formed one feat to challenge surprise and pra... They have cut out and burnt our prize sch... "Confederations," ashore on Green Island... the night of the 18th a party approached the s... er, in boats, and there was no body on board... that, they fired her and returned back to Vera... without loss. The John Adams was ancho... the time about one and a half or two mile d... and the first notice received of the hostile at... was the blaze of the burning vessel. On the... ult., the prize schooner Charles Morris arrived... off Tabasco. She brought intelligence that i... hour after Commodore Perry had left the plac... Tabasquinos had drawn the spikes from the... and planted them in a defensive state. The... they are quite ready for another fight fro... Commodore, and will give him a more milit... ception than he received before.

The Peace Proposition.—A rumour ha... vailed in Washington city, for some days, ... Calhoun was about to introduce a proposit... the Senate, that the army should be with... from Mexico, and a peace commission sent to... upon a boundary with the Mexican governm...

Pistols for the Government.—The Ne... ven, Conn., Palladium says :—We understa... Eli Whitney is now manufacturing one tho... Colt's revolving pistols for the government... Colt is here himself aiding the manufacturer... demand for these pistols for the Mexican ... such that it cannot be supplied in New Yo... almost every officer secures one for person... before he goes out to "extend the area of free...

A Convenient Hotel Appendage.—W... yesterday, says the New York Commercial,... state of J. V. D. Wyckoff, 149 Broadw... machine intended as a substitute for toon... which has just been completed for the use of... hotel in Boston. It is called "Jackson's... Enunciator." The one in question has numb... two hundred rooms, and including the ma... frame in which it is enclosed, occupies a s... about two and a half by four feet. It is inten... be placed on the book keeper's desk, to w... will be rather an ornamental appendage th... incumbrance.

The numbers are painted in regular orde... one to two hundred, in rows on the face... machine, and all are hidden from view by... covers moving on pivots attached to the in... machinery. On the cord being pulled in ... the room, the cover turns downward and d... the corresponding number, and so remai... the person who attends upon the machine r... it. At the same instant when the cover f... alarm is given by a small gong concealed... interior of the machine. Should the c... touched in more than one of the rooms at th... instant, the numbers of all will be disclosed ... neously. The re-placing at the cover is ... plished by the turning of a crank, which i... ately hides from view all the numbers pre... disclosed. The construction of the mac... extremely simple, and we do not see how... well get out of order. In this respect, as ... many others, it is a great improvement ... old plan, which, we are inclined to thi... have to give place before long to the new... well regulated hotels.

The New York Courier & Enquirer ma... following most sensible observation on the ... inefficiency of the Volunteer system as pur... the United States. Such must ever be t... when men are permitted to choose the... officers. Discipline, without which an ... but a rope of sand, never can be attaine... such an absurd regulation :

"All parties are now satisfied, that to acc... any object, we must abandon the volunteer ... and rely solely upon the regular troops. ... dent of their insubordination—the inevitab... quences of their officers being *elected by the* ... *and dependent upon them for promotion*—the... not how to take care of themselves ; they ... helpless, sicken and *die*, in the identical p... where the regular soldier who submits to di... and is a mere machine in the hands of hi... is, with the same rations and clothing, ... well clothed and well cared for ; and in conse... healthy, active, and *efficient*.—Such ever h... and ever will continue to be the difference ... the volunteer and the Regular soldier ; ... events on the Rio Grande during the last six... demonstrate, that the volunteer system is on... mination—valueless, and enormously expe... The same men who as regular soldiers w... healthy, sober, well disciplined and effectiv... —as volunteers, are half-starved, hal... sickly, insubordinate multitude, dying by ... perpetrating gross outrages upon the inh... and thus exciting the worst feelings again... the hearts of a population who were ... receive us with open arms. We have the... authority for saying, that the Mexican peo... Northern Province, were almost invar... favour of annexation to the United states a... to receive our soldiery with open arms ; ... have been the outrages of some of our ve... who went to the Rio Grande armed with ... knives and revolving pistols in addition to ... kets, that nearly as many Mexicans h... killed in cold blood or in disgraceful broil... fallen in open fight. It is calculated th... that one thousand Mexicans have been ... broils with the volunteers ; and several hu... the latter have been cut off in the same wa...

Now we all know that our regular tro... every where treated the Mexicans with res... in return have been well received ; while ... bitants have constantly prayed to be ... against the *volunteers* ! Our Regular tr... have been healthy and efficient ; while the ... have died by hundreds. Whole compa... been cut off ; and a private correspond... compares them to a flock of sheep attacked... rot. At least three thousand it is ... died, and double that number been sen... invalids !!

But whatever their faults, and they h... innumerable, they are attributable to the ... system, *and not to the men themselves*... wanted for an army never congregated ... As individuals they were intelligent, pat... enterprising ; but they wanted what the ... system can never give—discipline and ... tion. And men huddled together without ... tion, are not only useless, and made to ... kinds of evils from carelessness, want, &c ... necessarily become dangerous to each oth... into all kinds of licentiousness and the wo... habits.

This *little* war with Mexico, which c... the country so unexpectedly, must be ... soon, or it will prove the grave of h... thousands of our fellow citizens, cost h... millions of dollars, and seriously injure ... estimation of the civilized world. We h... the *metal* of our volunteers, and shown ... reliance they constitute against invasion... idle to attempt to prove that they are ... to carry on a war in an enemy's countr... perience shows that none but disciplin... can carry on foreign wars efficiently and ... cally.

Already has the war cost double the ... it would have cost, had we resorted at on... lar troops ; and what will astonish most r... loss of life in this war, has probably ex... loss of life in the war of 1812 which ... years and a half ! Already have we lo... many men by the enemy as in the war of ... there can be no doubt, but we have lo... number by disease and private broils !

Declivity of Rivers.—It is stated th... ty of three inches per mile in a smoo... channel, gives a velocity to running wa... three miles an hour. The Ganges, wh... the waters of the Himalaya mountains, ... in the world, is at eight hundred mil... mouth, only eight hundred feet above ... the sea ; that is about twice as high as ... Church in London, and to fall these ei... feet in its long course, the water require... a month.