THE LEGISLATURE.

(From the City Reporter.)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Feb. 18.

EXCLUDING PUBLIC OFFICERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Mr. Botsford in introducing this bill, said he had long been of opinion that officers holding subordinate situations of emolument under Government should not hold seats in the House of Assembly. The bill before the House went only to exclude Deputy Treasurers, and other officers connected with the Customs and Excise; he would willingly go further if it met with the approbation of the House, and exclude all officers holding situations of emolument, excepting those holding offices deemed political. The practice of excluding from the Legislature officers of the Customs, was adopted in England so long ago as Queen Anne's reign; and why? because, if they sat in the House of Commons they might, from interested motives, support a high scale of duties, thereby increasing their incomes. For the same reason they might support an extravagant expenditure, thereby rendering heavy duties necessary. In the reign of William III. the officers of the Excise were excluded from Parliament for the same reason; and not only so, but the law then passed inflicted a fine of £500 upon one of them who should meddle with elections. Holding the views he had set forth, and liking the English practice of purifying the popular branch as much as possible, he had brought in this bill. His object in doing so was general; he had no reference to any hon. member in the present House, but sought the public good. The bill, if it should pass, would come into operation on the dissolution of the present House. He would not trespass on the time of the House any longer at present, but would reserve any thing else he might have to say for his general reply.

Dr. Thomson thought the hon. member had better introduce a Bill to have no revenue, and consequently no collectors. This was one of the many measures called for under the so-called Responsible Government. Probably the officers designated in this bill would soon have fixed salaries, and then they would be above any imputation of advocating high duties that they might increase their fees; although they might stand a better chance of being punctually paid when the revenue was large. There were only two or three officers in the house who would be excluded by this bill, and he did not think they could influence the House much upon the revenue question, even if they would. He would like to see *all* salaried officers excluded, and if the hon. member would attach an additional section, to exclude all, he would support the bill.

Mr. Hannington said he believed he was the only officer in the House connected with the Customs or Excise,* and he hoped hon. members would not deem it indelicate in him to express his opinion upon the subject. He would first observe that when he was last returned to this House, the people well knew he was a Collector. He would repeat, however, what he had stated on a former occasion, that the public mind was progressing; what was suitable for the people twenty years ago would not do now. He (*Mr. H.*) was willing to go straight ahead with public opinion, and believing that public opinion was in favour of excluding salaried officers from the House, he agreed with the sentiments expressed in the bill; (hear, hear.) It was not because hon. members would be influenced by the petty sums they might receive for their services he would support the bill, but because when they happened to support the Government improper motives would be attributed to them; (hear, hear.) The hon. mover of the bill was rather severe when he stated that officers in this House would even increase the expenditure that they might thereby increase their salaries; he did not think any one would go so far as that; but he would go for the bill because he considered it a good one, and believed the people would approve of it.

Mr. Needham liked the principles of the bill, but there were certain points in it from which he differed. If the principles of the bill would be correct four years hence they are correct now, and it should take immediate effect. He would also have the Provincial Treasurer untouched by the bill, because his office should be made political, and dependent upon the incumbent holding a seat in this House. Then he would go further than the Bill contemplated, and exclude from the House every person who holds an office of emolument under the Government; so long as subordinate officers sat in the House, improper motives would be attributed to them, whichever way they might vote. Government could exercise an influence over public officers, and should be altogether independent of their aid in this house. He would move that the provisions of the Bill be extended to all office-holders, with the exception of those who held the political offices.

Mr. Gilbert would go further still; he would exclude all Doctors at Law and Physic; (laughter). Yes, he would sweep them all off; every member of the house ought to be like Cæsar's wife—above suspicion; (laughter). He would support the bill, but hoped it would be amended to suit his views.

Mr. Steves liked the Bill, but hoped it would be extended so as to exclude all inferior officers holding places of emolument.

Mr. Cutler spoke to the same effect† Hon. Speaker was of the same opinion. Every Government had an influence over office-holders; that was human nature.

Mr. Cutler then moved an amendment to the effect that every subordinate officer holding a place of emolument, should be excluded from holding a seat in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Wilmot said they should be cautious. He did not like hasty legislation, and in this instance hon. members had not had any time for consideration. This was a grave question, as it would, if carried, alter the constitution of the country. It might do very well in England for the members of Government to sit in the House of Commons, and for the inferior officers to be excluded, but there they had an hereditary peerage,—a branch to which it was impossible to assimilate our Legislative Council. In the United States the Executive members were excluded from the Chambers, and that practice he considered best adapted to our circumstances.

Mr. Gray was sorry to differ from his hon. colleague, but the most eminent writers had condemned the exclusion of the Executive officers of the American Government from the Legislature as one of the greatest errors they had committed in framing their constitution. It was found to work bad, and would in all probability be shortly altered.

Mr. Johnson expressed similar opinions.

Mr. Botsford liked the amendment. He would even go further, and exclude Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas. It was his desire to place every member of the House above suspicion.

Mr. Hatheway was not aware that the office of Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas was one either of profit or emolument; if it were so, they would be excluded by the amendment as it then stood.—The question was then taken, and the amendment passed without division. Upon comparing the amendment with the preamble, however, the phraseology was found not to correspond, and on motion of Mr. Needham, the question was reconsidered, in order that the draft of the Bill might be corrected.

Mr. Johnson objected to the wording of the amendment; it might be construed so as to include Magistrates among those who were ineligible to a seat in the house. He thought all those excluded should be specified by naming the offices in the bill. He would move that they report progress, in order to prevent the possibility of mistakes.

*Mr. H. was in error: Mr. Taylor is Collector of the port of Fredericton.—*Reporter.*

†This gentleman speaks in too low a tone to be heard distinctly.—*Reporter.*

His Honour the Speaker did not object to reporting progress if the Committe wished it, but he would ask was it possible that they, the assembled wisdom of the country, could not name every office they wished to exclude, and that in a few minutes? If the bill passed with the amendment in general terms, as it then stood, it would be liable to misconstruction; the offices should be named.

Mr. Wilmot deprecated hasty legislation. He moved they report progress, and did so in good faith, as he was favourable to the principles of the bill. He was opposed to Government exercising an influence over members of the House by bestowing offices of emolument upon them.

Mr. Ryerson spoke in favour of the Bill, but thought best to report progress, and when it was taken up again specifying the offices which disqualified persons. There was no doubt but Government had great influence over inferior officers; it was not only generally acknowledged and felt, but positively laid down in the instructions from Downing street. In the Despatch from Earl Grey dated 1847, which established the principles of Responsible and Departmental Government, it was expressly stated that subordinate officers *might* hold seats in the House of Assembly, but if they did they must support the Government. The same doctrine was enunciated in the Despatch lately received in reference to Mr. Baillie; it stated that Mr. Baillie might hold a seat in the Assembly if the local government thought proper, but if so, he must support the Government. He recollected a case in English history. The Master General of the Ordnance—he (Mr. R.) forgot his name—intimated to the Duke of Wellington, then in the Government, that he would oppose a certain Government measure then on the tapis. The Duke's reply was "Mr. so and so may vote as he choses, but the Master General of the Ordnance will vote with the Government!" The same practice prevailed here. Hon. members might say or think what they pleased about it, but the fact was, the government could and would controul inferior officers.

Hon. Speaker said he could give instances of what happened in this Province similar to that quoted about the Master General of the Ordnance. An hon. gentlemen had been compelled to resign his situation in 1842, because he could not consistently support Municipal Institutions.

Mr. Botsford said he was very glad the Bill received the general approbation of hon. members. He thought it much better to specify the officers that it would exclude, and for that reason he was quite willing progress should be reported.—The Committee then arose and reported progress.

[Continuation of Thursday's Debates.]

PAYING REPORTERS.

The House went into Committee of the whole upon the Report of a Select Committee in reference to reporting the Debates. Mr. Crane moved that the report be adopted.

Mr. Taylor thought the proper way would be for the House to employ two Reporters unconnected with the press, and let them get their reports printed. It was now so late in the session, however, that he thought no satisfactory arrangement could be made, and they had better let things take their course, and make some provision for Reporters at the close of the Session.

Mr. Gilbert said that would be placing Reporters on an equality; the one who told the most lies would be paid as much as the one who told the most truth. He would support a motion to pay £75 £75 to whoever a majority of the Committee should select. They would then have some controul in the matter. At present the Reporters made members say what they never thought of, and what they did say they (the Reporters) suppressed, and kept it back from their constituents.

Mr. Wilmot could not support the report of the select committee. He had received a letter from Mr. Hill, one of the Reporters, which he would read. (Here the hon. member read as follows):—

FREDERICTON, Feb. 19, 1851.

SIR,—When the question of paying Reporters comes up to-morrow, you will oblige me much by making the House acquainted with the following facts—

1st—When the Committee was appointed, from what was said I believed they were only authorized to arrange for the publication of the Reports in a separate form, and to furnish a certain number of copies to the Legislature; and my engagement with St. John Publishers would prevent me from competing upon those terms.

2d.—I understand that other Reporters received Circulars from the Chairman of the Committee. I received none.

3d.—Had I supposed the Committee would have selected any one reporter, as the Reporter of the House, merely that he took a report of the debates and caused them to be published in a newspaper, I should certainly have proposed to report for the sum of fifty pounds (£50) and would have guaranteed that my reports should appear in at least three different newspapers.

4th.—Without the slightest disposition to undervalue Mr. Anglin's ability, as a Reporter, I believe there are two Reporters in the House no ways inferior, and most think it decidedly unfair that one, not performing any extra services, should be singled out for payment, to the exclusion of others.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
THOMAS HILL.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot.

Messrs. Hill and Grigor were old reporters, and both of them competent; he thought the house had better employ them, and give them a fair remuneration for their services. He felt somewhat embarrassed, however, and only suggested this upon the supposition that reporters would be paid. For his part he would rather not pay any.

Hon. Secretary thought the time had arrived when Reporters should no longer be paid by that House; especially when they saw one Reporter hired and sent there by the Press of St. John, and another Reporter from that city reporting for his own Paper. (His Honor concluded by moving a resolution not to pay Reporters.)

Mr. Gray seconded the motion. When the Press of St. John sent one Reporter there, and the Carleton press another—for so he saw it announced in the *Carleton Sentinel*—he thought the Fredericton Press, being so much better situated, could also procure the reports without pay.—There would then be a stimulant to correct reporting, as the best reports would of course get the widest circulation.

Dr. Thomson was of the same opinion. Reporters were in the House, and the reports would be printed and circulated, whether the house paid for them or not. As to the papers sent to the house, let every member who took them pay for them; he was quite willing to pay for all he got. The work, he had no doubt, would be done as faithfully without pay as with it, and that was a strong reason why the House should not squander the people's money for this service, when it was so much wanted for other things.—He would support the amendment.

Mr. Johnson was astonished to see the payment of Reporters opposed by Hon. Members who frequently expressed themselves anxious to afford instruction to the people; and he was still more astonished to hear the advocates of economy object to paying one Reporter, but would the whole. The press of St. John might be able to club together and send a Reporter to the House, but the local press could not do it, and the people in the rural districts wanted to see the reports as well as the people of St. John. It was no argument to say that because Reporters were here they would expect no pay; they had always been paid upon former occasions, and the conclusion to be drawn was, that they expected pay as usual. If the amendment should now pass, the Reporters would continue their labours, having a right to expect that, according to former practice they would get paid at the close of the Session. If the Committee did not wish to make a distinction by paying but one Reporter, and would rather pay them all £50 each, perhaps he might go for it; but at all events he wished to see one or more Reporters paid, for the benefit of the people—his own constituents especially.

Mr. Ryerson felt considerably embarrassed, by the former vacillating conduct of the House.—They had neither done justice to themselves in this matter, nor to their constituents. He agreed in one thing with the learned member from Northumberland—the information contained in the journals were as nothing compared with that contained in the Reports; nor did he think the patronage accorded to papers in this Province sufficient to renumerate the press in paying Reporters without the assistance of the House. Sitting up there in those boxes all day, breathing a tainted atmosphere, and then sitting up nearly all night transcribing their notes, must be one of the most irksome and laborious situations a man of spirit could submit to. Last year a select Committee had been appointed upon this question, of which he was a Member, and they brought in two Reports, which he would read. (The hon member then read the Reports). Hon members would see by the last of these Reports that they could procure publication of the debates on alternate days, and 500 copies furnished the House, for the sum of £100, and the services of three Reporters one in the Council and two in the House, those two working in concert, for £60 each, making in all £280. He believed this would have been the very best arrangement they could have made; but what was the result? Why, the report was rejected by a vote of 17 to 13,—after all their trouble—after receiving tenders, calling the publishers and reporters to the Committee Room to consult with them, &c., the Committee was muffled out, and then it was "as you were!" He would like, if possible, still to adopt the principles of last year's Report; but it being so late in the Session, he felt considerably embarrassed how to act. If they were to adopt the recommendations of the Select Committee of this Session he felt sure that their decision would be reversed at the close of the Session, and all the Reporters, would be paid. When hon. members had sat in that House several weeks, and were tired out by their labour, and see around them the Reporters, doing the country as much service as themselves, and performing much more labour, the feelings of humanity would arise, and they would say, each in his thoughts, "I have got my £50; why should a Reporter have his £50?" If they erred in paying them, it was an error leaving to the right side, and he was sure the people did not begrudge the amount. There were not many people accustomed to attend the House and listen to what was said, and it was only by means of the reports that people knew anything about it. He would repeat that he felt much embarrassment. He liked the principles of the Report of last year, but if it was too late in the Session to enter into such arrangements as that recommended, he would go placing all the Reporters on an equal footing. He knew that many of his constituents were of opinion that Reporters should not be paid; he agreed with them on principle, provided the additional circulation of newspapers publishing the debates was sufficient to cover the expenses of reporting. But he would be loath to do anything to prevent the reports from going abroad.

Mr. Crane said the question of paying Reporters had come up, and the majority of the House was in favour; he then moved for a Select committee, which was appointed, and they had brought in their Report. The hon. member for Westmorland, (Mr. Hannington) had stated that the House would turn about at the close and reverse the proceedings of to-day. The hon. member had forgotten that this was a new House, returned upon economical principles. It appeared that the hon. member wanted them to follow in the footsteps of the last house (No no" from Mr. Hannington). It was time that former Houses had passed resolutions in the early part of the Session, which had been negatived at the close; but he hoped this House would not take example by them, and that some hon. Member would bring in a resolution to the effect that no resolution once passed that House should be reversed during the same Session. (Roars of laughter). If hon. members did not think proper to carry out the report before them, he hoped the question would be thrown open again, and the reporting be given to the highest bidder.

His Honor the Speaker approved of the Amendment before the Committee, only he saw an objection to carrying it into operation this Session. The Reporters had been there for some time, and had, no doubt, expected payment for their services. He would not go for the amendment to go into operation the present year, but he would make it a standing order of the House that Reporters should not be paid after this year. He was confident the time was come when Publishers would send Reporters there to take the Debates. He would support the adoption of the Report, and pay Mr. Anglin £75 during the present Session, and pass a standing order not to pay Reporters again.—Progress was reported.

Mr. Scoullar said he had been on the Select Committee, but had not signed the Report. He agreed generally with the remarks made by the hon. and learned member for the County of St. John, but he believed it was now too late in the Session to enter into the arrangements recommended by the Select Committee of last year. He was in favour of the House appropriating a sum to pay Reporters, and to have it divided among them. He wished the House now, in the early stage of the Session, to agree to the principle of paying Reporters. He did not like to see a resolution on the Journals not to pay Reporters, because he was quite certain they would be paid at the close of the Session, as they had been heretofore. There was now in this House four Reporters, and two in the Legislative Council; he had looked over the Reports, and found those in the *Freeman* published fuller and earlier than those in any other paper.* The Reporter for that paper was, therefore, entitled to a good share of the grant. As to what was said about selecting one man, it could be met by the fact, that one Reporter was as good as four, while they worked independent of each other. He hoped, under the present circumstances, the House would appropriate a sum for paying Reporters, to be divided among them.

Mr. Gilbert said he approved of the amendment. If this sum of two to three hundred pounds a year could be saved, it was their duty to save it. St. John and Carleton had sent Reporters to the House, and he would say, in reply to the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Johnson), let the Editor of the *Gleaner* send his Reporter there, as the St. John and Carleton press did. If all the Reporters were paid, hon. members who made long speeches would, if they supported this motion, get well reported, while those who opposed the motion to pay, would be abused.

Mr. Hannington felt much embarrassed. Mr. Anglin was an efficient Reporter, but if the Report of the Select Committee was sustained, it would surely be broken up at the close of the Session. On the other hand, if they came to a determination not to pay Reporters, probably most of them would go away. He had received a note from Mr. Taylor, who was reporting for the Carleton *Sentinel*, and he denied that he received any remuneration from the proprietor of that paper, but was wholly dependent on the House. He liked the principles of the Report of last year. The whole expenses would be, under the principles of that Report, £280, and when the saving of the printing of the extra Journals were substituted, it would stand reduced down to £130. He wished to report progress, in order to see if that Report could not be adopted and carried out.

Mr Barberie thought Printers were remunerated for obtaining the Reports, by the additional circulation of their papers. If they refused to pay Reporters, there was no fear that the Reports of the Debates would be taken and circulated. One Reporter could not perform the duties of his situation satisfactorily; he would therefore go for paying two, who should act in concert and relieve each other. But the trouble had arisen from this, that if the House employed one, or two, others came and got the same pay. Several years ago, when the House Resolved that Mr. Ward should not be paid, the hon. member from Westmorland (Mr Hannington) Resolved he should be paid, and put it in the Contingent Bill, and so manoeuvred that that Bill passed, because there was not a quorum, on the last day of the Session, to examine it. Under all the circumstances, he should go for the amendment.

Mr. Taylor wished to report progress, as this was the last day for receiving petitions.

Mr. Tilley was for coming to some conclusion at once, otherwise there would be another day's debate on the subject. He for one was not embarrassed; he was against paying Reporters. He was one of many individuals in St. John who had subscribed to employ a Reporter, in order that he might be independent, and the system of paying Reporters by the House he put an end to. This was done on the principle that it was improper the House should pay them. That would not deprive people of the privilege of reading the Reports, as other papers would copy. He felt that he would be best discharging his duty to his constituents by opposing the grant.

* (I deny that Mr. Anglin reports fuller than I do.—*Reporter.*)

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 28, 1851.

By the Royal Mail Steamer *Europa*, which arrived at Halifax on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, we are furnished with English news, (*by Telegraph.*) down to the 15th inst., the leading feature of which is Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of Parliament; the speech will be found in the fourth page of this impression. The Papal aggression question, which has produced so much excitement throughout the Kingdom, was brought before Parliament on the 6th inst., by Lord John Russel, and dealt with in a most decisive manner; a most profound silence reigned in the house during its introduction. His Lordship proceeded to explain:—

"He contended that the bull recently issued had totally ignored all authority in this country except that of the Pope. No doubt the authority could not be enforced, but it was enough for him that there had been such an assumption. The change from vicars apostolic to bishops gave prelates in question certain rights over properties bequeathed for religous purposes. He proposed then, "That all such gifts and bequests made to Catholic prelates should be null and void (Cheers). That any act done by them in their official capacities should be null and void—that property so bequeathed should at once pass to the crown—and that all Catholic functionaries should be prohibited from assuming titles derived not only from an Anglican dioces, but from any district or place in the United Kingdom." (cheers.)

Such were the main features of the measure. He counselled Cardinal Wiseman to use in this dispute a mild and conciliatory spirit; but if the Vatican preferred war to peace, and attempted to carry out its half hinted designs, then in the long struggle which in that case he was pending, he would with all his might resist that attempt, however plausible and slight it might be.—The noble lord, who spoke for nearly two hours, then resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

The Manchester Cotton Market is beginning to experience a reaction in their late vaunted success from the *free trade system*, to such an extent that a material change of opinion has taken place even among that class of Her Majesty's subjects, an unmistakeable proof of which is to be found in the division of the House on a free trade question brought forward by Mr. Disraeli, when the Government were sustained by the trifling majority of 14, amounting virtually to a defeat. Most of the Irish members who usually vote with the Government having deserted them. This circumstance, coupled with the Queen's *Lamentation* for the state of the Agricultural districts, furnishes a pretty sure index that the free trade mania has exploded, and that a return to protection and prosperity may be speedily expected.

Business in Manchester was much depressed, owing to the state of the Cotton Market. Cotton is from ¼ to ⅝d. lower than last week. The sales amounted to 24,700 bales, although no purchases were made except for immediate consumption. The great anxiety displayed by holders to sell, induced buyers to be very careful. The Corn Market was unusually depressed.—Wheat was 1d. to 2d. lower, and Flour 6d. lower. Freights have been well supported. The Money Market was easy. Consols closed on Friday at 96 3-8 for Money and account. The weather throughout England has been very mild, and the Season very favourable for farming operations.

Private letters from Mr. Howe, received by the *Europa*, convey the cheering intelligence that *there is no reason to doubt of the complete success* of his mission on behalf of the European and North American Railway. He is expected to return by the next Steamer to New-York.

England.—The attention of the public is almost entirely absorbed in the exciting debate now going on in Parliament relative to the Papal Aggression question.

On motion of Mr. D'Israeli involving the principles of Free Trade, the Ministry were all but defeated, in a very full house—they carried their point by a majority of only 14.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was expected to bring down his budget on the 17th. The Trade and Revenue returns are reported to be even more satisfactory than heretofore reported, and it is confidently expected that many obnoxious taxes will be repealed.

A maniac named Gill, was brought up at one of the Police Offices in London on Friday, charged with attempting to assassinate Lord John Russell.

France.—The Government measure, the President's donation bill, was rejected by a majority of 102 votes in a house of 690. The speeches on both side were very exciting, and the breach between the President and the Assembly still becoming wider. A proposal has been made to raise a National Subscription to relieve the President from his embarrassment, but he has publicly stated that he will not accept of anything procured in this way, although it is quite certain he is involved to a great extent; the latest accounts state that his horses were about to be sold. In speaking of the efforts making for his relief the President says, he thanks all those who have entertained this thought, which is an imposing manifestation of sympathy and approbation of his conduct; but he deems it his duty to sacrifice a personal satisfaction to the repose of the country. He knows that the *people* render him justice and that is sufficient for him. The financial condition of the country is bad—excess of expenditure over receipts the present year 155,514,000 francs.

There appears to be no Continental news worthy of notice.

The Queen's Speech.—Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament will be found in this impression. The general tone of which may be pronounced satisfactory, if we except that part which refers to the Agricultural Departments. In noticing which, Her Majesty, *laments the difficulties which are felt by that most important body the Agriculturaicist*, yet she hope sthe prosperity of the other classes, (Meaning the Manufacturers) will have the effect of diminishing those difficulties. Vain hope! can the advisers of Her Majesty after the ruin they have brought on the sturdy Yeomanry of Old England, yet retain a shadow of a hope, that, under the insane policy of "free trade," the Agriculture of the country will not FAIL, LINGER and DIE out! They cannot; they DO NOT. They have put into the mouth of her Majesty a LAMENT for the Agriculturist, but will a lament suffice! will it feed the starving farmer! It will not. Then why pursue a course, the working of which has already proved ruinous not only to the most important Manufacture of the Realm, (the Manufacture of Bread stuffs) but has also had a most baneful effect upon her Colonies—an effect that has already produced disaffection, and who will pretend to say that it may not eventually end in disseverment. We are pleased, however, to find that the Government lament the state of things they have brought about: we are pleased to see it made a feature in the Speech, and we are not yet without a hope that after CONFESSION, will come Restitution, and that Justice will yet be done to the injured. The experiment has been fairly tried, the problem is solved, foreign Nations will take all the advantages we have to give them, but *will not reciprocate*. Much solicitude is expressed in the SENATE relative to the peace of the petty German principalities, which are alien to Great Britain and possess no feeling in common, either Politically or Commercially with the British people. But what is said of the Colonies, these North American Colonies! that comprise an area equal to all Europe and lakes sufficiently large to submerge the whole of the German states, about which there is so much solicitude; a land rapidly growing into importance and peopled with the Children of the British Isles, a people whose National pride is England, whose feelings, interests, and sympathies are in perfect unison with those of the parent land! What says Her Majesty's Speech of us? *Why not one word*, not the slightest notice is taken of us or of our affairs. Such is Whig policy, and such a policy while it starves the British farmer and put a barrier to Emigration, will eventually deprive the British Manufacturer of a customer to the amount of 4 or 5 millions annually, and bring into existance another NATION, and another FLAG.

In a Debate on the Contingent Bill, and in reply to some stories circulated by Mr. Needham relative to the purchase of gold pencil cases, &c. for the members, and charged as necessaries, and which on investigation turned out to be all a fabrication, Mr. TAYLOR took occasion to say that the people had been taught to believe the House was composed of swindlers. Now, so far as Mr. Needham is concerned, we are pleased to see him refuted and brought to a sense of his iniquities. But let not Mr. Taylor lay the flattering unction to his soul, that all former accusations against the Legislature are of the same hue as those propagated by Mr. Needham, or are as readily got over. By way of refreshing the memory of Mr. T. we will refer him to the statements made in the Chronicle in the days of *Harmony* and HARVEY, and for which the Chronicle was prosecuted. Mr. T. figuring himself as a Commissioner for Government House and was by the public at that time considered deeply involved in the many nefarious transactions of the Legislative Body.—We scarcely can imagine that it has escaped Mr. T's. memory, that many Thousands of pounds of the public money were expended under the HEAD OF REPAIRS for Government House that found its way into the pockets of Sir John Harvey and his abetters. Peculation in those days was carried on with a high hand and an outstretched arm.—Sir John found the public Coffers well lined and the country prosperous, but left it, thanks to the willing rottenness of his satellites, Pennyless and Bankrupt. Notwithstanding which a sum of £1,500 Sterling money was voted him on his departure from the Province, *said* to be for the purchase of a piece of Plate, as a mark of approbation of his administration, but in reality to enable him to pay the parties who passed the vote, and who had by lending him money, contributed to his personal as well as provincial profligacy. The Contingent Bill too, in those days, althe' stoutly contested by the St. John Members, and a few others equally honest, frequently amounted to the enormous sums of £2,000 and £2,500. In those bills all kinds of things for the personal benefit of the members were included, among other things a few Military toys for Major Phunkey's *Dragoons*, at Head Quarters—such as a *Cocked-hat*, a *Fling*, a big *Drum*, &c., &c., and to such a disgusting length was the iniquity carried that two of our St. John Members actually came home leaving the field open to the plunderers. It is to the Press of St. John, both then and now, that the public are mainly indebted for checking, and partially putting a stop to the outrages committed on the public funds, Mr. Commissioner Taylor to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are indebted to John Simpson, Esquire, Queen's Printer, for a copy of the Oration delivered at King's College, Fredericton, by W. B. Jack, A. M., Professor of Mathematics, &c.—We beg also to acknowledge the receipt of Professor Johnston's Report, on the Agricultural capabilities of this Province. The work has gone through two Editions, and Ten Thousand Copies of the second edition have been printed. The work is replete with scientific information, and has no doubt been carefully and truthfully compiled, yet in our view of the case, it does not meet the requirements of the practical Agriculturist, wishing to adopt New Brunswick for a future home. The work in the hands of a well informed farmer, settled on a well cleared farm, with all the appliances of Barns, Implements, Cattle, and Capital, would doubtless prove invaluable, and is perhaps all that was to be expected from a man devoted solely to scientific pursuits. But to the poor man, with little money and less information who has hitherto, and probably will continue to form a large majority of the new settlers of this country, Professor Johnston's book will furnish little that can be made available. The thing most desired and most useful to the poor Emigrant about to settle in a forest country is a "HAND BOOK," containing the detail of settlement in this country, price of Lands, state of Roads, prices of produce, Labourers wages, price of British goods, Agricultural produce, Taxes, chance for Church going, Schools, and a thousand other little etcetres, not connected with Agriculture, but indispensible to the comforts of a happy and thriving peasantry. The Professor has given the Philosophy of the question, it now remains for some other one to furnish the common sense portion of the Emigrant's fare—which if compiled, printed, and added to the present work, would furnish a book for distribution in the mother country, that while it proclaimed our capabilities, would also induce some hundreds of our British farmers, (CAPITALISTS,) now prostrate from "Free Trade" operations, to cross the ocean, and settle down in this Province—thereby adding to our wealth, population and intelligence. We would urge on our Representatives, the absolute necessity of bringing this all important question fairly before the Legislature before the close of the present session.

The Legislature.—The Hon. John A. Street's speech not having yet arrived, we are unable to give an opinion as to the course he will pursue with the principles enunciated by that gentleman, relative to the intention of Government, (if we fairly understand him) we perfectly agree: whether or no, the detail will correspond with those principles, we are yet to learn.

On the question of paying Reporters coming up, a very great discrepancy of opinion appeared to exist among members, which caused a good deal of debate. It will be seen by our Reports in this issue, that a little legislative manœuvring took place for the purpose of excluding our City Reporter from participating.—Mr. Scoullar, in order to beat out the Committee, to which the question was referred, stated that Mr. Anglin's Reports were better and fuller than any of the others. Now for Mr. Scoullar's information, we will state that our City Reports furnished by Mr. Hill, have been by far the most copious. For a proof of which we refer him to our columns during the last three weeks, where it will be seen that we have occupied nearly double our usual space for Legislative Reports, in order to make room for them—also to the other leading papers of the city. And so far as the ability of our Reporter is concerned, we will pit him against the whole body now at the House, to the amount that Mr. Scoullar and his friends intend to tuck into a sly corner of the Contingent Bill, for their services, in making speeches for those who cannot make them for themselves.

"We learn that the Woodstock Iron Company feel greatly indignant at the people of the United States, in the face of law, refusing to admit their iron at the invoice price, and valuing it themselves at as high a rate as to raise the actual duty of 30 per cent to 40; and finding even this insufficient to keep it out, gave them notice that 10 per cent more would be immediately charged. While we are admitting their products at mere nominal duties, this is the way they return the concession made them. Will we never learn wisdom by experience?

We copy the above from the *Colonial Watchman*," the Editor of which has fought the good fight, in the cause not of Protection alone, but of self-defence, and has come off conqueror. He has penned with untiring zeal, and no small share of intelligence, some scores of articles on Protection, many of which are unanswerable, yet like many others who do battle in the cause of the public, he has met from his opponents was merited and not unfrequently ungracious reply, while from his friends he has not received a corresponding support. He has the gratification now, however, of knowing that those who stood foremost in the opposition, are now the loudest of the loud for retaliation. His reference to Canada, and the German States on the same subject published in his last, and to which we would call attention, his arguments are so conclusive on the subject, that none but the wilfully blind, can hereafter retain a second opinion on the long debated question. We too have stood with him shoulder to shoulder in the good cause, and feel now that we are entitled to a modicum of the congratulation we so willingly award our Contemporary.

☞The City Reporter is hereby notified that his despatches did not reach the city last evening