

through Shelburne, to bounds of Towaship of Yarmouth.

John Elder's Report of the state of the main Post Road, from Half way House through the Counties of Hants, and King's County, to bounds of Annapolis County.

Mr. UNIACKE presented a Petition from James Fattel, praying remuneration for expenses incurred in administering to the necessities of seven persons, belonging to the Scht. Barrington, cast away on the Island of Cape Breton.

### The British Sterling Bill

Was then taken up, and read a third time, when Mr. Stewart moved a clause, by way of Rider, the object of which was to revive the Act of last Session, by which Silver was made a tender at 25s. up to £50, and to continue it in force until the 1st August, at which time the new Act was to come into operation.

Mr. DENLORS opposed the clause. Will you, he asked, return back to a Bill, which it is allowed on all hands has been injurious? Would he hold out a premium to the Merchants to import Shillings and Sixpences between the 1st and the first of August at which time Silver is only to be a tender to the extent of £5?

Mr. BELL read a letter, received by a mercantile house here, from a Correspondent in the West Indies, to show that there was no danger of any such importations, as British silver was worth 25s in Jamaica and other Islands, the Doubloon, at the same time, passing at £4.

Mr. DENLORS replied, that the reason why Silver had not been remitted, was because the merchant had limited the Consignee to 1s 1-2 for the British shilling.

Mr. J. R. DEWOLF stated that silver was now passing at 25s in all the Islands.

Mr. LAWSON wished to know if the Sterling Bill passed, how much he would have to give for a Bill of £100? and was answered £126 10 in the Province Notes, or British Coins at 25s to the £1.

Mr. UNIACKE admired the caution of the learned member from Cumberland, who fearing to trust the lame and stumbling measure he had fabricated, was about to put a rider on its back to make it go ahead. But even this bribed Jockey would be incapable of keeping it on its legs. The spirit of the whole Bill was this—to introduce a gold currency in place of a silver one—and yet the effect of the rider would be, to perpetuate the evils sought to be removed, and prevent the Banks and the Country from providing themselves with the gold which they would be compelled to deal in after the 1st of August. If the old law were not renewed, gold would gradually flow into the various channels of circulation, and the silver would pass off to a certain extent. But this attempt to defeat the very measure, for which the majority had contended, was opposed to common sense and common honesty.

Mr. YOUNG entered into an explanation of some statements he had been charged with making, relative to the purchase of dollars by the Commissariat. He had said that agents had been sent out to South America, and that hopes were entertained that Dollars might be purchased there at 3s. 10d—but, in consequence of the disturbed state of those countries, no contracts had been completed. Mr. Uniacke denied that Mr. Y. had so guarded his first declarations. Mr. Y. rejoined, and both he and Mr. S. explained that the rider was necessary, to restore the currency to precisely the same state it was in when the former Act expired. They were anxious to fix the value of the Coins, now in circulation, to guard the people from loss till the new law came into operation.

After some further discussion the rider was agreed to.

Mr. UNIACKE then moved another, the object of which was to strike out the principal clauses of the Bill, and rate all the American coins as they stood in that which he had formerly introduced. Upon this, the house divided, and it was lost 19 to 16, the names standing, for his motion—Messrs. Lawson, Smith, Harris, Cochran, W. H. Roach, Delap, Barss, Dodd, Budd, Shey, Rudolf, Crow, J. R. Dewolf, Morse, DeBlain, Uniacke.

Against it—Messrs. C. Roche, Doyle, Weir, Crich-ton, Oakey, O'Brien, B. Dewolf, Blanchard, Wilkins, Archibald, Stewart, Dickson, Clements, Young, Chipman, Lovett, Morton.

The usual motion, that the Bill pass and be sent to the Council, was then made by Mr. Stewart, and was carried, the numbers and names being the same.

Mr. DELAP then moved that the Bill be printed, but the Speaker explained that it would be irregular and unconstitutional for the House, after passing a Bill and putting it beyond their control, to print it with a view to obtain Petitions to defeat it in another place. The motion was accordingly withdrawn, and the House and Gallery seemed to be delighted to get rid, for a time at least, of a threadbare and tiresome subject.

Mr. LAWSON presented a Petition from several persons in the District of Colchester, complaining of the system of bringing into that District Road Commissioners and labourers from other Counties, and recommending Wm. Logan as a fit person to be employed.

**Saturday.**—The Messages and Despatches relative to the Light Houses on St. Paul's and Scattario were taken up and read, and referred to a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Uniacke, Smith, Dodd, Huntingdon, and Lovet. It appeared that the Government estimated the cost of each Light House, with lanterns, &c. at £1500 sterling. The annual expense of them to be borne by the Colonies. During the prevalence of fogs on the Coast they recommend that guns be fired every fifteen minutes. The Speaker calculated these at 3,500 discharges in the year. On motion of Mr. Clements, the Yarmouth Petition was referred to the same Committee.

Mr. Stewart moved a Resolution for the appointment of a Committee to request the Governor to have the boundary lines between the Counties of Cumberland in this Province and Westmoreland in New Brunswick, run out and determined. Such inconvenience, he said, was now experienced by persons on the borders, being taxed and summoned to serve on Juries by both Provinces. A similar application, he had reason to believe would be made by the Legislature of New Brunswick.

### Magistrate's Courts.

A Bill, introduced on a former day by Mr. Chipman, to amend the Act for the Summary Trial of Actions, was then taken up and read, and gave rise to some animated discussion. It was stoutly opposed by Messrs. Uniacke and Doyle, on the ground that many persons now in the Commission of the Peace, were unfit to be trusted even with the present jurisdiction, limited as it was to sums of £5—it permitted to adjudicate on double the amount, which was object of the Bill, more extensive mischiefs might be expected to follow; in some of the Counties they used the power at present possessed to foster litigation, to make a profit to themselves; and in one a Magistrate had undertaken to cut off a Boy's ears, declaring that he was as good a criminal Judge as any in the Country. They were anxious to have the Bill referred to a select Committee, and pledged themselves to lay the facts before it. Mr. B. Dewolf and others thought it was unfair to bring general charges against the whole body, because there might happen to be persons in the Magistracy who were unworthy of the trust reposed. When such sweeping attacks were made on the legal profession, they always complained of injustice, and called for names. He felt bound, on behalf of the body to which he belonged—and many members of which, like himself, performed a great deal of thankless and unprofitable duty, to do the same. The whole ought not to suffer for the misconduct of a few; and if such persons as had been described really held the Commission of the Peace, they ought to be convicted and driven out. In the County of Hants one person, he was aware, had been at times charged with misconduct, but had contrived to get out of the scrape. Mr. Stewart defended the magistrates of Cumberland. During nearly 20 years that he had lived in the County he had never known any of them to be guilty of such malpractices, or deserving of the imputations cast upon the Body. The appeals from their decisions seldom averaged more than one or two in a year. There could be, however, no wish on the part of the legal profession to protect their own interest by making these charges, as the summary business was the least profitable to them—indeed, though compelled to do it, in order to protect the interest of their clients, they were not remunerated for their labour. Mr. Wilkins expressed the same opinion, and drew a fanciful picture of a bad magistrate—looking, at the same time, most significantly at a certain gentleman on the opposite Bench. He described him as a mixture of cunning and roguery—with shrewdness enough to set all the parties by the ears by giving his decisions in favour of the Plaintiff; and sufficiently unscrupulous to profit by the spirit of contention, which he strove to foment. Such persons there were in the magistracy even now—and the mischief they did, with a limited jurisdiction, showed what might be expected when the sum was raised to £10. Mr. Chipman, in defending his Bill, said that the learned member from Cape Breton was a person who could make black white, and white black. Mr. Uniacke demanded an explanation, and wished to know if the hon. member meant to say that he had stated what was not true. Mr. C.'s explanation we did not distinctly hear, but understood him to lay the blame, not on the learned gentleman's veracity, but on his imagination.

The Bill having been recommended to a select Committee, one introduced by Mr. Stewart, to amend the Act for the more easy foreclosure of mortgages, was taken up and read. The simple machinery of the former act was confined to cases where there was but

one mortgage, and could be evaded by a person giving a second, even for £5, or 6s. The object of this bill was to provide against such evasions, and make it applicable to all cases. After some opposition from Mr. Johnston, who conceived that in substituting a more summary mode of foreclosure, Mr. S. was admitting some of the equities of the old one, depriving the second mortgagee of the option he now had to pay off the first, and take the property; the bill passed, and the House resumed—when Mr. Chipman's bill was referred to a member from each county.

**Monday, 5th Feb'y.**—Some discussion arose to-day in Committee of the whole House, on a Bill introduced by Mr. Johnston, the object of which was, to allow factors and agents to pledge as well as sell goods, sent to them to be disposed of. The bill was opposed by Mr. Stewart on the ground that there was no need of uselessly multiplying Statutes—and that the tendency of it, would be to enable Auctioneers and Agents to pledge the Goods of others, sent to them for sale, to pay their own obligations at the Bank; and defended by Mr. Johnston and the Speaker, who showed that upon this subject, the Courts in England had halted for a long time—the authorities were confused and contradictory—cases being decided, rather by precedent than by any rational principles of common sense or common law. At present the Agent had the power to sell goods at his principal for half nothing—was it not folly then to deny him the right to pledge them, if necessary, for something near their value—as the right of the principal would still run with the Goods, and he would have over them the only one he ought to have, the right of redemption. As the law now stood, a man might come here from Britain with a store full of merchandise—contract debts on the faith of property, apparently his own, and yet the real owner in England, might step and take them at any moment. The Bill was but a Copy of the Act of Parliament, which it had been found necessary to pass, to remove all doubts on the subject. Mr. DeBlain stated a case in which he had been defrauded of a very large sum, in consequence of an advance made on a quantity of cloths, which it afterwards appeared the Agent had no authority to pledge. The Bill passed, the House resumed.

The greater part of Tuesday was occupied by the ordinary Bills, to the number of twenty, for continuing the expiring laws. Yesterday Mr. Uniacke's Bill for the settlement of the currency, by rating American Coins instead of British, was discussed in Committee of the whole House. This Bill goes to fix the American Eagle at \$10, the half Eagle at \$5—the Spanish & Mexican Dollar at 5s, and the halves and quarters at 2s 6d and 1s 3d—and gives one year for the payment of old obligations in British silver at 25s. and Doubloons at £4. It was stoutly opposed by Messrs. Young, Bell, and others on the ground that it was an impudent attempt to oblige debtors to give £10, on every £100, more than they had contracted to pay—and to enable the Banks to deal in American half and quarter Dollars, and other debased and spurious coins, instead of British money the weight and fineness of which could not be misunderstood. After a good deal of discussion, in which the old arguments were used on all sides, the House divided on a motion for filling up the blank, by which the use of the present currency in the payment of debts was limited to one year, which was negatived by a large majority.

The House were in Committee on this Bill when our paper went to Press. Mr. Uniacke having moved as an amendment that all debts heretofore contracted should be paid in Doubloons at £4, and British Coins at 25s, without limitation as to time.

**Six O' Clock p. m.** We stop the Press, to announce that the Bill has been so amended as substantially to change its character, and establish British Sterling.—Majority 4.

### NOTICE.

#### THE SUBSCRIBERS

HAVE REMOVED to their  
NEW STORE,  
immediately opposite Mr. Robert Dawson's, where an  
extensive and general Assortment of

#### PRIME GOODS,

will be kept (by them as usual) constantly on hand.  
W. & J. IVES.

Nov. 18, 1835.

### TO LET.

#### Entry Immediately.

THE Premises lately occupied by Mr. J. Romane  
as a SHOP and DWELLING.  
For particulars apply at this Office.  
if Pictou, July 10, 1835.