The Weekly Observer.

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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY, BY

DONALD A. CAMERON.

OFFICE—In Mr. HATFIELD'S brick building, west side of the Market-Square, St. John, N. B.

TERMS—City Subscribers ... ... 15s. per annum; Country do. (by mail) ... 17s. 6d. ditto; Country do. (not by mail) 15s. ditto; *(half to be paid in advance.)*

Printing, in its various branches, executed with neatness and despatch, on very moderate terms.

Weekly Almanack.

FEBRUARY—1835.	Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	Moon Rises.	Full Sea.
25 WEDNESDAY - -	6 36	5 24	6 9	10 19
26 THURSDAY - -	6 34	5 26	sets.	11 7
27 FRIDAY - -	6 32	5 28	5 56	11 49
28 SATURDAY - -	6 30	5 30	6 59	0 25
1 SUNDAY - -	6 29	5 31	8 2	0 58
2 MONDAY - -	6 27	5 33	9 3	1 20
3 TUESDAY - -	6 26	5 34	10 3	2 0

New Moon 27th day, 7h. 44m. morning.

INSURANCE.

NEW-BRUNSWICK
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Office open every day, (Sundays excepted,) from 11 to 12 o'clock.

JOHN M. WILMOT, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT.

Committee for February:

R. M. JARVIS, G. T. RAY, M. H. PERLEY.

☞ All Communications, by Mail, must be post paid.

Marine Insurance Agency.

THE subscriber having been duly authorized by the PROTECTION INSURANCE COMPANY of HARTFORD, Connecticut, to take Risks upon Vessels, Cargoes, or Freights, agreeable to the general principles of MARINE INSURANCE, and having obtained by a late arrival from the United States, Blank Policies duly signed by the President and Secretary of the aforesaid Company—Now begs leave to inform the Merchants and Ship-Owners of this City and the Province at large, that he will attend to applications in writing to that effect, fairly stating particulars of the Risks required to be covered.—He would also remark for the information of the public, that the above Company have had a Marine Insurance Agency established at Halifax for some time past, under the management of J. L. STARR, Esquire, who has done a good deal of business in that line, and which he believes has given general satisfaction to the assured,—and that although the Company reserve to themselves the right of settling Averages, Partial or Total Losses, agreeable to the usage of Marine Insurances in the United States—that in any case where the claim for Loss is so dubious as to warrant an appeal to a Court of Law or Equity, the Office will submit to the decision of the Courts in this Province.

ANGUS M'KENZIE, *Agent.*

St. John, Sept. 30, 1834.

☞ Office in the Store of A. M'KENZIE & Co., Prince Wm. Street.

WEST OF SCOTLAND
INSURANCE OFFICE.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform the Public, that he has lately received instructions to take RISKS at lower rates than heretofore; and also, to issue New Policies at the *reduced rates* for all Insurances now effected, at the termination of the Present Policies, instead of Renewal Receipts.

JOHN ROBERTSON,

St. John, March 8, 1831. Agent and Attorney

ÆTNA INSURANCE COMPANY,
Of Hartford, Connecticut.

THE Subscriber having been appointed AGENT for the above Insurance Company, will issue Policies and Renewal Receipts (on Policies issued by the former Agent, E. D. W. RATCHFORD, Esq.) for Insurance on Dwelling Houses, Stores, Mills, Factories, Barns, Vessels and Cargoes while in port, Vessels on the stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandize, and every other species of Insurable Personal Property,—against

Loss or Damage by Fire,

at as low rates of premium as any similar institution in good standing,—Will give personal attendance to the survey of premises, &c. in the City and vicinity, on which Insurance is desired, free of charge to the assured,—Applications in writing (post paid) from all other parts of the Province, describing the situation and the Property to be Insured, will receive prompt attention; the correctness of which description shall on all occasions be binding on the part of the applicant.

The ÆTNA INSURANCE COMPANY was Incorporated in 1819,—Capital $200,000, with liberty to increase the same to half a million of dollars. The Capital has been all paid in, and invested in the best securities, independently of which a *Surplus Fund* of more than $35,000 has been set apart to meet the occasional claims for Losses, and the Stock bears a high premium. The reputation the Office has acquired for promptness and liberality in the adjustment and payment of Losses, requires no additional pledge to entitle it to a liberal share of public patronage.

A. BALLOCH, *Agent.*

St. John, N. B., 1st July, 1833.

PROTECTION
INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Subscriber having been appointed Agent of the above Insurance Company, in this City, will insure Houses, Stores, Mills, Factories, Barns, and the contents of each, together with every similar species of property against *LOSS or DAMAGE by FIRE*, at as low a rate of Premium as any similar Institution; and will be always in readiness for taking Surveys of premises offered for Insurance in any part of the City, free of charge to the assured. He will likewise attend to the renewal of any Policies of Insurance issued by M'KENZIE & TISDALE, as Agents of the above Insurance Company; and act in all case in reference to such as if subscribed by himself.

ANGUS M'KENZIE, *Agent.*

St. John, November 6, 1832.

BUILDING LUMBER.

The Subscribers have for Sale at Gilbert's Wharf,

SEASONED clear Pine Boards and Plank;
Ditto Merchantable ditto ditto;
Refuse Pine and Spruce ditto ditto;
Spruce SCANTLING, assorted.

—ALSO—

A large quantity of unseasoned Clear and choice Merchantable Pine Lumber—which will be sold in lots of 5000 feet or upwards, at reduced prices *before Storing*. Application may be made to Mr. JOSEPH FAIRWEATHER, or to

27th Jan. RATCHFORD & LUGRIN.

SOAP.

500 BOXES best Liverpool SOAP, just received per ship *Liverpool*, for sale low in lots, by RATCHFORD & LUGRIN.

27th January.

W. D. W. HUBBARD

HAS just opened a case of superior French MERINOS; Green, Claret, Dark Brown, Hair, Cinnamon do. Easterhazy and Cobeau, at the low price of 4s 3d and 4s 6d.

He will also sell his Stock on hand at reduced prices. Sixty firkins of first quality BUTTER, which will be sold low.

No. 3, Sands' Brick Building, December 6, 1834.

SUGAR.

Just received, per Emperor, from Jamaica:

16 HOGSHEADS and Five Tierces Bright SUGAR, now landing, and for sale at reasonable rates.

30th December. JOHN M. WILMOT.

FLOUR.

200 BARRELS Alexandria Mountain Superfine FLOUR;
100 Barrels Scratched ditto;
Received per *Wasp*, and for sale low from the vessel, by RATCHFORD & LUGRIN.

1st January, 1835.

Goods, per barque Liverpool:

20 CASES plain and printed COTTONS; 1 truss cotton Ticks, Diaper, and Haberdashery; 1 do. worsted knitting Yarn; 1 do. Maddalin Blinds; 1 do. worsted fringe Silk; 1 do. Woollens; 2 boxes Jewellery; 100 dozen each of Jacknives, Pocket Knives, Penknives, Sheeknives, and Scissors; 100 do. Table Knives and Forks; 150 do. Britannia Metal Tea and Table Spoons; 20 do. G. Steel Hand Saws; with a variety of Hardware.

20th January, 1835. JOHN KERR.

NEW ERIN,
OLD JAMAICA RUM, &c.

Just received per the ship Formosa, from Liverpool:

100 BOXES prime Bunch RAISINS,
50 Frails of fresh FIGS,
25 Kegs, 25 Half-kegs } COOKING RAISINS, *of excellent quality,*

—ALSO—

2 Puns. JAMAICA SPIRITS—*Fifteen years old.*

January 3. JOHN V. THURGAR.

THE SUBSCRIBER

Has just received by the Sophia from Boston:

10 TIERCES RICE; 100 HAMS,
20 Barrels PORK,
10 Barrels and 20 half do. BEEF, } *In Bond.*

For sale on reasonable terms, by

13th January. JAMES T. HANFORD.

JAMES KIRK

Has imported per Brig COMET, *from* LONDON, *and other recent arrivals:*

160 BOLTS Coker CANVAS,
18 Tons CORDAGE, assorted,
8 Tons best London OAKUM,
Chain CABLES, assorted sizes,
6 Casks London LOAF SUGAR,
27 Tons Refined and Common IRON,
Bolt COPPER,
6 Hogsheads Boiled Linseed OIL,
20 Barrels Coal TAR,
Sheet LEAD, &c. &c. &c.

—ALSO—

2 Puncheons WHISKEY,—ex *Lady Campbell* from Greenock.

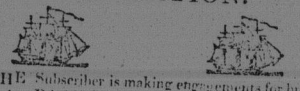
November 11.

Ex Mary-Ann, from Halifax:

2 BALES of dark PRINTS,
1 do. 10-4 double rose BLANKETS,
1 do. Tartan PLAIDS,—For sale low.

Jan. 13. GREGG & HALL.

EMIGRATION.



THE Subscriber is making engagements for bringing PASSENGERS from BELFAST, DERRY, and DUBLIN, on the most reasonable terms, and has made arrangements to have a conveyance from those Ports *once every Month* during the Season of Emigration. Persons wishing to send for their Friends, will find this mode very desirable, as the greatest punctuality in every respect will be attended to.

WILLIAM DOUGAN, *St. John-street.*

St. John, N. B., 1st July, 1834.

The Garland.

HOME.

O, Home! thou art in every place,
O'er all the boundless earth—
The centre of eternal space,
Wherever thou hast thy birth.

They say, "a thousand miles from home,"
As from the dearest thing
That links our souls, the more we roam,
The more to it we cling.

What though ten thousand miles we run,
And add ten thousand more,
There is a Home—'tis like the sun,
That travels still before.

Though not for us—though all be strange;
Yet fondest hearts there be,
In all the world's unmeasured range,
No home elsewhere can see.

O'er peopled realms, or deserts vast,
There still One Voice is heard—
'Tis Home—Home there her lot hath cast
Of man, of beast, or bird.

Within the forest's deepest shade,
Ten thousand depths around—
Home for each living thing is made
That creepeth on the ground.

Where life hath neither bed nor hair,
In silence, and in gloom
Home finds the lonely floweret there,
The worm within the tomb.

Home, Home—it is eternal love—
His presence and His praise—
O'er all, around, below, above,
Creation's boundless ways—

E'en in the poor defiled heart,
The present Home of sin,
God said, Let wickedness depart,
And We will dwell therein.

Blest Spirit, thou that Home prepare,
Do thou make clean, secure,
Lest Love should seek his dwelling there,
His Home, nor find it pure.

Thou, when this earthly Home shall fall,
As built on erring sands—
Me to that heavenly mansion call,
Prepared, not made with hands.

That Home of love, and joy, and peace,
No sorrow in the breast—
From troubling, where the wicked cease,
And where the weary rest.

Miscellanea.

[From Inglis's Ireland in 1834.]

SKETCHES IN IRELAND.

THE CITY OF DUBLIN.—Dublin, for its size, is a handsomer city than London. Sackville-street will compare with any street in Europe; Merion-square and St. Stephen's-green surpass in extent any of the squares in the British metropolis. There are points of view in Dublin, embracing the principal streets, the quays, (for Dublin has quays) and some of the finest public edifices, more striking I think than any that are to be found in London; and although the Irish capital can boast of no St. Paul's, yet, in the architectural beauty of some of her public buildings, she has just reason for pride. I need but name the Custom House; and the Bank of Ireland, with its magnificent and yet classically chaste colonades, in proof of this assertion.

In walking through the streets of Dublin, strange and striking contrasts are presented between grandeur and poverty. In Merion-square, St. Stephen's-green, and elsewhere, the ragged wretches that are sitting on the steps, contrast strangely with the splendour of the houses and the magnificent equipages that wait without: pass from Merion-square or Grafton-street, about three o'clock, into what is called the Liberty, and you might easily fancy yourself in another and distant part of Europe. I was extremely struck, the first time I visited the outskirts of the city in the direction of the Phœnix park, with the strong resemblance to the population of Spanish towns which the pauper population of Dublin presented. I saw the same rags and apparent indolence—the result of a want of employment, and a low state of moral feeling: boys with large heads and feet, lying on the pavement, whose potatoe had only to be converted into a melon or a bit of wheaten bread to make them fit subjects for Murillo; and houses and cottages in a half ruined state, with paneless windows or no windows at all. I was also struck with the small number of provision shops. In London every fifth or sixth shop is a bacon and cheese shop. In Dublin, luxuries of a different kind offer their temptations. What would be the use of opening a bacon shop, where the lower orders, who are elsewhere the chief purchasers of bacon, cannot afford to eat bacon, and live upon potatoes.

THE CITY OF CORK.—Cork I call a very fine city, surpassed by few in the excellence and width of its streets, or in the magnificence of its outlets; and deficient only in the architectural beauty of its public buildings. Although there is not in Cork so great a contrast between splendour and misery as in Dublin, none of this contrast is visible than English cities of the same size exhibit. The best quarters of Cork are fully upon a par with the best quarters of Liverpool and Manchester; but the worst parts of Cork are worse, and more extended than in these towns. The best streets in Cork are the mercantile streets; and in these the shops are little, if at all inferior to those of Dublin: few streets in Cork have the appearance of being inhabited by the upper classes. One cause of this is, that so large a number of the merchants live out of town. The passion for country houses in Cork is universal; and the extreme beauty of the environs is a great encourager of this passion.

I should say of the street population of Cork, that it has a look of respectability. The upper and middling classes have a business air; and although one is frequently solicited by the mendicant, there appeared to me to be fewer rags, and fewer bare feet; and, in short, a less amount of destitution, relatively to the population, than in Dublin; or, than in any other town I had yet seen in Ireland, excepting Clonmel.

I was sorry to find in Cork as in Dublin, the disposition towards improvidence and display amongst the upper and middle classes, strongly manifest. The passion for country houses I have already spoken of: but there are other passions that trench both upon industry and economy—particularly the passion for horses and hunting, which, indeed, is not confined to Cork, but is observable in every part of Ireland where I have yet been. Six packs of hounds are kept in the neighbourhood of Cork; and every body hunts, who can possibly contrive to keep a horse; nor is the indulgence of this passion looked upon as at all inconsistent with business. The young merchant may, without any imputation on his business habits, mount his hunter at the door of his counting-house. This is very different from our English commercial habits. And, to descend a step lower, it is no inconsiderable proof of the love of pleasure among the citizens of Cork, that in a town of its size there are nearly four hundred public *jingles*, as they call them in Cork; or cars, as they call them elsewhere.

The Sunday citizen population is *mighty* gay; and amongst the very lowest classes on Sunday, I saw very few rags. I strolled as far as the bishop's chapel—one of the largest and handsomest of the Catholic chapels—and had there an opportunity of seeing a vast congregation of the lower classes. Besides the multitude which crowded the church inside, there were from six to eight hundred persons kneeling and prostrate, in the inclosure around the church; all of them apparently engrossed with their devotions, and many literally counting their beads.

Illustration of a Superintending Providence.—The warmth and protection which birds receive from their parent, is beautifully illustrative of the security afforded by a superintending Providence to those who apply to him for help: "He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust." To my feelings there is not in the whole Bible a more elegant or delightful metaphor than this, or one which the human mind, especially when in a state of affliction and distress, may dwell upon with greater comfort and satisfaction. When I have seen a bird of prey hovering over some newly-hatched chickens, and perceived them run for shelter under the wings of their parent, I am forcibly reminded that in the hour of danger and temptation, I may fly, by prayer, to my heavenly Father for refuge and protection.—*Jesse's Gleanings.*

Inquiry is now making by the Society of Friends throughout England as to the average length of life of persons belonging to their society, as compared with that of other individuals. The result is generally highly favourable to the superior longevity of Quakers, but in Chesterfield particularly so, as the following plainly shows; the good effects of living with temperance and frugality could not be more plainly demonstrated. United ages of 100 successive burials in Chesterfield church-yard, ending 16th November, 1834, 2,516 years 6 months, averaging 25 years 2 months, of whom two reached the age of 80 and upwards, and 12 reached the age of 70 and upwards. United ages of 100 successive burials of members of the society of Quakers in Chesterfield monthly meeting, ending 27th of November, 1834, 4,790 years 7 months, averaging 47 years 10 months, of whom 19 reached the age of 80 years and upwards, and 30 reached the age of 70 years and upwards.—*Derbyshire Courier.*

Threshing in Scotland is now performed by the high pressure steam engine. It requires only one twelfth, or one twentieth of the water for condensing, used in a low pressure engine.

Lord Brougham, it is said, will return to the bar.

The Evils of Prosperity.—It is an everlasting truth that man is in more danger from prosperity than from adversity. Bion being asked what was the most dangerous thing in the world, answered "to be most fortunate." "You will wisely shorten sail," says Horace to his friend Munera, "when too much swelled by a prosperous gale." Plato thanked the gods that he had been a pupil of Socrates, who always despised Fortune and her gifts. Cicero says that those who court fortune are more blind than fortune, who never advanced any one without reducing him again to misery."

THE OBSERVER.

We are sorry to perceive, by the reports of the debates which have come to hand, that the House of Assembly have passed a Bill, giving a discretionary power to Magistrates in General Sessions, to exempt the Acadian French from the payment of Poor Rates. This is an unwise and impolitic measure. Many of our readers, perhaps, may feel surprised at these opinions; but let them hear our reasons, and we feel little doubt that those who will take the trouble to reflect, will acknowledge the correctness of our conclusions. In a free government, all classes and denominations of people ought to be subject to the same laws and regulations, in every thing not immediately affecting matters of pure conscience, or the modes of communion between man and his Creator. Without such community of government or policy, there can be no community of feeling and interest; and where this is wanting, the strongest tie in the connection of the various members of the body politic is dissevered. Distinctiveness is no part of the British Constitution, with relation to the objects of its dominion and protection; equality in all things pertaining to the consideration of the law and the operation of the law, is a fundamental maxim of all British Legislation. In matters of public service and duty, and of pecuniary aids to the support of the state or the social institutions of the land, the laws of our parent land acknowledge no distinctions; they contemplate all alike in their intent and application, and must affect all equally in their operation; and it is absolutely necessary that this should be the case, where a community of interest is desirable, and where it is of importance to cement all classes of the population in one firm and common bond of nationality. And where, indeed, is the country or the nation, to which these objects are not of paramount consequence? Can a kingdom, or a people, or a family, divided against itself, stand in the day of trial? Can the nation, split into a diversity of views, of feelings, of prejudices, of interests and of social politics, present any thing like a combination of energy and a unity of purpose, to meet the current of sublunary vicissitudes, or the powerful force of political changes? It is as impossible as that an army, scattered over the varied scenery of a widely extended country, should succeed in reducing a fortress at the extremest verge of that territory. As concentration of force is absolutely necessary to the effecting a sole but difficult labour, so is homogeneous legislation and regulation peculiarly requisite to secure national unanimity and concord. On these principles, therefore, we unhesitatingly pronounce the exemption of any class or portion of the body politic from the operation of any law, not *in itself* oppressive, or *necessarily* partial or burdensome in its effects, as unwise, impolitic and unjust. General enactments must be *general* in their application, or the simplicity of national union and interest is violated, and when once distinction is allowed in one case, it cannot in fairness be refused whenever afterwards demanded. The law of assessment for *poor-rates* is peculiarly a general law, and ought always so to remain. Poverty is incidental to all classes and localities; and wherever indigence appears among a people, there should provision for its relief be made, according to one unwavering principle, applicable alike in every case and at every time. If individuals or societies of men choose, voluntarily, to dispense with the assistance of such laws, by providing solely among themselves for the wants of the poor and destitute of their own body, they have nevertheless no right to complain that they are still called upon to contribute their quota towards the general fund for such purposes; because, as members of a social and political community, they have *no right* to withdraw themselves from the operation of general laws, and to adopt their own self-constituted regulations. Legislation—the right of directing how and in what manner the well-being of society and the management of public affairs shall be conducted, is not in them, but in the powers constituted by the public voice and consent for that express purpose; and the enactments of those powers, being of common authority and by common consent, at the same time that they are intended for the common guvernement and benefit, must, perforce, have a general operation. We say, then, again, that detached portions of the body politic have no right to abstract themselves from the operation of such laws, or to govern themselves in matters provided for by such laws; and if those matters relate to pecuniary contributions to any public fund, they have, therefore, no right whatever to claim the exercise of their own private institutions in preference to an acquiescence in those laws; and still less can they demand as a *privilege* an exemption therefrom, merely because their own selfish exclusiveness prefers a social to a national regulation. In this predicament the Acadian French now stand. They assume to themselves the social right of providing for their own poor, contrary to the scope and operations of the constitutional enactments in that respect, which provide a common mode of relief for the indigent of all classes in the community. True it is, that any set of people, any individual indeed, has an undoubted natural right to be *charitable*, and to bestow what he or they may please, on any objects of benevolence they may choose to select. But this, either in individuals or societies, must merely be the private exercise of a humane and generous disposition. It has nothing to do with their public duties and obligations, nor can it be allowed to interfere with them. They must not legislate for themselves; because, as members of the national body, they have ceded such privileges to lawfully constituted authorities. They may, then, *voluntarily* relieve their own or any poor; but there is no *necessity* for them to do so, otherwise than is required by the general law. There is a mode expressly enacted, by the legislature of the land, by which the poor of *all* classes and denominations can and *must* be relieved; and to carry this mode into effect, the more fortunate of *all* classes and denominations are required to make proportionate pecuniary contribution. Is there any hardship, any distinctive burden in this? Are not *all* classes liable to have objects of poverty and distress among them; and should not, therefore, *all* classes be required equally to provide against such casualties?—But it may be said, that the Acadian French are willing to provide for their *own* poor; nay, that they actually do so, and why not therefore permit them to exercise that privilege, by exempting them from contributions towards the support of any other?—But we say, decidedly, *no*; grant no such exemption. It is nothing more nor less than a direct infringement of the national compact, by which all must be bound and regulated, who enjoy national privileges and protection; it is a positive withdrawing from the political bond of union and communion, and will serve only to strengthen and perpetuate unwise and injurious distinctions. And what is the natural effect of such distinctions? Let the present miserable and dangerous state of Lower Canada be an answer to this query. Had the British Government, when British gallantry and courage subdued that Province, not contented itself with merely conquering the physical force of the country, but proceeded also to remove all the existing national landmarks and distinctions, and to reduce every thing to British domination and amalgamation, by means of laws and language, Lower Canada would not now be torn asunder by these heart-burning feuds, those conflicting nationalities, those inveterate *distinctions* which at this moment are preying upon her vitals. And shall we, then, in this peaceful and happy Colony of New-Brunswick, now do anything to establish and perpetuate distinctions such as these? No! Every individual and every thing in a British territory must be essentially, positively British; we must have no exclusive interests, customs or privileges, but all must be alike amenable to the same laws, institutions and regulations. If the Acadian French wish to maintain their own poor, let them do so; but let it be a *matter of charity*, having no reference to exemption from legal assessments, applicable to the whole body of the people. Let them not be allowed to withdraw from the pale of common legislation. They have the same right to demand relief for their poor from the public resources to which they contribute, as others; and if the law is allowed to remain in its general application, as heretofore, they will in time see the folly of their exclusiveness, they will wisely accept the benefit as well as pay their portion of the poor-rates, and will thus overturn the barriers which at present separate them from their fellow subjects.—But it will be said, that it is a religious duty with them to support their own poor; and that we ought not to interfere with their religious tenets and prejudices. They may feel or consider it to be a *religious duty*; that is, that it is a sacred obligation on them to do so, and so it is with every people and community; but we are yet to learn by what religious *creed* or *tenet* they are required to do so in such an extensive and distinctive manner. They are Roman Catholics; and it is no part of the Roman Catholic creed or religion, either that its members, living in a protestant country, shall confine the care of their poor wholly to themselves, or that they shall object to conform to any laws or customs of such country, not immediately affecting their privileges of religion or conscience. There are abundance of Roman Catholics in other British Territories; but wherever the British poor laws prevail, there Catholic and Protestant equally submit to them, without reference to creed or religion; because neither creed nor religion is affected by them, and because, in such matters, the British Constitution will not allow of exclusive Legislation.—Were it otherwise, not only Acadian French, but Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, nay, any and every sect and denomination might claim the exclusive management, not only of their own poor-rates, but of every other tax and imposition, (for the same principle would apply to all,) and thus the country would be split into a vast variety of interests and communities, and all order and regularity, and, peculiarly, all financial legislation would be at an end. The undeniable existence, therefore, of this dangerous principle in the question under consideration, we hope, induces the Legislative Council to reject the Bill, as they did in a former Session; and we can only express our surprise, that the House of Assembly should have consented to pass such an impolitic measure. There appears to have been a remarkable degree of apathy in the House on this important subject: we well recollect that on the former occasion, (some three or four years ago, we believe,) as appears by the reports of the debates, the hon. member for Gloucester, (Mr. End,) was the only member who had the courage to oppose the bill; and it is not a little singular that he again appears to have been alone in his opposition. Very few members appear to have spoken at all on the subject; and we should naturally imagine, therefore, that with the exception of Mr. End's opposition, the Bill must have passed almost *sub silentio*, solely from a want of consideration of the important principles it involves.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the Council have thrown out the bill.

MONTREAL, FEB. 8.

Fire with loss of Life.—A very serious fire, which has been attended with the loss of three lives and of severe injury to several other persons, occurred in this city early yesterday morning. About three or a little later, Mr. T. B. English, of the Belfast Hotel, situated in Commissioner-street, was awakened by the appearance of bright flames and dense smoke through his bed-room window. Having noticed that they proceeded from the St. George Inn, which forms the opposite corner of that and St. Joseph-street, Mr. English lost no time in arousing the inmates of that establishment to a sense of their danger. At this time, the fire was bursting out of the first and second stories, but no alarm had been given, and the residents of the St. George Inn were slumbering in fancied security. Mr. Owston, the landlord (who formerly commanded the Woodbine, a London trader to this port,) was one of the first aroused, and immediate exertions were made by him, to save his son, a fine boy about eleven years of age. After making some progress through the smoke, he missed his child, and all his subsequent endeavours to rescue him from the dreadful death awaiting him, proved ineffectual. Mr. Owston succeeded, with much difficulty, in breaking open a door, which had been for some time nailed up, leading into the adjoining brick building, forming a part of the said premises, and situated in St. Joseph-st. His hands and face were much scorched; but his sufferings have been great, but we understand there is no danger to be apprehended. A servant girl named McQuinn, who had but recently left the Montreal General Hospital, jumped from the third story window, by which she received a compound fracture of one of her legs and a concussion of the spine; she is now in the Hospital, and is doing better than might be expected after such severe injuries. A servant man also jumped from the third story and was severely hurt. Mr. Rigby, who was passing the night in the house, escaped, nearly in a state of nudity, from the upper windows, and came down by the spout, much bruised and burnt. The other two inmates of the house perished in the flames.—They are a Mr. Gilbert, a gentleman recently from London, and a young man named William Smith, a native of Norwich, in England, who for some months past has been in the employ of Mr. Privat, and Mr. Knaut, as a marker to their billiard tables. Mr. Gilbert was seen at one of the windows in his night dress ere the floor fell in. In addition to the other accidents, George Carew Davies, Esq. was struck down by the falling of one of the spouts, and a fireman had his leg broken. Mr. Davies, though he suffered much at the moment, we are happy to learn, is not seriously injured. Mrs. Owston (who, it may be well to state, was not the mother of the unfortunate boy destroyed in the flames,) very fortunately, was on a visit to a friend at Laprairie, and a servant girl was also absent, attending to a sick relation.

The remains of Mr. Gilbert and young Owston have been found—those of Smith remain in the ruins.

The property belonged to Austin Cuvillier, Esq. and was insured for £750 only at the Quebec Office. Mr. Owston's furniture was protected by a policy of the Alliance office, for £550.—*Gazette.*

From the Montreal Gazette, Feb. 5.

We mentioned in our paper of the 20th ult., that the Upper Canada Assembly, by a bare majority of one, had agreed to address Sir John Colborne, praying His Excellency to lay before them the correspondence between the Home Government and the Provincial Executive, on the subject of the dismissal and reinstatement of the Crown Law Officers of Upper Canada. Sir John's reply to the deputation is thus expressed:—

"Gentlemen,—Copies of the Despatches applied for in this Address, cannot be laid before the House of Assembly, without the sanction of His Majesty's Government."

Since the receipt of this answer, we notice by the *Toronto Recorder's* account of the proceedings in the House, the whole subject has been referred, on the motion of Mr. Mackenzie, to the Committee of Grievance, after a lengthened debate, in which Messrs. Gowan, Samson, M'Lean, Perry, Boulton, Hagerman, Mackenzie, (called to order by the Speaker,) Richardson, and Wilson, took a conspicuous part. The motion of reference was carried by a majority of five; owing, the same paper states, to several Members having left the House while Mr. Perry was speaking.

Mr. Mackenzie gave notice, that he would on an early day move resolutions for erasing from the Journals, the proceedings relative to his several expulsions from the House of Assembly, and declaring the proceedings of the House in that way unconstitutional.

The cold has been intense since yesterday morning, when the thermometer fell to 20 to 24 below zero. This morning it was as low as 24 to 28 below zero, which is the greatest cold experienced at Quebec this winter.—*Quebec Gazette, Feb. 4.*

One of the most false and libellous letters on the character of the French Canadians that we have ever read, appears in the *Albany Gazette* of the 31 instant. It is the first of the series.—*Ibid, Feb. 9.*