They arrived before noon on the following day. The interview was very distressing. My poor old father no sooner entered the room, than this wretched young man, by an unexpected and extraordinary effort, got out of his bed, and upon his hands and knees, for he could not walk, crawled to his feet and exclaimed, 'Father, forgive me, before I die.' My father was greatly shocked by his appearance; and the exertion undoubtedly shortened the period of my poor brother's existence.

After taking a little nourishment he appeared so much better, that I felt almost inclined to think he might recover: but it was only the flashing and flickering of life's lamp, before it is extinguished for ever.

During this interval he begged his father and Parson Cooley to sit near him. "Do you not trace all your misery to the use of *ardent spirit Absalom?*" said the good minister.—"No sir," he replied, "I never drank any, till about eighteen months ago, but I became extremely fond of wine; and the first time that I went to an Infidel meeting, I was intoxicated with wine, which I drank at the bars of the theatre. When I could no longer obtain wine as the means of intoxication, I resorted to ardent spirit, because it was cheaper; and finally, the fatal relish destroyed my taste, in a great measure, for milder stimulants. Intoxication drove me to the brothel; the doctrines taught me at the Infidel meetings justified my conduct in going there.—When I became conscious of an oppressive burden in form of crime, I was delighted to be told, and to be convinced, that such things as I had thought sinful, were perfectly innocent. The leader of the Infidels tried to produce this conviction on my mind; I was desirous of being convinced: and, at length, I mistook the desire to be convinced for the conviction itself.'

After a short pause, he continued as follows:—

A man who has committed theft, would be glad to believe that there were no judge on earth; for then he could not be tried here; and a man who has committed all sorts of crimes, would be gad to believe there is no God in heaven; for then he could not be judged hereafter, and to hide himself from the wrath to come. In my hours of intoxication I was more then ever disposed to justify the doctrines of infidelity; and, when listening to lectures upon infidelity, I was the more ready to justify the practice of intoxication, and of all other crimes. I believe the leader, who lectures upon infidelity, to be an unprincipled villain; and I believe his disciples, the doctrines, because they are so much more comforting to a heavy headed impenitent wretch, than the doctrines of the cross. May God of his infinite goodness forgive me my offences, and an abandoned and profligate old man for leading me to destruction.'

The whole of his physical and intellectual power appeared to be exhausted by his last effort. He dropped his head on one side, and there followed a slight convulsion. I went instantly to his bedside; —his eyes were glazed;—he was fast locked in the arms of death;—the spirit of the penitent infidel had fled.'

Our good minister supported my old father from the apartment. By my advice they returned home. In due time the earth received its tribute; and I returned to the village.

It was a remarkable coincidence, that on the very next Sabbath, in reading the Scriptures, Parson Cooley opened to the eighteenth chapter of the second book of Samuel; and when he pronounced the words of David's lamentation, in the concluding verse, 'Oh, my son Absalom, my son,' the good old clergyman could scarcely speak for his emotion.

Time, though it cannot obliterate the recollection of such misery as this, has already mitigated our affliction. My parents are still living, at a good old age. Their chief employment is a cheerful preparation for death. My sister and her husband, with their flock of little ones, are prosperous and happy.

I sometimes encounter an individual, perhaps the member of some temperance society, who *scrupulously abstains from ardent spirit, under its specific name;* but who is eminently qualified, not only for commission of folly, but for the perpetration of crime, by the employment of *some milder stimulant:* upon such occasions, the declaration of my unhappy brother, on his death bed, comes forcibly before me: the use of wine alone brought him to infidelity and ruin!

I never meet an individual, who does not *believe* that there is a God, but who cannot, by any human possibility, *know* that there is *not*, without a vivid and painful recollection of the life and death of this wretched young man. The dying words of a poor penitent Infidel can never be forgotten, 'I AM AFRAID THERE IS A GOD!'

(From the London Times.)

THE OFFERTORY.

A seasonable offering has been made to the peace of the church by the Rev. R. Wickham, M.A., of Christchurch, Oxford, in his pamphlet entitled, *Is the Offertory without Communion required by the Church?* This important point of polemical discussion is here treated in a manner at once so calm and yet so earnest, as renders it quite evident that no intemperate or party emotions have agitated the mind of the writer, whose aim obviously it is to check the violence of this unhappy controversy, by explaining what he conceives to be the real truth of the question at issue.

He ascribes the origin of the attempt to introduce the custom of the weekly offertory to the impression that large sums of money would thus be collected for the many important purposes for which they are wanted, and, being distributed through the hands of the clergy, would be justly applied to the necessities of the church. It seemed to bear, moreover, he says, upon the face of it a resemblance to primitive practice, and even to carry with it the power of spiritual sanction.

He confesses, however, that the serious opposition which it has encountered, and the strong feelings connected with that opposition, ought to have their due weight with the clergy, and make them 'pause and consider well how far' they are "really bound in conscience or in prudence to press forward a measure which appears to be so generally obnoxious."

He disposes very happily of the argument for the weekly offertory, which is made to rest upon St. Paul's charge to the Corinthian Church, and then passes on to the general topic which the title of his pamphlet announces. The importance, and the merits, indeed, of the whole discussion, plainly turn upon this,—whether, even supposing this rite cannot be proved from Scripture, nor accurately traced in any of the Fathers, the clergy are not absolutely compelled to observe and press it upon their congregations, from the plain literal sense of the rubrics as they stand? But he very justly observes, that a "literal compliance with every rubric would constantly place the clergy in collision with the statute law and common sense." The former case we have sufficiently illustrated of late in this very matter of the offertory, and the latter remains for the decision of every one possessed of the specified qualification; and he anxiously propounds the doubt whether the silence of the church on such points of her ritual which have been long obsolete, or never perfectly obeyed, may not release the clergy from undeviating compliance, although "no formal abrogation may have been made." A quotation from the charge of the Bishop of Ripon in 1841 confirms this simple and rational view. After stating that whatever has been enacted by the Convocation and Parliament can only be repealed by their authority, his Lordship adds, "Yet, if the whole body from whom the convocation would be selected have *tacitly consented to abandon the practice, the obligation to renew it would not seem to be very strong, and such is the opinion of the most experienced canonists, even in cases where the order is clear and undisputed.*" How far this possible collision of the law and the rubrics might have been avoided or remedied, is a question which has not to be answered in our day; but, certainly, seeing what the universal observance of our church in these matters has been, we quite agree with Mr. Wickham, that there is great room for doubting how far any clergyman can be authorized, much less compelled, to make such innovations in Divine service, without the positive approbation or command of his diocesan; and even whether a clergyman "ought to be *required* to do so under any less sanctions than would be necessary to establish new rites and ceremonies." It ought not, most surely, to be left to any individual to decide upon this question, and we eminently hope that no one will persevere in the attempt to impose these innovations upon a parish or a diocese, contrary to the dictates of prudence, to the risk of entailing discord in the church, and to the manifest peril of uniformity, "the very object of a common prayer."

The pamphlet goes on to prove that the disregard of a weekly offertory needs not even the defence which is here, as it has been elsewhere, advanced. Mr. Wickham demonstrates that the collecting at the offertory from the whole congregation, "independently of a communion," would be found utterly at variance with *a strict observance* of the whole of the rubrics.

He establishes the fact that the collection which is now in use in our communion is essentially different from that which is recognized by the rubrics of 1549, and is differently made, the former being cast into the poor-box, instead of being collected from pew to pew. As pauperism increased, collectors were appointed to form a list of persons willing to contribute, and at this time some very significant changes were made on the "arrangement of the communion service, and in the rubrics relating to this part of it."

The churchwardens were then "*to gather* the devotions of the people, and put the same in the poor man's box." The "Prayer for the Church Militant" was also directed to be used as it now is and the exhortation succeeds it. This detained the congregation till after the "Prayer for the Church Militant;" but this was only to be done "when there is a communion."

Now, there is no doubt that the framers of our Liturgy anticipated a much higher state of ecclesiastical discipline than we have ever reached. It was intended originally that there should be a communion every Sunday, and it was presumed that all would yield an obedience to the ordinances of the church—to this one most particularly. "Not only then was there a weekly, and even more than weekly communion provided for by the rubric, but all were addressed as communicants." Soon, however, it became evident that this intention of the rubric could not be realized. Alterations were accordingly made, and no communion was to be celebrated, "except there be a good number" instead of "some." When subsequently the state of the law with regard to the poor underwent considerable variations and the assessments on their behalf were made, there should not be wanting a separate place, and a poor's box, and it was enjoined that the alms at the offertory "shall be disposed of to such pious and charitable uses as the minister and churchwardens shall think fit." There is a quotation from a charge of Archdeacon Sharp, who thought the clergy "under higher obligations to observe rubric than any other ecclesiastical law whatsoever;" which we think will appear very satisfactory, in so far as it tends fully to corroborate the author's sentiments. In 1738, the Archdeacon says,—

"When there is no collection of alms made there is no occasion to use any of the sentences appointed to be used during the time of a collection.' He then recites the several rubrics on the subject, and adds, 'From these several rubrics laid together, the sense of the church may be gathered—viz., that alms and the sentences are intended always to accompany each other; and the obvious inference is that where the former are wanting, the latter will seem superfluous and without warrant.' It is evident, not only that in Archdeacon Sharp's day there was no weekly collection at the great Offertory for from seeing the order for it in the rubric, that the only question in his mind was, whether it was the intention of the revisers that the sentences themselves should be read on all occasions. 'Formerly,' says he, 'the offerings went to the poor man's box, and the poor of each parish were chiefly supported thence; and that there was an offertory made at least every Sunday, if not also on holy days, or as often as the communion was appointed. Such weekly collections are to this day made in some parishes where there is no assessment to the poor. And on all those church gatherings of alms the use of the sentences is extremely proper. But where no collection is intended or thought of, there seems to be no inducement to use them, as there is no express authority for it. Yet I dare not blame any minister who continues the common practice of reciting one or two of them before he proceeds to the Prayer for the Church Militant. . . . . But while we are left to the apparent directions of the rubric only, it will be difficult to shew that we have any authority thence to use them when there are no stated offerings of alms. The just consequence of which would have been, that we might not at those times use any of the sentences had not custom and an almost universal practice of the clergy forbid the drawing such a consequence.—Therefore, as the matter now stands, it seems to be left as a point determinable at our discretion, viz., *to do* what has been most usually done, or not to do what we are persuaded in our judgments was not originally designed to be done.'"

The conclusion in the mind of the writer, and we trust in those of his readers also, is this,—that there is no positive order or even recommendation in Scripture for "weekly congregational collections, to be placed ordinarily and constantly in the hands of the ministers of religion."

The evidence of any such custom is wanting in Scripture; there is proof that it did not prevail in the primitive church. In 1549 something very unlike it was introduced on account of the growing pauperism of the age. "It was designedly discontinued three years afterwards," except in connexion with the communion; and the practice of taking alms from non-communicants had ceased long before 1662. It has never since been observed, and the *interpretation* of the rubric will bear no more than a permission to use it where there is no express provision for the poor.

And what, after all, as he asks, shall we gain by a weekly offertory? Money, certainly—but, as he justly reasons, by no means to the amount upon which the lovers of the measure seem to calculate. He reminds us of the days when appeals for 'briefs' were carried about from pew to pew, and every one who remembers their existence cannot help remembering their fate. He observes, very truly, that we must legislate for times and people of a totally different character and habits to those of the apostles; and, among other things to be dreaded if this practice were adopted, that the weekly collection might very probably serve to divert or diminish those private charities to which all affluent Christians are bound by obligations of every kind diligently to attend.

There are one or two extracts cited by Mr. Wickham from the works of that eminent and eloquent father, St. Chrysostom, which are much to the purpose here, and which assuredly do not countenance the prevalent assumption of prerogative in the minister to raise contributions when he will, or dispose of them in any manner he may choose. To his words, ever words of power and brilliancy, both the heart and the reason will respond, and there are few, we apprehend, who will demur to the opinions of one whose glowing and persuasive addresses have gained for him an imperishable name in the church:—

"'Knowest not thou,' he says, 'that God enacteth not almsgiving so much for the sake of the poor, as for the sake of the persons themselves who bestow?' In one other place he says, '*Give not thy alms to those who preside in the church to distribute.*—Bestow it *thyself*, that thou mayest have the reward, not of giving merely, but of kind service. Give with thine own hands.' 'Be thou a dispenser of thine own gifts. Thine own benevolence and the fear of God appoint thee to that ministry. Thus vain glory is excluded. This refreshes the soul, this sanctifies the hands, this pulls down pride, this teaches thee philosophy, this inflames thy zeal, this makes thee to receive blessings. Thy head, as thou departest, receives all the blessings of the widows.'"

He alludes also very pithily to that important portion of the rubric where the concurrence of the minister and churchwardens is required as to the disposal of the alms, and he traces, with every appearance of truth, the difficulties and anomalies that may ensue upon a difference of opinion in such distribution.

If exclusive reasoning can be silenced, and blind party prepossession can be overcome, we urgently advise a careful study of this little work to the warmest advocates of the weekly offertory. We refer them, especially, to the quotations from Archdeacon Sharp, whose stringent notions of obedience to the rubric have been already noticed. His positive affirmation concerning the right use of the sentences in the offertory should be carefully and patiently weighed; and his just inference of attending principally to customary usages deserves both respect and consideration, the more so that he held himself and all the clergy bound to adhere to the rubric, "literally, punctually, and perpetually."

We close our remarks upon this pamphlet with a strong sense of its value at this particular time. We admire it for its unsparing plainness, its cautious progress through the several stages of the argument, and for the tone of high religious feeling by which the writer tests the merits of his own position. We congratulate the church generally upon the appearance of this work, and we sincerely hope it will insure the results of a candid and hearty acquiescence from every one who wishes to know what it is right for him to believe in this controversy.

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Wednesday, February 5.

Two Bills relating to the county of Charlotte were passed this morning; the first on the subject of the Fisheries, and the other in reference to the driving of Logs, Timber, &c. on the streams thereon mentioned, and also the Navigation of the St. Croix.

Mr. End read a petition from a Schoolmaster at Bathurst named Rash or Resh, complaing of the conduct of the inhabitants of Eel River in that part of the country, and praying that he might obtain the Provincial allowance. Mr. End in presenting the petition remarked that he was entirely averse to the prayer of it being granted, although the certificate appended to it included the recommendation of several respectable persons; among whom was the French Missionary. The Petitioner had narrowly escaped the penalty of the Law being pronounced against him on a late occasion, in consequence of his having attempted the seduction of some Female Scholars in his school. He (Mr. E.) thought him totally unworthy of consideration.

Mr. Barberie corroborated the statement of the hon. Member for Gloucester, and as a part of his speech read a letter from another Priest in that quarter, which alluded to Resh as a notorious ruffian, and some similar designations, and expressed a hope that the petition of such a wretch would not be received.

Mr. Brown tried his utmost to get the Petition referred to a Committee for the sole purpose of investigation; and after a few words from Mr. Stewart in defence of the Petitioner, the case was negatived. We regret that it is beyond our power to give place to the above discussion: illustrating as it does so fully the deplorable state of morals existing in some of the Parish Schools: and the necessity which exists for caution on the part of Trustees in granting certificates.

Mr. Boyd brought in a Bill to authorise Grand Juries to inspect public accounts.

Mr. Partelow presented a petition from the Mechanic's settlement in the counties of King and Westmorland, praying to expend a part of the purchase money of their lands on public roads. On this subject—applied to the use of the House—we have advert to the reception of petitioners for Bye roads—an animated discussion was carried on for nearly an hour; the result of which was, that it was granted on all hands that a good case was made out for the petitioners.—Messrs. Partelow, Smith, Jordan, Z. Earle, Payne, Hannington, M'Lean, and Hon. L. A. Wilmot, supported the petition; the latter Gentleman remarking that he would be rejoiced to see the whole purchase money of wilderness lands expended on the roads throughout the country. Against it,—Messrs. End, Wark, Connell, Scoullar, Stewart, Gilbert, Barberie and Boyd, urged that however just the claim, it should not be entertained by the house as it would be offering to the nine wide a door for similar applications, and the Members for King's and Westmorland might if they chose to assist the new settlements by giving them a liberal share from the Bye Road Grants for those counties. It was finally referred to the committee on Roads.

Mr. End rose to submit a resolution, and in doing so wished to say a few words by way of explanation. It was now several days since the resignation of the late Executive Councillors, and although he did not wish to call it apathy, there had been no information afforded to the house on the subject of the Government. He would therefore on Friday next submit to the house a Resolution,—here the hon. Member read a resolution to the effect, that three of these gentlemen having resigned in consequence of the injustice of the late appointment, and another (the hon. Member for York) having assumed the same ground, in addition to the right of being consulted. Therefore resolved that this honourable House do approve of the course pursued by the late Executive in their resignation, (such is the principle of the Resolution, which we do not pretend to give verbatim.) Here the hon. and learned Member took occasion to avow himself an out and out convert to Responsible Government: declaring at the same time that the patronage and power of her Majesty's Representative had not been used for the benefit of the people, and that the "wishes, feelings, and interests" of the people had not been consulted. The hon. and learned Member said he did not wish in any way to interfere with the Prerogative of the Crown; but he agreed altogether with the above words of Sir Robert Peel, and he believed they should be inscribed in letters of Gold. He barbed inquired no wish that the natives of Great Britain should be excluded from the offices in the Colonies; for he was himself a native of the Mother country, and he thought there should be no distinction. On a former day the question had been put by a Member of the Government, how many years it was necessary to live in New Brunswick before a man should be qualified for office—here his Honour the Speaker interposed on the ground that any observations made on language already used in the House would only tend to useless altercation. Mr. End complained of the interruption and laid the Resolution on the Table.

Mr. Hill then rose and submitted another Resolution which we cannot of course give verbatim, but which goes in effect to say that it is the duty of the Governor to consult his Council, in all important matters, and that such council should on their part be men possessing the confidence of the people—this also was laid on the table; and Monday next appointed for the discussion of these Resolutions.

After some remarks in committee of the whole a Bill to continue an act in reference to insolvent debtors, upon which progress was reported.—and the presentation of the petition by Mr. John Earle from the inhabitants of Gage Town, Waterborough and Canning, for assistance to defray the expense of employing a courier between Gage Town and Grand Lake, the house adjourned.

Thursday, January 6.

Mr. Fisher introduced a Bill, having for its object the making and repairing the streets and Highways in the Town of Fredericton; and on its being presented, his Honor the speaker remarked that it did not appear to have been read in Session.

Mr. Fisher explained by stating that he had introduced the Bill in its present shape, merely in order to settle the point whether the House would in future adhere to a fixed rule in the refusal of Petitions of that nature when not read in Session. A discussion ensued, by which it was decided that it came under the class of Bills necessary to be read in Session. Acting on this suggestion, Mr. Fisher produced another Bill which had undergone the initiating process, and the Bill was received.

Being called for a few moments from the Gallery, on our return we found that Mr. W. H. Street had introduced a Resolution to the effect that it was improper, in the present state of the Government, to go into Supply. Hon. Mr. Simonds was addressing the house as we entered. He said that the want of an Executive Council should not be permitted to prevent the necessary business of the country; more especially as the house had not yet adopted any definite mode of action. The filling of such important situations as those of the Governor's advisers, should not, and could not be done hastily; and it was in the present state of the country doubtful whether it could be done at all; it would therefore be highly improper to press such a motion at present, as its only effect would be to embarrass the Government, and at the same time suspend all the business of the people. To say that the ordinary business of the country could not be carried on under a temporary suspension of a part of the Executive, was an extreme view of the subject, and not justified by facts or experience.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or administrator of the government for the time being, he sum of £30 to provide for a Tide waiter at Dalhousie, in the county of Restiguouche, for the year 1845.

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

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 11, 1845.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—In a message to the house of Assembly the Lieutenant Governor, on the 4th, laid before the house an answer to their request that a Military Post may be established at Miramichi, which is declined by her Majesty's government, not only because the Commander in chief wishes to discountenance the practice of dispersing the military force in small parties, but because the Provincial Government refuse to provide the additional expence attendant thereon.

In the house on the 6th, Mr. Wark submitted the following Resolution:—

"That an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this house, a return of the amount of Postage collected at each of the Post Offices within the Province during the past year:—The salaries paid to the several Postmasters, and other persons connected with the Post Office;—The salary paid to the surveyor of the Post Office, and the amount paid to him for travelling charges, and other contingencies of his Office, including the rate per diem paid when so travelling;—The annual sum paid to each of the Contractors for carrying the regular Mails, and the number of times such Mails are transmitted weekly; The expenses incurred in forwarding the express Mails, and the names of the places between which such mails have been forwarded;—With the probable expense of forwarding through this Province the English Mails to and from Canada."

The *Head Quarters* of Wednesday says—"The absorbing topic since our last number is the proceedings of the Legislature, relative to the appointment of Mr. Reade as Provincial Secretary, and we have endeavoured to crowd as much of Monday's debate in this day's paper as circumstances would permit. The Assembly are still occupied in discussing this question, and it is probable the debate will not close until late this evening, if it do even then. We have been obliged to condense some of the most elaborate and eloquent speeches which we have ever heard in the Assembly of this Province; but to have attempted to give them entire, would have occupied a space as large as half a dozen such papers as ours would admit."

The late hour at which its debate was received in the city, prevents the possibility of our giving more than the Resolutions which were brought forward on that occasion. The first were from Mr. End, as follow:

"Whereas the late Executive Members of this house in their explanations of the causes which led to their recent resignations, have informed the house that the principal object and sole reason of such resignations, was an opinion entertained by them that the appointment of Alfred Reade, Esq., to the office of Secretary to the Province, was an act of injustice towards many individual residents in this Colony, whose well known zeal and ability in the public service, as it had earned for them the confidence and respect of her Majesty's loyal subjects, and had also justified the hope that such zeal and ability would not be overlooked in the distribution of government patronage—

"Therefore Resolved, That this house ought heartily to concur in the opinion entertained by those late Executive Members, and highly approve of their conduct in that particular; and whereas the said 'local' appointment appearing to have been made without "consulting the wishes, feelings and opinions' of her Majesty's Executive Council of this Province—

"Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, That 'patronage and favour in this instance have not been used for the benefit of the Province;' that it is a measure subversive of those principles of responsibility which have been unequivocally recognised by her Majesty's Government, as alike constitutionally applicable to her Majesty's North American Colonies, and greatly conducive to the peace, happiness and welfare of their loyal subjects; And further Resolved, That those Members of the Executive Government, who did not tender their resignation on that occasion, ought not to have, and have not, the confidence of that house and the country."

His honor the Speaker suggested that it would be better to propose the Resolutions only, without the preamble, and let them go on the Journals without any previous remark. He merely suggested this as he thought it would be more Parliamentary to do so.

Mr. Hill said he had given notice on a previous day that he would move a Resolution in amendment of those moved by the hon. member from Gloucester. He was of opinion that the preamble of the Resolutions which was about to be proposed should accompany those Resolutions, in order to explain them. But if a contrary opinion should prevail he had no objections to place the Resolution on the Journals without the preamble, which he should now read as part of his speech. The hon. member then read—

"Whereas the constitutional doctrine of a local accountability in all matters of a local nature, not interfering with Imperial interests, is now an established element in the Government of the British North American Colonies having Legislative Assemblies; and whereas the general mode by which this responsibility is carried out is also established, and a matter of constant operation in other Colonies; and whereas it is important, not only that the principle, but the means adopted for giving it practical efficiency, should, in their essential features, be understood and recognised, before the application thereof to particular emergencies—

"Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that among the principal means a subordinate principle, established for working out local Responsible Government, are the following, namely: That the Administrator of the Government of the Province is to conduct its affairs by and with the assistance of an Executive Council, and is, as a general rule, to consult his council in all local matters.—That the Executive council, in all local matters, is responsible to the Assembly for the Acts of the Head of the Government, and for the right exercise of the prerogative: from which responsibility they can escape only by resigning their seats—That the Assembly is the constitutional exponent of public opinion—That the fidelity of this exponent may be tested by a dissolution of the Assembly, and a direct appeal to the people themselves, whose decision on all subjects of a local nature, not involving paramount imperial interests, is to determine the action of the Executive—That as a general rule, the heads of principal Official Departments are to be included in the Executive Council, and as well the heads of Departments, as the members of the Executive Council, are to hold their places on the tenure of possessing the public confidence."

Mr. Fisher proposed the following Resolutions:

"Whereas this house did, during the last session of the Legislature declare its concurrence in the principles of Colonial Government contained in the reply of Sir Charles Metcalf to the district council of Gore, thereby declaring that the government of this Province should be conducted in the true spirit of the resolutions of the Canadian Legislative Assemby of 1841, which are as follows:

Resolved, That the most important, as well as the most undoubted of the political rights of the people of this Province, is that of having a Provincial Parliament for the protection of their liberties, for the exercise of a constitutional influence over the executive departments of their government, and for Legislation upon all matters of internal government.

Resolved, That the head of the Executive government of the Province, being within the limits of his Government, the Representative of the sovereign is responsible to Imperial authority alone; but that nevertheless the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him, by and with the administrator of the government for the time being, the sum of £22 10s. for tide surveyor at Bathurst, in the county of Gloucester, for the year 1845.

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"Whereas the late Executive Members of this house in their explanations of the causes which led to their recent resignations, have informed the house that the principal object and sole reason of such resignations, was an opinion entertained by them that the appointment of Alfred Reade, Esq., to the office of Secretary to the Province, was an act of injustice towards many individual residents in this Colony, whose well known zeal and ability in the public service, as it had earned for them the confidence and respect of her Majesty's loyal subjects, and had also justified the hope that such zeal and ability would not be overlooked in the distribution of government patronage—

"Therefore Resolved, That this house ought heartily to concur in the opinion entertained by those late Executive Members, and highly approve of their conduct in that particular; and whereas the said 'local' appointment appearing to have been made without "consulting the wishes, feelings and opinions' of her Majesty's Executive Council of this Province—

"Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, That 'patronage and favour in this instance have not been used for the benefit of the Province;' that it is a measure subversive of those principles of responsibility which have been unequivocally recognised by her Majesty's Government, as alike constitutionally applicable to her Majesty's North American Colonies, and greatly conducive to the peace, happiness and welfare of their loyal subjects; And further Resolved, That those Members of the Executive Government, who did not tender their resignation on that occasion, ought not to have, and have not, the confidence of that house and the country."

His honor the Speaker suggested that it would be better to propose the Resolutions only, without the preamble, and let them go on the Journals without any previous remark. He merely suggested this as he thought it would be more Parliamentary to do so.

Mr. Hill said he had given notice on a previous day that he would move a Resolution in amendment of those moved by the hon. member from Gloucester. He was of opinion that the preamble of the Resolutions which was about to be proposed should accompany those Resolutions, in order to explain them. But if a contrary opinion should prevail he had no objections to place the Resolution on the Journals without the preamble, which he should now read as part of his speech. The hon. member then read—

"Whereas the constitutional doctrine of a local accountability in all matters of a local nature, not interfering with Imperial interests, is now an established element in the Government of the British North American Colonies having Legislative Assemblies; and whereas the general mode by which this responsibility is carried out is also established, and a matter of constant operation in other Colonies; and whereas it is important, not only that the principle, but the means adopted for giving it practical efficiency, should, in their essential features, be understood and recognised, before the application thereof to particular emergencies—

"Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that among the principal means a subordinate principle, established for working out local Responsible Government, are the following, namely: That the Administrator of the Government of the Province is to conduct its affairs by and with the assistance of an Executive Council, and is, as a general rule, to consult his council in all local matters.—That the Executive council, in all local matters, is responsible to the Assembly for the Acts of the Head of the Government, and for the right exercise of the prerogative: from which responsibility they can escape only by resigning their seats—That the Assembly is the constitutional exponent of public opinion—That the fidelity of this exponent may be tested by a dissolution of the Assembly, and a direct appeal to the people themselves, whose decision on all subjects of a local nature, not involving paramount imperial interests, is to determine the action of the Executive—That as a general rule, the heads of principal Official Departments are to be included in the Executive Council, and as well the heads of Departments, as the members of the Executive Council, are to hold their places on the tenure of possessing the public confidence."

Mr. Fisher proposed the following Resolutions:

"Whereas this house did, during the last session of the Legislature declare its concurrence in the principles of Colonial Government contained in the reply of Sir Charles Metcalf to the district council of Gore, thereby declaring that the government of this Province should be conducted in the true spirit of the resolutions of the Canadian Legislative Assemby of 1841, which are as follows:

Resolved, That the most important, as well as the most undoubted of the political rights of the people of this Province, is that of having a Provincial Parliament for the protection of their liberties, for the exercise of a constitutional influence over the executive departments of their government, and for Legislation upon all matters of internal government.

Resolved, That the head of the Executive government of the Province, being within the limits of his Government, the Representative of the sovereign is responsible to Imperial authority alone; but that nevertheless the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him, by and with the assistance, council, and information of subordinate Officers in the Government.

Resolved, That in order to preserve between the different branches of the Provincial Parliament, that harmony which is essential to the peace, welfare, and good government of the Province, the chief advisers of the Representative of the sovereign constituting a Provincial administration under him, ought to be men possessed of the confidence of the Representatives of the people, thus affording a guarantee that the well understood wishes and interests of the people, which our Gracious sovereign has declared shall be the rule of the Provincial government, will on all occasions be faithfully represented and advocated.

Resolved, That the people of this Province have, moreover, a right to expect from such Provincial administration, the exertion of their best endeavors that the imperial authority within its constitutional limits shall be exercised in a manner most consistent with their well understood wishes and interests;"

"Which principles have been affirmed by the present colonial secretary and other distinguished British statesmen of all parties, and are now in full operation in Canada: and whereas, the house believed that on the occurrence of vacancies in the principal offices of Government, these principles would be adhered to as the circumstances and situation of the Province would admit; and whereas, the secretary of this Province is the head of a department which should be included in the Executive council, and the incumbent bound to resign office on retirement from the council which principle has been disregarded in filling up the vacancy which recently occurred in the office; therefore,"

"Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that the course pursued by the Administrator of the Government in filling up the vacancy which has occurred in the Secretary's Office, has, in this respect, departed from the acknowledged principles of Colonial Government."

☞ Mr. Hardinge will deliver a Lecture on Taste in relation to Painting, &c. at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening next.

THE HONORABLE MR. SIMONDS.—This gentleman has been, for many years, the leading Agitator and the leader of the Responsible Government party in this Province; and as such we have often spoken of him in terms of severity. It seems, however, that he has now long enough to see the mischievous tendency of the principles which he has advocated; and we heartily congratulate the country upon the change which appears to have taken place in his sentiments.

In the debate in the House of Assembly on the 3d instant, he avowed those sound Constitutional principles which have been so often advocated in this paper, and which we have so often entertained by every honest, loyal, and right minded man who understands the subject. He condemned in the strongest manner, those principles of responsible government which, he said, were held by some honorable members, and which were the same as those contended for by Baldwin and others in Canada. He said if those principles were once introduced here, "then good bye farewell to the peace of this Colony,"—what had occurred in Canada would follow, wherever those principles should take root, as inevitably as night follows day.—He called attention to the scenes now being enacted in Nova Scotia and Canada, and asked if that were a state of things to be desired in this Province. Such principles, he said, were not applicable to a Colony—they were inconsistent with the Monarchial principle—they would sink the country beneath a Democracy, and lead to an Oligarchy, the most odious of all governments. A Colonial Cabinet dependent on a majority of the House of Assembly was impracticable and absurd, and inconsistent with the prerogative of the Crown. Such a responsible government, he said, "was calculated to agitate and disturb the country—*it was a spectre which pushed before it agitation with one arm, and dragged after it rebellion with the other.*" As he did not expect or wish to remain long in public life, he expressed these opinions with the sincerity of a dying man, and thought he should betray his duty to the country if he did not express them.

Mr. Simonds is not the first politician in whose mind years and experience have produced a change of sentiment. When Burke saw that, owing to the influence of the French Revolution, the principles of those with whom he acted in the House of Commons were likely to do infinite mischief, he nobly sacrificed every consideration to the good of his country, and joined the government party.

Mr. Simonds speaks of retiring from public life; but if he has now hoisted the British flag in earnest, we should be sorry to see him desert his colors.—Let him remember the example of Pitt—let him stand by and defend the prerogative of the Crown to the last, and he will find that his loyal constituents will, as they did before his last his popularity, again elect him at the head of the poll.

INTERESTING TO EMIGRANTS.—The Lords of the Treasury have instructed the customs department in Canada to exempt from payment of the Imperial duties, household furniture and other necessaries which may accompany settlers, and are intended solely for their own use, or that of their families, and not for the purpose of trade or sale.

Provincial Revenue for 1844, and the Ports at which the same was collected:

Saint John, ...	£71,850 7 8½	
Miramichi, ...	10,962 11 9	
Dalhousie, ...	3,403 1 5½	
Bathurst, ...	1,260 13 9	
Richibucto, ...	2,036 18 11½	
Shediac, ...	95 6 1	
Bay Verte, ...	1 12 6	
Westmoreland, (Parish)	24 2 0	
Dorchester, ...	328 12 1	
Woodstock, ...	332 7 8	
Fredericton, ...	13 9 7	
Saint Andrews, ...	1,629 18 10½	
Saint Stephen, ...	784 13 4	
Saint George, ...	223 17 2	
Grand Manan, ...	6 14 1	
TOTAL, ...	£92,333 14 2	

☞ The Concert of Secular Music, which was to have taken place this evening, is Postponed until further notice, in consequence of the illness of some parties who were to take an active part in the performance.

Much apprehension is felt for the safety of the Packet ships United states, and England, which left Liverpool Nov. 25 and December 1st for New York. Several other vessels bound for American ports are also stated to be missing.

PENNSYLVANIA.—*The Interest Bill Passed.*—The Bill for paying the whole of the Interest due on the State Debt of Pennsylvania, to the 1st of February, 1845, has unanimously passed both branches of the Legislature of that state, and subsequently received the sanction of the Governor. The amount of money appropriated for this purpose is $673,516 6.—The State Treasurer has received instructions for completing the requisite arrangements for the prompt payment as directed by the act of the Legislature.

The Philadelphia U. S. Gazette says—"We announce this result with a proud satisfaction—a satisfaction that will be shared by every pennsylvanian. The noble act places the state again in her proud position, and its passage is a signal rebuke to the busy advisers who so strenuously endeavoured to compass its rejection.'

This will be good news to the Rev. Sydney Smith, and others.

The state of Maryland, it is anticipated, will soon follow the example of Pennsylvania.

A FARTHING FOR REPEAL; OR THE IRISH CONJURER.—Our English readers may recollect an ingenious wayfarer who was wont to levy small contributions on the pockets of his spectators by means of a sheet of white paper; yes, of one sheet of Bath post. This paper the adroit beggar would fold up into different shapes, all distinctly representing twenty different things. "Now," he would say, "it is a chest of drawers," and a chest of drawers it was; "now it is a lady's bonnet;" nobody could dispute it—it was a lady's bonnet; "and now it is a coal-scuttle. The crowd would by their applause decline to be a coal-scuttle and nothing else. Now this man was an honest showman, though he dealt in sleight of hand; though he carried his mutton and potatoes by dexterity of finger—he was nevertheless no cheat: what he promised to do, he faithfully accomplished. Why will not Daniel O'Connell copy the high principle of the English showman? Is, like him, he deals in legerdemas—why, like him, does he not put an honest face upon the matter? How long is it since he has promised to show all the features of the full repeal?—and up to the present time she is muffled like an Indian beauty.—"Give a farthing—only a farthing—and you shall see what you shall see.