Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Jan. 16.

On the question for the adoption of the address in answer to the Queen's Speech being formally put from the woolsack:

The Duke of Wellington rose—My lords, there is no noble lord in this house who concurs more sincerely than I do in the expression of congratulation to her Majesty upon her approaching marriage, which she has been pleased to announce a second time to the public from the throne this day. I most sincerely wish that the event which has been thus promulgated may contribute to the comfort of her Majesty. (Hear, hear.) I agree with the noble lord who seconded the address that it is desirable that your lordships should concur with the other house of parliament in the provision for the prince whom her Majesty has selected. My lords, it appears to me that when this house is called to a question of this description, the house ought to know, and the public ought to know, something beyond the mere act of council, or this announcement from the throne—something more than the mere name of the prince—(hear)—to whom her Majesty is about to be united. I had the honour of being summoned to the privy council when her Majesty was graciously pleased to declare in council her intention to espouse that prince. On that occasion the precedent of the reign of George III. was followed in all respects except one—that is, my lords, declaring that the prince is a protestant. (Hear.) My lords, for my own part I entertain no doubt that he is one. I am sure he is a protestant. I know he is of a protestant family. I have the honour of being known to some of his family, and I am sure that he is a Protestant. By the law of this country it is necessary that the prince must be a Protestant to be espoused to her Majesty. I say, my lords, that the precedent on the marriage of George III. ought to have been followed throughout, and the public ought to have had the fact of the prince being a Protestant announced in the same manner as was then observed. I know the noble lords opposite too well to think that they are ignorant of the anxiety of the public mind, and I know well that they have it in their power to relieve that anxiety—(hear, hear.)—and gratify the people by the declaration. Nay more, my lords, I am satisfied that her Majesty is as anxious for the Protestant character of the state as I can be, or any of your lordships. If so, why was not there an announcement in conformity with the precedent of George III.? Is there any doubt as to the religious sentiments of the prince? There is no doubt about it. He is a Protestant. He cannot be otherwise—(hear.) Why was it then not stated?—(hear.) Why, I ask, was it not declared that the prince is a Protestant? My lords, I have seen since what the reason was for the course adopted. I read what was asserted with great attention. I am aware what a celebrated French author has asserted. He says that in France—"Enplein jour, on ne conspire pas." I have been accustomed to look to those revolutionary discussions. I read the public speeches and letters—missive and declarations, that I may see what the danger is, that I may be prepared accordingly. I see from what passed there a very sufficient reason why the word Protestant was not inserted in the communication made by the Privy Council, and why it has not been inserted in the speech. My lords, I am convinced that noble lords opposite are as much disposed as I am to preserve the Protestantism of the state; but I do say that this is the first time that the House of Lords has been called upon to act in this manner. The public ought to know—the house ought to know, that he is a Protestant prince, knowing that we are a Protestant state. I was the party to bring forward the measure with regard to the Test and Corporation Acts, and the measure to admit the Roman Catholics into all the privileges of the constitution, and to enable them to become part and parcel of the Protestant state; but I never intended, nor did noble lords opposite who supported me in that measure which I had the honour to propose, intend that the country should cease to be a Protestant state. I say, then, that the House of Lords should on the first opportunity of expressing an opinion—your lordships having been called upon to concur in the address—to insist upon the removal of the doubt upon the public mind, in reference to this subject. When your lordships provided for the security of this Protestant state, you were willing to admit into it—notwithstanding all the objections that were strongly urged on the ground of former precedents and ancient laws, orders in council, declarations, oaths, and what not, you were prepared and did actually admit all those persons to the full enjoyment, benefits, and advantages of this Protestant state, on the ground of those oaths and other securities which you then provided for the security of that state. But I do entreat your lordships to satisfy the public mind by declaring your belief that the provisions of the law of this Protestant country require such a course as I have ventured to suggest, and that you believe the prince to be a Protestant. On a former occasion—the marriage of George III.—it was declared before the privy council that the princess to whom he was about to be espoused was a Protestant princess. In the address proposed to both houses, it was not so announced certainly; but in the House of Commons, an amendment was made, in which the word Protestant was inserted. That course, however, was not pursued in the House of Lords, but it was adopted in the address proposed in the House of Commons. I have now to propose that your lordships adopt a similar course. If your lordships concur in this, I have no objection to the other parts of the address.

The Lord Chancellor then proceeded to put the question on the amendment, which proceeded to insert the epithet "Protestant" before the word "prince."

Some delay, however, having taken place in putting the question,

Viscount Melbourne expressed his regret that, out of respect to her Majesty, their lordships had not, for that night at least, laid aside all party differences, even that shadow of a difference, if, indeed, difference it could be called, which the noble duke had raised, and came to an unanimous vote in favour of the address. He maintained that the amendment was unnecessary.

The Earl of Winchelsea supported the amendment. He asked whether, when the bill which relieved the Roman Catholics from their disabilities passed the legislature it was not considered essential to take security that this should remain a Protestant state, and to show that the sovereign was not to be relieved from those principles or disabilities which had been imposed on the family when they were first called to the throne of these realms—viz., that no sovereign could rule who professed any other than the protestant religion, or who should marry any other than a protestant spouse. But it did not follow that because a prince had descended from a Protestant family, and from a long line of Protestant ancestors, that he himself should be a member of that religion. Were not their lordships aware that many of the connexions of that illustrious prince were at that moment members of the Roman Catholic faith? He (Lord Winchelsea) would not say that those individuals to whom he referred had changed their religion except upon the conviction of their consciences; but still he could not forget the fact that there were members of the family of which Prince Albert was a member who were no longer Protestants. Was there not a cousin of that illustrious prince, the husband of the Queen of Portugal, an avowed Roman Catholic, and were there not other members of the family who had become so? He (Lord Winchelsea) maintained that it was not only proper, but absolutely essential, that the proposed words should be inserted, for the satisfaction and security of the country. Their lordships knew that there was a feeling on the part of certain individuals to subvert the Protestant religion, and to increase the power of the Roman Catholics, to the prejudice of the Protestants of the country. That feeling, he would maintain, did exist. But he could tell the persons who entertained it, that there was that spirit among the Protestant population of this country, that would make them rue the day on which such an object should be declared. He believed that the country was on the eve of one of the most awful convulsions that had ever taken place in a civilised state. He believed that there were certain parties, who, to forward their own political views, had raised up a storm which they felt themselves unable to meet or quell—a storm, which at this time was threatening to burst upon them with the greatest violence, and with the most lamentable results. He would support the amendment; and he for one could not conceive that the adoption of it could possibly give offence either to her Majesty or the illustrious individual to whom she was about to be united, while, on the other hand, he was quite convinced that it was essential, and would tend in a most material degree to satisfy the public mind on the subject. He conceived that if there was one thing more than another which was imperative upon the Sovereign of these kingdoms, it was to maintain inviolate the Protestant faith. Alluding to the reported presentation to her Majesty of a person who was the propounder of sentiments and principles which strike at the root of those religious and moral principle on which the government of this country ought to be conducted, his lordship said he should inquire into the rumour, and, if he found it correct, he would take an early opportunity of moving in that house a vote of censure upon the party by whom that individual had been presented to her Majesty.

The amendment was adopted.

Communications.

"Oh, that a whip was placed in every honest hand,
"To lash the scoundrels naked thro' the world."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.]

Sir,—So much has been sung and said of late about Responsible Governments for the Colonies; so much time and money has been spent in legislating upon the question, and so much agitation has been had throughout the Province on the occasion, that it is high time that the thing was set at rest—that the true interest of the country might receive a little of the attention of our Legislators. It must, Sir, be abundantly evident to the most casual observer, that the British Government have been so annoyed and insulted by the revolutionary movements and dictation of Provincial Delegations, that they have found it necessary to put a final stop to such graceless conduct from her dependants. This has been done; and while our Johnny raws in office have been expending thousands after thousands of public money; while Delegation Dinners" and other senseless routs have amused the "gaping" throng, the cunning statesmen on the other side of the water have been forging fetters and rivetting them tightly on the legs of our Solomons of the House of Assembly. And pray how? Methinks I hear the learned and gallant prate-a-pace of York exclaim. Why Mr. Windmill I will tell you:—Your fine speeches in Downing-street have produced for New-Brunswick a military despotism; a Governor with a Council of automatons; a shadow without the substance; a body in fact with which Sir John can play Boa-constrictor, whenever he has an appetite so to do, by swallowing them all, and that too without either shaving or greasing their heads. Here two bodies merge into one; a side of the triangle is taken from us, and the people have lost the good old three-sided Government that did exist (and that was a truly responsible one) for the new fangled "improved constitution," so called.—Now, as the Council is responsible *only* to the Governor, and as the Governor is responsible *only* to the Home Government, pray who are responsible to the people of this Province? The House of Assembly? No! They are elected for seven years; a period in which they may destroy beyond the power of redemption, the liberties of the people. And what will they not do? What have they not done to serve their own private purposes? Can any man believe that those expensive delegations were undertaken for any other purpose than personal emolument? Has not time solved the question? Have they not sacked thousands of the public monies? The answer is, yes. And what I would ask have the people got in exchange for their good looking thousands? Why, an Algerine Government. They have increased their own pay—they have created new offices for themselves and their needy relatives. They have granted a hundred a year to such of the Council as do not hold situations under Government, &c. &c. Now mark the operation; I will give one instance and let that suffice. Suppose the Hon. Charles Simonds, the arch-agitator, receives as member of the Council £100: as Speaker of the House £150: as member of the House about £80, making in all about £330—a very snug thing. Who would not be a man of the people for a *short* period, for a *long* salary? Now, Sir, it follows that as the only remedy left in the hands of the people, in order to make our Representatives responsible, we must insist upon Annual Parliaments—vote by ballot and universal suffrage; for surely it will not be denied, that if it be necessary that Councillors should be subject to be dismissed at a moment's notice by the Governor, members of the Assembly who are a subordinate body, should be at least subject to removal once a year. No reasonable man of the Assembly can for a moment resist this just demand of the people, the more especially when they reflect that we have paid so many thousands of pounds for the establishment of Responsibility. In the Sister Province it has been found necessary, in order to save appearances, to reduce the period of Parliaments from seven to four years. Have our Assembly? Has that arch-reformer, Chas. Simonds, the patriot, the man of the people,—has he ever named, or thought of naming, a shortening of the duration of Parliaments? Then who does he imagine in this Province, is so brutally ignorant as not to see through his heartless, his tyrannical measures. What is there in that man, I would ask, that he should be permitted for so long a period to libel the intelligence of the people of this country? Is it his noble family? No. Is it his oratorical powers? See him at the hustings. Is it his liberality? No; he is not known to own a horse, a cat, or a dog, or any living quadruped, least they should be an expense. Is it his education? No; any one who has ever heard him speak or seen him write, will hold him guiltless of ever having received any.—What then, I repeat, is it that gives him the power of controlling, not only the Assembly, but the highest officials in the country. Shall I tell you; then this is it, it is his low cunning and his wealth.

This being the state of affairs, then it becomes the duty of every honest man to resist the progress of destruction, and to rally round the standard of loyalty and the people's rights. We must petition for Reform, and if not granted fairly and freely, we must at the next General Election, choose an honester and more intelligent set of Representatives; we must vote for no man who will not pledge himself for the necessary Reform. We must form political unions throughout the Province, and with a loud voice, and a firm purpose, rid the country of Republicans and peculators.

OLIVER CROMWELL.

* For a description of which see British Colonist of December, 1837.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor,—"One of the City Guards" is desirous of having it pointed out to him wherein he ever displayed a little of the "Craven," or in military language "the white feather," in answer to which I might say truly, that the whole of his writings savoured of both, and particularly his silly letter in the Courier of 6th April, 1839: on which he was very ably answered and confounded by a writer under the signature of "Junius," who said "It is enough to make an honest man blush to read "the communications of One of the City Guards "and the editorial of the Courier, on the subject of "the Boundary, 'That nothing was lost save our "honour!'"

It would be far more prudent if "Verax" and "One of the City Guards" were to leave the Lieutenant Governor's name altogether out of their low ribaldry communications; for depend upon it, the defence set up by a "blackguard" or a "craven" will not add to the laurels of a gentleman.

Your's, &c. AN IRISHMAN.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor,—In the Observer of Tuesday last, an "Ex-Assistant," as he signs himself, has been puffing the present Alderman for King's, and hopes we shall elect him again. I would, Mr. Editor, ask why elect him again. Shall we because he tried to get the stock of the Water Company palmed upon the City at par, when it had been offered and refused at 50 per cent. below par. Shall we because he voted that the sixth section of the law passed in September last, should be carried into immediate effect. We know how hard that law bore on the poor sufferers by the fire. Shall we because he desired the Report of the Commissioners to be received and acted on, thereby forcing the city to pay £19,235; two thirds of which, viz: £12,830 the sufferers by the late fire must have paid in addition to their former sufferings; thus afflicting the afflicted. Is it for all this, or is it for the good he does his Ward? No, Mr. Editor, so little is done on the streets in King's Ward, that many of them are in such a state you cannot get through them with an empty cart. If any thing is said to the Alderman about it, he says look at Dock street and Brussells street, see how much we have done there. Pray what fool is there who does not know that Dock and Brussells streets are the main passages to and from the city, and as such are the property of all the Wards, and should be taken care of by all the Wards. Poor suffering King's Ward pays heavy road tax to get the other Wards fixed.

THOMAS G. HATHEWAY.

To J. M. C., Esquire—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your diplomatic epistle in answer to my humble communication of February last, which I duly *appreciate* although you appear to be remarkably *short* and *pithy*. I had almost despaired of hearing from you, but I made every allowance, upon the reflection that *great bodies* move slow, and a poor plebian in the humbler walks of life would be long in reaching the ears of *one* surrounded by the pomp and glory of a court circle. I am glad to learn from you, that you are not likely to be created a *Peer* at the present time, although your noble qualities entitle you to *nobility* distinction, and we cannot but feel grateful to His Excellency for his sympathy for the people. It has been said by a certain distinguished individual that "the sober second thought of the people is always right." I imagined His Excellency being *a man of the people* would be tinctured with the same sentiment, and upon mature reflection would not deprive us of your *usefulness* in another quarter, although he thought you a fit subject for the application of Dr. Johnny Russell's cathartic, the vending of which appears rather unprofitable in consequence of its not having the desired effect, the people in general being too *costive* for its operation; it answers weak stomachs, and will therefore take the liberty of recommending it to *all* those so effected: it would not be very profitable in this country, and I advise you not to *drive a trade* on that score, as stomachs are already too full and the best *general purge* would be a *General Election*.

Sir John Harvey I believe is disposed to do what is right, but he misses a figure some times; he most egregiously erred when he thought of such "*a getting up stairs*" as taking you from the lower region, but there seems to be an effervescence of the *second thought*, and all will be right yet, I would say to him *fiat justicia ruat cœlum*.

I have heard a report that completely astounds me. It is said that a certain *little man* who generally resides in this County, and sometimes sojourns for a season at head quarters, and possesses rather a baneful influence, has represented that the *measure of justice* is not full in the adjoining Parish, and that it is necessary to create another *batch* of Magistrates, mixed with a little of the *leaven* from *your family yeast bottle*. There are now *only thirteen* Magistrates in Woodstock, and in our Parish with a population nearly if not as large there are *three*. *Justice* with us you see is not yet in her *teens*: in round numbers, if you calculate, there are twenty-six magistrates in this county, a pretty good *batch* I should say, and half of that number reside in Woodstock: yet forsooth, with characteristic zeal more is to be added—Is this a fair distribution, is this justice, is this an act of *disinterestedness*, I have my doubts; but with your *peculiar* ideas, I dare say you will differ with me. A man cannot go to Woodstock now without running his nose bump against a Justice, and when more is created I don't know what will be the consequence. Surely Sir John will have too much respect for her Majesty's liege subjects in this quarter, to put them in such tribulation; and besides magistrates so *easily pledged* will become as cheap as *Councillors*. Please say to the little man the next time you look in the glass *parvum, parva, decent*.

A Free and Independent Elector.

Wakefield, March, 1840.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, MARCH 27, 1840.

By the arrival of the steamer *British Queen* at New-York, we have received Portsmouth papers to the 2nd instant. The British Ministers were again left in the minority in the House of Commons on the 27th of February, on motion respecting the pension to Sir John Newport. The motion was met by an amendment made by Lord Morpeth; the House divided for the motion 240, for the amendment 212; majority against Ministers 28.

By a recent regulation of the Lords of the Admiralty, an Assistant Surgeon entering the Naval service after the 1st of February, is to be appointed by an *acting order*, to be confirmed at the expiration of one year from the original date.

The Chartists.—Frost, Williams and Jones, were removed from the York, hulk, to a convict ship bound to Van Dieman's Land and had sailed for their place of destination.

Great activity prevailed at Portsmouth in fitting out vessels for the Chinese and Indian Seas.

France.—The Ministry had all resigned, in consequence of a defeat in the Chambers, which had refused, 226 to 200, to accede to the ministers' proposition making an appropriation for the Duke of Nemours. The Journal des Debats exclaims, that the rejection of the motion is the most deadly blow to royalty; that it humbles the throne of July in the dust; and crowns the most ardent hopes of the Republicans.

Constantinople, Jan. 29.—Mehemet Ali has given his official answer to the three Consuls, and refuses to listen to terms—he throws defiance in the face of Europe, and declares, that conscions though he be of the weakness of his position, across his own body shall the Powers march into the gates of his capital ere he will concede one jot of his most legitimate rights.

MASONIC BALL, IN HONOR OF THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE.

This feat took place on Wednesday evening last, under the Banners of the *St. John Lodge*, in the Friary, Long Room, the Company consisting wholly of Masons, their wives, daughters, and sisters. The room which had been several days previously in preparation was splendidly and tastefully fitted up, producing an effect altogether enchanting.—The company arrived at 7 o'clock; the Ladies after being inducted and Esquired, after the Masonic Order, prepared themselves for the amusements of the evening. At 8 o'clock the sets were formed and dancing commenced with great spirit, and continued until 12 o'clock; the Brethren then formed a circle, and drank "*The Queen and Prince Albert*," with the honours—three times three—after which the new version of the National Anthem was sung in full chorus. In the course of the evening a very substantial colation was served up, followed by fruits and "Queen's Cake." Harmony and good feeling appeared to be the order of the night, and so wholly absorbed did the company appear to be with the business on hand, that it was not until the Rosy Goddess had unbarred the portals of the East, that they discovered the hour for separation was at hand. A few Military Officers and their Ladies who were present tended much to heighten the splendour of the scene.

Every credit is due to the Worshipful Master, and the Managers for the very excellent arrangements of the evening. Master Sorley, as usual, was "at home," and "on hand" with the best liquids that the city could afford.

Saint George's Church, Carleton.—This Church having lately undergone considerable enlargement by the addition of side galleries, the new Pews were opened for the first time, for the public accommodation, on the afternoon of Sunday last. The Church now contains fifty-four Pews, besides some free seats, and extensive accommodation for a choir, and will comfortably seat more than 400 persons: the interior of it has also been fitted up at considerable expense, and with great taste, in a way that is very creditable to the congregation. On Sunday it was crowded to excess—every seat was filled, and hundreds were obliged to retire, not being able to gain admittance. Divine service was opened by the anthem—"Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth," ably performed by the "St. John Sacred Music Society," who had very kindly offered their services for the occasion: the Hymns after the Psalms were chanted by them: Mason's Anthem from the Collect for the seventh Sunday after Trinity, "Lord of all power and might," was beautifully sung after the three Collects, and Luther's Hymn before; and the Anthem "Blessed be the Lord for evermore," after the Sermon: all accompanied on the Organ by Mr. G. R. Jarvis. An excellent and extremely appropriate Sermon was delivered by the Rev. I. William D. Gray, A. M., Rector of Trinity Church, from Haggai i. 7, 8, "*Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.*" It was altogether a most interesting and imposing service, and the collection amounted to £10 6 7.—*Observer.*

The Trustees of the Portland Episcopal Sunday School have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt some time since, of three pounds from Robert Rankin, Esq., and one pound ten shillings from John Pollock, Esq., in aid of the funds of that Institution.—*Ib.*

Prosecution for Libel.—So many persons having called upon us to ascertain what proceedings have been taken by the Government against the "*Weekly Chronicle*," for the letter of "W" which appeared on the 28th ultimo:—we beg to refer them, and the Province at large, to the following correspondence between Her Majesty's Attorney General, and our humble selves. The public are now aware, *that the whole weight of the Provincial Government* is thrown into the scale against us; but we have a serious and responsible duty to perform and to maintain, which is the "*Liberty of the Press*," and with the consciousness of rectitude on our side, we trust, that we shall not be found wanting in the support of those principles which form the bulwark of the glorious British Constitution, "*Freedom of discussion!*"

Fredericton, 18th March 1840.

Messrs. Lewis W. Durant & Co.

Gentlemen,—

Having received Instructions as Attorney General to institute a prosecution against the Author and Publisher of a false and scandalous libel on the Queen's Representative, which appeared in the Weekly Chronicle under date of the 28th day of February last, entitled "Another New and Improved Constitution"—of which paper you hold yourselves out as the Printers—It becomes my duty to carry those instructions into effect.

As the object of the prosecution is to bring to Public Justice, the real author or authors of that false and libellous publication, I call on you to furnish me with the name or names of the person or persons from whom you received the same,—Your not doing which will produce the conclusion that it proceeded directly from yourselves, and I shall in that case be under the necessity of making you the defendants against whom I must proceed.

I remain, your most obedient
humble Servant,
(Signed) CHARLES J. PETERS,
Attorney General.

St. John, March 23, 1840.

Her Majesty's Attorney General.

Sir,—We have had the honour to receive your letter of the 18th instant, in which you inform us, that you have been directed, as Attorney General, to institute a prosecution against the Author and Publisher of a false and scandalous libel on the Queen's Representative, which appeared in the "*Weekly Chronicle*" of the 28th ult.: and call upon us to furnish you with the name or names of the person or persons from whom we received the same, intimating that if we do not do so, the conclusion will be produced, that it proceeded directly from ourselves, in which case you will be under the necessity of making us the defendants against whom you must proceed. In reply, we beg to state, in the most distinct and positive terms, that the article in question did not proceed from ourselves. It was sent to us for insertion, like all other communications of a political tendency, *anonymously*; and we cannot therefore, were we disposed so to do, give up the name of the real author. When we received it, it did not appear to us, nor does now, to be a false and scandalous libel;—if it had we should have refused to insert it, as we have done to many such articles. It does not appear to us to exceed the limits to the free discussion of public affairs, which the public press has assumed in Great Britain, Ireland and all the British Colonies, and in which the respective Governments, both at home and abroad, have tacitly acquiesced. It certainly is not in any respect so offensive as many of the publications with which the newspapers of this city abounded during the administration of Sir Archibald Campbell, particularly the "John Gape" papers, none of which were prosecuted by the Government; on the contrary, several persons supposed to have been concerned in them are now in Government employ.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servants,
L. W. DURANT & Co.

Extract of a Letter dated Fredericton, 23d March:

"I have just heard that the House sat with *closed doors* for upwards of two hours to day in debate of a vote of thanks to Colonel Maxwell, for his *gallant defence of the Disputed Territory*, last winter. It was no go however, for some of the members who seem to have some idea of justice, opposed it altogether in that shape. It was finally carried as a vote of thanks to Colonel Maxwell. Officers, Non Com. Officers and Privates of the 36th, and Major Brookes, &c. &c. &c. of the 69th.

From the Miramichi Gleaner.

We have obtained the Journals of the Legislature up to the 9th instant.

It will be seen by the extracts we copy below, that the Assembly, after a debate with closed doors, passed a Resolution, requesting the Lieutenant Governor to prosecute the Publisher of the St. John Chronicle, for some remarks of a Correspondent under the signature of W. which appeared in that Journal of the 28th ult. in which they induced the Legislative Council to join.

We know not, and cannot be supposed to know, whether the grave charges brought against his Excellency be true or false, but we trust for the honor and fair fame of Sir John, that there is no foundation for the same; and we candidly admit, when we read over the article, we could not bring our mind to place any credit in the remarks of the writer. The subject was therefore dismissed without any further notice, and as but few copies of the Chronicle are taken in Miramichi, but little was known of the communication; but since the Legislature has taken the extraordinary step it has, the paper has been sought after with great avidity, and the contents of the letter the topic of general conversation.

Why the members of the Assembly have busied themselves in this matter, puzzles us not a little, particularly as the party with whom it originated, spared neither the character or feelings of his Excellency's predecessor, because his opinion, on many important questions, was opposed to theirs.

The only reason we can assign for this strange interference, is—that the Chronicle has always strenuously opposed the individuals now in power, and the remarks of its Editor and Correspondents, from time to time, must have been very galling to the leaders of that party; and knowing there own impotence, from late decisions, to chastise refractory Editors, they have hit upon this expedient to accomplish two objects—viz. to bestow a little flattery on His Excellency; and by persuading him to prosecute for libel, they may have the gratification of seeing their opponent mulct with heavy damages, or incarcerated in a prison.

From the Sentinel of Saturday last, we copy the following reply of His Excellency to the joint Address of the Council and Assembly. We are sorry that he complied with their desires; no good can possibly flow therefrom; and in our opinion, he would have acted with more dignity and in a manner more befitting his high standing as a brave soldier, and Representative of Her Majesty, had he decided otherwise. Were the Ministers of the British Government, to notice after this fashion, the attacks that are daily made on them by the opposition press, they would be constantly embroiled in Law prosecutions—but they act more discreetly—they leave a discriminating public to judge of their conduct. Such, in our opinion, would have been the most prudent course in this instance.

House of Assembly.—On Monday the House went into Committee on a Bill sent down from the Legislative Council, altering the Law of Replevin, which was passed. It afterwards resolved itself into a committee to consider the Report of the Committee, to whom was referred the consideration of the best mode of granting the Mines in the County of Westmorland; and Mr. L. A. Wilmot read the Report, embracing a plan upon which the Mines should be granted; pointing out different mining districts in the County of Westmorland, which are to be put up at public auction with an upset price, and subject to a duty of five per cent. on all minerals or ores which may be raised.

On Tuesday the House was engaged in Committee of Supply, and afterwards on the Revenue Bill; when the scale of duties hitherto in force, with a few exceptions, were agreed to. Among other alterations, the Committee recommended that the duty on Rum should be 1s. 9d. per gallon at a certain strength, to encrease as the strength encreases; 2s. 3d. on Brandy, on Whiskey 3s. and on the better kinds of Wines 2s. 6d.; upon every Horse imported from the United States £5, instead of £3 10s. as formerly; and on oxen and other horned cattle one pound. They also recommended the withdrawal of the duty of one penny per gallon on Molasses which has hitherto been in force.

A Bill for dividing the County of Westmorland, was considered in Committee on Monday, and lost by a majority of 16—14. Mr. Fisher's Bill taxing wild granted Lands was afterwards taken up and passed.

There is a rumor current in the city this morning, that a regiment of U. S. troops have been ordered to Houlton.—*Bangor Courier.*

A Great Man. Among the passengers by the British Queen is Mr. Bihin, the celebrated Belgian Giant—who stands *eight feet six inches in his stockings*, and is said to be naturally and finely proportioned—and possessed of astonishing strength.

Halifax, March 17.

Hostile Meeting.—An affair of honor, took place at Point Pleasant, on Saturday morning last, between Joseph Howe Esq. M. P. P. attended by Herbert Huntingdon, Esq. M. P. P.; and John Inglis Haliburton, Esq. Clerk of the Executive Council, attended by J. W. Ritchie, Esq. After receiving Mr. Haliburton's fire, Mr. Howe discharged his pistol in the air. The affair originated, so far as we can learn, from some expressions offensive to Mr. Haliburton, which Mr. Howe had used in debate.—*Times.*

Since the arrival of the Packet, the following new appointments to the Legislative and Executive Councils, have been spoken of as certain:—To be Legislative Councillors—M. G. Black, J. L. Starr, M. Tobin, Jr. Esquires, Halifax; J. Bond, Esq. Yarmouth; J. Morton, Esq., Cornwallis; D. McFarlaine, Esq., Wallace; and J. Janvrin, Esq., Arichat. To the Executive Council, James McNab, Esq.—*Ibid.*

The Assembly and Legislative Council of St. John, N. B., have passed a resolution to prosecute the printer of the St. John, N. B. Chronicle, for a Libel on His Excellency Sir John Harvey. The three estates of the colony of New Brunswick waging war against the liberty of the press, and prosecuting the editor of a local paper. How dignified—how responsible!—*Halifax Times.*

The following horrible act of malice is narrated in a letter from Presburg:—"On the night of the 19th ult. the village of Falsoe Sharkony, in Hungary, containing 220 habitations, and a population of 900 souls, was entirely consumed by fire. In the course of the day the daughter of a rich farmer was married to a young man of the village of Lechy. At midnight, when the festivities of the day were over, and the happy pair retired to bed, Charles Thelkey, another young man of Lechy, who had sought the hand of the bride, but having been refused, set fire to the dwelling to which they had retired, and in a very few minutes it was completely enveloped in flames which spread with irresistible force throughout the whole place. Upwards of 200 persons perished in the conflagration, and 300 more were severely burnt or otherwise injured. The bride was among the first, and the bride-groom one of the other sufferers. Thelkey, the incendiary, is in custody, and, without waiting for the interrogatories of the magistrates, has coolly related the whole of his proceedings in accomplishing his revenge."—*French paper.*

News from Spain is perfectly uninteresting.

Africa.—The general news from Africa is favorable to the French.

Turkey.—Mehemet Ali seems bent on war. He is making warlike preparations with great activity. Report says he will not submit to the terms of the great powers.

Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company.—The day for receiving their subscriptions was Wednesday, the 22nd ult. when every share was taken. It is said that they have contracted with the government to carry the West India mails for ten years at 140,000*l* per annum. Southampton, it is also said, is intended to be their harbour. Of course this will be highly beneficial to the Southampton docks and railway.—*Bristol paper.*

A court-martial was held at Plymouth, on Wednesday, to inquire into the circumstance of the loss of H.M.S. *Tribune*, in the port of Tarragona, on the 28th of Nov. last, when, after hearing evidence, the president, Admiral Warren, declared that no blame whatever attached to Capt. H. Williams, or to any of the officers or crew.

Woolwich.—Late on Sunday evening a sudden order arrived for the embarkation, without delay, of a strong detachment of sappers and miners, belonging to the corps of royal engineers, stationed at Woolwich, which was carried into effect on Monday evening, by the force embarking off the Royal Arsenal, in the Lloyd freight ship, destined for the Cape of Good Hope, where, on arrival, they are to be employed upwards of 300 miles up the country, and are newly equipped with rifle and sword, instead of only the latter, as has been customary in that branch of the service. Two light field guns and carriages will accompany them, and they will take in at Gravesend several detachments from line regiments now waiting there for that purpose.—*Morning Herald.*

There have been received very late advices from New South Wales and Port Philip. It is satisfactory to notice that these colonies were in a flourishing state. The whale fishery had proved most successful, and agricultural industry was proceding in the most gratifying manner. At the new settlement at Port Philip, very nearly 2500 acres of land were under cultivation. The population had increased to 8300 persons, and flock of sheep to 70,000 head. Grain was high both at Sydney and Port Philip.

Danish Ordnance.—The first royal ordnance of the new King of Denmark, Christian VIII., appeared on the 1st instant, and was received with the greater satisfaction by the citizens of Copenhagen, inasmuch as it acknowledged the right of the burghers to elect the councillors of their own municipal body.

The German journals state that the weather in Germany was intensely cold from the 5th to the 16th inst. The thermometer fell to 21 degrees below zero of Reaumur or 15¼ below zero of Farenheit. At Berlin a sentinel was found frozen to death at his post. In Silesia, on the other hand, a sudden thaw of the Oder had put a stop to the communications.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburgh, Jan. 8.—On Monday last, Dec. 25 (Old Style) a solemn mass, followed by *Te Deum* was performed in the chapel of the winter palace, in commemoration of the evacuation of the Russian territory by the armies of the enemy on that day in the year 1812. The Emperor, the Grand Duke Alexander, and Prince Peter of Oldenburgh, were present at the ceremony, which was also attended by the members of the council of the empire, the senators, the general officers, &c.

SHIP WRECKS.

Wreck of the Barque Corsair.—Our shipping intelligence contains a brief announcement of the total wreck of the Barque Corsair, Captain Daly, from Halifax for this port, yesterday morning, whilst in the channel. The following are the circumstances under which this unfortunate disaster occurred:—

The Corsair sailed from Halifax for this port on the 7th instant, and after a most dangerous passage, during which she encountered continued gales, she arrived off Holyhead at eight o'clock p.m. on Sunday night. Capt. Daly then made Point Lynas, where he lay till daylight yesterday morning (Monday). The weather being clear, he made signals for a pilot, and after standing off and on, under close reefed topsails he fell in with an American ship which he supposed to have a pilot, as she had no signals flying, but it was impossible to speak to her. This circumstance, combined with the increasing, gale, induced Capt Daly to follow her towards the new channel; but, unfortunately, a fall of hail and snow came on so heavily as to completely obscure both the light-ship and the American vessel. Whilst Capt. Daly was endeavouring to wear his vessel in order to stand out, she missed stays, and about half past eight drifted upon the bank at the north of the new channel. The gale increased, and the sea now making a clear breach over the barque, she soon became leaky. The hail, however clearing away, Capt. Daly made signals of distress, which were instantly answered from the light-ship. Happily the signals were also immediately observed from the Magazines, and the life-boat stationed there was forthwith got under weigh for the purpose of proceeding to the relief of the ill-fated vessel. It fortunately happened that the Queen of the Isle, at this moment, was passing on her voyage to the Isle of Man, and she towed the life-boat as near to the wreck as the raging waves would allow. Owing to the tremendous sea, two attempts to board the Corsair were ineffectual; but fortunately, the gale drove her over the bank into the new channel. Both anchors were then dropped, but the vessel, from being water-logged, rode very heavily. After great exertion the crew succeeded in throwing a rope to the life-boat; one of them was fastened to it, and drawn through the sea into the boat; the rope was again hauled on board by a guy rope, and this process was repeated till the whole of the crew, 16 in number, four passengers, and two dogs, had been transhipped to the safety boat. Every one was after this manner drawn through the water from one vessel to the other. The crew of the Corsair had left her only a few minutes when she parted both cables and drifted upon the main. The life-boat having then 31 persons on board (her own crew being eleven), laboured very heavily, and got into a swell at the stern of the wreck, Indeed she was in imminent danger of being swamped or dashed to pieces upon the main, but, providentially the President steam-tug, Captain Eccles, with the Liverpool life-boat [which had been despatched as soon as the telegraphic communication was received] came up to their assistance, and she succeeded in towing the boat out of the breakers. Both boats were afterwards made fast to the President, brought safely to Liverpool, and all the parties securely landed on George's pier.

During her passage the Corsair carried away foretopsails, foreyard staysails, and forestaysails. She is the property of Messrs. Fairbanks and M'Nale, of Halifax, and was consigned to Messrs. Fairclough and Frost, of this port. Her freight was oil and timber. She admeasured 302 tons, and was in every respect considered a first-class vessel, having been entirely coppered and copper-fastened last summer. She stood A 1 at Lloyd's. The passengers were Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silver, and Lieut. Turner, of the 8th Foot.

Too much praise cannot be given to the crews of the life-boats and the steam-tug for the promptness and intrepidity with which this humane exploit was performed, and for the cordial unanimity with which they acted.—*Liverpool Standard, Jan. 28.*

Melancholy and Fatal Accident at Sea.—On Sunday night, the 15th ult. the barque Chilton, on her voyage from St. John, New Brunswick, to Liverpool, was overtaken by a dreadful hurricane, during which a heavy sea struck her, and washed overboard the mate, Mr. Daniel Gath Whitley, who sunk to rise no more, the crew being unable, from the foundering state of the vessel and the violence of the storm, to render him the least assistance. Mr. Whitley was the son of the late Daniel Whitley, Esq., of Cornelly, in this county, and brother of Mr. Nicholas Whitley, of Truro. Several of the crew subsequently perished, and the survivors were ultimately taken on board of the City of York, and landed at Newport.

Penzance.—The ship *Tulloch Castle*, of Hull, Capt. Smith, has been brought into our port in a state of great distress. She left St. John, N. B. on the 15th December, and soon afterwards from the severity of the weather became leaky—the crew kept the pumps constantly attended day and night until the 14th instant, when the water got the mastery, and she became water-logged, in which condition they had no alternative but to keep her running before the wind until Saturday, when near Mousehole Island they were boarded by one of our most active licensed pilots, who brought her to an anchor in the road, with 19 feet water in the hold. On Sunday she was found to be in a considerably worse state—and on Monday evening during a gale from S.S.W. she was obliged to slip and run for the pier, drawing 24 feet water at the time she took the ground about 70 or 80 fathoms off, but by great exertions our pilots and boatmen under skilful directions hove her up in the course of the night and yesterday morning, so that her bows being already square with the pier head, the ship and cargo may be considered as saved. Too much credit cannot be given to Capt. Smith, his officers and crew for the seamanship and ability displayed in so successfully bringing their disabled ship to a port of safety.

Wreck of the barque Margaret Miller.—This fine new barque, which is about 600 tons burthen, Pickford master, bound from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Liverpool, was wrecked on Monday morning last. The ill-fated vessel left the port of Halifax on the 11th of December, with a cargo of timber. By the gale of Sunday last, she was driven to leeward, and on Monday morning fell in with the breakers of Blackpool; she then went over a point of the salt-house bank, by which means she lost her rudder, and shipped a great deal of water. At this time a heavy gale was blowing from the west, when catching upon another part of the bank, she was rendered a complete wreck. In about two hours afterwards she was cast ashore, at the mouth of the Ribble, about three miles below Lytham. On making the beach, the crew, consisting of fourteen men and a passenger, were enabled to land with safety, at low water, but some of them were in such an enfeebled state that they were unable to walk, and were obliged to be carried in a cart to Lytham, where