Provincial Legislature.

[From the Head Quarter's.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE GOVERNMENT CONTINGENCIES.—On this subject an animated debate occurred in the House of Assembly on Monday the 10th inst. The subject was considered of so much importance, that Mr. Partelow moved that Hon. Members of the Executive Government should be called to their places.—The debate was commenced by Mr. Allen moving a Resolution that there should be granted to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, ——pounds to defray the Contingent expenses of the Government for the current year. The honorable member said, that ever since the erection of the Province it had been usual to grant some sum, which was placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant Governor to defray the expenses connected with the Government, for which provision could not otherwise be made. In General Hunter's time, he thought the sum granted was £250 annually. During the administration of Sir Howard Douglas and Sir Archibald Campbell, a like grant had been made by the Province, and in the late administration of Sir John Harvey, no less than £1000 had been granted for the Contingencies of the Provincial government in one year. Objections were at that time urged against this grant, but since that period it had been proved that the heavy expenses which were incurred by the Government, during the troubles on the Border of this Province, rendered such a grant absolutely necessary, and even this large sum was not more than sufficient to meet the charges, which were unavoidably incurred in carrying on the business of the Province. In 1841, the subject had been properly investigated, and it was found that £450 was the proper sum to be granted for this service. He (Hon. Mr. Allen) thought this sum should be now granted, and if the Resolution were sustained, he should move that the blank be filled up with 450*l*.

Mr. Partelow said, that he did not wish to oppose the Resolution, for he was prepared to vote for it, but when the blank came to be filled up, he should move that 100*l*. be substituted for the 450*l*. asked by the Government, and would state his reasons when they came to that part of the discussion. The present Lieutenant Governor may not be in the Government for another year, and under the present circumstances he would provide for no services, not absolutely necessary for the People of the Province. It was not reasonable to expect, that the House would at the present time, give more than 100*l*., which would in all probability be a fair proportion of the 450*l*., for the time which the present administration was likely to be in existence.

Mr. End opposed the Resolution because it went to strengthen a government whose existence was at variance with the feelings of the people of this Province,—and who were sacrificing the Lieutenant Governor by the pernicious advice which had been given to him.

Mr. Boyd and Mr. Hill supported the Resolution because it voted the money not to Sir William Colebrooke, but to the Lieutenant Governor for the time being, and was necessary to cover the contingent expenses of the Government; and moreover, because it was in conformity with the declared intention of the House in their address to the Queen.

Mr. Connell said, that since the vote of want of confidence had passed the House, the Government had been in some degree reorganized, and he did not think it would be becoming in that House to refuse the grant.

Mr. W. H. Street said, that if they were to admit the grant at all, it would be more becoming the dignity of that branch of the Legislature to give the Government the whole sum it asked for. To cut it down at this particular time, might look something like temper, which he wished by all means to avoid at the present juncture. The vote of want of confidence had been already passed, and although his confidence in the present Executive remained just as little as it was at that time, he thought the House would best consult its own dignity by sustaining the Resolution, and granting the usual sum. It was most painful again to recur to the circumstance which had deprived the Lieutenant Governor of his constitutional advisers; but as the House had already acted, and as the matter was now fairly before Her Majesty's Government, he thought there was no necessity for refusing to grant such supplies as were necessary to keep the wheels of the Government, such as it is, in motion. He would therefore support the Resolution for the amount asked for by the Government.

Mr. Hanington would place no more money at the disposal of the present Government than would be sufficient to meet their actual outlay during the time they might naturally be supposed to remain in office, or until the House be dissolved. He would vote for 100*l*.

Hon. Mr. Simonds said, he was really surprised to hear the remarks which had fallen from honorable members on the floor of that House. Some of those honorable members seemed to argue as if the grant under consideration were to go into the private purse of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor; this was not the case, the grant went to defray the necessary expenses incurred in attending to the business of the Province. If the correspondence received daily from poor Emigrants and other persons, were allowed to remain in the Post Office for want of a fund to defray the postages—If a Governor should decline paying postage on such communications, out of his own pocket, surely the people would suffer? He could assure that Committee, that every Government must have a Contingent fund to meet expenses, which could not be contemplated by the Legislature, and he (Hon. Mr. Simonds) had not a doubt, that a large proportion of the sum granted by that House, was expended in postage alone. He had never seen, nor asked to see, the items of this Bill, but he could safely assure the Committee, that there were numerous cases which arose in every Government, which rendered it absolutely necessary to have such a fund. It had been urged that the present Governor may not be long in the Province. True he may be soon out of the Province and out of this world, there is nothing certain in human affairs; but if the present administration should exist but a short time, so much less of this grant would be expended. To refuse the amount asked for, was to almost throw imputation on the honor of the present head of the Government, a thing not to be dreamt of. His honor and integrity is above and beyond all suspicion, and he was sorry to hear honorable members use arguments which might be construed into a belief, that the integrity of the Governor was liable to suspicion. This was not to be thought of, nor was it thought of; but the grant was absolutely necessary for the Province, and whether the Committee passed it or not, the money must be had, and would, he was very sure, be paid some time or another. The Committee would of course do as they please. He should, however, vote for the Resolution.

Mr. Partelow rose and said, that from what had fallen from the Hon. Executive Member from Saint John, about the honorable and highminded character of the present head of the Government, had nothing to do with the present Resolution. He could tell that Hon. Member, that he considered the late Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Harvey, quite as honorable and highminded a Governor as the present, and when he left the Province, every shilling of the contingent fund was expended. Part of the sum thus placed at his disposal, had been given to a favorite A. D. C., and he was not disposed to place money at the disposal of the present Governor, for which no account would be rendered or called for. He thought that the sum which he intended him to have, would be quite sufficient to meet all the charges which should properly be paid from this fund, until such time as the country would know whether or not the present head of the Government remained in the country, or the House dissolved. Something had been said of poor Emigrants by the Hon. the Exective Member from Saint John, and the inconvenience which they would labor under if their communications were not received by His Excellency in consequence of the postage not being paid. Hon. members will recollect that applications for land, and a great many other applications come through a different channel; they are received through the heads of the different departments, and from them forwarded to the proper quarter. By reference to the appendix to the journals of last year, he found that £263 17*s*. 4*d*. had been paid out of the gross proceeds of the Casual and Territorial Revenues for postage. He hoped he had already said enough to satisfy the Committee that there was no fear of the poor Emigrants suffering by withholding the larger sum and giving only such amount as he (Mr. P.) thought would be amply sufficient to meet such contingencies as could arise before a recall, or a dissolution of that House became inevitable.

Mr. End said, that the personal character of the Lieutenant Governor was not at all involved in the discussion of the Resolution. But the Government on whom the Assembly of this Province had already passed a solemn vote of want of confidence, was involved.

Mr. J. A. Street said that he wished to draw the attention of Hon. members to the address to the Throne which had passed that House by a large majority. If they intend to adopt the language of the address he (Mr. S.) thought they ought to pass the Resolution now before them, granting to the present Government the usual sum. [Here the hon. member read a paragraph from the address which went to say that the House would go on with the usual business of the Country.] With regard to the reorganizing of the Government and the degree of confidence which he now felt in it, he must tell honorable members that it was just as little as ever. [“Not quite so little,” from an hon. member.] In one respect it might be not quite so little, but as a government he (Mr. Street) had no confidence in it whatever. He would not on that account refuse the grant for contingencies; to do so in the face of the address which had passed by a large majority, and to obstruct or endeavour to embarrass the Government, would in another quarter look like petty legislation. The refusal of this grant would not coerce the Government in any possible way, but it certainly to his (Mr. S's.) mind looked like an endeavour to shew a different spirit than that embodied in the language of the address. It would certainly be the most dignified, and he would say the most correct course to pass the Resolution granting the full sum asked for, £450.

Mr. Payne, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. S. Earle, spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Mr. M'Leod thought it would place the House in a very strange position with relation to their own Address, if they refused the grant; but he would leave hon. members who were opposed to it to take their own course.

Mr. Simonds said that he had been informed by a gentleman of character, whom he could not and would not doubt, that one half the sum asked for had been absorbed in postages of Letters and documents addressed to the Lieutenant Governor, connected with the different Departments, and the public business. This would help the Committee to come to a decision whether they would sustain the grant or not. The sum, he thought, was but the proper amount, and no difficulty could possibly occur relative to its proper expenditure.

Mr Wilmot opposed the Resolution because it contemplated a grant to a Government in which he —and he believed the whole country—had no confidence; a Government which he opposed, and meant to oppose.

Hon Mr. Speaker said that he would go with a small grant for the immediate purposes of Government. If the members of the Executive Government asked only for that, it should have his vote.

Hon. Mr. Simonds here said he would oppose the vote altogether unless it were made for the usual amount.

[The first proposition being to fill the blank with 450*l*., an amendment to fill it with 100*l*. was here proposed by Mr. Partelow, and an amendment to the amendment, that it should be filled with 300*l*.]

Mr. Barbarie would vote for no more money than was absolutely necessary for the country, because he thought he would not be doing justice to his constituents were he not to oppose a grant of money to a Government which had, after a vote of want of confidence, remained in office and completed their quorum from a small minority of that House.

Mr. Fisher would abide by his opinion formerly expressed, that 300*l* was quite enough for the Contingent expenses of the Government, and would vote for that amount and no more.

Mr. Scoullar said, that in 1835, when he happened to be a Lobby member, he had heard an expression fall from the Hon. Executive Member from Saint John, which struck him forcibly at the time; it was this—“I will not consent to vote one shilling of the people's money, unless I can get an account of its expenditure.” These words he had taken down at the time, and was now prepared to adopt the same rule. In this case he agreed with the hon. member for York (Mr. Wilmot) although they did not often agree, and would oppose the Resolution.

The debate was continued for some time longer, when the question was taken, and the propositions to fill the blank with 450*l*., 100*l*., and 300*l*. were all negatived.

The following are the several divisions. On sustaining the principle of the Resolution:—Nays 6—Messrs. Barbarie, Stewart, Taylor, End, Scoullar, Wilmot.—Yeas 27. For filling up with 100*l*—Yeas 9—Hon. Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Wilmot, Rankin, Wark, W. H. Street, S. Earle, Hazen, Partelow, Hanington.—Nays 24. For 300*l*.—Yeas 7—Messrs. Alexandre, Perley, Barker, Fisher, J. Earle, Brown, Hill.—Nays 25. For 450*l*—Yeas 12—Hon. Messrs. Simonds, M'Leod, Allen, Messrs. Hill, Boyd, Thompson, Gilbert, Connell, Payne, Palmer, Stewart, J. A. Street.—Nays 21. For 200*l*—Nays 7; Yeas 26. For reconsideration—Yeas 14; Nays 19.

ROAD APPROPRIATIONS.—The Committee have recommended the appropriation of £18,800 for the Road Service, to be divided as follows:—

Great Roads—St. John to Nova-Scotia Line, (£700 of which to be applied to the improvement of the Great Marsh in the vicinity of St. John,) £1,400; Saint John to Saint Andrews, £360; Fredericton to Saint John, via Nerepis, £100; (£25 from each of the last mentioned roads to be applied in repairing the approaches to the Steam Boat Landing in Carleton.) Nerepis to Gagetown, £35; Dorchester to Shediac, £80; Shediac to Petitcodiac, £20; Richibucto to Chatham, £500; Newcastle to Bathurst, £425; Bathurst to Campbellton, £750; Fredericton to Woodstock, £700; Woodstock to Arestook, £300; Arestook to Grand Falls, £300; Fredericton to the Finger Board, £200; Belleisle to Saint John, £75; Fredericton to Newcastle, £600; Fredericton to St. Andrews, £300; Salisbury to Hopewell, £250; Shediac to Richibucto, £200; Woodstock to Houlton, £25; Waweig to Saint Stephen; (£63 15*s*. 7*d*. of which to be paid Hugh Morrison, balance due on Waweig Bridge,) £150; Oromocto to Gagetown, £120; Oak Bay to Eel River, £225; Fredericton to Bend of Petitcodiac, £225; Grand Falls to Canada Line, £400; Bathurst to Miramichi, via Pokemouche, £200; St. John to Quaco, £125; Hampton to Belleisle, £50—Total, Great Roads, £8,415.

Special Grants—Bridge over the Arestook, £750; for the new Line of Road to the Mechanics' Settlement, so called, in the Counties of Westmorland and King's, £75; Stanley to Campbellton, and for erecting Bridges over rivers crossing the same, provided a similar sum be given by the Land Company and Settlers, £260—Total, Special Grants, £1,025.

Bye Roads—For York County, £987; Carleton, £986; Queen's, £920; Gloucester, £700; Westmorland, £1,120; Charlotte, £1,086; King's, £1,054; St. John, £786; Kent, 674; Sunbury, £550; Northumberland, £1,037; Restigouche, £550—Total, Bye Roads, £10,450.

Monday, March 10.

The Honorable Mr. M'Leod, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House—

Report from the Secretary of the Board of Health for the Counties of Northumberland and Gloucester, relative to the Lazaretto at Sheldrake Island, for the reception of persons afflicted with Leprosy.

This Document, being read at the Clerk's Table, is as follows:—

TRACADIE DISEASE.

Report of Secretary of the Board of Health for Northumberland and Gloucester.

(Copy.) Miramichi, 25th Feb. 1845.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to enclose herewith an account of the expenditure of the Board of Health for the Counties of Gloucester and Northumberland, up to the seventh of February, instant, amounting altogether to the sum of £1,051 19*s* 8¾*d*; and also a brief Abstract shewing the amounts expended in buildings and other permanent improvements, Furniture, Provisions, &c. All the vouchers have been forwarded to the proper officer. I am unable to give Your Excellency any estimate that can be fully relied upon of the sum that will be necessary to uphold the establishment on Sheldrake Island for the next twelve months; but I think the whole will not exceed six hundred pounds, and the different purposes for which that sum will be required are mentioned in the enclosed statement.

The conduct of the unfortunate persons affected with Leprosy since their removal to the Lazeretto, has not been so satisfactory as the Board could wish. There have been frequent desertions from the Island, and in several instances the Board have sent after and enforced the return of the parties. The fugitives have, however, generally after a short absence, voluntarily returned. Two of the men escaped about two months since, and have not yet returned. The Board found that a heavy expense was incurred in sending after the parties who escaped; and as they have not at present any effectual means of preventing the escape of, nor of punishing the Lepers for such offences, they have not deemed it prudent to incur further expense in bringing back deserters until this defect in the establishment be remedied.

In order to make the establishment on Sheldrake Island effectual, for the purpose the Legislature had in view, it appears to me to be requisite that the Board should have the power of confining the Lepers, and of otherwise punishing them for improper conduct; and also, power to prohibit persons landing on, or approaching the Island without leave, under severe penalties. The establishment should be made efficient in every respect, without delay, and I would respectfully suggest whether it would not be desirable before the subject of making further provision for the establishment be brought under the notice of the Legislature, that a competent person, having the confidence of Your Excellency, should visit the Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE KERR

To His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, K. H. &c. &c. &c.

TUESDAY, March 11.

The Honorable Mr. Simonds, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House—

A detailed Account shewing the amounts chargeable on the Contingent Funds of the City and County of Saint John; the same being furnished under an Address of the House of the nineteenth day of February last.

Mr. Partelow moved the following Resolutions:—

1*st. Resolved*, As the opinion of this House, That the Salaries of the Master of the Rolls and Province Treasurer, should respectively be a permanent charge on the Civil List of this Province.

2*d. Resolved*, That the opinion of this House, relative to the Salary that should be established for the Successor of the late Provincial Secretary, should be humbly and dutifully presented to Her Majesty.

3*d. Resolved*, That the expected saving which will be effected in that Office, and the reduced salary attached to the Surveyor General, consequent upon the abolishment of the Office of Commissioner of Crown Lands, in the opinion of this House, will be sufficient to provide for the Salaries of the Master of the Rolls and Province Treasurer, without diminishing the Surplus available at the passing of the Civil List Act.

The question being severally taken thereon, they were concurred in by the House; and

On like motion of Mr. Partelow,

Resolved, That a select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Salaries generally chargeable upon the Civil List of this Province, and prepare an Humble and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty on that subject, as well as upon the several matters contained in the aforegoing Resolutions, and report the same to the House.

Ordered, That Mr. Partelow, Mr. End, Mr. Fisher, Mr. W. H. Street, and Mr. Brown, do compose the said Committee.

WEDNESDAY, March 12.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, the House went into Committee of the whole, under the adjourned proceedings of Monday last, and resumed the further consideration of Supplies to be granted for the Public Service.

Resolved, That there be granted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £50 to enable him to pay a Messenger to the Executive Council.

To the Commissioners of Government House £100 for Coals for the Public Rooms and Offices in Government House.

To the Sheriff of King's County the sum of £25 for the return of a Member to serve in this present Session of the General Assembly.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £350 to compensate the Prince Edward Island Steam Navigation Company, for having maintained a good and efficient Line of Steam Communication between Miramichi, Charlottetown and Pictou, for the year 1844.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £250, to be applied in relieving sick, aged, and distressed Indians in this Province, and for providing Seed, Grain, and Potatoes.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of 250*l*., to enable the Commissioners of Bathurst Bridge to pay the Contractor part of the balance due.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of 391*l*., 18*s*. 11*d*. to reimburse the Province Treasurer for over advances made by him towards the protection of the Revenue the past year.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of 200*l*., to reimburse the Province Treasurer for payment made by him for the rent of the Offices for the Treasury Department, to thirty first December, 1844.

To the Province Treasurer the sum of 120*l*., being the amount of his Account for Postage, Stationery, Fuel, Printing, Legal Advice, and Travelling Expenses, of the Treasurer for the year 1844.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, a sum not exceeding 500*l*., in addition to the amount allowed by Law for the support of the Provincial Penitentiary for the year 1845.

The following Petition was presented to the Legislative Council by the Hon. G. Shore on Friday last, which we publish by request, and we have good reason to believe that the letter of a “Student of King's College” which has lately appeared, does not contain the sentiments of the Vice President of King's College, who we believe is favourable to liberal views respecting that institution.—*Head Quarters.*

“*To the Honorable the Legislative Council;*

“The Petition of Edwin Jacob, Clerk, Doctor in Divinity, Vice President of the University of King's College at Fredericton, and a Professor in the same, Humbly Sheweth:

“That your Petitioner received his appointment from the Chancellor of this University, under a Royal Charter, granted by His late Majesty, King George the Fourth, in compliance with a Petition of the General Assembly, and accepted and confirmed, as to the property of the Corporation, by a consequent Act of the same.

“That your Petitioner has been informed, on high authority, that any alteration of the said Charter by virtue of a mere Act of the Provincial Legislature, as proposed by a Bill now before your Honorable House, would be, if not strictly illegal, at least anomalous and violent; and that such alteration could not be justified on the plea of necessity, inasmuch as her Majesty's Ministers have signified their readiness, to advise the grant of a new Charter, containing such further provisions as the Provincial Legislature and the College Council have concurred in recommending.

“Your Petitioner, therefore, being earnestly desirous that all real and practical improvements may be effected in the system of the University to the service of which he is devoted, humbly requests your Honorable House to adopt that course of proceeding which would be unquestionably regular and constitutional, and best adapted to accomplish the objects desired. And your Petitioner, &c.

Miss Sarah Waggaman, one of the most *distingue* belles of the court at Washington during the late administration, has taken the veil at the Convent of the Visitation, in Baltimore. Miss Waggaman is the niece of Mr. Tyler.

TEXAS.—We announced in part of our edition last week, that the Resolutions for annexing Texas to the United States had passed both Houses of Congress.—They have since received the approval of the President. These Resolutions authorize the Executive to receive Texas into the Union as a new State, leaving the boundaries of the country to be arranged by treaty, with such foreign powers as may be interested. Mexico is the only foreign power so interested.

As soon as this act had been consummated, it is reported that Gen. Almonte, the accredited Minister from Mexico, sent in to the Government of the United States a “resentful and warlike P. P. C.” which it was supposed would be followed by his immediate departure from this country. The illness of one of his children, it is said, has detained him at the seat of government; and in the mean time other foreign Ministers, more particularly those of England and France, have taken advantage of this accidental detention, to urge him to postpone his departure until he receives advices from the new Government just now established in Mexico, on the ruins of that of St. Anna. We did not learn what success has attended this friendly interposition, but for the sake of peace we trust it will be effective. We do not perceive that the Mexican Minister surrenders any portion of the honour of the nation he so ably represents, by yielding to the solicitations now pressed upon him.

An entire change in the dominancy of parties has just taken place in that country, and possibly some change may have occurred in its foreign policy also. At all events we trust that he will not see a dereliction in any portion of his duty in listening to the entreaties of the ministers of the two most powerful nations in christendom. Their objects must be purely disinterested, and contemplate nothing but the welfare of Mexico and of the world at large. If by delay General Almonte can by any possibility avert the ravages of war, he will win for himself a most proud and honourable distinction, which England, at any rate, we can assure him, will not soon forget.

It is most gratifying to perceive that England and France are again in harmonious action, and once more striving to prevent man from shedding the blood of his fellow-creatures. The spectacle is an ennobling one, and we trust it will end in success. Should a war be re-kindled who knows where it will find its limits? The hemisphere of the west would not long be the exclusive seat of its action. It would soon cross the Atlantic, and pour the phial of its wrath on the devoted heads of our progenitors.

It is said that Mr. Pakenham, the British Minister, has despatched a messenger to Mexico to further his views in these mediatorial efforts. We are glad of this, for we always feel a pride in seeing the designs of England so nobly directed.

The Oregon question was not proceeded in; it therefore remains, as far as Congress is concerned, in status quo. Before another session arrives, we trust it will be brought to a happy issue by friendly negotiations.—*New-York Tribune.*

THE NEW UNITED STATES CABINET.—The following is Mr. Polk's Cabinet; its composition is good, and seems to obtain the confidence of the dominant party, and in a good degree that of the country:—James Buchanan, Secretary of State;—R. J. Walker, Secretary of Treasury; Wm. L. Marcy, Secretary of War; ——, ——, Secretary of the Navy; John Y. Mason, Attorney General; Cave Johnson, Post-Master General.—*Ib.*

Permission has at last been given by Congress to allow the drawback of duties on foreign goods, sent from this country to British Provinces. The same privilege is allowed to goods sent by inland route to Mexico. Two and a half per cent. of the duties will be retained in all cases.—*Ib.*

Wreath for Mrs. Polk.—We have seen a most beautiful wreath of flowers to be worn by Mrs. Polk on the evening of the 4th. It is composed of half-blown japonicas, red and white, of the rarest kinds, interspersed with jessamine, orange flowers, &c., edged with laurel and myrtle. The bouquet was the most elegant ever put up by Mr. Buist. Every rich flower and choice emblem was charmingly put together. It consisted of, in part—

Name.	Emblem of
Acacia,	Chaste love.
Azalea,	Temperance.
Bay Leaf,	I change but in dying.
Tea Rose,	Beauty always new.
Daphne,	Sweets to sweet.
Justacia,	Perfection.
Epanis,	You shall have justice.
Jessamine,	Amiability.
Kennedia,	Mental beauty.
Japonica,	May you be happy.
Orange Flower,	Chastity.
Sweet Violet,	Modesty.

Pennsylvanian.

Boston, Concord, and Montreal Railroad.—Wm. P. Crocker, civil engineer, has completed a reconnoissance of the route of the contemplated road in New Hampshire—that is, from the depot of the Concord railroad through the Winnipissiogee valley, Rumney, Plymouth and Haverhill, to Lyman, far up on the Connecticut—and reports that there is no route for a railroad in New England, of equal length, which presents so few obstacles in the construction, and so large an amount of present and prospective business along the line.

SHIPWRECKS IN 1844.—Two hundred and eight vessels were wrecked in the last twelve months on our coast alone, in which one hundred and five lives were lost. Twenty vessels are yet missing, and a number of wrecks have been passed at sea whose melancholy story, we fear, will never be told. Of late years seven hundred lives yearly have been lost at sea from this country alone, where are one hundred and forty thousand seamen; two thousand from England, where are two hundred and ninety thousand seamen. In the county of Barnstable, Mass., there were living a short time since, nine hundred and thirty-four widows of seafaring men.—*New York Herald February* 12.

HIGH TIME TO REIGN.—Judge R. M. Sheard of North Carolina, has resigned his office. In doing so he says—“During the time I have been in office, I have had seven fights, a great number of quarrels—have been indicted twice—and I conceive the greatest act of justice which I can do the public and myself is to resign my said office of justice of the peace.”—*American Paper.*

SUMMARY.

His Excellency Count Dietrichstein, the new Austrian Ambassador, has taken a mansion in Belgrave-square, for the seat of the embassy.

A marriage is understood to be in contemplation between the third daughter of the Duke of Sutherland, Lady Caroline, and John Campbell, Esq., jun., of Islay, great nephew to the Duke of Argyll, and grandson of the Earl of Wemyss.

The newly-appointed Ambassadors from the courts of Austria and Spain, are expected to give, by their splendid and liberal orders, an impetus to trade, which, despite of all our wealth, is lamentably sluggish. Their Excellencies have appointed Messrs. Peters, of Park street, to build handsome and suitable equipages for themselves and their respective suites.

Among the elite of Paris a marriage is rumoured as likely to take place between a handsome English lady and a French Admiral. His attentions to her at the ball at chateau were generally remarked.

Education among the poorer classes appears, from a recent statistical account, to be making great progress in Lombardy. More than 350,000 children, of both sexes, are now receiving instruction there in the primary schools.

The Marquess of Waterford, lately invested with the order of St. Patrick, like a true knight, has given 100*l*. towards the repairs of the cathedral.

Lord Lovat has ordered a teacher to instruct the natives of Strathgloss, Inverness-shire, in the elements of agricultural chemistry.

Punch has a print representing a laborer in the lowest state of destitution, with his wife and three children at his side, while the prime minister stands with his back to them, saying, “I'm very sorry, my good man, but I can do nothing for you.” Punch entitles this print “the agricultural question settled.”

We learn by letters from Ham that Prince Louis Napoleon is beguiling the hours of his imprisonment by writing a scientific work of great research and learning

Sir Robert Peel is adding to his mansion, at Drayton Manor, a picture gallery, one hundred feet in length, for the reception chiefly of portraits of the most eminent men of the present day. The new gallery will be fitted up in the richest manner, with carved oak and polished marble, now preparing.

Mr. Thier's 'History of the Empire,' in eleven volumes, has been purchased for five hundred and fifty thousand francs, and it is supposed that the publisher will gain a million of francs by the undertaking.

It is stated, upon good authority, that the Commander-in-Chief is strongly in favour of the abolition of corporeal punishment in the Britain army. He would substitute imprisonment with solitary confinement, for periods varying from one month to two years or more.

The last portion of the third instalement of the twenty-one millions to be paid to this country as the Canton ransom, has been received.

The Duke of Wellington has promoted several sergeants-major to be cornets in other regiments, without purchase.

Lord Panmure has given to the Brechin Mechanics' Institution a splendid collection of paintings, some of which cost him 700*l* each.

The Manchester subscriptions for public parks, &c., is now upwards of 29,000*l*.

At the recent ordination in England, there were 185 deacons, and 169 priests ordained.

A complete costume of a Knight of the Order of the Garter, highly enriched with embroidery, being a present to his Majesty King Louis Philippe from Queen Victoria, has arrived in Paris.

It is rumoured in the military circles that Lord Chas. Wellesley contemplates either exchanging from the 15th Regiment, or retiring on half-pay early in the approaching spring.

The Bishop of Exeter.—The Bishop of Exeter has issued a circular letter to his clergy, in which he states that he has received a copy of a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the clergy and laity of the Province of Canterbury, “affording the prospect of an adjustment of our present diversities, by some general measure which shall have the sanction of the whole church.” The Bishop intends to adopt the advice given by his metropolitan, “to continue the services in your several churches as they now are, making no attempt to approach nearer to an exact observance of the Rubric, unless you shall in any instance ascertain that the wish of your people is clearly in favour of such an advance.” The controversy may therefore be considered as, in the meantime, at an end.—*Dundee Warder.*

Diving Bells of the Mulgrave Family.—The first diving-bell we read of was nothing but a very large kettle suspended by ropes, with the mouth downwards, and planks to sit on, fixed in the middle of its concavity. Two Greeks at Toledo, in 1538, made an experiment with it before the Emperor Charles the Fifth. They descended in it with a lighted candle to a considerable depth. In 1683, William Phipps, the son of a blacksmith, formed a project for unloading a rich Spanish ship sunk on the coast of Hispaniola. Charles the Second gave him a ship, with everything necessary for his undertaking; but being unsuccessful, he returned in great poverty. He then endeavoured to procure another vessel; but failing, he got a subscription, to which the Duke of Albemarle contributed. In 1687, Phipps set sail in a ship of 200 tons, having previously engaged to divide the profits according to the twenty shares of which the subscription consisted. At first, all his labours proved fruitless; but at last, when he seemed almost to despair, he was fortunate enough to bring up so much treasure, that he returned to England with the value of £200,000. Of this sum, he got about £20,000, and the Duke of Albemarle £90,000. Phipps was knighted by the King, and laid the foundation of the fortune of the present noble house of Mulgrave. Since that time diving bells have been very often employed.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

From the New-Brunswicker.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR: You will confer a favour on the Students of the Wesleyan Academy, by giving publicity in your next paper to the inclosed Resolutions.

WESLEYAN ACADEMY, SACKVILLE.

At a Meeting of upwards of 80 of the Students of the Wesleyan Academy, (Sackville,) held in the Classical School Room, on Saturday afternoon, March 15th, for the purpose of taking into consideration a statement which appeared in the 16th No. of the New Brunswick Reporter, after the appointment of a Chairman and Secretary, the following resolutions were submitted to the meeting, fully discussed, and unanimously agreed upon:—

Resolved, 1st—That although more than usual interest has recently been felt and manifested on the subject of Religion, yet as no excitement has been allowed in any way to interfere for a single moment with the regular Academical exercises, we are sure that a Christian Legislature will not find in the past or present condition of the Institution, any cause for alarm.

Resolved, 2ndly—That although persevering efforts have been made by the Chaplain and other officers of the institution, to urge upon our consideration the importance of religion, and of early attention to its claims, yet as they have disclaimed all desire to secure converts to Methodism among us, and as they have in no case manifested the slightest inclination to urge us to the belief of the peculiar or distinctive doctrines of Methodism, we believe that they have been in all their intercourse with us uninfluenced by the spirit of proselytism.

Resolved, 3rdly—That as we are not aware that any individual has become a convert to Methodism while connected with the Academy, we regard the statement made in the letter, reported to have been received by an Hon. Member of the Council, as false; and the author of the said letter, either as shamefully careless or malignantly wicked.

Resolved, 4thly—That so long as the course heretofore pursued by the Officers of this Institution continues to be followed, Christian Parents need not fear but their sons will be here induced to forsake the Church of their Fathers.

Resolved, 5thly—That a Committee be appointed to prepare the foregoing resolutions for the Press, and forward them for publication.

(Signed)
CHARLES TURNER,
HENRY ATKINSON,
JOSEPH L. MOORE,
A. MCKEOWN,
} *Committee.*

£500 WANTED to hire on unquestionable LANDED SECURITY, in this City.—Apply to
March 11. J. M. ROBINSON.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of THOMAS P. CRANE *and* JOHN MCGRATH, *of the City of Saint John, Merchants, late Bankrupts.*

NOTICE is hereby given, That I appoint a General Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Estate, to be held at the Office of Mr. Isaac Thomas Cheetham, in the City aforesaid, at twelve o'clock, noon, on Monday the fourteenth day of April next, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of selling all the interest which the Creditors have in the outstanding Debts due the said Estate. Dated at the City aforesaid, this 20th day of February, 1845.

PETER STUBBS,
Commissioner of the Estate and Effects of Thomas P. Crane and John M'Grath.

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1845.

Arrival of the March Steamer at Halifax.

The Steam-ship “Cambria,” Captain Judkins, with the March English Mail, arrived at Halifax on Sunday morning last, in 11 1-2 days from Liverpool, with 70 passengers, about 60 of whom were for Boston.—Among those who landed at Halifax, were Mrs. Ketchum, and Messrs. Frederick A. Wiggins, James Alexander, J. G. Sharp, Patrick M'Cullough, and Alexander M'Tavish, of this city, who all arrived in town early this morning, via Annapolis, per Steamer “Herald.”—We are indebted to Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Sharp, for Charles Willmer's News Letter of the 4th inst., and several other Liverpool papers of the latest dates, from which we have extracted the most important intelligence. We have not been able to obtain a paper containing the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament, but have copied a summary of it from Willmer's News Letter. Sir Robert Peel has wisely continued the property tax, and abolished the duties on raw cotton and various other imported articles, amounting to 430 in number, and repealed the taxes on various articles of export; thereby evincing his intention steadily to follow out the sound and judicious line of policy, which has hitherto so eminently distinguished his government; and which manifestly tends to promote the best interests of the empire at large.—Sir Robert's *expose*, (a sketch of which we have extracted,) has given great satisfaction in England.

The Mail will probably arrive here to-morrow or on Thursday morning.

From Charles Willmer's News Letter, March 4.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The financial expose of the Premier has been the chief topic of conversation in commercial circles. The reduction of the duties are considered generally unexceptionable as far as they go; but the Premier would have required the disposal of another £10,000,000 per annum at least to have satisfied the claims of all the applicants. The aggregate amount of the reduction proposed is, however, beyond the previous expectation even of the most sanguine on the subject. The list of articles it is proposed to exempt entirely from duty, and which elsewhere are given at length, contains a number of commodities which when freed from duty, are likely to come into rather extensive use in this country. Cotton yarn, linen yarn, and thrown silks are all to be admitted free of duty, and amongst other things we find a few rather important articles from the United States particularly staves, turpentine, lard, and lard oil. Of these the list will be peculiarly acceptable, as it forms an excellent substitute for sperm oil; and owing to the increased demand for the latter, and the inability of the fisheries to supply it the price has so risen as to make it very expensive to manufacturers. The import of lard oil from the United States, where it is now manufactured in great abundance, will, no doubt be extensive, as well as of other commodities named.

The new Ministerial appointments are now no longer matter of conjecture, but have been made and proclaimed; and for the most part they fulfil the expectations that were current. Lord Dalhousie having succeeded Mr. Gladstone as President of the Board of Trade, Sir George Clerk steps into the vacant Vice-Presidency, with the Mastership of Mint. Sir Thomas Freemantle is the Secretary for Ireland; he is succeeded as Secretary at War by Mr. Sidney Herbert; and the Secretaryship to the Admiralty thus left vacant is filled by promoting Mr. Henry Thomas Lowry Corry, one of the Lords, to be his own servant; while Lord Jocelyn is to be the new Lord. Mr. Cardwell is one of the secretaries to the Treasury, and the hon. William Bingham Baring, Paymaster-General.

Convocation at Oxford has condemned the passages selected from Mr. Ward's publication, and degraded him from his academical honours. The proposition for censuring Mr. Ward's book was carried by a majority of 777 to 386, and that for depriving him of his degrees was also carried by a majority of 569 to 511; but the proposition for the condemnation of Tract 90 and by the other, a requisition has been presented to the Vice-Chancellor, requesting that the matter may be again brought before Convocation at the earliest opportunity.

The Royal family continue to enjoy good health. They have been to Brighton for a week, and Her Majesty and Prince Albert, while there, paid a flying visit to the Duke of Norfolk, at Arundel Castle

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

The financial *expose* of the Premier, has afforded all but universal satisfaction in commercial circles. The general belief is, that the demand for capital will be very materially increased, as the alterations in the tariff, must lead to a large augmentation of business. As yet the state of the colonial, the foreign, and the general produce markets, have been scarcely influenced; not that any doubt exists as to the Premier being enabled to carry into full effect his plans for reforming the tariff, and accomplishing the abolition of duties mentioned in his elaborate statement. A good business has been done, both *bona fide* and on speculation; prices generally steady, except for sugar, which has again been largely speculated in. A very good business in advertised, chiefly sugar. Both imports and exports have increased.—Several Liverpool houses have already announced their intention of commencing the business of cotton brokers in Manchester, and are likely to succeed, in as much as a great quantity of cotton is annually imported, as remittances and otherwise, by Manchester Merchants, whose predilection is of course in favour of their own town. The uneasy feeling amongst the operatives still continues, and a general turn out may, ere long, be anticipated.

The holders of capital are more cautious, owing to large investments in projected railways, and the failures of some great wine houses. Best bankers are 2½ to 3; very little done in any other kinds. On projected railway shares the terms have been 10 to 20 per cent.—Consols have been steady at 99¾ to ⅞. The rates of Exchange on all the leading points on the Continent are again rather higher.

RE-OPENING OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—IMPORTANT ALTERATIONS IN THE TARIFF.

The Speech from the