which is now engaged in military operations against the insurgents, but the tranquillity of British India has not been affected by these unprovoked disturbances.

I again commend to your attention the restrictions imposed on commerce by the Navigation-laws.

If you shall find that these laws are in the whole, or in part, unnecessary for the maintenance of our maritime power, while they fetter trade and industry, you will no doubt deem it right to repeal or modify their provisions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed the estimates for the service of the year to be laid before you; they will be framed with the most anxious attention to a wise economy.

The present aspect of affairs has enabled me to make large reductions on the estimates of last year.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I observe with satisfaction that this portion of the United Kingdom has remained tranquil amidst the convulsions which have disturbed so many parts of Europe. The insurrection in Ireland has not been renewed, but a spirit of disaffection still exists, and I am compelled, to my great regret, to ask for a continuance, for a limited time, of those powers which, in the last session, you deemed necessary for the preservation of the public tranquillity.

I have great satisfaction in stating that commerce is reviving from those shocks which, at the commencement of last session, I had to deplore.

The condition of the manufacturing districts is likewise more encouraging than it has been for a considerable period.

It is also gratifying to me to observe that the state of the revenue is one of progressive improvement.

I have to lament, however, that another failure in the potatoe crop has caused very severe distress in some parts of Ireland.

The operation of the laws for the relief of the poor in Ireland will properly be a subject of your inquiry, and any measures by which those laws may be beneficially amended, and the condition of the people may be improved, will receive my cordial assent.

It is with pride and thankfulness that I advert to the loyal spirit of my people, and that attachment to our institutions which has animated them during the period of commercial difficulty, deficient production of food, and political revolution.

I look to the protection of Almighty God for favour in our continued progress, and I trust that you will assist me in upholding the fabric of the Constitution, founded as it is upon the principles of Freedom and Justice.

Communications.

MR. EDITOR,—

It may be looked upon as something "new under the sun," to name an individual in public, as a "fit and proper person to represent us in General Assembly" without speaking to himself on the subject, or without conferring with the "leaders" of our different political parties upon it. But as he whom I intend to propose is now in Fredericton, we cannot put this question to him personally, and as there are so many different views entertained by those who range themselves under the banners of Toryism, and Liberalism, as to the character and qualifications of our Representatives, that it seems almost impossible to fix upon any one;—however through you I would beg leave to propose to the Electors of Saint John, ROBERT JARDINE, Esq., as the man who would best represent the interests of all parties. As a Merchant, he has a large amount of experience, and a thorough knowledge of Commercial affairs; and as the best proof of his capability to manage public business, he has been eminently successful in his own. As an Agriculturist, he has done, and is now doing more than any other man in the Province, and that too not only theoretically, but practically. As a Politician, he is a Liberal of the right stamp. As a Man, he is upright, honest and truth-loving, and a Philanthropist, in the broadest sense. Such a man do we want as our Representative. A working man, and not a babbler, a man of practice as well as theory. Look at his labours in our midst, on behalf of every project that is likely to prove beneficial to our City and Province: Who was among the first to advocate the establishment of a Sailor's Home in our city, which is however now at a stand-still, owing to the prostration of our Commercial prosperity?—Who worked out for us, and was chiefly instrumental in carrying into operation the Electric Telegraph Line, in this Province, the benefits of which are to us incalculable?—Who roused a spirit of improved feeling amongst our Inhabitants, which resulted in the production of our "Rural Cemetery"?—Who is the life and spirit of our excellent Agricultural Society?—Who is one of the best managers of our Gas Company, and others too numerous to mention?—Who but the President of those I have named, and he is ROBERT JARDINE; in every one of these has he been tried, and not found wanting.

To say more at present would be unnecessary, and had I said less it would have been doing him injustice.—Such then is the man we need for a Representative; and I do hope that petty prejudices, and strong political feeling will not be allowed to warp our better judgment in this case, for there never was a time when we needed a sterling Representative more than we do at the present time, and I am convinced that there is not one in our midst, who is better able as a Merchant—an Agriculturist—a Politician, and a Man, to represent us than ROBERT JARDINE; and to the Inhabitants of Saint John, would I recommend him, and hope that from them he will receive a support adequate to his merits, should he consent (which I sincerely hope he will) to be put in nomination.

Yours, &c.

CANDOUR.

St. John, Feb. 26th, 1849.

[FOR THE OBSERVER.]

MR. EDITOR,—That part of the City of Saint John, called Carleton, containing about three hundred Freemen, besides Freeholders, and forming one sixth part of the City of Saint John, have never from the first formation of the said City had the privilege of voting for a man resident among them, to represent them in General Assembly, for a City Member. It must be acknowledged by every man, who is governed by right feeling, that this is a hardship, particularly when it is considered that Carleton has secured to it, in the Charter of the said City, certain rights and privileges seperate and unconnected with the Eastern side of the harbour. And as the people in Carleton are anxiously and speedily expecting that Carleton will soon be erected into a seperate City, for the better management of their own affairs, they think that the Citizens on the Eastern side of the harbour, under the circumstances, could not have the least objection to their nominating and voting unanimously for a man of their own choosing.

That man is Alderman BOND, an old tried public servant to whom no possible objection could arise.

Come, Citizens and Freeholders on the Eastern side of the harbour, show your generosity for once towards Carleton, and vote for our Man unanimously, and send him to the House of Assembly, to represent us, and we shall consider you for ever after both generous and clever.

CITIZENS OF CARLETON.

Carleton, St. John, Feb. 26th, 1849.

AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor of the Observer.

SIR,—The reference in my last communication must satisfy reasonable minds that the suggestion for Agricultural instruction in the Rural Districts of New-Brunswick is supported by the highest Agricultural authority in Great Britain; and if our Representatives would adopt it at once, it would establish an Era in our Province, to which future generations would look back with admiration and gratitude. The diffusion of knowledge would effect the *best* and most permanent *protection* for the farmer: It would expedite improvements—facilitate labour—stimulate industry—increase profits—attract observation, attention and interest—excite competition—elevate the *Profession of Agriculture*—win proselytes to the pursuit of it, and develope the agricultural capabilities of a Province, which has been most unjustly condemned in this respect; as few countries possess such a rich variety of excellent soils. It has been said that our climate is not congenial for the growth of wheat. But nevertheless large quantities of it have been raised in it, and a few farmers still succeed in the growth of it. As a proof I may mention that Mr. Richey, a farmer on the borders of the Bay Chaleur, shewed me in 1847 a specimen of very superior Wheat, a bushel of it weighing *seventy-six pounds*. He raised that year upwards of four hundred bushels, and told me that he frequently did the same. He had his own flour mill, ground his grain, and sent the flour in barrels to Bathurst and Miramichi. In passing through that part of the country in July, I saw undeniable evidence that New-Brunswick can raise Wheat;—one person shewed me a promising field of it growing as a second crop without any additional manure upon land cropped with wheat the preceding year. This surely says something for the climate and more for the soil, but little for the Farmer, and less for his agricultural economy and knowledge.—I may here remark that the Eastern section of the Province, bordering upon the Bay Chaleur, contains an extensive tract of very superior wheat soil, readily cultivated, of *boundless* New-Brunswick, and prevailing the impoverishing drain of capital from it, and the consequent encouragement to foreign industry and agriculture. This is an important truth—it has always demanded Legislative consideration; it has never received it; but the present condition of our country imperatively calls upon our Representatives to do what their energies exist. They must not be deceived by the prevailing apathy of Agriculturists. Other persons may do what Mr. Richey has done. Many have complained of failure, but I unhesitatingly assert that the failure is oftener referable to ignorance and mismanagement, than to the peculiarity and unfavourableness of our climate. It is true, that the crop has suffered for several years past from the depredations of the weevil; which we must consider as a peculiar visitation and chastisement on Providence; but these insects have their antagonists, and in process of time disappear. It may be asked, however has man done his part to avert or lessen the evil? This question, *in all its bearings*, must be answered in the negative. Indeed the farmer, generally speaking, has done his best to perpetuate the plague; he has been aware that each head of wheat straw contained hundreds of insects, with few or no kernels of grain, but he has nevertheless secured the straw, taken it into his barn, preserved the *seed of the weevil*, scattered it in his manure heap, carried it the following spring into his fields, sown grain, and wondered at the reappearance of his insect enemy;—whereas, if he had cut down the crop of wheat, and burnt the straw upon the field, he would have destroyed this magazine of mischief, fertilized the ground with the ashes of the crop, and thus restored to the soil the greater part of the salts which vegetation had drawn from it. The wheat crop has suffered frequently from *rust*, but it has been found in other countries that the use of common sea salt, thrown broad cast on the ground with the grain when sown, or sprinkled in solution with a whitewash brush upon the first appearance of the disease, has effectually checked and prevented it. Wheat crops sometimes fail in consequence of the manure applied upon the field not containing the saline principle requisite for the development of the grain; agricultural information would detect the deficiency and furnish the remedy. When a country can bring to maturity Indian Corn of an excellent quality, as has been the case in both Provinces for several years past, it demonstrates its capabilities. Oats, Rye, Barley and Buckwheat are sure crops—These may be raised in abundance, and with those there should never be any want of Bread stuffs; and the importation of foreign wheat under such circumstances should be considered a luxurious gratification. It may be asked, why are not these various grains grown in sufficient abundance, and cannot the farmer import some of them cheaper than he can raise them. I unhesitatingly answer that he cannot: and shall endeavour in a future communication to corroborate my assertion.

A PRACTICAL AGRICULTURIST.

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 27, 1849.

ENGLISH MAIL.—The news by the mail of the 10th inst. per steam ship *Europa*, which arrived at Halifax at 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, was received in this city at 8 o'clock on Thursday evening, by Express, per steamer *Commodore*, via Digby Basin. The news was immediately Telegraphed to the associate printers in Boston and New York, and published in those cities on Friday morning. The manner in which the intelligence was transmitted is stated to have been highly satisfactory to the American printers, and reflects great credit on Mr. Mount, the Telegraph operator in this city, proving him to be perfect master of his business. The distance from Halifax to Granville Point was performed in *eleven* hours! and had not the Commodore met with detention by ice in Digby Basin, the news would have arrived here ten or twelve hours earlier.

The intelligence from England, it will be seen, continues to show an improvement in the general business of the country.

The Queen in person opened the Imperial Parliament on the 1st inst. The speech delivered from the throne will be found in another column.

LIVERPOOL, February 10.

Trade and commerce, in all their branches, continue to improve. In every department greater activity prevails, and the transactions going forward in our produce markets are to a considerable extent. Our Cotton trade manifests increased buoyancy, and sales to a large extent have been going forward, whilst prices continue to advance. The Grain trade is steady, and prices during the last fortnight have been well supported.

Our accounts from the manufacturing districts are also of an encouraging character, holders of goods being firm in their operations, and sanguine as to a good spring trade. In Manchester orders come as fast as they can be executed, notwithstanding the vast amount of steam power brought into requisition since the beginning of the new year.—The stock market is buoyant, and the value of both Public Securities and of Railway Shares are on the advance.

The demand for Cotton has continued extensive during the past fortnight, and sales to a very large extent have taken place. In the course of the week ending February 2, 67,850 bales changed hands, of which 40,530 bales were American. The prices of these remained without much if any change. Since the 2nd the market has been firm and active, and the sales amount to 61,120 bales, of which speculators have taken 19,500 and exporters 6100 bales. The import during the two weeks is 65,000, of which 52,000 is from the United States; and the stock now in this port is estimated at 407,000, against 282,000 at the same period last season; the stock of American is about 245,000, being an increase of 102,000 bales.

The Corn markets throughout the United Kingdom have been steady, and, on the whole, greater activity has prevailed during the fortnight. The immediate effect of the cessation of the Corn-laws of 1846, and the substitution of a nominal duty on all descriptions of Grain, has been much the same as we had previously anticipated. Prices, as we expected, have not fallen, but, on the contrary, are well supported, and in some instances advanced. American Flour is quoted at 26s. to 27s. 6d. for Western Canal; 26s. to 27s. for Philadelphia; Baltimore, New Orleans, and Ohio, 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d; and Canadian, 26s. to 27s. 6d.

Both here and Glasgow, as well as in Staffordshire, the Iron trade has again improved. All descriptions of Metals are in active request, and higher prices are readily paid.

It is placed beyond a doubt that Ministers are resolved not to stultify the free trade policy adopted during the last five years, but will steadily carry out those principles to their final consummation. The chief Minister of the Crown said that he had been formerly in favour of a fixed duty on corn: "but the House not having chosen to adopt that mode, having chosen to set corn entirely free, I hope that no attempt, above all I hope that no successful attempt, will be made at renewing any duty upon that main article of sustenance." This settles at once all speculation upon the course of conduct likely to be adopted by the present enlightened administration. With the Navigation-laws they propose to be equally decisive, and a new bill for their modification will be introduced forthwith. Of the result we are still not very sanguine. When we perceive that Ministers only carried the address in the Lords by a narrow majority of two, being the Duke of Wellington's vote and one Tory peer, and that this nice balance of parties arose mainly on account of the hostility of the Protectionists, the issue for the present, respecting any extensive change in the Navigation-laws, is more than doubtful.

In conformity with the universal opinion in England, and with that entertained by the vast majority of reflecting Irishmen, it has been recommended by the Lord-Lieutenant to renew for a limited period the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland, and the bill has already been read a first time in the House of Commons. In the powerful language of Lord John Russell, it is deemed unwise "too soon to loosen the bandage from the wound, which might again bleed, and with reference to which it is necessary to take every precaution."

Mr. Anstey has made another ineffectual attempt to introduce a bill for the relief of the Roman Catholics from certain penalties on account of their religion; but the hon. gentleman not being supported even by the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, the motion for its introduction was negatived by a majority of two.—In the case of Mr. Duffy the grand jury have again found a true bill against him, but as usual there are more law arguments in progress before the trial proceeds.—On Wednesday evening the Chancellor of the Exchequer again came forward in the House of Commons and proposed a fresh vote of relief for Ireland. It is, however, of small amount, and only to be applied toward off actual starvation in some districts.

THE CHOLERA.—The progress of the cholera continues much the same as at our last report. The total number of cases which have occurred from the first appearance of the disease now amounts to 11,747 whereof 4339 have died, 3653 have recovered, and 3755 are under treatment, or the result is not stated. The district of London is now comparatively free of the malady, only three new cases being reported last Wednesday. In the provinces the number is equally inconsiderable, seven only being announced. In Scotland, however, the daily returns have still varied between 150 to 200 daily, until the last return when they only reached 124, of which 57 had proved fatal; the recoveries, however, now appear to be in a greater increasing ratio. Indeed, we now hope that the worst is over, and that, with the daily improving weather, the malady will gradually disappear. With the exception of Belfast, where the disorder is now on the decline, no part of Ireland has been visited with this frightful scourge to any extent, and it is, perhaps, not too sanguine to believe that the disease is altogether upon the wane on this side of the Atlantic.

The excitement created in Europe by the reports of the boundless riches found in California had somewhat subsided, when the news by the last packet has once more roused the spirit of enterprise, and the newspapers again teem with notices of all kinds of shipping adventures in connection with this auriferous region. It is no longer an *El Dorado*, but a veritable *Tierra de Oro*.

MANCHESTER.—The new year has begun well, and has so far justified the opinion expressed in our preceding circulars. It is a long time since we witnessed transactions to such an extent in the month of January as those which have taken place during the present. Happily no fresh injurious influences arising from political disorders abroad have been in existence to mar the progress of improvement. Unhappily, however, the enhanced value of the raw material has denied to a certain class of spinners and manufacturers—the former especially, being producers of what are termed low numbers—any valuable participation in the advantages resulting from this altered state of things.—With this exception the change for the better is decided and perceptible on all hands. All the operatives, able and willing to work, can readily find employment, and manufacturing property is gradually improving in value. We are happy to find from our friends in the woollen and other manufacturing districts, that with but few exceptions, a pretty similar state of things prevails.—*M'Neir, Greenhow & Irving.*

APPOINTMENTS.—*New British Minister to the United States.*—The Right Honourable Sir H. L. Bulwer, K. C. B., who lately represented her Majesty in Spain, has been appointed to succeed Sir R. Pakenham as British Minister to the United States. Sir R. Pakenham, who has long been a diplomatic servant of the crown, will retire upon a well-earned pension.

G. W. Anderson, Esq., of the civil service of India, to be Governor of the Mauritius.

The Rev. John Smith, M. A., Oxford, to the Bishopric of Hong Kong in China.

Died, lately in London, J. C. Buckhardt, Esq., the celebrated Eastern traveller.

Lately at New Ross, the Rev. G. T Carr, the founder of the first Temperance Society in Europe.

Great Banquet in Manchester.—On Wednesday a banquet took place at the Free Trade-hall, in Manchester, to celebrate the final extinction of the Corn-laws. The hall was splendidly and tastefully decorated, and the entertainment was attended by nearly 3000 guests.

Lord John Russell has announced his intention of again introducing a measure to enable the Jews to sit in Parliament.

In 1848 the number of chargeable letters delivered in the United Kingdom amounted to 329 millions, an increase in nine years of 233 millions.

Jenny Lind's concert, at Birmingham, in aid of the Queen's Hospital, brought the sum of £1070 after paying all expenses. Her concerts at Norwich produced £1200.

The King of Prussia has conferred on M. Guizot the Order of Merit for the Arts and Sciences.

THE BRITISH ARMY.—*Reduction of the Forces.*—Orders have been issued to reduce forty-three regiments at home to the strength of 47 serjeants, 17 drummers, and 750 rank and file. These are the regiments included in the order:—The 2nd battalion of royals, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 21st, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, 35th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 43rd, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 52nd, 55th, 57th, 59th, 60th, (2nd batt.), 62nd, 63rd, 68th, 74th, 77th, 81st, 82nd, 85th, 87th, 89th, 90th, 92nd, and 93rd; or 50 rank and file each regiment.—Fourteen regiments in the colonies to 47 serjeants, 17 drummers, and 770 rank and file, being a reduction of 30 each. The regiments in India and Australia, together with the 37th and 75th regiments, remain at 1000, and the corps which have been divided into two battalions to remain at 1000 rank and file. Men of weakly constitutions, and not likely to become robust and efficient; men of short service, who enlisted as lads and who have not grown to the standard height; confirmed drunkards; and men of bad character in each regiment, are to be forthwith discharged, as well as such men as may be disinclined to continue longer in the army. Recruiting is forthwith ordered to be discontinued.

In the military circles it is stated that Prince George of Cambridge will succeed the late Sir T. Arbuthnot in the command of the Manchester district; and Kilkenny temporary district being abolished, that Major-General Macdonald, will be removed to Athlone, as successor to the late Sir Guy Campbell.

IRON WAREHOUSE FOR CALIFORNIA.—*Extraordinary Feat at Liverpool.*—The want of any place to store goods which are now going to California has determined Messrs. James Starkey & Co., who have a house in San Francisco, to send out the materials for a warehouse. A contract was consequently made with Messrs. T. Vernon & Co., for one to be built of iron, under the directions of Mr. Grantham, civil engineer. The warehouse is of iron, and the roof is similar to those used at railway stations. The sides and roof are thin covered with galvanised corrugated iron plates. There are large folding doors in the centre and windows in the roof.—The order was given on the 5th ultimo, and the men fairly at work on the 9th, and on Saturday, the 3rd instant, it was entirely erected, and ready to be taken down; having been constructed in the short space of twenty-three working days.

FRANCE.—At Paris a few days ago, a real or sham plot was disclosed to the French Ministry, and for a few days Paris again assumed the appearance of a beleaguered city. The streets were occupied by not fewer than 80,000 men, and General Changarnier plainly intimated that the first barricade that was attempted to be raised, would be the signal for a general slaughter, and Paris for a few days trembled on the verge of a new revolution. The struggle however, passed off without mortal strife, but numerous arrests were made; amongst which were Colonel Forestier and Count d'Alton Shee. The former has since been released from his imprisonment, his arrest having been a political blunder.

Our last intelligence from Paris brings not only general confirmation of the wide extent of the plot formed to overthrow the Bonapartist Government, but also of the general tranquillity which had succeeded the alarm and danger of last week. Marshal Bugeaud and General Changarnier have intimated to the disturbers of society, that the very first overt act of physicial force, which the Socialists may venture upon, will be crushed without remorse or mercy.

Continental politics during the last fortnight have not been marked by any very striking event. The state of seige continues at Vienna and Berlin; and the barbarous executions so mercilessly prosecuted in throughout Austria must leave such a vindictive feeling to rankle in the breasts of the people, that we can scarcely hope that the Austrian Ministers will be able to reconstruct any stable form of Government which shall be based upon the affections and consent of the diversified races which constitute that empire.

It is understood that active negotiations are going on in London, with a view to bring about a settlement of the unfortunate dispute respecting the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

Prussia is occupied with her elections. As far as we can learn, from the contradictory reports given, the deputies in the lower chamber for Berlin will be chiefly opposition, and those of the upper chamber ministerialists.

It is reported that a congress of Princes is about to assemble at Frankfort with a view to adjust those points which still offer an obstacle to the definitive settlement of the German constitution.

From Austria the news is but unsatisfactory. Governor Welden seems to be ruling at Vienna with an iron rod of tyranny, which cannot fail to provoke the anger of the people at some future period. The news from Hungary is of a variable character. Whilst the insurgents rally at some points, the Imperialists seem to have routed them where ever they could give them battle.

A Spanish squadron of seven vessels, with 3000 men on board, have appeared off Gaeta, with a view to aid the Pope. This intervention is very likely to accelerate, and perhaps embroil, matters still further, since the known absolutist tendencies of Spain are not likely to find favour in the eyes of the Italian liberals. The soldiers of the Spanish expedition style themselves Crusaders for the Holy See.

INDIA.—Another mail has arrived from India with dates from Bombay to the 4th January, from Calcutta to the 24th December, and from the seat of war in the Punjaub to the 21st December. The intelligence may be comprised in a few words. No further battle had taken place with the Sikhs. Their army had retreated fourteen miles beyond the camp of General Thackwell, with whom Lord Gough had come up with the main body of the British army. All further hostilities seem to be suspended till the army now before Moultan shall have reduced that place and joined the divisions under Lord Gough. The siege artillery had arrived at Moultan, and the bombardment and attack were to be made on Christmas-day. This pause in the main operations of the campaign has produced an undefined sense of dissatisfaction with Lord Gough, and it is very confidently reported in the metropolis that orders have been dispatched from the India House to remove him from the chief command of the Indian army of the Punjaub; and it is said that Sir George Napier, who is now at Nice, has been offered the command. A body of Dost Mohamed's troops are reported to have entered Peshawur, which, if true, will materially add to the difficulties of the war in that quarter.

CITY ELECTION.—The Hon. R. L. Hazen having been appointed to a seat in the Legislative Council, and the High Sheriff for this City and County having received Her Majesty's Writ for the election of a Member for the City, to fill the vacant seat, Thursday last has been appointed for the nomination of Candidates, and in case of a poll being demanded, the polling will take place on Tuesday next, the 6th of March, from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., at the several places appointed by the Sheriff for that purpose.—We learn that there will be several candidates for the suffrages of the Electors, the cards of two of whom (Messrs. Watters and Ansley) will be found in another column; and in addition thereto we learn that Dr. Livingstone has been asked a numerously signed requisition to come forward, as one in whose hands the liberties of the people would be secure.—Mr. R. Jardine has also been named as a very suitable person to represent the City, from his extensive acquaintance with commercial affairs, general business habits, &c., and we have been informed that a requisition for him to offer himself is now in course of signature.—Some communications on the subject, in behalf of Mr. Jardine and Mr. Bond, are inserted in the preceding columns.—We trust the Election may result in the return of a "good man and true," one who has the best interests of the City and Province at heart.

An editorial article on the election, prepared for this paper, but not in type, is, we regret, unavoidably omitted for want of time and room on account of the calamitous fire of last evening.

The *Courier* of Saturday last, says,—

We are authorised to say that Charles Watters, Esq., intends offering as a Candidate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Hazen, in the representation of this City.

We are also requested to state that a requisition to Dr. Livingstone to become a candidate at this election is now being signed, and has already received the signature of a number of old and influential members of this community, whose weight and standing are well known. That portion of our citizens who profess liberal principles, as connected with "responsible government," will support the nomination; and should Dr. Livingstone consent to become a candidate, they will have in him a member whose principles are known to be firmly fixed, and who will well and ably represent those principles in the Assembly.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, the Rev. Mr. Lawson delivered an excellent and interesting lecture, to an over-crowded house, on the Origin and Benefits of the *Newspaper Press*. In his conclusion he touched feelingly upon the responsibilities of Editors, conjuring them to admit nothing into their columns that would in the least trench upon sound morality, or tend to the disparagement of true religion.

Next Monday evening, Mr. Sewell will lecture on *Music*, and give specimens.

CALAMITOUS FIRE.

It is our painful duty to record the occurrence of the most extensive and disastrous conflagration, with which our City has been visited for several years past. Between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, a fire broke out in a building on the north side of King Street, owned by J. & G. Lawrence, next but one below the Commercial Hotel, occupied by them, B. O'Brien, and others. It is supposed that the disaster was occasioned by a defective chimney; but whatever the cause, the devouring element so rapidly and extensively extended its ravages, as to sweep away the whole range of buildings from the Commercial Hotel (including that large and valuable establishment) northwardly along King's Square, to Mr. John Ansley's Store, adjoining the Country Market, where its progress was fortunately arrested; Mr. Ansley's Store being saved; while on the north side of King Street, every building from the Commercial Hotel corner down to Mr. Vernon's brick building at the corner of Germain Street, was also entirely destroyed. So complete was the devastation, that nothing remains on the site of the conflagration, but the lower portions of some of the chimneys. During the fire, a brisk north-easterly breeze was blowing, which drove the flames and burning materials across the street, and placed the south side of King Street in imminent danger. The various Fire Engines were early at the scene of destruction, aided also by those belonging to the Military and Portland; the last named being under the direction of John Polok, Esquire, who was indefatigable in his exertions throughout the night. The high wind carried the burning embers to a great distance, some of which unfortunately set fire to the Cupola and roof of Trinity Church, which was for some time in danger of entire destruction. The Military Engine and another Engine were immediately placed for the protection of the Church, and the most complete arrangements made for effecting the purpose; but although the supply of water from the Water Company's plugs was abundant, yet the hose were so frozen, that the water could not be forced through them with sufficient force to reach the roof of the edifice. A number of resolute young men mounted to the top of the Tower, under the burning Cupola, and cut away the pillars, to allow the blazing mass to fall over; and we regret to say that in performing this hazardous and important service, several of the hardy operaters were severely injured. We are informed that a young man named Johnston, and another named Wetmore, fell from the top of the Tower to the ground; and though both escaped with life, yet both are severely and dangerously injured. Johnston broke his fall in some degree by catching a rope which hung over the Tower, but his body struck on the western porch before coming to the ground; and one of the pillars struck Wetmore while ascending a ladder, and knocked him to the ground. We understand, also, that Mr. C. Huyghue, son of Lieut. Huyghue of the Ordnance Office, was very much injured by a piece of burning timber striking him on the head; but we are happy to learn that it is confidently expected all three will recover. The loss of property occasioned by this calamity is very great; but we learn that there were insurances to the amount of about £5000 on various portions of it. Some of the sufferers, however, were wholly uninsured.

The land and buildings from Lawrence's cabinet Ware-rooms in King's Street, round to Ansley's store in King Square, were, we believe, the property of the Corporation of Trinity Church, who have £1400 insured on the buildings. It is probable, however, that the land will henceforth yield a better ground rent than it did before the fire. There is now an unequalled opportunity for erecting on this site the most complete Hotel and appurtenances in this Province, which our enterprising citizens may perhaps improve. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that effectual measures will be taken to secure the erection of a uniform line of first rate brick buildings in place of the wooden tenements destroyed, and thus to advance the beauty and security of this important district of the City. Not one particle of a wooden structure should ever again be suffered to disgrace the site now laid bare. We give below, a list of the sufferers, and of the buildings destroyed.

We cannot close our remarks without observing, that throughout the conflagration, the Water Company's plugs afforded an abundant and continuous supply of water; without the aid of which, we fear, the destruction would have been vastly more extensive. The fire was not completely subdued till about 5 o'clock this morning. Great praise is also due to the Military, and to the various Companies belonging to the different public and private Engines, and the Fire Department, and Fire Clubs, for their active and efficient services.

King Street.—Commercial Hotel, owned by Trinity Church, and occupied by Mr. Wetmore, as Hotel, by J. Sweeney, another, and Harvey Perkins, as Shops; two three story buildings owned by J. & G. Lawrence, occupied by them as Cabinet Warerooms and Dwelling, by Sons of Temperance as Division Room, and by John Christy, Grocer, and B. O'Brien, as Shop—a vacant shop in these buildings; two three story buildings owned by Stephen Wiggins, Esq, Shops occupied by R. D. M'Arthur, Druggist, R. Summers, Grocer, and Fellows & Co. Druggists—dwelling apartments occupied by I. Fellows, as a Boarding House; three story building belonging to W. Wright, Esq., Shop occupied by T. Clerke & Co., as a Crockery Store—dwelling apartments by Miss Trounce, and by Mr. Smith, as a Boarding House; two two story houses owned by W. Wright, Esq., Shops occupied by D. Paterson, as a Shoe Store, by W. M'Rae, Leather Cutter, and by James Christie, as a Leather and Finding Store—dwelling apartments by Mrs. Dougan, Milliner, Mr. Welsh, Tailor, and Mr. Slaven; two story building owned by John Brundage, and occupied by R. Stubs & Co.; three story building owned by John Brundage, occupied by him as a Boarding House—and Mr. Keohan as a Shoemaker's Shop; three story building owned by Miss Adams, occupied by her, and others, as dwelling apartments, by G. Peacock, as a Leather Cutting Shop, and D. O'L. Warlock, as a Watchmaker's Shop.

King's Square.—Shops in Commercial Hotel occupied by S. M'Leod, Tailor, J. Hennesy, Hugh McPherson, and another; two story building owned by Trinity Church, Shop occupied by Mr. Nelson, Grocer, and up-stairs by W. Ellison, as Daguereotype Rooms; two story building belonging to the Estate of the late Thomas Millidge, Esq., occupied by Jas. Davidson, Grocer, and J. D. Robertson, Flour Store; Messrs. Lawrence's Worskhop, Hotel and J. Davidson's Stables, in rear of above buildings.

PUBLIC MEETING.—On Wednesday last a Public Meeting was held in the Court House in accordance with a requisition to His Worship the Mayor, for the purpose of giving expression to public opinion on the proposed alterations in the City Charter, and on the conduct of members of the Common Council, in favouring or opposing those alterations. A large number of persons were in attendance. Daniel Ansley, Esq. being called upon, took the Chair, and P. Stubs, Esq. was appointed Secretary. The following are the resolutions which were adopted almost unanimously by the Meeting:

Moved by H. T. Gilbert, Esquire, and seconded by Mr. J. T. Hamm—

Resolved, That Aldermen Needham, and Lockhart, and Assistant Aldermen Fairweather, Keans, M'Avity and Dunham, are entitled to the thanks of this meeting, for their fearless and independent conduct at the Council Board, in endeavouring to procure "such alterations and improvements in the Charter, as will be conducive to the welfare and advancement of the City," and which are "in accordance with the enlightened spirit of the age."

Moved by William M. Howe, Esquire, and seconded by James Robertson—

Whereas, the Common Council of the City of Saint John, after mature consideration and many debates, did on the thirteenth day of January last, adopt a certain Resolution in the following words:—

"Resolved, that the Common Clerk cause the Bill in further amendment of the City Charter, as just agreed upon, to be read before the Grand Jury, *and that he transmit the same, with a Petition under the Common Seal, to the Legislature, praying for its enactment.*"

And whereas it appears that the requirements of this resolution have been complied with, therefore

Resolved, That this meeting highly approve of the said Resolution, and warmly commend the spirit and feeling, which procured its adoption, and that what has been done by virtue of the authority which it confers, has the full approbation of this meeting.

Moved by Alderman Lockhart, and seconded by Dr. Livingstone—

Whereas it appears that a Petition to the Honorable the Legislature, under the Common Seal of this City, and signed by His Worship the Mayor and the Common Clerk, praying against the amendments of the Charter, solemnly agreed upon by the Common Council, (and which amendments are in accordance with the views of this Meeting,) has been transmitted to the Legislature, upon a written consent of five members of the Council board, and unwarranted by any Resolution of the Common Council; therefore

Resolved, That such a proceeding is wholly unprecedented, and is a deliberate and open violation of the rules by which the Common Council should be governed,—is a prostitution of the Common Seal to suit the purpose of a few individuals, who are desirous, in this manner, to impress the belief on the minds of the Members of the Legislature, that their *individual* hostility to the proposed amendments represents the voice of the community, when these individuals have been fully informed by petition, by the public prints, and by sentiments almost universally expressed, that their opposition to the public requirements, and the mode in which it has been manifested, justly merits the strongest reprobation, and which this Meeting now awards to every individual who has been guilty of the unwarrantable conduct exposed in this Resolution.

Moved by Alderman Needham, and seconded by Mr. G. V. Nowlin—

Resolved, That a Committee of three persons be formed to prepare a Petition to the Legislature, embracing the substance of the foregoing Resolutions, and that the Bill to amend the Charter may be enacted, and praying that the House of Assembly may appoint a Special Committee to report upon the circumstances and proceedings connected with the Petition against the enactment of the said Bill, and also into the truth of the allegations set forth in the said Petition, which this Meeting indignantly denounce, as the said allegations are wholly unfounded in fact, and are utterly obnoxious to public sentiment; and that the same Committee submit the same for signature, and forward the same to the Honorable the Legislature, on behalf of the injured citizens and inhabitants of this City. *And further Resolved*, that Peter Stubs, Esquire, Dr. Livingstone, and Mr. James Agnew, constitute the above Committee.

On motion, Mr. Ansley left the Chair, and James Gallagher, Esq. was called thereto, when a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ansley, for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair; and also to the Secretary, for his services.

RAILROAD MEETING.—A requisition for a Public Meeting to be held in this City the latter part of the present week, on the subject of the Shediac and Trunk Railway, is now in course of signature.—We learn that it is already numerously signed.—It is all-important to this Province that the Shediac Railway should be united as part and parcel of the Great Trunk Line from Halifax to Quebec.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Feb. 19.—Mr. R. D. Wilmot offered the following Resolution:—

'Whereas the Trade of this Province is now labouring under a deplorable state of depression, and the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Manufacturing interests are so prostrated that numbers of the inhabitants of this Province have been compelled to seek for employment in a foreign land; and whereas by the recent changes in the Commercial policy of the Empire, Protection has been almost entirely withdrawn from our staple products in the British Markets; and by a Despatch from the Colonial Minister the right to impose differential duties is assumed to be withheld, and that the Royal assent will not be granted to any Act discriminating between articles of Foreign growth and production, or those of British growth and produce when imported into this Colony, whereby British subjects will have no advantage over the foreigner in our Provincial Trade: therefore

'*Resolved*, As the opinion of this House, that in preparing a Revenue Bill for the current year, such duties may be imposed, as that articles of Provincial growth and manufacture may be protected, and the industrial resources of the Province in their several branches may receive such Legislative encouragement as will afford employment to the productive classes of the people.'

This Resolution passed unanimously. (After it had passed, some hon. members, who appeared to have been taken by surprise, rose to speak upon it, when His Honor the Speaker said, 'too late, the Resolution is passed.'—Laughter.)

WAYS AND MEANS.—On Tuesday last, the Hon. Mr. Partelow introduced his budget in a long and lucid speech, not, however, as a Government measure. He enumerated the several amounts now payable by law, and the sums usually granted for ordinary purposes, amounting in the aggregate to £65 000—to which he added £35,000, to cover grants for Roads and other services. This would require a revenue of £100,000; and to obtain that amount, he proposed a specific duty on Wines, Spirits, Sugar, Molasses, Coffee, and Tea, (the rates not named,) the usual table of exceptions, and a uniform duty of ten per cent. upon all other imports, including the duty of one per cent. under the Loan Bill. As to the reduction of Salaries, those on the Civil List, he said, could not be touched without the consent of the Home Government; but it was probable that the salaries of the Judges, the Master of the Rolls, and the Clerk of the Pleas, would be reduced upon the occurrence of any vacancy. At present, it was proposed to make a reduction of £1200 per annum in the protection and collection of the Revenue.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said the exposition of the policy of the Government, as just laid down by the hon. Secretary, was anything but satisfactory to him. He had hoped to have seen the Government adopt some principle, but they had here come forward with a proposition to tax everything alike, with a few exceptions, and those articles singled out for a heavier duty than ten per cent. were (with the exception of wine and spirits) articles of general and necessary consumption among the poor. He did not think this was right, to make the poor man contribute as much towards the Revenue as the rich man. * * * He was not afraid to make a Revenue Bill to suit our own purposes, without any regard whatever to smuggling, which he believed was often brought up in this House as a bugbear to frighten hon. members out of a proper course. The hon. members for Charlotte brought up this question of smuggling every year, but it must be remembered that the circumstances of Charlotte were not those of the whole Province, and that they must not legislate exclusively for her. Perhaps in that border County there was considerable smuggling done, and no doubt if there was any done in the Province it was there; (laughter.) With regard to the article of sugar, it averaged under last years tariff five shillings and sixpence. He would reduce it to four shillings, as it was an article of general consumption among the poor. Refined sugar, on the contrary, he would raise in the scale of duties. It was an article of luxury, purchased chiefly by the rich, and he would raise the duty 1½d. per lb. He found on enquiry that tea and coffee had both fallen last year in the quantity imported. This was a proof of the poverty of the people; and as they were articles of necessary consumption, he would reduce the duty upon them also. Next came tobacco; This, although called the poor man's luxury, would, he thought, bear