

pers from Liverpool to the 16th of May. The most interesting article we have seen is the following, dated Dublin, May 7.

FAMINE IN THE NORTH-WEST.—The most deplorable accounts have been received from almost all parts of the North-West coast, especially Sligo and Donegal, of the dreadful state of distress, the absolutely starving condition of the peasantry. The very backward state of the season, and the extreme severity of the weather for months past, have greatly aggravated the misery of the poor people, and accelerated the commencement of the periodical famine this year. I have seen several letters which give the most heart-rending accounts of the sufferings of the peasantry.

At a place called Tollymorebegley, the cattle are dying in all directions from the total want of fodder, there being scarcely a blade of grass to be seen any where. This has been the case for several weeks past—so that the poor farmers and cotters have been compelled to share their scanty supply of potatoes with the cattle, which have been reduced to skin and bone, and are not worth killing, unless for the skins, several cart loads of which have recently been sent for sale to Letterkenny, in order to purchase meal and potatoes with the produce.

One letter states that there is not more than a month's provision in that country; and, from the lateness of the season, there can be no expectation of the potatoe crop until September or October.

Within the last few days several ship loads of potatoes have been purchased by order of government, and sent to different ports along the coast, to be distributed to the starving people, and further supplies are in preparation; but this relief can only be very temporary. If extensive aid be not very promptly afforded, thousands must die of actual starvation.

THE FREE PRESS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 1836.

By the kindness of a friend, we are favored with American and St. John papers containing London dates to 21st ult. Mr O'Connell had been unseated in Parliament, and again returned for the Borough of Kilkenny, but not having received the intermediate papers, we are without the particulars.

It will be seen that Great Britain has now taken a direct interest in the Peninsular war. A battle had been fought between the combined troops of Spain, Great Britain, and Portugal on the one part, and Don Carlos on the other. Victory declared for those of the former; so say the allies, but the action was so closely contested, at such an expense of blood, and so little good resulted, that we should not be surprised to hear that Don Carlos claims the victory.

A paragraph appears to be going the rounds of the Tory press, impeaching Lord Melbourne with some improper intercourse with the Hon. Mrs Norton, the Poetess. We can have no hesitation in setting this down as mere gossip, emanating from his political opponents, who leave no means untied to bring him into collision with his King and country. We should think the age at which the Premier has arrived might protect him from a charge of gallantry.

A VOICE FROM THE CAPITAL.—By the last Novascotian, we observe that electioneering has commenced in the County of Halifax in good earnest. It being generally understood in and about Halifax, that, so soon as the fate of the County Division Bills, which are sent home to obtain the Royal assent, is known, a dissolution will take place; preparatory steps have therefore been taken for the approaching contest.

Meetings have been held in Upper, Middle, and

Lower Musquodoboit, for the purpose of nominating such candidates as the Freeholders would pledge to support. Accordingly, Joseph Howe, Wm. Annand, and H. A. Gladwin, Esqrs., were all nominated; and, none of the three having signified their intention to withdraw, they all stand forth for the suffrages of the people. Now, although we candidly admit that the free and unbiassed choice of the people, is the best of all modes of getting independent Representatives, and of avoiding the expense and annoyance of contested elections; yet we were not prepared to see such an abuse of this privilege, as our worthy neighbors of Musquodoboit have shown. If the various sections of Halifax county were to copy their example, and each bring forward a separate list of Candidates, stoutly resolving to support them, we may easily conceive what the fruits of this mode of exercising the free choice of the people would be.

It would have given us much more pleasure to have heard that a public meeting had been held in Halifax itself, at which, all those interested throughout the county should have attended, either in person or by delegates from sectional meetings, and then, and there, had nominated the exact number the county needed, and no more, whom they would support; this would have resulted to their own interest, and would have set an example to the Province worthy of imitation. We do not conceive the present movement is so. Pictomans will lose nothing in having a little patience in their choice; they will see and profit by the doings of their neighbors. The following is a copy of the Resolutions adopted at Upper Musquodoboit, and are in substance the same as those brought forward at the other meetings.

At a public meeting of the Freeholders of Upper Musquodoboit, held on Monday, 6th June, 1836, to devise the most eligible means to procure the return of reform members, at the next General Election; Jas Bennie, Esq, in the chair, the following Resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1st. *Resolved*, That it is the decided opinion of this meeting that the existing Assembly have not collectively the confidence of the people; they having repeatedly abused the trust reposed in them; and that it has become absolutely necessary that such means be adopted, as will lead to the return of members pledged to reform the existing abuses, and bring forward and support such measures as are best calculated to devolve and improve the resources of the Province.

2nd. *Resolved*, That it is extremely desirable that the duration of Parliament should not exceed the term of four years.

3rd. *Resolved*, That in consequence of members of the legal profession, being almost invariably found in opposition to the true interests of the people, this Meeting is of opinion, that no gentleman of the long robe, should receive the support of this community as a Candidate.

4th. *Resolved*, That this meeting view with indignation the successful attempts that have been made, by the majority of the Assembly, to increase the Salaries of the Officers of Government, at a period of unexampled depression of the Commerce and Agriculture of the Province.

5th. *Resolved*, That as the political opinions of Joseph Howe, Esq, are in unison with those of this meeting, they consider it desirable that he should be returned for the county, and pledge themselves to give him their most cordial support if he should offer as a Candidate; and that the chairman be requested to write Mr Howe, to that effect, in behalf of this meeting.

6th. *Resolved*, That if it be found practicable, we think it would be highly advantageous to the interests of this Settlement, that we unite in endeavouring to procure a local member.

At this meeting, Wm. Annand, Esq, was chosen by Ballot, as a fit and proper person to represent the District—the numbers being for him 39, for Mr S. F. Archibald, 1.

JAMES BENNIE, Chairman.

Mr Howe says in his concluding remarks on this movement, "it is understood that the Candidates would spend no money—solicit no man's support—and only act in obedience to the wishes of the freeholders themselves, publicly expressed."

THE CHIEF JUSTICE of Lower Canada has been seriously injured by a fall from his carriage. At latest accounts he was recovering.

CLERGY RESERVES.—An Act which was lately passed in the Legislature of P. E. Island, entitled "An Act to authorize the sale of lands, reserved as sites for churches, and for glebe and school lands," has received the Royal assent. The same Act, we understand, appropriates the proceeds of these lands to the general purposes of education.

In Nova Scotia, also, a large proportion of our best lands have been reserved for church purposes, of which we fear there is no serious intention of giving Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists their fair and equitable shares. It is really melancholy to reflect upon the apathy and tardiness of Nova Scotians, in seeking their constitutional rights. The neighbouring Colonies are all advancing step by step in the cause of reform, and leaving us out of sight in their onward course to the attainment of good and constitutional government. We do not wish to exonerate either the press, the people, or their Representatives from their respective shares of blame in this matter, as we think they are all equally guilty; but we would admonish them in the language of the gallant Nelson. Nova Scotia expects every man to do his duty at the approaching elections.

MONDAY, 13th instant, was observed by the people of St. Andrews, N. B., as a day of public festivity, on the joyous occasion of their receiving the accounts of the success of the application by the Quebec and St. Andrews Rail Road Association to His Majesty, and the prospects of the speedy commencement of that great undertaking.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—We observe in the St. John N.B. Courier, a prospectus of a new, weekly Paper, to be called *The Journal*; and Mr P. Bennett of that city, has lately issued the prospectus of a *Monthly Magazine*.

We have received a copy of Dr Hayden's *Letters on Astronomy*. It is neatly executed, and written in a style so peculiarly easy and familiar, that it cannot fail to interest the general reader. We heartily recommend it to the patronage of the admirers of that popular science.

HINT TO FARMERS.—We are sorry to learn that the prospects of the hay crop throughout this county, are, at present, unprecedentedly bad. Would it not be well for our farmers to sow an additional quantity of turnips, to guard against a scarcity of provender in the approaching winter. Turnips are a cheap and an excellent substitute for hay, and there is plenty of time yet to grow them.

FIRES.—When the mails left, alarming fires were raging in the vicinity of Fredericton, and in the woods on the Newcastle side of Miramichi.—*Novascotian*, June 22.

There arrived at the Quarantine station, Staten Island, New-York, in the month of May, fifteen thousand, eight hundred and twenty five passengers. Two thousand arrived on the last three days of the month.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"A Farmer," in our next. It gives us pain to be under the necessity of refusing a second communication from "A. M." The subjects he has chosen are unquestionably good, but to make the manner in which he has treated them any wise readable, they would require to be rewritten and recomposed.

DIED,

On Sunday, the 26th instant, in the 42d year of her age, Isabella, wife of Mr John Patterson.

TRAVELLERS' MEMORANDA.

Arrivals during the past week.

At Mrs Davidson's,—Capt. Nason & Wife, Messrs Archibald, Grey, Wright, Dugan, Wetherby, Bartel, McIntosh, and Mater, and Mrs Goldrop.

At Mr Harper's,—Mrs Grinton, Mrs Davison, Mrs Blair, Messrs Love, Lackland, & Blair.

At Mr Lorrain's,—J. W. Johnston, Esq., Wm. Young, Esq. & Lady, Rev. Mr McIntosh, Mr Cairns.

100 Barrels OATMEAL, for sale by
June 29. ROSS & PRIMROSE.