

DOMESTIC.

GREAT RAILWAY MEETING.

According to previous notice given, a large and influential Meeting of the citizens of Halifax was held in the Masonic Hall on Thursday last, to discuss the subject of the Railway—which is one of the great questions of the day. His Worship the Mayor ably presided. The following are the Resolutions which were severally moved, seconded, and *unanimously* passed. We leave them to speak for themselves:—

Moved by the Hon. J. Howe, seconded by W. B. Fairbanks, Esq.—

Resolved, That the Citizens of Halifax have read, with unmingled satisfaction, the letter addressed, on the 10th March, to the Hon. Joseph Howe, by Benjamin Hawes, Esq., acting under the directions of Earl Grey, and by which Funds to the extent of Seven Millions of Pounds, to be expended in the construction of Inter-Colonial Railways through the North American Provinces, are rendered to the Governments of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, on terms which secure the completion of those works at little more than one half of what they would cost without the direct interposition of Imperial credit.

Moved by F. Charman, Esq., seconded by B. Wier, Esq.—

Resolved, That the Citizens of Halifax discern in this noble offer of the Government and people of England, not only a direct pecuniary benefit, but the indications of an enlarged and enlightened Policy, by which the North American Provinces are bound together by facilities for rapid intercommunication, and elevated into a nation, in friendly and perpetual alliance with the Mother Country.

Moved by Dr. Avery, seconded by J. N. Shannon, Esq.—

Resolved, That while this generous offer, and the declaration of this policy, directly appeal to the deep-seated loyalty and true British feeling which the citizens of Halifax have uninterruptedly cherished for a century, they impose upon them obligations which it becomes their duty promptly to discharge.

Moved by W. Young, Esq., seconded by J. H. Anderson, Esq.—

Resolved, That unanimity of sentiment and action in the Metropolis, can alone ensure the harmony throughout the Rural Districts, by which the measures, that, at this important crisis, it will become the duty of the Provincial Government to submit to the Legislature may be matured.

Moved by the Hon. J. McCully, seconded by the Hon. H. Bell.

Resolved, That the Citizens of Halifax deem it their duty to convey to the Provincial Government the pledge of cordial support, in order that unanimity elsewhere may be secured, and the difficulties to be encountered beyond the frontier may be dealt with and overcome.

Moved by Dr. Gesner, seconded by C. Robson, Esq.—

Resolved, That should these difficulties prove insuperable, the Citizens of Halifax will steadily sustain the Provincial Government in carrying out the plan sketched in Mr. Howe's letter to Mr. Keating of the 13th March, and by which Railway communication can be extended from the Capital into the Eastern and Western Counties of Nova Scotia.

Moved by the Hon. Attorney General, seconded by the Hon. E. Kenny.

Resolved, That the Citizens of Halifax desire to express the deep obligations which they feel to Earl Grey and Her Majesty's Ministers, for the gracious reception given to the Delegate from Nova Scotia, and for the hopes which their policy has inspired. They also tender to Lord Montagu and Stanley their grateful acknowledgements, for the assurance conveyed in their speeches that the measures contemplated by Her Majesty's Government have been deliberately adopted, with the full concurrence and approbation of the great leaders of public sentiment in the United Kingdom.

Moved by R. McLearn, Esq., seconded by John Esson, Esq.—

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be conveyed to Richard Andrews, Esq., and to the Citizens of Southampton, for their hospitable treatment to our Representative, and for the facilities afforded him to explain, in presence of the people of England, the high interests with which he was charged.

A vote of Thanks to the Mayor and the Hon. Delegate, was also enthusiastically carried. We would just observe that the Hon. S. Cunard, made a very excellent Speech during the Meeting, highly laudatory of the efforts of the Hon. Mr. Howe as Delegate, and was warmly applauded. The result of this Meeting, it is thought by many, will be highly favourable to Mr. Howe's scheme.—*Athenaeum*.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Friday, as the Mail Coach, full of passengers, was crossing a narrow bridge raised some six or seven feet above a rivulet near Acadia College, Wolfville, the horses suddenly took fright and dashed over the side—overturning the Coach into the stream. Of the many passengers the whole escaped without the slightest injury with one very melancholy exception in the case of a very promising young man, a Mr. Bishop, who was unfortunately drowned.—*Sun*, 19th.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER 'FALCON.'—The non-arrival of the steamer Falcon, from Newfoundland, gave some uneasiness as to her safety during the week,—and on Friday evening, intelligence was received, by the arrival of a vessel with the Mails from St. John's, of her total loss. We give the event as made known by Capt. Corbin in a letter to the Agents:—

"FERRYLAND, 8th May, 1851.
Messes. BAINE, JOHNSTON & Co.

"Gentlemen,—It is with deep regret I have to advise you of the loss of the steamer Falcon, on the north side of Ferryland narrows, Isle de Bois. She struck about 2, a. m., being very foggy from the time we left St. John's. I cannot account for the accident, as I had been steering S. S. W. two hours, S. W. by S. one hour, and S. W. ½ S. till she struck. It is the opinion of all persons here, that the compasses must be greatly out. The vessel is sunk in thirty feet water, the weather rail under the surface,—she sunk so rapidly that very little was saved. I have saved the mails and will forward them as soon as weather permits—no lives lost. Mr. James Carter is rendering me every assistance. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
(Signed) "GEO. A. CORBIN."
Her passengers arrived by the schr. Lars.—The Falcon was partially insured.—*lb.*

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

THE PUBLIC ACTS OF LAST SESSION.—The public general Acts, passed at the last Session of the General Assembly, are now being published in the Royal Gazette, and among these we notice several of considerable interest and importance. The act for shortening the language used in Acts of Assembly will, we doubt not, be very useful in that particular hereafter; as also, an act relative to the administration of criminal justice, which provides that in prosecutions for forgery the ends of justice shall not be defeated by clerical or verbal inaccuracies. Another act in amendment of the law abolishes special demurrers, and makes other provisions, especially as to actions of ejectment, which, we are told, will be found very beneficial in practice. A third act gives power to the sureties of a person admitted to bail on a criminal charge, to surrender such person, in discharge of their liability, a very proper provision.

The act to secure to married women real and personal property held in their own right, is very important; not only as regards married ladies, but also as affecting creditors who have claims upon their husbands. It provides that all property acquired by a woman before or after marriage, except such as she may receive from her husband during coverture, shall be altogether exempted from liability for the debts of the husband, and cannot be seized in execution, sold or mortgaged, without her full consent, testified by a deed or instrument in writing. In cases of desertion or abandonment by the husband, the wife may sue for debts due or owing to herself, or for damages done to her person or property; and further, if a married woman, who is deserted, accumulates property by her own exertions, such property shall not be liable to the debts or subject to the control of her husband, but shall be at her own sole disposal, free and clear of her husband.

The act relating to Grand Juries provides, that after the names of the Grand Jury are called over in court, they shall retire to their room in charge of the Sheriff or his Deputy, and there, by a majority of votes, nominate a foreman, who shall be sworn in by the Court as such foreman. If the Jury are equally divided upon the question of nomination, the Sheriff or his Deputy shall have a casting vote; and if the Jury fail to nominate within an hour after the opening of the Court, then the foreman shall be appointed by the Judge as formerly.

The act relating to the transmission of newspapers free of postage, provides that after the 5th July next, when the new Postage Act takes effect, no postage shall be charged on any newspaper, or on any pamphlet or tract less than two ounces in weight, transmitted by post through this Province. The beneficial effects of this act will soon be felt and appreciated throughout New Brunswick.

The act for the protection and regulation of the Sea and River Fisheries of this Province contains some very important provisions. It provides that Salmon shall not be taken anywhere within the Province, after the 31st day of August in any year, and before the 1st day of April in the succeeding year; that no Salmon shall be taken after sunset on Saturday night, and before sunrise on Monday morning, under the penalty of ten shillings for each fish; that the like penalty shall be

enforced for every Salmon taken by torch and spear after 31st August; and penalties are also given against persons who shall offer for sale Salmon taken by spearing, or who shall purchase the same. The Governor in Council is authorised to make rules and regulations for the management and protection within three marine miles of the coasts or islands of this Province; such rules and regulations, when published in the Gazette, to have the force and effect of a law of the Province, but not to impose a greater penalty than £15, or longer term of imprisonment than ten days. The Governor in Council may appoint Wardens of the Fisheries, not exceeding two in any County, to enforce all laws, rules and orders relative to the Fisheries, who are to receive £40 each from the Provincial Treasury, on a like sum being paid by the County. The taking of herrings on the spawning ground at the Southern Head of Grand Manan, between 15th July and 15th October, is totally prohibited; all nets used there for that purpose shall be seized and forfeited, and the persons found using them are to be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and punished accordingly. In every mill-dam a proper and suitable fishway must be made and kept; and time is given, until the 1st October next, to put up fishways to the dams already built. Slabs, edgings, or mill-rubbish (except saw-dust), must not be put or allowed to fall into any river or stream in the Province.

We view this act as a first step toward the better regulation and protection of our valuable Fisheries, and calculated, if effectually carried out, to effect some useful reforms with respect to that declining branch of our resources.—*St. John, N. B. Courier*, 12th.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Institute was held on Monday evening last, and although the attendance was not large, yet the proceedings of the evening were of an interesting nature. From the Report for the past year, which was read before the meeting, it appeared that the income amounted to £428 and the expenditure to £441: part of the payments were devoted to reducing the debt, which accounts for the excess of expenditure over income. The Institution now owes £162. The library has been much increased during the last year, and it now numbers 1250 volumes. The members, generally, have availed themselves to a considerable extent of its benefits, which may be expected to be productive of much good.—*lb.*

We are gratified to learn that the Directors of the Mechanics' Institute propose having an Exhibition of Articles of Domestic Industry at the Hall in September next, at which the productive classes of the whole Province are to be invited to contribute, so that it may embrace specimens of the skill and invention of our people generally, as well as represent the progress we have made in the arts and every branch of industry. It is also proposed, at the same time, to have a grand Floral, Agricultural, and Pictorial Exhibition, a Concert, and a Pic-nic, during the Summer, to raise funds to enable the Directors to pay off the present debt, and enlarge the Library of the Institution. Measures are in rapid progress to bring the scheme before the public and solicit co-operation and aid, which we feel confident will be zealously rendered, not only by our cotemporaries of the Press, but by every individual interested in the prosperity and advancement of the Province.—*lb.*

We notice in a Liverpool paper, that the *Beejapore*, built at this port by Messrs. W. & R. Wright, has been attracting much notice at home, and in point of sailing and carrying qualities, as well as elegance of model, &c., will stand a favourable comparison with the celebrated American ship *Typhoon*. The same paper also alludes to the *Eagle*, as a very superior vessel. It must be very gratifying to the ship-builders of this port, to find their labours so highly appreciated in a market where there is such strong competition.—*lb.*

THE RAILWAY.—We are informed that the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE will be here in the course of a fortnight, on his way to the meeting of Delegates at Toronto, respecting Railways in these Colonies. It is stated to be Mr. Howe's intention to address public meetings on his journey through Nova Scotia and this Province, and we therefore hope to have the pleasure of hearing him discourse in this City. He may rest assured of a hearty welcome, and of being listened to with great satisfaction.—*New-Brunswick*, 17th.

THE DESERTERS FROM THE 97TH REGIMENT.—Major Welford and High Constable Stockford, who went in pursuit of the deserters, returned in the steamer Admiral on Wednesday last, but without them. We learn that no aid could be obtained at Eastport towards their arrest and delivery, and as the persons who went in pursuit were not armed with the authority required under the Ashburton treaty, the object of their visit was entirely frustrated.—*lb.*

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.—Monday next will be a gala day among our teetotal friends, that being the fourth anniversary of the formation of the Gurney Division. A procession will take place in the forenoon, and in the evening a *Soiree* will be held in the south wing of the Custom House, which no doubt will be the centre point of attraction for all the friends of the cause.—*lb.*

A shocking accident occurred to Mr. Fitzgerald, stone-cutter, on Saturday last, on the grounds of the Rural Cemetery. While he was engaged in erecting a monument, a heavy piece of granite fell upon him, crushing him under its weight, and breaking one of his arms, a leg, and injuring his breast in a most ruinous manner. He now lies in a most critical state, and having a numerous family depending upon him for support, his case demands the sympathies of the benevolent.—*lb.*

It is said if the Boundary Line agreed upon by Major Robinson, Capt. Henderson, and Hon. Mr. Johnston, be confirmed, two millions and upwards of superior land well timbered, will fall to New Brunswick.

Canada.

NEW FIRE ENGINE.—Among the multitude of novelties that now crowd themselves upon the public attention, the powerful Fire Engine patented by Mr. Hearle, of Galt, excites the greatest attention in this part of the country, as well from its own intrinsic merits, as from the opinion that is rapidly gaining ground, that a small engine brought into operation instantaneously on the discovery of fire, is more efficient than one of vastly larger dimensions, that cannot be brought into action till the fire has gained such head that all the water of the Grand River could not extinguish it. Mr. Hearle's engine is no larger than a small box churn—is a pretty piece of furniture even in a parlour or bed-room—can be worked by one or two hands—and throws such a powerful stream as would readily extinguish any fire at its first discovery, and put an end to all danger of its spreading.—*Galt Reporter*.

NATURAL CURIOSITY.—We are credibly informed that about a pint of beech nuts were found in the centre of an ash tree, in Esqueving, lately. The growths of the tree were counted, according to the best rules known in Bushology, and it was determined *nem. con.* that the said nuts had been in their natural prison for the period of twenty-eight years: the growths radiating from the aperture in which they were found amounting to that number.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

TRANSFER.—We observe by the *Pilot* of yesterday that Dr. Cramp's connection with that journal has ceased, he having accepted the invitation of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, Nova Scotia, to become President of that institution.—*Quebec Gazette*.

ARRIVALS.—The ships "Ottawa," Capt. McArthur, and "Caledonia," Capt. Allan, from Glasgow; the ships "Montreal," Capt. McMaster, and "Britannia," Capt. Hamilton, from Liverpool, arrived at Quebec yesterday, and the ship "Canada," Capt. Wylie, was reported below, and was to be up the next tide; they have general cargoes for Montreal, and all belong to Messrs. Edmonstone, Allan & Co's line of regular traders to this port. Another such instance as this is, we believe, unprecedented.—*Herald*.

Newfoundland.

The assembly had been engaged for several days in debating the propriety of taking the tax off the fisherman's salt, his books, lines, twines, nets, and seines; but a majority of the House resisted the motion.

An attempt was also made to levy a duty of 6d. per gallon on Spirits manufactured in the colony; the friends of the Distillers negated the motion.

The Session was to close in a few days. "The Seal Fishery, we regret to report," says the *Patriot*, "has not turned out so successful as at first we were led to anticipate. If we obtain an average voyage it is as much now as we can hope for."

The same paper remarks: The continuous easterly winds have had a most deleterious effect upon the general health of the city. There is scarcely a family who has not some of its members suffering from influenza. The Assembly have passed an Inland Post Act, which is hailed as a great boon; it provides for the free transmission of newspapers throughout the island, and a uniform rate of three pence postage on letters not exceeding half an ounce.—The sum of £1000 per annum has been voted for three years to defray necessary expenses. A Bill has passed the Assembly for the encouragement of Ship-building, by which all materials used in that important branch of industry were to be admitted duty free. The Bill was rejected by the Council.

West Indies.

It was announced in Jamaica that a temporary prorogation of the Legislature would take place the reason assigned being the disinclination of the Governor to give his assent to a Bill voting a salary to his Excellency, with a duration clause of only three years.

R. J. Macpherson, a member of the Lower House, had been expelled on a charge of Forgery.

A Mr. Franklin has brought before the public the subject of Tonnage Dues in a manner which deserves attention, and entitles him to thanks.—There cannot be a doubt that enormous taxes on shipping are great drawbacks to commerce—this is a fact, we believe too self-evident to be denied. If it be really the wish to encourage commerce, we must throw off these restrictions, which press so heavily upon the shipping interest. Not alone will it make freight from here cheaper, but it will likewise reduce freight on goods imported; as captains will be more willing to take cargoes under a different system to that at present existing.

The Inflexible had arrived at Demerara from Jamaica, with the 2nd West India Regiment on board, when the Harbour-master immediately placed her under forty days quarantine, in consequence of the existence of Cholera in this island. She remained in quarantine for thirteen days, and again put to sea, and will, it is said, land her passengers at Barbadoes. Great distress prevailed on board among the soldiers, and their rations had been reduced to two and a half biscuits each a day, which is the only food they had on board. One man died while under quarantine, and since then a boy attached to the band was accidentally thrown overboard by a sail.

OLD DR. The Sub for the sale vince, and i are afflicted especially in above, before the agents o from time to To be had ertial, at m June 18, 1

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April 26. West THE SUB PUBLIC attending th for the Sect May. A fa for enrolling CLASSES of be formed, c ed branches that a comp worked out, may become April 26.

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WITNESS April 5.

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