INDIA INTELLIGENCE.

[*From the Times*]

The steamer Berenice, which conveyed the mail, left Bombay, Nov. 1st. and arrived at Suez on the 20th ult.

The intelligence which we have received by this mail is not of a striking character. There had been no arrival at Bombay from China since that of the Atalanta steamer with news to the 24th of August, which was taken by the mail of last month.

Sickness has prevailed among some of the regiments quartered at Bombay; of the 17th Regiment a portion was sent to sea for a trip in consequence of the fever prevalent in the unhealty barracks at Colabah.

(*From the Overland Bombay Courier, Nov* 1. 1841.)

We have received no intelligence from China during the last month of later date than that contained in the *Overland Courier* of the 1st of Oct. The sailing of the squadron from Hongkong to the northward has removed the scene of hostilities to a greater distance from Bombay. Our communications with the force will therefore be both less frequent and less rapid than formerly. There is but little probability of any news of importance connected with the exhibition reaching Bombay until nearly the end of November.

The topic of greatest interest at the present moment is the prospect of a war with Burmah. The dates of our latest intelligence from that country are Moulmein the 22d, and Rangoon the 25th of Sept. The King (Tharawaddie) was on the latter day within seventy miles from Rangoon, where it was expected he would arrive in less than a fortnight. Great preparations were being made for his reception. His Majesty has with him almost the whole of his army, amounting, it is said, to nearly fifty thousand fighting men, besides a large number of followers, as also women and children. The number of boats in which they descended the river from Ava is estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000. The Princes of Prome and Pekhan command the advance and rear guards, the former being one day's journey in front, and the latter the same distance behind the Royal camp. The deposed Monarch of Ava, together with every member of the Royal family, whether male or female, young or old, is present with the Court. This has been done as a precaution against rebellion. One old chief of high rank has been left in charge of Ava, but with his wife and son remain with the King as hostages for their relative's fidelity. The natives of Rangoon were very quiet, but the European merchants were greatly alarmed, and were seeking an opportunity of proceeding to Moulmein. The intentions of Tharawaddie are doubtful, but it is generally considered that he meditates hostile operations against the British with the view of recovering the Tenasserim provinces, which are at present in a defenceless state.

The Governor-General evidently thinks the danger imminent. Immediately the above intelligence reached Calcutta orders were issued for the despatch of troops to Moulmein. Transports have been taken up a merchant steamer hired for the occasion. Her Majesty's 50th Regiment, with a corps of native infantry and a detachment of European artillery, amounting to about 1,000 men, have accordingly proceeded to the scene of action. A portion of them were conveyed by her Majesty's ship Calliope, which was refited for the purpose with all posible celerity. Various small detachments have also been sent to reinforce the outpost on the Arracan frontier. The Forbes steamer has been sent from calcutta to Singapore to intercept two iron steamers, the Ariadne and Medusa, which were on their passage from Bombay to join the squadron in China, and direct them to proceed without delay to Rangoon. The hon. Company's Bengal steamer Enterprise, which arrived at Bombay during the last month with a freight of treasure, has been commissioned at this port by an officer of the indian navy, and has proceeded to the Irrawaddy. Two Government schooners have also been fitted at Calcutta as gunboats, and are destined for service in the same river. Orders have likewise been given for all officers belonging to the regiments of the Madras Presidency stationed at Moulmein, who hold staff appointments, to join their respective corps without delay.

Her Majesty's 40th Regiment, together with the 21st Native Infantry, have been ordered to proceed to Candahar. Altogether there appears reason to suppose that Affganistan will soon be tranquilized, and that the refractory chieftains being convinced of the futility of opposition will cheerfully submit to influences of their legitimate monarch.

(*From the Bombay Times, Nov.* 1.)

A better time for reading King Tharawaddle a lesson, not to be forgotten, could not have occured. We shall not be able to show him that, notwithstanding the extent of our engagements in Affghanistan and China, the castigation of such small deer as he is merely a morning's exercise to the government of India with steamers to help them. Our forces in the Burmese provinces before the present movement began, amounted to about 2,500 men, with 20 pieces of artillery; and the present reinforcement when completed will nearly double this. For the present expedition to Burmah—for this second Burmese war as it may turn out—we are indebted to Capt. C. Elliot and his employers. The belief everywhere prevalent in the Eastern seas that we have been foiled in China, led, and very naturally led, the Goleen-footed Monarch to seize the opportunity he considered most suitable for attack.

To the Editor of the London Standard.

OXFORD, Friday evening.

Sir—The ordination of the Lord Bishop of Oxford will take place on Sunday. His Lordship has just followed the example of the Bishop of Winchester, who last week rejected Mr. Keble's Curate for Priest's Orders for the second time, by postponing the Ordination of a gentleman of Oriel College, whose examination contained objectionable matter. The Bishop of Oxford is known as a *High* churchman, and this circumstance will, it is conceived, remove the suspicion entertained in some quarters, still, that the danger to which the Church is exposed, has been magnified by those who are *called Low* churchmen.

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(*From the Cork Constitution.*)

THE Radical Papers are not reconciled to Sir ROBERT PEEL. His *reserve* does not please them Rarely remarkable for moderation or for meekness, their temper is not improved by the trial to which he puts it. They have not philosophy enough for the provoking perseverance of the Premier. He is not an *squeezable* as Lord JOHN RUSSELL. He can neither be forced nor frightened. Their elaborate lectures are unheeded;—not a hint will he give them of his projects or his purposes, and they must make up their minds for another six weeks endurance. It is intolerable, to be sure, to gentlemen who had it all their own way with his predecessors; but there is no option—they must *wait*, and they may as well wait with patience. Sir ROBERT is not cast in the meagre mould of Lord JOHN RUSSELL.—His measures will be his own, and he will not propound before he has matured them. Holding office by a different tenure, and standing on a broader basis, he will not be obliged to keep continually moving in order to maintain himself on his feet. Of sudden and startling strokes of policy there will be no need. He is the Minister of a Nation, not the puppet of a party, and he cannot be pulled back or pushed forward as Peer or populace may please.—Its censures and its strictures the Press may therefore spare.

As to the obstreperous outcry about the time at which Parliament is to assemble, what would these gentry have? Legislation is not so *impromptu* a matter as they seem to think, and the rain which their masters wrought it will require no small wisdom to retrieve. The interests of an Empire cannot be lightly tampered with. They are no subjects for adventurous experiment. They have suffered sufficiently from the incaution of the past, and well is it that we have now a Minister from whose steadiness the nation can hope for rest. The Press may amuse itself with speculations; but until Sir ROBERT unfolds in Parliament the plans he has prepared, these speculations will be little worth.—Indeed, an impression of this kind seems to prevail among the speculators themselves, for projects which they approve to-day they discharge to-morrow, and thus Emigration and the Continental Corn Inquiry have been alternately lauded and condemned. As to Emigration, we know not whether Sir ROBERT has *or* has not anything in view on that subject, but if we were to offer an opinion, we should incline to say *no*. For distress of any duration or extent, emigration is always an inadequate relief.—The expense, too, is enormous—*too* enormous to allow it to be thought of on any but a very limited scale. What, if there be truth in the representations of the existing distress in England, for to that county we confine ourselves—what relief would be afforded by the removal of—say 20,000 of the sufferers? And yet, at £25 a-head their removal would cost a Half a Million Sterling, and their places, according to what is set down as the average increase of the population (1,000 a-day), would be filled in three weeks. Taking this as an illustration, how can we rationally look to emigration as a means of providing for any considerable portion of our poor? We suspect Sir ROBERT PEEL is not thinking of anything so apparently unsuited to the end. However, it will answer the purpose of our Contemporaries to *say* that he is, and to abuse him if he were.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MR. EDITOR,—I have seen a petition going the rounds for signature to be sent to His Excellency for the removal from office of the Hon. Wm. Black, as chief magistrate of this city. Such a document, while it would and has met with the execration of nine tenths of the citizens, is an unwarrantable attack upon the character of a gentleman whose standing both as a commercial man and a public functionary, after upwards of forty years experience, stands unimpeached and unimpeachable.—The document in question, while it misrepresents the feelings and wishes of the citizens generally, is also an interference with the prerogative of the Crown, as well as an insult offered to the judgment of Sir William Colebrooke. Mr. Black is at least known to be a person possessing loyal and proper feelings both towards the Crown and subjects of Great Britain.—If any portion of the community have a shadow of right to complain of the Mayor, it is the Mechanics of this city, inasmuch as he did not put a stop to the intrusion of American artizans; but when they consider the undue influence exercised over his Worship by those who professed to give legal opinions on the question, as well as the body of merchants who petitioned him to permit the innovations on the rights of citizens, they can and do fully acquit him of dereliction of his duty.—I observe that those very persons who petitioned him to permit an infringement of the Charter, are now repaying him by using their endeavour to have him removed from office. It is satisfactory, however, to learn, that there is scarcely a mechanic in the city but views the attack upon his worship with horror, and will not either by word or deed, lend themselves to so base a transaction.

A MECHANIC.

Provincial Legislature.

[From Ward's Reports.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Monday, January 31.

Mr. Wilmot brought in a Bill, for altering the Charter of King's College.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot gave notice that on Wednesday next, he would move an humble Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying His Excellency to lay before the House copies of any opinions which may have been given, by any of the Law Officers of the Crown in this Province, on the subject of the amendment of the Charter of King's College.

Mr. Wilmot gave notice that he would on Thursday next move an humble Address to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, praying his Excellency to lay before the house, copies of any opinions which may have been given by any of the Law Officers of the Crown in this Province, on the subject of the power of the Lieut. Governor & Council, to compound or cancel any claims had by the Crown, against any individuals for or on account of any transactions or agreements for crown lands or timber.

The learned gentleman explained, that he was induced to move the above Resolutions, in consequence of opinions on the subjects to which they referred, which he understood had been given by the Law Officers of the crown, and which if correct, would require the immediate action of the Legislature.

The House resolved itself into a Committee for granting Supplies to her Majesty.—Mr. Hayward in the chair.

Mr. Brown said, that it had been customary to proceed with the ordinary services on the opening of that Committee without comment or remark; but the views which some hon. members seemed to entertain—the new recommendations which had come from the Executive on the subject of finance, and the cry of an overwhelming public debt which had been sounded through the land, must be his apology for making a few remarks. The doings of that committee were of the greatest importance. There all the monies for defraying the public services of the Province were voted. Whatever burdens were laid upon the people at large, altho' they ultimately appeared in the Revenue Bill through the committee of ways and means, in the shape of taxes, were really laid on by the Committee of Supply. Then was the time to consider the several branches of the public service, and to set apart a portion of the revenue for each of them. It would be well in the outset, to ascertain the probable resources of the current year, and to regulate the appropriations accordingly. It was not possible at that early period of the session, in the absence of all official information, to ascertain the precise state of the finances; but it would not be unreasonable to suppose, that from the present commercial embarrassments, the revenue of the current year would not exceed £80,000. Then deducting the amount of the civil list, would leave about £66,000. Therefore the appropriation of £66,000 would leave the finances next year at this time, in the same state as the present. After providing for the ordinary services, the balance of the £66,000 should be applied for the encouragement of education, agriculture and the internal improvement of the country. He hoped that hon. members would act a consistent and prudent part, and shew to the world that there was no necessity for giving up to the crown, the important right which they and their predecessors had always exercised—he meant the right of originating all grants of the public money. He hoped the committee would exercise strict economy, in order to save as much as possible for the improvement of the country. He did not wish to take up the time of the committee unnecessarily, but before he sat down he would beg to refer to some errors of the previous sessions, with a view, if possible, to avoid them this year. It could not be expected that individual members would reject applications from their own counties, but other members could easily judge of the propriety of such applications, and act accordingly. That committee, more than any other, required at all times a full attendance. It often happened that hon. members were absent, and so by their absence did virtually give a passive assent to many grants, which they afterwards spoke of in terms of disapprobation. This he considered unfair; and if any hon. member really intended to guard against imprudent expenditure, it was his bounden duty to give constant attendance in the committee of supply. There was other hon. members who, after getting all they could in supply, would utterly refuse in the committee of ways and means, to grant one farthing of additional duties, to meet the charges which they themselves had assisted in creating. Such hon. members sometimes were looked upon as rigid economists—frugal of the public money, and enemies to all taxation; whereas, in the Committee of supply, where debts are really contracted, and where taxes really originate, it was nothing uncommon to find those very members grasping after grants of money with a rapacity truly astonishing. It must be in the recollection of hon. members how the case was last year. The learned member for Kent, who brought the financial state of the Province so clearly before the committee of ways and means, shewed that the amount granted in supply would far exceed the income of the current year. He therefore proposed to the committee, either to reduce the whole of the appropriations then made by a certain rate per cent. to make them agree with the income, or else raise the duties so that the income would be equal to the expenditure. The first of these propositions was almost unanimously rejected, and those hon. members who after its rejection advocated an increase of duty for the sole purpose of keeping clear of debt, were ill spoken of throughout the country. For his own part, he Mr. B. would then give notice, that he should advocate no additional duties, but in order to keep clear of debt should make every possible effort in the committee of supply, to limit the appropriations to the probable income of the current year.

Mr. END was glad to hear those expressions from the hon. member of the county of Charlotte he trusted he would not only preach but practice, and they would then do well. With reference to the system which it was proposed to introduce, he should never allude to the subject unless it were mentioned by others. It was one thing to question a sentry with reference to his duty, and another to throw the gates open to the enemy. He did not think the government would manage the revenues of the country better than the House; and he rose to state his solemn conviction that nothing would be more base, and there could not be a greater prostration, than would follow the adoption of such a method as had been proposed. It was one thing to reciprocate with each other, and another to vote as called upon by the members of government. And before he would consent to give up the originating money grants, he would rot down where he stood; as with that privilege their liberties would be gone. It was true the Province might at present have a government in which it confided; but it might be changed, and there had been others on which equal reliance could not be placed. Besides the members of the Assembly were better acquainted with the local wants of their constituents; and were they to be told that they did not know the country. There was scarce one of them who had not been repeatedly returned; and was that to be taken as evidence that they had not done their duty; and like drunkards their privileges were to be taken into the hands of select men; he should consider himself drunk or mad whenever he agreed to yield up the originating of money grants. There was abundance of cause for improvement, but it should originate with themselves; and he should object to transferring their power to another. He trusted they would hear no more upon the subject, and regretted the delay that had taken place before going into the committee of supply. What had been done hitherto by the House he said was satisfactory to the Province at large. Let any gentleman take up the appropriations since the Assembly had an existence, and see if any other body could have done less harm. It was amazing to see how few items of expenditure were reckless or extravagant. In fact they had done wonders.

Mr. BARBARIE considered the discussion as premature, there being no resolution before the House. It was sufficient to say good morning to a friend or an enemy when one met him.—But they had not met either. It was true they had heard rumours as to estimates being sent down, but really they were fighting shadows.—As the motion had been made to take up the ordinary appropriations, he repeated the debate was irregular.

Hon. SPEAKER said the debate was premature. Whenever the House should go into the consideration of the subject, the dispatch would be read, and the question would be taken up broadly and fairly; and the House would decide whether the practice should be changed or not. He would on that occasion be prepared to state his opinion.

Mr. STREET said the only question in his mind was, whether the subject should not have been disposed of before the House resolved itself into a committee of supply. He was a little astonished that the discussion should have originated with the hon. member for Charlotte, and on entering the House supposed they were in debate on his Excellency's Speech, but on enquiry found they were in supply. It would appear as if hon. gentlemen were sounding the minds of members; but the only way to meet the question, was to go into committee on the despatch; and determine fairly. That should have been done in the first instance, and it was therefore premature to go into the committee of supply at present. He would throw out whether it would not be better to adjourn the committee, as if under present circumstances they proceeded with the supply, it might have the effect of giving the go-by to a question which should be met openly.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSTON was surprised that the learned member for Gloucester should complain of delay, when the order of the day had been adjourned over from Friday, on account of the absence of himself and one or two other hon. members. With regard to the discussion which had taken place, he considered it premature; when it came properly before the House, he should attend to the arguments that might be adduced against the measure proposed, and trusted he should be able to answer some of them at least satisfactorily.

Mr. WILMOT said that whenever the question came fairly up, he should be prepared to show that the system which had been propounded was a good one; and he would be prepared to shew that the learned member for Gloucester when making the broad assertions he had advanced, shewed that he did not understand the subject in all its bearings. He should not at present go at large into the question; but he would ask was there any member could say what amount they would grant or what would be the revenue which they would have to expend; and yet these were questions of great moment. They should therefore first ascertain what was the revenue of last year, and what would be the probable deficiency of the present; and shape their expenditure according to their means. If members were prepared to say they would go on this way voting in the dark, let them say so, and not complain of the result. But were they so prepared? He believed there was an opinion abroad opposed to such a practice. And he should like to hear any gentleman point out any fixed principle, by which they had been governed in the expenditure of public monies. Whenever the House went into the consideration of the subject referred to, he should be prepared to show that they would not be giving up any power, but rather be cooperating with the government in the exercise of a constitutional power, in a manner which would produce the most beneficial results. Would not the House still have the power of rejecting votes of which it disapproved? But he would not go farther at present.

Mr. BROWN said he had stated was with reference to the Committee of Supply; as he considered they were going on in the usual way. If the discussion that followed was premature, his observations certainly were not. His learned friend in making the statements he had just done evinced a better acquaintance with the subject than he possessed. Still he would be ready to meet him in debate.

Mr. PARTELOW then moved the first ordinary vote, and the committee proceeded as usual.

Mr. HILL objected to the vote of £306 to the Clerk of the Treasurer, and Mr. Partelow explained that in addition he acted as Deputy Treasurer.

When the usual vote of £7,000 for Parish schools came up, members were surprised to learn that the sum annually expended under the law was double that amount; and this was given as a reason among others why the House should have estimates of the sums required to be expended. The blank was ultimately filled up for £15,000.

In voting the salaries of Keepers of Light Houses an attempt was made to reduce that of the keeper on Ganet Rock to £165, an additional £35 having been passed last year; but no reduction took place. The keeper of Quaco light received last year £150, it having formerly stood at £100. The additional £50 was struck off. Mr. Jordan endeavoured to have the vote reconsidered, but did not succeed.—The appointment of two sets of commissioners when one would answer, was generally condemned, and also the appointment of a Superintendant at a salary of £250; and Capt. Owen promised to bring in a law for doing away with one of the boards

The Treasurer's salary of £750 having been passed early in debate, Mr. Hill moved that it be reconsidered in order that it might be reduced to £600 at which it formerly stood. But the opinion of members being that the consolidation of the customs and treasurer's departments, would do away with the situation after the present year, he withdrew the motion.

Various other votes were passed which elicited little or no remark, and the committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. BROWN gave notice that on Thursday he should move that the Message of His Excellency be taken up, in order that the House might decide upon the proposal to initiate money votes elsewhere. It was therefore made the order of the day.

House adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The House was occupied for several hours in consideration of a Bill, introduced by Mr. End, for preventing vexatious and frivolous suits. The object of the learned gentleman, was to compel a person on taking out a capias, to swear to no larger sum than was actually due; and to assimilate the law in this respect to that which prevails in England. The effect of passing the Bill would be, to throw the costs of suit on the Plaintiff, where the sum upon which the capias was issued, exceeded the amount afterwards found by the Jury.

Mr. FISHER introduced a proviso, granting a discretionary power to the Judge who tried the cause, to allow costs where he thought there was just cause This was ultimately passed, requiring however, that the certificate should be given immediately after the trial, and be founded upon what came out in evidence; and not upon subsequent affidavit.

The Bill is evidently a humane and just one; and if it should pass into a law, will do away with hardships that were very properly complained of.

The House resolved itself into a committee for the further consideration of the Bill altering the duration of the Assembly.—Mr. Jordan in the chair.

The Bill having been read, Mr. Palmer observ'd that it was not necessary for him to say much in support of it, having expressed himself fully last session. It was stated at that time that the measure was not called for by the country; and it was therefore urged that a change was not wanted, as the people were satisfied and all was quiet. Others observed that the measures involved a change of the constitution, and therefore time should be allowed to consider the subject. The first of these objections had been answered by the petitions that had been addressed to His Excellency, praying for the dissolution of the present Assembly, and the expression of the country generally. The other objection he had readily assented to, as he thought a measure so important should have every consideration; and that time should be allowed before an alteration took place. Hon. members must now be prepared to decide upon the question; and he therefore moved that the Bill be read section by section.

Mr. HANINGTON considered it a late hour to commence the discussion of so important a measure, but he would say at commencement that he gave it his most hearty support, as it was one for which he had always entertained the most favourable opinion It has been stated that there was no petitions in favor of the Bill, but it was not usual to prefer petitions upon so general a subject. The circumstance of the duration of the Assemblies in the neighbouring colonies having been limited to four years, was a substantial reason why the same course should be pursued in this; and against which he saw no objection. It had been said by the present term, six years were given to sinning, and one was devoted to repentance; and if the period were shortened, the same time for repentance would remain. The increased intelligence of the age he said called for the measure, and the bulk of the people were sufficiently informed through the medium of the Journals and the public press, to entitle them to the concession. If the Bill should pass but little inconvenience would be felt, and the members generally would be returned. He had always approved of the proposal to shorten the duration of the Assembly, and he gave the bill his unqualified support.

Mr. BARBARIE thought members were exceedingly backward in coming forward; and had expected to hear others possessing more experience than himself address the committee. But as that was not the case, he should offer a few observations of his own. He took it for granted however that the Bill would pass, and did not expect to offer any effectual opposition. He did not agree with the hon. member for Westmorland who had just sat down. He did not think the people were anxious for the adoption of the measure, or that the example of the surrounding colonies or the intelligence of the country called for the passing of the bill. How was he to understand the general silence upon the subject; and it was singular nothing had been heard by petition upon the subject. They were therefore legislating in the dark. For his own part he was perfectly indifferent as to the fate of the Bill, but he did not think it was called for. He was no advocate for changes, because they had taken place in the neighbouring colonies. There were particular reasons why one set of measures would apply to one colony and another set to another. And if they would not apply to this Province, why resort to change. If he conceived for a moment, that the proposed alteration would be beneficial, he would go with it; but until better informed upon the subject, he should vote against it.

Hon. SPEAKER saw no reason why members should not express their opinions fully upon the subject; for his own part he felt no difficulty. He had represented his constituency and the people of this Province for 21 years, and had always been of opinion that seven years were too long for the duration of the Assembly; he was even in favour of a shorter period than four years, and would have been glad if the Bill had gone further, and made the Assembly triennial, as he thought that would have been better. But as in other colonies the Assembly were quadrennial, he would adopt the same principle. The measure would not be attended with inconvenience, altho' he admitted there would be a necessity for altering the existing election law. In this Province His Honor said there was an improved system of registry, which would do away with any difficulty in that respect. It was his opinion, that if members acted faithfully, they would meet with no opposition to their return at a subsequent election: and if they did not act faithfully, four years was long enough to hold a seat. If the bill were to pass now, the majority of the present house, he felt satisfied would be returned, as he did not think a better House could be found. He was no flatterer, and he must say that he considered the constituency of the Province as well represented. Still he was desirous that the Bill should pass, as the measure had been adopted in the neighbouring colonies: and it would not look well if it did not pass. He paid little attention to the petitions which had been addressed to His Excellency, which were the work of dissatisfied and factious persons, who had created an excitement by false and exaggerated statements; and which were not deserving of attention. But he believed the people had since reflected, and were desirous that the present Bill should pass. It had his hearty concurrence; and he repeated, that had it been for one year less, he should have liked it better.

Mr. BROWN said he believed it would be recollected, that when the subject came up last year, he expressed himself friendly to the measure, as he had always considered four years long enough for the duration of the Assembly; and the only reason why he withheld his consent was, because he was not advised as to the sentiments of his constituents, and did not know whether they were favourable to the measure or not. He had since taken pains to ascertain what was the prevaling opinion in the county which he represented, and he believed it was the general wish that the Bill should pass, limiting the existence of the Assembly to four years; he therefore in accordance with his own inclination, and in conformity with the wishes of those by whom he was sent, should cheerfully give it his support.

Mr. BEARDSLEY viewed the proposed measure as one of great importance, and as one upon which he could not give a silent vote. He was in favour of the Bill, because he considered seven years as too long a period for a member to represent his constituency without giving an account of his stewardship; and consequently would not be enabled to do more mischief than if he held his for a shorter period. He thought four years were too long, and agreed with his Honour the Speaker as to the advantages attending triennial Parliaments. But as the former period had been adopted in 1791 in the Canadas, and recently by the Union Act, and as it was that which prevailed in the other colonies, this Province should not form an exception to a general rule. The Bill he presumed would have the effect of dissolving the House at once: it should have an immediate operation. Altogether he thought the Bill should have an immediate operation, yet whether the conduct of the House met with the approbation of the constituency or not, he believed it would make little difference in case of a new election; and that members generally would meet with little opposition, because the people proceeded in a singular manner; and although they may express themselves violently against members before hand yet at an election, either from fear, favour, affection or hope of reward, they will come forward and vote in their favour; and the man who acted dishonestly would fare as well as the honest man. He had reason to apprehend from what he heard, that this would be the result at the next election. The learned gentleman concluded by repeating that he had always considered seven years too long, and if the Bill could be altered to make the period three years instead of four he would be better satisfied; but as it stood, it should have his support.

Mr. HILL called the attention of the Committee to the first section, which repealed the 31 of Geo III. appointing the period of seven years; and of course if the present Bill should become a law, the duration of the present House must end with the present session.

Mr. WILMOT said there was no doubt of it. He had expected however to see some show of opposition at least. The learned member for Carleton had just told the committee, that rogues had been sent back to the House as well as honest men, and he was fearful it would be the case again. He Mr. W. was satisfied he did not intend any reflection upon the House; and would merely observe that last year, he was unacquainted with the sentiments of the constituency of the county of York. Since that time he had an opportunity of informing himself, and found they were desirous the present Bill should pass into a law; and he therefore should vote for it. There was at present so little opposition, that the question almost lost its interest.—He should like to hear from the hon. member for Kent.

Hon. Mr. WELDON was formerly satisfied by the arguments which were used that the proposed alteration was than unnecessary. Now His Honour the Speaker instead of having the period four years would make it three. At the same time he says the present House is *so good a one*, that it is almost a pity that country should be put to the expence of a new election. The fact was these repeated elections would entail a serious expence upon the Province. The learned member for Carleton was afraid the honest men would be kept at home, and that the rogues would be returned again. These three reasons—the expence, the goodness of the House, and the probability that rogues might be returned, were reasons certainly why the Bill should not pass. But there was one fact which operated upon his mind why it should. During the present session great and important measures had been for the first time brought before the country. Had that been the case last year, he would have been satisfied they should have gone back to their constituents to ascertain their sentiments. His constituents he said, thought the Bill wholly unnecessary, at all events that it would make but little difference. But as new measures are about to be introduced, and as upon several of them the House might not come to a conclusion during the present session, he thought it but right to pass the Bill; so that the people might return members who would carry them out if they were deemed proper and necessary. It was this he said which had influenced him. And if that were not the case he should not have voted for the Bill, because he considered the Parent Country should first set the example. He would not follow that of other colonies; but preferred being guided by the usages and practices of the mother country. As the same reasons do not exist as did last year, he would support the Bill, and hoped it would pass into a law.

Mr. WILSON did not think the reasons that had just been urged as at all satisfactory. If the measures to be introduced were so important, the appeal should be made in another and a more constitutional way; and not by the passing of a bill which was to have effect hereafter. He considered the reasons that had been adduced in favour of the measure as very absurd; and hoped members would act independently.—It would appear, he said, from the apathy of those gentlemen on the other side, that they were not sincere. When a paltry law Bill was under consideration he found them making speeches, and that much heat was elicited; but when a measure of importance came forward, they could scarcely find an argument in its favour. The hon. gentleman said he hoped he might be wrong in his estimate of human nature, but he really thought the supporters of the bill were afraid it would pass. What good reason he would ask had been adduced in support of the measure—what feeling had the discussion of last year aroused? Was there any petition before the House on the subject?—Not one; even his hon. colleague who brought in the bill, had not introduced one. He believed he was as well acquainted with the county which he Mr. W. represented, as any member of the House; and he had no hesitation in saying, that the respectable portion of its inhabitants were not in favour of the measure then under consideration; and being confirmed in his own opinion by others for whom he entertained a great respect, he could not vote for it. When he was elected there was not a word said about four years, and a contract was made with the people to represent them during the usual period of seven. Therefore without the sanction of the people he could not break that contract or substitute another condition. Other arguments had been advanced in favour of the bill, but they were so absurd that he had forgotten them. It had been said by His Honor the Speaker, and he felt the propriety of the remark, that the constituency could not send back a better House. And if there was to be no improvement in this respect, why excite all the bad feelings, the angry passions, and expence attendant upon an election. He therefore attached a good deal of importance to what had been said by the Speaker, and thought he was right; because otherwise petitions would have been got up. What had been the case last year, when an outcry was raised with reference to the grant to Sir John Harvey, and which he felt no hesitation in condemning; but which was got up by those who were opposed to his government, and who had a better opportunity of misrepresenting, in consequence of the gallery having been cleared by the learned member for the county of York. He hoped the standing order would not again be moved, and it was to be regretted that it was done on that occasion, as it prevented those reasons which were adduced for the vote from going abroad, which would have been satisfactory to the Province. Now after all this; either the people must be inattentive to their own affairs, or they must be satisfied with their representatives. The hon. gentleman said he should not occupy the time of the committee much longer; in his opinion the proposed measure was uncalled for, and it was a breach of constitutional law. He was not disposed to copy from the neighboring colonies; the example of Nova Scotia had been urged, but he looked upon what had taken place there as the result of agitation; and it had been yielded as a sort of salve for the destruction of political rights. He was impressed with the opinion, that the bill was unnecessary, and that the effects of quadrennial Parliaments would be to render elections necessary every two or three years. He found the average of elections was about once in four years; consequently they had the proposed system in operation under the present mode. It was therefore unnecessary to put the country to the expence, which frequent elections would introduce, and for which the people were not anxious themselves. But whatever might be the consequences, he should vote against the measure.

Capt. OWEN expressed his hearty concurrence in the measure.

Mr. BOYD had heard a great deal said about apathy; but the silence that had been observed, arose from the conviction that the Bill would pass. From motives of courtesy he had given place to older members than himself. He was in favour of the measure, and thought four years was a sufficient period for the duration of the Assembly, even if members discharged their duty as they ought.

Mr. MCLEOD was opposed to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSTON said it was now five o'clock, and thought the Committee had better rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again. Before doing so, he would submit to the hon. mover of the Bill, the propriety of deciding upon the new election law which was before the House; as the passing of that bill would materially affect his vote. He should reserve any expression of his sentiments however until the Bill again came under the consideration of the committee.

Mr. PARTELOW took the same view of the subject; and Col. Allen although he was satisfied the Bill would pass, said he should to preserve consistency vote against it, as he conceived the objections were stronger at present than formerly, although he was aware a majority of his constituents were in favour of the measure.

The committee rose, and after several messages from the Lieut. Governor were read, the House adjourned.

[From the Journals.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, January 28.

The address to Her majesty the Queen, congratulating Her majesty upon the Birth of an Heir Apparent to the British Throne; as also the address to His Royal highness Prince Albert, of like congratulation—were severally read as engrossed, and are as follow:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Humble and Dutiful Address of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, the Representatives of Your Majesty's faithful and Loyal Subjects, the people of this Province, with renewed assurances of devotion and attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, beg leave most respectfully to avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity to offer to Your Majesty our heartfelt congratulations on the Birth of an Heir Apparent to the British Throne, an event which in no part of Your Majesty's widely extended Dominions, can afford more sincere gratification than to the inhabitants of New Brunswick; and we beg to assure Your Majesty of our earnest prayers that your distinguished son may live to emulate the virtues of His Illustrious mother, and that Your Majesty may be as happy in your offspring as the Nation is in its Queen.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT.

The Respectful Address of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

We, the Commons of New Brunswick, beg leave most cordially to offer our congratulations to Your Royal highness on the Birth of your Son, the Heir Apparent to the British Throne, and on the happy recovery of her Majesty the Queen, your Royal and Illustrious Consort, events which have afforded the highest satisfaction to the people of this Province, and must prove an additional source of happiness, both to Your Royal Highness and to the Nation at large.

On motion of Mr. Street,—*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with these addresses, and request that His Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same, to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, January 31.

Read a second time—A bill further to facilitate the means of supplying the city of Saint John with Water, by transferring the Water Works of the Saint John Water Company to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John.

A bill to establish the line of Road from Oak Bay, in the county of Charlotte, to the mouth of Eel River, in the county of York, as one of the Great Roads of Communication in this Province.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from the President and Directors of the Mechanics' Institute of Saint John, praying that a grant may pass in aid thereof: which he read. Ordered that the said petition be received, and referred to a select committee to report thereon; and further ordered, that Messrs. Partelow, End and Hannington do compose the said committee.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Waterhouse and Troop, of the city of Saint John, Merchants, praying for return of Duties on Goods destroyed at the Great Fire at that place in November last; which he read.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table; and on motion of Mr. Partelow,—Resolved, that a select committee be appointed, to take the said Petition into consideration, as well as all others which may be presented to the house praying for a like return of Duties on articles destroyed by fire. Ordered that Messrs. Woodward, Hayward and Rankin, do compose the said committee.

Mr. Partelow, also by leave, presented Petitions from Thomas Leavitt & company, Jardine & company, and G. and J. Salter, of the city of Saint John, Merchants, praying for return Duties on Goods destroyed by fire at Saint John in November last; which he severally read. Ordered that the said Petitions be received, and referred to the committee for taking Petitions of a like prayer into consideration, to report thereon.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Otis Small, the Honorable John Robertson, Leveret H. Deveber, and John Walker, of the city of Saint John, praying a return of Duties on Bricks imported from the United States, which he read. Ordered that the said Petitions be received, and referred to the committee of supply.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot, by leave, presented a Petition from the Rev. J. E. Bill, and 65 others, Ministers and Messengers of the Baptist Churches in New Brunswick, convened in Annual Association in Hillsborough, in the county of Westmorland, in the year 1841, praying that an annual grant may be made to the committee of the Baptist Education Society, in support of the Seminary at Fredericton; which he read. Ordered that the said Petition be received, and referred to the committee of supply.

Mr. End, by leave, presented a Petition from Thomas Rankine, and 15 others, Bakers, in the city of Saint John, praying that a Duty may be imposed upon the importation of Foreign Bread; which he read. Ordered that the said Petition be received, and referred to the committee of Trade.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from William Jarvis, Charles Ward, Timothy Collins and 21 others, proprietors of Property destroyed by the Great Fire at Saint John in November last, praying the Act of 1839, to enable the other Burnt District to be rebuilt with fire proof Edifices, may be extended to the District first named; which he read.

Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr. Partelow, by leave presented a Petition from Angus M'Affee, of the Parish of Portland, in the County of Saint John, setting forth, that his House was pulled down by direction of the Magistrates and Firewards, at the time of the Great Fire at that place in August last to prevent its further extending, and that the Fire did not subsequently reach the ground upon which his premises were erected, and praying Legislative aid in consequences of the loss sustained; which he read.

Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr. Partelow, by leave presented a Petition from Nehemiah Merrit, Noah Disbrow, F. A. Wiggins, W. H. Street, John Wishart, and 121 others, freeholders and inhabitants of the City of Saint John, praying that an Act may pass to authorize the widening of Saint John or Water Street, so called, in the said City; which he read.

Ordered. That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

24 February, 1842.

Read a second time, a Bill to authorize the Mayor, Aldermen and Comonalty of the City of Saint John, to widen Saint John or Water street, (so called) in the said city.

Mr. Hill, by leave, presented a Petition from the Reverend William Smithson, Wesley C. Beals, and 93 others, Ministers and Members of the Wesleyan Congregations, and other Inhabitants in Saint Stephen's and Saint David's Circuits, in the County of Charlotte, praying that a grant may pass to the Trustees of the Weslyan Acadamy, recently erected at Sackville, in the County of Westmorland, in aid of that Establishment; which he read.—*Ordered*. That the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committe of supply.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Thomas M'Avity and company, of the city of Saint John, Merchants, to be reimbrused Duties paid on Goods destroyed at the Great Fire in the said city in November last; which he read.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received, and referred to the committee for taking Petitions of a like prayer into consideration, to report thereon.

Steam Crackers.

Landing ex brig "Wellington" from Philadelphia:

152 PACKAGES assorted Soda Sugar, Wine and Butter Crackers, and Pilot Bread—for sale at the *Tea Warehouse*, by

21st Dec. JAMES MALCOLM.

☞ The Chronicle Office is in the Brick Bu
at the corner of Prince William and Church s
near the Market Square.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEB. 11, 184

JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a ver
and compact volume of the Journals of the
of Assembly for 1841, from John Simpson,