From Neilson's Quebec Gazette, Jan. 24.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS, BY FIRE.

This building, the residence of the Governors General of B. N. America for the last 150 years, and so prominent an object in the view of the city of Quebec from the harbour, as it surmounts the brink of the precipice between the Lower Town and the citadel, has fallen an entire prey to the flames. The fire broke out yesterday, about noon, in a room at the south end of the building, in the third story, occupied by Capt. M'Kinnon, A. D. C.; and though early discovered, and every means taken to arrest its progress, it flew with astonishing rapidity through the upper story, and continue to burn downwards, in spite of all the exertions of the troops and about a dozen fire engines, until this moment. It now presents its hundred openings, tall bare chimneys, and its sooty and ruined walls—a couple of engines still struggling to subdue the flames in the south wing.

It was originally built by the French at a time not exactly ascertained; and though somewhat altered in form, and improved—particularly in Sir J. Craig's administration, at an expense of about £10,000 to the Province—the original walls, we believe, all remain, having successively escaped with trifling damage the sieges of 1759 by Wolfe, of 1775 by the Americans, and the bombardment of Sir William Phipps in 1690. Its site, since the earliest discovery of the country, had been successively the head quarters of the whole French possessions, at one time extending over the present British N. American possessions, including Louisiana and the territories on the Mississippi; and between 1759 and the American independence in 1778, was the seat of the principal command of the whole continent of North America.

It was tenanted, when the fire broke out, by Lieut.-Gen. Lord Aylmer, Governor-in-Chief, and Lady Aylmer; Capt. M'Kinnon, Grenadier Guards, and Capt. Doyle, 24th Regt. Aide-de-Camp, and Lieut. Paynter, extra Aide-de-Camp; with the different domestics of the establishment. The Military Secretary (Capt. Airey) occupied apartments in what is called the Old Chateau, a building erected by the English after the conquest, and chiefly used as dancing and dining halls. The public documents belonging to the Administration were early removed, as was the plate, and by much the greater part of the furniture, but the latter was damaged. His Excellency had £3,000 insured on the furniture, (which is purchased from the preceding Governor on every change,) at the Quebec Office.

The thermometer on the morning of the fire had marked 22° *below zero*, and, during the whole time it lasted, continued from 2° to 8° below zero, with a strong piercing wind from west to south-west. Many of the engines were soon frozen up, and the hose and every thing connected with them, could only be kept in any thing like order by the use of warm water, which was generously furnished from the breweries of Messrs. Racey, M'Callum, and Quiroret, and by the religious communities. The citizens and troops distinguished themselves by their services; but from the impossibility of reaching the part of the building overlooking the precipice, it soon became apparent that any successful attempt to arrest the progress of the flames was hopeless.

It will probably cost £25,000 to £30,000 to erect a new building, but the beauty of the situation, and the extent of the ground, will afford an opportunity of erecting one of the most ornamental and prominent public buildings in the city, of which Quebec is really lamentably deficient. The site belongs to the Military Government.

Lord and Lady Aylmer remained for sometime yesterday with Colonel and Mrs. Craig, where her Ladyship, we understand, slept last night. Lord Aylmer is at present at the residence of the Hon. Col. Gore, Deputy Quarter Master General to the Forces.

The fire raged with considerable violence during last night, and frequent alarms were given, some fear being felt that the houses in Champlain and Mountain Streets, immediately at the foot of the precipice on which the Castle is built, would be set on fire by the embers carried over by the wind, or by the falling and blazing timbers, which descended down the steep declivity on the tops of buildings or into yards. Fortunately, the snow on the houses protected them, and no further accidents have occurred. Had the fire taken place in summer, there must have been a great destruction of property in the Lower Town.

Description of the Castle in 1723, from La Potherie.

"The chateau is on the top of a hill rising steeply to the height of 180 feet. The fortifications are irregular; there are two bastions looking to the town, without a ditch. The Governor-General's house is 120 feet long, and in front of it is a terrace overlooking the Lower Town and the River. The building looks very well, both inside and outside, owing to the wings [*pavillons*], which outshoot the main building, both in the rear and in the front. It is two stories high; and a wing of 23 feet long remains to be built. There is a battery of 22 guns alongside of the house, partly within the chateau and partly out of it, which commands the Lower Town and the River."

[In La Hontan, who visited Canada from 1683 to 1693, there is an engraved view of the Castle, which had then but *one* story. The view of it in La Potherie gives it *two* stories; and it was in 1690 that it was raised to *three*, and since then had retained the appearance it had a few days ago.]

A fire broke out, yesterday about noon, in the Steaming House of Messrs. Gilmour & Co.'s extensive Ship building yard, Wolfe's Cove, which totally destroyed that building, and some of the long adjoining sheds and the timber they contained. The attendance of the Engines and citizens, prevented the flames from extending.—*Ib.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Quebec, 24th January, 1834.

Mr. Secretary Craig delivered the two following Messages:—

AYLMER, Governor in Chief.

The Governor in Chief regrets to have to inform the House of Assembly that the ancient Castle of St. Lewis, occupied by him as an official residence, caught fire yesterday soon after noon, and that notwithstanding the efforts of His Majesty's Troops, the Worshipful the Mayor of Quebec, the Gentlemen of the Seminary, the Fire Companies, and a large concourse of the citizens of every class, who repaired with alacrity to the spot, and were unceasing in their exertions to save that public building from destruction, it was entirely consumed.

Castle of St. Lewis,
Quebec, 24th January, 1834.

AYLMER, Governor in Chief.

The Governor in Chief transmits to the House of Assembly, an Estimate of the Expenses of the current year, made up on the same principle as that of last year, and the Governor in Chief relies on the liberality of the House of Assembly for granting the necessary Supplies required for the public service of the year.

Castle of St. Lewis,
Quebec, 24th January, 1834.

[Amount of Estimate, £59,395 13 4 sterling.]

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Extract of a Dispatch from the Right Honorable E. G. Stanley, to the Acting Governor of Nova-Scotia, dated

"Downing-street, 30th Sept. 1833.

"In my Dispatches of the 1st of June, and 2d of August, last, I conveyed to you instructions to bring the Financial condition of Nova-Scotia under the notice of the Legislature of the Province on their next meeting, by a special message, expressive of His Majesty's conviction that they would feel most anxious to adopt the necessary measures for providing permanently for the support of the Civil Establishment of the Province.—I have since received your dispatch of the 27th of July last, enclosing the copy of an Address to His Majesty, reported to the House of Assembly, and of which the consideration will be resumed in the next session of the Legislature.

"Although in its present state this Address cannot properly be considered as emanating from the whole House, it has nevertheless afforded me great satisfaction as evincing on the part of the House an earnest desire to meet the views and wishes of His Majesty, in regard to the Financial concerns of the Province. By the expression of such a feeling the arrangement which I propose to recommend to the Legislature has become comparatively easy; and I have every reason to expect that the proposal which it will be your duty to make, and the details of which I shall proceed to explain to you, will receive their ready concurrence.

"His Majesty has been advised to surrender absolutely to the Assembly the whole of the Revenues of the Crown, taking in exchange a moderate Civil List.

"The Amount of the Revenues which will be thus placed in the hands of the Assembly may be calculated as follows:

Rent of the Coal Mines, for next three years	£4,000
Commutation of Lieutenant Governor's and Secretary's fees	600

"The amount derived from the sales of Lands I have no means of calculating from any returns in my office, but in all probability they would not at present swell the amount to be derived from these three sources above the sum of £5,000.

"The sum of £5,000, therefore, is the amount which His Majesty is prepared to relinquish. The Civil List which he asks in return includes only the two following officers, for whose independence it is absolutely necessary to provide:—

"The Lieutenant Governor	£3,500
"Colonial Secretary	1,000
	£4,500

"The remainder of the Civil Establishment, and such services as have hitherto been defrayed by His Majesty from funds at his own disposal, must be provided henceforward by the Assembly.

"The only other point connected with this subject to which it is necessary I should allude, is that of the Post Office, I hope very shortly to have to make a communication to you which will prove satisfactory to His Majesty's faithful subjects in Nova Scotia."

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,—FREDERICTON, *Tuesday, February 4.*

(Continued from last page.)

Mr. S. Humbert said, that the operations of the Deputation had caused great conversation and anxiety in the country, and numerous questions had been asked relative to its necessity and importance, and as to what it had done. Some had expected that the Deputation had altogether failed, while others expected that they had effected every iota of the objects they had in view. Such calculations were premature, and in fact such complete success never took place in any undertaking. A work of this important kind must be progressive, and if the house proceeded with moderation, there was no doubt that, in time, they would succeed. He (Mr. H.) believed, the Delegates had never been charged with want of perseverance in their duty; and a proof of their diligence was, the peculiarly short time in which they had accomplished their objects, and returned to this country. They had obtained an answer to their applications in this very short time; and there could now be but one impression in the House, that they well deserved the thanks of that house, because the house must be satisfied that they had faithfully discharged their trust. The hon. member then briefly touched on the points gained by the labours of the Deputation, and on the importance of the work thus begun; and then proceeded to observe, that as to any unpopularity of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, he (Mr. S.) believed he was never unpopular in that house. There could be only one sentiment as to the intentions and motives of his Excellency, and he (Mr. S.) considered his Excellency to be as popular and well-esteemed in that house as any individual who had ever governed the land.—On the whole, as respected the objects and operations of the Deputation, he thought the house would never have occasion to lament having sent home that Deputation.

[Mr. Kinnear and Mr. End, also spoke, but want of room compels us to omit their speeches.]

After which, Mr. Kinnear moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Partelow, and adopted without a dissentient voice:

Resolved UNANIMOUSLY, That Messrs. SIMONDS and CHANDLER, two of the Members of this House, deputed at its last Session to present a Petition of the House to his most gracious Majesty, for the redress of certain grievances therein stated, receive the thanks of this House, for the ability, zeal, and industry manifested by them throughout the whole of their conduct in the management of the Deputation.

Messrs. Simonds & Chandler respectively returned thanks to the House, and expressed their overwhelming sense of the gratifying honor thus conferred upon them; and in doing so, Mr. Chandler took occasion to observe, that since the return of the Deputation, his hon. Associate, (Mr. Simonds), had been greatly slandered, with regard to some part of the negociations with His Majesty's Government. That Gentleman had been most shamefully treated in the public prints, by anonymous writers, charging him with selfishness, in those negociations; and it therefore became his (Mr. C.'s) duty to state most unequivocally, that all such charges were base calumnies. Selfishness, or any regard to his own private interests, had never entered into the calculations of his hon. Colleague; but he had zealously attended to the public matters entrusted to his care, without any reference to his private affairs.

Wednesday, February 5.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the House went into Committee of the whole, in consideration of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor's Speech.—Mr. Ward in the Chair.—The debate took a very wide and discursive range; but in consequence of the fatiguing length of both this day's and yesterday's proceedings, it is absolutely necessary to condense the present report into as brief an epitome as possible.

Mr. Partelow opened the debate, by observing, that the speech gave a deplorable statement respecting the finances of the country, and by recommending the appointment of a Committee of Finance, to investigate and report on that subject. He had hoped, that before going into Committee on the Speech, the house would have been in possession of the Treasurer's accounts, from which the truth might have been gathered. But since Monday last, he (Mr. P.) had endeavoured to obtain information on the subject, and he was now happy to inform the house, that instead of the desperate state described in the speech, the Finances of the Country were actually in a much better state than they were 5 or 7 years ago. The Revenue of the last year was £42,451 11s. 1d. exclusive of the duties collected under the Light House, Marine Hospital, and Emigrant Acts, which would be about £4000 more; while the drawbacks would amount to about £5000.—There was an increase of Revenue at the port of St. John of about £5000; but on the other hand there was a great decrease at St. Andrews; the Revenue for the past year there being only £2800 or £2900, instead of from £4000 to £5000, which was the amount in the preceding year. There certainly must be some peculiar reason for so great a falling off of the Revenue at that port, altho' he (Mr. P.) could not state what it was. But taking the whole Provincial Revenue for the year, throughout, it would be found to be only about £1000 less than that of last year. The unpaid Warrants amounted to £27,000; to meet which there were, in the hands of the Treasurer and his Deputies, in Balances and Bonds, £27,000, of which £5000 were cash; so that all those unpaid warrants could be met by the sum in the hands of the Treasurer, when collected. The warrants not yet issued amounted to about £5000, and there were Debentures unpaid, and due February 1st, amounting to £1700. The sum due to the Fire Insurance Company, with interest, was £10,600; and to the several Savings Banks, £3600. He (Mr. P.) thought there would be, altogether, about £7000 to provide for, besides the public debt, which was about £14,650; making the whole deficiency about £20,000. He recollected, that in 1829 a Report was made to the house by the Finance Committee, which shewed the unpaid appropriations at that time to be about £65,000, while there were also about £6000 or £7000 chargeable for Fish and Grain Bounties, making the total deficiency about £72,000; therefore it was evident that the house had actually been reducing the public debt, and the finances were in a better state than they had been in for some years past. For himself, however, he was decidedly for retrenchment; and though the house had been rather lavish in some things heretofore, yet they had been eminently successful in reducing the debt to its present amount. His Excellency, in his speech, called the attention of the house to the necessity of prompt payments at the Treasury, and there certainly had been difficulties in that respect, in consequence of the Treasurer not having been able to command funds in proportion to the demands. If the Executive had informed the house last session, that it was intended to depart from the old mode of issuing warrants, the house could have made some provision against the inconvenience; but without doing so, the warrants had been numbered; they could not therefore be paid as they were presented at the Treasury, and the consequence was, that they were obliged to be sold at a very great discount, which was a serious loss to the holders. The system of numbering the warrants he (Mr. P.) considered to be the cause of nearly all the distress experienced of late for want of money. The intention of adopting such a system ought to have been first communicated to the house, and then provision against inconvenience would have been made. Warrants, formerly, were never at more than from 1 to 1½ *per cent.* discount, when the demands on the Treasury were actually greater, and the capability to meet them much less than now. He thought that a discretionary power ought to be vested in the Treasurer, as to the payment of the most necessary warrants first, so that Commissioners of Roads, Schoolmasters, &c. should be first attended to; but from the present system of paying them as they are numbered, those persons were compelled to hawk their warrants about for sale at any discount that might be offered. The old system of discretionary power in the Treasurer worked much better for the country, and he would like to see it returned to.

Mr. S. Humbert, at great length, coincided in the views of Mr. Partelow respecting the state of the Finances and the numbering of warrants, and dwelt forcibly on the evils arising from that system; especially as to the inconvenience felt by Merchants, who held Treasury warrants in their possession, and yet could not be allowed to pay their duties at the Treasury with those warrants, because their numbers were too high to render them payable at the time. The hon. member also commented on the tone of the Speech, which he represented as not so polite as that of last year, but, on the contrary, of a more dictatorial nature, and drew from thence the inference, that an unhappy collision still existed between the different branches of the Legislature, and was visible in the language of the Speech.—The hon. member attributed the pecuniary difficulties of the country to the want of sufficient circulating medium, the demand for Spanish Dollars at the Custom House, and for Cash at the Treasury, while it would not pay or take in payment its own warrants, except in the order of numbers.—He also strongly insisted on the necessity of general retrenchment in the appropriations of the house, and recommended a commencement, by reducing the Members' pay, which would enable them consistently and fairly to proceed in reducing other salaries and expenses.

Mr. Simonds entirely disagreed with Mr. S. Humbert respecting the tone of the Speech, and saw nothing in it which could for a moment lead the house to suppose, that any collision existed between the branches of the Legislature. There was nothing that would bear any such construction. There really was no collision. Whatever difficulties existed last session, it should not now be inferred that any collision existed. On the contrary, the tenor of the Speech directly led to the inference, that the Executive was fully disposed to go hand in hand with the house, in devising measures for the public good.—The house did not want to see flattery in the Speech, but plain matter of fact, and there they had it.—The hon. member, however, could not agree in the gloomy representations, in the speech, of the state of the finances: he certainly could not say they were in as good a state as they ought to be, because there ought to be no debt at all; but he did not consider them to be quite so desperate.—With respect to the numbering of warrants, it was certainly an extraordinary system, and the inconvenience of it was very palpable. The Warrants were the Lieut. Governor's orders on the Treasurer to pay certain monies. They went to the Treasurer for payment, but then down came an order from the Provincial Secretary not to pay them. It seemed that the Government was dishonouring its own paper. The impropriety of the system was manifest, as it put it into the power of persons at Head Quarters to exercise a controul over the public expenditure, which they had no right to exercise. Warrants ought always to be paid as they were presented, when there was money in hand; and if warrants got into the hands of persons owing duties at the Treasury, common justice required that they should be taken in payment of such duties. He (Mr. S.) hoped the house would adopt measures to do away with the system of numbering.—He (Mr. S.) liked many parts of the speech very much, particularly that part relative to retrenchment, which was certainly very gratifying.—The hon. member then proceeded to advocate general retrenchment, and particularly expressed a hope, that from the tenor of the speech, it was to be presumed and hoped, that his Excellency intended retrenchment to be carried into every department, as well beyond as within the controul of the Legislature. He also lamented the existence of contraband trade, and wished a remedy could be applied; altho' he felt unable to suggest one. The hon. member then touched on the subject of the Casual Revenue, &c., and congratulated the house on the probability now appearing, of a satisfactory settlement of that question. He also expressed his happiness on seeing the sentiment conveyed in the speech, that the Legislature as a whole could have but one object, "the public good;" observed, that he had never thought his Excellency had any other object in view, but that if he was induced to adopt opposite measures, the fault should lie at the door of the bad advisers who had so induced him.—On the whole, the hon. member thought the speech liable to very few objections, and to be a gratifying and conciliatory document.

Mr. Slason had one very great objection to the speech, and only one; which was, the highly coloured representation respecting the state of the finances.—The hon. member then proceeded to corroborate the views of the preceding speakers respecting the real state of the Revenue and the numbering of warrants; and with regard to retrenchment, he thought that the house should not aim at small things, but should lop off large expenses. He did not think the state of the country would allow the abolition of Members' pay: for himself, being a resident in Fredericton, he did not care about it; but he thought it must be a very useful thing to those who came from a distance.

Mr. End at very great length commented on the whole speech, and particularly maintained that the picture drawn therein of the pecuniary embarrassments of the Province was by no means over-coloured. He contended that, in his part of the country, the greatest distress prevailed among those entitled to payment for public services, from the difficulty of getting warrants cashed at the Treasury. The hon. member stated his belief, that payments at the Treasury were in such a state, that unless some remedy were speedily applied, persons would not be found to accept the office of Commissioner of Roads, or to contract for any public work, on the faith of Treasury warrants. He very much doubted the fact, of these difficulties having been caused by the numbering of warrants, and stated that he knew of several Bear Bounty warrants in Gloucester, granted in 1831 and 1832, being still unpaid, altho' they were due before the numbering system commenced.—The hon. member also strenuously urged the necessity of general retrenchment, commencing with Members themselves, and herein particularly took occasion to express his disapprobation of the annual grant of £100 to the hon. Chairman of the Committee of Public and Private Accounts.—He entirely agreed with Mr. Simonds, that there was nothing in the speech to give any idea of collision; that tho' it did not come "trippingly on the tongue," yet that it was the language of a soldier, plain and honest; and he liked it the better, because it was the language of truth; there was no "humbug" in it, as in some speeches during former administrations, which were so flattering and courtly, that they seemed more like Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son, than speeches to a Legislature. He saw nothing dictatorial in the speech: it declared the object of the Legislature generally to be "the public good," and evidently shewed that the Executive was disposed to go hand in hand with the House.—The hon. member then proceeded to express his approbation of the various paragraphs relative to the Casual Revenue, Parish Schools, and Contraband Trade, and his hearty desire to coincide in the suggestions therein contained, and to provide such remedies as the matters respectively required; and concluded by alluding to the paragraph respecting the issue of Government paper, and expressing his opinion that it would be far more beneficial to the Province to issue Provincial paper than Debentures, whereby the whole amount of interest would be saved.

Mr. Chandler considered the speech very satisfactory, and liable to very few objections. He thought the hon. member who deemed it not quite polite enough, must have had a great disposition to cavil, when he made so frivolous an objection.—He considered the speech had not too highly coloured the picture drawn of the pecuniary distress of the country, altho he did not deem that it arose from the numbering the warrants. He thought that system very superior to the old one; because, formerly, those who had means of applying first at the Treasury by themselves or agents, obtained payment of their warrants, whereby it frequently happened that those of latest dates obtained first payment, while persons living at a distance, and holding warrants of a much older date, were obliged to wait a longer time for their money; but, by the numbering system, every warrant would be paid according to its date, and those of oldest standing would be cashed first. The hon. member considered the pecuniary evils existing to have been caused by the improvident grants of the house in former sessions, and that the moment general retrenchment was carried into effect, the difficulty would vanish.—The hon. member then, at considerable length, dwelt upon the subject of Smuggling, stating his desire to see a remedy applied, but particularly contending that the only remedy for that evil, as far as regards the country at the head of the Bay of Fundy, would be by establishing a Free Port in that section of the Province; and insisting that at present, the inhabitants there, even conscientious persons, who were in the habit of exporting grindstones, gypsum, &c. to the U. States, and taking American produce in return, were absolutely compelled to smuggle, from the want of a free port in their own neighbourhood, and from the delay and expense attendant on entering the port of St. John or St. Andrews.—The hon. member, on the whole, considered the speech to be highly satisfactory, and hoped that not a member of the house would hesitate to respond the expressions and feelings of his Excellency, as therein displayed. Mr. C. concluded by strongly reprobating the attack made upon the hon. Chairman of the Committee of Accounts, by the hon. member for Gloucester, and stated his decided conviction that the duties of that office were performed in the most laborious and satisfactory manner, and that so far from the remuneration to that gentleman being a useless or extravagant expenditure, it was one of the most beneficially bestowed payments ever made to the house, since the labours of the hon. gentleman had been the means of saving thousands of pounds to the Province.

Mr. End, in reply, insisted that he had made no attack on Mr. Partelow, although he considered the money improperly given.

Mr. Street very lengthily commented on the speech. The hon. member particularly insisted on the facts, that the finances certainly were in a deranged state; that public servants and others depending on Treasury warrants, were suffering in consequence very severely, and that public works, such as roads, &c., could not be attended to for want of money.—The hon. member responded to the suggestions of the speech relative to schools and the sufferers at Madawaska, and then proceeded to state his opinion that the numbering of warrants was not in itself the cause of the present pecuniary difficulties, but that probably it proceeded from the change having been too abruptly made. He observed, that by law, the mode of payment of the warrants was left to the discretion of the Executive. Whether they had exercised that discretion properly or improperly was another question; but he (Mr. S.) thought it better that the payment of warrants should proceed in some regular and definitive manner, than that it should be left to the discretion of the Treasurer. In remedying any public evil or inconvenience, if it had existed for some time, the alternative might lead to some temporary embarrassment. The old system he considered to have been an evil: the Executive had attempted to remedy it, but they had done it rather too abruptly; and perhaps, some notice of their plan should have been first given to the public. The hon. member concluded with some few deprecatory remarks on smuggling.

Mr. Kinnear thought the speech should be unanimously considered as calm, conciliating and gratifying. It contained some highly important facts, to which the House had long and anxiously looked forward.—The hon. mem. then contrasted the view taken in the speech of the state of the finances, with that relative to the progress of trade and commerce; and observed that if the Lieut. Governor had taken a gloomy view of the matter, the hon. mem. who opened the debate had taken a glowing one; and therefore the House might come to a conclusion to look at it at all events in a cheerful manner.—The pecuniary embarrassments of the country came from themselves alone. The speech drew the attention of the House to "a well ordered economy." If there had been a well ordered economy in former years, the House would now have received no such lesson in that speech; nor would there now exist such distress among the people from the nonpayment of their warrants, and the infamous system of "shaving" them, which so much prevailed. He (Mr. K.) hoped, that for the future the House would accept such a system of economy; and, as far as possible, bring down what is extravagant to what is reasonable; and that if they did with regard to themselves, he hoped they would be met in another quarter with the same disposition to economy. If they all paid a due attention to economy, and an absence of extravagance in salaries, then all would go hand in hand, to join in the recommendations contained in that part of the speech. The hon. member then, at some length, corroborated the statements respecting the commercial embarrassments in St. John, and the great inconvenience occasioned by the numbering of warrants, not only among Merchants, but also by Schoolmasters, Commissioners of Roads, &c. Still, he would not cast the odium of this transaction on the Executive. All were liable to error; and if the house committed an error in judgment, the Executive might as well fulminate their reproaches on them for such mistake, as the house hurl its invectives on the Executive for their error. The house gave the money to the King: the King, by his representative, has the sole right of issuing the warrants, and directing the mode of payment, at his discretion, according to the state of the funds in the Treasurer's hands. Suppose the numbering system had been adopted; and the Executive, knowing that only a certain sum was in the Treasury, had selected what warrants he pleased for payment first. There was nothing to prevent such a course: a discretion must be left somewhere, and it was therefore, perhaps, better, that it should be exercised by the advice of several than by the sole authority of one. The house, then, in such case, should not captiously object to that which, altho' erroneous, and inconvenient in practice, yet, under all the circumstances, might be considered as the exercise of a sound discretion.—The hon. member then proceeded to state as causes of the present public embarrassment, the demand for a particular kind of coin at the Custom House, the lessening of discounts at the Bank of New-Brunswick, &c.; strenuously insisted on the necessity of general retrenchment; expressed his desire for a remedy against the demoralising pursuit of smuggling; and urged upon the Committee the duty and advantages of carefully providing for the proper education of youth; in doing which, the hon. member adverted to the fact, that a Bill for the regulation of Parish Schools, which included exactly such a salutary provision as that recommended in His Excellency's Speech, actually passed the house last session, but was lost in another quarter; and he therefore suggested, that in the reply of the house to his Excellency, that fact should be fairly stated.

Mr. Speaker, in a long and eloquent Speech, (of which our time and space allow us only to give a compendium), animadverted on the various topics mentioned in his Excellency's speech. The hon. Speaker particularly insisted on the fact, that pecuniary embarrassments do exist in the country to a great degree, and that Treasury warrants can only be disposed of at a very great discount; and he contended that the only way to remedy the evil, was, for the house to lessen its appropriations. He also commented on the statements made by Mr. Partelow, and expressed his apprehensions, that the hon member was more sanguine in his ideas respecting the state of the Finances, than their actual condition would warrant. The hon. Speaker observed, that the payments into the Treasury from the various Deputy Treasurers, had of late been very promptly made, and that it was to be expected that in a very short time all that was due from them would be remitted; and then took occasion to enquire, how it could happen, that warrants were at so great a discount, and that monied men would not invest their capital in such securities, if the Finances were in so favourable a state as had been represented?—He considered the embarrassment to be much greater than Mr. Partelow apprehended, and attributed it chiefly to the improvident appropriations of the House in former Sessions. He contended that the present distress had the effect of grievously depressing the poor, and putting money into the pockets of the rich; because the former were compelled by necessity to sell their warrants at any price they could obtain, while the latter were enabled to purchase them at an enormous profit; and he insisted, that the proper remedy for these evils was, for the House to retrench their expenditure and to increase their revenue, by a small duty on British Merchandize.—The hon. Speaker was inclined to think that the numbering of warrants had nothing to do with the present embarrassment; if there had been sufficient funds in the Treasury, and no such improper and lavish appropriations as had been made, there would have been no necessity for numbering them. The Executive must have been aware of the want of money in the Treasury, and had therefore exercised a discretion in regulating the payment of warrants: that discretion was vested in the Executive, and he (Mr. Speaker,) thought the present system much better than the old one. Under the old system of issuing warrants from time to time, the persons entitled to them never had any certainty of the time when they should obtain them: but were frequently obliged to send or travel to Fredericton in vain, because the Council had not authorised their issue; so that those who resided or had friends at Head Quarters, would generally obtain their warrants first, even for the current year, while those at a distance could not even obtain those which were due in preceding years.—The house had empowered him (Mr. Speaker,) to mention the subject to his Excellency, but had suggested no plan for its improvement: on conferring with his Excellency on the matter, it was agreed that it would be far better to issue the whole of the warrants at once, so that all might have an equal chance of negociating them; and he (Mr. Speaker,) had no doubt, that if a plan to regulate the order of their payment, according to the funds in the Treasury, had been suggested by the House, his Excellency would cheerfully have complied with it.—The hon Speaker suggested the propriety of omitting for the future, in the Appropriation Bills, the clause directing the warrants to be issued "*by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council*;" he thought it would be better that nothing should be left to be done, after the law was enacted, but for the Executive to carry into effect the intention of the law, according to his own discretion and authority, which would render any such regulation unnecessary. The hon. Speaker concluded with some observations relative to the coin required in payment at the Custom House, and the frequent difficulty of getting Dollars, because the Bank often found it more advantageous to import other coins, which were also a legal tender.

Mr. Weldon coincided in the views of those who attributed the present embarrassment to the improvident appropriations of the house; contended that the unsaleableness of warrants evinced a want of capital and circulating medium in the country; that the numbering of warrants was, under the circumstances, the necessary result of the discretion vested in the Executive; that retrenchment was the only remedy for the present distress; that part of the public debt had already been discharged; and that the hon. member for Gloucester was totally in error in supposing that any warrants for grants before the adoption of the numbering system, were still unpaid. The hon. member also briefly alluded to various other parts of the speech, and particularly coincided in Mr. Chandler's views respecting the establishment of a Custom House Officer at the head of the Bay of Fundy. He congratulated the house on the probability of a favorable settlement of the Casual Revenue question; strongly deprecated the present system of licensing parish schoolmasters, alluded to the Bill passed last year for its amendment, and lost elsewhere, and expressed his wishes for the improvement of that system; and in conclusion, alluded to the good feeling evinced by his Excellency in the concluding paragraph of his speech, and urged upon the house the necessity of meeting it with cordiality and reciprocal good will.

Mr. Wyer considered the speech on the whole as highly gratifying. The hon. member advocated the absolute necessity of retrenchment, beginning with the Members' pay; including reductions in the Militia expense, the College grants, &c.; and extending to other appropriations generally. He then proceeded to animadvert strongly on the subject of contraband trade, which he considered to have greatly increased since the abolition of the Revenue Cutter, and he attributed the great decrease of the Revenue at St. Andrews, from £8000 to £3000, chiefly to this cause. The hon. member stated, that a Merchant in Eastport lately told him that he had sold 10,000 barrels of flour within the last year, and that he had no doubt most of it went up the Bay and paid no duty. He attributed the pecuniary embarrassments principally to over-trading, the want of a sufficiency of circulating medium, and the payment of dollars at the Custom House; expressed his satisfaction with various parts of the speech, such as that relative to the Casual Revenue, and concluded by urging the necessity of retrenchment and of efforts to liquidate the public debt.

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Mr. Partelow observed, in reply to several hon. members, that the sum of £5000, last borrowed by the Province, had been repaid, and then moved, that that part of his Excellency's speech, relative to the state of the finances, be referred to a Committee, to report thereon to the house; which was resolved accordingly.

The Committee then reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again; after which, a Finance Committee was appointed; and another Committee, to report on that part of the speech relative to schools.

[Want of time and space obliges us to omit the remainder of this debate for the present.]

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

Monday, February 3.

Ordered, that Mr. Weldon, Mr. Kinnear, and Mr. Allen, be a Committee to prepare the Address of the House, in answer to his Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. Simonds, by leave, presented a petition from Jacob Townsend and many others, Tradesmen of the City of Saint John and its vicinity, praying for protection by an increase of duty on certain manufactured articles imported from the United States: which he read. Ordered, that the said petition be received, and lie on the table.

Tuesday, February 4.

Mr. Kinnear, by leave, presented a petition from John Ward, sen. Ralph M. Jarvis, James Hendricks, and upwards of 400 others of the City and County of Saint John, praying that an Act may pass for the establishment of a new Bank at the said City of Saint John, to be called *The Commercial Bank of New Brunswick*;