

and the thermometer about zero. The mornings have been remarkable, of late, for those dense fogs which sometimes rise out of and settle along the St. Lawrence in frosty weather.

Some assert that there was a slight shock on Tuesday morning last. Several are of opinion that what was felt yesterday morning was more a concussion of the atmosphere than an earthquake.

Extract of a letter from St. Michel, county of Bellechasse, 9th February, 1837.—

"At a quart after three o'clock in the morning, the west part of the firmament being covered with a dense cloud, like that which usually precedes a thunder storm, and the east being sprinkled with stars, a violent shock of an earthquake proceeded from the westward, and lasted only about two seconds. The upper part of my house was so much shaken as to awake and alarm the whole family."—*Quebec Gazette Feb 10*

FOR THE BEE.

MR EDITOR,

Sir,—I am happy to see by your last paper, that the patriotic Howe proposes bringing in a measure to the House of Assembly for the introduction of *Vote by Ballot*. This would be a step in the road to reform, than which a more salutary one has not been taken. There is no doubt but it will have to encounter a strenuous opposition from the tory side, being aware it would go far to counteract their deep-laid schemes, for personal aggrandisement, and domineering of arbitrary rule; but from the spirit manifested in the case of the Chaplain, and the evident numerical superiority of the reform members, unless a dissolution of the House prevent it for a time, it is likely to pass; and if this high measure is resorted to, if I am not much deceived, it would have a tendency to strengthen the reform side. As the law era is now passing away, the mists that have obscured our political horizon will be dissipated, and the sun of common sense will irradiate the mind, and direct to that which will promote their own and the country's best interests.

Were the benefits likely to result from this measure not so obvious, I might here point them out; but I have no wish to fill up your useful paper with that which I think unnecessary. Suffice it to say, that every Voter would then go to the hustings and exercise a constitutional right, without acting contrary to his judgment, or violating his conscience.

Some may think this would look like pantomime, —well, to conclude the scene, let some of the voters now and then express an opinion as to the qualifications of Candidates, and the duties to be performed by Members; and Candidates in turn express their political sentiments on subjects connected with the business in hand. Others may say, but Candidates would not know their friends, and they could not treat them. So much the better; every freeholder may spend a day once in four or seven years — and find himself — to promote the best interests of his country, without subjecting any one to expenses.

A doubt may prevail with some as to the possibility of doing the thing without knowing who the voters were for. I think it would not require any great stretch of genius to devise a plan, by which, even a possibility of detection might be avoided; — for instance, if there are two Candidates, let double the number of voters be ascertained, and the same number of pieces of pasteboard, say three fourths of an inch square, with a lazible circle printed upon one half, and a square upon the other; let one of each of these be given to each Voter, telling him that the one having the circle represents Mr —, and the one with the square Mr —, and that he is to put the one representing the Candidate he wishes returned into a box having an opening in the top, just sufficient to admit the Ballot. If there are three Candidates, then three tickets must be had for every voter.

If an Act for vote by Ballot were passed this session, it would in a great measure secure the services of the present House, as well as paving the way for the best in time to come. Gentlemen would not then calculate upon the weight of their purse, their ledger power, or the influence of their friends. They would know that intrinsic merit was the only passport to political power.

Yours truly,

OLD RUSTICUS.

Northern Settlement,
Colchester, Feb. 21, 1837 }

PUBLIC MEETING.

PICTOU, MARCH 10, 1837.

At a Meeting held this day, in the Court House, County of Pictou, in consequence of a Requisition addressed to John W. Harris, Esq., dated the 21st day of February last,—Robert McKay, Esq. was unanimously called to the Chair.

The following Resolutions were then passed by the Meeting:

Moved by Mr. George McDonald, seconded by Mr Alexander Fraser,

That the present mode of appointing persons to the Magistracy, without the previous nomination of the people, is contrary to its first institution, and at variance with the best interests of the people, inasmuch as they are thus rendered irresponsible to the public, whose interests it is their duty to preside over.

Moved by Mr James Dawson, seconded by Mr A. Fraser,

That persons nominated and appointed to the Magistracy, ought to have a pecuniary qualification, defined by law, as in England and some of her Colonies.

Moved by Mr George McDonald, seconded by Mr A. Fraser,

That the practice of holding Magistrates' Courts in private houses, in places where the people have provided Court Houses for the express purpose, is unconstitutional, and at variance alike with the usage of the Magistracy in the parent State and the rights of the people in this Province.

Moved by Mr John Chisholm, seconded by Mr Thomas Monro,

That the sittings of the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas, are an unnecessary and grievous burden to the People, and ought to be abolished; and that two sittings of the Supreme Court, one in January and the other in July, are quite competent to transact all the business of the County.

Moved by Mr A. Fraser, seconded by Mr J. Chisholm,

That the Business of the General Sessions should be gone into two weeks previous to the sitting of the Supreme Court in January.

Moved by Mr John Douglass, seconded by Mr Roderick McKay,

That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Petition to the Legislature, based on the foregoing Resolutions, and get it signed and forwarded to the Members from this County, as early as possible,—and that Robert McKay, Esq. and Messrs James and Robert Dawson be the foregoing Committee.

The Chairman having been requested to leave the Chair, and Edward Roach, Esquire having taken the same, it was moved by Mr James Dawson, and seconded by Mr Thomas Monro,

That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Robert McKay, Esq., for his conduct in the Chair.

E. ROACH,
Clerk to the Meeting.

Gleanings from our Latest Papers.

FOREIGN.

AFRICAN DISCOVERIES.—The Asiatic Journal for January, contains some account of the expedition recently undertaken by Dr. Smith and others from Cape Town, South Africa, into the interior of the Continent. It appears that the expedition penetrated almost as far as the tropic, found a very healthy climate, and returned in excellent condition, with an immense variety of drawings and specimens of natural history. The artist who furnished the zoological part of the collection, is said to have set out on this hazardous adventure in a state of health which hardly allowed a hope of his being able to reach the frontier of the Co-

lony, and to have returned a strong, robust, and healthy man. In the words of Sir John Herschel, he was, "a living and thriving proof of the salubrity of the country traversed." This is an important fact in reference to the African colonization. And yet colonizationists are charged with inhumanity in wishing to remove so many of our free colored people as are disposed to emigrate, from a country where they scarcely increase at all, and from cities where 1 in every 27 of them dies annually, to the fine and healthy countries in the land of their fathers.—Dr. Smith is about to set out on a new expedition into the interior, with a view to further more extensive researches.—*V. Y. Jour. Com.*

ATTEMPTED REVOLUTION AT HAYTI.—On Jan. 31st, Col. Isidor Gabriel, who commanded a regiment of carbiniers, raised the standard of revolt, and supported by his troops, attacked and took possession of the arsenal at Cape Henry, creating much consternation. The National Guard and the other troops, however, continued faithful to the government, and retook the arsenal, after a severe engagement, and dispersed the rebels.

The king of Prussia has recently issued ordinances, of the persecuting nature, against the Jews; which have given great dissatisfaction to his more enlightened subjects. The king is said to be affected with a religious mysticism that grows upon him continually; in other respects his intellect is unimpaired.

THE NOBILITY OF ENGLAND.—The Marquis of Waterford, was carried before the London Police lately for *drunkenness*—his excuse was that he had been to a dinner. Fined £5.

A Society has been formed in Newry, for promoting the literary improvement of young men. It is entitled, "The Newry Scientific and Literary Society."

AMERICAN.

LIFE IN NEW YORK.—It is easier to write about living in New York, than to find the means of doing it. Rents have universally gone up from 30 to 50 per cent. Flour is *fifteen dollars per barrel*, and the prices at market this day, were as follows:

Beef	12½ to 15 cts. per lb.
Corned do	10 cents.
Mutton	17 to 19 cents.
Veal	18 cents.
Turkey, from	25 cents per lb., equal to \$2 a \$3 a piece.
A Goose	\$2
A pair of Chickens,	\$2

NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXPENSES OF THE DELEGATES.—The Legislature have paid Messrs. Crane and Wilmoit's Bill of expenses, &c., incurred in their late mission to Great Britain, amounting to the small sum of £1,800 and £50 interest. And they have authorized the President and Directors of the Central Bank to advance £1,200 for the present trip.

The Hon. Joseph Canard has entered his protest against these extraordinary and most extravagant grants. — *Miramichi Gleaner*,—March 7.

MR MUTTER'S Fifth Rhetorical Entertainment will take place at the Masonic Hall on Thursday next.—*St. John, N. B. Observer*, March 7.

QUEBEC.

Another extraordinary storm occurred on the 25th 26th, and 27th December, during which the quantity of snow that fell was so great as to interrupt, for some time, the communication by the mail coaches.—*Gazette*, February 17.