The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 19, 1850.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.—A petition was last week circulated in this City for signatures, to be presented to the Legislature, praying that an Act may pass during the present session, for the Registering of persons qualified to vote at elections for Members of the House of Assembly. Such an amendment to our Election Law is much required, —it would remedy many evils existing under the present Law, and prevent loss of time in questioning and swearing of voters at the polls, as none would then be allowed to vote whose names were not found entered in the Books as duly qualified electors. This system has been in successful operation in the United Kingdom ever since the passage of the Reform Bill.--We trust that the measure may become the law of the land during the present session of the Legislature, and be in operation at the next General Election.

There is a Bill now before the United States Senate for allowing reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States —Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are not included in the Bill.

SHEPODY COAL.—The Gas Company is now making an experiment with a quantity of Shepody Coal, recently brought to market, which, though light in weight, is stated to contain a large quantity of gas. Should the experiment prove favorable, the coal will, of course, be in demand, and become a valuable article of export from that portion of the Province, and be a source of general advantage.

The rains and sunny days of the last fortnight, have broken up the sleighing in and about the City, and wheel carriages are now in requisition. The roads in some parts of the country are also, we learn, in bad condition for travelling. It has rained almost incessantly since 11 o'clock last night to the present hour, 4 P. M., and still continues.

MISSING STEAMER.—The steamer *Falcon*, which left Halifax, on the 23d January, for St. John's, Newfoundland, had not arrived there on 3d instant, and has not been heard of at any other place.—*By Telegraph to News Room this morning.*

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARIES.—The Anniversary meetings of the Saint John, Portland, and Carleton Branches of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, for the New Brunswick District, were commenced in the Wesleyan Churches in the above places on Sunday last, when appropriate Sermons were preached by the Rev. Messrs Crosscombe, Temple, Knight, Henniger, and Daniel.—The Anniversary meetings of the Society will terminate on Thursday evening next. Last evening, the annual meeting was held in Carleton; this evening, the meeting is to be held in Germain-street Church; to morrow evening, in the Centenary Church; and on Thursday evening, in Portland Church.

A Public Tea Meeting is to be held in the Lecture Room of the Centenary Church, on Friday evening.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt, by Mail, yesterday, from Miramichi, of a pamphlet, containing the Annual Report of the Northumberland Agricultural Society for 1849 -50. We will probably make some extracts from it in a future number

We have commenced publishing, on our first page, Professor Johnston's late lecture at Syracuse, New York, giving a sketch of the state of Agriculture in Europe. It will occupy a portion of two or three more papers, and will, we think, be found very interesting

The Rev. Mr. Casewell has given notice of a lecture on HISTORY, to be delivered by him this evening, at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute—being, it is understood, the first of a course on Historical subjects.

Mr. BENNISON, it will be seen by advertisement, will repeat the Concert of his Juvenile Singing Class, to-morrow evening, at St. Stephen's Hall. We trust he may have a full house.

FOG BELL.—We are happy to learn from the *Chronicle*, that the Machine for ringing a Fog Bell, so as to give timely warning to vessels approaching rocks or shoals, by Mr. Thomas Robson, of Sackville, Westmoreland County, has been favorably received by the Nova Scotia Light House Commissioners, as well as the Legislature of that Province, and that it is now under the consideration of the Commissioners for this Province.—We hope that an invention calculated to lessen the dangers of our foggy shores will meet with the attention it deserves. It has also, we hear, been laid before the Governor of Newfoundland, and well received by him, as also in the United States.—The inventor assures us that all he requires to insure its full success, is a fair trial. We trust our Legislature will suitably encourage this very important invention.

NEW GAS LIGHT.—Dr. Gesner, of Nova Scotia, who is now in New York, has, it is stated, succeeded in obtaining a new and brilliant Gas Light from bitumen, or asphaltum, (mineral pitch,) which article is said to be inexhaustible in Trinidad and other West India Islands. Dr. G. has made several highly successful experiments with it in New York, in the presence of numbers of persons, and has obtained a patent right for the discovery in the United States. It is said to be much cheaper, and possesses other important advantages over gas produced from coal or other substances.

The steamers *Admiral* and *Maid of Erin* are advertised to resume their trips between this City, and Eastport and Boston, on Thursday the 28th instant, on which day the Maid of Erin is to leave for Eastport, to meet the Admiral. The latter steamer is to leave Boston on the 26 h, for Eastport, via Portland and Bangor.

PROTECTION.—We are pleased to learn that the Mechanics, Manufacturers, and Fishermen, are bestirring themselves to get protection for their respective interests. There was a large meeting we understand last Saturday and Thursday evenings, of these classes, wherein with great unanimity resolutions were passed to petition for protective dutive that would prevent the Province from being inundated with English and Foreign merchandize, while our own people cannot get sufficient employment. We wish them all success.—*Chronicle.*

The brig Osceola, Baker, from New York, arrived at Chagres 26th ult. with tools and materials for the Panama Rail Road Company, sufficient to keep in employ 700 men.

The Prayer of Jesus for the Oneness of his People; being the Substance of Discourses delivered in St. Stephen's Hall, in the City of St. John, by the Rev. JOHN THOMSON, A. M., *Minister of the Free Church of Scotland.*—A Pamphlet bearing this title has been issued from our press during the present week, and is for Sale at the Book Stores. The subject is one which must commend itself to all right-thinking persons, and is ably handled by the talented author. We may therefore anticipate an extensive demand for the work.—*Courier.*

We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a copy of the above pamphlet.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Information having lately been obtained by the Police authorities that a number of petty thefts had been committed about the City, more particularly about the stores on the wharves, and on board the steamboats which are laid up at present, a number of small articles of brass, copper, and iron having been taken from Mr. Whitney's boats, a clue was got to the parties, and warrants issued for their apprehension. On Tuesday morning last five boys and one girl were taken up on the charge, and afterwards examined before the Stipendiary Magistrate, but it appears that a boy named Felix McQuade, is still at large, who is supposed to be the leader of this gang of young thieves. The names of those taken were John McEver, Frederick Dorman, Charles Downey, Thomas Rostage, Patrick Linachan, and Sarah Downey,—the two latter have been discharged, the other four have been committed for further examination. A great many of the stolen articles were found on the premises of Miles McCullough, Lower Cove, whose name has already been before the public in rather a bad light, and who made his escape to the States, it is supposed, while his premises were being searched, as also on the premises of Patrick Joice, York-Point, who is now in custody, and who will be tried as the receiver of stolen goods.

We think the Province is well rid of such a character as McCullough, who has thus voluntarily expatriated himself, and saved the Attorney General some trouble in bringing him to justice, it being evident that he is much more to blame than the boys, who he encouraging them in their nefarious practices, which, no doubt, he were, if persisted in, to lead them to the gaol, if not worse, before they would be much older.—*Ib.*

THE IMPORTS OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.—The value of imports into this Province the past year, as shewn by the Custom House returns, on which duties were paid, amounted to £530 884; the duties on which reached the sum of £57,922. The value of imports in 1848, amounted to £477,882, and the duties to £53,216. The amount collected at this port last year reached the large sum of £51,325, and the balance of over £16,000 at the other ports.

Among the articles imported on which duty was paid, were 62,961 barrels Flour, 17,713 lbs Leather, 3960 lbs Apples, 113,377 lbs. Soap, 26,666 lbs. Butter, 14,292 lbs. Cheese, 315,240 lbs. Tobacco, 100,845 lbs. Coffee, 447,147 lbs. Tea, 415,043 gallons Molasses, 20,662 cwts. Sugar. In the articles of Wine and Spirits a large decrease has taken place as compared with the previous year. The proceeds of seizures made at this port, mostly Spirits, amounted during the past year to £2275; one half of which sum goes to the seizing officers, and the other half to the Province.—*New-Brunswicker.*

ST. JOHN SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—Mr. Reynolds, the enterprising projector of this undertaking, has every prospect of being enabled to commence and carry through his plan for putting a Bridge over the Falls. About one half the stock (£10,000) has already been taken up, and a petition has been forwarded to the Legislature, praying that the Province will aid the work, either by a grant of money, or by taking stock on the same terms and conditions as the other stockholders. We trust Mr. Reynolds will meet with that encouragement at the hands of the Legislature which the importance of the undertaking demands.—*Ib.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT AT LITTLE RIVER, ANTIGONISHE.—The dwelling house of Mr. Thos. Gorman, of Little River, was totally destroyed by fire, on the night of the 31st ult.; and melancholy to relate his four eldest children perished in the flames.—The youngest child (the only one remaining) was carried through the burning mass by its mother, who has been so badly burned that but faint hopes of her recovery are entertained.—*Novascotian.*

THE LORD BISHOP OF NOVA SCOTIA.—We regret to learn that the health of the Lord Bishop has manifested no improvement during the past week. It is hoped, by the Divine blessing, that the present genial weather and his excellent constitution, notwithstanding his advanced age, will again restore him to his accustomed vigour and great usefulness in the Church.—*Halifax Church Times.*

SUPREME COURT, HILARY TERM, 13 VICTORIA.—Samuel H. Gilbert, Esquire, one of the Attorneys of this Court, is called to the Bar, and admitted, sworn and enrolled a Barrister.

Daniel Ferguson, Edward B. Chandler, Jun., A. B., and Edwin J. Jacob, A. M., having produced the requisite certificates, and having been examined as to their fitness and capacity, are admitted, sworn, and enrolled Attorneys of this honorable Court.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

TUESDAY, February 12.—On motion of Mr. R D. Wilmot, the House went into a Committee of the whole, on a Bill to place the South Bay Canal under the control of the Commissioners of Highways.

The Hon. Mr. Rankin pointed out the South Bay Boom Company as the parties most interested, and therefore most likely to see that no obstructions were suffered to remain in the canal.

After some further discussion the Bill was reported as agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

A Bill to authorise the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry of Saint Mary's Church, Richibucto, to sell certain lands, and invest the proceeds in other lands, was committed and agreed to.

After a number of Petitions had been presented, and other matter disposed of, the House went into a Committee of the whole, in further consideration of the Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

Mr. End opened the debate in a Speech of some length, and concluded by moving an amendment to the 6th paragraph of the Address, which had been passed over on the previous day. This amendment omitted any expression of hope that the fears entertained, as to the effect of the repeal of the Navigation Laws, would be found groundless, and expressed in direct terms the opinion of the House, that foreigners should not be admitted to the privileges of British registry, unless on reciprocal terms.

The Hon. the Attorney General explained his views, with respect to the construction which they must put upon the 5th section of the recent Navigation Act, contending that for the purposes of that Act, all colonies deemed and taken to be neighboring colonies could unite together, and by an address to Her Majesty procure the power of erecting themselves into one colony for the purposes of this act.

Mr. Ritchie doubted whether the honorable and learned Attorney General was right in his views, with respect to the Imperial Act. His opinion was that the scope of that act was to enlarge the privileges of foreigners, while the construction which the hon. and learned Attorney General put upon the act would go to restrict them more than ever. It had been shewn yesterday that foreign vessels could, under the old law, take in a cargo at St. John and discharge it at Halifax, load at Halifax and go down to the West Indies, and so on, but if the learned Attorney General's views were correct, they could, under the new act, prevent the Americans from having this privilege, by addressing Her Majesty to declare the North American Colonies one colony, for the purpose of preventing the trade in foreign bottoms. He (Mr. R.) might be wrong, but he did think that this had been the intention of the Imperial Legislature when passing the clause referred to.

After a good deal of discussion, Mr. End's amendment was carried without a division.

The following is the original paragraph in the Address of the Assembly, to which Mr. End proposed an amendment:

"Having ourselves participated in the fears alluded to by Your Excellency as to the effect of the recent important change in the Navigation Laws of the Mother Country on the Trade of this Province, we hope, with Your Excellency, that those fears may prove groundless; but although we are ready to compete with any country in the building of Ships, and although we admit that the removal of restrictions on the cargoes of British Ships in Foreign Ports, may create an increased demand for our vessels, yet we should find a much greater stimulus to this important branch of our Provincial industry, of the liberality of the Imperial Government, in the admission of Foreign built vessels to British Registry, were reciprocated by those Foreign Countries to whom such advantages have been conceded."

The amendment, which was carried, is as follows:

"The important alterations which the Navigation Laws of the Mother Country have recently undergone, have excited very general apprehensions as to their effect on the trade of New-Brunswick. We must admit that we greatly participate in these apprehensions, and should rejoice if our experience of the past and our knowledge of the true interests of this Colony, would permit us to sympathise in the hope expressed by Your Excellency, that those fears may prove groundless. It may be expected that increased trade may be the result of the removal of restrictions on the cargoes of British Ships in Foreign Ports, but we would strenuously urge that the Imperial Government, in justice to the Colonies, should insist that the admission of Foreign vessels to the advantages of British registry should in all cases be contingent on the fullest and most unequivocal reciprocity."

The paragraphs relating to the Canadian Boundary Line then came up for discussion.

Mr. End expressed his entire dissatisfaction with the position in which that matter stood. God made the land, man made the line, and why should the act of man mar the work of God. There could be no reasonable argument shewn why New Brunswick had not been put in possession of her undoubted right long ago.

Mr. Brown followed on the same side, tracing the history of the Nova Scotia Boundary Line from 1759 to 1763, and from that time up to the present. If any portion of the territory in dispute was to be given up to the Canadians, he, for one, would be prepared to break up the bargain about the £14,500 guaranteed to Her Majesty for the payment of the Civil List.—Mr. Brown concluded by a very lively description of the superiority of the soil in that part of the country.

Mr. Connell followed, complaining in strong terms of the injustice done to the County of Carleton by the protracted delay which had occurred in settling this dispute.

Mr Fisher vindicated the Government in a speech of some length, and demonstrated that the House could not attach any blame to the Executive of this Province for the delay which had taken place, adding, that strong as the language used by hon. members, in discussing this subject, had been, he might say that it was no stronger than the language used by the Executive Council in their representations to the Home Government.

Mr. Tibbits spoke at considerable length of the injustice to lumberers as well as settlers, which arose from leaving this an open question, and blamed the Surveyor General of this Province as the cause of the Canadian interference, adding, that if that gentleman had not refused to grant lands on that territory when applied for, they would have heard nothing of the Canadian claim.—*Head Quarters Reports.*

On Tuesday the House was employed for several hours in the discussion of certain resolutions and amendments introduced, in lieu of the paragraph introduced by the Government relating to the repeal of the Navigation Laws. Mr. End submitted no less than three Resolutions, condemnatory of the policy of the Home Government, and amended himself in rapid succession, in order to produce something yet more applicable to the subject. It was finally agreed that the clause should stand open till Wednesday, when Mr. End brought in a new paragraph which passed without a division. The House then proceeded with the Reply, and little discussion took place till they arrived at the *Initiation* paragraph, which brought up a host of opinions on either side, the anti-Initiationists being no doubt, like the Protectionists, the stronger party. It was however finally agreed that the consideration of this subject should be postponed for an abstract discussion, and the paragraph in the reply, which is perfectly non-committal, was passed.

On Wednesday a pretty long discussion took place on the subject of Public printing, and the Reports of the Debates; and at the suggestion of the hon. Mr. Partelow, a Select Committee of five was appointed to take the latter subject under consideration, and report thereon. Yesterday the above Committee reported to the effect that three Reporters, two for the House of Assembly, and one for the Council, be employed at a remuneration of £60 each; and that five hundred copies of these reports —to be taken by tender—be published tri-weekly, 500 copies of the Journals of the House being curtailed, in order to defray the expense. The House after transacting a good deal of routine business, afterwards proceeded with the "Reply" to Government House, and on their return adjourned. The Legislative Council also delivered their Response to the Speech at the same time and place, and shortly after adjourned for the day.—*Fred. Reporter, Friday.*

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13.—A Bill to incorporate the Shediac Grindstone Manufactory and Mining Company, passed a third reading. It was ordered to be engrossed and sent to the Council for approval.

Mr. Ritchie presented a petition from the Rev. Robert Irvine and others connected with the Presbyterian Church in the City of St. John, praying a restoration of the Legislative grant which was withdrawn from the Seminary in connexion with that Church.

In presenting the Petition, Mr. Ritchie bore strong testimony to the efficiency and respectability of the School for which the grant was asked. He (Mr. R.) had visited the School several times, and he could say that the manner in which the Institution was conducted was highly creditable to the Teachers and Pupils.

On motion of Mr. R. D. Wilmot the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on consideration of the Bill to provide for the better extinguishing of fires in the City of St. John.

Mr. Wilmot felt happy to say that the fire organization of St. John was in a very efficient state. It was equal to any in the Provinces or the United States, nay, perhaps as perfect as any in the world. The different fire companies were well organized, and they invariably evinced promptitude and activity, not to be excelled, whenever occasion required their services. His (Mr. W's) object in bringing in the Bill was, to give the Firemen more local control and to prevent undue interference in cases of Fire. Bill passed and was ordered to be engrossed.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15.—Mr. Brown moved a resolution (which was adopted) that a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration all matters relating to the Finances of this Province.

Mr. Street presented a Petition from the justices of the peace for the County of Northumberland, praying the House to pass an act to authorise them to levy taxes to pay off the County debt; also a petition from the Directors and others, connected with the New Castle and Douglas Town Mechanics' Institute, praying for aid to enable them to purchase books and apparatus for the use of the Institution, and to incorporate their society. After some debate the petition was received.

Hon. Mr. Partelow moved a resolution that the house go into a Committee of the whole on Thursday next, for the purpose of granting supplies for the public service.

Mr. J. Earle presented three petitions, each praying the house to reject any steps that may be taken to establish the system of supporting the Parish Schools by taxation.

On motion of Mr. Ritchie the house went into a Committee of the whole, to consider the Bill to amend and improve the proceedings and practice of the City Court of St. John.

Mr. R. explained some of the clauses of the new Bill, which he considered an improvement. He wished to have the Bill simplified, so that its meaning may be clearly understood. At the time the New Charter was passed, the practice of the City Court was much simplified, which was found to work tolerably well. Yet he (Mr. R.) knew that many injurious consequences attend the present proceedings of the City Court. His object in bringing in the present Bill, was to render that practice more simple, and to make it applicable to the good of all.—Mr. R. also explained his reason for altering another clause in the Bill now in force. He did not consider it right that a lawyer, in conducting a case, should act as evidence in the same case. Yet such was the practice for some time, even in the higher Courts of the Province. He (Mr. R.) wished to do away with such a course. It would often be difficult for a Jury to distinguish between what a Barrister said when pleading and what he said when sworn as evidence in the case then being tried. After some amendment the Bill passed a second reading and was ordered to be engrossed.—[The Bill passed its third reading on Saturday, and was sent to the Council for concurrence.—This Bill, we learn, was prepared by George Wheeler, Esq., Common Clerk, and is intended to effect some very desirable reform in the City Court.]

Mr. Ritchie moved a resolution that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, praying that the Commissioners of Bankrupt Courts throughout the Province be required to send in returns of all the Bankrupt cases that have come before them, with the particulars therewith connected.

The Bill to incorporate the Carleton Mechanics' Ship Builders and Navigation Company passed a second reading and was ordered to be engrossed. Several other smaller Bills passed a second reading.

Mr. Brown moved that on Friday the 22nd inst., the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on ways and means to raise a Revenue in this Province.

Hon. L. A. Wilmot presented several petitions, numerously signed, praying the House to pass an Act to amend and improve the Law relating to Parish Schools in this Province; also, to pass a Law for the support of Schools by taxation.

[The only grand move, for grand and noble I must call it, made in the House to-day, was the last series of Petitions presented by the Hon. L. A. Wilmot. The people are beginning to see that the only way to elevate the Educational Standard of their Country is by taxation; for never will that fundamental basis of a Country's greatness and moral character, popular Education, be extensively diffused in this Province until the taxation system be adopted.]—*Mr. McPherson's reports in Morning News.*

SATURDAY, Feb. 16.—The House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the local government of Towns and Parishes in this Province.

On the Bill being read, Honorable Attorney General moved that as many hon. members were engaged, the Committee report progress, and that further consideration of the Bill be made the order of the day for Monday. He (Hon. Attorney General) would then go fully into the Bill and explain its clauses in detail.

Hon. Mr. Hannington by leave brought in a Bill to amend the laws relating to the maintenance of Light Houses in the Bay of Fundy.—Read a first time.

Hon. Attorney General moved that an humble Address be prepared and sent to Her Majesty on the subject of the Navigation Laws, and that the Honable. the Legislative Council be requested to concur in the Address.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot presented a Petition from the Magistrates and other inhabitants of the City and County of St. John, praying the House to pass an act to amend the Law relating to the Alms House. Mr. W. asked for and obtained leave to bring in a Bill for that purpose. He (Mr. Wilmot) also presented a Petition from Mr. H. Gilbert and 323 others, praying for aid to establish a School for the education of deaf and dumb Children in the City of St. John.

The Bill to continue an Act entitled an Act for the punishment of persons guilty of trespass in the City of St. John, passed a second reading; also a Bill to authorise special Partnerships in this Province. On the latter Bill being read, Mr. Ritchie said he was always opposed to the passing of such a Bill, because he did not think it would work well. He thought it would operate to the injury of the Mechanic and working partner, when a failure occurred in ship-building and many other speculations. He therefore moved a resolution that the consideration of this Bill be postponed till this day three months.

Hon. Attorney General thought his learned friend did not understand the real nature of the Bill. The objections which he (Mr. R.) pointed out might arise in any other partnership concern now in existence. He (Attorney General) thought such a law would apply to this Province as well as to the United States, and there it was found to work admirably. Under such a system many persons would invest capital as special partners who would not do so as general partners.

Mr. Woodward, Mr. Boyd, and Mr. R. D. Wilmot supported the Bill.

The House then divided on Mr Ritchie's resolution, yeas 14, nays 17. The Bill passed a second reading.—Mr. Ritchie gave notice that he would divide the House on the 3d reading of the Bill.

A lengthy discussion then followed on Reporting and Printing the Debates, at the close of which Mr Ritchie asked the Speaker how the question stood?—His Honor replied, "Just as it commenced."—*Ibid, in New-Brunswicker this morning.*

[FROM THE JOURNALS.]

FEB. 14.—Mr. Steves, by leave, presented a Petition from Edward Stevens, J. E. Upham, and eighty-one others, inhabitants of the County of Albert and King's County, praying that the Road leading from Hopewell to Saint John, through Harvey, Hammond River, and Loch Lomond Settlements, may be established as one of the Great Roads of the Province.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and lie on the Table.—[A Bill to this effect was subsequently brought in and read a first time.]

Mr. Woodwark moved for leave to bring in a Bill to admit articles, the growth, production or manufacture of the United States of America, into this Province free of Duty, upon condition that articles, the growth, production or manufacture of this Province, are admitted into the United States free of Duty.—Leave granted.—The said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

Mr. Woodward moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize limited Partnerships in this Province.—Leave granted.—The said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

The Honorable Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from James Kirk, President of the New-Brunswick Marine Assurance Company, John Duncan, President of the Globe Assurance Company, Henry P. Sturdee, Agent for Lloyds, Thomas Leavitt, Agent for Liverpool and New York Underwriters, Thomas Reed, Harbour Master, Robert Rankin and Company, and eighty six others, Merchants, Ship-Owners, Branch Pilots, and inhabitants of Saint John, setting forth the great necessity that exists for establishing a Harbour of Refuge in the Bay of Fundy, and praying Legislative aid towards accomplishing that highly desirable object.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee of Trade to report thereon.

Mr. Ritchie, by leave, presented a Petition from William Parks and Son, Leveret H. Deveber and Son, Allison and Spurr, Robert Rankin and Company, N. S. Demill, W. G. Lawton, Jardine and Company, William O. Smith, John V. Thurgar, and one hundred and three others, Merchants and Traders of the City of Saint John, praying that in the framing of a Revenue Bill this present year, the rate of Duties, as in former years, of four per cent. and one per cent. may be imposed on British Merchandize, whereby the Trade may be preserved and a larger amount of Revenue raised.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and lie on the Table.

The Honorable Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from Thomas and James Philps, of the City of Saint John, praying Legislative encouragement towards establishing a Mill for the manufacture of Paper; and that the machinery imported for that purpose may be exempt from Duty.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and lie on the Table.

The Hon. Mr. Partelow, also by leave, presented a Petition from William K. Reynolds, of the City of Saint John, recommended by Edward Allison, William Livingstone, John V. Thurgar, James White, Joseph Fairweather, and one hundred and eighteen others, Merchants, Traders, and other inhabitants, setting forth, that under the Act of Incorporation of last Session, he had agreed to erect a substantial Bridge across the Falls, at the entrance of the River Saint John, near Split Rock, in the Parish of Portland, at a cost of Twenty thousand pounds; and that Stock to the amount of Ten thousand pounds has been already subscribed; and praying Legislative aid to encourage such a highly useful work.—*Ordered*, That the said Petition be received and referred to a Select Committee to report thereon; and further *Ordered*, That the Honorable Mr. Partelow, Mr. End, Mr. Botsford, Mr. Thomson, and the Honorable Mr. Rankin, do compose the said Committee.

MONTREAL, Feb. 7.—The *Herald* publishes another Address from the Annexationist Association of this city, to the people of Canada. The Association deny the right of the Colonial Secretary to offer by anticipation the decision of the British Government on a question that is not constitutionally before them, and a further desire to point out the danger that may hereafter arise, if the principle be once admitted, that the Queen's name and authority can be introduced to suppress the lawful discussion of any political question in the colony. They do not regard the expression of Earl Grey's opinion as conveying the decision of the British nation.

The Association reiterate that they seek the attainment of their object only with the free and willing consent of Great Britain; that they will never urge the subject by any other than calm appeals to the reason and intelligence of their fellow-subjects —first, in Canada, afterwards, in England, and that they have no sympathy with any that hold other sentiments than these.—*Telegraphed to Quebec Gaz.*

WEATHER IN CANADA.—The weather during the year 1850, thus far, surprises every body. It has been more like March in England than January in Canada. We have had but few cold days—hardly one in which it was necessary for comfort that a walker about town should don his overcoat. Jack frost has dealt too mildly with us for curler's vocations, and as for snow, we have not had enough to call out a single sleigh.—*Niagara Chronicle.*

FROM JAMAICA.—By the arrival of the Empire City we have copious files of Kingston papers to the 31st of January.

Complaint continues to be made, and loudly, of the little progress effected in the business of legislation. The extreme shortness of the daily session is particularized, as one principal cause of the enormous length to which the session proper is extended. The House meets, it appears, at 3 o'clock, p. m., and it is found impossible to prevent members from going to their dinners at 5; leaving only two hours daily for the transaction of business. Various remedies are proposed; among them the payment of members, at the rate of five dollars per day—but pay to be earned only by those who are present at prayers, and remain until adjournment; and the session to be limited to thirty days.

We do not see that anything of moment has yet been accomplished by honorable members.

The necessity of some change in the industrial arrangements of the island seems to command a large share of attention. The culture of cotton especially is much urged, and experiments upon it are announced as in progress. The culture of various esculents is also recommended--such as arrow-root, &c.; also, of ginger, honey, &c., &c.

We observe by an extract from the Barbados Agricultural Reporter, that danger is apprehended from the growing practice of using acetate of lead and sulphuric acid in the making of sugar. Deleterious compounds are formed, which it is difficult to separate entirely from the sugar. The Kingston Journal says that the practice is beginning to be adopted by the Jamaica planters. Perhaps our importers and refiners will have to look into this matter.

A lecture on "Jamaica and the United States," was read before the Colonial Library Society on the 17th of January, and is published at large in a subsequent number of the Journal, whose editor comments upon it at great length and with warm approbation. The lecturer's object seems to have been chiefly to stir up a spirit of enterprise among the islanders, to which end he expatiated in contrast of the activity, prosperity and progress of the Republic with the stagnation and troubles of the colony—tracing the difference almost exclusively to the aptitude and willingness of the Republicans for work, no matter of what nature, and to the indolence and want of energy prevailing among the colonists.

No little excitement of the quid nunc order was caused in Kingston about the close of January, by the discovery of small portions of quicksilver in digging for the foundations of a new market. The discovery was supposed to indicate a mine of the precious metal, but some of the "oldest inhabitants" remembered that this spot was formerly occupied by a Government wharf, where cargoes captured during the war were deposited until sold; that among these cargoes were quantities of quicksilver; and that leakage accounted for the particles found in digging.

The operation of the free navigation law was already becoming apparent; a Russian vessel had arrived from Bremen, and a Norwegian vessel from Norway.

The British brig of war Sappho, on shore at Salt Cay, near Belize, had been got off, and sailed for Port Royal.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—*Senate.*—Mr. Clay said that he was always willing to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia. He thought it was the duty of every man in the United States to desist from interference pending the recovery of fugitive slaves. This was a cause of complaint both north and south. He instanced the case of Massachusetts sending an agent to Charleston as a case of interference.

Mr. Davis vindicated Massachusetts.

Mr. Clay proceeded, and gave a history of the Missouri compromise. He said he was not its author. Mr. Benton, of Missouri, originated it. He preferred now to legislate on slavery on both sides of the line, which was better for the North and South than interdicting slavery on one side and remaining passive with regard to the other. He would not vote for the introduction of slavery where none existed now. He eloquently rehearsed the progress and enlargement of the country; her glorious military success, and eulogised General Taylor; but placed General Scott, in Mexico, above all generals, ancient or modern. The South had no cause to complain, for the North had made many concessions on the Bank and Protective Tariff, which were acceptable to the South. The North had quietly allowed the administration of several slave States; none seriously contemplated a dissolution of the Union. The South would gain nothing. War and dissolution were identical and inevitable. If peaceable at first, war would follow in 60 days after the dismemberment of the Republic. After which the new arrangement would begin with three confederacies—that of the North, another of the South, and the third in the valley of the Mississippi. His life upon it, such would be the result. Afterwards, perhaps, there would be a confederacy of the States of New England. For the Union he would stand and die, in defying all assaults made upon it. No power could sever the marriage of the States. Like man and wife, they should exercise forbearance in forgiving mutual faults. To break loose would lead to wars and trouble beyond precedent—aye, to wars of extermination. Some chieftain would arise and run the career of Napoleon, cut the Gordian knot and extinguish the liberties of the people. He implored and adjured them, by all they held dear in this world, by all the love they had for liberty, by all the veneration they had for their ancestors, by all the respect they had for their posterity, by the gratitude they owed to Him, who bestowed the countless blessings on all, by all the duties owed to mankind, and to themselves, and to one another, to solemnly pause as on the edge of a precipice, before taking the disastrous leap into the yawning abyss, never, never to return. God preserve the Union. If dissolution came, he should not survive the heart-rending struggle.—Breathless silence prevailed, occasionally interrupted by applause, suppressed by the President. Mr. Clay spoke two hours, and when he had finished the Senate adjourned.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, writing from Washington, says:—

"I can positively state from the most reliable information, that the Southern men, or a majority of them, are willing to admit California, on her own terms, provided that, in the same act, territorial governments are established, without any restriction of slavery. This will settle the whole question and forever, as far as territories are concerned. But this scheme they make their *sine qua non*. Without this measure they will do nothing else. To be sure they are willing to enter into any compromise; but no compromise has yet been suggested that can carry. Mr. Clay's scheme will get praise, but few votes. The above plan is a compromise that the North can agree to without detriment or concession. If that should be assented to, there will be nothing else necessary than to pass a bill respecting the surrender of fugitives from labor; and a bill preventing the introduction of slaves into this district for sale.

If the North give up the Wilmot Proviso, we shall have peace; if not, discord will reign, and reign forever.

I can state in the most positive manner that more than forty-five Southern men have resolved that no appropriation bills shall pass the House, (except for Revenue Collection and Census,) until the territorial question be settled. If there must be a collision, they say, the army and navy shall not be used against the South."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The President will to-morrow transmit to Congress the California State Constitution, and fiery speeches are expected.

Mr. Case and Mr. Webster both spoke in the Senate on Monday, upon a petition with regard to the dissolution of the Union.

THE NICARAGUA QUESTION.—We believe that there can be no doubt that this question is to be settled at Washington and not in London, but we do not think that much confidence is to be placed in statements that have found their way into print that a treaty has been already negotiated. There can be little doubt, however, after the expression of opinion with regard to differences with foreign nations in the President's Message, and the remarks of Mr. Lawrence in England, as to harmony and union between the two Governments in protecting mutually the rights of other nations, that the matter will be brought to a favorable termination.—*Boston Daily Adv.*

NEW YORK, Feb 9.—Seven more bodies have been recovered to-day from the ruins of the explosion, making 68; of whom 54 were identified. The exhumation will be completed to-morrow from appearances. From the position of the fallen ruins it would appear that the mass of the boiler, when it fell, lodged in the centre of the building, while portions were blown to the extreme ends. It is supposed that 12 more bodies still remain among the ruins. A committee are now engaged examining the boiler.

The Coroner's Jury on the circumstances attending the explosion, have returned a verdict to the effect that Taylor & Co. were the direct cause of the explosion.

Five thousand dollars have been subscribed for the sufferers by the late explosion in Hague street.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The steamship Empire City left this afternoon for Chagres, with 400 passengers.

The Ohio steamer left for the same place on the following day, with 247 passengers.

The steamer Cherokee arrived at New York last week, from Chagres, with $308,898 in gold dust.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12.—The original manuscript copy of Washington's Farewell Address was sold at auction this evening. It was started at $500, and was knocked down at $2300, to the Rev. Dr. Boardman, who purchased it for a gentleman at a distance.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 5.—The steam-ship Alabama, at this port, from Chagres, brings 93 passengers and $350,000 in California gold dust.

The New Orleans papers announce that a crevasse had occurred seven miles below Algiers, but it was not considered dangerous. The cholera made its appearance at Washington, La., and in four days nine of the white inhabitants had died from the disease.

ANOTHER AWFUL EXPLOSION.—The officers of the steamer Old Hickory, arrived this morning, report that the steamer St. Joseph, hence for St. Louis, burst her boilers on Wednesday morning last, when at Choctaw Island, killing, it is supposed, about twenty persons. After the explosion, the St. Joseph took fire and was destroyed.—*N. O. Picayune, 26th.*

QUICK PASSAGE.—The quickest passage on record to this port from Glasgow, Scotland, was recently made by the new ship Eudocia, Captain Bannerman, which arrived here in thirty days. Capt. B. first brought out the Zetland, previously to her being purchased by her present owner and commander, Capt. Brown. These vessels, with the St. Clair and the Themis, were built in New-Brunswick, and are models of beauty, within and without, being fitted up with great elegance. They are lying in the third Municipality.—[New-Orleans Picayune, Jan. 30.

At a recent election in Wisconsin, the question of free suffrage was voted upon, and decided in the affirmative; the vote showing 4,090 for, 3,603 against it. This establishes the right of every male citizen, of whatever colour, over the age of twenty-one years, to vote at all elections in the State.—*Louisville Courier.*

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—*A Smash.*—Ten freight cars on the Providence Rail Road, were literally smashed to pieces yesterday morning, in consequence of being thrown off the track, by the breaking of a wheel of one of the cars. Fortunately no person was injured.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER RHODE ISLAND.—The steamboat Rhode Island, formerly of the New York and Stonington line, was lost at sea on the voyage from New York to San Francisco. Nine of the crew and three of the passengers escaped in a boat, and were taken on board of the schooner Mary Wise, (of Thomaston) Capt. Crockett, from New York for St. Johns, P. R., from which they were transferred to the whaling bark Richmond, which arrived at this port yesterday morning. The remaining passengers and crew, thirty-two in number, were left on board the boat, which was in a sinking condition, and it is to be feared that they were lost, although they had one boat, and were cutting away the upper deck to make a raft when last seen. Three men were drowned in attempting to reach the boat, one of them was supposed to be Mr. Shewster, who had placed his wife in the boat, and failed to secure his own safety in it When the men arrived on board the schooner there was a brig in sight about four miles to the leeward It is possible that they may have seen the wreck, or that the crew of the steamboat may have reached her on the raft which they were making. The steamer left New York on 25th January.—*Providence Journal.*

CALIFORNIA.

The election for Governor of California, Representatives in Congress, Members of the first State Legislature, and other officers, took place in December, under authority of the Constitution ratified by the people of California on the 13th November last.—Peter H. Burnett, Esq., was elected Governor, and John McDougal, Lieut. Governor; John C. Fremont and Wm. Gwinn, Senators to U S. Congress: Geo. W. Wright and Edward Gilbert, Representatives in Congress, &c. The latter officers have arrived at New York in the Empire City, on their way to Washington.

GOVERNOR BURNETT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly:

I have been chosen by a majority of my fellow-citizens of the State of California to be her first Executive. For this proof of their partiality and confidence I shall ever retain a most grateful sense. To be chosen Chief Magistrate of California, at this period of her history, when the eyes of the whole world are turned towards her, is a high and distinguished honor, and I shall do all in my power to merit this distinction, by an ardent, sincere and energetic discharge of the weighty and responsible duties incident to the position I occupy.

Nature, in her kindness and beneficence, has distinguished California by great and decided natural advantages; and these great nat