British News.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—April 30.

CORN-LAWS—THE MINISTRY.

Lord John Russell rose amidst the most profound silence. The noble lord said:—My object in rising is to give notice that, on Monday, the 21st of May, I shall move that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the acts relating to the trade in corn.

This announcement called forth the most deafening cheers we never recollect to have heard; and as soon as one ebullition of feeling subsided, another or and another followed, each, if possible, more animated. Indeed, we never witnessed such a scene of animation in the House of Commons. During the noise that prevailed several remarks were made, but it was utterly impossible to hear the voice of the speaker.

In answer to an observation by Mr. Duncombe,

Lord J. Russell said he found the day that he had named for considering the corn-laws fell in the Whitsuntide holidays. He should therefore bring forward his resolution on the first day after the house re-assembled.

Lord. J. Russell asked if Lord Stanley intended to proceed with his Irish registration bill on Wednesday next?

Lord Stanley rose and approached the table, but what the noble lord said it was impossible to collect. The noise occasioned by the cheering on both sides of the house was so great, as to baffle all attempts at description.

Several notices of motion were given, but from the same cause they were not heard in the gallery.

Mr. Ewart presented a petition signed by 53,000 of the inhabitants of Liverpool and its neighborhood to the same effect, but more especially praying for the repeal of the corn laws.

Lord Francis Egerton expressed his astonishment not that the corn-laws were about to be repealed by a ministry whose chief had but lately declared such a step to be insanity, for he had lived too long in parliament to be surprised at such things—but that so momentous a matter should be postponed for five mortal weeks, instead of being brought on, as it ought to have been, at five o'clock next Monday.—He could conceive reasons for this delay, but they were too disgraceful to the government to be stated as he apprehended them.

Lord John Russell excused the delay on the ground that other important measures already before the house, especially the poor law committee, must not be impeded.

Lord Sandon demanded some immediate explanation of the nature of the proposed change in the corn-laws.

Lord J. Russell said that the proposition would embody the principle of a moderate fixed duty, and the question would be brought forward by the government as one upon which the cabinet was united

Sir R. Peel condemned the wanton and unnecessary suspense occasioned by the delay of Lord John's motion, and by the ambiguity as to whether it was expected to raise a revenue of £400,000 or £1,600,000 from corn. Unless Lord John consented to submit his motion at once he might be compelled, for the house would not make itself an instrument for agitation. With professions of retrenchment on entering office, and a surplus revenue, ministers would be left at the end of the present year with an accumulated deficit of £7,500,000, in the face of a rising revenue. If the opposition had voted for the estimates it could not share the responsibility of that state of the finances, for it might object to the *policy* which had rendered the estimates necessary. Mr. Baring's propositions might be very wise in themselves, but the immediate question was that of revenue; and how would the country be extricated from her difficulties if his expectations of increased production were disappointed?

Lord John Russell accounted for the large expenditure, partly by the necessity of making good the great deficiency of naval stores which ministers found on entering office; and the army expenditure had never been large enough for the requirements of the opposition, while they had sanctioned the policy which rendered an increase necessary in Canada and China. Lord John did not think that the moderate proposal of a fixed duty on corn would create such agitation as was apprehended.

LONDON, May 3.

STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE COUNTRY UNDER THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY.—The great battle of the Whigs and Conservatives has at length been fought, and the Conservatives have carried the victory. Up to the time at which we are writing, the universal question is, what will be the ultimate result of this great success of the conservative cause; will it be such as to transfer to them the reins of government, and, in the event of the full and entire resignation of Lord Melbourn, will the conservatives be enabled to form such a government as may be effective and durable? If the ministers should not dissolve parliament, will it not be necessary for the conservatives to resort to this expedient? At the present moment the political wind is so wavering and so changing from one quarter to the other, that it becomes almost impossible to form any opinion upon what point it will rest. All that can be done under circumstances and incidents varying with every hour, is, therefore, alternately to assume the two main points of the question, and examine what may be the expected result under each of the possible events now expected.

The first question is, whether the ministers will resign either with or without a dissolution, and if they should not resign, what will be their course in order to elude their present difficulties, and get through the present session of parliament. The second question is, supposing that the ministers should give in their full and entire resignation, what will be the course of the conservative leaders; first, as to accepting the administration and eluding the known difficulties which exist at the Palace, and secondly, in carrying on the government with the present House of Commons?

As to the first of these questions, premising, as we must do, that affairs may change even during the time at which we write, the general opinion at present is, that the defeat must at all events be fatal to the ministry. It will be seen in the columns which report the debate of Thursday last, that the subject of discussion was the second clause of the Irish bill, which was moved by Lord Morpeth. After re-urging all the former arguments for defining the franchise, and thus putting an end to the discontent and agitation under which Ireland is suffering, he called upon the house, with more than usual earnestness, to consent to the £8 qualification which was now proposed. He had now proved, he said, on a former evening that a test of profit, beyond rent and charges, would leave scarcely any constituency at all. The joint test proposed by Lord Howick would be equally objectionable; it would exclude all voters rated at £8 and upwards who had not a clear profit of £5 beyond all charges. The only course, then, for the government was to adopt the principle worked out in the present bill. They had changed their minds, indeed, and raised the qualification from £5 to £8; but such changes had been frequent with the most eminent statesmen; and this particular change was well warranted by documentary information, and by the desire of many to whom deference is due. The present proposal had this advantage—that it would enable a party having the right of an elector to obtain his franchise easily, and to keep it safely.

He was followed by Lord Stanley, who declared the resolute purpose of himself and brother conservatives, not to consent to a clause, the effect of which would be to make such a perilous augmentation of the radical constituency of Ireland. The conservatives were willing to take the rating as the test of value; but not to give the franchise on the gross value, without deduction of the outgoings and encumbrances. With respect to the question of losses, his own opinion was, that a leaseholder in arrear was more dependent on his landlord than an occupier of equal amount without a lease. But he would not argue that point; he would oppose the clause upon its general principle, &c. for the purpose of defeating the bill.

Lord Stanley was followed by Mr. O'Connell. He said, in substance, that he foresaw that the ministers would be defeated in the division, but he hoped that they would manfully bear up against such a discomfiture, as it would greatly strengthen them in Ireland. Ireland would never be peaceable, and the law would never have its proper authority there, until the government should consent to grant it a complete equality with England. Lord Stanley, beyond all other men of his age, was undoubtedly possessed of a double portion of talent; he was at once useful to his friends by his resolute and inflexible purpose of proceeding to any extremity, and he was still more useful to his adversaries by his personal imprudence and exaggeration, which had the effect of destroying all confidence in his arguments and statements. If Lord Stanley should continue resolved to vote against the interests of Ireland in all cases, he hoped he would also continue equally resolved to speak against them.

The house now became so clamorous for a division that it immediately took place, when the numbers were—for the clause, two hundred and eighty-nine; against it, three hundred; being a majority of eleven against the government.

Lord John Russell, who obviously had expected this result, followed the announcement of the majority by declaring his purpose to withdraw the bill. But his opinion would still remain immoveable, that no future bill would be useful without a definition of the franchise. The bill, however, if there was to be a bill, must now pass into other hands, and they must follow their own course. It would certainly afford him some satisfaction to know what were the specific views of the conservatives, for he must confess he did not understand what they wanted or desired. Sir Robert Peel replied, that in answer to this question, what the conservatives desired to be done, they had declared that it was not for them, but only for the ministers themselves, to originate a measure on such a subject. He paid no regard to intimations intended to raise dissension among his own friends, in whose ranks the most perfect union prevailed, and he would not retort on them, so much did he feel for the painful situation of that noble lord, deserted as he was by his own partisans.

It is generally reported, and we believe with perfect truth, that every three or four hours of the last two or three days has been followed by successive conferences between her Majesty and her ministers, and we presume that it may be added without any indelicacy or disrespect to Her Majesty, that the current belief is that she has expressed her fullest confidence in Lords Melbourne and John Russell; that it continues unimpaired by anything which has occurred; and that nothing which is lawful and constitutional shall be wanting on her part to carry them through the difficulties which now surround them. It would be a foolish prudery to deny or conceal, that this state of things at the palace amounts in substance to the expression of the royal will, that her ministers shall endeavour to retain the administration, so long, at least, as they can have any hope of carrying on the common routine of government.

In the present uncertainty of ministerial proceedings we cannot carry further our answer to the first question—what will be the ultimate decision of Lords Melbourne and John Russell? This difficulty is indeed further increased by another circumstance in their present position, which renders it necessary for them to hold out a menace of dissolving the parliament, or even giving in their own resignation, without any fixed purpose of acting up to it. In the recent majority, as well as in their own minority, are a number of men very properly called waverers, whose votes are given or withheld more according to their own personal views, than in pursuit of any fixed public principle. All these gentlemen are naturally anxious to retain their seats in parliament and would therefore give their votes so as to prevent a dissolution. The menace of a dissolution would therefore have the effect of bringing back these men, and may be employed with this purpose only.—So difficult is it, even from known and strong facts, to arrive at any certain conclusion as to the real purpose of ministers.

As to the second question, what will be the course of the conservative leaders, if the ministers should announce their purpose to resign without any mention of a dissolution of parliament, the leaning of our own opinion is, that Sir R. Peel will endeavour to go on with the present House of Commons, and that he will have a majority sufficient to carry him through the session; a small majority indeed, but such as will be sufficient to carry on the routine of public business.—But here again another very serious difficulty occurs. The Poor-law Amendment Bill is not passed, and in this case it must be carried through by the new ministers. Now, the late proceedings at Nottingham have proved that this measure is exceedingly unpopular in all the populous boroughs in the kingdom, and that the advocates of it in parliament will have very little chance of carrying their respective elections in the manufacturing towns and districts. In the event, therefore, of a general election following upon a dissolution of parliament, and immediately subsequent to the passing of this bill, the conservative party, who would have to pass it, would lose much of their present popularity, and would come before the people with much disadvantage. There is another way of escaping from this difficulty, but rather suffering the bill to go over, or continuing the parliament for another two years. In the first case the kingdom would be without poor-law; in the latter, the conservatives would have to carry on the government with a whig parliament. This is one of the most embarrassing circumstances in the present position of the conservatives, and it is very difficult to conceive how they can elude it. We think the experiment will be made to carry the bill, and to take the chance of going on with the present parliament.

Another difficulty in the way of the conservatives is the old question of the Queen's household. How will Sir R. Peel encounter the resolute purpose of the Queen? One or the other of the two parties must give way. Such are the difficulties and embarrassments which surround this question. A few hours, perhaps, may disperse some of the clouds. One thing only is certain; that the conservatives are all united as a man, and that there will be no intrigues amongst themselves to throw difficulties in the way of their leaders. The health of the Duke of Wellington, it is apprehended, is, indeed, such as to indispose him to accept the place of head of the administration, but his advice and influence are at the call of her Majesty, and in the event of the resignation of ministers he will probably be summoned to nominate the cabinet. Lord Lyndhurst will take the seals, Mr. Herries will be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir R. Peel will be first minister.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger.*

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. EDITOR,—When a great public calamity is about to befall a community, nothing is more natural to the enquiring mind, than to endeavour to discover its cause. That a very serious calamity is about to happen us in the contemplated alteration in the Timber Duties, I think there can be no second opinion. A measure, sir, fraught with evils of no ordinary magnitude:—a measure in its consequences to this Province, destructive of its very existence as a Commercial people:—a measure that will cause this now flourishing country, at no very distant period, to return again to its primitive desolation. These, sir, are melancholy reflections for the loyal portion of the community; while to that portion who luxuriate in the idea of Republican Institutions, a consolation may be afforded that the stripes and stars may soon supply the place of the Cross of St. George. I can only say, may God avert that evil. A great deal of anxiety is now felt by mercantile men, as well as by the Representatives of the people, and corresponding exertions are making to prevent, if possible, the pending evil.—Deeply as we may regret the step contemplated by the parent state, is it not well to inquire if we have not in some measure, by our own impolicy, contributed to produce what we now so much dread.

It is notorious to every man of observation, that the British Government have with more than maternal indulgence met every capricious wish of the Colonial Government, until nothing has been left to ask for. They have given the prerogatives of the Crown into the hands of men who have prostituted power to the very satiety of avarice:—men who have libelled the generosity of the donors:—men who have seditiously insulted the dignity of the Crown and the person of Royalty:—men who have set public opinion at naught, and wallowed in peculation in the face of open day:—men who have insulted by the most foul slanders *the appointments of the Crown, for the mere purpose of having them displaced, in order to make room for their own partisans;*—men, in short, who have sacked the Treasury with as much *nonchalance* and less compunction than did the lawless troops of Napoleon the churches of Spain. Their abuse of Poulett Thomson—their sanction of the treason of Papineau—their indignities offered to the Hero of Burmah—their insulting delegations to England—their rebellious Resolutions in the Legislature—their taxing British goods at the very moment they were asking a boon from that Government—their emptying an overflowing Public Chest in four years and plunging the country one hundred thousand pounds in debt, and imposing fresh taxes to meet their cupidity—all speak so loudly of misrule, and smack so much of disaffection, that it is little wonder the British Government should suspect our loyalty, and as a natural consequence, withdraw their protection from us.—If, sir, the guilty parties only were to suffer in the punishment about to be inflicted, then indeed would it be a just retribution. But I am *sorry* to say that the innocent will be equally punished with the guilty. But my opinion would still remain immoveable, that no future bill would be useful without a definition of the franchise. The bill, however, if there was to be a bill, must now pass into other hands, and they must follow their own course. It would certainly afford him some satisfaction to know what were the specific views of the conservatives, for he must confess he did not understand what they wanted or desired. Sir Robert Peel replied, that in answer to this question, what the conservatives desired to be done, they had declared that it was not for them, but only for the ministers themselves, to originate a measure on such a subject. He paid no regard to intimations intended to raise dissension among his own friends, in whose ranks the most perfect union prevailed, and he would not retort on them, so much did he feel for the painful situation of that noble lord, deserted as he was by his own partisans.

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THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, MAY 28, 1841.

FREE TRADE.—The numerous advocates of Free Trade are busily engaged throughout England and Scotland, in holding public meetings for the purpose of petitioning the Imperial Parliament for a revision of the Import Duties, and to do away with the present restrictive system. The arrival of the next mail from England is looked for with great anxiety, as by it is expected a solution of the intentions of the British Government with regard to a revision of our whole commercial tariffs.

Whatever may be the result, and however disadvantageous to the best interests of New-Brunswick, we cannot but think that the recent arguments set forth to the commercial world by the Chamber of Commerce of this City, are strongly in favour of the theoretical schemes now advanced by the parties so strenuously opposing the restrictive system for the protection of Colonial interests; and the report so set forth, will be used as an argument against the Petitions from this country.

STEAMER BRITANNIA.—This fine vessel received her repairs at Thompson's Yard on monday last, but owing to the dense fog which has enveloped our harbour for several days, was not able to proceed for Halifax until Wednesday morning when she started though thickly beset with fog.

CONCERT.—The Saint John Sacred Music Society gave a Concert in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on monday evening last, in honor of Her Majesty's birth day.—The room was well filled with a respectable assemblage of Ladies and Gentlemen, who appeared delighted with the entertainments of the evening.—The principal performers were Mrs. Busteed, Messrs. Foster, (Conductor of the Society,) M'Leod, Bustin and Melick, with Mr. Weisbecker at the Piano Forte.—At the conclusion "God save the Queen" was sung in fine style, and received marked applause.

The community are much indebted to the members of the Sacred Music Society for the musical treats occasionally afforded—they exert themselves to give satisfaction, and are at much individual expense therefor; but we do not think their endeavours are so universally appreciated as they should be by the inhabitants, for although on the above occasion the Hall was nearly filled, still we understand that barely sufficient tickets were sold to pay the expenses.

ST. JOHN EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Pursuant to a requisition of His Worship the Mayor for a Public Meeting to be held at the Exchang on Saturday last, to take into consideration a communication from the Provincial Secretary, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, on the manifest advantages of establishing Emigration Societies for the various important objects suggested in the Royal Gazette of the 19th inst.—The Meeting took place accordingly, and was most respectably attended, His Worship the Mayor in the chair.—The Secretary, Mr. Wedderburn, was then called upon to read the above communications—which being done, the following spirited and gratifying Resolutions were adopted.

Moved by John R. Partelow, Esquire, and seconded by the Hon. Hugh Johnston:

Resolved unanimously, That this meeting cordially respond to the call of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor upon the several Counties in this Province, as to the great advantages that will be derived in forming Emigrant Societies, for the purpose of facilitating the settlement of the numerous Emigrants arrived and expected to arrive during the year.

Resolved unanimously, That in accordance with the foregoing resolution, an Association be forthwith formed whose object shall be to devise the best means of affording early employment to such Emigrants on their arrival; to assist in forwarding them to other parts of the Province where labour may be obtained, and by every means in its power to ensure their settlement within it.

Resolved unanimously, That a subscription list be immediately opened, and that so soon as the sum required by the Act of Assembly shall be subscribed, that application be made for the Provincial Grant of the last Session towards this important object.

After which a subscription list was most liberally opened, and is now in course of signature. The Officers and Committee of the Institution being—

Hon. Wm. Black, (Mayor,) President,
Hon. Charles Simonds, } Vice Presidents,
Hon. Hugh Johnston, }
A. Wedderburn, Esq., Secretary,
John V. Thurgar, Esq., Treasurer,

who, with the following Gentlemen, constitute the directory,—John R. Partelow, Wm. Wright, P. Besnard, Isaac Woodward, A. Gesner, Robert Payne, George Younger, Robert Bayard, M. D.

The Committee will meet at the Exchange every morning, at half-past nine o'clock, for the transaction of business relative to the objects of the Society, and the interests of Immigrants in the Province by application or otherwise.

WILLIAM BLACK, President.
A. WEDDERBURN, Secretary.

HALIFAX, may 22.

MAJOR GENERAL SIR JOHN HARVEY, will, we understand, accept of the government of Newfoundland.—*Post.*

INQUEST.—A Coroner's Inquest was held upon the body of Serjeant Caldwell of the 64th Regiment, on Thursday last, on the shore above the Magazine. He had been missed for several days previous. No evidence being addduced to show in what manner he met his untimely end, the Jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned."—*Recorder.*

The Bishop of Charleston, S. C. Right Rev. Dr. England, will preach in Saint Mary's Church tomorrow at 11 o'clock, A. M. His Lordship engaged his passage to Europe in the Britannia and is awaiting her return from St. John, N. B.—*Ib.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—*Death of Master Hughes.*—It is our painful duty to record the death by drowning, of this gifted youth, the oldest of the brothers of whom we have before spoken of as the infant Welsh minstrels. His death was occasioned by the upsetting of a small boat on the North River, opposite Newburg, on Wednesday afternoon last. In the boat were his father, two brothers, and one or two other persons, the whole of whom, himself excepted, were picked up by the ferry and other boats, and conveyed to Newburgh in an exhausted state.

Apart from his talents as a musician, he was a youth of estimable qualities, his frank and generous disposition, and mild but manly bearing endeared him to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Though conscious of the possession of superior talents, and excited by an ardent desire to excel, he had enough of the simplicity and bashfulness of youth to prevent him from assuming that superiority which too often accompany like qualities in others.

To his parents his loss will be a severe affliction, and although *they* will feel it the most acutely, it will be largely shared by his younger brothers, who were most affectionately attached to him to whom they looked as the leader in the profession in which they so much delight.—*N. Y. Emigrant.*

The investigation we spoke of in our last relative to the rumour of Capt. Bowman's having seen the hull of a vessel which he supposed to be the *President*, took place on Tuesday afternoon before the British Consul, but nothing was elicited beyond the fact that the Captain saw, or thought he saw the hull of a large vessel, but none of his crew saw it.—He was acquitted of any charge of blame for not attempting to bear down to the supposed wreck, on the ground that from the position of the two vessels it was not practicable. A report has been circulated, on the authority of a letter received from Southampton by a gentleman at Baltimore, that Mrs. Power had received a letter announcing that a vessel had arrived at some port in England, from Madeira, and that the people on board saw the President entering that port just as they were coming out. This letter was dated the 19th of April, and represented Mrs. Power as being then at Southampton, a thing not at all likely, as London would be the place she would have the best chance of getting news from other parts of the kingdom. A similar report was circulated in London five or six days previous. Another report was that she had put into Barbadoes, but this also remains unconfirmed. The avidity with which every rumour is received, and the earnestness with which their probability is discussed, prove that the interest felt for the fate of the President is not in the least abated.—The arrival of the Caledonia will perhaps clear up the mystery—and we hope satisfactorily.—*New-York Emigrant.*

FRIGHTFUL OCCURRENCE.

(From the Quebec Mercury.)

It is our painful task to report a most awful disaster which took place yesterday, between eleven o'clock and noon, and occasioned the destruction of no less than eight houses in Champlain street, opposite to the Custom House, with a frightful loss of human life, the extent of which has not yet been fully ascertained. A large portion of the cliff, from near the foot of the Citadel at Cape Diamond, to the extent of about 250 feet, gave way and fell, into Champlain street, entirely overwhelmed the houses beneath and their numerous inmates, under the ponderous masses of rock and rubbish, that suddenly fell, so silently and without previous intimation of danger, that none of the unfortunate sufferers had time to escape. The sentry on duty at the gate of the Queen's stores perceived the side of the precipice in motion, and ere he could utter a cry of alarm, which would indeed have been unavailing, the whole had descended into the street, prostrating the buildings beneath, carrying with it their fragments, and covering the road completely to the walls of the Custom House. So great is the quantity of rock, and so large the masses which have thus been displaced, that the progress of clearing them away can be but slowly effected. The stones composing the wall of the fortification, on the crest of the rock, to the extent we have above stated, appeared thinly scattered on the surface of the debris, in comparatively small fragments and in one direction only, did they reach the base of the rock. The Military of the Garrison were promptly on the spot, and the Mayor and some others of the city authorities repaired thither without loss of time, and operations were immediately commenced to rescue from beneath the *Avalanche*, if so it may be called, the victims of this awful catastrophe, and by 4 o'clock, five living beings, all seriously injured, one in a hopeless state, were rescued and thirteen dead bodies were extricated from the ruins. The work proceeded till night put a stop to any effectual attempt at labour, and was renewed again at day break this morning.

Several similar accidents, though to a comparatively smaller extent, have occasionally occurred, but, whilst they created alarm at the time, they have not had the effect of deterring persons from continuing to build in so perilous a situation, but one so convenient for the dealers in Marine Stores, and the keepers of those lodging and boarding receptacles which receive sailors, raftsmen, and the poorer classes of emigrants during the season of navigation. The cause of these disasters, the present included, appears to arise from the numerous springs flowing through the crevices of the rock; these falling into clefts expand by frost during the winter, increase the fissures, and loosen large masses of rock, which subsequent natural operations entirely detach, till whole bodies are removed from their positions, occasioning such devastation and ruin as was yesterday, unhappily, witnessed. It was apparent to the most superficial observer that the slight work which crowned the precipice could have had no share in precipitating the rock at its base from the position it had so long occupied. It will, however, require much labour and no inconsiderable expense to rebuild the curtain, scarp the face of the rock, and to replace the part of the fortification destroyed, in a safe and sufficient condition.

The following are the names of some of the sufferers copied from the old Quebec Gazette of last night:—

I Mr. Williams, rigger, (a daughter and son with the father, who were absent—saved)
2 A store next to Williams'.
3 do. next to Blackston.
4 Mrs. widow Birch, occupied by Mrs. Conners.
5 Mr. Gaulin and store occupied by himself, Mrs. Gaulin taken to hospital.
6 Mr. J. Young, house occupied by himself.
7 Mr. Lemons, house occupied by Vital Roy, (himself and family saved)
8 House occupied by Mr. Lewis.

Messrs. Gaulin, Cote, Chartier, and Robert M'Kibbon, Policeman, have been recognised among the dead. Mr. Young's eldest daughter is also one of the dead.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The religious ladies of the Hotel Dieu, with their characteristic benevolence, have received seven of the injured persons into that establishment, altho' there were no vacant beds in the regular wards at the time of the calamity. It is almost unnecessary to say that every care, skill and attention is shown to the unfortunates on the part of the medical attendants as well as the Nuns, and that the whole of these cases promises to do well. Their names are Peter Considine, aged about 12 years, injury of head, face and ancle; Michael Considine, aged 3 years, much bruised and burnt about the head and neck; Madame Golin injury of left thigh and ancle. Mary Ryall, injury of head and foot, aged 30 years, cousin to the Considines; Angelique Guilmet, injury of the hip; Ann Sullivan, 15 years, injury of the spine; Mary Considine, aged 18 months, injury of the head and arms, and fractured thigh. Mrs. Considine chanced to be absent from home when the disaster occurred, and is the only member of this family unimpaired.

This morning, the bodies of Mr. Golin and Jones, a tailor, in mrs. Birch's house, occupied by mrs Conners and family were removed from the ruins by a party under the direction of mr. Well's, whose zeal in the cause of humanity is so well known to the inhabitants of this city, and by whom about one half the bodies found yesterday were disinterred and removed. They are now following up the labours in search of the bodies of Lionnais and Chartier, who were in Golin's house, and have arrived at traces of blood. One most extraordinary case of escape is that of Vital Roy and family, his house was hurled into the street and partly buried beneath the ruins, together with their beds, &c. himself, his wife, a servant maid and an apprentice boy, escaped entirely unhurt, and his infant was extracted from the ruins of the fallen chimney a short time after the affair, almost unscathed.

The Coroner held an inquest on the bodies of the following persons previous to one o'clock this day, and four or five more bodies have been since disinterred:—

Robt. m'Kibbon, Mary Conners, Margaret Connors, Dominique Greeley, Patrick Doherty, Mary Gallagher, Jane Crawford, John Considine, John Fisher, Patrick Hayes, Mary Williams, Emmanuel Williams, Rose Ann Williams, Ellen Hall, wife of Robt. Reed, Margaret Young, Henri Cote, Joseph Golin, Julie Golin and Marie Golin.

Denis Fitzpatrick, George Jones, Madeline Jones his wife, Madeline Jones, an infant, Leon Leonais, Lacie St. Laurent, Francois Chartier.

Half past 3 o'clock, P. M.

They are now removing the bodies of Chartier and Lionnais—which makes six to day. Two young women from Point Levy who had gone to the scene of distress to visit some friends immediately before the accident, are still missing.

It has been confidently stated to us on the report of several persons some of which were received by our informant before the accident occurred, that the shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt in various quarters from Diamond Harbour to the Upper Town of Quebec, at between one and two o'clock during the preceeding night.

[*From the New-York Courier and Enquirer.*]

SUPREME COURT.

Before Chief Justice Nelson, and Judges Cowan and Bronson.

THE CASE OF ALEXANDER MCLEOD.—At 10 o'clock the Judges took their seats, and upon the Court being opened, Mr. M'Leod, attended by the Sheriff of Niagara County, came in and took a seat within the bar. Mr. Hall, Attorney General, Mr. Wood, District Attorney for Niagara County, appeared on the part of the prosecution, and Messrs. Spencer and Bradley, in behalf of the defendant.

A discussion took place as to which side had the right to open the argument. The Attorney General contending that having interposed in demurrer, the right to commence was on his side.

The Court said, it was not a vital question who should have the last word, and directed the counsel for the prisoner to proceed.

Mr. Bradley then read the return of the Sheriff to the writ, stating that McLeod was in his custody under the order of the Court of Oyer and Terminer in March term, 1841, under an arraignment on an indictment for murder; also, by a writ of *capias ad spondendum* on the part of the people, for trespass and an order for commitment, for entering upon, damaging, and destroying the steamboat Caroline, laying the damages at $50,000, and ordering him to be held to bail in the sum of $7,000.

The affidavit of McLeod was then read by Mr. Spencer. It sets forth the occupation of Navy Island by a large body of men in arms against the authorities of Great Britain in Upper Canada, which, it says, was composed in part of citizens of the United States; that their object was to effect a revolution in the province; that a British force of some two thousand five hundred men were assembled at Chippowa, on the British side to oppose the insurgents; that the force was commanded by Colonel McNab, who was duly authorized to that end by the provincial government; that the steamboat Caroline was employed in conveying stores, ammunition cannon, &c. to the force assembled on Navy Island; that by order of Col. McNab an expedition for the destruction or capture of that boat was got up and carried into effect; that in the capture and destruction of the boat Amos Durfee, for whom affidavit the prisoner is indicted, was killed, and not at any other time or in any other manner; that the act of taking and destroying the boat was subsequently approved and adopted by the British Government; that the Government of the United States had opened a diplomatic correspondence with the British Government in relation to that act, in which reparation and redress therefor were demanded, and which correspondence is not yet closed; and finally that he, the prisoner, was not present at or engaged in the said attack upon the Caroline, or in the capture and destruction thereof.

Annexed to the affidavit is a certified copy of the credentials of Mr. Fox, as Minister of Great Britain, near the Government of the United States, and a certified extract from a note of Mr. Fox to Mr. Webster, dated the 12th of March, 1841, of which more hereafter.

The affidavit refers to, and adopts as parts thereof, a mass of published documents communicated in different messages by the President of the United States to Congress, in relation to the "patriot" outbreak, which were read by Mr. Bradley.

Among which were the following:—

Letter from Mr. Scott to Mr. Fillmore, dated December 13, 1837.

From the Mayor of Buffalo to the President of the United States, dated Dec. 14, 1837.

From Mr. Barker, the collector, to Mr. Benthune, the U. S. District Attorney, Dec. 5.

From mr. Benthune to the President, Dec. 23.

mr. Benton to mr. Forsyth, Dec. 26.

mr. Garrow, the marshall, to mr. Benthune, December 21.

mr. Garrow to the President, Dec. 28.

mr. Fox to mr. Forsyth, Jan. 4, 1838.

mr. Forsyth to mr. Fox, Jan. 5, 1838.

mr. Fox to mr. Forsyth, Feb. 6th, 1838.

mr. Stevenson to mr. Forsyth, dated London, May 24th, 1838.

mr. Fox to mr. Forsyth, Dec. 13, 1840.

mr. Forsyth's reply.

mr. Fox to mr. Webster, march 12, 1841, which was as follows:—

"Her Majesty's Government have had under consideration the subject of the arrest and imprisonment of Alexander McLeod, on a pretended charge of arson and murder, and I am directed to make known to the Government of the United States, that the British Government entirely approved of the course pursued by him. I am instructed toden and formally, and in the name of the British Government, the immediate release of Alexander McLeod, for the reason that the transaction was one of a public character, planned and executed by persons duly authorized by the Colonial Government, to take such measures as may be necessary for protecting the property and lives of her majesty's subjects, and being therefore an act of public duty, they cannot be held responsible to the laws and tribunals of any foreign country."

The letters preceding in order that of mr. Fox of Jan. 4, 1838, contains accounts of the excitement on the frontier, the various proceedings at Buffalo and other places, the organization of armed bodies, the seizure of cannon and other weapons in the arsenals, &c., the occupation of Navy Island, &c., with which and in fact with all which follow our readers are already familiar. The reading of these documents concluded, mr. Wood read a demurrer, which the counsel for the prosecution interposed in behalf of the people.

The Demurrer derives five points of law, viz:

1. Because it appears by the return of the sheriff that the prisoner is detained on an indictment for murder, to which he has pleaded not guilty, and this Court cannot investigate the truth of such indictment or of the plea thereto.

2. Because the allegations of the prisoner do not apply to the question of his liability to arrest, but exclusively to the question of his guilt or innocence, which is now before the Court.

3. Because the attack on the Caroline—a boat owned by a citizen of the United states, unconnected with the insurgents, navigating with a license, from the Government of the United states, and engaged in lawful business, was made while she was moored at Schlosser, in the state of New York, and without the jurisdiction of Upper Canada or the authorities thereat.

4. Because neither the Governor of Upper Canada nor Col. McNabb had any authority to send men into this state, and all acting under their orders are individually responsible.

5. Because Amos Durfee, for whose murder the prisoner is indicted, was a peaceable citizen, and had not offended against the laws of the United states, or of this state; and was killed on the main land, after he had left the boat, was flying for his life and making no resistance; so that his killing was not essential to the safety of the province, or the fulfillment of the object aimed at by the expedition.

After the reading of the demurrer mr. Hall, Attorney General, rose and suggested to the Court his desire to confine the argument to the single question of law, whether the Court could or could not, in this stage of the case, undertake to examine and decide upon the whole merits of the case. He wished only to go into the authority of the Court—what might be called the preliminary question, as raised by the first point of the demurrer.

A long discussion ensued, Mr. Spencer claiming to go into all the questions that might arise, and especially the great national question on which the case must eventually turn, and mr. Hall objecting.

The Court objected to a succession of hearings and wished the whole matter to be argued at once.

mr. Hall said it might become necessary to produce depositions in answer to the alleged facts set forth by the prisoner—and it might become a serious question whether the testimony produced before the grand jury *could* be produced and thus made public.

The court told him that he must act upon his own discretion and responsibility as to that.

mr. Hall said that the matter had now assumed a different aspect from what he at first anticipated, and that it would be necessary for him to have some time to consult his associate counsel, before going into the argument. The court granted an extension till 12 o'clock this morning, and to that hour the case was adjourned over.

Among the presentations that took place at a Drawing Room held by Her Majesty on the 22d April, we observe that of Lady Colebrooke, on her departure for New Brunswick.

Montreal, May 6, 1841.

Before mr. Justice Gale, and a special Jury, W. H. Harris, Esquire, mr. E. E. Bowen, Esqr.—actions of Trespass, Damages at £10,000.

The Plaintiff, Captain in the 24th Regiment, Defendant, late a Barrister-at-Law, and major of the montreal Cavalry. The trial excited the greatest interest, and throughout the day the Court was crowded. mr. Smith opened the case in one of the most affecting and eloquent speeches we have ever heard, and when reading the letter from the unfortunate wife of the Plaintiff to the bereaved husband on the night of her elopement, was so affected that the learned gentleman was hardly able to proceed. The case was most fully made out and the concealment of the intercourse from the husband clearly proved, and although the Solicitor General endeavoured by a most able and ingenious defence to mitigate the amount of damages, the Jury (charged at some length by the Honorable Judge and after an absence of about fifteen minutes) returned a verdict for the Plaintiff, assessing the damages at £7,500 currency.

Counsel for Plaintiff—messrs. Fisher and Smith, L. H. Lafontaine, Esq. and A. P. Hart, Esq.

Counsel for Defendant—The Solicitor General, W. Badgley, Esq. and T. J. Judah, Esq.—*Herald.*

The Hon. John Robertson, Lady, and three children, came passengers in the steam packet Caledonia to Halifax, and arrived in this City on Wednesday morning in the steamer from Windsor.

Passengers in the Rebecca from London:—Mrs