Provincial Legislature.

[*From the City Reporter.*]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MR. RITCHIE'S SPEECH ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

(*Continued from the Fourth Page.*)

The latter part of the first Resolution—the part objected to by the Hon. Attorney General—went on to state, that "the information furnished by His Excellency in reply to an Address from this House of the 21st February last, is unsatisfactory."—Would any hon. member in the House vote against this, and for the Hon. Attorney General's amendment, thereby declaring that the mutilated Despatches were satisfactory? It was not here as it was in England, where Despatches prematurely laid before the Commons might interfere with negotiations with foreign countries. The Government of this Province had no foreign negotiations going on, and consequently there was no need of secrecy. He (Mr. R.) did not like this air of mystery thrown around public acts, where no secrecy was required. Last summer, the first intimation the people here had of certain appointments to the Legislative Council, was through the columns of the London Daily News, a stray copy of which happened to find its way to St. John. He would not say one word against the present Chief Justice and Judge Wilmot; he believed them to be men well qualified to fill the situations in which they had been placed; but he must express his regret that Mr. Wilmot accepted of his situation under the circumstances, as the manner in which the appointment was made was a violation of Responsible Government. He entertained a strong suspicion that more was sent to Earl Grey, and other influences brought to bear, than had as yet met the eyes of the public; of course he did not know,—the House could not know, as they were kept in ignorance—but he thought so, because he did not think Earl Grey would have taken it upon himself to make the appointments else. If this suspicion was unfounded, why were parts of the Despatches kept back?—The Government had sent them down a part, saying, This is all you have any right to know! He maintained that all appointments to office should be made by the Local Government, for they were responsible to the inhabitants of the Province, who were the only interested parties. What did Earl Grey know about the respective qualifications of those who sought for office, or what difference would it ever make to him whether proper or improper persons were appointed to the Bench? It would be a long time before Earl Grey's property would be jeopardized in any of our Courts; but, as he had already said, it was the people of the Province who were interested in having proper officers, and there could be no certainty that proper persons will be appointed, if the power be vested in Downing Street. Was there a man in the Province who would willingly go back to the old cringing, sycophantic, cap-in-hand system, begging at Downing Street for Offices, and bringing all manner of improper influences to bear? Last year, he would have said there was no danger of it, after perusing Lord Durham's Report, after Earl Grey's Despatch laid before the House in 1848, and after reading Lord John Russell's speech on the Australian Colonies Bill; he would not have dreamt that the British Government would attempt to resume the power they had voluntarily ceded to the Colonies. But, lo! in one short year he had seen it done! Would the House tamely submit to it? Would they yield up to Earl Grey the power to say who shall be the Chief Justice and who the Puisne Judges of this Province? Why, if they submitted to this, what might they not expect next? They would, perhaps, hear that Earl Grey had appointed an Attorney General for them, or a Provincial Secretary, for if he had a right to appoint our Judges, he had a right to appoint all other officers in the Colony. Would any hon. member tamely yield up the people's rights in that manner? Could any one doing so justify himself before his constituents?—What, then, should they do, or how resist it? Remonstrate! Why, of what use was it to remonstrate? They had remonstrated against the Despatch prohibiting them from giving bounties for the growth of Flax, but it only brought out a confirmation of the restriction. They remonstrated the second time, and the reply is the same, only stronger; it prohibited them from spending the people's money for the people's benefit, in the manner they considered most beneficial. What should have been done, then? He contended that when the appointments were made, they should have gone to the Governor and said, "An inroad is made in our constitution, and we will resign." What would have happened then? He believed that not a traitor would have been found to attempt the formation of a new Government under the circumstances, to carry out the principle of Earl Grey; if one should have done so, he would soon have been scouted from public life; and the principle must have been yielded, and the present Executive re-called. He had heard it whispered around that the vote given in the early part of the Session was an indemnification in full for the Government. How could that be possible when the Despatches now treated of were not before the House, and no one knew what their contents were? The Government excused themselves for the breach in the principle of Responsible Government, by stating that many of them resided in distant parts of the Province, and that it was not easy to call them together. But they had nearly three months to deliberate after the date of the Minute of Council of October, and when the news came that the appointments were made contrary to their advice, they should have resigned immediately. The Governor would then have been left without advisers, and Earl Grey must have given in. In his opinion, not a Mail would have been passed over before the obnoxious Despatch would have been withdrawn, and the Government would have been re-called and sustained by the people. They say they should remonstrate; but that was no use, as experience showed them: meantime, their constitution was gone. He next came to the consideration of Salaries; and here he must remark, that he entertained very high respect for the Judges of the land, both as to their ability and integrity, as well as personally, and he did not wish to say one word which should offend them or hurt their feelings; but what he was about to say showed how difficult it was, even for men who have been schooled to decide impartially, to arrive at a right conclusion when their interests were threatened. He did not consider the conduct of the Judges towards the Representatives of the people was fair, in the memorial they had transmitted to Earl Grey, and which was published in the Journals of the 31 March last. They stated in that memorial that they all had pledges their salaries should not be reduced, but one, and he had an implied pledge; they quoted Despatches in support of their position, but they carefully abstained from quoting other Despatches, which they must have seen, and which put another face on the matter.—The Judges' salaries were increased in 1826, but under what circumstances? He would read from a Despatch written by Sir Howard Douglas, dated Fredericton, December 9th, 1826, as follows:—

"The sources and system from which the Timber Fund has been formed, and those from which the Crown Rents may hereafter be augmented, are such that a part of these monies may with safety be appropriated to augment the Judges' salaries, should Parliamentary aid not be attempted." And after stating what increase he recommended to each, he went on to say, "The total annual increase would then be £650; and whenever the time may come maturely to induce the Colony to provide for the expenses of its Civil Government, the whole salaries may be insured in permanency by means of certain conditions, in regard to the application of the Casual Revenue, for the benefit of the Province, such as accompanied the proposition to this effect which is contained in your Lordship's Despatch of the 8th October, 1825."

To this Lord Bathurst, the then Colonial Secretary, thus replied:—

"In reply, I have to convey to you my sanction to the additional salaries recommended by you, to commence from the 1st of January, 1827, under the understanding, that if any necessity should arise for relieving the Fund from any of the charges upon it, the salaries now granted must be withdrawn, and I could not do more in that case than recommend the Judges to the Colonial Legislature."

Here it was evident that the salaries of the Judges were not fixed, but held liable to revision. The same thing was done in 1837, when the Casual and Territorial Revenue was handed over to the Province, for Lord Glenelg expressly stated that the Home Government would not be precluded from revising the salaries of public officers in the Colony if they thought proper. All the Home Government wanted by the Civil List Establishment, was to be held clear from any liability to pay public officers in the Province, and to leave the amount of the respective salaries for the people of the Colony to settle. He would read a few passages from Lord Glenelg's Despatch, dated 10th January, 1838, in reference to Mr. Baillie's salary. (The hon. member then read as follows):—

"Now of the fact that the settlement of 1829 was announced to Mr. Baillie as final, I have no proof, except his own assertion: I need not express my persuasion of the perfect sincerity of Mr. Baillie's belief on this point, but I am sure he has been too long versed in public business, not to admit at once, that in such a matter I am not at liberty, when acting for the public, to proceed on the declaration of the party interested, especially when supported by no other testimony. But giving Mr. Baillie the benefit of the fact that such an assurance was made to him, I must venture to deny the authority of any preceding Government thus to fetter the discretions of the present. If in 1829 the right existed and was exercised of reducing Mr. Baillie's income, I cannot perceive why the same right did not still exist, and might not again be exercised in 1837, if a sufficient cause for further retrenchment should then arise; consequently, I must conclude that there was no intention on the part of the Government of 1829 to subject their successors in office to such a disability. Further, I must decline to assent to the opinion that a compact, in the proper sense of that term, does or can exist between the Government and any public officer holding, *during pleasure*, for the continuance of his emoluments without reduction."

Here they perceived that Lord Glenelg repudiated the doctrine that in respect to salaries one Government should be fettered by the acts of a preceding one, and also that a public officer holding during pleasure could have no vested right to a permanent salary. Why did not the Judges quote this in their memorial? Why not quote from one Colonial Minister as well as another?—Again, all the Judges had claimed on behalf of Judge Street, that a permanent salary was implied in his appointment, although they must have been aware of the existence of a Despatch, written by Lord Stanley, when he was Colonial Secretary, in which it is explicitly stated, that all public officers in the Province, receiving their appointments subsequent to the passing of the Civil List Bill in 1837, does so with the full knowledge that their salaries are subject to revision. If a claim came before the Judges for salary, when they were on the Bench, he felt bound to say that their decision would have been different, for it was an axiom in law that nothing could be implied where a special agreement existed.

The next subject he came to the consideration of, was the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. When the Hon Attorney General first communicated his views in this House, after taking his seat as leader of the Government, he stated that he had seen the Despatch in reference to the reduction of salaries, and was satisfied with it. Now, that Despatch prohibited the reduction of the salaries of persons now holding; and of course the Governor's salary, the amount of whose salary is £3,500 a year, and he would now ask the Hon. Attorney General if he thought the people of this country would sustain him in the position he thus assumed of supporting that large salary? That was the only remark he would make on that part of the subject.—The next question he came to was Agriculture; and here he must say, that after all the hon. gentleman's expressions in favor of Agriculturists last year, and the manner in which he then attacked the Government for doing nothing for them, he was never more astonished than to hear him this year, as leader of the Government, state that "the country is lamentably deficient in rural economy," and to recommend nothing in favour of Agriculturists but that they should exercise "rigid economy." He was never more astonished than when he heard this. The land of Providence had been heavy upon our agriculturists for the last three years; their wheat crops and their potato crops had failed, and they had not only been compelled to live with rigid economy, but many of them had hardly escaped from starving, and now to be told by the Government that they must be more economical, was an insult to their feelings. He would be glad if he could enable them to live better than they had lived for some years. What! when they had been living many of them on Indian meal and molasses, did the hon. Attorney General begrudge them that? When such language as this fell from the first Minister of the Crown in that House, they had a right to say, as they had done in the Resolution, that they expected something better. He had now spoken long, and any further remarks he might deem it necessary to make, he would defer until his general reply at the close of the debate. He thought he had said quite sufficient, however, to convince the Committee that the Resolutions were not uncalled for. (The hon. member here reviewed the general tenor of his arguments.) He thought proper to remark before he sat down, that the first four Resolutions were framed by himself, the fifth by his hon. and learned colleague, (Mr. Gray,) and the sixth by his hon. colleague, (Mr. Wilmot). He would now think the Committee for the patient manner in which they had listened to him, and would conclude by moving the first Resolution.

The Hon. Attorney General objected to the Resolution being put in its present state. He argued that where the words "*And further Resolved,*" occurred, it was the commencement of a separate and distinct Resolution. He said he had two amendments to offer to the Resolution as it then stood; first, after the words "affairs of this Province," to add the words "as far as is consistent with the public service," and, secondly, to strike out all after the words "And further Resolved." He insisted, however, that the Resolution should be divided, as it was unfair and unparliamentary to couple two Resolutions and offer them as one.

His Honor the Speaker being appealed to, said it was unparliamentary to attach two resolutions together if they embraced two distinct subjects; but in the present case he considered the resolutions in order, as the second part was merely the application of the principle asserted in the first part.

The Hon. Secretary thought it of little consequence whether the resolution was divided or not, as the division, when taken, would appear intelligible on the Journals. He then went on to say that they had heard a powerful speech from the hon. and learned member for St. John, who had thought proper, after having been sixty-eight days in session, to bring up for the second time during the session a vote of want of confidence in the Government. Such a procedure, he believed, was never before heard of. He had been asked why did not the Executive Council resign when the news arrived that the appointments to the Bench were made in England. They had held on to office because had they gone out it was impossible another Government could have been formed, for no one would have gone in to support the principles of the Despatch, and the country must have suffered by their resignation. Besides, there were other charges against them, and had they resigned previous to the meeting of the House, it would have been said it was a mere subterfuge on their part to get rid of the other charges by thus throwing themselves upon the sympathies of the people, and the hon. and learned gentleman who opened this debate would have been the very first to accuse them. They thought it better to hold on to office until the House met, and the Despatches were brought down, and they had found what the House thought of them. He was as strongly opposed to the principle of Earl Grey making appointments in the Province as any member of that House. They had done all that was in their power under the circumstances. A remonstrance against Earl Grey's exercise of this power had been forwarded to England, signed by six members of the present Executive Council. What could have been effected by their resignation? The question at issue was between the people here and the *Imperial Government*, not between the people and the local Government. He had not seen the Despatches; it was a matter between the Lieut. Governor and Earl Grey, for which he did not hold himself responsible. He was desirous of carrying out the principles of responsible government, but it should not be forgotten that the system was as yet in its infancy in this Province. There were only three political offices in the colony, and the Attorney General was necessarily away from Fredericton nearly half of his time. If all the Councillors resided here His Excellency might consult them every day, but, scattered as they were over the Province, it was difficult to get them together. There was no help for it at present; it was the result of circumstances over which he had no control. They could not under present circumstances carry out Responsible Government fully, but they would do all in their power to carry out the system. The hon. member who moved in this matter, should not have moved his first vote of want of confidence so early in the session, but should have waited until the Despatches were brought down. All he could say was this, that the Government had done the best they could under the circumstances.

The Hon. Attorney General still contended for the separation of the resolution. Several members of the opposition showed that the Attorney General had recognised it as a single resolution by the several amendments he had laid on the table. Mr. Needham asked him what sort of a resolution the second would be, were it divided and the amendment carried? It would contain these words and no more: "*And further Resolved.*" (Laughter.) After contending for nearly an hour, the hon. Attorney General gave way, and laid the following resolution on the table (to follow the preamble moved by Mr. Ritchie) as embodying his amendment in another form:—

"*Resolved*, That this House has a right to receive and require from the Lieut. Governor, or Administrator of the Government of this Province, full copies of all Despatches, Correspondence, and Documents which may have been written by the Lieutenant Governor, or transmitted through him to, or which may have been received from the Colonial Secretary on all matters connected with the Local affairs of this Province, *so far as is consistent with the public service*, so that this House may be furnished with full information to enable them to deal in a satisfactory manner with all questions of a local character."

Hon. Attorney General then rose and said, that he differed in opinion with the hon. mover of the Resolutions. It was now put forth for the first time in this Province, that the Lieutenant Governor was bound to send down to that House all Despatches in full, without any reservation whatever. Hitherto all Addresses calling for Despatches had been couched in these terms, "so far as His Excellency may feel himself at liberty to communicate," or, "such parts thereof as His Excellency may be pleased to communicate." Let them look back upon the Journals for several years past, and they would find every address written in that style. But the first of these Resolutions brought up a very grave question.—Had that House a right to *demand* full copies?—could they demand this as their inherent right, and insist that all Despatches should be sent down verbatim? However this question might be decided, His Excellency could not be blamed for the manner in which he had hitherto sent down information. There were asterisks certainly, showing that parts were omitted, but was nothing unusual. If the House had never demanded complete copies as their right, some one must exercise discretion in the matter, as to what it was proper to communicate, and the Governor was the proper person to use that discretion. The question then arose, Had he exercised that discretion in a proper manner? He (Hon. Attorney General) was not one that wished anything to be kept back which it was necessary that House should know; but that discretion must be exercised somewhere, and the Governor had hitherto exercised his discretion in the matter without question. No hon. member until now had ever stood on the floor of that House and demanded the Despatches verbatim as their right. He did not think His Excellency had kept back anything it was necessary the House should know; he believed he had exercised his discretion in a proper and constitutional manner. The second Resolution was founded on information contained in one of the Despatches which had been sent down. Then with respect to the late appointment, all necessary information had been sent down in the minutes of proceedings, the division, and the Governor's suggestions to Earl Grey. The Council, it was true, recommended no appointment, but he gave it then and there as his opinion, that three Puisne Judges, without a Chief Justice, would not constitute a Supreme Court. He hoped the House would hear him through with patience on the Resolutions, if they passed in their present state, amounted to a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and the Government would then be obliged to make use of the means placed in their hands.—(Mr. Hatheway—That is to dissolve the House.?)—No; he had no intention of holding out a threat. With regard to the appointments, the Council met in October. Six out of the nine signed the minute of Council, recommending that no appointment be made. One of these retracted the next morning, leaving the minute with a bare majority in favour of it. Judge Carter, on behalf of the Bench, then gave his opinion that three Judges was not sufficient. It was not usual for that honorable Judge to give his opinion when it was required, and it was the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to ask for it, when they took into consideration the embarrassing condition in which he was placed; it was his duty to obtain all the information within his reach. (The Attorney General here read extracts from His Excellency's Minute to Earl Grey.) Here it appeared that His Excellency had solicited the advice of his Council as to how the vacancy should be filled up, but they gave him none,—they did not advise that any one should be appointed. In His Excellency's Despatch to Earl Grey, he did not ask the advice of his Council, nor did he advise His Lordship whom to appoint. He merely represented the facts of the case, and made three separate and distinct suggestions. He concluded the Despatch a fair and manly exposition of His Excellency's views, and believed nothing had been withheld it was necessary for the House to see. Earl Grey had adopted one of the three suggestions made by His Excellency, and His Excellency did not shrink from telling them what he had done, but placed a record of the whole proceedings before the House, and took the responsibility of what he had done. His Excellency had been placed in a peculiar position. He did not think they were called upon to resign under the circumstances, nor did he think the appointing gentlemen to the Bench of this Province by Earl Grey would ever be drawn into a precedent. It was a power the Lieutenant Governor did not wish to assume. He (hon. Attorney General) as a member of the Government, would say, that if called upon to advise His Excellency on making an appointment, and his advice was not acted upon, he should think it time for him to tender his resignation. The whole case, however, had been argued and decided, and the Government acquitted; but now a vote of want of confidence had been moved the second time upon the same grounds, and for the same causes.

MR. RITCHIE'S RESOLUTIONS.

"Whereas the right of managing the local affairs of this Province, by the means of Responsible Government, has been conceded to the local Legislature by Her Most Gracious Majesty, therefore,

"*Resolved*, that the House has the right to receive and require from the Lieutenant Governor, or Administrator of the Government of this Province, full copies of all Despatches, Correspondence and Documents, which may have been written by the Lieutenant Governor, or transmitted through him to, or which may have been received from the Colonial Secretary on all matters connected with the local affairs of this Province, so that this House may be furnished with full information to enable them to deal in a satisfactory manner with all questions of a local character. And further *Resolved* that the information furnished by His Excellency in reply to the Address of this House of the 21st February last, is unsatisfactory, the same being merely extracts of Despatches, while full copies were asked for and deemed by the House necessary to enable them satisfactorily to deal with the important questions of a local nature then referred to.

"*Resolved*, that all Provincial appointments should be made in this Province by the Administration of the Government for the time being by and with the advice of the Executive Council, who are and should be responsible for the same, and that the late appointments of Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, by the Colonial Minister without reference to the local Government, was wholly inconsistent with the principles of Responsible Government, an undue interference with the local concerns of this Province, and a direct violation of a principle heretofore solemnly conceded to the people of this Province; and that in the opinion of this House it was due to the rights and interests of the People of this Province, and to the dignity of their own position, that the members of the Executive Council of this Province should forthwith upon the announcement of those appointments have resigned their situations.

"Whereas the people of this Province justly feel that a system of reduction and retrenchment should take place in the salaries of many of the Officials and in the general expenditure of this Province; therefore

"*Resolved*, that while the House should always receive with respect the advice of the Colonial Secretary, this House cannot but look on the extract of the Despatch of Earl Grey, dated 25th November 1850, submitted by His Excellency's Message of the 13th February last, as a dictation inconsistent not only with the interests of the Country, but in direct opposition to the principles of self-government heretofore conceded, and which if successfully persisted in, makes Responsible Government a mere mockery and delusion.

"Whereas it is the opinion of this House, that it is the duty of the local Government to bring forward measures of reduction and retrenchment, beginning with the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, and going through the Public Departments, and in the general expenditure where savings can, with a due regard to the public service, be made. And whereas it is the opinion of this Committee, that large reductions and savings can be so made. And whereas no such measures have been submitted to this House; therefore

"*Resolved*, that in these particulars the present Executive Government have failed to realize the just expectations of the people of this Province.

"*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this House, the policy enunciated in the several Despatches of the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of granting bounties, whereby the Provincial Legislature is prohibited from giving that encouragement to internal industry, which the Legislature deems most efficacious to advance the interests and develope the resources of the Province, is a direct interference with the constitutional rights of the people of New Brunswick, and further

"*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this House, the Provincial Legislature has the undoubted right to apply the monies raised by local taxation to such local purposes as that Legislature considers most beneficial; and further

"*Resolved*, that the Hon. the Attorney General, the Leader of the Government, in acceding to the principles enunciated in the Despatches referred to, and declaring such to be the policy of the present Provincial Government, has unequivocally demonstrated that the course the present Government will pursue in the administration of the Provincial affairs, must be detrimental to the interests of the Province.

"*Resolved*, as the opinion of this Committee, that it is the imperative duty of the Legislature to give every reasonable encouragement to those engaged in the pursuits of Agriculture, upon whose well being the prosperity of the Province mainly depends, and while they believe a spirit of rural economy now prevails among the farming population, they are of opinion that their interests will be best subserved by the Legislature adopting such a course of sound political economy as will encourage the establishment of Domestic manufactures in the Province, thereby creating a remunerative Home Market for the surplus produce of the farmer; and further

"*Resolved*, that the Agriculturists of the country had a good right to expect from the local Government something more than the mere enunciation of the propriety and necessity of rural economy."

The debate on Mr. Ritchie's Resolutions closed on Thursday evening. By telegraph to the News Room, we learn that the divisions were as follow:

On the first resolution.—for the amendment,—Messrs. Street, Partelow, Rankin, Williston, Montgomery, McPhelim, Porter, Robinson, Thompson, and Stiles. On the second resolution—for the amendment—Messrs. Street, Rankin, Partelow, Reed, Gordon, Earle Williston, Botsford, Rice, Stiles, Taylor, Beardsley, McPhelim, Robinson, Porter, Montgomery, Hayward, Barberie, Gilbert, Crane—21. On the third resolution no amendment was offered. Against this resolution were—Messrs. Partelow, Rankin, Street, Montgomery, Thompson, Porter, Robinson, Taylor. On the fourth resolution—for the amendment—the same as on the second. This amendment states it to be the duty of Government, after receiving the report of the Committee, to bring down a bill for the reduction of such Salaries as may be consistent with the Public Service, and that the Despatches were an undue interference and infringement on the rights ceded to the people of this Province. On the fifth resolution, the division for the amendment was the same. On the sixth—the same. Mr. Fitzgerald did not vote—Mr. Scoullar was in the chair.

Monday Evening April 21st.

The House was in Supply nearly all day.—The sum of £1000 was voted for the collection and protection of the Revenues. Considerable discussion took place; and finally the usual grants to the Tidewaters were passed. The grants recommended by the Agricultural Committee were also passed.

The Fredericton Corporation Bill came down from the Council to-day slightly amended.

The International Bill for a direct reciprocal trade *only* with the North American Colonies was rejected on the third reading. Mr. Street declared his opinion, as Attorney General, that the old Bill and the old proclamation still remained in force. The divison was, for the Bill, 16; against it 21; All those parties who were compelled to pay duties on Nova Scotia Cattle, &c., will be entitled to recover the same.—*N. Bruns.*

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, APRIL 22, 1851.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

The steamship America, from Liverpool, 5th instant, via Halifax, arrived at Boston at about noon on Thursday, bringing seven days later news from Europe. The America was detained about 30 hours by the ice off Race Point—otherwise she had an extremely prosperous passage. The gale had no effect on her, and she came up Boston harbor with all sails set a strong wind blowing.

The demand for bread-stuffs was increasing. There was a better feeling in the manufacturing districts.

American steamer Atlantic has been placed in a dry dock in Liverpool. She will be ready for sea in June next.

The American mail steamship Pacific, Captain Nye, from New York, 19th ult., arrived at Liverpool on the 31st, at 1 A. M. The steam propeller City of Glasgow, from Philadelphia, 15th, arrived in the Mersey at 2 A. M. on the 31st. thus making the passage in 15 days 8 hours.

Rumors were thick that the Russell ministry would soon resign, and Stanley was looked upon by the protectionists as his successor. Lord Stanley has put forth a manifesto that he will reverse the whole Peel free trade policy—if he can. The movement of the pope he calls "an insolent aggression."

A struggle for ascendancy between the protectionists and free-traders is evidently approaching. The *European Times* says: On the simple questions of free trade and protection the issue could not be doubted; but the Pope is evidently to be a trump card in the hands of the Stanley party, to be played according to the turn of the game."

In the Commons leave had been granted to bring in a bill prescribing the form of Jewish oaths.

The chancellor of the exchequer introduced his amended budget on the evening of the 4th. He declined to recommend a repeal of the income tax, which had been demanded by Lord Stanley, but recommends a reduction of the window tax and some other trifling modifications. He adhered to his former proposals as to coffee and timber. The estimated amount of contemplated reductions would be £1,356,000, which would leave a permanent surplus of £356,000 for the year. He proposed to retain the income tax for a limited time, by which he meant such a time as should enable the financial reform to be carried out. After a brief attack upon the financial policy of the opposition, he concluded by alluding to the possible dangers which would be consequent upon a protectionist policy; but believed that so long as the people were properly treated, we were secure against those disturbances which had agitated almost all the nations of the continent.

D'Israeli complained that the budget afforded no relief to the agricultural class. M. T. Baring said that the weakness of the government was such that they had been compelled to sacrifice their principles in order to conciliate their supporters. Lord J. Russell replied to the attack of Mr. Baring, who, he said, had delivered a mere after dinner speech.

The resolution for the renewal of the income tax was agreed to *pro forma*, and the house adjourned.

As to the other parliamentary matters during the week, the house of commons has sanctioned the army estimates without curtailment, thrown out Mr. Locke King's bill for extending the franchise, and removed from the notice-book the motion for relieving Ireland from the incumbrance of a viceroy. The lords have done little more than listened to Lord Torrington's defence of his conduct while governor of Ceylon, and impugn the wisdom of the ministerial measure for reforming the court of chancery,

Statements in the British parliament, made it is alleged, upon undoubted evidence, warrant the belief that the refugee democrats in London are organizing some extensive confederacy, the object of which is to exterminate sovereign power in every quarter of *Europe*. Sir George Grey says they are closely watched.

Major General Brough, R. A., and Rear Admiral Sir J. Toup Nicolas, have recently died.

Sir John Romilly has taken the office of Master of the Rolls, and is succeeded by Sir A. Cockburn in the office of Attorney General. Mr. W. Page Wood is appointed Solicitor General.

W. Smith O'Brien has at length adopted means of mitigating the rigor of his banishment, to a partial extent, by accepting a ticket of leave from Maria Island.

The Commissioners of the Great Exhibition have given notice, announcing that it shall positively open on the 1st May.

Earl Dundonald has attained the rank of Admiral of the Blue, by the death of Admiral Sir Edward Hamilton.

John, father of Charles Dickens, died in London March 31. He was connected with the press.

Edward Rushton, Esq., died in Liverpool on the 4th, of gout in the stomach, aged 57.

Death of Lord Moncrieff.—We regret to announce the death of this distinguished judge, which took place in Edinburgh on Saturday last.

A great banquet was given to Lord Stanley, on Wednesday, April 2, in Merchant Tailor's Hall, London, by the supporters of his policy in both Houses of Parliament.

The trial of the prisoners, for burglary and the murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest, at Frimley, which we noticed in our paper some time since, commenced on the 31st ult. and terminated April 1, in a verdict of guilty against James Jones and Levi Harwood, who were sentenced to be hung. Samuel Harwood, another of the prisoners, was discharged; and Hiram Smith, an accomplice who turned approver, and who without doubt fired the shot which deprived the Rev. Gentleman of life, remains in custody, awaiting Her Majesty's pleasure with regard to him.

His Excellency the American Minister and Mrs. Lawrence entertained at dinner Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gurney, and a select party, at their residence in Piccadilly, on Wednesday last, after which Mrs. Lawrence had a soiree, which was honored by the presence of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, and several members of the *corps diplomatique*, &c. &c.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope to Feb. 9th say news had been received from Fort Armstrong that the rebels had got possession of the buildings, except the tower, to which place all the loyal people had fled for safety.

The accounts by the overland mail at London, April 1, furnished satisfactory indications with regard to the Indian markets, business showing a decided tendency towards revival, both at Bombay and Calcutta, although prices were still low.

The Liverpool Journal remarks that "Louis Napoleon is operating at a parliamentary ministry, and M. Barrot will, after all, be probably premier. England and France have come to the rescue of Prussia, but still Frederick William does not inspire confidence. The fate of Germany hangs on a moment, or an accident."

Gen. Dembinski landed at Marseilles March 29th from Constantinople, and set out at once for Paris.

In the legislative assembly, M. Eugene Sue has been elected president of the second committee by 11 votes, against 17 for the Duc de Broglie. On the 3d, a cabinet council was held at the hotel of the minister of justice. The subject is said to be the state of the department of the Nievre, and also that of Paris.

On the bourse on the 31 there was a perfect panic at the close of the business, upon unfounded rumors of a serious riot at Montpellier. The disturbance was merely with the military.

The democrats appear to be busy in France, and legitimists and imperialists are continually alarmed.

The explanations which have taken place in the English Parliament are said to have disconcerted the plans of the revolutionary party, who had calculated on something being done in the barricading line in London during the Exposition. The difficulty of giving publicity to their plans of insurrection, as heretofore, is thereby much increased.

Accounts from Madrid of March 29 state that the Spanish government was seriously thinking of instituting a ministerial department specially charged with the Colonies.

Private letters of the most recent date from Geneva, Switzerland, state that the refugees against whom the order of expulsion from the Swiss territory had been issued, in consequence of their protest against the act of the federal government, have taken refuge in that city, where, protected by M. Fazy, they propose setting the government, and no doubt the foreign powers, at defiance.

The *Croce di Savio* of the 30th ult. announces that the bishop of Orleans had obtained a decree from the Sacred College, dispensing forever the Catholic church of France from the obligation of abstaining from meat on Saturdays.

A letter from Venice of the 27th ult. announces that the emperor of Austria had been received in that city with the greatest enthusiasm. His majesty, on arriving, had issued a decree declaring Venice a free port.

Vienna correspondence of the 30th March states that a prohibition of a certain pamphlet on the Dresden conference has been enforced with more than usual rigor.

Advices from Berlin of the 1st April state that there are still rumors of a ministerial crisis. In the German question it is stated by the ministerial organs that Austria wishes to secure a share of the executive for Bavaria. Prussia opposes this plan.

Letters from Bosnia confirm the intelligence of the complete defeat of the insurgents near Chaulissar by Ibrahim Pacha. All the Christian tradespeople of Priedor have sought shelter within the Austrian territory.

On the 1st of May, 1851, the town and district of Zurich will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the day on which it joined the Helvetian Confederacy.

The sword worn by Napoleon at the battle of Marengo has been purchased by Nicholas of Russia for $32,000. The emperor has already a large collection of relics of the great soldier.

The Arctic Search.—It is stated in the London Globe that the admiralty have resolved to send a powerful steamer into Barrow's Straits, this summer, in order to communicate with Capt. Austin, and bring back intelligence of the operations of the squadron in search of Sir John Franklin.

Flax Cultivation in Ireland.—The annual flax sowing of Ulster averages 50,000 acres. For the rest of Ireland it is but 4,000 Supposing each of the other provinces to cultivate flax as extensively as Ulster, the value of the crops of all Ireland would it is estimated be £4,500,000. Here is a "text for thinkers," and a "topic for more than table talk."

The Industrial Exhibition.—The returns of packages up to the close of last week received at the Crystal Palace are as follows:—From foreign countries, 6233; from the colonies, 767; from the Channel Islands, 26; from native contributors, 5570. Saturday was the last day for receiving agricultural implements, and so great was the influx of goods that the strung of loaded wagons, until a late hour in the evening, extended nearly from the entrance to Sloane street.

Earthquake at Macri and Rhodes.—Accounts from Malta announce a succession of earthquakes which have been felt, as well at Macri, a town of Natolia, in Asiatic Turkey, as at Samsoon, a seaport, in the Black Sea, within the same province, and at the Island of Rhodes, situated at the entrance of the Gulf of Macri, attended at the first mentioned place and its immediate vicinity with great destruction of human life and property. The first shock was felt on 28th of February, between five and half-past 5 p. m., when at Rhodes, the upper part of the castle, which is at the entrance of the town, fell with an awful crash, overwhelming the offices of the Austrian Lloyd's Steam Navigation Company, whilst the Tower of Arays-Kule, which commands the entrance of the harbor, and several other parts of the fortifications, sustained great injury, as did likewise many dwelling houses, some of which were shaken to their very foundations on the rock, others cracked throughout.—Mrs. B., the lady of a foreign vice-consul, was so alarmed, that she rushed with an infant in her arms from her dwelling, and jumping into the sea made her way to a boat; whilst another daughter, who attempted to follow the mother, got buried in the ruins, but from which through the humane exertions of some neighbors she was happily extricated, and marvellous to relate, with no other injury than bruises.

Slighter shocks succeeded almost daily, up to the 7th of March. At Macri, on the main land, and its immediate neighborhood, the consequences have been most disastrous and heart rending. The whole of the houses, dwellings, and stores lately erected in the town, have been levelled to the ground, fissures have been formed in the very streets from which bituminous vapors exude continually, almost suffocating the inhabitants; many springs have been dried up, whilst in arid localities new ones have gushed out, changing the whole feature of the earth's surface.

The town or Levissy, which contained 1500 houses, has not one left standing, and no less than 600 human beings are reckoned to be under the ruins, which number would have been awfully augmented had the shock been after nightfall, when the inhabitants return home after the labors of the day. The village of Chiorge has nearly met the same fate, the upper part of a huge mountain having fallen into, and blocked up, the small port of Ekengik, overwhelming all the dwellings round about its base. Another village, more inland, has been buried from the fall, in opposite directions, of two hills, between which it was situated.

Since the foregoing was in type we have seen letters from Trebizond, another city of Asiatic Turkey (the ancient Trapesus), down to the 5th of March, which make mention of two smart shocks of earthquake having been experienced thereat, but no accident of consequence resulted. Earthquakes are of very rare occurrence at this possession.

The steamer *Admiral*, having been detained several days by the late severe storm, arrived from Boston about 8 o'clock on Sunday morning.—Through Favor's Express, and from Capt. Wood, we received papers to Friday last.

Boston, April 13.—*Great Gale.*—The Gale which has been raging in this vicinity, with more or less severity for three days past, has now abated in violence, though the wind still blows hard from the eastward, accompanied with rain.

Many of the wharves and several of the lower streets of the city were covered with water, the cellars flooded, and large quantities of goods destroyed or injured. Houses were unroofed, chimneys and cupolas blown downs, trees uprooted, &c.

It is wholly impossible at present to form any correct estimate of the amount of the whole or individual damage. It is sufficient to say, that the whole loss cannot, according to the opinion of many merchants, be less than $1,000,000.

All the Railroads, Bridges, &c. have sustained injury.

The St. John's Episcopal Church in East Boston was blown to the ground and broken into a thousand pieces. In its fall it stove the end and knocked off two chimneys of a house near by. The church stood in a position which exposed it to the power of the wind.

The steeple of the new Baptist Meeting House on Bunker Hill, about 90 feet in height, fell across the street, burying a milk cart, which was passing at the time, in the ruins, killing the driver, Mr. Theodore Lock, and the horse.

Considerable damage was done to property in and about South Boston.

At Chelsea, the sea made a complete breach over the wharves, floating off considerable lumber.

At Salem, the tide rose to a height unprecedented for many years, exceeding that of the storm a few weeks ago, and sweeping the wharves and streets in exposed situations like a deluge.

At Dorchester, the effects of the storm are disastrous beyond all former precedent. From one wharf 200,000 feet of valuable seasoned lumber floated off, and lies broken along the shore.

At Newburyport, the tide rose thirteen inches higher than in the gale of 19th March last, which was the highest tide known for a great many years past. The wharves were all overflowed from one to three and four feet, and large quantities of lumber were floated off.

At Portland, the papers of Wednesday describe the storm as one of the most terrific that has ever visited that city. Considerable damage was done.

The shores of Deer Island are strewed with lumber, &c. Seven vessels are ashore on Marblehead Beach, together with great quantities of lumber, wood, &c., and much other damage in the neighborhood.

A British brig, name unknown, is ashore on the northeast side of Rainsford Island.

All the towns within 150 miles of Boston have suffered more or less by the storm.

From New-York we learn that immense quantities of rain had fallen, and the wind blew furiously from all quarters. The tide rose so as to overflow many of the piers. No damage to vessels had been heard of, but many of the cellars on South and West streets were filled, causing great loss of storage goods.

Minot's Rock Light carried away—Two lives lost.—We learned yesterday from Cohasset of the destruction by the severe gale, of Minot's Rock Light House and the loss of the two Assistant Keepers. The news was communicated to us by Mr. Bennett, the Keeper of the Light, who arrived in the city yesterday morning, with fragments of the structure. He last time that the Light was seen standing was at about half-past three o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The Light was not seen burning that evening. Early on Thursday morning Mr. Bennett was on the beach, and discovered strewed all around fragments of the building, the lantern, bedding, clothes, one of Mr. B's life buoys, &c. The two assistant keepers, Joseph Wilson, 20 years of age, and Joseph Antonio, (a Portuguese,) aged 25, both true and faithful men, were swept away with the Light House and lost.—Mr. Bennett was absent from the Light when the sad catastrophe occurred. He had been ordered up to Boston by Collector Greely, to purchase a new boat, and, on his return, Thursday afternoon, found the sea so high that he could not get out to the light house. To this he is indebted for the preservation of his own life.—The whole height of this building was 75 feet. It was built on piles sunk five feet in the rock, the diameter of which was eight inches at the base, and 1½ at the top. On these piles were nine iron plates sustaining the keeper's house, the floor of which was 60 feet from the foundation. The breadth of the base of the