to the other's solemn resolutions. He then explained that his houses, lands, and moneys in England was intended for his daughter, while his West Indian estates, negroes, and business, were all for his nephew. A will existed, he said, prepared, in case of his death before the expected marriage, which provided for everything, save a large sum in specie which he was taking out to Jamaica, where he wanted it for immediate use. The young man thanked his uncle warmly, and after again expressing his sorrow at the severe disappointment he had received, joined some planters in a game of cards, leaving the father wrapped in deep thought. He was a fond and affectionate parent, devotedly attached to his child, and it never crossed his mind to think of thwarting her affections. He determined, however, to have an explanation with the stranger next day, as, excepting that the captain showed him great deference, nothing was known about him.

Towards midnight Henry Postants retired hastily to his room with a dark and moody.

On deck another scene had taken place.

'In three weeks more,' said the stranger as he and Eleanor leaned over the bulwarks, 'our pleasant journey will be over.'

It was a lovely night, though rather dark, except below upon the waters, where myriad phosphorescent lights danced around the ship as she cut lazily through the waves. All day it had been calm, the sun had shone on the mirror of the long billows so as to fatigue the sight, while a few vapoury clouds had floated across the sky. The wind was sinking and dying away, evidently before a change of weather. All was still, quiescent, and in repose. The two new friends felt the influence of the hour and of nature, and their hearts readily beat with similar emotions. Eleanor made no reply to the other's speech, and he was far from displeased at receiving no answer.

'Will you bear in your mind some remembrance of our meeting, lady?' said he, after a pause, during which he had in vain attempted to get a glimpse of her averted face.'

'I shall never forget the kindness with which you have shortened my long journey by pleasant talk,' answered the lady in a low tone.

'And may I hope that we may meet again?' asked the Ironside soldier anxiously.

'My Father will be glad to see you at his house if you make any stay in Jamaica, and can spare time to visit Old Oak Plantation.'

'Lady, why should I hesitate to speak frankly. I am a soldier and a gentleman, and if I come to your father's house, it will be to beg your hand in marriage. I would not, however, put so delicate a question to your excellent parent without some word to encourage me. Our acquaintance has been short, lady, but on board of ship days are weeks, and weeks months.'

Receiving no reply, the Ironside poured forth in his own eloquent and energetic manner all his feelings; and at last, after nearly two hours of unceasing persuasion, obtained an avowal that provided he could win her father's consent, he might put faith in her generosity. He could not expect more, he had not dare hope so much. The joy of the soldier was grave and Earnest; he thanked Eleanor with the serious and solemn tone of a man who unfeignedly felt that he had taken the most decisive step in life, and who fully appreciated the genuine value of such a prize as a woman's heart. The conversation of the happy couple became more confidential after this, and it was nearly midnight when the young lady kissed her father's forehead, and went to bed.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE "HIMALAYA," SCREW STEAM SHIP.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have at the present period a fleet of 60 steamers actively employed or building for passenger, mail, and commercial purposes in various parts of the world.

The company has recently adopted the screw as a means of propulsion of their new vessels, and have now eleven ships fitted with screw propellors in active service; but the grand and crowning exhibition of their successful exertions has been shown in the construction and remarkable performance of their last built and most splendid screw steam-ship the *Himalaya*, of 3540 tons, with engines of 700 horse power, on John Penn & Sons' patented trunk principle.

The magnificent ship left Greenhithe for Southampton, Jan. 12, having a very large company on board, all most anxious to witness the first voyage of the largest screw steam vessel built for commercial purposes.

Shortly after passing Gravesend, the speed of the *Himalaya* was increased, and she proceeded down the river in fine style, until she was near to the Nore, when the anchor was let go to bring her up, owing to a dense fog coming in. After remaining at anchor a short time, the fog partially cleared off, when the anchor was raised, and she proceeded on her voyage. During the night it came on to blow a strong gale, but she worked very satisfactorily under it, although the wind was almost right ahead, and arrived off the Isle Wight at 3 o'clock, a. m., where she was brought up at anchor, preparatory to being tried at the measured mile when daylight took place. In the forenoon she was run four times, two up, and two down the measured mile, at Stokes Bay, and the average speed was ascertained to be 13,712 knots per hour, and the average revolutions of the patent trunk direct-acting engines 57½ per minute. One of the runs was made in the short time of 3 minutes 54 seconds, or at the rate of 15,385 knots per hour. The result was so entirely satisfactory, the Admiralty contract with the Company only requiring the vessels to have a speed of 12 knots per hour, that it was deemed advisable to proceed to Southampton, to be able to enter the harbour with the same tide.

The *Himalaya* was designed by Mr. Waterman, junior, and built of iron, by Mr. Mare, Blackwall, and her plates and angle iron weighed 1370 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. and 20 lbs., and the rivets 98 tons 13 cwt. and 211 lbs. The length of the ship is 340 feet between the perpendiculars; the length of her keel for tonnage, 312 feet 3 3-8 inches; breadth extreme, 46 feet 2 inches; depth of hold 25 feet; and her burthen in tons 3,540 43-94. She was launched on May 24th, 1853, and has, since that time, been fitted with her engines on John Penn & Sons' patent trunk principle of 700 horse power, the largest ever made on that plan, those in the *Agamemnon*, 90, screw steam-ship, being only 600 horse power. The cylinders of the engines are 84 inches in diameter, with a stroke of 3 feet 6 inch; and an experiment was tried during the whole of her voyage round to the Isle of Wight, with a balance power, formed of cast metal, which had the effect of preventing, in a great measure, the vibration complained of in screw-propelled ships, and the vessel was remarkably steady, notwithstanding her great speed, and the motion experienced in any part of her was not more perceptible, even nearly over the screw, than in paddle wheel steam vessels. The engine-room is quite cool, with ample space and excellent ventilation for the stokers; and, as there are 24 furnaces of about half the size of those hitherto used, there is not so much heat thrown out upon the stokers and coal, as there is from the mouths of large furnaces.—The boilers have been fitted with Lamb and Summers' patent flues, manufactured by John Penn & Son, and now used by the company, and adopted by other commercial companies in this country—by the Americans, Austrians, Spaniards, Portuguese and French; and they possess the advantage of keeping clean during the longest sea voyage, and are well suited for tropical climates.—The pressure on the boilers was 14 lbs. to the inch, and the vacuum 26.

The *Himalaya* is fitted in a very superior manner for the accommodation of 156 first-class passengers, and 40 second-class passengers, and can cook for 400 persons. The saloons for the first class passengers are arranged with a taste which would reflect credit had they been executed in any nobleman's mansion. The oak carvings, the admirable introduction of highly-polished bird's-eye maple in the new system of ventilation; the simple gilded mouldings of the panels, and the graceful festoons and ornaments surrounding the beautiful mirrors, and representations of flowers and fruit, supported in vases with scrolls underneath, painted on glass and protected by the finest glass surfacing, the velvet sofas, the rich silk curtains concealing the entrance to the cabin, and all the upholstery, fitted by Messrs. Taylor & Sons, of Great Dover street, present a combined harmony remarkably pleasing to the eye, and must afford a sense of the comforts of home to the wealthy travellers of this or any other country.—*Woolwich Gazette, Feb. 1.*

STORE OR WAR.—Many Russian captains at this port have sold their ships and returning to their own country with the money. This speaks volumes as to the Russian belief in the warlike designs of the Czar.—*Hull Packet.*

The Chronicle.

Saint John, N. B., Feb. 11, 1854.

Late from Europe.—War inevitable.

Negotiations broken off with Russia!—Great preparations for war in France and England!—Further decline in Breadstuffs!

The Steam ship *Baltic* arrived at New York on Sunday night last, with dates to the 8th instant, being four days later than our former advices.

Subjoined are the principal items of intelligence: The short extract from the House of Lords' proceedings indicates that England's rulers are alive to the coming emergency:

In the House of Lords on the 6th instant, the Marquis of Clanricarde brought forward his motion "to call the attention of the House to the state of the country with relation to the question of peace or war."

The Earl of Ellenborough had been always of opinion that this question with Russia could be solved in no way but by war, and he hoped that Ministers would not be deluded by any circumstance into relaxing their preparations for that contingency. He considered that Britain is at the commencement of one of the most formidable wars in which she has ever engaged. He acquitted the country of the guilt of that war, but he could not acquit Ministers if they failed to prepare for a great and arduous struggle. In particular, were they prepared to present a fleet of sufficient force in the Baltic immediately on the breaking up of the ice?

The Marquis of Clanricarde agreed with Lord Ellenborough in believing that the war would be a momentous one, but he could not quite say that the Ministers were wholly irresponsible for this coming war. Although they had acted with ability, he believed that frequently they had not said the right thing at the right time.

Earl Fitzwilliam entirely agreed that the present state of affairs could not continue long. Whether the country was fully aware of the tremendous character of the conflict in which it is about to engage, he would not stop to discuss, but he would say, *there never was a war in which the people would more heartily support the Government.*

The *London Post* says:—"It is of great importance at the present moment to understand with perfect distinctness the position of the German Powers. We believe we may state, without fear of contradiction, that they have signified their readiness to act against Russia in the event of her crossing the Danube; but unless she takes that step, they profess their intention of observing strict neutrality, with the understanding, that in the event of future negotiation, they are willing to throw their influence into the diplomatic scale in favour of the bases of the Protocols signed at Vienna on the 5th and 12th of January.

Unless Russia cross the Danube, the German Powers will therefore observe neutrality, and leave to England and France the work of forcing Russia to relinquish the 'material guarantee' of which she has become so unjustly the holder."

BERLIN, Tuesday.—The check experienced by Count Orloff in his mission is fully confirmed. At the same time, it must not be thought that Prussia and Austria are disposed to make common cause with the Western Powers. They had joined them for the purpose of avoiding, by every possible means, an European war; but if a collision took place between Russia and the maritime powers, Prussia and Austria have resolved not to take part in the struggle.

The *Europa* arrived at Liverpool on the 6th.

The Czar's last proposal has been rejected, and negotiations have broken off. The Russian Ministers have left London and Paris.

Instructions have been sent to the English and French Ministers to withdraw from St. Petersburg.

France and England are making open preparations for war.

Count Orloff's mission to Prussia and Austria has proved a total failure; he returns direct to St. Petersburg.

It is positively stated that the Cunnard Steam ships are ordered into service, to convey troops to Constantinople. Ten thousand British troops were rapidly being collected to form the first division.

RUSSIA.—An Imperial ukase orders all reserves and soldiers on furlough immediately to join the Russian army.

In France, preparations for war go on unceasingly, night and day.

The Czar's rejection of the note of the Four Powers has been officially received in Paris.

MARKETS.

FLOUR.—The improved feeling exhibited on the departure of the last mail has not been sustained, and a further reduction of 1s. on Flour has been experienced. Flour and Wheat have declined 3s. per barrel, and 1s. per 70 lbs. from the highest point. Indian Corn has receded from 2s. to 3s. A limited business doing.

Cotton was active, with an upward tendency.

Consols 91¼ to 91 5-8.

It is said that the Servian Government, yielding to the suggestion of the Russian Consul at Belgrave, will refuse to accept the two firmans of the Sultan unless Russia gives her consent.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 29th.—It is said that the Emperor, who is fully aware of the position in which he is placed, will endeavour to avoid a general conflagration, if he only preserves his honor and rights. The influence of Count Nesselrode is again in the ascendant. It is also said that the Czar is about to write an autograph letter to Queen Victoria, in which he will endeavor to prove that he has not been the aggressor.

War is considered positive in England. Several of the Cunnard Steamers are taken up by the Government to carry troops to Constantinople; 6000 men go from England; others will take up different stations in the Mediterranean. About 10,000 will soon be collected to form part of the first expedition. There is no doubt a brigade of Guards will form part of the expedition.

The combined fleets were at Bricos Bay on the 27th January.

LATEST AT LIVERPOOL.—The Paris *Patrie* confirms the statement that Omar Pasha's movements have cut off all communication between the Russian armies.

The Russian fleet is understood to be consentrated at Kaffir.

The news from the Danube states that Omar Pasha has effected a most important movement, having crossed the Danube with 50,000 men, and divided the Russian army, the right wing of which is at Krajoon, the left at Galatz, and the centre at Bucharest. Omar crossed in person at Oltenitz, and at the last accounts was only two days' distance from Bucharest, where the Russian force is weak. The supposed object of Omar's movement was to attack the rear of the Russian army, on its march from Krajoon against Kalafat.

It is stated that orders have been received at the Royal Carriage Department, Woolwich, to mount 1,000 pieces of ordnance of various calibre, with the greatest dispatch, and that the workmen are to work overtime to meet the requirements of the Service.

76th Foot—Ensign Walter Montford Westropp, to be Lieutenant by purchase, vice Fuller, who retires. George Edward Corrance, gent., Ensign by purchase, vice Westropp.

At Malta, the engineers are removing the 32 pounders from the batteries commanding the entrance of the harbour, and replacing them with 68 pounders.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the 21st Royal North British Fusileers bearing on the Regimental Color and appointments, the word "Hadensburg," in commemoration of the services of the Regiment in the action on the heights above Hadensburg, fought on the 24th of Aug. 1813."

MILITARY SERVICES.—The following men have been discharged and permitted to receive their pensions abroad:—Royal Artillery.—Gunner and Driver Robert McLauchlin has been granted a pension of 1s. 1d. per day, and to remain in Nova Scotia. Sergeant James Elsden, 1s. 11½d. pr day, New Brunswick. Gunner Charles Piercy, 1s 0¾d. per day, Nova Scotia. Canadian Rifle—Sergeant Robert Black, 2s. per day, at Montreal; and Private Thomas Watson, 1s. 2d. per day, at Niagara.

The *Himalaya*, screw steam-ship, was launched on Tuesday, at Deptford. She carries 20 guns.

Captain George Elliott, who commissioned the *James Watt*, 90 guns, screw steam ship, at Devonport, last week, appears resolved that he will soon have a crew for that fine ship, if attractive bills prove of service to him. He says "Captain George Elliott, who lately commanded the *Phaeton*, 50, is in want of Petty Officers, Able Seamen, Seamen and Landsmen, for the fine screw steam ship James Watt, at Plymouth. Men entered at all the rendezvous, and passage paid to join the ship at Plymouth. Prize money in prospect, and active service for stout hearts." It must be gratifying to the authorities of the Navy and Army, and the inhabitants of this country, that the moment danger appears near, there is no difficulty of obtaining men for all the services, if the numerous applications daily made by robust young men for entry into the Royal Naval service be taken as a criterion. The same spirit appears to exist in the country, as 12 young men were sent to Head quarters here on Saturday, 5 yesterday, and 13 to-day, all recruits for the Woolwich Division of Royal Marines.—*Woolwich Gazette.*

RUSSIAN RUSE.—The following is a copy of a notice that was posted up in the town of Boulis, on the night of the 17th inst.:—*Carmarthen, January, 1854.—This is to give notice.—To all flour dealers, corn factors, and farmers, that shall be found combeting together to raise the price of estables—corn, flour, bread, cheese, butter and meat—any farmer that shall be found out looking back, not bringing his corn to market, shall be dealt with according to my law, as he is shedding the blood of the innocent under the disguise of honest men. Let them look to themselves, for my eye is upon them, and I shall not spare, for my law is severe.—RUSSIAN.*"—*volutions for each double stroke of the engines.—Carmarthen Herald.*

LAUNCH OF THE SIMLA, 84.—On Monday, at ten minutes past two o'clock, the Simla was launched from Messrs. Tod and M'Gregor's building-yard, Kelvinhook. The Simla is 350 feet long on deck, 40 feet broad, and 23 deep. The screw is 18 feet in diameter, cast iron, and has three leaves. The power will consist of two steam cylinders 90 inches in diameter, with a stroke of six feet and a half. There are four pistons to each cylinder, and the connecting rods will be joined to frames at the top of the rods, working downwards like a steple-engine. The propeller shaft will be driven by a pinion, actuated by a large cog wheel three times its size; so that the screw will perform three revolutions for each double stroke of the engines.—*Glasgow Mail.*

RECEIVED DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.—Accounts have reached Shanghae, by the small Russian steam-tender, of the death of the Emperor of Japan, whose decease will place the court in mourning for three years, during which period no foreign embassy can be received.

"Accounts have reached Stamboul," says the *Presse*, "that Russia is resolved to send 200,000 men across the Danube, in order to take Constantinople, at all costs, and in spite of all the protecting powers. Constantinople is now being fortified from the inland side, by way of precaution, and English and French engineers direct these works. The fear also that, notwithstanding the recent victory at Cetate, the Russians might after all, succeed in forcing their way through the army of the Balkan, has induced the Sultan officially to apply to the Western Powers for auxiliary troops, and to request that they be speedily sent. The answer of the Western Powers is anxiously looked forward to."

All the Russian fleet was assembled at Sebastopol on the 11th, but on that date it left and took the direction towards Batoum. The English and French Admirals, on learning this, dispatched a squadron to Batoum, but the Russians must have reached that port first. This information is worthy of all confidence.

We also learn that the Turkish steam-vessels which went with the combined squadrons to carry supplies to the army of Asia will soon return to the Black Sea, still under the protection of the combined fleets. Thus, the first visit the English and French vessels of war have made to Batoum and to Chekvetil, was not a simple demonstration but the commencement of a new part, the *debut* in an act which will continue, and which will long detain the fleets of the Western Powers in the Black Sea.

MILITIA TRAINING IN 1854.—The Militia Bill having given her Majesty in Council power to extend or reduce the period of the training of the militia in England and Wales, provided the whole period of such training in any one year do not exceed fifty-six days nor be less than three, last night's *Gazette* contains the announcement that her Majesty, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, has been pleased to order that the whole period of exercise and training of all the regiments and corps in England and Wales, during the present year, shall not in any case exceed fifty-six days nor be less than three.

DEMAND FOR SEAMEN.—Several rendezvous for the entering of seamen and eligible landsmen for the royal navy have been opened at the various ports of South Wales, and in several instances, with good success. At Tenby, 20 fine young fellows have been enrolled, and there is every prospect of more being obtained, as the near approach of war, and the hope of prize-money, seem to be inducements which our brave seafaring population cannot resist.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

By Telegraph to the News' Room.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 20.

House occupied nearly the whole day in discussing the first Bills in the Report of the Law Commission, proceeded and agreed to all in the printed volume down to page 17, with only one alteration, viz;—striking out section 2nd in chapter 2d relating to enclosures of the Public Lands in which the Province Hall now stands.

Mr. Gilbert brought in a Bill to establish polling places in the Parish of Waterboro' in the County of Queen's, read a first time.

Mr. Boyd moved for returns from the principal Post Office, for the month of January last, address carried and a committee appointed to wait on His Excellency.

Mr. Earle brought in a Bill relating to the qualification of freeholders in a certain case—read a first time. House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

February 21.

This morning the Provincial Secretary, by command of His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor laid before the House a despatch having reference to the St. Andrews and Quebec Railway. It would appear that the holders of the stock (class A) offered to relinquish to the Company their stock, which relinquishment was accepted by the Board of Directors, and an application is to be made to the Legislature for an increase of the Capital of the Company.

The day was principally occupied in Committee of the whole on the Report of the Law Commission, and progress reported, without any material alteration in the original draft as printed.

Later in the afternoon a Bill to incorporate the Dorchester Agricultural Society, was committed and passed.

Captain Robinson presented the Petition of Jas. Boyd, Esq., praying to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the scrutiny between himself and Mr. Fitzgerald—petition received.

House adjourned at half-past 4 o'clock.

February 22.

The House was occupied principally in receiving petitions. Some debate occurred—particularly with respect to the reception of School petitions.

A Bill to increase the capital stock of the Bank of New-Brunswick was committed and passed. A Bill to incorporate the St. John Seamen's Friends' Society was also committed and passed.

His Honor the Speaker laid before the House the return from King's College.

Mr. McLeod presented the petition of Isaac McLean, of Waterbury, Q. C., complaining of the Government with reference to the management of the Crown Land Office. The Surveyor General defended the Government. Petition referred to a Select Committee.

House adjourned at a quarter past 4.

February 23.

House occupied this morning in receiving petitions; among which was one for aid to the Saddleville Female Academy. A discussion followed—petition received and referred to a Select Committee.

House proceeded to the order of the day, in further consideration of the Report of the Law Commission. Revenue Bill passed over with the understanding that the whole subject be taken up when the House are in Committee of ways and means, on the 6 March next.

A very protracted debate took place on the law imposing a duty on Hackmatac knees, &c. An amendment was proposed to abolish the duty; another to exclude knees cut on private lands—both withdrawn to avoid breaking in upon the report, so far as the mere codification of the Act is concerned. Progress reported.

Mr. Cutler gave notice that he intended to address His Excellency for certain returns from the Clerk of the Peace in the County of Kent.

Mr. Harding offered a resolution respecting the procedure during the discussion of the Law Commission. Members to speak only once, and only five minutes at a time. After a long discussion motion withdrawn.

House adjourned at 20 minutes to 5 o'clock.

PRIVATE AND EXCEPTIONAL LEGISLATION.

Extract from a Despatch of Sir Edmund Head, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated at Government House, Fredericton, May 6, 1853.

MY LORD DUKE,

I have the honor to inclose a copy of a Speech with which on the 3d instant I closed the session of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

Your Grace will probably observe the following words towards the end of my Address:

"I cannot allow this session to terminate without expressing some fear that inconvenience will arise hereafter in this Colony from the increasing tendency to private legislation; any such inconvenience will be more felt in proportion as we look forward to the investment within our Limits of foreign capital."

I feel that it is my duty to offer some sort of explanation of this remark, implying, as it seems to do, a species of censure on the Legislature.

It may be naturally said that I, as Lieutenant Governor of the Colony, am myself answerable for any erroneous legislation of this kind, inasmuch as my assent is necessary to every Bill. In the first place, however, it must be observed, that before assenting to Bills which have no suspending clause, the certificate of the Attorney General to the effect that they contain nothing contrary to the Royal Instructions, is always required.

In the second place, the Instructions in their present form, as I pointed out in my Despatch of April 28th, 1852, cannot in many cases be carried out literally, so as to operate as an efficient check on improper private bills.

In the third place, the principle that increased powers in the Local Government, should be left to the Local Legislature, carries with it necessarily increased responsibility, resting on the Council and Assembly, in the case of private as well as public Acts. On this principle, it was, I conceive that her most Gracious Majesty was advised to confirm the Act of 1852, for incorporating the Albert County Mining Company, notwithstanding the Report of her Majesty's Law Officers in England.

Lastly, I believe that if the present loose system of private and exceptional legislation be an evil, such evil cannot be remedied by any external interference or authoritative disallowance of of the Acts, either by Her Majesty in Council or by her Representative in the Colony. The remedy must be sought for in the good sense of the people themselves, and in a growing conviction of the deep responsibility under which Laws are made by the Provincial Legislature. Such a conviction can only flow from the enjoyment of free action in the matter to which it relates.

Your Grace will readily see that I can have no interest in raising any question with regard to the system pursued by the Colonial Legislature in this matter. The Acts referred to are eminently local in their character, and do not generally affect the Crown or the Lieutenant Governor. The period moreover during which I shall administer the Government of New Brunswick, is probably drawing to a close. I cannot, however, allow it to terminate, without placing on record my sense of the danger and difficulty likely to arise from this growth of legislation of a private and partial character. It is difficult to imagine what will be the condition of the Colonial Statute Book, if such a system of exceptional law-making continue uninterrupted for ten or twelve years more.

Take one such example as the Act already referred to—that for incorporating the Albert Mining Company,—which in reality operated on a single square mile of land. Persons who have seen privileges of this sort granted by a special law to one set of private speculators, naturally hope that they too may be equally fortunate in obtaining rights of the same kind. In fact, in the session just ended, claims of the very same kind for legislative interference have been made, and recommended by a select Committee, expressly on the ground that similar rights were given the last year. The applicant has in this instance failed in obtaining his object, but in all such cases a natural feeling of injustice, and a latent hope of being more fortunate another time, will exist in the minds of those who are defeated for the moment; one sees no end to a course of special legislation when it is once entered upon.

The total number of Acts passed in this session of our Legislature is 69; of these, 13 only are public and general in their character; 29 may be called local, though in two or three cases with public objects, and 27 are in fact of a private nature.

Of the Local Acts several are passed for the purpose of excepting particular districts from the operation of General Laws, and there are none perhaps of a character mischievous or hurtful save upon the grounds that they authorize systematic exceptions from the ordinary law of the Province.

Of the Private Acts, many relate to the incorporation of Societies or Companies, and in my opinion acts of this kind are too readily granted. I am favorable to the principle of a limited liability in partnerships, under proper restrictions, and in fact I pressed this subject on my Council three or four years ago. A Provincial Act already exists affording facilities of this kind, but it is so much easier to obtain a private Act of incorporation that any general law imposing conditions on partnerships becomes a dead letter.

There is no fee or charge of any sort on obtaining a private Act, and much legislation of the kind takes place on statements *ex parte*, which are not tested by any judicial authority, and are often not confronted at the moment by any adverse interest. The very recitals of Bills of this character may record on the Statute Book assumptions of facts pregnant with the gravest errors.

The present population of New Brunswick is about 200,000 persons. Let us suppose that at the end of ten years it will consist of 300,000, and that private and local legislation may have gone on at the rate of 50 Acts a year during that time. It will be a curious calculation what per centage of persons out of our small population will in 1864 be affected directly or indirectly by Laws of an exceptional character. Such Acts do not easily admit of classification or codifying. The Law of the Land will be the exception and not the rule, and the whole Province will be governed by a mass of *Privilegia*.

Many of these Acts may have expired, and many may never have been virtually in operation at all; but still it will be a lawyer's business to be sure of the negative, that no private or local Act affects the person or property under consideration at the moment. It does not follow because an Act has expired, that all rights created by it have expired also; and the rights of minors, of absentees, and of creditors, may cross and impede one another in every direction. The title to an English estate is difficult enough to unravel, but it appears to me that the unlimited action of private legislation is likely to produce in this Colony a state of things which will be far worse.

Many of these local and private Acts are in fact regulations which ought to emanate from a municipal body, if such bodies existed generally in New Brunswick. We have a Law allowing each county to be incorporated, and one county has taken advantage of this privilege. I was myself that the introduction of municipalities had commenced with the smaller unit of Townships, as in Canada, rather than with the larger element of a County; but at any rate, much which is now done by the Legislature ought to be done by a municipal body of some kind, collecting and spending the money of the rate payers on local objects within its own jurisdiction.

I do not know that any objections can be urged against the excess of local and private legislation with more strength than that which is founded on the tendency of such a system to degrade the Legislature in the eyes of the people themselves.—Men see their Representatives sitting day after day and passing regulations apparently within the compass of a Parish Vestry. That generality which is one of the characteristics of law, as such, has disappeared. They look upon the adoption or rejection of these little measures as a fair matter for private canvass and favour; which they would scruple to use with reference to the really large interests, such as ought to guide a constituency in the choice of their representatives.

If Your Grace asks what is the remedy for these evils, I repeat that it must be sought in the good sense of the people themselves. The means are comparatively easy, if the principle that private legislation should be carefully watched and restricted, is once recognized by the inhabitants of New Brunswick.

A heavy fee on the introduction of all private Bills; due provision for testing the facts on which petitions for such bills are founded; stringent rules as to their introduction and their progress—Rules, that is, enacted by law, and not capable of being dispensed with by either House. These are among the checks which might easily be imposed. All I can do is to state my views to Your Grace in the form of this Despatch, and if Your Grace should concur in such views, I may perhaps cause portions of this correspondence to be laid before the Legislature, if a proper opportunity for doing so should occur.

There is one very grave consideration which suggests itself at the present time in connection with the habit of private and exceptional legislation. I mean the effect such a system must have on the minds of capitalists and persons who may be disposed to invest money in land or other property in New Brunswick.

It is pretty clear that where a constant reference to the Legislature in matters of detail may be anticipated, no very strong confidence in the general Law, or the law as a set of rules definite in themselves, and applicable to all men without exception, will prevail. It does not follow that the legislature would in any case wish to do injustice, but the capitalist or private speculator cannot accurately know beforehand what they are likely to do, or what political or private feeling may prevail. A strong sense of comparative insecurity and instability, must, I should think, be the natural result.

Extract from the Answer to the above.

"I entirely concur in the views which you have there expressed respecting the general course of legislation of late years in New Brunswick, and approve of your taking every legitimate opportunity of pressing on the Legislature the danger of a constantly increasing system of private and exceptional legislation. And I think that in characterizing the evil, you have yourself pointed out with accuracy that the readiest remedy within the power of the legislature to counteract this tendency, would be the establishment of such local bodies as might naturally undertake the legislation of those private and municipal affairs which are now apt to be provided for in this anomalous and uncertain manner. NEWCASTLE.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Died on Saturday evening the 18th inst., in the 86th year of his age, the Rev. BENJAMIN GUSTUS GRAY, D. D., formerly Rector of Saint John, and for many years Chaplain to the Garrison in this City. Dr. Gray was one of the oldest surviving Missionaries of our Church, in this and the adjoining Province of Nova Scotia. His first Mission was at Preston near Halifax, where, prior to the commencement of the present century, he had charge of the Maroons, about 440 of whom were settled in that vicinity. He was afterwards appointed to the Parish of Sackville, and subsequently to that of St. George at Halifax, from whence in 1825, he was removed to the Rectory of St. John, which he held for 15 years. Dr. Gray was an active and faithful Missionary, never shrinking from the labors of his sacred office, until the infirmities of age compelled him to relinquish them. His vigorous mind, which had been shaken by infirmities and trials, regained at the close a portion of its former clearness, and under sufferings of no ordinary character, gave evidence of strong faith and deep devotion.

The funeral took place, on Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from the residence of Rev. Dr. Wm. Gray. The former part of the solemn service for the burial of the Dead, was performed at Trinity Church, which, by order of the Vestry, was hung in mourning on the occasion. A large number of persons, including the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School, were present. The mortal remains, attended by eight of the clergy belonging to the city and its vicinity, the Wardens and Vestries of the Parishes of St. John, St. James' and St. Mark, and other citizens, were thence conveyed to the Church-burial ground, and there committed to the Tomb. "When this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:—DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."—*Ch. Witness.*

Mr. Boyd, member for Charlotte County, has presented a petition to the Legislature, praying reimbursement of expenses incurred in his late scrutiny with Mr. Fitzgerald. We are of opinion Mr. Boyd should receive reparation, inasmuch as it was no fault of his, but wholly that of the House, that he did not take his seat at the first session. Instead thereof, he has been kept out of his place (through some improper influence) by a man who had not the slightest claim in reality to the seat, but has managed to create delay by the contributions of his "frinds and supporthers" here and elsewhere. It is disgraceful enough that the County has been represented for three out of four sessions by a person not legally returned; but it will be more so if reparation is not made to the injured member. It is a great pity that our polling system at elections leaves the result open to such uncertainties.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Anglo American Magazine.—The last number of this excellent periodical is before us. It contains four Plates, well executed;—Scene on Lake Scugog—The proposed General Hospital at Toronto—Paris Fashions—and one shewing the track of H. M. Ship *Investigator* in the Arctic Regions. The work has 110 pages, and comprises many excellent articles, among which are to be found, "History of the War of 1812 and 1813," and the humorous "Chronicles of Dreepdaily." The Anglo American is truly designated the Blackwood of America.

Illustrated Magazine of Art.—This work is for sale in Numbers by Mr. B. O'Brien, King Street, price One Shilling. The one before us contains over 30 engravings, and as many subjects of good reading. Artists, pupils in drawing, &c., will find this an instructive publication.

Life and Times of the Duke of Wellington.—No person should be without a copy of this magnificent work, furnishing, as it does, a complete history of the wars in which the great captain was engaged. It is furnished in numbers at 1s. 3d. each; the plates are of the finest execution; and it will in the end make an elegant and useful addition to the library. Mr. Hunter, the Agent, is to be found at his office, Barlow's corner, Market square.

HANDSOME.—A purse of One Hundred Pounds, made up by several Merchants of the City, was presented on Monday to Mr. EDWARD SANCTON, as "a testimony of their approbation of the manner in which he had discharged his responsible duties at the Bank of British North America." Mr. S. lately resigned his situation there, having been connected with the institution since its commencement in this City.

STEAMER CHEBUCTO.—The *Chebucto* continues to make her weekly trips to Portland, notwithstanding the winter has been the most inclement and severe that has been experienced here for many years. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the proprietors to accommodate the public during the winter, will be appreciated by travellers and business men when the season comes for more active employment.

☞ Silas Starratt, son of Henley Starratt, Esq., of Marshall's Cove, Wilmot, N. S., left the house on the morning of the 6th instant, for the purpose of cutting fuel, and was found senseless some two hours afterwards. A limb had fallen from a tree and fractured his skull. He survived two days but never spoke. He was about 22 years of age.—*Intelligencer.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor,—I am sorry that I am obliged to request a corner in your paper for another communication respecting the conduct of our Flour dealers. I am no enemy either to them, or to the bakers. I eat their bread every day and if it is good I like it. The *price* is what I complain of, and that has been forced up by grinding speculators and extortioners to double what the article might be sold at. And while our Merchants are so keen in laying hold of any pretext to make an advance, they are very slow in reducing the price. On Monday a telegraphic despatch announced three shillings of a fall in flour, but I have not yet heard of any abatement here. Had the message spoken of a *rise*, not an hour would have been lost in increasing the price. If prices here are to be regulated by England and New York, why has no abatement been made to correspond with this reduction?

But this is not all. Two or three of our most wealthy flour merchants, I understand, are trying another experiment to keep up the price of flour. They have actually bought out some of the smaller dealers, who were disposed to take a little less for the article. Thus, it would appear, they are determined to have all in their own hands, and to dole out the flour at whatever price they please.—Can anything show more plainly the shameless, grasping extortion of the men we have to depend upon for our supply of bread?

But the day of reckoning is not far off. Our turn will come next. The public prints represent the quantity of flour in store in Boston, Portland, and New York as enormous, and the English papers say the same of the quantity on hand in Liverpool. The monopolizers may hold on to this during the winter weather; but let them bear in mind that the spring is at hand, when no expedient will enable them to keep these stores in good condition, and also that so soon as the canals are open, there will be such a rush of supplies from Canada and the far west, that the market will be completely glutted. Who will feel compassion for the speculators then? Or who will be sorry if their names should appear in a bunch in the list of bankrupts?

But it is not merely the flour market that is disturbed. At present there is a rage for speculation in almost every thing. Look at the prices which real estate fetches at auction, and the consequent unprecedented advance in rents: £70 and even £80 are asked for houses that a year ago would hardly have brought £30. This may seem a very desirable state of things to landlords, and they may look upon it as a sure indication of the prosperity of our Province: but the more prudent part of the community see in it a sure presage of a fast approaching crisis, when rents and prices of all kinds will fall to a ruinous degree. Let those who are so anxious to buy houses at almost any price pause for a moment and consider what prospect there is of a return for their bargains at all commensurate with the outlay. Our lumber is not going to bring any thing like the price it did last year, in the face of a continental war. Neither is the construction of our railway going to advance with any great degree of rapidity, while capital is required at home to adjust things to a state of warfare. And if the price of our staple commodity fall, what, I would like to know, is then to keep up prices? I would therefore advise those who have a little money, to be cautious in laying it out, lest they should, with the very best intentions, throw it away upon something that will bring them in nothing. Look before you leap, and you may escape a dangerous fall. B.

(FOR THE CHRONICLE.)

THE MISLEADER MISLEAD.

Mr. Editor.—It is truly laughable to see how the jesuitical editor of the *Morning Freeman* has been gulled by some one of his own kidney, in an article in that paper of Saturday morning last, in describing a scene that has taken place in the House of Assembly after the adjournment of that body—occasioned by the reading of the Editor's letter to Smith, as Chairman of the Committee for Reporting Debates. It is true Mr. Needham read it aloud. It is true a number of members were present, and I have no doubt that it was also true his correspondent was very sick—for I observed among those of his adherents (who have grown small by degrees, and beautifully less, and dwindled down to a mere point, numbering at most not over a half dozen in the House, and very few outside) with quivering chins, pale cheeks, red eyes and the utmost confusion and dismay describable in every feature. The Honorable "MAMMA FOR KIRT" declared he considered the man crazy, and from his own knowledge had no reason to complain of the treatment received from the Committee of Reporting and publishing the Debates of last year,—and further that he had received several severe castigations from the same immaculate editor, for voting for the adoption of that report, and winced piteously to think the man had so far put off the mask of deception, as to preclude him from ever deceiving again;—others of his friends were heard to say, the fellow has damned himself forever, and disclaimed all connection with the man that had upon every occasion attempted to encourage the annihilation of Protestant ascendancy in New-Brunswick, and that his monstrous vices might not be connived at, or not complained of, he has cloaked them for a season, with a seeming zeal for Constitutional Government. But there is a greater truth than that recorded by the Correspondent to the Freeman, that is, all truly British, and all truly Protestant, laughed, but not unto sickness as that jesuitical correspondent did, but with much gratitude to think the man had shewn himself in his true colours, and thereby render himself perfectly harmless for all time to come. But the most extraordinary part of all is, that so many honest men are found pampering the dog, and nursing the viper, by aiding and sustaining his seditious Print—and who is anxiously waiting to bite the hand that feeds him.

Your's, in haste, W. D.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, Mr. Foulis entertained the members of the Institute with a lecture on the *Progress of Chemistry*. The researches of Alchemy and the abortive efforts of its disciples; the Baconian method of investigation, and the consequent rise of Chemistry, with its successful inquiries, into the constitution of material substances; and the gradual development of those aeriform bodies called gases, with nature, properties and effects, in connection with the names of Stahle, Priestly, Black, Lavoisier, Sir Humphrey Davy and others, were briefly but scientifically stated and explained. Many successful and interesting experi