

the good old plan. That they should take who have the power, And they should keep who can. For 'take,' perhaps, we should read 'cheat,' to suit the circum- stances of the case. Take, how- ever, or cheat, to quote our Welsh hero again, "is all one reckon- ings, only the phrase is a little va- riations." Hitherto he has been a "tame character;" now he as- pires to the station of a highway- man, who would give a receipt in full to his creditor with a pistol. And what seems to annoy him more than any other truth which Mr. Smith has told him is, to have it said that he cannot afford to fight. This, perhaps, is because the assertion is particularly true. If it be so; if poverty alone is what prevents him from going to war, perpetual bankruptcy to him! Never may he be rich enough to plunge the world into bloodshed! Sad a dog as brother Jonathan is, still he is brother Jonathan, and may we ever be saved from fratricide. If he must fight, let him fight on paper; but there he has been beaten already, and may as well give in.

And here we cannot but remark on the real blessing to nations which has been conferred upon them by literature and the press. A writ of *capias* cannot be served on a state; a people cannot be sent to gaol. Arms were formerly appealed to, in case of necessity; but it is now met by the pen.— Inkshed has taken the place of bloodshed, and better still, that ink is shed in jokes. We hope that Mr. Sydney Smith will have made America in general, and Pennsylvania in particular, heartily ashamed of themselves; or, at least, that he will have made them see the nature of their commercial position. They are mer- chants in the city of the world, and their credit has been destroyed—they are cosmopolitan defaulters. In conclusion, we shall be rejoiced if he gets his money. He well deserves it, for he is the best of dons. *Pictorial Times*.

A most extraordinary discovery was effected, in July last, at Bom- bay, of a confederacy for plunder- ing boats, robbing ships, and smug- gling goods. This gang had ex- isted for at least a quarter of a century in the most populous part of the town. They are also sup- posed to be connected with the pirates and murderers who, even now, so frequently commit the greatest atrocities within almost the hat of the police and other authorities of that important naval station. No discovery was ever made of the gang until one of the accomplices gave a clue which led to the seizure of their books and to the development of the whole system, which was organised in the most perfect manner. The police were on the traces of the malefactors, but it was feared that no conviction would take place, as most of the police agents had been bribed by the gang, and they were throwing every obstacle in the way of having any of their accomplices punished.

IRELAND.

The excitement has considera- bly declined, as was pretty signifi- cantly proved by the last week's repeal rent having scarcely amount- ed to £640; but the O'

Connell tribute, which was collect- ed throughout Ireland, on the 19th ult., will be larger, by, it is thought 30,000*l.*, than it has been in any former year. Dublin alone, con- tributed 4,000*l.*, Cork, 1,000*l.*, Waterford, 500*l.*, Limerick, 400*l.*, Belfast 300*l.*, Clonmell 270*l.*, and the minor towns in proportion. Every imaginable expedient was resorted to on the occasion, to swell the aggregate amount. The altars resounded with O'Connell's praises, and the persecutions to which the "disinterested, honest" man had been subjected by Saxon bigotry and intolerance, and, as a matter of course, the people were grieved. That a nation, so proverbial for their poverty as the Irish, has been enabled for years to con- tribute so many thousands for pur- poses of political agitation, is be- ginning, at the present moment, to excite some discussion in Eng- land; and we certainly were much surprised to see a recent publica- tion, in which the writer endeav- oured to prove, and to our mind, with no little success, that, gene- rally speaking, the Irish are not so poverty stricken or so ill fed by many degrees, as the world were led to believe. But, be this as it may, we find that Mr. O'Connell does not always fish in smooth waters. For instance *Feurgus O'Connell*, in his *Northern Star* of Saturday, addresses a letter to the agitator, in which he tells him that either Repeal will be carried, or that his (the agitator's) head will be laid on the block by the 1st of April next. *C. Willmer's American News Letter*, Dec. 5.

ITALY.

Letters from Leghorn, of the 11th inst. say, that the people of Naples were in a state of great excitement, expecting some sudden movement; and that the insur- gents in the Papal States were not entirely dispersed.

A letter from Bologna, states, that fresh disturbances had taken place in that city and neighbour- hood.

THE STAR AND NEWFOUNDLAND ADVO- CATE is regularly filed in LONDON by Mr. P. L. SIMMONDS, Agent for the Colonial Papers, British and Foreign News, papers, and Advertising Agency Office, 18, Cornhill, London, (opposite the Royal Exchange), where Orders and Adver- tisements will be received.

The Star.

"LIBERTY, AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1844.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

His Excellency the Governor went down to the Court House, yesterday, at two o'clock, attended by his suite. His Excellency opened the Session with the following

SPEECH

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

Having, at the opening of the first Session of the Legislature of this Island under its present form of Constitution, in January last, so fully laid before you the views which I had been led to form on various subjects which appeared to me to connect themselves with the interests of the Colony, and so which I there- fore deemed it consistent with my duty to direct your attention, it only re- mains for me, upon the present oc- casion, to renew my acknowledgments

of the attention which was given by you to those observations and suggestions, and again to invite to one or two subjects which appear to me to require your Legislative care and encouragement.—But, be- fore I proceed to do this, it is my pleasing duty to offer you my congratulations upon the Birth of another Princess, and upon the continued health and en- creased happiness of a Sovereign so deservedly dear to the Nation, and whose safety we delight in believing to be the peculiar care of a merciful Providence.

Copies of several Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, on various subjects, will be com- municated to you, by which, among other matters of interest and importance, you will find that the Royal Assent has been given to seventeen of the Acts passed by you during the last Session, and, with regard to the remainder, I have no reason to doubt that they will also receive the Royal allowance so soon as the neces- sary forms shall have been gone through.

I have directed that detailed statements of all the Receipts and Disbursements which have taken place down to the end of the year just closed, be laid before you, from which you will, I trust, find that the Tariff of Colonial Duties, established by the Act passed during the last Session, is working beneficially as respects the Revenue, and without any undue pressure either upon the Importer or consumer; that the Fi- nancial condition of the Colony is sound and satisfac- tory, and that the expenditure under the several heads of appropriation have been made with a due regard to economy and to the public interests.—I cannot, there- fore, entertain any doubt that your Grants to Her Majesty, in aid of the public service for the ensuing year, will be characterized by your usual liberality.

Detailed reports of the progress which has been made, and the Sums which have been expended during the operations of the past season, in the repair and construction of Roads and Bridges, will also be sent down to you, and by them you will, I trust, be satis- fied, not only that due exertion has been used in carrying into effect the enlightened intentions of the Le- gislature on these important subjects, but that the liberal appropriations made by you during the last Session, if they should not prove fully adequate to the completion all the improvements which have been begun under this head of Service, will, nevertheless, be found sufficient for the operations of the ensuing year—accordingly no demand for Grants in aid of Roads or Bridges for 1844 is included in the Estimates which will be laid before you.—I do not conclude this part of my Address without adverting to the beneficial effects which have attended the expenditure of this money in the employment which it has been the means of affording to the poorer Inhabitants of the Out-ports in general, but more especially of those where a partial failure of the Fishery has occurred, and who, but for the relief thus afforded to them, must, with their families, have been exposed to much distress during the present winter—the seasonable outlay of this public money therefore, as well by the amount of benefit which it has been the means of conferring upon this industrious and most valuable class of men, as by the improvement of the Island, in respect of one of its most prominent wants, must be regarded as a further subject of legitimate congratula- tion to you and to the Colony, on the part of the Re- presentative of a Sovereign whose only desire is to promote the prosperity, the happiness and content- ment of all classes of Her loyal subjects.

A Bill has been prepared, and will be laid before you by the proper Officer of the Government, by which it is proposed, on the part of the Sovereign, that the whole of the Net proceeds of the Crown Estate in this Island should be surrendered to the Colony, in exchange for a permanent provision secured upon its general Revenues for the charges which are now defrayed from that fund, of which, how- ever, the management and collection will continue to be vested in the local government, while the estate it- self may, it is confidently believed, be greatly raised in value by judicious outlay in the survey and appor- tionment of Waste Lands, the construction of Roads, Bridges and other improvements calculated to pro- mote Agricultural Settlement, of which the benefit will be derived solely by the Colony, not only as re- gards increase of Revenue but of a most valuable de- scription of population to which this Island may confi- dently look to render it at no remote period in a great measure independent of the surrounding Pro- vinces and Countries in respect to Agricultural Pro- duce, every description of which it is well known by industry; and due encouragement—and it is already in possession of the principal one, viz., an excellent and never failing market—may be successfully raised in Newfoundland.

I will advert to the subject of "Education" merely for the purpose of suggesting, with a view to render the operation of the Bill passed by you during the last Session, for the regulation of District Schools more satisfactory and effective, that provision be made in that Bill for a second Inspector—an addi- tion which would, as appears to me, be in entire ac- cordance with the principle upon which the measure itself is based.

I renew to you the invitation which I made to you at the opening of the last Session to take into your consideration the state of the Laws affecting that most important class of the Queen's subjects in this Island, its Fishermen; and I shall be happy to con- cur with you in any Legislative measure by which their interests can be promoted, consistently with a due regard to those of their employers.

The improvement of the comfort, convenience, and security of the property of the Inhabitants of the Provincial Capital, will also I trust, engage a due share of your attention, and in particular the means of ensuring an abundant supply of pure water at all seasons of the year, for which such remarkable natural facilities exist—and in addition to the objects adverted to in the memorandum communicated to you by my directions during the last Session, I would suggest a revision of the Act for the suppression and prevention of the extension of Fires, with a view to conferring en- larged powers upon the "Fire Wardens" without which this object of such paramount importance to a city built chiefly of wood cannot, in my opinion, be effectually secured.

Upon the prospect of an early extension to this Is- land of the great advantages of Steam Communica- tion with the Mother Country and the neighbouring Continent, I likewise offer you my congratulations, as also upon the completion of the very valuable and important Light lately established and now in bril- liant operation at Cape Bonavista.

There is yet another subject to which it appears to me to be proper that I should call your attention. I refer to the establishment of one or more small Colonial vessels, to be employed not only in the protec- tion of the Revenue and the Harbour Fisheries, but for the conveyance of the Judges and Officers of the

Circuit Courts, and the occasional visit of the Governor to the different Outports of the Island—a suggestion this arrangement in the collection of which will be found to be one both of advantage and economy.—As respects the fisheries it has been urged the report of every successive Naval Commandant this Station.

With these observations, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen and Gentlemen, and with the renewed to you of my cordial co-operation for the advan- cement of your Legislative labors, I now leave your deliberations, in the confident hope that no will your proceedings be characterized by the sacrifice of individual feeling at the shrill public duty, by which they were so honorably distinguished during the last Session, but that your endeavors will be used to bring the business of now about to commence to a conclusion with as much expedition as may be found compatible with the due consideration of the various important mat- ters which will necessarily engage your attention, with a view to do what may depend upon me to this important object, it may be proper for me to that I shall be found prepared to call a meeting of General Assembly during the Summer season, should be the opinion of the House that the Interests would be thereby promoted.

January 10, 1844.

His Excellency having retired, Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he had obtained a Copy of the Speech, which was again read.

Mr. Slade moved the address in reply to His Excellency's Speech.

Mr. Carter was much gratified on hearing the Speech, that the foreboding of on the subject of the Revenue and the last appor- tions act were shown to be groundless. Revenue was declared to be in a healthy state which was the cause of much satisfaction, but come in for his share of the obliquity cast during the last Session on those who were charged with being regardless of the expenditure of public Monies on Roads and Bridges—but he now delighted to have it shown that no could fairly be alleged.—There were many points in the speech which had afforded pleasure, and he cordially seconded the motion.

Mr. Parsons was desirous to offer a few observations.—No one who heard the sentiments expressed in that Speech would doubt that His Excellency was imbued with feelings which did him high honour.—But he could have wished that other matters had been referred to—the fault found as that it did not go far enough.—He con- sidered many essential matters, not embraced in the Speech which ought to flow from the Exe- cutive.—But constituted as the Government was there was little to expect from an Executive who was not responsible.—The Jury Bill—a question which embraced the interest of life and property within its grasp should have been referred to.—He was told that His Excellency's act were his own—that his Council held no control, and His Excellency had therefore great responsibility resting on him at this moment. There were omissions in the Speech to which he might refer—tho' he had hoped that there might be some necessity in one so young in legislation as him- self to take exceptions to it.—But when he heard so qualified praise bestowed on what did not seem to him to warrant so much, he could not silently acquiesce, tho' he would support the motion.

Hon. Mr. KENT rose to express his unqualified approval of the speech which was one of the most unexceptionable he had ever heard. The lib- eral sentiments of desire that were expressed to ex- ploit the latent resources of the colony and to im- prove its well-being, bespoke a truly philanthropic mind. Still in the observations of the hon. mem- ber for St. John's connected with the important and necessary of the revision of the Juries, he de- cided fully. It was not, however, the duty of the Governor to point attention to it.—His Ex- cellency knew that it was in the power of the Le- gislature to correct such evils, and knowing that he felt that his interference would, probably, pro- duce more harm than good. It might, perhaps seem to parties who were in erected in uphold- ing the present system to convey a censure upon the & thus create feelings which might stand in the way of the adjustment of the question. An attempt would, he believed, be made to revise the system and it should have his most cordial and active support. The hon. member for St. John's has spoken of the nature of our present Constitution. Of course it invested the Governor with great power, but North, South, East and West we heard expressions of satisfaction with the wisdom and spirit by which Sir John Harvey had exer- cised that power. If they wanted measures of amelioration or improvement they should look to themselves, and not look to the Governor for every thing. They should be ready to give him their support in measures promotive of public prosperity, not in a spirit of party or faction, but by entering upon their duties with a spirit-for- ward determination to do good.—to economise the public Revenue, and direct its appropriations to the im- provement of the country, mental and physical. He did think that as one body they had feared power. With so large a Revenue—not too large if properly applied, but too large if not discreet- ly used—there was the danger when they were together that appropriations should sometimes be the result of compromise. They should proceed in their labors, not by the spirit of faction, but irrespective of such feeling—animated by the motives which ought to influence them—and by which he believed the Head of the Government as well as the Legislature were influenced—such a course as this would find them at the end of the Session, with the confidence of the country not diminished in them, but increased.

The motion was then put and carried, and Committee appointed to prepare the Address.

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