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THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 29, 1847.

The January Mail arrived at Halifax in the steam ship *Hibernia*, on Friday last, after a boisterous passage of 17 days; it was received in this city at 10 o'clock on Monday night, the mail which brought it having been due at noon on that day.

The Earl of Elgin, the newly appointed Governor General of British North America, and suite, came passengers in the packet. His Excellency landed at Halifax, but would proceed in the Hibernia to Boston—thence by the most expeditious route to Montreal. The House of Assembly being in Session, his Excellency was waited upon with addresses from that body and the Legislative Council, to which he made a suitable reply.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

It cannot longer be doubted that in this unfortunate country millions are in a condition of the most calamitous destitution *now*, with no other prospect before them, humanly speaking, than deeper and still deepening distress for months to come.—However the statements from some particular localities may possibly have been exaggerated, the testimonies to the heart-rending fact are too numerous and too strong to be set aside. It is notorious that scores are *dying through want of food*. No language can convey an adequate idea of the extent of distress; the measures of relief in the way of employment on public works and the supply of food by local committees, are totally unequal to the exigency; in fact, the peasantry in several counties are famishing, and the provincial journals record a number of additional deaths from starvation.

Increased alarm pervades many wide districts in the south and west. The people see the corn stacks daily diminishing in bulk and before many weeks supplies from distant points must come, or hundreds will die of starvation. The late frost having stopped some of the mills in the county of Meath, the people of two baronies were, for several days, living, or rather starving, on turnips and cabbage merely boiled. Mr. Cummins, a magistrate for the county of Cork, in a public letter to the Duke of Wellington, says that,—"Having heard so much of the distress in the western parts of the county, I went, on the 15th instant, to Skibbereen, and to give the instance of one townland which I visited, as an example of the state of the entire coast district, I shall state simply what I there saw. It is situate on the eastern side of Castlehaven Harbour, and is named South Reen, in the Parish of Myross. Being aware that I should have to witness scenes of frightful hunger, I provided myself with as much bread as five men could carry, and on reaching the spot, I was surprised to find the wretched hamlet apparently deserted. I entered some of the hovels to ascertain the cause, and the scences that presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearance dead, were huddled in a corner, on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horse cloth, their wretched legs hanging about, naked above the knees. I approached in horror, and found by a low moaning they were alive—*they were in fever*, four children, a woman, and what had once been a man. It is impossible to go through the detail; suffice it to say that in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least 200 of such phantoms, such frightful spectres, as no words can describe.—By far the greater number were delirious, either from famine or from fever. Their demoniac yells are still lingering in mine ears, and their horrible images are fixed upon my brain. My heart sickens at the recital, but I must go on. In another case decency would forbid what follows, but it must be told. My clothes were nearly torn off in my attempts to escape from the pestilence around, when my neckcloth was seized from behind by a gripe which compelled me to turn. I found myself grasped by a woman with an infant apparently *just born*, in her arms, and the remains of a filthy sack across her loins—the sole covering of herself and babe. The same morning, the police entered a house on the adjoining lands, which was observed shut for many days, and two frozen corpses were found, lying upon the mud floor, *half devoured by rats!* A mother, herself in fever, was seen, the same day, to drag out the corpse of her child, a girl about 11, perfectly naked, and leave it half covered with stones. In another house, within 500 yards of the Cavalry station at Skibbereen, the dispensary doctor found seven wretches unable to move under the same cloak. *One had been dead many hours, but the rest were unable to move themselves, or the corpse!!*"

These cases may be multiplied. The following is from the letter of an incumbent, a native of Wales residing in the county of Roscommon:—"Our country is indeed in a wretched state. The people in general are very willing to be employed; crowds are perpetually seeking to have their names entered on the public works; the pay is only 8d. a day, which will only purchase 3½lbs. of oatmeal, or 4lbs. of Indian meal. This is indeed but scanty provision for a family of seven persons, which is the very lowest average; many are unable to work from mere exhaustion; how the people subsist it is difficult to imagine, making every allowance for the cabbages and turnips which they steal from the farmers, theft it can hardly be called, for the people take them openly, and no one has the heart to forbid them, the destitution is awful. The mirth of the children is ceased—in places where their voices once sounded loud and gay, there noise is heard no more, but you may see them dull and listless; our poor-houses are filled, for the most part, which is a sure test of the most pinching poverty—for, though treated with the greatest consideration, the people have an almost insuperable repugnance to enter them; in former days beggars have often told me that they would sooner die than become inmates of them. That all the charity England can extend to us will be much wanted, is undoubted. Our landlords are most of them willing to do their duty, as far as posible, but with the properties generally incumbered, and no rents coming in, much cannot be expected."—*Liverpool Mail.*

Prince Jerome Napoleon has arrived in London from Brussels, and proceeded with Prince Louis Napoleon to Leamington.

The *Monarch* and *Neptune* steam-vessels, formerly belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company, have been lately purchased by the Spanish government, and are at present fitting as war steamers. The chief engineers have been offered 21*l.* per month, the second engineers 20*l.* per month, and the third engineers 16*l.* per month, and the stokers 8*l.* per month, with everything found them on joining these vessels. There is some difficulty in obtaining competent engineers, even with tempting offers.

The Great Britain Steam Ship.—Mr. Billenton, civil engineer, who received instructions to survey this ship, and report on the geological state of the bay, the tidal flows, her position, and the mode of floating her, says—"From the practical survey I have taken I am fully convinced that the difficult task of floating her can be accomplished, and that respectable and experienced contractors may be found who will undertake to float her at a moderate cost."

Election of the Mayor of Birmingham.—Robert Martineau, Esq. brass-cock founder, has been unanimously elected Mayor of Birmingham. Mr. Martineau is brother to Harriet Martineau, the celebrated writer.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 7th Hussars and 70th Foot, stationed in the Athlone district have subscribed a day's pay for the relief of the Irish poor.

Awful Destitution in the Highlands of Scotland.—The account from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland are truly awful. The labouring population of Sutherlandshire, Rossshire, Invernessshire, Argyle-shire, and of the Hebrides and the Zetland Islands, are at this moment threatened with starvation in consequence of the total failure of the potato crop. Already have many of these poor people perished from cold and hunger, and, horrible as are the sufferings of the destitute Irish, we believe they are quite equalled by those of the poor inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Edinburgh Committee for the Relief of Destitution in the Highlands, have determined to appoint a deputation to proceed to London for the purpose of holding a public meeting, and laying the claims of the suffering population of the Highlands before the people of England.

The Western Islands.—A population of fully 50,000 is bordering on starvation. The number of deaths from dysentery and cholera is increasing with fearful rapidity among the cottar class; and the small crofters are fast exhausting their small stores of corn.

The total amount of the free church collections in Scotland, for the relief of the distress in the highlands and islands, is £4,364 10s. 7½d.

The Government mills at Plymouth are employed night and day in grinding Indian corn for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

Great distress prevails among the silk weavers of Spitalfields for want of employment. A fund for their relief has been opened under the auspices of the clergy and influential inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Great misery exists in many parts of France.

The misery existing in Flanders is immense.—Not fewer than 13,000 persons emigrated last year for America from that province, and in the ensuing year the number will be still greater.

The Gazette of Tuesday, Dec. 22, contained a notice of the prorogation of Parliament from the 12th of January to Tuesday, the 19th of January, when it is to meet for the despatch of business.

It is said that Miss Susan Cushman, of America, the celebrated Juliet to her sister's Romeo, has found a real Romeo, in the person of a young gentleman of Liverpool, to whom she will be shortly united.

The cost of the overland route to India for first-class cabins will be reduced, at March next, to £127.

It is said that Government intend to shorten the term of the soldier's enlistment, to ten years.

The Pope has reduced the duty on the export and import of grain into the Roman dominions.

It is rumoured that there is to be an increase of the army, fifteen regiments it is said, or 12,000 men.

The Naval and Military Gazette announces that a decoration is to be conferred on the veterans of the war with the French.

On the 9th instant, Major Eames, of the 47th Regiment, shot himself at the Prince Albert Hotel, in London.

Lord Stanley, it is now declared, is to take the post of Conservative leader in the upper, and Lord George Bentinck will doubtless have a similar distinction in the lower house of Parliament.

The last message of President Polk, which was received in this country a few days ago, has been fiercely assailed by the whole of the press, and ugly names have been given to the process of reasoning in which the President accounts for the Mexican war. One passage has been strongly commented upon—that in which he states that the war was not undertaken with a view to conquest.—We call to mind no similar document during our time which has been less favourably received in England. From this it may be inferred that the annexation of California, of which Commodore Stockton has taken possession, as a territory of the United States is even less popular in England than was the annexation of Texas.

Governor of Newfoundland.—The Queen has appointed Sir J. G. Le Marchant, Knt., Lieut-Col. in the army, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the island of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

The Steam Ship Great Britain.—A report from Mr. Brunel, the engineer, to the directors of the Great Western Steam-ship Company, on the subject of floating off the Great Britain, has just been published. After observing that he had found the Great Britain less damaged than he had expected, Mr. Brunel states that it is utterly impossible to complete the requisite means for floating her in less than three months. He proposes to launch and bring her to Liverpool or Bristol.

Captain Claxton, R. N. passed through Liverpool on his way to Dundrum Bay, with the intention, we understand, to remain there untill the experiments shall have been tried for the floating of the Great Britain.

Flour.—A considerable advance had taken place in the price of Bread Stuffs of all descriptions, Canadian Flour (sweet) is quoted, duty free, at 38s 9d to 39s. and United States at 38s 6d to 40s per barrel; and Indian Meal at 68s to 72s per 480 lbs. —Cotton Wool is also looking up.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

Liverpool, January 4.

The arrivals during the last month have been large from British America, consisting of 72 vessels, 38,698 tons, exceeding same month last year by 19,335 tons, and causing the aggregate of the year, since 1st February, to reach 228,867 tons, which, compared with the previous year, to same date, 231,423 tons, shows that it has nearly overtaken it, the largest import ever known; and, as some vessels destined for this port have still to arrive, will probably, before the period for making up stocks, fully equal if not surpass it; it must, however, be borne in mind that a portion of the tonnage has been occupied with railroad sleepers—a comparatively new feature in the trade, and quite exclusive of any other application, so that as regards the general stocks of Timber, an allowance should be made for such extra tonnage. The sales of the month have been very difficult and at constantly declining rates, for the certainty of a very large stock here, joined to that of an unprecedented wintering stock at Quebec—(the stock of White Pine being three times greater than that of last year)—the timber merchants have been disinclined to take their usual supply, and very many cargoes have been yarded, buyers being only induced to come forward by great concessions on the part of the importers. Taking to account the local difficulties of storing, (almost peculiar to this place,) we think it probable that these concessions will be found to have been well judged, for this year has shown the power of the tonnage employed in the Timber trade, at almost any period of the year, however late, of pouring in a supply to this market, so that no safe calculation can be founded on the supposition that high spring freights will abate the aggregate annual supply; and while a stock here equal to many months' consumption will stand over, no fair prospect of an advance in price presents itself, likely to remunerate the importer for yarding and holding over.

The import since 1st February, compared with last year, is—

From 1st February to 31st December, 1846:—Quebec, 147 vessels, 96,928 tons; St. John, &c., 276 vessels, 131,939 tons; Baltic, 135 vessels, 32,702 tons.

From 1st February to 31st December, 1845:—Quebec, 214 vessels, 125,636 tons; St. John, &c., 219 vessels, 105,701 tons; Baltic, 107 vessels, 32,202 tons.

American Pine Timber.—Of St. John, one cargo of 19½ inches average was sold at 18d, two of 19¼ inches at 17¾d, one of 18½ inches at 17½d, one of 18¼ inches at 16¾d, and one of 17¾ inches at 16¾d per foot.

Red Pine.—A parcel of poor quality St. John was sold at 15½d per foot.

Birch.—St. John, with cargo, has been sold at 16d. Apart, St. John of good quality has been sold at 19d per foot.

New Brunswick & Nova Scotia Fir Planks and Boards.—St. John, with cargo, have been sold at 2d to 2¼d, and a part in lots at 2¼d to 2¾d per foot; one cargo was sold by auction at 2¾d to 2⅝d per foot of 2 inches, and boards at 1½d to 1d 5-16ths per foot of inch; one cargo by private at 2½d, and one, poor quality, at 2¼d per foot.

Railway Sleepers.—A parcel of St. John double at 8s. 3d, and two parcels of St. John, irregular sizes, at 3s 7d each.

Staves.—St. John Ash hhd. have been sold at £5 10s per M.

Lathwood has been sold, with cargo, at 30s to 40s per fathom, and a part at £4 to £4 10s per fathom.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The General Annual Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Commercial Bank Parlour on Thursday, 21st January, 1847, pursuant to public notice—The Hon. John Robertson in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Report, as adopted by the Committee at their meeting this day—also the account of the state of the funds of the Chamber, showing the subscriptions, this year, to be £49 10s., and balance in the Bank of British North America £48 19s. 2d. to credit of the Chamber.

On motion of T. L. Nicholson, Esquire, seconded by Mr. R. Jardine—

Resolved, that the Report now read be accepted and published with copies of the Petitions alluded to in the Report.

The Members having proceeded to ballot for a Committee for 1847, the following Gentlemen were found to have a majority of votes—

John Robertson, John V. Thurgar, A. Smithers, R. Jardine, Edward Allison, John Wishart, Thos. Daniel, John Duncan, E. L. Jarvis, William Parks, Wm. H. Street, W. H. Scovil, and John Pollok, Esquires. *Adjourned.*

JOHN ROBERTSON, *Chairman.*

I. Woodward, *Sec'y.*

Provincial Revenue.—The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last contains a comparative statement of the Revenue for the quarter ending 31st December, 1846, and the same period of 1845, and also for the two last years. For the quarter ending 31st Dec. 1846, the total amount collected was £33,992 14s. 11d.; for the quarter ending 31st December, 1845, it was £33,516 8s. 3d.—The revenue of last year shews a falling off of £416 2s. 11d as compared with that of 1845—the total amounts being, in 1846, £127,336 18s. 10½d. and in 1845, £127,753 1s. 9½d.

Surgery.—An operation for partial removal of the hand, was successfully performed yesterday, by David Miller, Esq. Surgeon, of this city. The patient, previous to operation, was placed under the influence of Morton's Letheon, administered by Dr. S. Adams, from the United States. The effect of the Letheon in mitigating the sufferings of the patient were marked, and quite satisfactory to several professional and other gentlemen present on the occasion.—*Courier.*

Melancholy.—We regret to learn that a man named James Johnston, formerly a resident of this city, was found frozen to death on Monday week, at Petersville, County of Queen's. It appears that he left his residence on Sunday morning, the 17th inst., to attend Divine Worship; after which, he was present at a funeral; and on the same evening, about 9 o'clock, set out for his own home, when he was found the next morning as above stated. Mr. J. was an honest, industrious man, and has left a father, mother and three sisters, to lament his melancholy death, of whom he was their only support.—*New Bruns.*

Union-Street Church.—The Annual Tea Meeting in aid of the Building Fund of this place of Worship, was held, agreeably to notice, last Wednesday evening. The Meeting presented a very animated appearance. More than four hundred persons, connected with various religious denominations, were present, and all seemed much gratified with the arrangements and proceedings of the evening. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. C. Gallaway, A. M., who stated that the entire debt on the premises had been reduced, without resorting to the plan of selling any of the Pews, from £3,500 to £1,500. Mr. G. feelingly alluded to the altered circumstances in which he found himself placed on that occasion, compared with his position about three years ago, when he entered the City, a perfect stranger to all in that Meeting. He expressed his sincere thankfulness for the kindness which he had received, not merely from his own Congregation, but from Ministers and Members of other Churches in the City.

The Meeting was then respectively and efficiently addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Daniel, Lawson, Rice, Robinson, Sutcliffe, Wishart, and Stavely, and Mr. Duval.—*Observer.*

Halifax, January 23.

Arrival of the Governor General.—At about noon yesterday, it was announced that the Steamer from England, after a long and stormy passage, had arrived, and had borne to our shores Lord Elgin and his suite. His Lordship was received on the wharf with military honors, and duly escorted to Government House.

The necessary previous arrangements having been made, at 1 o'clock, the Members of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Assembly, directed their steps towards Government House, to address the noble Representative of Majesty. The assemblage was really a pleasing sight. There stood His Excellency Sir John Harvey, with the Right Honorable Governor General on his right hand. On one side were ranged the members of the Legislative Council, on the other, the military and governmental Staff, and in the centre, "Her Majesty's faithful Commons." Assuredly the scene was no disgrace to our country. The Speaker, Chaplains, and Clerks, full robed, added to its interest. But of course the grand attraction was his Lordship the Governor General. His Lordship, we may as well say in passing, is a middle sized, dignified personage, probably some five feet seven in height, rather inclined to corpolency, apparently under 46 years of age, and getting considerably grey. His countenance beams with intelligence and firmness, and he evidently enjoyed the scene to which he had been suddenly and unexpectedly introduced.

The Addresses of the Legislative Council, and House of Assembly, to the Governor General, congratulating him on his safe arrival in British America, &c., were read by the Hon. Mr. Robie, and the Speaker of the Assembly.

His Lordship having heard the Addresses with considerable attention, drew from his pocket, and read his reply to them both in one document. His manner is very easy and free, his voice melodious, and his tones eloquent. His reply to the portion of the Assembly's Address touching the late Earl Durham, was very pathetically and emphatically pronounced.

Having finished his official reply, his Lordship delivered a short address extempore, saying that he had not been at all prepared for the very kind manner in which he had been received on these shores, and that he really had not had time to obtain copies of his Address for the two bodies to whom he spoke, to whom they should be forwarded as soon as possible. He added that he had intended to stay here a few days, and to have proceeded to Montreal by way of New-Brunswick, but the long and rough voyage, and the state of the roads, had led him to determine to take the most direct route. He hoped, however, that the intercourse now so happily commenced, would be continued and perpetuated.

Each Member of the two bodies having been introduced to his Lordship, after a short conversation between him and the Honorable Speaker, the pleasing interview was brought to a close.—[Acadian Recorder.

Philharmonic Society.—We were highly gratified to find this Musical Association, under able management, so rapidly advancing. The Concert on Tuesday Evening was patronized in a manner exceedingly complimentary to the Office bearers and other members; although a fashionable private party in the City prevented a large number of Ladies and Gentlemen from attending it. The selections were from some of the very best Composers in the various styles, including two favorite Overtures. Master Alexander Seely, quite a youth, distinguished himself in his singing; his tone, feeling, and taste were admirable. Of Messrs Stephen, Card and Beyer, it is sufficient to say that they well sustained their long established reputation as Professional Gentlemen. Several glees that would otherwise have been advanced were omitted from the indisposition of one the principal Vocalists.

MEETING OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Diocesan Church Society of Newbrunswick held its eleventh annual Meeting on the evening of Thursday, 21st January instant, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute in St. John. The Meeting was most numerously and respectably attended, the Hall being everywhere filled. The Lord Bishop of Fredericton, President of the Society was in the chair, supported by the Hon. the Chief Justice, the Hon. A. E. Botsford, the Hon. the Attorney General, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Street, Vice Presidents of the Society, and many other of its influential members. The following Clergymen were also on the platform—Rev. F. Coster, H. N. Arnold, N. A. Coster, G. Garvis, D. D., S. D. L. Street, W. W. Walker, J. Black, W. E. Scovil, J. M. Sterling, J. W. Disbrow, W. Scovil, A. Stewart, R. Avery, E. J. W. Roberts, N. Disbrow, T. W. Robertson, W. N. Boyer, J. Elwell and R. Simonds.

The hon. the Chief Justice opened the business of the evening by moving that the Lord Bishop should take the chair; and his Lordship having taken the same, addressed the meeting at considerable length. The Secretary then, by his Lordship's direction read the minutes of the General Committee held the previous evening, recording the grants then made towards the different objects contemplated by the Society, viz. £500 for Missionary visits to places where there is no settled Clergymen, and aid to new and poor missions; £500 for a supply of Books and Tracts to be imported from England, £200 worth of them being for gratuitous distribution; £200 for building and enlarging of Churches and Chapels; and £200 for building of Parsonage houses; and £100 for the Widows and Orphans fund.

The Secretary was then directed to read the report of the auditors of accounts on the accounts of the Treasurer and Depositories &c. which shows that there are balances in favour of the Society on the 1st January, of upwards of £1200, and Books of the amount of nearly £300; while the Parochial contributions for the year amount to nearly £1000.

The following Resolutions were then passed unanimously:—

1st. On motion of the Rev. H. N. Arnold, That the Auditor's report now read be received and entered on the Minutes.

2d. On motion of the hon. Mr. Justice Street, That this Meeting does hereby express its great satisfaction at the prosperous condition of the Society, as set forth in the various returns submitted to the General Committee, and at the prospect, which under the Divine blessing presents itself on all sides, of greater and more extended usefulness.

3d. On motion of John Ambrose Street, Esq., Resolved, That this Meeting desires to express its satisfaction at the continued prosperity of the sister Societies of Nova-scotia, Toronto, Quebec and Newfoundland.

4th. On motion of the hon. A. E. Botsford, Resolved, That the Lord Bishop be requested to call a Special General Meeting of the Society, at an early day at Fredericton, to take into consideration:

1st. The application proposed to be made by the Executive Committee to the Legislature, for an act to Incorporate the Society, and to receive the draft prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose.

2d. The carrying out the object intended by the creation of a fund for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy, by means of Insurances on the lives of the Clergy.

3d. The appointment of Agents by the Executive Committee to collect the voluntary subscriptions for the Clergy in such Parishes as receive benefit from the exertions of the society. And

That the following Gentlemen compose the committee.—R. F. Hazen, George Wheeler, J. M. Robinson, S. J. Scovil, J. V. Thurgar, and W. H. Buckerfield, Esquires.

5th. On motion of Robert F. Hazen, Esq., Resolved, That the following alterations be now made in the Constitution of the Society, pursuant to notice given at the last annual Meeting:

1st. By adding to Art. 7. sec. 1. after the words "settled Clergymen"—the words following—"and aid to new and poor Missions."

2d. By erasing in Art. 4. the word "twelve," and substituting therefor the word "twenty four."

6th. On motion of George Wheeler, Esq., Resolved, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to William J. Bedell, Esq. the Treasurer of the Society, the Rev. F. Coster, the Secretary, the Rev. E. J. W. Roberts, the secretary of the Executive Committee, and the hon. A. E. Botsford, and R. F. Hazen, Esq., the Auditor of accounts, for the services rendered by them to the society in their respective offices during the past year.

7th. William J. Bedell, Esq. was re-elected the Treasurer; the Rev. F. Coster, the Secretary; the Rev. E. J. W. Roberts, the Secretary of the Executive Committee; Robert F. Hazen and Beverly Robinson, Esquires, the Auditors of Accounts.

8th. The following Gentlemen were elected members of the Executive Committee.

John C. Allen, Esq. Fredericton; Joseph H. Allison, Esq. Sackville; George A. Bedell, Esq. Woodstock; Lebaron Botsford, Esq. M. D. Saint John; William Carman Jr., Esq. Miramichi; Nathaniel H. De Veber, Esq. Gagetown; George J. Dibblee, Esq. Fredericton; Allan C. Evason, Esq. Sussex; Daniel Hannington, Esq. Shediac; James Robb, Esq. M. D. Fredericton; John M. Robinson, Esq. St. John; Hon. Charles Simonds, Portland; Joseph Sevewright, Esqr. Norton; Henry Boyer Smith, Esqr St. John; John Ambrose Street, Esq. Fredericton; George D. Street, Esq. St. Andrews; Hon John W. Weldon, Esq. Richibucto; Thomas S. Wetmore, Esqr. M. D. St. John; Justice S. Wetmore, Esqr. Kingston; George Wheeler, Esq. St. John; Frederick A. Wiggins, Esq. St. John; Robert D. Wilmot, Esqr. Carleton; Benjamin Woolhaupter, Esqr. Fredericton; William Wright, Esqr. St. John.

9th. On motion of the Secretary, Resolved, That the Executive Committee do meet to-morrow at 12 o'clock at the National School House.

10th. On motion of Wm. Wright, Esq. Resolved, That the Lord Bishop do leave the chair, and that the Hon the Chief Justice be requested to take the same. And further

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be most respectfully offered to the Lord Bishop for the excellent sermons he has lately preached in behalf of the Society, for the assiduity with which he has kindly conducted the business of the Society, and for his able conduct in the chair.

The Lord Bishop having acknowledged this vote of thanks, called upon the assembly to join him in singing a Doxology, which they did most heartily and effectively; and then having performed his Episcopal Benediction, his Lordship dissolved the Meeting.

F. COSTER,
Sec'y Diocesan Church Society.

We subjoin the following sketch of the Bishop's address at the opening of the Meeting, which was taken at the time in short hand notes by a Professional gentleman, he having been requested to do by several gentlemen present:—

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Fredericton having taken the chair, his Lordship, in opening the business of the evening, congratulated the meeting on so numerous and respectable an assemblage, for the purpose of countenancing and supporting the objects and operations of the Society of which they were members, viz: *The Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick.* The great advantages of such a society must be apparent to all; the superiority of its objects, and of the pleasures to be derived from promoting those objects, to all others of a mere worldly nature, were obvious and undeniable. The gratifications to be derived from the production or possession of mere works of art or human skill, were but temporary in their duration, and must ever be confined to comparatively few persons; pictures and statues, and costly furniture and buildings, and all other such objects of mortal enjoyment, endured but for a time, and afforded pleasure to a very limited number of human beings; but this society embraced all classes of men, and all objects of the highest and most permanent importance; and although the individual efforts of Christians in promoting those objects might be small and trifling in themselves, yet the effects of such efforts had lasted and would last to the end of the world. The lasting character, therefore, of the objects of such a society, was an inducement for supporting and extending its means of utility. Again, such efforts stimulated and encouraged others—promoted christian benevolence and activity—extended the spirit of christian charity and union, and thus possessed a principle of self-increase. The giving towards building a Church, or to any other mode of spreading religious privileges, encouraged others to follow the good example;—it strengthened the hands and hearts of all interested in the project; it promoted active industry in the cause; it excited generous and pious emulation; and thus Christian charity multiplied itself. The carrying out of such an object; the erection of a church where none before existed, might be the means of diffusing comfort and happiness throughout thousands of hearts, which otherwise, perhaps, would never have known those blessings.—Another point of contrast was to be observed: all our works of mere worldly design and intent, had in themselves a principle of self-destruction and oblivion; but all works of charity and piety contained in themselves a principle of perpetuity and enduring good. At one time, in ancient days, the wealth and labour of a whole nation were devoted to the rearing of an immense and magnificent temple; at another time, thousands of the human race were employed for a long succession of years, in rearing stupendous sepulchres for the remains of those tyrannical monarchs. But what had become of those vast and gorgeous buildings? Of some of them, only heaps of rubbish remained, and their sites were now but the lair of the robber and the wild beast; while others still reared their gigantic heads to the skies, only to point out the vanity and folly of those who erected them. But works of Christian charity continually increased and extended their influence and effect; they embraced in their operations the whole human race, through all ages, and endured for all time. This was no colored nor exaggerated view of the matter; but was the reasonable evidence of truth and experience; and its correctness might hereafter be proved by the operations of this society. Hitherto the church in this Province had principally depended on the benevolent efforts of churchmen in the Mother country; but the time might come ere long when this colony might pay back a portion of its debt to the mother country, by assisting in diffusing the blessings of christianity in other and more distant and newer colonies. The funds raised by churchmen in this Province, might, in process of time, be partially devoted to the general promotion of the interests of the church and of religion throughout the world; and who could tell, but that hereafter, the missionary efforts and labours promoted by means of contributions from this Province of New Brunswick, might take good root and flourish, and become an everlasting benefit to the souls of many, in other and more distant regions of the British Empire; and thus would this Province discharge a portion of its debt to the mother country, by contributing religious assistance to other portions of its widely-extended population.—But charity had also a higher object connected with it. Hitherto he had been speaking of the material or lower part of charity; the mere giving and providing of means. But now he would speak rather of the higher part of its object; viz. the salvation of immortal souls. And if, indeed, he were to begin to speak of that object, where should he begin and where should he end the theme?—So vast a subject of contemplation was beyond adequate description; but when it was rightly contemplated as an object of the operations of this Society, what a comfort must such a contemplation was beyond adequate description; but when it was rightly contemplated as an object of the operations of this Society, what a comfort must such a contemplation be to its members in their work; what an encouragement to them to persevere; what a motive to induce them to lay aside all differences of opinion on minor matters; what a reason to fix their eyes rather on objects on which they all agreed, rather than on those on which they differed! It was not merely the persons present in this Hall who were concerned in this subject; it was not merely the inhabitants of a province, of a kingdom, or of an empire; but it was the extension of the everlasting kingdom of grace that was the object of this Society; and when they took this large but not extravagant view of the subject, it should excite them all to meet together in such a spirit, that when they parted they might be truly glad that they had met together on such an occasion and for such a purpose.—His Lordship then proceeded to express his gratification at seeing the meeting graced so numerously by the presence of that sex, whose presence always gave grace to every scene, and whose softening disposition and influence invariably tended to ameliorate the asperities of discussion, and to temper the roughness and impetuosity of the sterner sex; and after some highly complimentary, but well deserved and appropriate commendations on the beneficial effects of female influence in general, and expressions of extreme gratification in presiding over so very large and respectable a meeting, His Lordship proceeded to observe, that he particularly recommended three things for the consideration of all present. *The first* was "*Energy.*" The Society had already comparatively done much, but as yet it had only made a beginning in the good work. Its object was, to include within its embrace not only one Churchman, but all Churchmen in the Province; not one class alone, but all classes. There should be no line of demarcation, but those prescribed by the rules and discipline of the Church itself; and those boundaries included all members of the Church, of every class and age and sex.—The *second* particular to be remembered was, "*Cordiality.*" It was impossible, in this age of free discussion and perhaps it would be undesirable, to expect all to agree in every thing offered for their consideration; and there was no doubt that the Church had allowed as reasonable a degree of latitude of opinion to her members, as was consistent with a due respect for those standards which contain her own modes of interpreting Scripture; and therefore those who differed in opinion should ever bear with each other and not endeavour to force each other to a coincidence in opinions which they could not conscientiously entertain; but all should charitably and kindly allow the same freedom which they claimed for themselves. He hoped that such a cordiality as this would long subsist among all Churchmen in this Province; this union of the wealthy and important City of St. John with the other branches of the Society was one of the best proofs of it; the subscriptions so liberally poured in from all sides were the best practical earnest of its continuance; and therefore he could not but think and believe, whatever minor differences of opinion there might be, that at the bottom a real, hearty, and sincere cordiality existed among the Churchmen of this Province at large; which a little care would keep, in the main, entire and unbroken. The *third* point to remember was, "*Progress.*"—Without progress nothing could be done. There were now, within his own knowledge, not less than twenty settlements where no means of religious service and instruction existed; and to which, if there were now within his reach twenty Missionaries, properly qualified, and the means to provide for them, he could send them all to a sphere of active duty and exertion in the course of a month.—Therefore, this one fact should be a powerful argument in favour of progress. But, at present, they had not the *men*, and they had not the *means*; and these must be waited and hoped for. He was happy to say, however, that since his arrival in the Diocese, no less than thirteen destitute districts had been supplied with Pastors; and this fact of itself testified the great and important usefulness of this Society. His Lordship said also, that he hoped shortly to be able to fill up one of two more Pastoral appointments; and so he would go on as fast as discretion and means would admit of. He trusted, therefore, that the Society would also, on their part, continue to go on, and never rest until there should be a Shepherd for every fold, as well as a fold for every Shepherd. They should look around them, and behold the zeal of other denominations, not connected with the Church, and should be ready to profit by the example; while they made no reflections on others, in taking notice of their example for the purpose of encouraging themselves. There were many places in this Diocese destitute of all privileges and ministrations of the Church; many families and settlements far from a Church from a Schoolmaster, or a Parish Priest. Many of these poor people had formerly been accustomed to the regular enjoyment of these blessings in the old Country; and their hearts now yearned after the holy services of their Church, the music of the Sabbath bells, and the personal ministrations and domestic visitations of a Pastor; and sad must be their remembrance of those former days, when they now reflected that they had neither bell, nor church, nor priest, and they were almost tempted sometimes to think, that even God himself had temporarily forsaken them, that "his mercy was clean gone for ever, and his loving kindness was shut up in displeasure." After some few other observations, in support of the previous argument, and in apology for the length of his address, His Lordship sat down and called on the Secretary, the Rev. F. Coster, to read extracts from the annual Report.

It is not a little amusing to observe the manner in which the *Courier* endeavours to ward off the force of our remarks with regard to his publication of Joe Howe's anti-British letters. Finding our meaning *purposely* misunderstood, we stated, by way of explanation, that we did not recollect any thing more rebellious than these letters to have issued from the Colonial press for the last ten years, and the Courier, not seeing that our object was to express a justly severe opinion, quotes the remark, and calls it an apology! His friend Joseph is much obliged to him!—With equal powers of perversion, the Courier pretends, that, when we deprecate any Ministerial measure, as, in our opinion, likely to lead to the separation of these Colonies from the Mother country, this is rebellious! and a threat of rebellion! When the Earl of Chatham said in the House of Lords "I wish to see the Crown great and respectable, but this confounded Ministry will rob it of the highest jewel that adorns it," no doubt his speech was rebellious! and a threat that he would aid the old colonies in their rebellion!—The difference between us and the Courier in this respect, is just this—we *oppose* principles and measures, which, in our opinion, tend to the dismemberment of the empire, while the Courier *advocates* them!

When we object to the removal of British troops from the colonies, and the supplying of their places with native regiments, to be commanded by officers recommended by Joe Howe's party, and therefore as ripe for separation as himself, the Courier replies that Mr. Howe's party is now, and often has been, in power in England, and that, according to our reasoning, therefore, there must be many disloyal officers in the British army!—This pretence of logic is really unworthy even of the Courier; for he cannot but know that there is no identity whatever between Joe Howe's party, and any party which does, or ever did, exist in England. Indeed, the Courier's defence is so entirely made up of perversions and mis-statements, that we cannot help thinking his *polite* language might be applied to *himself* not wholly without justice!

Our object, however, has been, from the first, not to quarrel with the Courier, but to condemn, with indignant emphasis, the republican tendency of these pernicious letters. The New York Albion indeed, after speaking of these letters with marked disrespect, and calling the author "the leading radical of Nova Scotia," yet thinks the suggestion of the Colonies sending representatives to Parliament, of sufficient importance to justify his publication of the second letter. But the Albion is by a very different class of persons from the Courier, and its example cannot therefore be quoted as a justification. "With regard to the "commendatory remarks" of Canada papers, as the Courier does not venture to publish them, we will.—Our remarks relative to colonial regiments have called all Joe Howe's curs yelping about our ears. Joseph thinks it a mighty grievance that one thousand Nova scotians are not taken from the plough and promoted to the rank of private soldiers, in order that thirty natives may be made officers! The following observations on this subject are from the *Montreal Gazette*:

"Mr. Howe's second letter contains a great many suggestions, none of which appear to us of much or any practicable value. It contains a great many instances of the advantages of republicanism and a great many protestations of his own attachment to the British Empire. One proposition of his is of a very extraordinary character. He observes on the good effects produced in the Highlands of Scotland, after 1745, by raising Highland Regiments. He forgets that the Highlanders had a distinct language and origin, were essentially feudal or rather clanish, used to arms, hating honest industry, ready to fall out their swords, and the population overflowing the means of subsistence. Hence it was highly politic to give them regular employment in the profession to which they had been used. No such analogies hold here, but he uses this as an example for raising two or three colonial regiments, commanding them by colonists, and giving them distinctive marks and names of particular colonies. If these troops are to be permanently stationed in the colonies, as local corps, the colonies of course, ought to pay for them, and there can be no doubt Her Majesty would willingly accept their benevolence. But if they are to be sent over the world like other troops of the line, the possibility and propriety of recruiting such a body of men, really to be colonists and not immigrants, we should think equally doubtful. The United States with ten times our population, cannot fill ten regiments, nor half ten, of regular troops with native citizens. In fact nothing could be more foolish, if it were possible, than to drain the country of so valuable a portion of its population. We have more need to increase our numbers than to diminish them, and the policy of Great Britain always has been to recruit her armies in those parts of her dominions which are most peopled, which are sending out emigrants, not receiving them. All the other suggestions seem equally objectionable, if examined in detail—and against all the other disadvantages to colonists in entering the public service of which Mr. Howe complains, may be set the great advantage of not being called to pay for any of those services."

(From the Montreal Courier.)

We publish to-day on our first side the letters of the Hon. Joseph Howe to Lord John Russell. We do so, not because we exactly approve of the principles advocated by that very clever politician, but because any thing coming from him is worthy of attention, if not of approval. With some parts of the pamphlet we agree and so most probably will all sound Conservatives, but many of the propositions of Mr. Howe are untenable and impracticable, and would make "confusion worse confounded" should they be adopted.

From the Fredericton Head Quarters.

Letters to the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, on the Government of British North America.—We have been favoured by the author, with a copy of a pamphlet under the above title, issued from the Press of our Sister Province of Nova Scotia, and written by Joseph Howe, Esq. the well known member of the Provincial Parliament for the County of Halifax. The pamphlet contains two letters, bearing date, October, 1846. The first is directed to the consideration and elucidation of the internal self-government of these Colonies; the second has especial reference to their "external relations to the Mother Country and the world at large." We must confess, that the boldness of the doctrines advanced in these letters, the energy with which these doctrines are urged, and the consequences which success or failure would involve, in carrying out Mr. Howe's views are subjects which ought to be carefully considered before the Press of this or any other Province yield their unqualified assent to their adoption. The frequent allusions to the state of affairs beyond the border appear to savor somewhat of a predilection in favor of Republican institutions, and we are bound to confess, that the impression was not removed