The Union Advocate.

Established 1867.

NEWCASTLE, MIRAMICHI, N. B.

WEDNESDAY, FEB'Y 16, 1876.

THE FISHERY MATTER.

The discussion which ensued on the issuing of the Fishery Regulations last summer, must still be fresh in the memory of every fisherman in the Province. It will also be remembered that owing to the pressure brought to bear, the Government receded from their position, and reduced the tax sixty per cent., but we have yet to learn that the tax for the season of 1875 has been collected. We have all along held that the Government should not have issued these regulations without the sanction of Parliament, and notwithstanding the boasted strength of their following, it would really appear that they did not care to try the faith of their adherents too severely. The regulations were evidently printed when the House was in session last winter, for we saw a copy on which the date *March* was printed, but which was covered by the word "May," in writing, and it yet remains for the Government to explain why the House was not made acquainted with the "reform" they sought to introduce in the management of the Fisheries, instead of springing the regulations upon the fishermen so unfairly and unjustly, after all the arrangements had been made for the season's operations.

This is now the opportune moment for the fishermen to unite, and present an universal appeal to the Government, that the rights they have enjoyed for so many years shall remain undisturbed. The fishermen of Miramichi are on the *qui vive*, as will be seen by the annexed petition, copies of which will be circulated for signatures, and we have no doubt that the fishermen of the other Northern Counties, whose interests are identical with those of our fishermen here, will move in the matter, and urgently appeal to the Government for the abolition of the tax, or for its reduction to a rate which will bear less heavily upon the business, which is now greatly depressed. The representatives of the Northern counties will, we feel assured, do all in their power to bring about a satisfactory settlement, and among them no man will be more active in urging the claims of the fishermen than the Hon. Peter Mitchell, who is thoroughly conversant with the fishery matter. Our fishermen need scarcely be reminded that delay in this matter may prove a dangerous experiment.

PETITION.

To the Right Honourable Sir Frederick Temple, Earl of Dufferin, &c., &c., &c., Governor General of Canada and Vice Admiral of the same.

The Honourable the Senate of the Dominion of Canada,

And the Honourable, the Members of the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Fishermen and other inhabitants of Miramichi, in the Province of New Brunswick, in the Dominion of Canada

Respectfully sheweth:

That your petitioners are all deeply interested in the Fisheries which are extensively carried on in the waters of the Miramichi, and which afford the means by which a large portion of our fishermen obtain a livelihood.

That the Government of the Dominion by Regulations made in may last imposed a tax of $1.00 on every 200 lbs. of Salmon and 50 cents on every 200 lbs. of Bass caught in our waters. This tax has since been reduced to 40 cents on every 200 lbs. of Salmon and 20 cents on every 200 lbs. of Bass, by a subsequent Regulation.

Your petitioners deem this tax very unjust and oppressive, and one which the fishermen are unable and unwilling to pay, and the collection of which, your petitioners conceive, cannot be made without endless trouble and increased expense.

A regulation was also passed, by which it is enacted that no nets whatever are to be set off Fox or Portage Island and certain other places, except under special license from the Marine and Fisheries Department, &c., &c. This, in your petitioners' opinion, will interfere to a very serious extent with the private rights of a large portion of our fishermen, who for many years have enjoyed the sole right of fishing in front of their own lands; some of them have bought and paid a high price for fishing privileges on these Islands, and others have obtained them from their forefathers, who had used and enjoyed such rights ever since this Province was first settled—more than sixty years ago. That this right has never been questioned by any Government previous to the passing of the said Regulations, nor has any legislation been attempted of which your petitioners are aware, by which the private rights of any individuals would be interfered with in this matter; but on the contrary, your petitioners always believed that the aim and policy of the Government were to protect and preserve inviolate this private right. A great many fishermen have purchased land on these Islands at high prices, merely for the sake of obtaining the fishing privilege, and your petitioners conceive that any interference therewith would be most unjust, without questioning the right of the Department to do so.

That in the outside fisheries of Fox and Portage Islands and along the Bay du Vin shore, the fishermen were never compelled to fulfil the requirements of the regulations with the same strictness as in the river and its branches, until last season, when an attempt was made by the fishery officers to make the fishermen take up their nets every Saturday night before six o'clock. This they were never before compelled to do, for the simple reason that the sea is so rough and the wind rises so suddenly that for many days it is impossible for them to get near their nets. Even if such a course were possible, it would involve such a loss of time the fishermen would be [illegible] which the regulations

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Regulations imposing the said tax, and empowering the Department to grant licenses as aforesaid be repealed, that the fishermen on the said Islands be allowed the same privileges heretofore enjoyed by them, and as in duty bound we will ever pray.

Miramichi, 15th Feb., 1876.

Miramichi Religious Tract Society.

A very interesting meeting in connection with this Society was held in the Mechanic's Institute, Newcastle, on Wednesday evening last, which was well attended. The chair was occupied by A. A. Davidson, Esq., who made a few remarks appropriate to the occasion, and then introduced the Rev. J. M. Allan, the Society's Secretary, who read the following

REPORT, 1875.

The Committee of the Miramichi Religious Tract Society has more than ordinary pleasure in presenting this, its thirtieth annual report to the public. It is a satisfaction, and no small one, (as we know who have had to chronicle a different state of affairs) to those engaged—as your Society is, at the outposts, and in the character of skirmishers in the great battle that is being waged in the world for the cause of truth—that they have, during another year, been able, at least, to hold their own—that the stakes and trenches, so to speak, have not been moved back—that things, if no better are no worse. But there is a greater satisfaction still—and it is that of your Committee to-day, in being able to inform the Society and the public, that things have been moving forward, and that good, as they undoubtedly were this time last year, they are even better to-day. The picture of affairs we have to present is a moving one, not, we are thankful to say, in the direction of three years agone when we were fast falling into arrears, but in the opposite, with all liabilities met, and a surplus besides. For, notwithstanding that during the past two years, a percentage on the books sold has been paid to our agents at the Depositaries, and that a more direct and convenient, if also a more expensive mode and time of importing the books, has been adopted; yet, as you will see, we have a large balance on the right side of the account. And when it is considered that this occurs in a year of unusual depression in monetary affairs, may we not, without any show of unreason, congratulate the Society on the success which has attended its efforts in the past year.

We present the Treasurer's account.

MIRAMICHI RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

Account current 18th January, 1876.

By balance in Treasurer's hands,		£22 19 10
" Books sold J. Ellis,	£102 10 2	
" " " W. & G. Watt,	27 15 9	
		130 5 11

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions of Newcastle taken after Annual Meeting.	£10 2 5½	
Additional Subsc. at Chatham,	15 6	
H. Cunard for 1876,	10	
Col. at meeting Douglastown,	3 3 9	14 11 8½
		£227 17 5½

PAYMENTS.

Paid J. Ellis Coms. on £95 0 11,		
Books sold,	£4 15	
Paid for Bills, £121 19 10 stg.		
Sight 11½ per cent.,	151 3 8	
Paid freight and duty on Books at Halifax,	6 13 5½	
Paid Freight from Halifax,	1 17 5	
Paid ADVANCE advertising, 80c.,	4	
Paid J. Ellis Coms. on £102 10 2, Books sold,	5 2 6	
Paid W. & G. Watt Coms. on sales '74, '75 and '76, per ac.,	3 3 5½	
Paid ADVOCATE advertising, $2.60	13	173 12 6
Balance in Treasurer's hands,		£54 4 11½
Due Parent Society,	£121 19 10	
Books imported Dec., 1875,	69 16 10	
	£191 16 8	
Less Bill as above,	121 19 10	
at 10 per cent,	£69 16 10	85 7 3
To meet the above 312 Books at Newcastle,	£38 4 3	
972 Books at Chatham,	60 17 9	
off 40 per cent.,	£99 2 0	59 9 3
Balance in Treasurer's hands,		54 4 11½
		£113 14 2½

As this is exclusive of subscriptions annually taken at Chatham and Newcastle, but which, this year, have been postponed, in order that the public may have the benefit of a resolution which was carried at the annual meeting of the Society.

This flourishing condition of affairs is to bear its fruit. It has never been the object of the Miramichi Religious Tract Society to make money. Its sole end and aim has been and is, to disseminate a literature, which, by presenting the good and the true, in pleasing pictures to the young, shall tone the spirit and elevate the character of those with whom it may come in contact. It was with this view that the Society, wishing to give the public the full benefit of its success—for we are a bank in which every man is a shareholder and may receive a bonus—resolved at its annual meeting, to present to each congregation for its Sabbath School, books to the amount of the subscriptions of those connected with that congregation. Formerly at the low rate at which we sold our books, we had to receive the offerings of the public without making any return.—This year we offer a full return in books for all subscriptions.

Your Committee would express its sense of the indefatigable labours in the interest of this Society, of its Treasurer, Mr. John Ellis, one result of which is seen in the fact that during the past year he has sold from the Depository in Chatham, over four hundred dollars worth of books.

In bringing our Report to a conclusion, we cannot but feel gratified at the satisfactory statement which it is in our power thus to lay before you; but not the less on that account—rather all the more—would we today than on former similar occasions, make an earnest appeal to the people of the North Shore for all the aid and support which they may be able to afford us. If never before did there seem a warmer interest to be taken by both old and young in our work, if never in our history did the arrival of the Society's annual importation seem so eagerly welcomed, if never were we financially in a more flourishing state; yet on the other hand, never did the enemy with which we contend meet us at so many points, and that often with our own weapons — polished often with a brightness finer, and edged with a sharpness keener than even ours; never were his efforts so continuous, so energetic, so insinuating. And, if we are to drive from the hearts of the young—and in that way only shall we drive from the heart of the land—the error and superstition, the worldliness and selfishness that so much abounds, next to being earnest in the spread of God's Holy Book of Truth, we must beactive in the dissemination of a literature that, founded on the Bible's pattern, presents the right and true in pictures of attractiveness and beauty, which the human heart first appreciates, then approves and then obeys. Respectfully submitted.

JOHN M. ALLAN, Secy.

The very satisfactory and flourishing condition of this Society must be encouraging to all who take an interest in the dissemination of a pure and wholesome literature among the young, whose minds are susceptible and constantly in danger of being perverted by the trashy productions which unfortunately find their way into too many communities. The various resolutions were spoken to by the Revds. J. M. Allan, James Anderson, S. Russell (Presbyterian) and Rev. Wm. Cruden, (Episcopal) the remarks of the speakers being listened to with deep and earnest attention. At the close of the addresses, votes of thanks were moved and passed to the collectors who had been so energetic in procuring subscriptions — to the Secretary and Treasurer for their services—to the Chairman for the able manner in which he had performed his duties—and to the ladies and gentlemen who formed the Choir, for the music they had furnished, which had contributed to the interest of the meeting. A collection amounting to about $6.00 was taken up, when the doxology was sung, the benediction pronounced and the interesting proceedings brought to a termination.

The "Queen of Hearts."

The *Telegraph* furnishes the following account of the voyage of the *Queen of Hearts*, which vessel arrived at St. John on Sunday last.

The Miramichi barque *Queen of Hearts*, 856, Capt. Brennan, from Liverpool to Chatham, came into port yesterday afternoon, and was moored at Robertson's upper wharf, after four months and a half of bullet-ing with adverse weather and unfortunate circumstances. Here her present voyage will end and the cargo be discharged, for at this season of the year she could not hope to go up the Gulf to her original port of destination.

The *Queen of Hearts* left Liverpool on the first of October with a general cargo for the merchants of Miramichi, and after leaving was nine days in the Channel experiencing strong adverse gales. W. S. W. On the 9th October, she was off Tuscar on the coast of Ireland, and had a succession of heavy head winds until October 24, being in Long. 24° west; Lat. 48° north. After this the weather continued more moderate up to the 5th of November, when it again commenced to break. On the 7th of November a heavy gale carried away the mainyard and all the sails, with the trusses and slings of the lower topmast yards. The barque was then in Long. 42° W. Lat. 41° N. The gale continued for two days. After it had abated canvas was again got on and the lower topmast yard was shitted down in the place of the main yard. After this little trouble was experienced until the 18th of November, when the vessel arrived in the vicinity of Sable Island. From that date she kept knocking about between the Island and Halifax, waiting for a chance to make St. John, as it was then too late in the season to make it advisable to shape her course for Miramichi. On the 22nd of November while in the act of wearing ship, an able seaman named John Hodge, of Liverpool, fell from the foreyard after a gale and was lost. On the first December sails, rigging and provisions were used up, and the Captain resolved to make the Bermudas. The Islands were sighted on the 12th December. At 10 a. m. on that day they took a pilot on board and got within a mile of St. David's Head, near the harbor of St. George's, but they were unable to make the harbour on account of a strong S. W. wind blowing at the time. A tug was sent out but before she could reach the barque, the pilot, for some unexplained reason, put the vessel's head to sea, and the tug was unable to take her in. About 1.30 on the morning of the 13th, the barque being under lower main topsail, mizen staysail and foretopmast staysail, the foremast head was carried away, taking with it yards, sails, rigging, jib-boom and other gear. It took the crew till 8 o'clock on the same morning to clear away the wreck. The topsail yard also came down through the deck, damaging a box and bale. The gale lasted from the 12th to the 16th. During the gale the barque was blown about 140 miles to the S. E. After the 16th the wind changed to S. E., and the vessel got back to Bermuda on the 19th Dec. During their absence the Governor of the Island sent H. M. S. *Spitfire* in search of them but without success. When they arrived off Bermuda on the 19th, the Governor ordered H. M. S. *Argus*, then in harbour, to bring the vessel in, but they got to a safe anchorage in Five Fathom Hole before the *Argus* reached them.

On the 20th of December, 81 days after leaving Liverpool, the storm tossed barque got into the harbor of St. George's, and repairs to the rigging were made. The hull was sound though probably more or less strained after the long battle with the Storm King. These were complete in time to enable the vessel to leave for this port on the first of February. Fortune favored her course, for though she experienced heavy weather throughout the voyage she came into port safely yesterday afternoon. On Friday night she was overtaken by a heavy gale and blinding snow storm, but that was the last struggle of Boreas for supremacy. The passage up the Bay was attended with weather like that of April, and after her long and tempestuous voyage it was a glad relief to enter a port of rest in all the spring-like glories of such a day as yesterday.

The *Queen of Hearts* is owned by Hon. Senator Muirhead of Chatham, at which place she was built in 1868. After her arrival in Bermuda, Mr. Wm. Muirhead, Jr., at once left for that place, and returned by the way of New York.

Messrs. Wm. Thomson & Co., are Senator Muirhead's agents here. The goods, etc., will be forwarded to Miramichi by rail, while the other portions of the cargo, such as bricks and salt, will probably be disposed of here. The necessary repairs will be effected without delay.

The *Queen of Hearts* is a staunch vessel, or she could never have stood such a voyage with so little injury, and Capt. Brennan is entitled to much credit for the successful manner in which, in the face of so many difficulties, he has at last brought her to this peaceful haven.

THE "OYSTER" BUSINESS AT MONCTON.—The *Watchman* and other St. John papers report considerable excitement over the discovery that wholesale thieving is being carried on by some person or persons at the Moncton Railway Works. It appears by our cotemporaries, that a considerable amount of Government property, in the shape of old brass and copper, has been exported to the United States, and sold there without authority, leaving Moncton put up in barrels and labelled as oysters, &c. One of these "fish" barrels was being put into a freight car recently, when its weight attracting attention it was opened, and found to contain old brass, &c., covered at each end by oyster shells. The discovery has put every one on the *qui vive*, and further revelations are awaited with considerable interest.

TESTIMONIAL.—On the occasion of the late passage of the SS. *Sardinian*, Capt. Dutton, from Portland to Liverpool, Miss Rye, who was one of the passengers, was presented with a purse of money—£28 10s,—in aid of her work of rescuing poor children in England from misery and destruction, and taking them out to the British North American Provinces, where at Niagara she has a home provided for them, preparatory to their distribution among respectable people in Canada. Among the names of the five gentlemen who signed the testimonial on behalf of the cabin passengers, we notice that of Senator Muirhead. A preamble accompanied the testimonial, in which the respective Legislatures of the Provinces are urged to aid Miss Rye in her noble mission, by extending such substantial support as may be deemed expedient.

SUPREME COURT DECISION.—In the case of Muirhead *vs.* Arbo, attachment set aside without costs.

The Timber Trade.

We are glad to notice by the timber circular of Messrs. Singleton, Dunn & Co., Glasgow, that there is a prospect of an improvement in the prices of pine and spruce deals next season. The wide-spread depression which has been felt in commercial circles has for some time past seriously affected our lumber trade, upon the profitable prosecution of which, to a very great extent, hinges the commercial prosperity of the people in this Northern section. Any news of a favorable import will therefore be cheering to those who are engaged in the business.

Personal.

The Hon. Robert Young and Hon. John Crawford were in town on Thursday last.

Mr. J. G. Forbes, a talented barrister, late of St. John, has associated himself in the law business, with Corydon Weed, Esq., at Bloomington, Illinois.

The Hon. Senator Muirhead, Alexander Morrison, Esq., and Allan Ritchie, Esq., are now in Europe, making arrangements for the coming season's business in the shipment of lumber. The Hon. R. Hutchison left for England a few days ago, and was accompanied a short distance on his journey by some of his Newcastle friends. We hope these gentlemen will find trade prospects more encouraging than they were a year ago.

T. M. Rogers, Esq., well known in connection with railway operations here, is now at Salisbury, acting as financial manager for Duncan M'Donald, Esq., the Albert Railway contractor. He has the best wishes of many friends in this quarter.

Mr. Harvey Phinney is again in town, with the intention, we understand, of once more residing amongst us. Mr. P. was a useful and respected citizen; his departure was regretted—his return will be hailed with general satisfaction.

The Hon. W. M. Kelly, and Mr. D. G. Smith of the *Advance*, left for Fredericton yesterday morning.

Mr. I. Allen Jack is expected to lecture at Chatham shortly.

Religious Intelligence.

The Presbytery of Miramichi is expected to meet at Dalhousie this morning, for the ordination and induction of the Rev. Alex. Russell, of Truro, N. S., as Pastor of St. John's Church at that place. The Rev. gentleman was for many years the travelling agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was agreed by the congregation to extend a Call to Mr. Russell at a meeting held in the Church on Monday, the 1st November last.

The Presbytery will (weather permitting) meet to-morrow at Bathurst, to induct the Rev. Samuel Houston as Pastor of St. Luke's Church, Bathurst. The Rev. gentleman is a talented clergyman, and judging from the reports in circulation our Presbyterian friends are extremely fortunate in securing the services of so able a minister.

The Rev. Mr. Fielder will on Sunday next preach at Williamstown 11 a. m., Derby, 3 p. m.

WALTER M. BUCK, ESQ., an engineer of prominence, and well and favorably known here, is about taking his departure from this section to take up his residence at Salisbury, having been appointed engineer in charge for Duncan M'Donald, Esq., contractor for the Albert Railway. Mr. Buck came here in the summer of 1869, as Engineer in charge of surveys on the Intercolonial in this vicinity, and it is generally understood was mainly instrumental in locating the route through Newcastle out by Storen's, which had been previously condemned by other engineers as rocky, precipitous and unpracticable, but nevertheless the road is there to-day. Had this route not been chosen the line would have gone out by Oxford Cove Brook, known as "Cruden's Brook," and then there would have been no railway buildings at Newcastle as they exist to-day. And we think, in this respect, Mr. Buck has made the *amende honorable* to the people for having published a very able pamphlet on the shortest route for the Intercolonial railway, (which was not favorable to the north), a document which has been frequently referred to by the late Minister of Marine & Fisheries. Mr. Buck was the first Divisional Engineer appointed on construction in the Miramichi District, section 10 having been assigned to him. Messrs. M'Bean & Ferguson were then the contractors, but the work was barely commenced when the contract was given to Duncan M'Donald, Esq., the stipulated price being $400,000. The contract was faithfully and substantially carried out, to the satisfaction of the Government. This gentleman had subsequently awarded to him the contract for ballasting and tracklaying sections 20, 10 and 16 continuously, and nearly completed this work when the winter had set in. Mr. Buck's services on the I. C. R. terminated in Dec. 1874, and during the year 1875, as is well known, Mr. B. was engaged in making the surveys of the Miramichi Valley Railway from the Intercolonial to St. Mary's, on the St. John River, opposite Fredericton, and has furnished the Directors with all the necessary plans, profiles and estimates to the entire satisfaction of the Board. We are glad to hear that Mr. B. has fallen into a good position in connection with the Albert Railway, and we feel satisfied that he will fully sustain the character given him by the correspondent of the *Chignecto Post*, as being one of the ablest Engineers in the Province.

☞ A despatch to the *Globe* says that the arguments before the Supreme Court in the case of the Caraquet prisoners will not be heard until the Easter Term of the Court.

☞ A man named Wm. Moon, of Campbell Settlement, York Co., recently cut himself badly. Dr. Pedolin was called in, who succeeded in arresting the flow of blood.

☞ If the Manager of the *Advance* has discovered what truth is, he will have the kindness to display his knowledge in that respect when referring to statements made by this journal. With reference to the late heavy storms in Restigouche, the *Advocate* did *not* state "that the snow was several feet deep along the line of the Intercolonial in that county," as alleged by the Manager. The whole snarl has been raised by the querulous correspondent over an item of seven lines, in which it was stated that the trains were delayed for three or four days, owing to the prevailing snow storms. No depth of snow was spoken of at all, nor did we know the depth. The trains were delayed, and surely the drivers would not deliberately stop on the road, if there was a chance of getting along at all. The correspondent says that the delay was owing to the trains not being properly handled. The railway authorities can attend to that, we know nothing about it, although at the same time we discredit the statement. But since the depth of snow has been brought into question, we have it from a resident of Dalhousie, who would not misrepresent the County in any way, that at River Charlo the drifts were five or six feet deep, and it must be expected that there were dritts in other places also. We find that the trains are delayed by snow storms in other sections, that mention is made of such delays, and that the people do not look upon such statements as being derogatory to the sections in which the storms occur.

☞ The editor of the *News* has rallied to the assistance of the Manager of the *Advance*. As a wit however he is not a success. He is more at home jumping political fences when Government patronage is at stake, and in sticking to the winning side, so long as there's money in it, throwing principle to the winds. It may be some *comfort* to him to know that he will shortly have the privilege of assuming his favorite position—*astride the fence*—judging from the aspect of the political horizon. The *News* is evidently offended at us about something, and we are at a loss to know what, unless it is because we failed to give a laudatory notice of an exceedingly dry lecture recently delivered at Chatham by one of the *News* staff. If the editor does feel bad about it, he might have the good sense to keep it to himself.

MR. ANDREW H. JOHNSON, who for some time past has been studying in the office of L. J. Tweedie, Esq., was recently sworn in an Attorney-at-Law. Mr. J., whose talents are of no mean order, has been a faithful student, and he has his reward in passing a most creditable examination. Our young friend will, we believe, be an ornament to the profession with which he has associated himself. He inherits, apparently, a good deal of that ability which was so prominently displayed by his father, the late John M. Johnson, who was acknowledged to be one of the leading members of the Bar of New Brunswick. Should his success be on a par with our wishes, his brightest anticipations will be fully realized.

☞ Parties engaged in the exportation of fresh fish from Miramichi and other points north to the United States, are referred to the advertisement of the International Steamship Comp'y. There will be a keen rivalry between the railway lines and the International S. S. Company, with respect to carrying out fresh fish to American Markets, and as extra inducements will in all likelihood be held out by the steamboat company to secure the freight, shippers should confer with Mr. Chisholm, the agent, who will be pleased to correspond with any or all of those engaged in the business.

☞ A subscriber at Black Point, Restigouche, asks us how it is that he never gets the *Advocate* until the Monday after the day on which the paper is printed. We can only say that his paper is enclosed in the bundle for Black Point, that it is mailed and forwarded by Wednesday's train, and that its late arrival at its destination must be owing to some fault in the postal arrangements. The paper should reach Black Point at least not later than Friday of each week, when the roads are in good condition.

☞ The Manager of the *Advance*, having burned his fingers by unnecessarily meddling with the Chatham fire department, plunges into a discussion anent the snow storms in Restigouche. He is as great a failure in the *snowball* business as in anything he has yet tried his hand at, being evidently up to his neck in the snowdrifts of perversion and misrepresentation.

☞ The Officers elect of Chatham Head Lodge No. 411 B. T., for Quarter commencing 1st Feb. are as follows:—Geo. A. Flett, W. C. T.; Mrs. Wm. Jackson, W. V. T.; R. Baldwin, Secy.; Geo. Hay, T.; S. Harper, Chp.; Miss M. Baldwin, Fin.; R. Jackson, M.; Geo. Rogers, I. G.; J. Santores, O. G.; Miss S. Gillis, R. H. S.; Miss A. Webster, L. H. S.; Miss E. Mullosh, A. S.; Miss E. Jackson, D. M.; W. Willey, P. W. C.

☞ The Rev. J. Anderson, pastor of St. James Church, forwarded last week to Montreal the sum of $150, in aid of Father Chiniquy's Mission, being the amount of subscriptions obtained in Newcastle for that purpose.

☞ The fourth lecture of the course under the auspices of the Chatham Literary Society, was delivered on Monday evening in the Temperance Hall, by the Rev. James Anderson, who gave an interesting dissertation on "Scottish National Character."

☞ A despatch from Dalhousie on Monday evening says a report is in circulation there to the effect that a house was burned at New Richmond, Co. Bonaventure, on Friday night, and that a woman and two children perished in the flames.

☞ The Assembly advertised to take place last night in the Masonic Hall, under the direction of Professor Colby, did not come off, the severe storm necessarily postponing it. It will be held on the first fine evening.

☞ A petition against the return of Messrs. Rogers and Ryan for Albert County has been duly filed. It is to be hoped the public will soon hear the last of this Albert matter.

☞ The *Telegraph* says that at Dalhousie, a few days ago, James Duncan had his hand badly cut by a circular saw in Hon. Geo. Moffatt's mill. Also that Mr. Morris Alexander, of Eel River, Restigouche, recently had a fine horse killed by the railway train.

THE NEW MASONIC HALL.—The decoration of the new Masonic Hall has just been completed by Mr. W. Murray, and it is scarcely necessary to say that the work has been performed with much taste and skill, and is very much admired. The ceiling is in "distemper," dark mauve tint, with a variegated border. There are four centre pieces, the one over the platform being painted in scroll work, the others consisting of paper scroll work, with a painted border in blue and purple. The arches on either side, ten in number, are finished in imitation variegated marble, giving them a massive appearance, and presenting a neat and pleasing contrast to the walls, which are finished in grey granite. Efforts are now being made to complete the wainscoating and other wood finish in the interior, and we hope the efforts of the committee in this direction will meet with substantial recognition. They have made arrangements with Mr. W. Murray to deliver a lecture in the Hall on Friday evg. next, which we hope will be largely attended. Mr. M. has occupied the platform in Derby and Douglastown, and we understand the lecture was well received in both places.

FIRE AT NAPAN.—The dwelling house of John Mitchell, lower Napan, was burned on the night of Sunday, 6th inst., together with nearly all the furniture and clothing, and all the provisions. Mr. M. and his family are left in almost a destitute condition, without home, provisions or clothing. We are glad to learn that the case is receiving the thoughtful consideration of the people in Napan and elsewhere. A list is being circulated, the object of which is to obtain subscriptions in building materials or cash, so as to enable Mr. M. to erect a shelter for himself and family as soon as possible. The list, we trust, will be generously signed.

☞ A severe snow storm set in from the eastward early yesterday morning, which still continued when we went to press late last night. The chances are that the trains north will not be "on time" for a day or two.—The train from St. John arrived here between 7 and 8 p. m.

☞ Messrs. D. M'Millan and D. Hutchison, of Boiestown, who lately had their feet badly frozen, are under the care of Dr. Dow, of Fredericton, and Dr. Pedolin, of Doaktown, A consultation was lately had, and it is feared that the sufferers will have to part with some of their toes, by amputation.

☞ On Thursday last three Indians started a moose near M'Connell Brook, who chased the animal until the following day, when it sank exhausted in a clump of bushes in rear of the barn of Mr. William M'Kay, Boiestown, and was quickly despatched by the Indians, who were close upon its track.

LARGE PIG.—Mr. Lyons, of Lower Newcastle, offered a very large pig for sale in town on Wednesday last. It was raised by by Mr. N. Landry, of Kouchibouguacis, Kent, and when killed was a year and ten months old, and weighed six hundred and forty-two pounds.

☞ A romantic marriage took place in the jail here on Monday evening, in which a prisoner named Sickles took a prominent part. As his liberty depended upon the performance of the ceremony, he no doubt felt a considerable interest in it *at the time*. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. James Anderson, and was witnessed by several of our citizens.

☞ We are pleased to learn that Mr. Richard F. Quigley, of this town, and now practising in St. John, was on Monday last sworn in a Barrister of the Supreme Court.

Dominion Parliament.

Ottawa, Feb. 10.

The third session of the third Parliament of Canada was convened today. The Gov. General was escorted to the Senate Chamber by a Guard of Honor composed of the Foot Guards. The attendance of ladies was large. The members of the House, headed by the Speaker, having presented themselves at the Bar, His Excellency delivered the following

SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate;
Gentlemen of the House of Commons;

I have much pleasure in again calling you together to attend to the business of the country. Since you last assembled it has been my happiness to visit the Mother Country, and to have had the opportunity while there of calling public attention to the remarkable progress of the Dominion and of giving expression to the feeling of attachment to the person of Her Majesty and the interests of the Empire which animate the Canadian speech.

The great depression which has prevailed throughout the neighboring countries for several years, and which has more recently been felt in the Old World, causing a general business stagnation, has extended to Canada, and has seriously affected our trade. At the same time, we have reason to be grateful for the abundant harvest, and while I deeply regret the suffering which exists among certain classes in particular localities, I believe, nevertheless, that the great bulk of our people continue to enjoy a condition of reasonable prosperity.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the fact that the great Railway undertaking connecting the Lower Province of Canada with the Maritime Provinces, provided for by the Act of 1867, is approaching completion. Early in the coming summer the small portion of the Intercolonial line not in operation will be opened, when the connection with other systems of railway will be formed, so as to enable passengers and traffic to pass over continuous lines of railway from Halifax or St. John to the extreme Western railways of Ontario.

The opening of the Prince Edward Island Railway during the past year marks an epoch in the history of that Island, and cannot but exert a beneficial influence on the people and add to their material prospects.

Every effort has been made to obtain an early settlement of the claims of Canada for compensation for the use of her fisheries by the United States, as provided by the Treaty of Washington. Her Majesty's Government in the early part of last summer, at the instigation of my advisers, appointed the British Commissioners; but I regret to have to state that the United States Government have not yet appointed a Commissioner, and that consequently no progress has been made.

I have given effect to the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act of last Session by issuing the proclamations and by appointing the Judges and officers of the Court.

A bill to supply and amend the law relating to Common Carriers will be submitted for your consideration.

A bill will be brought before you containing provision for affording greater security to policy holders in Life Assurance Companies.

The want of reliable and systematized information relating to the several classes of crime and the importance of collecting classification of criminal statistics have engaged my attention. A bill will be introduced to provide for what is most essential in this direction.

You will be asked to make provision for the commencement of the work of consolidating the statute law.

The acts relating to the enfranchisement of the Indians and the management of Indian affairs have been fully considered, and steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the Indians themselves. A measure on this subject will be submitted for your approval.

A measure will be introduced to provide for the better administration of the estates of insolvent banks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the past and the estimates for the next financial year will be laid before you; the estimates have been framed with every possible economy consistent with the public interests. I regret that the depression in trade, to which I have alluded, has seriously affected the revenue. It will be necessary, in view of this circumstance, to curtail the expenditures in the several branches of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Correspondence, reports, and other papers regarding the construction of the Pacific Railway, will be laid before you.

During the recess a deputation from the Government of Manitoba visited Ottawa to invite the attention of the Governmeut of the Dominion to the circumstances of that Province. They represented that the income of the Province was insufficient to provide for its ordinary Governmental expenses. The papers on this subject will be laid before you and certain propositions will be submitted for your consideration.

The Legislature of Manitoba has in the meantime adopted some measures to reduce the expenditure of the Province.

I invite your earnest attention to the several subjects mentioned and to the general business which will come before you, and I trust that your deliberations may be guided by wisdom and moderation.

[From the Telegraph.]

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie submitted the Report of the Public Works Department amidst applause; also a [majority] Report on the Bay Verte Canal.

Hon. Mr. Burpee submitted the Report on Trade and Navigation for the year 1875. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Vail submitted the Report on the Militia Department. (Applause.)

The House then adjourned.

There are all sorts of wild rumors about the proposed changes in the tariff, one of which is that 20 per cent. tariff will be adopted, and that taxes on liquors and tobacco will be greatly increased.

The Cabinet ministers say that they have all their measures prepared, and expect to finish business of session by Easter.

The Governor General held a grand Levee in the Senate Chamber to-night; there were about one thousand ladies and gentlemen present.

The Trade and Navigation Returns show increased importation of the following articles: Butter, lard, tallow, pork, coal, oil, tea, sugar.

All goods which were charged *ad valorem* duties have increased.

The wine and spirits imported from 1868 to 1875 are valued at $1,742,872.

The exports to Newfoundland and the West Indies have increased.

The produce of the mines exported have decreased $99,166—chiefly Nova Scotia coal.

The fisheries exports have increased $88,159.

The Militia Report shows that 28,645 men have been drilled during the last year.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.

The Address in reply to the Speech was moved by Mr. G. E. Cassey, member for West Elgin. Reference was made to the visit of the Governor General to England, the Intercolonial, P. E. Island and Pacific railways, our fishery claims and the Supreme Court of appeal. The Speaker concluded by saying that the bill of fare was sufficient for a moderate session, and he felt convinced that the House would join in cordially endorsing His Excellency's sentiments as to the patriotism and public spirit which should guide members in their deliberations.

The Address was seconded by the Hon. M. Taschereau, who fully endorsed the remarks of the member for West Elgin.

The Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald said the mover and seconder of the Address could not claim to be new members, but they should, at least, be accorded some of their privileges.

Concerning the Address itself, he could say that it was a most harmless and innocent document, and he hoped there was no torpedo under it (laughter.) It, however, looked so amiable that he did not consider it necessary to propose an amendment, and hoped the Address would receive the unanimous assent of the House.

In reference to his Excellency's visit to England, he cordially agreed with all that had been said by the mover and seconder. He could say, as they had said, that the Governor General's efforts in the way of explaining the position of Canada to the people of England, and in calling the attention of the people of England to the feeling of loyalty in this country, was done in his usual happy way, and would be productive of good effects. His addresses and their influence would go far to counteract the zealous efforts of the efficient Agent General (laughter and cheers). He (the speaker) could not afford to smile upon the next paragraph, which referred to the depression in trade.—They deplored that such a depression existed, and it might be their duty to enquire whether this stagnation was created by sympathy with depression elsewhere, and whether the cause of its existing may not be removed by legislative action.

The completion of the Intercolonial railway was a matter of congratulation to the House and the country, and when that road was in full operation they would have one of the best railways on this continent, and he believed in time a great commercial road. It would assist in developing the Maritime Provinces, and its location could not only be defended, but justified. He hoped the head of the Government would early direct their attention as to the best mode of running that road. Whether he did so or not, he would call the Premier's attention to the necessity of protecting the freight from Quebec and Halifax, to the great West.

He had no doubt the Island of Prince Edward would enjoy great advantages from the opening of the Prince Edward Island railway, and though there were some grumblings as to the manner in which the road was constructed, he had no doubt that the Minister of the Interior would cast oil upon the troubled waters.

He regretted that anything had occurred to prevent the settlement of the Fishery question, but he trusted that an early settlement might be arrived at.

In respect to the establishment of the Supreme Court, he believed that a strong bench had been selected, and one that would secure the confidence of the country. It was but due that they should receive from his hand that praise which they deserve.

The legislation in reference to the British Columbia settlement was not of a very high character, but they could not expect to be always in the heroics, and must content themselves with such a bill of fare as was now presented.

The present Government had at one time opposed the policy of his Government, but when they came into power they only continued that policy. He had no doubt the [illegible] pondence to be pre[illegible] a valuable monume[illegible] ministration. (Ch[illegible]

The measure to b[illegible] to Indian affairs w[illegible] one of considerable [illegible] tance. The financ[illegible] charming as the [illegible] speech. The depr[illegible] affected the country, [illegible] consolation of know[illegible] friend the member f[illegible] was only temporary, [illegible] would be removed [illegible] the economy which [illegible] this clause, they [illegible] country would d[illegible] details, and they [illegible] that when they saw t[illegible] proposed to curtail [illegible] all branches of the G[illegible] ried out it would be [illegible] economy. When [illegible] they would be bette[illegible] the extent of the co[illegible] ly regretted if any [illegible] sion should induce [illegible] impede the develop[illegible] try.

As to the bills for [illegible] criminal statistics, [illegible] ly judge when [illegible] brought before the [illegible]

He presumed the [illegible] office of Agent Ge[illegible] them—(laughter a[illegible] had been loudly ca[illegible] country, and the Gov[illegible] ed the credit of ha[illegible] willingness to acce[illegible] demand; but it woul[illegible] bered that they were [illegible] the appointment at [illegible] John) had pointed o[illegible] pointment was ma[illegible] would be likely, and [illegible] disappearance of the [illegible] might be looked for. [illegible] disappearance had [illegible] was not sure that he [illegible] eral) had disappear[illegible] economy. They had [illegible] that it was not