

The Act for the improvement of Common schools will require, at your hands, some further consideration and amendment. Your previous efforts in this regard, however, are those that you appreciate its importance.

It is a source of pleasure to me to express my belief that I shall now be able to carry out the Act relating to the Indian Reserves in such a manner as will at once meet the wishes of the Legislature, and promote the welfare of the Indian Population. I rely on your readiness to do all that is possible to aid me in attaining both objects.

The subject of the Post Office has occupied my anxious attention, and is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Where joint action is essential with reference to the interests of all the British N. American Colonies, great care is required in adjusting the various parts of any measure; but I am glad to inform you, that Her Majesty's Ministers propose to obtain the powers necessary for dealing with this subject, by applying for an Act of the Imperial Parliament in the Session about to commence.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;  
I have directed the Returns of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure to be submitted to you. I wish the Account were more prosperous than you will find it to be; but I am happy to say, that notwithstanding the large appropriations made during the last Session, the Public Credit has been satisfactorily maintained, inasmuch as the Warrants have been promptly met on demand at the Treasury, the instalment on the Funded Debt has been discharged, and a large part of the Debentures issued under the Act of 1859, for rebuilding the Burnt District in Saint John, has been taken up.

A portion of the expenses incurred in connection with the Emigration of 1847, has been repaid by the Imperial Government, and the remainder will probably be transmitted in a short time.

Certain Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, relating to the Public Expenditure in this Province, and the mode in which the Duties for the purpose of raising a Revenue should be imposed, will be placed before you.

I feel confident, that while you will adopt the least objectionable mode of levying the necessary funds, you will grant such supplies as the Administration of the Government, and the maintenance of Public Credit, require. All this, I am satisfied, to be done with a judicious and proper economy.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have much pleasure in informing you that the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, upon the boundaries between this Province and Canada, is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. I hope therefore, to speedily transmit of all the emigration returns which have been received by the last date of the report.

The great resources of this Province in its fish, furs, and its Fisheries, call upon you for such measures as may best develop the resources. Amongst other measures, it may be more important than any other, relating to Railways, on which I have already touched. While referring to the execution of these works, a large series implies a sure of Public Credit satisfactory to Capitalists, that such a state of credit depends on confidence, that confidence must be based on a conviction of the stability of our faith, and the sufficiency of our resources; that nothing can prove such a conviction so much as a judicious economy, resting on a system judiciously resorted to on the part of those who control and expend the Public money. I cannot but hope that the principle now advanced with reference to the Government of the Province, may furnish a measure of this confidence. The Members of my Government will be ready to lead the way, and I, Her Majesty's Representative, shall be happy to co-operate with you in such measures.

On the return of the Members to the Lower House, His Honour the Speaker read the Speech; when Mr. Wark rose and said, that every member must feel convinced that during His Excellency's short residence in the Province, he must have been employed in acquiring the information necessary for promoting the public business. It comprised the varied subjects of Commerce—Agriculture—Emigration—the settlement of Land Education—the Fisheries—and several other important topics, not the least of which was the contemplated Railway. In order to carry out the wishes of one City or District to another, but here the subject was intimately connected with the very improvement of the country in an Agricultural point of view, without which improvement this Province can never attain the eminence to which it stands entitled. He was not disposed to find fault with what had already been done; for an advance of our population in 20 years, from 75,000 to 200,000, showed a degree of improvement not surpassed by any of our neighbours; and our Towns, Villages and Settlements were fairly respectable. The Province, in the present position of affairs, there was no doubt, a question of the improvement of the Country, and the improvement of the Country, and he therefore hoped that the House in relation to the former, would move with the utmost expedition of the House. It was, he believed, supposed that we could have a short Session, but that the subject addressed to in Mr. Wark's Speech were duly considered and acted upon, it would at least be an important one. (Here Mr. Wark moved the Address in answer, which he read in his place, and which was next read from the chair by His Honour the Speaker.)

Here Mr. Steel observed, that he thought it a pity, way of disposing of the Address. The Address may have been to bring it before the House through a Select Committee, and although he felt no disposition to find fault with the speech—which he had heard read rather imperfectly—he yet did not feel disposed to respond to it without proper consideration. He did not know whether the knowledge of the Hon. member of the Address were tentative, or whether he might not be a member of the Government; but he felt surprised at the proposition with which he had prepared an Address in answer to a Speech so recently delivered by the Head of the Government.

Mr. Brown observed that the method proposed was certainly novel here, but it was that adopted by the Imperial Government, and would probably assist us to facilitate business. He thought highly of the Speech, and also of the answer proposed by the hon. member (Mr. Wark) but formerly the Speech as well as the Address was examined paragraph by paragraph, and if the present method did not interfere with the necessary investigation, he could have no objection to its adoption. He supposed that the Address had been handed to the hon. mover, by a member of the Executive.

Hon. Attorney General said this had been called a novel measure; it was nothing however, but relinquishing their former unconstitutional practice, and falling back upon one that was strictly Parliamentary; one, in practice at the present time both in Canada and Nova Scotia. It would be recollected that last year he had refused to serve on the Address Committee on the ground that it was the duty of the Government to prepare that document; and now, after being honored with a seat in that Government, he would certainly be placed in an awkward position, were he to allow the old practice to obtain without having made the attempt to conform to a practice, which while it should be strictly Parliamentary, should at the same time form a precedent for future action. By adopting this mode, Hon. Members could, (if they chose) make it a means for testing the strength of the Government; (hear, hear) However it was not the wish of the Government that they should be the case; neither did they wish to press the question at all; on the contrary they desired that the subject should be open to the strictest investigation. The address held out no pledges—it was a mere echo of the speech.

Mr. Ritchie agreed with all that had fallen from the hon. Attorney General—his only fear was that the Government was not, by the address in question, sufficiently pledged. The hon. and learned member enumerated a number of speeches and measures which he conceived it to be the duty of the Ministry to bring forward and concluded by expressing his earnest hope that, these, with the line of Railway from St. John to Shediac (which in his opinion was the great Provincial Scheme) would receive their earliest and best attention.

Mr. Boyd briefly observed that the House had been asked to adopt the Address, and he felt confident that no select committee would prepare a better one.

Hon. Mr. Hays said that his gentleman had last Session adopted a new constitution, and if they were prepared to adopt this mode of introducing the address, which was a part and parcel of that constitution, after some further unimportant remarks from him, he moved, the address was ordered to lie on the table, to be taken up on Friday next.

Mr. Steel expressed himself satisfied with the promised opportunity for discussion.

Dr. Thompson spoke against the adoption of any Measures from Nova Scotia. He would be sorry to see the day when the House would be annoyed in its discussions, as they were in Nova Scotia. He was opposed to the new method under consideration. (Here the learned Doctor moved the printing of blank copies of the Speech, upon which Mr. Ritchie rose and said, that the time was come when the public printing must be set up for public competition. The present expenses for that service were enormously high.

Mr. R. D. Wilcox, after some preliminary remarks, moved a resolution for a select Committee to report upon the expenses of all the Public Departments, with a view to their reduction. These enormous salaries were, he said, to be tolerated, in view of the vast amount of destitution and suffering in the country.

Hon. Mr. PARTLOW observed, that the subject embraced in the resolution, was now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The Hon. Attorney General said, that so far from avoiding this question, the Government was anxious for its investigation—they courted Responsibility. It was a subject which had long and seriously engaged the attention of the Government, and it continued to engage it with the view of making reductions, beginning almost at the highest, and descending on a graduated scale downwards.

The usual Standing Committees were then appointed.

Mr. Ritchie moved for a select Committee to inquire into matters connected with the Public Printing, with a view to a reduction in that department; also to inquire into the contingencies of the Assembly with a view to the same object—adopted.

Mr. R. D. Wilcox moved for a Committee to inquire into the expenditure of the several Public Departments with a view to a reduction therein, suited to the present limited means of the Province.

Hon. Attorney General assured the hon. member, that Government intended instituting an investigation into, not only the heads, but the minor departments too—with a view to the adoption of such a scale as would suit the exigencies of the times. (Hear! hear!)

Mr. R. D. Wilcox withdrew his resolution.

## SUMMARY OF NEWS.

**SICILY.**—We have some reports that Sicilians have attacked the outposts of the Neapolitans. The probability is, that the King of Naples is desirous of seizing any pretence of reconquering Sicily; and, altogether, the position of the two Sicilies is most unsatisfactory. France and England appear to have gone to the utmost point in endeavouring to stave off hostilities, and the Neapolitan King seems bent upon reconquest.

The Sicilian question is a subject of continued negotiation between the Neapolitan Government and the English and French Legations. Temple and Rayneval had presented a note regarding the advice of their government—that the King should accord, by an act of his grace, with the establishment of a Sicilian army, separate administration, separate chambers, and above all, a full and general amnesty to all who have taken any part, directly or indirectly, in the revolution of the Islands.

**RUSSIA.**—The St. Petersburg Journal speaks with much satisfaction of the confidence which has been established between Russia and the Holy See since the conclusion of the convention which was signed at Rome on the 15th August, 1847, and ratified by the Emperor, on the 27th Nov. of the same year—the object of which is, to secure to the Roman Catholic subjects of his majesty the full enjoyment of their religious liberty.

**SAVONIA.**—By a decree dated 20th ult. the King of Savoy dissolved the Chamber of Deputies, ordered new elections on the 15th inst., and convoked the new Parliament for the 24th.

At Milan, the barricades are still with projectiles of every description. Attempts are being made by the Austrians to excite the lower classes against the rich.

**ITALY.**—The *Corriere* of Genoa of the 5th states on the authority of letters from Rome, that the 31st is understood that Cardinal Orsini was struck with apoplexy shortly after a very warm discussion with the Pope and Cardinals.

**ROME, Jan. 3d.**—A third Papal protest is in progress between the Cardinals and the Pope. Lombardini and Antonelli urge the Pope to an armed intervention, to which the Cardinals are opposed.

## GOLD IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. Benton in his late speech in the Senate on the California Bill, speaking of the locations of gold washings in the gold regions, says:—

"These washings are called in Spanish *placeres*, from the Latin *placere*; to please, because it is a pleasing thing to find the shining gold under one's feet. But it is a transient pleasure. There is no fee simple in it: there is not even a life estate in it: not even a lease for a year, a month, week, or a day. The pleasure is soon gone. Exhausted placers now exist in New Mexico, for example, yielding much, now some twenty-five hundred dollars a day and only pursued by the poorest Mexicans. Regular Mining has followed there, and is now yielding considerable quantities. These washings of California are marvellously rich, for we have to believe that is certified to by so many witnesses; but they are not the richest that ever was seen. Far from it. Those of Brazil, in the mountains back of Rio Janeiro, in the time of Lord Anson's voyage, say one hundred years ago, were far richer; and yet they have been exhausted so long that all memory of them is lost. Two million sterling—ten millions of dollars were annually sent to Europe, for years, from these washings. They were worked by slaves who, to secure their fidelity and industry, were usually allowed by their masters all the proceeds of the day, above a given amount; and in that way many slaves became rich, purchased their freedom, and then bought slaves of their own, lived in splendour and opulence, and laid the foundation of families.—Yet these washings are exhausted, time out of mind; and so will be those of California; and the sooner the better I am a friend to a gold currency, but not to gold mining. That is a pursuit which the experience of nations shown to be both impoverishing and demoralizing to a nation."

**BATTLE IN YUCATAN.**—News has been received that a great battle has been fought between 8000 Indians, and 500 American volunteers. Forty-three Americans were killed during the battle. The Indian town of Teila was captured and burnt. The Americans marched towards Bassalar, where a decisive battle was anticipated.

**ARRIVAL OF A CALIFORNIA.**—The *Pittsburgh Dispatch* of the 23d inst. thus notices the arrival of a lucky gold digger in that city:

"Mr. J. H. Wright, late of California, whence he sailed but 70 days since, passed through our city yesterday, on his way to Philadelphia. He speaks in glowing terms of this modern (perhaps ancient) Ophir, and exhibited some specimens of the virgin ore. His brother and himself have the nice little sum of \$80,000, gathered in a short time. He intends going back to make further speculations in the gold regions."

The House has directed the Secretary of the Navy to issue an order to abolish flogging in the Navy. Good!—*Eastport Sentinel*.

**OREGON DISSENT.**—By Mary Frances which arrived at Honolulu on the 10th, from San Francisco, brings word that all the settlers are leaving Oregon for the gold diggings. The Spectator and Free Press had both suspended publication, and editors, printers, and imps going with the rest. The *Harvest* promised an abridgement, but so many had left for the gold region that few reapers remained. An emigration of nearly 3000 had started overland.

**QUOTIDIAN OUTRAGE.**—We copied in our last statement from a Southern paper, that Mr. and Mrs. Russell, the celebrated Scotch giant and giantess, now of Wisconsin, had recently had a son born to them, whose weight at three days old was twenty-one pounds. We have since learned from good authority that the wife of our neighbour, Capt. Wm. McKenney, of Deer Island, N. B., has given birth to two children, the first of whom weighed twenty-one, and the last twenty-two pounds on the day of its birth. A short time since, a neighbour at Lubec had three distinguished little strangers arrive at one point. We are acquainted with the parties we have spoken of, and can vouch for what we have written.—*Eastport Sentinel*.

**RETRENCHMENT.**—There is encouragement held out, that the reign of official corruption at Headquarters is over. We are led to entertain this hope, by the personal of the concluding portion of the Governor's speech. "Drowning men will catch, &c."—*Albion*.

**AGRICULTURE.**—We learn from the *Miramar* of the 23d inst., that the Annual Meeting of the Northumberland Agricultural Society was held at the Eagle Hotel, in Newcastle, on the 17th inst., and that the turnout on the occasion was highly creditable, numbering among those present nearly all the respectable and influential gentlemen in the place. The official report says:—

"The samples of Grain, Timothy and Garden Seeds, and the Domestic Manufactures, not omitting the Cheese and Butter—were all admirably good.

The weight of the different sorts and qualities of Wheat, (as may be seen by referring to the Annual Report) ranged from 65 to 61 lbs. per win. bushel; Oats from 41 to 42 lbs.; Barley 54 to 63 lbs.; Peas 65 to 67 lbs.; and Timothy Seed 46 to 45 lbs."

This quotation of the weight of the different sorts of grain exhibited, is worth a thousand theoretical arguments to prove that this country can produce its own bread. Under a proper system of agriculture, there cannot be a doubt on the mind of any reasonable man, that New Brunswick is capable of supporting a population twenty times more dense than it is at present, and have bread enough, and to spare without importing a single ounce of wheat or flour of any description.—*Headquarters*.

**THE MAILS.**—The transmission of the English Mails, through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to Canada, has been a subject of remark in several of the Colonial papers during the last week or two, and a comparative statement in the *Montreal Herald* shows that they have been received in a less time in that city through the Provinces, than they were formerly through the United States. We trust, therefore, as the benefit of their transmission is of some account to us, in addition to the advantage it gives us of making us independent of foreigners, that such representations will be made to the Home Government as will prevent an alteration of the present arrangement. As an instance of the rapidity with which the Mails are now transmitted, we may mention that the letter portion of the Mail by the Steamer Canada, was brought by express from Halifax to Amherst, a distance of 120 miles, in twenty-one hours; from thence to the Grand Falls, a distance of 350 miles, it was conveyed in thirty-three hours. This, he remembered, included all the stoppages at the different stations on the route through New-Brunswick, and at the Ferry in St. John, where the Mail arrived between one and two o'clock in the morning. The contractors from Halifax to Amherst are Messrs. Hyde and Archibald, and from the latter place to the Grand Falls, Mr. Caldwell is the contractor.—*Courier*.

Our Subscribers will oblige us by paying our Collector, who will call upon them with their accounts for the last year.

## THE STANDARD.

St. Andrews, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1849

Charlotte County Bank.

Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.

T. B. WILSON, Esq., Solicitor.

Discount Day—TUESDAY.

Hours of Business, from 10 to 2.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday, otherwise they must lie over until next week.

St. Andrews and North West.

Commissioners—Geo. D. Street, John B. Street, Thos. Berry, John Bailey, R. Ker.

St. Andrews

Steam Mills and Manufacturing Company.

R. M. Andrews, Esq., President.

J. Wetmore, Agent.

Saint Stephens Bank.

G. D. King Esq., President.

Discount Day—SATURDAY.

Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day.

English News.—In our columns to day we have made further extracts from papers by the Steamer Canada. There was a decided improvement in the Timber Market—Deals had advanced, and it was thought would continue to improve in price.

## OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature was opened on Wednesday last. His Excellency's Speech, with a Synopsis of the Debate upon the Address in answer thereto, will be found in our columns. We observe that His Excellency has not alluded to the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad in his Speech. No doubt he believes that this Railway is already well known, and does not require to be brought before the Country, as the people of the Province are fully aware of its great importance and advantages, and that considerable progress has been made with the work which is at present in course of construction. Railroads we believe to be the great desideratum required, the panacea for our present distress. The future welfare of this fine Province in a measure depends upon their construction. Without them, its trade, as well as its population, will leave it—and we trust that the Legislature will afford every encouragement to promote these all-important undertakings.

His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell, has invited the celebrated Agricultural Lecturer, Professor Johnson, to visit Prince Edward Island, "for the purpose of inspecting its agricultural capabilities."

The *Courier* states, that the Electric Telegraph line will be completed to Boston, by the end of this week. The delay having occurred in consequence of the heavy snow and severe weather.

A Yankee, down East, has invented a "California Grease," for gold hunters. The operator is to graze himself well, lay down on the top of a hill, and then roll to the bottom. The gold, and "nothing else," will stick to him.—*Price \$20 per box.*

A meeting was held at Quebec on the 25th Jan. on the subject of the Quebec and Halifax Railroad. Resolutions were passed—approving of the Report on the great Trunk line, recommending that addresses be presented to the Governor General, and the Legislature on the subject, pointing their favourable consideration of the project—and that the committee named in 1846, at a public Meeting held on the 14th January, when this measure was taken into consideration, be requested to embody these resolutions in a petition to the Governor General and both Houses of Parliament and be requested to take such steps as they deem necessary for the furtherance of this great object.

**STEAMER SENSATION.**—The New York Post states that this fine steamer, which was on the route between Boston and St. John last summer, and is now running between Fall River and New-York, has been sold to four parties in the latter city for \$80,000, and is about to be despatched round Cape Horn, to ply between Panama and San Francisco. The well-known steamer *Ariel* is advertised for sale in New-York.

**A CALIFORNIA DREAMER.**—We are told, says the New York Evening Post of Tuesday, that Messrs. Savage & Hawkins, gold assayers, &c., at 128 William street, have received a jump of what was supposed to be California gold, weighing 20 ounces Troy Weight, to be assayed. It was unaffected by acids, but in the refining pot evaporated. It proved to be sulphate of iron. The owner of the article purchased it at San Francisco, where he paid \$7 per ounce for it, in merchandise. Messrs. S. & H. say they have received several specimens of California rocks to assay, but as yet they have received no gold. They are constantly receiving orders for testing acids to go to the region, but say they have concluded that they can mine gold faster in New York city.

The Express says in relation these accounts, that they make a dull market yesterday in cotton as well as in stocks—those two articles being the gauges and barometers of commercial feelings.

During the year 1847, articles of Canadian produce to the value of \$163,032 were shipped to the port of New York, and thence exported. In 1848, the amount warehoused and exported was \$251,124.

**SMALL POX IN MIRAMICHI.**—We are sorry to have it to record, that this fatal and loathsome disease has made its appearance among us. Dr. Key, one of the Health Officers, reported that he had on Friday last, by the request of the Overseers of the Poor, examined several families in Chatham, and found FOURTEEN cases of decided Small Pox. The Justices on receiving the report, called a Special Session for the purpose of bringing the matter immediately before the Executive. The Session met on Saturday, and we understand, passed resolutions to the effect, that Small Pox having appeared in Miramichi, that the Executive should be immediately apprised of the fact, and the necessity that expedient steps being taken by the Government to have the persons requiring it vaccinated; and calling on them to appoint a Board of Health, as it will be impossible for the Sessions to act under the existing laws, with any effect. We hope the Executive will see the necessity of complying with the request of the Sessions. We long ago urged the establishment of a Board of Health in the County; and now that disease of a most virulent nature has made its appearance among us, we trust it will have the effect of inducing them to perform an act of justice, and humanity which they have most strangely too long withheld from us. We can assure them, the inhabitants of the County will wait with

deep anxiety and solicited this important matter.—G

**By Telegraph from St. Andrews.**—The *Harmon* Wednesday last, from 2nd Jan. 49, lat. 37, long. 34, a St. John, N. B., from New with a cargo of coal. The complete wreck. Took off!

**MARRIE.**  
On the 31st inst., by Mr. George F. Snickett daughter of the late Mr. C of this Province.

**DIET.**  
At St. John, on the 3rd inst. a child, which he resided to the Divine F. Gave, merchant, aged an affectionate wife and a relatives and friends to la. At Bridgetown, 22d inst. daughter of the Rev. Will recently emigrated to the

On the 21st instant, at wife of Vice Admiral Alborg, and daughter of the Richard Smith, of P. Cheshire, aged 70 years.

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