BRITISH NEWS.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Canada—Union of the Provinces.

House of Commons, March 23.

Lord John Russell said—I have been anxious to take the earliest possible opportunity, after the arrival of the proposals of the Governor-General of Canada, to bring under the consideration of the house the important subjects to which those proposals relate. The subjects of her Majesty residing in Upper and Lower Canada amount to 1,100,000. They form one of the great families of the American provinces. To provide for the interests of such a population, and to establish the species of government which is best suited to that population, which is likely to increase not only by birth but by emigration, must be to the house a matter of great interest. But beyond this I am anxious to bring forward a measure which may, if possible, put a stop, except on very rare occasions, to that interference of parliament which has been rendered necessary of late years. After all the reports that have been received, after the different missions that have taken place to Canada, and after hearing the objections made to the general views of the legislation of the government last year, it was thought best by her Majesty's ministers that some one having the entire confidence of the government, who had taken a share in it, and in the various measures that had been adopted in the course of events, should proceed to Canada, and endeavor to ascertain upon the spot, combining a knowledge of the proceedings of the parliament of this country, with the evidence and sentiments of the best informed persons in Upper and Lower Canada, it was thought right that such a person should go out to Canada, in order to give such a report to her Majesty's government as would enable them to bring forward a measure fortified upon such authorities, and, as far as possible, consistent with the wishes of the inhabitants of Canada. But although I conceive this step to have been not only expedient, but to have become, in the course of events, necessary, in order to enable us to form such a measure and go through all its details, I confess that I could not adopt the measure which I am about to ask leave of the house to bring in, unless I were able, as one of the advisers of the Crown, to recommend that some great mark of approbation be conferred upon that distinguished and gallant officer who, being kept on two occasions in a position of great difficulty and danger, manfully made head against the danger which threatened the government then reposing in his hands against insurrection from within and the danger of invasion from without; and who by his knowledge of that art which he had practised under the great master of modern days, the Duke of Wellington, and by his great firmness, resisted the progress of disaffection within these provinces, and drove back those hordes which invaded her Majesty's dominions from without. (Cheers.) It was, therefore, with great satisfaction that I brought down the message from the crown, which you, sir, read to the house this day. But in proceeding to state the grounds of the measure which I am about to detail, I must first say that I am ready to agree that the measure of an union would not have been expedient if it had been found, as was foreseen by some, on inquiry from those interested in the settlement of these matters, that the people of Canada would regard it with an absolute repugnance. Sir, the present Governor-General of Canada has ascertained, and by the most accurate means, the sentiments of the people of Canada with regard to it. I should say that he could not obtain by constitutional means, the general sentiments of the people of Lower Canada; but he called together the Council, which was not formed by himself, but by his predecessor, and received from it certain resolutions agreeing to the principle of the union as regarded its general heads, but leaving the details to the imperial parliament.—On proceeding to Upper Canada, the proposition was much discussed and debated in the Assembly, and in the Legislative Council. Some who were in favour of it, wished to affix certain terms to it, but upon a full debate and consideration of the entire question, the assembly and council came to a resolution, in accordance with the proposition of the Governor-General, in favour of the union, and unfettered by any restrictions or stipulations. Soon after that they proposed an address, in which they alluded to certain points which they were desirous of having arranged to their satisfaction, but they at the same time expressly declared that they would not make their consent provisional upon the acceptance of these points. I will state now the evils which I think such a union particularly calculated to remedy. It was stated by Mr. Huskisson, in 1828, that great evils arose from the nature of the feudal law in Lower Canada, from the extreme complexity and intricacy of the tenures of land, and also from the fact that the state of the representation gave such a preponderance to the French race, that those of the British race found themselves aggrieved and oppressed by that superiority.—Now I think, with regard to those two evils, that an union does seem an appropriate remedy for them. The Earl of Durham has shown in a clearer manner than has been shown before, how very little we ought to confound the conduct of the Assembly of Lower Canada with the views of the advocates of constitutional freedom. In fact, the Assembly of Lower Canada, while they used all the weapons of freedom, while they used the constitutional arguments for the prevalence of free institutions, were using those arguments in order to establish a gross monopoly in the hands of their own race, and to exclude from the enjoyment of those rights to which they were entitled, the general body of British inhabitants. Lord Durham has shown, I think most clearly, that whilst to all appearance the advocacy of constitutional doctrines was confined to M. Papineau and to the leading members of the Assembly, the English party found refuge in, and had the support of the Legislative Council, and were therefore obliged to take the side of prerogative, in opposition to the popular assembly, while they were really more attached to those principles of liberty which it is our pride to uphold. In fact, the Assembly used the weapons of Hampden, in support of the principles of Wentworth; and while they possessed the sympathy of a considerable number of the inhabitants of the United States, they used their utmost efforts to forward a scheme of government extremely exclusive, extremely hostile to all improvement, to the general extention of British enterprise, to the progress of education and of social and political improvement. For this evil spirit there seems no better remedy—no more obvious or safer mode of proceeding, in order to put down this system of monopoly and exclusion, than to admit the inhabitants of both those countries to send members to one legislature, and thus leaving the French race to be represented by persons of their own opinions, but depriving them of that preponderance of which they made so ill a use. In so doing of course there are many points to be attended to which hereafter I shall have occasion to advert to; but, with respect to the general nature of the proposition, taking the number of the inhabitants of the provinces at 1,100,000, of which 450,000 are supposed to be of the French race, there seems no reason why the two together should not send members to the Assembly who would fairly represent the whole body, and give free scope to British enterprise and emigration, without subjecting the French to any degree of oppression. I have always understood, and from those who know the sentiments of Lord Grenville, that it was not the intention of those who introduced the act of '91 to make a permanent division between the two provinces, but that at a future time it would be wise in parliament to alter the provisions which were then made. The first question will be as to the declaration of the union. I should propose that her Majesty should give instruction to the Governor-General to make a proclamation of the union; that no day should be fixed in the Bill for this, but at the same time that there should be a limited period within which it should be declared; and I should submit that it should not be later than six months after the passing of this bill. It is the opinion of the Governor-General, that it is most desirable that an early period should be fixed for the union. There are some special reasons which make it so desirable. One is, that the Assembly of Upper Canada is at an end in the present year; and it would be necessary, if the union were long delayed to dissolve that Assembly, and to call a new one, which would be a measure obviously not desirable, when the two provinces were about to be incorporated. But a more general reason is, that the people of Canada are generally anxious to see a termination put to the long and vexatious struggle by which they have been agitated. [Hear, hear.] I proposed last year, considering the time that would be taken in framing the various details in the articles of union, that the Assembly should not meet until the year after next; but not only the authority of the Governor-General, but all the accounts I have received on the subject, have convinced me that it is a reasonable petition, to ask of the Parliament that as soon as possible they should terminate this anxiety, and give a settled form to the future constitution of Canada. It is obvious that if you continue the present special council made by the Governor—you are continuing a species of Government which no one could wish or believe should be permanent. It could never be the intention of Parliament, or agreeable to any portion of the Canadians, that that Government, despotic in its form at least, should be continued beyond the necessity for its duration. I come next to the constitution of the Legislative Council and Assembly, which, together with the Governor, it is proposed should form the Legislature. It is proposed, as in last year, that the Crown, or the Governor acting on the part of the Crown, should appoint the Legislative Councillors. The report of the Governor-General states, that after consulting persons of all parties, while there were many who still adhere to their old favourite project of an elective Council, they all agreed that if there were not an elective Council, the best plan would be to leave the nomination as it was directed by the constitution of 1791. A great party is attached to that proposal, and I agree with them in thinking it gives a permanency and independence to the body which are most desirable. There is, then, a strong party in favour of this proposal, and no party in favor of any other, except that of an elective Council, to which the Government had a most decided objection, and to which, on a proposition I made three years ago, this House expressed likewise its repugnance. The other House of Parliament came to a similar resolution. I propose, therefore, that the nomination of the Council should be for life, the only disqualifications being bankruptcy or crime. The Governor-General thinks it desirable that a power of resignation should be given, as it happened not unfrequently that a person who fully deserved to be placed on the list of councillors went to reside in a distant part of the country, and by entirely abandoning his duties as a councillor, swelled the list in point of numbers, without any advantage being derived to the province from his services. [*To be continued.*]

While the Canada Reunion Bill will probably pass into a Law, with little damage, there are strong symptoms of a resolution of the High Church party at home, to reject the measure which meddles with the Clergy lands.

Lord John Russell brought both measures before the House of Commons on Monday. The Clergy Bill he laid on the table; where, according to the act of 1791, it will remain for thirty days, and then become a law, unless either House address the Queen to withhold the Royal assent; in which event it is lost. Although a burst of dissatisfaction with a measure which pares off a portion of the Church's heritage came, as might be expected, from Sir Robert Inglis, it is doubtful whether the Oppposition will try their strength on that question in the Commons,—though, in a Church question, they might succeed even there. But the Upper House has an especial function in these matters. Lord Duncannon was scarcely allowed time to mention the title of the bill, before the Archbishop of Canterbury rose to protest against "a measure which would go nigh to extinguish the Church of England in Canada;" and he was followed by the Bishop of London, who declared that "a more unjust, a more unconstitional measure, never was submitted to Parliament;" and he called upon the House to shield the established Church from "the deadly blow aimed at it in this bill."—*London Colonial Gazette.*

A Parliamentary paper furnishes the expenses of Mr. Poulett Thomson's mission to Canada.

	Per Annum.	
The Governor-General himself receives (with travelling expenses)	£7,000	0 0
Mr. Clinton Murdoch, Civil Secretary .	1,500	0 0
Mr. Arthur Symonds, Private Secretary	500	0 0
Major G. D. Hall, Military Secretary and Principal Aide-de-Camp	700	0 0
Captain Le Marchant, Aide-de-Camp	300	9 0
Captain Campbell, Ditto	300	9 0
	£10,300	18 0
The Expense of Outfit and Passages ..	£3,741	4 5
Expense of Letters Patent of Appointment	387	17 4
	£4,129	1 9

Glancing at domestic affairs, we discern little that encourages the hope of speedy extrication from embarrassment. A Parliamentary Committee on Banking will devote labour and ingenuity to the discovery of the causes, why a nation containing within itself the elements of extraordinary prosperity, should, without those natural convulsions that sometimes lay waste the finest regions of the world, be periodically discussed. A superfluity of capital, unrivalled mechanical ingenuity, industry never surpassed if equalled, a not ungenial climate, and a soil which repays cultivation—the coincidence of all these favourable circumstances has been insufficient to prevent the existence of uneasiness and suffering to an incredible extent. Into one of the causes of this embarrassment and distress the House of Commons has undertaken to enquire, and is about to engage in the discussion of another; but few are so sanguine as to expect any substantial or speedy benefit from the investigation of the Select Committee on Banking, or the political battle on the Corn-laws.

It would appear from the latest accounts from the Mediterranean, that in addition to other sources of trouble, the Government has got into an unpleasant difficulty with the King of Naples. The sovereign of the Two Sicilies, having violated the treaty with England regulating the sulpher-trade, now refuses either to fulfil it for the future or make compensation for past injuries to British merchants. His Majesty, it is said, has been manaced with the visit of a British squadron to his beautiful bay, but is not dismayed. The notion of any thing like sérious hostilities with Naples may seem ridiculous, but it is not pleasant to find the demand for ships of war and reinforcements increasing on every hand.—*Ib.*

Mr. O'Connell has addressed a very long letter to the Duke of Leinster, urging the chief of the ancient family of the Fitzgeralds—the "ipsis Hibernicis Hiberniores"—to take the lead in agitating Ireland to obtain equal rights with England and Scotland. Mr. O'Connell goes over old ground in this letter, laying, as usual, much stress upon the small number of Irish electors as compared with the population, and with the number of English and Scotch constituencies. The letter contains a bitter attack upon Lord Stanley.—*Ib.*

THE CHINESE QUESTION.—Ministers are threatened with a formidable motion on Chinese affairs by Sir James Graham. The papers produced as justification of their past proceedings and the warlike expedition now in course of preparation, furnish the materials of an attack, which it will task the Ministerial strength to repel. It is indeed time that the policy of government towards China should be fully examined. We are not aware that a warlike enterprise of such magnitude, and the results of which may be of such incalculable importance, was ever before undertaken by a British government without the formal sanction of Parliament. The responsibility assumed by ministers is immense.—*Spectator.*

Lord John Russell has issued a circular to the members of the House of Commons usually supporting Government, requesting them in very pressing terms to be in their places on Thursday the 7th instant, when Sir James Graham brings forward his motion on China.

The pleasant life of the Queen and Prince Albert has not been varied by any remarkable event since we last recorded the proceedings at the Palace. Both continue to enjoy excellent health, to visit the Theatres, to entertain parties. We notice that Lords and Ladies of Conservative as well as Whig politics are frequent guests at Her Majesty's bounteous board.

The Earl of Derby had again been attacked with paralyses. He lay insensible for six hours, but has since gradually recovered. He experienced the stroke when getting out of his carriage after a ride, in the neighbourhood of Knowsley. Lord Stanley, who had been in attendance on his father, arrived in town on Wednesday, to move the second reading of the Irish Registration Bill.

The death of Mr. Roderick Connor, a Master in the Irish Court of Chancery, has set the lawyers in Dublin on the *qui vive*. The place is said to be worth between £3,000 and £4,000 a year.

Congratulatory addresses continue to pour in upon the Queen and Prince Albert from public bodies of every description, clerical, municipal, medical, educational, charitable and scientific. Gracious answers were of course returned to all; but whether precisely in the same form, or whether each batch of addresses, or each individual manifestation of loyal joy is honored with a distinct set of phrases, the recorder of courtly proceedings saith not. The Royal couple are leading a life of gayety—riding out in the morning, and entertaining company in the evening, when not at the Theatres, which they visit frequently.

The Freemason's Hall was filled on Thursday by a very respectable assemblage, including many ladies, who met to petition Parliament against voting any portion of the public money for Church-extension. The Duke of Sussex was in the Chair; supported by several Members of the House of Commons, and Dissenting Clergymen. The Duke delivered a long speech in praise and defence of religious liberty. He especially recommended the persons about to address the meeting to abstain from injuring their holy cause by violence of language.

The Queen has conferred the honour of Knighthood on Mr. Robert Boucher Clarke, Solicitor-General of Barbados.—*Colonial Gazette.*

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave notice that the Bishop of Exeter would, on Monday, move for a copy of the dispatch, written by Sir P. Maitland, dated December, 1827, in so far as it related to "clergy reserves" in Canada; also for the copy of a dispatch to Lord Bathurst mentioned in the said dispatch, which contained the views of the legal authorities in Canada upon that question. His grace further gave notice that it was his intention, on Friday, the 10th of April, to move an address to Her Majesty, praying that Her Majesty would not give her royal assent to the Clergy Reserves Bill, that had received the approbation of the Legislature in Canada.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Lords of the Admiralty have directed that 800 shipwrights be entered in the royal dockyards, in addition to the present number; and accordingly notices are posted here, requiring 200 for this yard. Increased activity is apparent in every department. Two new three-deckers will be launched about July next, namely, the St. George and Trafalgar, to mount 120 guns each; and the utmost exertions continue to be made to procure volunteers for the navy.—*Brighton Gaz.*

We have just heard, but the rumour would seem incredible, that her Majesty's ship Barham, one of the crack frigates of the service, and the triumphant competitor in sailing of the best of Sir William Symonds' ships, is to be broken up! We can pledge ourselves for the fact, that the Barham is perfectly sound, and needs only a slight repair, (something like the expenditure upon her of a quarter the sum that has been squandered on the Vernon,) to render her serviceable for many years to come.—*United Service Gazette.*

In the House of Commons, on the 29th March, Sir Hussey Vivian brought forward the ordinance estimates. He said the amount of them was £1,971,032, but, deducting a balance standing over from last year's vote, he had to ask for 1,885,000. He added that there was an excess of charge upon this year's estimate, as compared with the amount of last year, of £152,000. The House then went into a Committee of Ways and Means. A sum of £1.000,000 was voted out of the Consolidated Fund for the public service.

KING OF HANOVER,—A curious motion was made in the House of Commons, by Mr. Hume, on the 27th of March, to suspend the payment of £21,000 a year (granted to the Duke of Cumberland) so long as he remains King of Hanover. Ayes 63, Noes 76. The Tories voted partly for Ministers and partly against them.

Lady Cecilia Underwood has been raised to the peerage by the same, style and title of Duchess of Inverness.

Parliament has granted an annuity of £2000 to Lord Seaton, (Sir J. Colborne) and his two next male heirs, for life, to enable them to support the dignity of the peerage.

The Greek Patriarch at Constantinople, has sent letters to the Bishop and other high personages in the Ionian Islands, commanding them to withdraw their allegiance to the Government of these Islands, and that of her Britannic Majesty. These letters have been sent home by the Lord Commissioner to the Foreign Office, and instructions have, in consequence, been sent to the British Ambassador in Turkey to represent the affair to the Porte, and demand the dismissal of the Patriarch.

Southampton a Packet Port for the West India Mails.—Southampton having been finally determined on as the port from which the West India mails will depart, the Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company have contracted with the government for the conveyance of the West India Mails for ten years at £140-000 per annum.

On the 6th inst. Sir Robert Peel entered his 54th year, having been born on the 6th Feb. 1786.

The Theological Students of Edinburgh, have presented a congratulatory Address to the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, expressing their anxious desire that he may be long spared to promote those great and important interests, which it has been the chief object of his life to advance—the cause of Education and the moral and religious well being of his fellow men.

The Ministers in connection with the Church of Scotland, lately comprising the Presbytery and Synod of New South Wales, have formed a union in compliance with the recommendation of the General Assembly, and are about to constitute a new Synod, to be called the Synod of Australia.

The first number of the "Cuaistear nan Gleann," the Visitor of the Glens, a stamped Monthly Gaelic periodical, has just been published, conducted by the most eminent Celtic scholar of the day, assisted by a few friends distinguished for their literary talents.

The Dublin Total Abstinence Society, which has been in existence only since November last, already numbers 6,000 members; and so flourishing are the prospects, that a Temperance Hall is about to be erected.

LONDON, March 30.

The foreign intelligence of last week is of very little importance, but requires to be noticed and attentively remembered by our readers—both because it may lead to consequences not at present perceived, and because the events related may turn out to be part of a system at present secretly carrying on against the government of this country. It may be recollected, that in a recent debate Lord Palmerston himself acknowledged that a good deal of unpleasant jealousy prevailed in the Russian Councils against England; and we fear that the point of intelligence, which we are about to relate, may not be wholly unconnected with that kingdom. By dispatches which have arrived from Constantinople in the course of the past week, it appears that the King of Persia has entered into an alliance with Mehemet Ali, the Pacha of Egypt—and, in consequence, it is reasonably supposed, by one of the articles of this treaty, he has marched a force of several thousand men upon Bagdad, the capital of one of the most remote of the Turkish Provinces. There is no doubt, adds one of the mercantile despatches, that Bagdad and the whole of the Province must surrender to a force of this kind. Turkey is nearly palsied in the very heart at home, and much more is she cold and dead in her remote members. Unless this war be stopped it must be attended with the immediate ruin of the Ottoman empire, not only under the effect of positive conquest, but still more, under the anarchy of a general insurrection. The sure and immediate result must be that Russia will take possession of Constantinople under the pretence of protecting it from fire and pillage, and thus the question will come at once to an issue, whether we are to go to war and have the re-imposition of the house, and perhaps the property tax, in order to save the sticks and stones, and crumbling roof of a barbarous empire, and to bear the whole burden of a contest for Austrian and Prussian objects? If there be any one thing which has given us patience under the domestic misgovernment, in all matters connected with religion and education, of the present whig administration, it is the undeniable ability with which they have managed our foreign relations, and have contrived to keep us at peace. Let us, therefore, express our confident hope that this pacific policy will be continued, and that it will never enter into the head of any public man, be he whig or be he conservative, to add another hundred millions to the national debt by a war for any foreign object, and thus almost to destroy the country, now gradually recovering, by the intolerable pressure of two or three millions more of annual taxes. When people are inconsiderately calling for war—in order to resent this or that frivolous dissension or irregularity, such as the seizure and search of a single trading vessel suspected of some smuggling adventure, or where one of our rough and uneducated trading captains has needlessly provoked, and almost insulted, the royal or national flag of another state,—are persons, we say, who clamorously call out for war on occasions of this kind, aware that they are in fact calling out for a new tax of five or ten pounds a year upon every housekeeper in the kingdom? Is it not evident, as the first and immediate consequence of any new war, that we should have a re-imposition of the house and assessed taxes? Let the empire of Turkey therefore stand or fall as it may—let Austria and Prussia, and France if her sovereign so please, fight the battle for their own objects—let us keep out of the broil under any possible vicissitudes. We are sure of that degree of eastern commerce which we at present possess.

The French news may be dismissed almost in a single sentence. It is now generally believed that the new French ministry is secure. Thiers and Guizot are both of them honest men, and it is hoped will put an end to some of those intrigues which are prevailing in the business of Constantinople. These papers also concur in the statement that Russia is endeavouring to throw the affairs of the East into confusion, and thus to produce a state of things under cover of which she may take a *provisional* possession of Constantinople.—*Bell's Messenger.*

From the N. York Scottish Patriot, April 25.

England and China.—The Glasgow Herald makes the following explanatory observations on the subject of the difficulties between England and China:—

Attempts are made to excite a popular feeling against the whole proceedings with reference to China, and with this view the entire question is treated as if it were the intention of Britain to insist on the perfect freedom of the opium traffic. It is not fair so to represent the matter. The question is not whether China shall be permitted to regulate her foreign commerce at her pleasure, and to debar whatever articles she chooses from admission to her ports. Her right to regulate her whole trade and internal policy, is not in the smallest degree disputed. Let her prohibit any traffic, and she is entitled to enforce the prohibition. But what Britain has to complain of, and must exact reparation for, is this—that the Chinese authorities have gone beyond the mere enforcement of their commercial regulations, and have been guilty of the most gross maltreatment, not only of innocent British subjects, who were guilty of no violation of their laws, but of the British superintendent, who was honestly co-operating with them in their efforts to put down the opium trade. The crime against Great Britain is not that the opium traffic was prohibited, or that opium smugglers were punished.—So far the right of the Chinese is fully admitted. But they assailed and violently imprisoned British subjects, who were notoriously innocent of any violation of their laws, who were outraged both in person and property, in order that the sufferings of the innocent might facilitate the punishment of the guilty.

This is contrary to every principle of reason or justice—and if Great Britain permitted such an iniquitous course to be pursued against her subjects abroad, she might as well proclaim at once that her foreign traders had no right to look to the mother country for protection.

If any thing is demanded from China, beyond what is necessary for the maintenance of common justice, then there may be grounds for condemning the course adopted by the British Government. But if nothing is asked but an acknowledgment of the common law of nations—if all that is required is security for the persons and property of those who, trusting to the faith of these barbarians, enter into commercial intercourse with them, and preserve themselves guiltless of any offence against their laws—then should we imagine that the most philanthropic among us would find it difficult to say that what we now do, is wrong.

We are more and more persuaded that there will be no war,—that the just demands of Britain, backed by an efficient force, will be acceded to. We require nothing more than justice, and nothing more will be asked. And we have little doubt that the justice which was refused to the unprotected stranger, will be yielded to the imposing argument of a powerful fleet. We repeat that if the slightest interference with the internal government of China was contemplated, it would be deserving of the severest censure that could be bestowed upon it. But we cannot think that there is any thing wrong in extending the protection of the British empire to all her subjects in every quarter of the globe. Our only regret is, that this determination was not manifested much sooner. Words—years ago—might have saved whole fleets now.

Emigration to Jamaica.—This subject is under the consideration of the Colonial Government; Mr. Burge, the agent for that colony, has had some interviews with the heads of that department on the subject. Government, it appears, desire, before adopting any decision on the matter, to receive a communication from the Governor of the colony as to the expediency and practicability of such a proceeding.

TEA.—Opinions of the most conflicting character are expressed in the city upon the results which will attend the appearance of the British squadron on the Chinese coasts; and, owing to the uncertainty which prevails as to the extent of the trade which may be carried on through American bottoms. With the hope of a fresh supply through American agents, the sale is pretty open, and at moderate prices.

Pensions on the Civil List granted since the 20th June, 1838.—Eliza Cameron, widow of Colonel Cameron, a distinguished officer, wounded at St. Sebastian, £100.—James Montgomery the poet.—Mrs. M'Crie, the widow of Dr. M'Crie, author of the Life of Knox, &c.—M. D. Stewart, daughter of the late Professor Dugald Stewart.—M. Somerville, author of the Mechanism of the Heavens, *&c.*

Lord Aberdeen.—Rumor says, that the Duke of Wellington being unable to resume the leadership of the Lords' Opposition, that post will be occupied by Lord Aberdeen; that the latter peer is selected instead of Lord Lyndhust, as the more popular and discreet Tory Peer.

Sir Robert Peel has transmitted one hundred pounds to the Scottish General Assembly's Supplemental Church Extension Fund.—*N. Y. Scottish Patriot.*

Dunbar.—A Soiree, under the superintendence of the Total Abstinence Society, was held in the Methodist Chapel here, on Tuesday evening.—Mr. Miston, President of the Society in the Chair. The audience was addressed by the Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Connan, and the Rev. Dr. John Ritchie of Edinburgh. The Doctor spoke in his own peculiar way for about two hours and a half, detailing many humorous and interesting anecdotes illustrative of the pernicious effects of the present drinking habits of the people of Scotland, and pointed in strong and striking terms to their inevitable consequences. In the course of the evening the company were liberally supplied with cake and fruit, tea and coffee being now out of fashion at soirees in this quarter.—The Society here is but a small one, but it is increasing, and unquestionably doing good.

Another Comet.—The English papers by the last arrival mention that another comet has been discovered, by that indefatigable comet-hunter, at Berlin, M. Galle, making the third which he has discovered in the short space of three months.—When first seen it was a little above the highest of the stars forming what is commonly designated the square of Pegasus, in a line directed towards the well known star (*Alpha*) Lyre.—*Boston Journal.*

UNITED STATES.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.—From the last annual report, we learn that there have been in the hospital, in the course of the last year, 397 patients—195 males and 202 females. There remained at the close of the preceding year, 218; and there were admitted, in 1839, 172. At the close of the year 229 remained. The hospital has been full at all times, and 115 applications have been rejected. The number admitted was greater than during any preceding year, and the number of residents greater by 35. There were discharged in the course of the year, including deaths, 168. Of those, 80 recovered, 29 improved, 7 not improved, 30 discharged as harmless and incurable, and 22 have died. The deaths the past year amounted to 5½ per ct. of the patients in the hospital during the year; and since the establishment of the hospital, the deaths have been 7¼ per cent. of the whole number of admissions. The recoveries for the whole time have been 54 per cent. of the males and 62 per cent. of the females. Intemperance is assigned as the cause of the largest number of cases of insanity the past year, as has been the case in former years.—*Medical and Surgical Journal.*

TWO SHOCKING DEATHS.—A poor woman named Kearney, at Trenton, N. J. frightened at the approach of the Philadelphia train of cars, rushed into the carhouse and was squeezed to death. The whole of her body was mashed up into a space of four inches. She merely moaned, and died directly.—A poor wretch, named Taylor, went into the woods of Adams county, Illinois, to cut timber—a log fell on his thighs, crushed them, and held him tight for five days, when he died. His body was found while warm.—*N. Y. Herald.*

INDIAN MURDERS.—The Seminoles, in Florida have murdered 95 persons within the last nine months, besides killing many soldiers of the U. S. army. They have lost only 10 of their number in that time.—*Ib.*

GOVERNORS LOOKING UP.—His Excellency Isaac Hill, for six years member of the Senate of the United States, and subsequently for several years Governor of the Commonwealth of New Hampshire, has become editor of a weekly paper called "The Farmer's Friend." We congratulate him on his promotion, and point to the case as illustrative of the maxim, that industry and application lead to success.—*U. S. Gazette.*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1840.

The English April Mail arrived in this city on Friday last, bringing London dates to the 2d of the month. We have made a variety of extracts from the papers; among which is a portion of the speech of Lord John Russell on introducing the Canada Union Bill in the House of Commons, which will be concluded in our next paper.

The steam ship Great Western was to leave Bristol on the 15th of April. She had not arrived at New York at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon last, the 1st of May.

At the annual meeting of the Stockholders of the *Bank of New-Brunswick*, yesterday, the following Gentlemen were chosen Directors for the ensuing year:

John Boyd,	Thomas Leavitt,
L. H. Deveber,	Nehemiah Merritt,
Robert F. Hazen,	C. C. Stewart,
Hon. Hugh Johnston,	George Swinney,

F. A. Wiggins, Esquires.

At a meeting of the Directors this morning, THOMAS LEAVITT, Esquire, was unanimously re-elected President.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature has voted £1200 in aid of steam navigation to that Island.—Newfoundland has granted £1500 towards the support of navigation by steam between that Island and Halifax.

A ship of 932 tons, named the *Catharine*, built by Messrs. Brown and Briggs, of St. Andrews, for Capt. Robert Long, of Liverpool, was launched a few days ago. The St. Andrews Standard says she is beautifully modelled and splendidly finished.—The same paper also states that the same builders have contracted to build an *oak* ship for a House in Liverpool, the oak for which is to be imported.

Snow fell to the depth of six inches at a place called Hosack, 20 miles from Troy, (New-York,) on Monday the 27th April. It snowed at St. John same day.

The Fredericton Sentinel says, "it is rumoured that three additional regiments have been ordered to this Province,—two from England, and one from the West Indies."

FLOUR.—Prices of Flour—at New-York, 30th April, $5 50; at Baltimore, 27th, $4 75; Cincinnati, 21st, $3; Philadelphia, 28th, $5 56; Richmond, 20th, $4 75; Alexandria, 28th, $4 56; New-Orleans, 20th, $3 87.

387,037 brls. Flour were received at New-Orleans from 1st Oct. to April 15th.—163,388 brls. flour were received at Philadelphia from Jan. 1st to April 1st.—Immense quantities are now on their way to market.

The Rev. Mr. Newton, of the Methodist connexion, arrived at New-York, in the packet ship United States from Liverpool, last week. He is delegated from the Wesleyan Society in England, to visit the American churches of the same connexion, and attend the annual conference at Baltimore.

At the General Annual Meeting of the Members of the SAINT JOHN SAVINGS' BANK, held on Tuesday last, the following Gentlemen were chosen Trustees of that Institution, for the ensuing year:—The Hon. Ward Chipman, the Hon. Hugh Johnston, John Ward, Junior, John R. Partelow, George D. Robinson, Thomas Barlow, and James T. Hanford, Esquires.—And at a Meeting of the Trustees, the Hon. WARD CHIPMAN was re-appointed President of the same.

Statement of the affairs of the Saint John Savings' Bank, 1st January, 1840:—

DEBTS.

Due 454 Depositors, - -	£13,201	2	4
Unpaid Expences, - - -	3	14	3
Excess of Interest, - - -	106	5	4
	£13,311	1	11

CREDITS.

Invested in Provincial and other Public Securities, - -	£12,400	0	0
Ditto in Personal Securities, - -	287	0	11
Interest due on Investments, - -	95	17	11
Cash in hand, - - - -	528	3	1
	£13,311	1	11
Deposited in 1839, - - -	£6987	2	6
Withdrawn in do. - - -	£4948	7	2

D. JORDAN, *Cashier.*

Fire.—Between twelve and one o'clock on Friday morning a fire broke out in the buildings of Mr. Edward Roche, in Sheffield street, Lower Cove, directly in rear of the Officers Barracks, when the range, consisting of three two-story wooden buildings with out-houses were entirely consumed. They were variously occupied, and are said to have been partially insured. The Military and a large number of citizens were on the spot, but their exertions to extinguish the flames proved unavailing.—*Courier.*

School of the Mechanics' Institute.—We felt great pleasure when we first heard of the School under the patronage of the Mechanics' Institute, and we rejoice that our anticipations of its utility, have not been disappointed. Yesterday the labors of the teachers and the students of this Seminary were closed, after having accomplished all the objects contemplated by its founders. The result of the examination which then took place, before the most respectable and talented of our citizens, was highly creditable to the various classes composing the school, and evinced by indisputable proof, the skill and assiduity with which they had been instructed. Several of our young Artisans have acquired since the commencement of this school, a very considerable knowledge of Geometry and Algebra; and will thus be enabled to prosecute studies which will at once tend to improve their minds and qualify them for the exercise of their vocations. All of them have been instructed with great advantage in penmanship and arithmetic, and not a few exhibited a considerable proficiency in French and the learned languages. The specimens in drawing executed by Mr. TOLER'S pupils were highly deserving of attention.—*Morning News.*

A Meeting of the Office-bearers in the Wesleyan Societies of the St. John South and North Circuits, met their Ministers in the Vestry of Germain Street Chapel, on the evening of Monday, the 20th ult., to consult upon the propriety of celebrating the Queen's Marriage on the day set apart by His Excellency the Governor, consistent with their Christian character and loyalty. There will be some religious exercises during the day, and in the evening, the entire Societies in the two circuits are to have a tea-meeting, at which as many of the pew-holders in the Wesleyan Chapels are to be accommodated, as seats can be found for. The spacious vestry under the new Chapel, St. George's street, is to be fitted up for the occasion, and as this room is 86 ft. by 56 ft. in the clear, it will accommodate such a tea-party as the eye has rarely beheld in these Provinces. Four or five committees were formed, to carry the design into execution. The price of Tickets will be 2s. 6d. each.—*Gazette.*

Found Drowned.—Mr. Daniel Brundage, of Carleton, was found dead on Tuesday morning last, in the Mill Pond, near Dr. Cook's Apothecary's Shop, at that place. He had been missing since the Wednesday previous.—*Courier.*

The ship India is loading at Philadelphia for Liverpool, with white corn, in bulk, an entire cargo, say 10,000 bushels.

We understand that advices have been received, that the Church of Scotland will contribute five thousand pounds to the erection of the Kingston University, so soon as five thousand pounds are collected in the Canadas to commence the work. The subscriptions, in the two Provinces, already amount to about seventeen thousand pounds, and an instalment will be required to be paid in, immediately, to the amount of five thousand pounds.—*Quebec Gazette.*

The Companies of the 11th Regiment which have during the past winter been stationed in this Garrison, have received orders to remove to Three Rivers and William Henry, where they will for the present be stationed. Colonel Goldie and his Officers have during their residence in Quebec, done much to promote hospitality and amusement, and their departure is much regretted by the society in general. The Grenadier Guards will take their place.—*Quebec Mercury.*

DESERTION.—In the Criminal Court at Quebec, James Fisbet and Gerard Welsh, two Americans from the State of Maine, were condemned to pay a fine of £40 (and imprisonment till paid), six months imprisonment, and to stand on the pillory, for enticing soldiers to desert.—*N. Y. Herald.*

LATER FROM CANTON.—The ship Providence, which arrived yesterday from Canton, left the river earlier than our previous dates, but spoke an English ship on the passage, and took from her a quantity of letters to Dec. 20th. Those letters state that an edict had just been issued by the Chinese Commissioner, Lin, forbidding the bringing up to Canton of any British manufactures, even in American ships; and declaring that if it was attempted, both goods and ship should be confiscated.—[N. York Jour. Com.

The Rev. Robert Archibald, of Chatham Church, Miramichi, having very recently arrived at Alloa, on a visit to his native country and friends, preached an excellent discourse in the parish church, on the evening of Sabbath week, to a crowded audience, from Psalm xvi. 11, when a collection was made in aid of the Alloa Tract Society.—*Scottish Guardian, March 3d.*

The Rev. Messrs. Barnley, Randall and Mason, arrived in the packet ship Sheridan, on Sunday last, on their way to the Hudson's Bay Company Settlement. These gentlemen go out from the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company. They left this morning for Montreal, with the intention of embarking in the Company's canoes, which are to leave Montreal about the 20th instant for the interior.—*N. Y. Com. Adv. April 20.*

Passengers in the British Queen, from London.—Capt. Owen, lady and servant; Mrs. Ketchum; Messrs. M'Conkey, Gardner, and Spurr.

IMPORTATIONS AT SAINT JOHN,

During the week, ending on Saturday last.

(Furnished by GEORGE A. GARRISON, Esq., Notary Public and Custom-House Broker.)

100 casks Brandy; 195 do. Wine; 74 do. Gin; 314 hhds & 60 brls. West India Sugar; 10 hhds. Refined ditto; 24 casks Molasses & Treacle; 17 puns. Rum; 45 brls. & 35 bags Coffee; 112 kegs Tobacco; 300 tons Coals; 160 ditto Salt; 110 brls. Pork and Beef; 1183 brls. Wheat Flour; 240 ditto Rye do.; 340 do. Corn Meal; 175 bags Corn; 1295 bags, 8 brls. & 2060 bushels Wheat; 291 brls. Bread; 60 kegs Crackers; 160 brls. Tar, Pitch & Rosin; 25 tierces Rice; 260 boxes Soap; 283 ditto Candles; 30 ditto Sperm ditto; 390 casks, hhds, and brls. Ale and Porter; 518 kegs Gunpowder; 28 casks French Vinegar; 20 chests Indigo; 50 bags Pepper; 20 casks dried Apples; 30 brls. green do.; 2730 bushels Potatoes; 1975 do. Oats; 800 doz. Eggs, *&c. &c.*

MARRIED,

On Tuesday, 28th April, by the Rev. I. W. D. Gray, Mr. Charles Dixon, of Hampton, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. Jacob Snider, of this city.

At the Upper Settlement, on 9th April, by the Rev. G. M. Barratt, Mr. Wm. O. Dunfield, to Miss Sarah Bunnell, both of the parish of Sussex, K. C.