port on the Fisheries and the Navigation of the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Hill, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address of the House of the 9th instant, relative to the amounts due on Loans to the Saint John Bridge Company and Saint John Water Company, reported, that they had attended thereto, and that His Excellency was pleased to say, that he would direct measures to be taken to carry into effect the wishes of the House.

Mr. Hill, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address of the House of the 11th instant, communicating to His Excellency the decision of the House upon the subject of a retired allowance to the Honorable Thomas Baillie, late Commissioner of Crown Lands and Surveyor General, reported, that they had attended to that duty, and that His Excellency was pleased to say, that he would bring the same under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot, from the Committee appointed on the 16th day of March, instant, to take under consideration the Petition from the President, Directors and Company of the Central Bank, in reference to the amount claimed from the Tobique Mill Company, on the purchase of Land from the Crown, submitted their Report, and he having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

"The Select Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the Central Bank, on the subject of the Tobique Mill Company's purchase, Report:—

"That they have duly considered the facts and allegations in the said Petition, and upon inquiry have ascertained that the Company have paid the Province in all £8,333 6 8, and under an Address of the House, of last year, were to have a grant of 15,000 acres, on payment of a further sum of £1000; this sum the Company has been unable to pay.

"The Committee are credibly informed, that upwards of £20,000 have been expended in the erection of the Mills and Dams, which for a trifling outlay can be carried on to advantage. The Province having already received 11s. 2d. per acre, for the 15,000 acres, the Committee respectfully recommend that the £1000 be remitted on 2000 acres of the Land on the Gulquack being given up, which would entitle the Purchasers to a grant of 13,000 acres, for which the Province will then have received 13s. per acre.

"The Committee are satisfied that unless this recommendation be adopted, the whole improvements will be entirely lost to the Purchasers and to the Country; but should this course be adopted, we are unanimously of opinion that the operations of the Mills will be carried on, which will not only be of advantage to that section of the Province, but to the Trade of the River Saint John generally.

"Respectfully submitted.

"L. A. WILMOT.
JAMES BROWN, Junior.
CHARLES FISHER.

"*Committee Room, 22d March 1841.*"

Ordered, That the Report be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Hanington,—Whereas great inconvenience is felt by the inhabitants of Shediac by the discontinuance of an Office of Her Majesty's Customs at that place: And whereas by an Address of the House of Assembly of the 30th March, 1831, provision for an Officer at that place was included in the sum of £4 250 sterling, proposed by said Address to be granted for the support of the Custom House Establishment in this Province, which sum was accepted by His Majesty's Government: And whereas the appointment of an Officer at that Port would greatly facilitate Trade, and is highly desirable and necessary; therefore—*Resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Government the propriety of re-establishing an Officer of the Customs at that place.

On motion of Mr. Partelow,—The House went into Committee of the whole, in further consideration of Supplies to be granted for the Public Service.

Mr. Hayward in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported, That the Committee having the business referred to them again under their consideration, had passed a number of Resolutions; and he having read the same, handed them in at the Clerk's Table, where they were again read, and are as follow:—

Resolved, That there be granted—To such Commissioner or Commissioners as may be appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, such sum as will be sufficient to purchase a Bill or Bills of Exchange on London, to the amount of £1,500 Sterling, to provide for the purchase of a Service of Plate on His Excellency's retirement from the Government of this Province, agreeably to the Resolution which passed the House on Thursday the 18th March, instant.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, the sum of £750 for the purpose of encouraging and promoting Immigration to this Province; the said sum to be apportioned among the several Counties within the same, at and after the rate of £60 to each County, and to be paid accordingly, on a satisfactory certificate being furnished the Commander in Chief for the time being, that an equal amount has been subscribed and paid by any persons associated together for the purposes intended by this grant, in the County for which such appropriation is to be applied; which said sum for said County, together with the said grant, making together a sum not less than £120 for every County which may avail itself of said appropriation, to be expended as may be considered advisable for the encouragement of Immigration by any such Association, and that an account of the expenditure be laid before the Legislature.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, the sum of £—— to provide for the printing of the Decisions of the Supreme Court, as reported by D. S. Kerr, Esquire.

Upon the question for sustaining this Resolution, the House divided as follows:—Yeas, 15—Nays, 6. And it was thereupon carried in the affirmative, and the blank filled up with the sum of £125.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, the sum of £100 to be paid to the Publisher of a Periodical for the diffusion of Agricultural information throughout the Province, to be issued monthly; such sum to be paid when it shall be certified by the President and one or more of the Members of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Saint John, that a well conducted Periodical of the character contemplated, has been printed and circulated for the space of six months, and that ten copies of such paper be sent to the President of each of the Agricultural Societies in the Province.

To the Commissioners of Government House, the sum of £1,265 12 11 to reimburse James Taylor, Senior, and Company, for monies advanced for the *repairs* of Government House, new Out Houses, Fences, &c. in the year 1840.

British News.

From the London Journal of Commerce.

PROGRESS OF SOUND PRINCIPLES—THE TIMBER DUTIES.

The discussion in the House of Commons on going into committee upon the equalization of the rum duties, must have convinced our readers that we were not wrong in reproving Mr. Labouchere for having been deterred by imaginary difficulties from introducing such a comprehensive measure as the Report of the Imperial Duties Committee suggested; instead of feeling his way with what some members of that committee justly, though severely, reprobated, as a narrow and paltry experiment.—The prominent feature of the discussion alluded to was, the total abandonment of the old system of partial protections; not a voice, as in times past, was raised to advocate its justice or its wisdom; but the great principle of fair and free competition, though its application to a particular interest was deprecated, by an argument *ad misericordiam*, at this particular time, was either openly avowed, or tacitly acknowledged by all. We are the more gratified that the House of Commons as a body has so instantly responded to the principles laid down by the Import Duties Committee, because it relieves us from all apprehensions of the long desired change being frustrated or delayed by any revolution of mere party politics. Sir Robert Peel indicated a conviction of its necessity as strongly as the present Government itself; and it is now manifest that *no* Government will hereafter be disposed, even if they were able, to resist our progressive advancement by large steps to a better and more profitable system. As a further evidence that the course we have so strenuously espoused is on the eve of a final and lasting triumph, we may advert to the accession of a powerful ally in the *Times*—the only journal in the kingdom which materially regulates or at all controuls popular sentiment—which came forth last Monday to give expression to public opinion on the subject, in an article, boldly echoing the commercial doctrines expounded by Messrs. Deacon Hume, M'Gregor, and their fellow-labourers. These auspices inspire us with a sanguine hope, that even the present Parliament will not separate without something important having been effected.

Perhaps one of the most glaring, as well as injurious inconsistencies of the present system, is to be found in the differential duties on timber. In the first place, they are the source of a long catalogue of evils to the people of this country; in the second, they are most detrimental to the public revenue; and, in the third, they confer no real advantage on the colonies they were intended to benefit. The evils which they inflict on this country are, indeed, almost countless. The poorest individual, as well as the most important national interest, suffers from them. "To our manufacturers," says Mr. Deacon Hume, "they are most injurious, not only by causing them enormous expense in the building of factories and large works, but by giving their competitors a pre-emption at a lower price for building *their* factories." To our ship-builders they are ruinous; for how is it possible for them to carry on a profitable competition when, in consequence of a duty of nearly 200 per cent. upon the material, a ship, which costs £15 a ton building at Leith, may be built for £10 a ton at Dantzic? To the operative ship-wright, they are most cruel, for they are driving ship-building capital to foreign countries; whereas, if the duties were moderate, foreigners, on account of the superior build of British ships, would come to purchase ships here. To the ship-owner they are grievous, as not only requiring him to embark a larger capital in the purchase and wear and tear of his vessels, but by depriving him directly of a large carrying trade between England and the northern ports of Europe, and, indirectly, of a still larger trade with the world at large, by the lower rates which foreigners are enabled to accept.

There is no department in human enterprise and industry in which these oppressive duties do not make themselves felt; for there is none to which timber is not rather an essential than a subsidiary material. Even the social condition of the masses are more affected by its supply than by that of any other product, except food, whatever. The wretched and miserable dwellings of the poorer classes in our large towns, which are so injurious to the health not only of the inhabitants themselves but of the community at large, are owing in a great measure to the high cost of timber. These and a hundred other mischiefs may be traced to excluding foreign timber by inordinate high duties; and while the people thus suffer individually from their operation, they suffer again in having to replace the deficiency which they cause to the public revenue. "I conceive," says Mr. J. D. Hume, "there is no article that this country imports that it is more in want of, and that it is more important for the perfection of its industry, than timber. We will take the three great articles *coals, iron* and *timber*; we have the two first, and *we want the third, and yet we impose a very high tax on the importation of it*, at the same time that we impose it in a way to hinder it from being productive; and while we make the commodity dear, do not obtain the revenue it should yield.' This is committing suicide with both hands. Lord Althorp calculated that by reducing the duty on foreign timber from 55s. to 40s. it would produce £600,008 additional revenue. Mr. M'Gregor calculates that by reducing it to 30s. the additional revenue would be £900,000, and Mr. Hume lays the increase at a million.

And why do we thus deny ourselves an ample and cheap supply of an article so indispensable to us, in every view, public and private, and aggravate the penance by inflicting additional taxes upon ourselves as the consequence of it? Simply to continue governing our colonies on a bad system—a system of protections in their favour to compensate for restrictions in our own—a system not of reciprocal benefits, but of mutual injury; the restrictions injuring without the protections advantaging *them*, and the protections injuring without the restrictions advantaging *us!* Remove all British custom-houses from the colonies: remove all restrictions upon their trade and navigation: in the true spirit of a mother-country regard the increase of their mercantile navy as an increase of our own, and count as our own gain whatever profit they reap by buying the best articles at the cheapest rate; do this, says Mr. M'Gregor in effect, and not only will no inconvenience arise to either party from the change, but the colonies will, as a body, themselves thank us for it; and if any particular province *should* suffer temporary disadvantage, our increased revenue will enable us to practise the best economy, of remunerating them for abandoning impolitic pursuits.

THE DANISH AND OTHER CLAIMS.

Three times within ten years has the House of Commons sanctioned the payment, out of the National Treasury, of those claims of British subjects remaining unpaid for losses sustained by reason of confiscation of their property by the Danish Government, after the bombardment of Copenhagen, and the seizure, by England, of the Danish fleet; and three times have three different Chancellors of the Exchequer refused to make the payment.

The origin of these claims is simple. Trafalgar had destroyed the French navy, and Napoleon resolved to seize on the navy of a power with whom he was at peace—Denmark—and to employ it against this country. England became aware of this intention, and frustrated it by seizing the Danish fleet herself. Denmark, ignorant of the motives which rendered this seizure an imperative act of self-defence, declared war against England therefore, and seized and confiscated British property ashore and afloat, and book debts due to British subjects. Competent tribunals subsequently decided that Denmark was not justified in these proceedings.

Compensation has been made for the goods on shore confiscated, and also for the book debts; the present claims are for the goods afloat, which were confiscated.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer refuses payment of these claims on three grounds; first, because the claimants "only lost property in the ordinary course of a war breaking out;" secondly, because the sum paid by Denmark for her illegal acts had been exhausted: and, thirdly, because the payment involved a principle, which would lead to the discharge of other claims, exceeding in amount a million sterling. With respect to the first objection, either Denmark had or had not a right to make these seizures; now, as it has been decided that Denmark has no valid ground to confiscate at all, this decision gets rid of Mr. Baring's first objection. Denmark was wrong *ab initio;* and every act she performed was unsanctioned by the law of nations. If these claims be invalid, so also must have been the claims for book debts and property on shore. The claimants have nothing to do as to the exhaustion of any particular fund. They were entitled to participate in such fund as there was; and if Government have otherwise appropriated the fund and treated their claims as naught, the country is liable, and must provide for the payment. As to the consequences of making the payments in bringing forward other and heavier claims, one set of merchants are not to be deprived of their property because other sets may fancy they also are deprived of theirs. The merits of legality of each claim are to be judged of by the particular circumstances of its own case, and not by any principle involved in another claim.

Mr. Baring has made out no justification for persisting in the refusal of his predecessors to pay these claims; and we trust Mr. Cresswell will follow the affair up until the House of Commons enforces the payment.

At the present time British subjects have claims either on their own or on foreign Governments, for injuries inflicting on their commerce, to the value of three millions and a half sterling. We enumerate these claims:—

Danish claims on British Government,	£250,000
Java claims on Dutch Government,	500,000
Antwerp claims on Belgian Government	100,000
Portendic claims on French Government	100,000
Opium claims on Chinese Government	2,500,000

The Danish claims have existed since 1807; the Java duty claims since 1831; the Antwerp claims since the same year; and the Portendic claims since 1836; yet, judging from present appearances, the latest, the opium claims, will be first arranged.

A bill has been introduced by Lord Normanby in the House of Lords, where it was favorably received, for improving the habitations of the poor, and particularly abolishing cellar habitations. One section of the bill provides that no cellar, after a certain date, shall be occupied as a dwelling, unless provided with back and front area, window, and fireplace. It was stated that in Liverpool alone about 40,000 persons have no home but a cellar. There are many of these residences in Manchester, and other large towns of England, and in some parts of the metropolis. The Morning Chronicle says that "in these dark and dirty recesses, there are usually five occupants, day and night, within a space not more than twelve feet by ten feet. No air can circulate. The floors and walls are generally damp. Visiters can not get down into them with clean clothes. Noisome occupations and kinds of traffic are often carried on in them.—The closeness and stench sometimes drive even the hardened inhabitants out into the streets at night for air. Diseases are ever rife. In some of these dens are children's schools, and others gin-shops! Frequently there is no window, and the top of the door is not above the level of the street. Floors are a rarity. And from thete worse than dungeon abodes a rent is obtained which averages about two shillings a week, and sometimes rises to nearly twice that sum. Is not this a system to be destroyed, root and branch."

THE OPIUM TRADE.—A commercial letter from Madrid of the 2d instant intimates that the Spanish Government has formed the project of establishing a controul over the opium trade with China, For this purpose it has been suggested to throw open all the ports in the Philippine Islands as places of deposit and transit for the merchandise of all nations, on payment of a moderate duty. From this it is anticipated that a considerable revenue will arise, of which the Government is well known to stand in great need, and, if successful, there would also be a point gained of immense importance to the country, imparting to it altogether a new character in regard to commercial affairs.

SHIPPING TRADE OF GLASGOW AND GREENOCK.—The trade of many parts of Scotland seems to be steadily advancing. As an instance of this, we may take the returns of Greenock and Glasgow. In 1839, 222 ships, comprising 66,412 registered tons, entered the port of Greenock, while in the year just closed, the inward entries were 306 vessels and 100,039 tons, being a surplus of 84 ships and 32,627 tons. The departures for foreign ports in 1839 were 182 ships, comprising 55,869 tons, while 241 ships, and 75,292 tons, left in 1840, being an increase, during last year, of 59 ships and 19,423 tons. The increase in the timber trade, during the last year, has been very great. The number of vessels arrived at Glasgow from abroad last year was 228, and the tonnage 42,782. The Greenock arrivals amount to 306 vessels and 100,039 registered tons, being an excess over Glasgow of 78 ships and 57,257 tons. The foreign trade of both ports has increased—that of Glasgow by 107 vessels and 23,806 tons, and that of Greenock by 84 ships and 33,627 tons. The trade of the Clyde, as a whole, seems to be in a most flourishing state.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

Exportation of the Precious Metals.—By the usual official returns published by the Customs, the export of the precious metals from the port of London to foreign and colonial ports for the week ending the 11th inst. was: Silver coin, Mauritius, 16,000 oz.: Silver bars, Calais, 100,000 oz.

Treaty with Spain for the Suppression of the Slave Trade.—The following has been received at Lloyd's from the Admiralty, dated February 13, 1841:—"Sir,—with reference to my letter of the 20th of last month, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that as it appears the nature of the certificate required by the 6th clause of the 10th article of the treaty with Spain for the suppression of the slave trade is not generally known, their Lordships have directed me to transmit to you a copy of the said clause, and to request that you will communicate the same for the general information of the trade.—I am, Sir, your most humble servant, JOHN BARROW. To William Dobson, Esq., Lloyd's."—"Article 10.—It is hereby further mutually agreed that every merchant-vessel, British or Spanish, which shall be visited by virtue of the present treaty, may lawfully be detained, and sent or brought before the mixed courts of justice established in pursuance of the provisions thereof, if in her equipment there shall be found any of the things hereinafter mentioned, namely—6th clause.—' An extraordinary number of water casks or of other vessels holding liquid, unless the master shall produce a certificate from the custom-house at the place from which he cleared outwards, stating that a sufficient security had been given by the owners of such vessels that such extra quantity of casks or of other vessels should only be used to hold palm oil, or for the purposes of lawful commerce."

Death of Captain Lathom.—The *Southern Australian* of Sydney, of September 22, announces the death of Captain Lathem, of the Reunion whaler of Havre, then at Port Lincoln, under the following painful circumstances:—The captain, in the act of harpooning a whale, in Memory Bay, lost his balance, and fell overboard. He had, however, came to the surface and reached the boat's side, when the fish struck him with one of its fins, and drove him down to the bottom never to rise again.

Maritime Disasters on the Coast of Africa.—The French papers contain melancholy accounts from the coast of Africa. The transport corvette Marne had been wrecked in the Gulf of Stora, and fifty-seven of her crew, including the lieutenant, surgeon, and a midshipman, had perished. Out of thirty-two merchant vessels lying at Stora, or Philippeville, twenty-eight had been thrown on the coast, and many lives lost. The Acheron, which sailed from Algiers on the 26th, had not been heard of; and the Euphrates packet, which left Toulon on the 22d, had not reached Algiers on the 31. The weather had been terrific at Algiers on the 21st, and many disasters had occurred along the adjoining coast. One vessel, the Tiber, laden with gunpowder, had been dashed to pieces, near fort Babazon. The Castor called at Mahon on the 4th, and took tha despatches of the Cerbere, which left Algiers on the 27th ult., and was compelled to put into Mahon to repair the damage she had sustained. The squadron under Admiral Hugon, of which only two line-of-battle ships, the Ocean and the Genereux, had returned to Toulon, experienced such severe injury as to render her unfit for sea. The Triton shortly after the hurricane commenced signaled to the Admiral that she was making thirty-six inches water per hour. She subsequently separated from the fleet, and had not since been heard of. The Jena and Neptune likewise suffered considerably in their sails and masts, and the latter was believed to have sought refuge at Cagliari, in Sardinia. The Uranie frigate, conveying troops and materiel to Bourbon, had likewise put into that harbour.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Willoughby Shortman, Esq., to be colonial secretary at New Zealand.

We are authorised to contradict a statement which has been going the rounds of the papers, that Lord Cardigan had assigned over his property, and paid heavy charges respecting it, such statement being wholly devoid of truth, and without foundation. —*Morning Post.*

There has been found on the beach, near Sidmouth, a bronze group of a centaur, Achilles, and a panther, supposed to be the top of a Roman standard belonging to the second legion, under Carausius, about A.D. 294. It is about eight inches in height.

The number of chartists now in prison in England and Wales, or who have been from June, 1839, to June, 1840, amounts to 143. Among the number there is one surgeon, one barrister, one schoolmaster, one magistrate, and about half a dozen licensed victuallers.

Three officers, and nearly two hundred men, the last remnant of the British Auxiliary Legion, were landed last week at Waterford, from Santander. They appeared well supplied with money and apparel, having remained in Spain until the arrears due to them were paid off. Several of them are natives of Limerick, Cork, and Dublin.

The Queen of England possesses the special privilege that she can, by her writ of protection, privilege a defendant from all personal and many real suits for one year at a time, and no longer, and in respect of his being engaged in her service out the realm. The last that appears on the books is one granted by William the Third, in 1692, to Lord Cutts, to protect him from being outlawed by his taylor.

It is stated that some portions of Camberwell Old Church, recently destroyed by fire, were nearly 1,100 years old.

It is stated on the authority of Mr. Richard Barrett, of the *Pilot* newspaper, that the Hon. Mr. Lawless, son of Lord Cloncurry, has deserted the ranks of the liberals.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Earl of Chichester, the Right Honourable Viscount Duncannon, and the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., to be three of the ecclesiastical commissioners for England.

FRANCE.—We have received the Paris papers of Sunday. The investigation demanded by M. Mermilliod in the Chamber of Deputies, relative to the late treaty with Buenos Ayres, has not been approved of. M. Guizot showed that Admiral Mackau had simply followed the instructions given to him by the cabinet of M. Thiers, and that those instructions were but the repetition of the orders sent out by prior administrations. Under those circumstances the chamber refused to prolong a debate, and it passed to the order, though M. Desmonseaux de Givre was anxious to speak in support of the motion. The *Messager* contradicts officially the statements made in several Paris and foreign papers, lately, relative to notes complaining of the armaments of France being addressed to the present cabinet. The *Messager* asserts that nothing of the kind has taken place, but the *Commerce* and *Constitutionnel* regard the denial as jesuitical, and assume that reclamations in person have been made by the different ambassadors at Paris, if they have not gone the length of presenting formal notes on the subject.

M. Chaveau Lagarde, a distinguished advocate, who defended Charlotte Corday, for the assassination of Marat, died at Paris a few days since, in his 76th year.

The *Courrier Francais* contains the following paragraph:—"The disarmament commences. Marshall Soult has made to the commission on the budget a communication, from which it results that the budget of 1842 can be reduced 23 millions. The minister announces that the effective, such as he first announced it, can be reduced by 60,000 men. Though the circumstances which have brought about this alteration are a little behind hand, the minister does not think it necessary to give any explanation. He says simply that he was mistaken. Marshal Soult appears to think it as easy to correct a project of law after it is voted, as it is to correct a speech in the *Moniteur* after it has been spoken.

The other papers make no allusion to this communication, and if it bore the importance the *Courrier Francais* attaches to it, no doubt the *Journal des Debats* would have noticed it.

We have received the Paris papers of Monday. The statement made by the *Courrier Francais*, relative to a supposed communication from Marshal Soult to the commission on the fortifications bill, diminishing the force of the French army 65,000 men, and the expense 25,000,000f, is not true. The minister of war has no idea of diminishing his estimates. An official contradiction of the report was expected to appear in the *Messager* of Monday night.

All reports about a disarmament are premature, and the present military estimates will be fully carried out until the detached forts are completed. However pacific in his heart M. Guizot may be, public opinion is stronger than he is, and the ministry could not stand an hour at Paris which publicly proposed a disarmament. A great deal will, however, depend on the result of the discussion in the Chamber of Peers on the fortifications, as it is now hinted that the amendment proposed in the committee will be carried in the chamber, and the question then arises—will the Chamber of Deputies accept or reject the amended bill?

PORTUGAL.—We have received accounts from Lisbon to the 15th instant. All the recent military demonstrations consequent upon the anticipated rupture with Spain have been annulled, and the projected works of defence discontinued; and the government has directed its attention to the measure, which has long been a favourite one, of dissolving the national guard, and re-constructing it on the principle of the old militia. A bill to that effect was brought into the chamber on the 13th instant. It would appear that the Portuguese government is sadly in want of funds for domestic purposes, and the financial affairs of the country are described generally as presenting a very gloomy appearance.

AUSTRALASIA.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Papers from Sydney, from the 8th to the 25th of September, contain little matter of interest.

The most prominent subject is that of immigration. A public meeting was held on the 19th September, for the purpose of forming an Immigration Association. The resolutions adopted by the meeting asserted, that "if 8,000 useful labourers and artificers with their families were within the next three months to arrive, followed by about 1,000 per month throughout the twelve months following that period, they would find immediate and highly profitable employment."

PORT PHILIP.—The Government of New South Wales had consented to the introduction of 1,000 families into Port Philip under the bounty system.

The governor had also taken into consideration the want of a lighthouse at the heads of Port Philip; and Captain Moriarty, the port-master at Hobart Town, was to go over to assist the harbourmaster at Melbourne in the choice of a proper site.

The merchants of Melbourne, however, were not satisfied with promises: at the date of the late accounts, they were preparing a petition urging upon the Government the necessity of improving the harbour, and establishing a pilot-station. The memorialists state that 188 vessels had entered inwards within the seven months last previous, and 163 had cleared outwards; and a great portion of these had grounded—the effect of shifting sands and the want of buoys to mark the channel.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—The Port Philip papers contain accounts from Van Diemen's Land to the 1st September. Sir John Franklin had presented in address to the Council Chamber, introducing a variety of measures. It contains little that is new or generally interesting. He announces that one of the first measures submitted to the Council will be a bill to introduce trial by *civil* juries (not *military* men, as heretofore) in criminal cases. The difficulty which had been felt since the cessation of the assignment system, Sir John was disposed to ascribe in a great degree to the increased demand for the produce of Van Diemen's Land, and the consequent increase of cultivation. He promised returns of the revenue, trade, and commerce of the colony, which would "be very strikingly indicative of the general prosperity."

Sir John had introduced a bill for improving the navigation of Bass's Straits, by placing two lighthouses on Preservation Island, one on Swan Island, and another on Chapel Island.

The scientific expedition under Captain Ross, consisting of the Erebus and Terror, had arrived at Hobart Town; after having been at the Cape of Good Hope, St. Helena; and Kerguelen's Land. The magnetic experiments which Captain Ross was charged with making, had, it is said, induced him to entertain the idea that he could solve the problem of magnetic influence, in so far as to establish the position that it does not depend upon the earth.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The Sydney papers contain extracts from the South Australian papers to the 5th September. On the 11th August, Governor Gawler had introduced a bill to prohibit distillation in South Australia. The Municipal Corporation Bill for the city of Adelaide had passed.

The colonists were much occupied with the late "wrecking" outrages of the Blacks; and the difference of opinion which appeared to exist upon the subject, had, as usual, given rise to contradictory statements.

NEW ZEALAND.

Papers and letters have been received from Port Nicholson to the 29th August.

Colonel Wakefield arrived at Port Nicholson on the 16th August, from the Bay of Islands, where he had been to present the address of the Port Nicholson settlers to Governor Hobson. A public meeting was held on the 19th, to receive Captain Hobson's reply; which was considered highly satisfactory.

During Colonel Wakefield's absence, great alarm had prevailed, in consequence of the New South Wales Council Bill for adjudicating on titles to land in New Zealand. The colonists were moved by fear and danger—fear at the prospect of their labour, past and future, being lost; anger at the cool manner in which their interests were disposed of by strangers. The most extravagant measures were contemplated: one project was to move off in a body to some other part of the world, beyond the caprices of British officiality—probably to Chili—and settle there. On Colonel Wakefield's return, however, these excited feelings were quieted. A deputation was to be sent to Sydney to express the opinions of the colonists.

The plan of the town at Port Nicholson was ready for inspection on Monday the 20th July, and continued open until the following Monday, when the registration of the choices of the town sections commenced. The allotment was completed on the 14th August. The *New Zealand Gazette* states that the plan gives universal satisfaction. Several owners of the town sections located themselves at once upon their property, and there is no doubt that the buildings of the town will proceed with vigour. *Britannia* had been decided upon as the name of the town, and Captain Hobson had confirmed the title.

Before the selection took place, choice number 4 was sold to a person from Sydney, it is said, for £1,300; and number 21 is said to have been sold at £800.

The idea of a French settlement in New Zealand had not ceased to create alarm. It is said, but with little distinctness of statement, that a preliminary expedition from France had been warned off, and that the leader had refused to recognise Captain Hobson's authority. It is not in New Zealand, however, that the French need occasion any fear; they cannot carry on a colonisation against England; and if they persisted in the attempt, they would be borne down—reduced to a fraction of no consideration—by the mere weight of the numbers which the greater activity and enterprise of England will pour into the islands. It is *the European* bearing of the question which invests it with an unpleasant importance at present.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MR. EDITOR,—Can you inform a number of your poor citizens, what are the necessary qualifications to entitle a citizen to set as Alderman in the Common Council; and also whether an Alderman is not disqualified from acting as a Magistrate, if it can be proved that the said Alderman is a prisoner under civil process at the time. It surely cannot be consonant with the constitutional Laws of England, that an individual can set and act as a magistrate and be really a prisoner for debt or otherwise at the same time. This is a serious subject, and calls loudly for public investigation;—that a man may be a prisoner, and yet sit as a judge in open court over a fellow prisoner, or over any civil or criminal trial, is a reflection on the chartered city of New-Brunswick. A VOTER.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MR. EDITOR,—Rumour does not always speak correctly, because it was very currently reported that a certain gallant captain had become quite defunct after failing in a public lecture. In last Saturday's Courier, I find a certain Capt. O'Halloran's name in full blaze—first, in a borrowed poetic effusion, challenging poets and prose writers; and secondly, attempting to exhibit to British subjects, his fulsome, nonsensical, notes of blandishment of an American officer, and his own obsequiousness, mixed with adulation, of Sir John Harvey.

I should have thought that Mr. Haliaway's flagellation of the poor captain, in prose writing, would have effectually cured all vanity of his again wishing to appear before the public. As a poet, his productions exhibited and read at the Mechanics Institute, certainly placed him far below our native poets of the day; and if the gallant captain really wishes a competitor in that line, I will name him one with whom he can think it no disgrace to enter the field. The captain in all his public speeches, never omitted delivering his admiration of, and his flattery to the Ladies of New-Brunswick; now sir, Miss R. MARTIN, a lady of great literary acquirements, and a native too of New-Brunswick, will make and write more, and better poetry on any and every subject, in one month than Capt. O'Halloran can in six.

The exhibition of the Profile of the American General in a British newspaper had better be deferred by the Captain until another "excellent iced champagne" occasion shall present itself; because the New-Brunswickers at this time are not greatly prepossessed in favor of Americans or American principles. MILITIA-MAN.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor,—When Wilford Fisher, Esquire, of Grand Manan, applied to the House of Assembly for reimbursement for his heavy outlay in defending himself against the cruel and persecuting charges which were wickedly preferred against him, the writer of this communication happened to be at Fredericton, and understood that one of the reasons assigned for refusing the request of Mr. F. was the poverty and indebtedness of the Province, and such was the argument of one of our City Members.—How the Province in the mean time became rich and prosperous, so far as the public finances were concerned (and when in the interim at least £100,000 had been appropriated by our *wise* and *liberal* Assembly,) so as *readily* to induce the same member to urge *vociferously* on the floor of the House, the vote of £1500 sterling to Sir John Harvey, I must leave him to explain. What will the poor say, when they are compelled by this foolish extravagance to pay an extra price for their molasses, sugar and tea! It is possible that "my dear Gen. Scott" may be gratified at the exaltation of his friend, but, I have no hesitation in asserting, that the people of New-Brunswick look upon the recent appropriation of our Legislators as a gross breach of trust—indeed many of the members have repeatedly had such sentiments very plainly expressed to them, and the significant intimation that others should take their office.

It is truly ridiculous to behold some men, who have not a shilling to bless themselves with, but what is pawned or mortgaged for thirteen pence—thus lavishly squandering away the people's money, given to them only in trust, to disburse for legitimate and useful purposes.—As it is rumoured that there will shortly be a dissolution of the House, it is fervently to be hoped that the augean stable will be cleansed, and the canting sycophancy of some of our members may be permitted to indulge itself in solitude and retirement.

It is high time that the people of the Province should arouse themselves from their lethargy, and teach their servants, not their masters, that they will not regard gross violations of confidence with silent impunity. The apparent cordial shake of the hand—the hypocritical smile—the significant grin—the palpable lie, should all be treated with the contempt they merit, when put into requisition just before election time; and the political character of the candidate for popular honors should be freely canvassed, and if necessary, as freely damned in every circle, and not with 'faint praise,' but with loud and just execration. CHATHAM.

Saint John, March 31, 1841.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.]

"Insanus omnis furere credit cateros."

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I perceive in the Courier of this evening an article said to be an extract from a journal of a Captain O'Halloran. Though the Capt. has given a *generally* faithful report of what occurred on the occasion spoken of, still whether from want of space or inclination, he has left unexplained many circumstances. The Captain by so doing has thrown a captivating air of romance and chivalry over a very simple and every day affair; my object in now addressing you is to place each circumstance in its proper light, and prevent any erroneous conclusion that might be formed therefrom. Whether it proceeded from the influence of the Champagne there imbibed by the Captain, or that he would not by the introduction of inferiors spoil the splendour of his leading characters, the Capt. has forgotten and totally omitted to mention the presence of "a subaltern."

I entertain as the Captain does the highest respect for Sir John Harvey. I cannot indeed speak as to his bravery as a soldier or skill as a General never having heard much about either, but can say that whenever I have dined at Government House I always found plenty of *liquor*. In the first paragraph of the Capt's. statement I perceive a typographical error, the name should be DRINK-well and not Maxwell. The Capt. next states that "Fish, Game, &c., formed our repast," this was the case but he omits to state that the Champagne was procured from a neighbouring hotel by one of our English companions who "tossed up" with General Scott (at the General's request) to see who should pay the pike. "Lundy Lane" and "Chippewa" were mentioned but I took very little interest in the discussion; but when "Stoney Creek" was brought up I became much interested (as being Sir John's perpetual theme I had heard a great deal of it,) and was about to take part in eulogizing our Commander, but was stopped by a remark which fell from Gen. Scott, viz., "that he has since that event been much surprised that if it were indeed true that Sir John had *planned* the attack he should have left its execution to Penderleath, and Ogilvie, of whom he spoke in very *bitter* terms, expressing his *regret* that Sir John Harvey, his beloved friend had not commanded the troops on that occasion." The General requested us to "*fill our glasses*" a great many times but cannot recollect that he did so *emphatically*, when he proposed the health of our Lieut. Governor, for as the wine was furnished at our expense the Generals glass was emptied as soon as filled! I observed the Capt. when Gen. Scott had succeeded in getting his feet and maintaining his balance by holding with one hand by the hair of Gen. Macombe's head while he grasped in the other the neck of a bottle, his eyes revolving in frenzied magnificence, pull out a book and pencil but thought it was to caricature and still believe so, as it must have been impossible for the Capt. to have gathered anything from the confused mumbled grunts and shrill nasal twang which the Gen. alternately growled and screamed forth, accompanied by an occasional hiccup from Gen. Macombe. It is most likely that the Capt. is nearer the truth when he says that he submitted a "*rough draft*" (or rather a blank sheet of paper) to the Gen. the next morning, whereon to compose a speech.

The Captain next states that "Col. Drinkwell, on the part of the British Officers present, (but without rising from his chair, inasmuch as the party was too small and social for any such display,) returned thanks for the high compliment paid to him and them in the several toasts proposed." The reason here given for the Colonels not rising is not strictly correct for I can recall to his remembrance the assiduous endeavours of the Capt. and two more to raise the gallant Col. Drinkwell from his chair, but we found that as soon as we had placed him on the floor he exhibited a remarkable propensity of falling on his nose; so that giving it up as dangerous we suffered the Col to remain on his chair until Somnus stealing over him he slid gracefully and gradually under the table when he pillowed his head on the little feet of the Captain and lay "like a warrior taking his rest alone in *his* glory." Bye the bye, Gen's. Scott and Macombe, complimented the Captain very highly on the acknowledged *bitterness* of his understanding and the latter with tears in his affectionate eyes informed him that "at his brother's store in Boston, he could purchase cages for those beautiful Chinese stumps at the moderate price of 17s. 6d. per pair."

The Captain's exquisitely waspish waist was also spoken of in terms of high applause: Gen. Scott enthusiastically remarking that Lady Scott had a very small one, but if her's was as small he would *treat at his own expense* the mess of the best regiment in the States with a barrel of hard cider. All these personal flatteries, the Captain with that sensitiveness and modesty for which he is eminently distinguished, has not mentioned in his memorandum, and I feel happy that this opportunity is afforded me of giving them publicity. The only compliment which he notices, is that paid him by General Scott of being an "accurate reporter." But this is done solely with a laudable view of obtaining promotion, as it is expected that before Sir John leaves the Government, he will appoint the Captain to a situation, probably that of being "Reporter to the house of Assembly." Mr. Ward and Mr. Blatch, the former reporters, not having astonished the natives and legislators with a display of whiskers, it is expected that on the strength of the pair which the Captain has lately brought into existence by the artificial and various means of hog's lard and *goose* grease, he will be entitled to an additional hundred per annum

The Captain seems to be struck with the personal appearance of Gen. Scott: I only observed a tall Kentuckian with a milk and water countenance; a perpetual smirk heightened by the breadth of his mouth, which as he observed was useful to him in besieging pancakes, inasmuch as it could stow away conveniently enough for a day's march. This habitual expression is benevolence, says the Captain. I observed this only when he put my brother officer in for the champagne, and each successive time that he emptied his glass.

I do not observe any thing else in the Captain's *report* that needs explanation, but should the Captain write again, he will hear from

A SUBALTERN.

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