British News.

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH,

At the Opening of Parliament, February 7.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I rejoice that I am enabled on again meeting you in Parliament to congratulate you on the improved condition of the country.

"Increased activity pervades almost every branch of manufacture Trade and commerce have been extended at home and abroad, and among all classes of my people there is generally prevalent a spirit of lawful and cheerful obedience to the law.

"I continue to receive from all Foreign Powers and States assurances of their friendly disposition.

"I have had much satisfaction in receiving at my court the Sovereigns who, in the course of the last year visited this country.

"The journey of the Emperor of Russia, undertaken at a great sacrifice of private convenience, was a proof of the friendship of his Imperial Majesty most acceptable to my feelings.

"The opportunity of personal intercourse thus afforded to me may, I hope, be the means of still further improving those amicable relations which have long existed between Great Britain and Russia.

"The visit of the King of the French was rendered especially welcome to me, inasmuch as it had been preceded by discussion which might have impaired the good understanding happily established between the two countries.

"I regard the maintenance of this good understanding as essential to the best interests of both, and I rejoice to witness that the sentiments so cordially expressed by all classes of my subjects on the occasion of his Majesty's visit were entirely in unison with my own.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"The estimates for the ensuing year have been prepared, and will be laid before you.

"The progress of steam-navigation and the demands for protection to the extended commerce of the country will occasion an increase in the estimates connected with the naval service,

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I have observed with sincere satisfaction that the improvement which is manifest in other parts of the country has extended to Ireland.

"The political agitation and excitement which I have had heretofore occasion to lament, appear to have gradually abated, and as a natural result, private capital has been more freely applied to useful public enterprises, undertaken through the friendly co-operation of individuals interested in the welfare of Ireland.

"I have carried into effect, in the spirit in which it was conceived, the Act for the more effectual application of charitable Donations and Bequests.

"I recommend to your favourable consideration the policy of improving and extending the opportunities for academical education in Ireland.

"The report of the commission appointed to inquire into the law and practice in respect to the occupation of land, is nearly prepared, and shall be communicated to you immediately after its presentation.

"The state of the law in regard to the privileges of the Bank of Ireland, and to other banking establishments in that country and in Scotland, will no doubt occupy your attention.

"The health of the inhabitants of large towns and populous districts in this part of the United Kingdom has been the subject of recent inquiry before a commission, the report of which shall be immediately laid before you.

"It will be highly gratifying to me if the information and suggestions contained in that report shall enable you to devise the means of promoting the health and comfort of the poorer classes of my subjects.

"I congratulate you on the success of the measures which, three years since, were adopted by parliament for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the public revenue, and arresting the accumulation of debt in the time of peace.

"The act which was passed at that time for imposing a tax upon income will shortly expire.

"It will be for you in your wisdom to determine whether it may not be expedient to continue its operation for a further period, and thus to obtain the means of adequately providing for the public service, and at the same time of making a reduction in other taxation.

"Whatever may be the result of your deliberations in this respect, I feel assured that it will be your determination to maintain an amount of revenue amply sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure of the country, and firmly to uphold that public credit, which is indispensable to the national welfare.

"The prospect of continued peace, and the general state of domestic prosperity and tranquility, afford a favorable opportunity for the consideration of the important matters to which I have directed your attention, and I commit them to your deliberation, with the earnest prayer that you may be enabled, under the superintending care and protection of Divine Providence, to strengthen the feelings of mutual confidence and good will between different classes of my subjects, and to improve the condition of my people."

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—I never recollect an opening of Parliament, either by our present gracious Sovereign, or by any of her royal predecessors, marked by so much popularity as that which distinguished the proceedings of Tuesday. All London literally out of doors; and the Queen was loudly and frequently cheered in her progress to the House.—She looked pale, as usual, on her way to Parliament, but laughed heartily on her return home.—Your readers will perhaps excuse the familiarity of style. The interior of the House of Lords was also more than usually brilliant: the ladies, all of them young and divinely beautiful, came in great numbers: the House was only one huge *parterre* of lovely English flowers—most fragrant too, for I have never encountered such a sweet smelling savour in all my life. The English ladies surely use perfumes to an extent beyond all others. To give one description of the House of Peers during the presence of the Queen might do very well for all; therefore I will not enter upon old descriptions on the present occasion. While her Majesty was robing, Lord Glenlyon was the "observed of all observers." He was clad in the full Highland costume, and looked nobly. I have always viewed with pity the poor, white-legged, shambling devils, that one meets with at *bals masques*, in the Highland dress. One glimpse of Glenlyon dissipated every such recollection. And that glorious basket-hilted claymore which he had girt on his thigh—what tales it could have told if, like the *Gentle Shepherd or Roger*, "he could speak?" Anon the Queen came into the House; the Commons were summoned; the lords and ladies present were graciously desired to sit down, which they immediately did—at least as many as could; all was silence: the usual minute or two had elapsed, Everett was speaking Yankee French with Aulaire; no Commons, however, appeared—not even the hollow rumbling sound produced by their feet, as hurrying along the matted galleries, was heard. The Queen looked round about her—bit her royal lips—became fidgetty, and appeared angry. All was mute astonishment. Whither Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod—the summoning officer—had got the gout, and could not hobble to the Commons fast enough—or whether the Speaker was in the same painful predicament, and could not come to the Lords so cleverly as he was wont, is still a mystery. After waiting double time, the Commons appeared. Her Majesty looked at Mr. Speaker, as much as to say, 'you're there, are you?" The Speaker bowed in the affirmative, as was once said of Lord Abinger. In a moment the Queen's countenance was lit up, it beamed with good nature, and unfolding the speech, she read it in that unsurpassable manner which fascinates every auditor. The Queen is the most beautiful reader I have ever heard. It is impossible to describe her reading in adequate terms. The solemn allusion to the superintending care and protection of Divine Providence, with which the speech closed, as is customary, was pronounced with deep fervour. The Queen immediately afterwards placed the Speech in the hands of the Chancellor, rose from the throne, took the arm of Prince Albert, got a kiss in the passage from the Duke of Cambridge (as is his custom,) and amidst the cheers of her subjects, was driven to Buckingham Palace.—*London Paper.*

FEELING IN LONDON AS TO THE RECENT FINANCIAL MEASURES.—The reception in the city of the financial statement of Sir Robert Peel has been of a mixed character. He obtains great credit for his sweeping abolition of the duties on exports, and for the general tendency of his proposed reduction of the duties on imported articles, to give new life and activity to the commercial enterprise of the country at a time when it is entering on a race of competition with the rest of the civilized world. Looking to China, however, as the greatest new market upon which that competition is to act, and to the desired solution of the commercial problem of what returns are to be made for the exports to that country, there is some regret that the article of tea has been so entirely passed over without notice—that it is neither mentioned now, nor any hope held out for it in future. His interference with the excise is for the most part highly approved, particularly as regards the remission of the duty on glass. The continuance of the income tax, as distinguished from the property-tax, is the most unpopular part of the financial exposition, especially as it is now intimated that it will be imposed for one year longer than the term of five years, which was fixed for its utmost duration when it was first laid on. Many persons had previously been sanguine in the expectation that some modification of the income-tax would have been proposed on this occasion: that some distinction would in the first instance be made between income and property, by assessing property at a higher rate, preparatory, perhaps, to the exemption of income, of the mere produce of labour, wholly from its operation. Whether or not this feeling will produce any direct manifestation on the subject remains to be seen.

"THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT."—Although unable to-day to enter into a consideration of the details of the financial statement made by Sir Robert Peel last night, we cannot allow the opportunity to pass of expressing our admiration of the bold and comprehensive principle upon which this large remission of taxation has been made. Nor is it so much with the present application of that principle, as with its direct and inevitable tendency, that the public will be pleased. The ominous silence of his own supporters, the cheers of the Opposition, and the dismay so painfully pictured in the faces of the KNIGHTLEYS, the INGLISES, the RUSHBROOKES, &c., were all pregnant commentaries upon this free-trade demonstration. We cannot, however, too much deplore the obstinacy (it would be ridiculous to call it consistency) which led Sir ROBERT PEEL to involve himself in such an arrangement as he proposes of the sugar duties. From this portion of his plan, however, we trust he will be yet obliged to recede.—*London Morning Chron.*

THE RUBRICS, &c.—Extract from a pamphlet entitled *The Rubrics and Canons Considered*, by the Rev. C. Benson, Master of the Temple:—"The controversy that has been raised in the Church of England with regard to the rubrical directions of the Book of Common Prayer, has grown with a rapidity, reached to an extent, and is now carried on with a bitterness which is most deeply to be lamented. One of its great evils is the time, the study, the legal inquiries and antiquarian researches which it entails upon the whole body of the clergy. At a moment in which all their energy is required to maintain true religion, and promote religious education among the people, they are called upon, either at once to submit to the decrees of their own bishop—opposed as they may be to the practice and opinions of many other bishops and dioceses, or to examine at great length, and with much difficulty, a number of ceremonial questions in their own nature of very little importance. Whether, or when the surplice or the gown is to be used in preaching; wn ther lights are to be placed, and if placed, when to be lighted, on the communion-table; whether the Offertory sentences and the prayer for the Church militant ought to follow every sermon which is preached at the morning service; in what cases the minister is to turn his face to the east, and his back or his side to the congregation; whether the practice of bowing towards the communion-table when approaching it, and the church on entering or quitting it, is authorised or repudiated by any canonical regulations; whether the bread and wine are to be placed on the sacramental board before or after the service of the Lord's Supper begins;—these and many other Liturgical niceties are forced upon the attention of the clergymen of our Established Church, with a pertinacity in some, and a tone of authority in others, which their comparative insignificance, and the obscurity that attends them, are quite unable to justify. The necessary consequence is, that in order to become acquainted with these lesser duties, men are compelled to sacrifice to them a great portion of those thoughts and hours, which would otherwise have been more usefully devoted to the weightier matters of their sacred profession, or the active duties of their bishopric of souls. The history of the Liturgy interferes with the history of the Bible; the controversial conferences at Hampton Court, and the Savoy, disturb the regularity of ministerial conferences with parishioners; and the First and Second Books of King Edward the Sixth, in connexion with the alterations in the reign of Elizabeth, and the canons and Acts of Uniformity in those of James I., and Charles II., are to be compared and considered, instead of the historical books of Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament, and the harmony of the Gospels in the New. Nothing can be imagined more fatal to the spiritual welfare of our Church, nothing more adverse to the building up of her people in the faith and holiness of Christianity, under pastors well instructed in the doctrine that is according to godliness, than such a diversion of the clerical mind of the nation from the substance of religion to the forms of external worship. It was not with a view to liturgical investigations like these, that candidates for holy orders were exhorted to the 'daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, that thereby they might wax riper and stronger in their ministry.' Nor is it easy to perceive how such inquiries can 'help to the knowledge of the same.' Far from it. Both the nature of the controversy itself, and the spirit which it has a tendency to generate, are so contrary to the views and feelings of every one who is seriously interested in 'a work pertaining to the salvation of souls,' that it must be burdensome to those who are aware of its comparative insignificance; most injurious to the Divine growth and usefulness of those who devote to it their understandings and affections; most dangerous to the young, the weak, and the unwary, by drawing away their cares and studies from God's word, and the higher and holier things of their vocation. With sentiments like these I would gladly have avoided any attempt to prolong, by writing upon it, a controversy I condemn. But whatever may be the relative insignificance of the points in debate, when compared with the weightier matters of religion, such language has been used, and such principles laid down by several writers, who think they have a right to speak with authority, as have given an adventitious importance to the subject, and rendered it impossible for any conscientious minister of the Church of England any longer to view it with indifference. His own conscience is deeply interested in the proper determination of the dispute, and his own future conduct cannot fail to be influenced by the guides he follows, and the opinions he forms."

Upwards of 3,000 India shawls were lately sold in one day in the Hall of Commerce in London, and nearly £6 000 changed hands. The new tariff has led to a large trade of this description, and British merchants now supply Constantinople and other cities of the East.

Sir Robert Peel entered his fifty-eighth year on Wednesday last.

TRADE OF LANCASHIRE.—In the month of December, 1841, there were 139 mills in the county of Lancaster working what is called short time; there were, likewise, an equal number entirely stopped in consequence of the badness of trade. This stagnation was equal to about 4,071 horse-power, and 20,115 operatives unemployed. What is the contrast now? All the factories in the county capable of being worked are employed; and, notwithstanding the prodigious improvement in machinery, the labour of the mill-operatives is in good demand, at wages averaging from 15 to 20 per cent. advance from the lowest point. Manufactories are being enlarged in Manchester, Stockport, Ashton, Oldham, Rochdale, Blackburn, &c.; and it is confidently anticipated, that within a year and a half the productive power in the weaving department will be increased by nine or ten thousand looms.

Iron Trade.—The make of iron in the United Kingdom at the present time is near 1,400,000 tons annually. Scotland furnishes almost one-third part of the supply—being 450,000 tons annually, or at the rate of 9,000 tons per week. But in the course of two months there will be nine new furnaces put in operation in this neighbourhood alone, and their combined yield may be calculated at 1,350 tons weekly, or 70,000 tons per annum. Three new iron works have also been arranged for, which may be completed, and have twelve furnaces going within twelve months. They will give a yield, if at all successful, of 1,800 tons weekly, or 93,000 tons by the year. The present large stock of iron is out of the hands of the iron masters; and their make for a considerable time to come is sold up.—*Glasgow Paper.*

Duties on Glass.—The following are the present duties on Glass which Sir Robert Peel proposes to abolish:—Plate glass 3s. 2d per foot; crown glass, £2 16s per cwt.; flint glass and black bottles 7s. per cwt.

RAILWAY FROM CAIRO TO SUEZ.—We have much pleasure in being able to assure our readers that the Pacha has arranged with Mr. Galloway, the London engineer, for carrying out forthwith the execution of his long-projected railroad from Cairo to Suez. The crossing this desert of 80 miles now occupies as much time as going from Alexandria to Cairo, a distance of 220 miles; and the fatigue, inconvenience, and expense of the desert journey in many cases deters travellers from availing themselves of the overland route to India. When this railroad is completed, the journey across the desert may be accomplished in three hours with ease, comfort, and security, and economy, as it will no longer be necessary to send out supplies of food and water to the deserts, which at present are requisite in consequence of the time occupied in the journey. We sincerely hope that before three years shall have elapsed we may have it in our power to congratulate Great Britain on the achievement of this gigantic work.—*Liverpool Standard.*

The Overland Journey to India.—The following details of a journey recently performed by Lieutenant Waghorn prove that a trip to India and back is quite as practicable as any of the common continental tours, and we have no doubt that in a short time we shall find it the fashion of the day. Mr. Waghorn left London on the 20th of September: he reached Marseilles on the 4th of October, arrived at Alexandria on the 11th, remained in Egypt 11 days, where he had audiences with the Pasha, left Suez on the 22d, and arrived at Bombay on the 10th of November. His stay at Bombay was 23 days. He left on the 24 of December, got to Suez and Cairo on the 20th, had another audience with the Pasha, left Alexandria on the 23d, was detained at Malta a day and a half, and arrived at the Motherbank on the 9th of January, and landed on the 11th, after performing two days quarantine.—The total absence from London to Bombay and back, including stoppages and the delays above mentioned, was 107 days, or 70 days only actual travelling.

Northern Expedition.—It is now definitely arranged that a Northern Expedition shall be fitted out, to sail about the 1st of May. Sir J. Franklin will have the command; and we are informed that the Erebus and Terror will be provided with the most approved Archimedian screw propellers. Heaven prosper them, and enable them to complete a geographical survey honourable to the character of the greatest naval nation that ever existed on the face of the earth!—*Literary Gazette.*

Westminster Abbey.—Campbell the poet is interred in the same grave with Dr. Johnson, his coffin being only about two feet from the surface. So valuable is room in the poet's corner of Westminster Abbey!

Death of the Niece of Sir Robert Peel.—We regret to find, in a communication from our Malta correspondent, mention made of the death of Mrs. Bonham, the lady of the British Consul at Tabreez, and the niece of the Premier, whose family thus sustains a second calamity within a short period.—*Morning paper.*

The Marquis of Westminster, one of the most wealthy and influential members of the peerage, died at his splendid seat, Eaton Hall, on the evening of the 17th ult., in the 87th year of his age.

The Earl of Mornington, brother to the Duke of Wellington and Lord Cowley, expired at his house in London on the 22nd ult., aged 81. His Lordship had been in a declining state of health for some time.

By the lamented demise of this venerable nobleman the families of the Duke of Wellington, the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, the Earl and Countess of Westmoreland, Lord and Lady Cowley, Lord and Lady Charles Wellesley, Lord and Lady Fitzroy Somerset, Lieutenant Colonel Bagot, the Marquis and Marchioness of Douro, Marchioness Wellesley, and many other families of rank, are placed in mourning.

Died, at Tunbridge Wells, on the 26th of January, aged 56, the Right Hon. Howe Peter Brown, Marquis of Sligo, late Captain General and Governor of Jamaica. The Noble Marquis has left a numerous family behind him, and is succeeded, in his titles and honours, by George John Browne Earl of Altamont, now Marquis of Sligo, born May 31, 1820.

Death of Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart.—We regret to announce the death of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart. which took place on the 19th inst. at his seat Northrepps, Norfolk, after a lingering illness, which for the last fortnight had confined him to his bed. This distinguished man first became known to his country by his exertions to diminish the sufferings of those at home, whether confined in jails or struggling in deepest poverty; as the Spitalfields manufacturers a quarter of a century ago. Entering Parliament, he commenced that career of enlarged and comprehensive usefulness which will always associate his name with the abolition of slavery in the West Indies, and with the most active endeavours to confirm and improve the measures for the abolition of the slave-trade; and not less with the admirable, though not equally successful, efforts for the benefit of the African race in their own vast continent. The comparative failure of the Niger expedition, proved, there was reason to fear, on his spirits and on his health; though he never ceased to feel, that every measure which wisdom and zeal, combined in the Government which directed that expedition, could effect to ensure its success, had been faithfully employed; but it pleased God otherwise.

Mr. Luman Blanchard, the popular writer, died in London on the morning of the 15th ult. He was one of the editors of "Punch."

The office of Lord Warden of the New Forest, vacant by the death of the Right Hon. W. Sturges Bourne, has been conferred by her Majesty upon his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

EDICT AGAINST FLIRTATION.—Letters from Rome, dated the 22d ult., state that the Pope has just annulled an edict issued by the Bishop of Sinigaglia, which prohibited young men visiting families where there are marriageable daughters, under pain of imprisonment and excommunication, unless they presented and declared themselves as suitors, and then the nuptial ceremonies were to be performed within three months after such declaration. The inhabitants of Sinigaglia loudly protested against that decree, and petitioned the Pope, who, in an autograph letter, testified to the Bishop his disapprobation of the edict, copies of which have been bought up by numerous foreigners at two Napoleons each.

WHITEHALL, February 10.—The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting and appointing the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Haddington; the Right Honourable Sir George Cockburn, G. C. B., Admiral of the Red Squadron of her Majesty's Fleet; Sir William Hall Gage, Knight, Vice-Admiral of the Red Squadron of her Majesty's Fleet; William Bowles, Esq. C. B., Rear-Admiral of the Blue Squadron of her Majesty's Fleet; the Hon. William Gordon, Captain in her Majesty's Navy; and the Hon. Henry Fitzroy, to be her Majesty's Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions, islands and territories thereunto belonging.

Capt. Sir Watkin O. Pell, (1813), superintendant of Pembroke dockyard, has been appointed to Greenwich Hospital, in room of the late Capt. Huskisson. Sir Watkin lost his arm in 1800, when a Midshipman, in the capture of the Pallas, French frigate. He has a pension of £300 per annum. Capt. Gordon Thomas Falcon, (1813) succeeds Capt. Pell as superintendant of Pembroke dockyard.

King-Consort.—It is rumoured, and we believe upon sufficient authority, that the title of King-Consort is about to be conferred upon his Royal Highness Prince Albert. This, we presume, would be preliminary to a demand for an increased grant. In the event of this distinction being granted by the Queen, with the consent of the Legislature, the army and navy may look forward with confidence to a brevet worthy of the occasion.—*Morning Chronicle.*

The Governors of Canada.—A fatality appears to attend the appointment of the Governors of Canada from the time of the Duke of Richmond to the present day. His Grace died at a premature age from hydrophobia, caused by the bite of a fox. Sir George Provost, after his disgraceful campaigns during the last American war, came over to England to die of a broken heart, from the dissatisfaction publicly expressed at not doing more than he did. Lord Sydenham went out to Canada, and died there, after a sojourn of a few months only. Sir Charles Bagot died under similar circumstances; and now the present Governor, after performing his official duties for a short time, is in a precarious state. Lord Durham may also be added to the list, as he died shortly after his return to this country.

Extinction of Sinecures.—Several large pensions have lately fallen in by the death of the recipients. These are the late Sir Gore Ousley, £5000 a year; the Earl of Limerick, £846; and Lady Ann Culling Smith, sister of "the Duke," £600. There is also from £7000 to £10,000 per annum by the death of the Princess Sophia of Gloucester.

DEATH OF A VETERAN.—On Tuesday, Samuel Shergold, one of the partakers of Nelson's glorious victories, died at Southampton, aged 82. The old Tar, was 25 years in the Royal Navy prior to 1814, in which year he was paid off from the *Royal George*, at Weymouth. During that period he served under Nelson in no less than 14 actions. For the last five years he had been bed-ridden.

The Princess Royal has been made to comprehend the dignity of her position. The statelliness she sometimes assumes when in public, forms an amusing contrast with the childish gaiety she manifests when in private.

It is said that the gold and silver plate at Windsor Castle is valued at £2,000,000! A single gold service of George IV., contains all the dishes requisite to dine 120 guests.

It appears that there are in the metropolis 1793 omnibus conductors, 1092 drivers of cabs, 4546 drivers of hackney coaches and omnibuses.

The national income of France last year was £50,071,269; that of England £50,61,643; the difference being only £12,566.

Ten Newfoundland dogs have been imported to Paris for the purpose of watching the banks of the Seine, and trainers are every day teaching these animals to draw from the water stuffed figures of men and children. The rapidity with which they cross and recross the river and come and go at the voice of their trainers, is marvellous. These fine dogs, for whom kennels have been erected on the bridges across the Seine, will render great services to humanity.

The Governor of New Zealand, Captain Fitzroy, has sent to Sydney for military assistance. The natives had committed fresh outrages and their general conduct excited much alarm. They disputed in most cases the titles to land sold by the New Zealand Company, and did not hesitate to demolish fences or hedges that might be set up as boundaries. The latest outrage originated in the marriage of a native woman to an English man named Lord, whose wife had been taken away from her husband because she is supposed not to have complied with all the rites of her tribe on the occasion. The whole island is said to be in great commotion. A small force had been sent from Sydney.

Disasters on the North Coast of Scotland.—Montrose, February 14.—We have seldom had occasion to announce so many disasters on our coast as occurred during the storm of last Tuesday morning, and throughout the course of the day. No less than three vessels have been completely destroyed, and the crew of one of them totally lost. This ill-fated vessel was the brig Martin of Dundee, Colman, master, of 180 tons, which was observed on the beach of Carnoustie on the morning of Tuesday, a complete wreck, and without any sign of her crew. It is supposed that she had struck the banks while taking the Tay during the course of the night; and as the storm was very tempestuous, and the sea very heavy, became a wreck in a very short time, and the crew had, no doubt, been washed overboard and drowned.

Whales.—A Kirkwall correspondent of the *John O'Groat Journal* states that no less than 139 whales (bottle-noses) were captured in Scapa Bay on the morning of the 30th ult. No accident happened during the conflict, in which twenty-eight boats, well manned and armed, were engaged. On the following day the whales were sold at prices varying from 8s to £8. Most of them, however, were of a larger size than usual, and the 139 brought in all above £350, which would come to £2 or £3 a man engaged in the capture.

Birth of an Heir to Montrose.—The news of the birth of a son and heir to the Noble House of Montrose has been received with the most joyfull feelings by the tenantry and dependants of his Grace over a wide district of country.

Population of Ireland.—According to the data of the commissioners, there are, in Ireland, dependent for subsistence

On Agriculture	3,395,581
On Trade, Commerce, and Manufactures united	1,962,029

Irish Land Commission.—It is stated that the following regulations, in connexion with the Land Commission, will be submitted to the consideration of Parliament by Sir R. Peel:—That the one half of the county and barony cess in Ireland shall be borne by the landlords, and that they, in the first instance, will have to pay the entire sum. A similar arrangement will be adopted with respect to the poor law system.

At a sale of crown lands in Galway, on the 15th instant, a young gentleman named L'Estrange, was the purchaser, the estate being knocked down to him at 4750 guineas. He walked over to the table, and, opening the waistband of his trousers, which he did by cutting the seam with a knife, drew forth the purchase money in Bank of Ireland notes of £500 each; and, having paid for the land, quietly walked away, amid the congratulations of some and surprise of others.

Glass Manufacture in Cork.—We understand that the glass manufacture is shortly to be revived in this city. It is said that £10,000 is forthcoming to be embarked in it. At present there are some encouraging prospects for this trade, now that all duty is to be taken off, and "a clear stage and no favour" given to it in both countries.—*Cork Reporter.*

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO IRELAND.—A new and splendid iron steamer, on the screw principle, the Fairy, is getting ready, with all despatch. It is understood that this vessel is to convey her Majesty and Prince Albert to Ireland in the summer.—*Dublin Paper.*

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

[From the Fredericton Reporter, March 21.]

On Thursday and Friday last, a Debate took place in the Legislative Council, on the Bill to amend the Charter of King's College. The debate was sustained with great judgment and eloquence, and will be read with much interest by our subscribers.

On Friday the debate was continued till after dark, for the purpose of disposing of the Bill that day; and it was rather a novel feature in the history of New-Brunswick Legislation to see the second Branch at work with candle light. Their Honors were however unable to finish it that evening; and about 2 o'clock on Saturday, the Hon. Mr. Kinnear informed the Council, that Mr. W. H. Robinson—who it appears had been sent for—was not able to attend, and he moved the Council to proceed to the further discussion of the Bill. It was shortly after passed on the following division:—Hon. Messrs. Cunard, Botsford, Attorney General, Kinnear, Robertson, Hatch, Johnston and Owen, voting in the affirmative. Hon. Messrs. Black, Shore, Saunders, Solicitor General, and Wyer, in the negative.—Mr. Kinnear immediately started for Saint John, having delayed for the purpose of being present at the disposal of the Bill.

The Bill which has passed is in the terms given it by a Select Committee of the Assembly, composed of different Churches; and is the same introduced by Mr. Wilmot for several years past. We think the College Council consented some time ago to the principal amendments proposed. This has been a difficult subject, and most sincerely do we hope, as it is now settled—so far as its settlement can be effected in the Province—that the energies of all will be directed to the improvement of the College.

It has a princely endowment, and the Vice President and Professors are men eminently well qualified to discharge their respective duties, and all it requires, now that the objectionable clauses in its Charter are about to be remedied, is a good group of students to make it useful. We sincerely hope that the Royal Assent, when rendered, will be the harbinger of peace and usefulness to the Institution.

Two Bills introduced by Mr. Fisher, connected with the Secretary's Office, have passed in the Legislative Council. The first relating to the Solemnization of Matrimony, abolishes the Fee of 30s., which Ministers of various denominations applying for Licence to Solemnize Marriage, have been hitherto required to pay: thus will this distinction which could never have been contemplated by the framers of the Marriage Act, be abolished. The other Bill passed with a suspending clause, and will, when enacted, provide for the payment to the Receiver General of all the Fees collected at the Secretary's Office, amounting to about £400 per annum, and which were perquisites of the late Secretary.

On Friday last, the House was occupied in discussing Mr. J. A. Street's Bill for the Registration of Voters. It was finally rejetted by a majority of 15 to 12.

Saturday was occupied in discussing the Report of the Select Committee on the Petition of G. & J. Porter, against a grant of 2,600 acres of Land in the upper part of the County of York, granted to Col. Marks. This occupied the House nearly the whole of the day, and the debate was adjourned without coming to any conclusion.

On Monday, the House passed two Bills to amend the Charter of the Fredericton and Arestook Boom Company: these Bills were reported by Mr. Brown, as Chairman of the Select Committee, to whom the whole subject had been referred. He stated that the Committee had been attended by a number of persons interested in the Lumber Trade, and by the Managers of the Boom Company, and the Bills were the result of their mutual concessions and agreement. They were highly important measures, and would, if passed, doubtless prove very beneficial to the Lumber Trade. He remarked that they had been drawn up by an experienced Gentleman, who had given much attention to the subject. During the remainder of the day, the House was principally engaged in Supply: and a number of grants were voted to School Masters who had been recommended by the Committee for the investigation of their claims. £150 was also voted to the Adjutant General of the Militia Forces.

When the House resumed, a Committee was appointed on motion of Hon. Mr. Wilmot, to prepare an Address to the Queen on the subject of the College; and a Messenger from the Legislative Council announced that their Honours had agreed to sundry Resolutions of appropriation, including the different Educational grants.

On Tuesday, the House again took up the subject of the Porter Petition, and were occupied with it during a great part of the day; and on taking the final vote, the names stood, 17—14. Immediately on this vote being taken, Hon. Mr. Simonds moved a Resolution to the effect, that G. & J. Porter receive as remuneration for the loss which they may have sustained, the sum which Col. Marks will owe the Government on the passing of his grant. This we believe amounts to something over £700. This Resolution will be taken up on an early day, and will meet with some opposition; but the opinion is, that it will pass.

On Wednesday, the House went into the Revenue Bill, and several animated Debates took place, as Hon. Members felt swayed by their opinions: the Debate on the Duty attempted to be placed on Salt Pork, (1s. 6d. per barrel,) was well sustained and highly *seasoned*, but the motion was *lost* notwithstanding.

Yesterday, the House, after two days close consultation, passed a Revenue Bill, which we hope will be generally approved of in the Province. And we can bear testimony to the fact that it was not passed without the claims of every separate interest being forcibly urged by their respective supporters. Like every other country in the civilized world, New-Brunswick has its distinct interests, and separate establishments to support; but the extreme advocates of either of these would do well to consider the old motto, "united we stand, divided we fall." Indeed if there be a country on earth to which this application is more particularly suited, that country is our own. With abundance of resources, most of them only in the first stages of their developement, and with a hardy, industrious, and enterprising population, it cannot be expected that there should be much uniformity of design among the great masses of the people;—The Agriculturist, the Trader, the Lumberer, and the Manufacturer, with their various ramifications have successively arisen, and prospered in a country which lends a fair field for the enterprise of all.

Most of the protecting duties were reduced, and several articles added to the list of exemptions, of which, Books, Printing paper, Varnish of all kinds, Blue, Looking Glass Plates, Corn Broom Brush, were the principal.—Cocoa was struck out.—The following is the scale of duties adopted. Apples, 6d. per bushel, Brandy 2s. per gallon, all other Spirits and Cordials per gallon 1s. 4d. Coffee per lb. 4d. Clocks and Clock cases each 10s. Cattle above a year old, except Cows, 20s. Candles, Sperm or Wax 2d per lb., other Candles 1d per lb., Fruit dried 5s. per cwt. Horses, Mares and Geldings 40s. each; Leather, Harness, and Belt per lb. 2d. Sole 14d., Upper 3d., Morocco and Calf Skins per doz. 5s., Sheep Skins tanned or dressed per doz, 2s. 6d. Malt Liquor of every description 3d per gallon, Sugar refined, 1d. Refined Crushed per cwt. 5s., Sugar of all other kinds, per cwt., 2s. 6d, Tea, 1d per lb., Wines per gallon, 2s. 3d. Oranges and Lemons 10 per cent. ad valorem, Boots and Shoes at 7½ per cent., Chairs and parts 10 per cent., Clock wheels and machinery for Clocks 10 per cent. Looking Glasses 7½ per cent., Piano Fortes 10 per cent., Wooden Ware of all kinds including Matches, 10 per cent., Tobacco 1d. per lb. Whale Oil, except produce of return voyages, 11 per cent. Snuff and Cigars, 10 per cent. All other goods at 4 per cent. It will be perceived that Fresh meats, Nails, Hats, ready made Clothes and Agricultural Implements, are all reduced from the protecting scale of 1844, and paying 4 per cent.; this was the result of much discussion.

KING'S COLLEGE.—King's College has been touched by the finger of Reform. The principle of exclusiveness has been reached in its last strong hold, and palsied in its citadel. The toil and labor of ten years has been rewarded—Truth and justice are in the ascendant. Fair play has achieved a victory. We congratulate Mr. Wilmot on this signal triumph, and commend his name and *this achievement* to the grateful recollection of every parent in New Brunswick.

In behalf of the present Charter it was urged by Mr. Solicitor General Street, Hon. Mr. Saunders, and the President of the Council, Hon. Mr. Black, that there was no power in the Legislature to touch the foundation of a University, either to rear, amend, or abrogate it; that the attempt to exercise such power would be presumptuous; that every similar institution in Great Britain possessed a peculiar religious character, and that it was an elementary consideration in the first erection and endowment of King's College, to teach among other things the tenets of the Church of England and Ireland; that it might be competent to the friends of the Scottish Church to argue, and perhaps maintain, the inconsistency of such a charter with the Act of Union; but that Dissenters were effectually and unanswerably precluded from its advantages *as such*, unless these advantages should be received in conformity with those exercises and distinctions which were stamped upon the Charter, and observed in the practices of the University; a test more exact that the recognition of the Divine authority of the Scriptures was insisted upon as necessary to prevent the introduction of Infidelity and Sectarianism into the Counsels of the College; that the newly appointed Bishop would be injured in his feelings and disappointed in his expectations if the visitorial power were taken from him—that the £1100 from the Casual Revenue for the support of the College, was in the nature of a private bequest by the founder, and not public money for which the public were entitled to expect account and receive advantage; that the professors were men distinguished for their attainments and sedulous in their duties; that the discipline of the College was all that it ought to be, and as good as it could be made; that the College was as useful as was to be expected; that it could not be benefitted, and would assuredly be made worse by every change, especially that the changes proposed would lead to false doctrines, heresies, and schisms, cabals, tumults, spectres, agitations and rebellions. In a word, every thing was said which might be said in favor of the most flourishing University in the wide world—with one exception—no one ventured to contend that any argument in its favor, could be drawn from the subsequent distinctions of those who had received its honors.

On the part of those who supported the Bill, (Messrs. Botsford, Kinnear, Robertson, Hatch, Owen, and Cunard,) it was urged that there was no such limit to the power of the Legislature as had been contended for; that the College began in a Provincial Act, was endowed by a Provincial Grant, supported by Provincial monies; that no attempt was made to legislate without the concurrence of the first estate; that the form of proceeding by Bill with a suspending clause was virtually a proceeding by petition, and in fact, the most respectful form in which the Sovereign could be approached by a subordinate Legislature; that it was undoubtedly competent to the Sovereign in her legislative capacity, acting in concurrence with the other estates, to limit her Executive power, and of course to alter, amend or reconstruct this, or any similar institution, however created; that in fact this power had been exercised precisely as is now proposed both in Canada and Nova Scotia;—that the Bill did not contemplate the destruction of the religious character of the institution, but left the Theological chair unimpaired to the English Church, and directed the continuance of daily worship according to the forms and usages of that Church. It was insisted that the Province had saved money if all the students who had been educated in this College had been sent across the Atlantic for instruction, so utterly disproportioned had been the expenses of the establishment to the number of pupils who had availed themselves of its advantages; that the enduring and increasing unpopularity of the institution was a demonstrative assurance that there was some great defect or error in its economy; that so settled and determined a public opinion was not to be cried down *by authority* or despised as the voice of faction, but must now be respected and appeased; that the principles of this foundation were at variance with the opinions of the most enlightened statesmen of the age, who without regard to their natural predelictions as members of the English Episcopacy, had most solemnly declared their detestation of building up any institution in the Colonies based upon a religious preference; that the cry of demolition was the cry of fanaticism and not of wisdom; in these times and in this country intolerance was sure destruction, liberality, toleration and equal privileges could alone guarantee the existence of the College, and those were really its enemies who in the zeal of their false friendship would bind it for preservation in the chains of servility and bigotry. The wisdom as well as beneficence of toleration was beautifully expounded by several gentlemen of the episcopal communion who supported the Bill, and their words and their example spoke a solemn (would to God it might be a sufficient) warning to their more illiberal but not less sincere brethren opposed to them.

The Attorney General made some very curious and valuable *exposes* of the early negociations respecting the College Charter, and traced that illiberality and exclusiveness which had resulted in so many serious injuries to the College and Country, to the artful machinations of the same Doctor Strasben, whose liberality, benevolence, and industry had been so warmly commended by the Solicitor-General.

It was agreed among them all that the duty was imperative and could no longer be procrastinated with impunity, to obey the healthy expectations of the Country, and offer an equal provision for the highest educational advantages and academic honours to every class of her Majesty's loyal subjects in this Colony.—One and all they deprecated the suspicion that the respectful Counsel of the Legislature would be offensive to the Sovereign, and declared their full convictions, that her benevolent and maternal heart would rejoice in the occasion to open more widely the approaches to that knowledge, which in its increase must strengthen and extend the attachment of the people to the Parent State, and give additional fervour to the love which they have ever entertained toward the person of their Queen.—*Fredericton Head Quarters.*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1845.

We have continued our extracts from papers received by the last English Mail, which will be found interesting.

The annual Revenue Bill, which comes into operation on the 1st of April, was passed in the Assembly last week. It differs in various particulars from the law of last session, a number of articles being added to the list of exemptions, while the duty on others is considerably reduced. A sketch of the Bill, from the New-Brunswick Fredericton Reporter, will be found in another column. The Act