jesty in Council, shall be laid before Parliament within forty days after it shall have been so made, amended or annulled, if Parliament shall then be sitting; or in either case, if Parliament shall not be then sitting, such copy shall be laid before Parliament within forty days after the commencement of the then next Session of Parliament."—Section 24.

Substance of the Sections of the 4th Geo. 4, C. 64, which relate to the appointment and duties of Visiting Justices.

"And be it further enacted, That the said —— (Board of Commissioners) shall, and they are hereby required to nominate two or more of their own body, who shall consent thereto, to be Visitors of each Gaol and House of Correction within their jurisdiction, and to report the names and places of abode of such Visitors to —— (His Excellency the Governor); and one or more of the visiting —— (Commissioners) so appointed, shall personally visit and inspect each Prison at least three times in each quarter of the year, and oftener if occasion shall require, and shall examine into the state of the Buildings, so as to form a judgement as to the repairs, additions or alterations which may appear necessary, strict regard being had to the separation, classification, inspection, instruction, employment or hard labour of the Prisoners, and shall further examine into the behaviour and conduct of the respective Officers, and the treatment, behaviour and condition of the Prisoners, the means of setting them to work, the amount of their earnings, and the expenses attending the Prison, and of all abuses within the same, and in matters of pressing necessity and within their powers as —— (Commissioners), shall take cognizance of and proceed to regulate and redress the same.—See 4 Geo. 4, c. 64, s. 16.

"And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any one of the said —— (Commissioners) at his own free will and pleasure, and without being appointed a Visitor, to enter into and examine any Prison under the superintendence of the —— (Board of Commissioners) at such time or times, and so often as he shall see fit; and if he shall discover any abuse or abuses therein, he is hereby required to report them in writing to —— (such Board) at their next meeting, and the said —— (Board) are hereby required to adopt the most effectual measures for inquiring into and rectifying such abuse or abuses as soon as the nature of the case will allow.—See 4 Geo. 4, c. 64, s. 17.

"And be it further enacted, That at every Meeting of the —— (Board of Commissioners) the Visiting Justices shall make a report in writing of the state and condition of each Prison within their jurisdiction, of what repairs, additions or alterations shall have been made or may be required, and of any abuse or abuses which they may have observed, or of which they may have received information, in the management of the Prison, as well as of the general state of the Prisoners as to morals, discipline, employment and hard labour, and observance of Rules; and the —— (Commissioners) assembled shall proceed to consider every such Report, and to act forthwith as they may see occasion.—See 4 Geo. 4, c. 64, s. 17.

BASTARDY ACT, &C.

Downing street, 10th March, 1840.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 70, of the 30th September, and No. 74, of the 21st October last, transmitting two series of Acts passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick in the months of March and September last, respecting which I have to make the following observations:—

The Act No. 1243, (Cap. 42), amending the Law relating to Bastardy, is opposed to the principle on which the Bastardy clauses, in the British Poor Law Amendment Act, 4 & 5 Wm. 4, c. 76, was founded.

After repealing the third section of a former Act, the present Law proceeds to enact, (section 2) —'That all orders of affiliation to be made in pursuance of the Act 32 Geo. 3, shall be made by the Justices of the Peace in General Sessions,' and (section 3) 'That in case any person appearing before such Court of General Sessions, charged with being the reputed father of a bastard child, *likely to become chargeable to any Parish*, shall traverse or deny the charge, such Court, *on the oath of the mother* or such other testimony as may be [illegible] satisfaction, may adjudge such person [illegible] reputed father.'

The 4th section enacts, 'That when the child, of which the woman may be pregnant, likely to be chargeable as aforesaid, may not be born at the time of any person appearing before such Court charged with being the reputed father of such child, or in any case where the Court shall consider it necessary to put off the consideration of the charge or the making of an order of affiliation until the next Court of General Sessions, such Court shall be at liberty so to order and direct; and thereupon the person so charged, shall forthwith enter into recognizance, with one or more sufficient sureties, for his appearance at the next General Sessions, to answer the said charge, and further to be dealt with according to law; and on neglect or refusal to give such recognizance, he may be committed by such Court to the Common Gaol of the County.'

The 5th section enacts—'That when the said Court adjudge such person the reputed father of such child, they shall thereupon make their order of affiliation, in which shall be specified the expenses already incurred, as well for the lying in expenses as for the apprehension and conviction of such reputed father, and also for the support of such child up to the time of making such order, and also such weekly sum as shall thereafter be paid by such reputed father for the future support of such child, while chargeable on any Parish.'

The 6th and subsequent sections contain provisions respecting the payment, to the Overseers of the Poor, of the sums directed by the Order—the punishment of the reputed father for neglect to pay—the entering into sufficient recognizances—the forfeiture of recognizances, and the proceedings thereupon,—together with some subordinate provisions for carrying the purposes of the Act into execution.

It appears from these enactments, that this Act would establish the system which existed in England before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, namely, the making of orders of affiliation upon the simple oath of the woman, and before the child becomes chargeable, and the placing the putative father under recognizances before the birth of the child.

Before sanctioning a system, faulty in principle, and productive of great evils in practice, I should wish that the Provincial Legislature should have the opportunity of re-considering this Act, in connexion with the British New Poor Law Amendment Act, and still more with reference to the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners made in 1834, a copy of which I herewith enclose for your information.

If after considering the objections entertained to the old system, as ably stated in pages 165 to 178, the Legislature should still be of opinion that there are peculiar circumstances connected with the Province of New Brunswick, which render it inadvisable to adopt the new principle of the Bastardy clauses of the British Statute, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to receive from you such a Report, and to give it the fullest consideration before advising Her Majesty on the final disposal of this Act.

I enclose three orders passed by Her Majesty in Council, on the 29th of January and 5th of March, leaving the Acts mentioned in the margin to their operation.*

The rest of the Acts of these series are still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Lieutenant Governor Sir J. Harvey,
K. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

SALARY TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

Downing Street, 28th April, 1840.

Sir—I have received your Despatch, No. 15 of the 24th March, communicating the information that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, had unanimously voted that the Table allowance of £500 enjoyed by your Predecessors, should be granted to you from the commencement of your administration, and to continue during your tenure of the Office of Lieutenant Governor of the Colony.

I am happy to be able to convey to you, Her Majesty's permission to accept this addition to your official income. I cannot doubt that as the Assembly thus feel the inadequacy of the salary assigned to the Representative of the Sovereign in New Brunswick, they will hereafter display a similar spirit of liberality towards your Successor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Major General Sir John Harvey,
K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

* Acts passed in March and September 1839, except 2 Vic. c. 28, 29, 30. 35, 36, 37, and 3 Vic. c. 1 and 2.

MILITARY AND POST COMMUNICATION TO LOWER CANADA.

Downing Street, 13th May, 1840.

Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 26, of the 6th April, communicating the Grant by the Provincial Legislature of a further sum of £1500, which has been placed at your disposal, for the completion of the Military and Post Communication between New Brunswick and Lower Canada.

I have to express my gratification at this renewed mark of the liberality of the House of Assembly.

I take it for granted, that, in executing the work for which this money has been appropriated, you will not sanction any proceeding which shall contravene the subsisting agreement between the British and American authorities, on the subject of the Disputed Territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Major General Sir John Harvey,
K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Downing Street, 23d May, 1840.

Sir—With reference to the latter part of my Despatch, No. 35, of the 10th March last, I have now the honor to convey to you the decision of Her Majesty's Government, on the Acts of the last Session of the Legislature of New Brunswick, which then remained undisposed of.

The Act No. 1237, for the improvement of the practice in the Court of Chancery, appears to be very objectionable, for the following reasons:

1st. Because of the absolute power which it gives to the Judge, without supervision or control, to alter the practice and constitution of the Court:

2nd. Because of the very summary proceeding which it sanctions, of taking Bills *pro confesso*, on any default:

3rd. Because of the loose enactments which it contains respecting executing decrees, and conducting the examination of witnesses: and

4th. Because of its leaving the amount of fees to the mere discretion of the Chancellor and Master of the Rolls.

You will make these objections known to the Legislature, and recommend the amendment of the Act accordingly. In the mean time the decision of Her Majesty in Council on this Act will be suspended.

The Acts, Nos. 1252 and 1253, for the prevention of Fires, and the widening of the Streets in the City of Saint John, form the subject of a Petition to Her Majesty from the Common Council, complaining that these Acts infringe unnecessarily upon the privileges of their Charter. Your Despatch also transmitted extracts from the Council Minutes, and copies of an address from the Common Council to yourself, and of your answer.

I have laid the Petition before Her Majesty.

It has not been thought desirable to withhold the Royal assent to the first mentioned Act, but that for widening the Streets of Saint John, appears to be liable to the objections so strongly taken to it by the Common Council, that it amounts to a direct and unnecessary infringement of the Charter, granted by His late Majesty King George the Third,—Her Majesty cannot be advised to confirm it. It must therefore be amended.

I enclose an order passed by Her Majesty in Council, on the 22d instant, leaving the Acts Nos. 1230, 1231, 1238 and 1252, to their operation.*

Also, an order in Council, passed on the same day, specially confirming the Act, No. 1258, in accordance with my despatch, No. 43, of the 28th ultimo.†

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Major General Sir John Harvey,
K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

*2 Vic. c. 28, 29, 36. 3 Vic. c, 1. †3 Vic. c. 84.

COLONIAL ASSOCIATION.

Downing Street, 4th June, 1840.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 28, of the 6th ultimo, transmitting an Act passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick, without a suspending clause, enabling the Lieutenant Governor to grant 100,000 acres of land to the British North American Colonial Association of Ireland, upon the condition therein specified, that is, by private sale, without an auction, at the rate of three shillings per acre. This is therefore a departure from the general principle under which the Crown agreed to transfer to the Lieutenant Governor and Executive Council the conduct of the business of settling the waste Lands of the Province. It is also an exception to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly, under which that power was created. Her Majesty's Government have, however, not thought it necessary to advise the Queen to disallow this Act, on account of this irregularity, but you will consider yourself forbidden hereafter from assenting to any Act departing from the general law, in favor of any private person or body of persons, without previous reference to the Crown, or without a clause suspending the operation of the Act for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

I enclose an Order passed by Her Majesty in Council, on the 22d instant, leaving the Act to its operation, and I have forwarded a copy of the Act to Earl FitzWilliam, according to your request.

I have the honor, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

Downing Street 30th June, 1840.

Sir—With reference to the Despatch which I addressed to you on the 4th instant, on the subject of the Act lately passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick to authorize the Lieutenant Governor of that Colony to dispose of 100,000 acres of Land, by private sale, to the North American Colonial Association of Ireland, I desire to add that although I cannot doubt that it is the intention of the Legislature to apply the proceeds of this extensive sale to the encouragement of Emigration, I wish, nevertheless, that you would, on the earliest occasion after the meeting of the House of Assembly, suggest to them the great benefit which the Province would derive from applying the proceeds of this sale to such purposes as Emigration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.
Major General Sir John Harvey,
K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Jany. 24.

Mr. Brown presented a petition from —— Porter, praying that the duties on the excess of timber cut upon certain lots should be allowed to go against those upon which no timber had been cut; and that they might be relieved from the payment of such excess, for which they had given bonds to the government.

Hon. Mr. Weldon opposed the reception of the petition; as he did not see how its prayer could be granted. Other persons were called upon to pay for excess: and it would not be acting fairly to them were the relief granted which was prayed for. He was going on to make other remarks, when Mr. Brown observed that as the petition had not been handed to the Speaker, the debate was irregular. It was then handed to the chair.

Mr. Wilmot said he would call the attention of hon. members to page 222 of the Journals wherein was a report upon the subject referred to in the petition. He was opposed to the reception of that document upon two grounds:—first because it fell within the jurisdiction of the Executive Government, and secondly, it was a matter in which the House could not interfere without working a manifest injustice: and because much injury had been done in various parts of the Province, by the manner in which land had been locked up under these five year licences; and the manner in which the excesses had been transferred. He wished they were all broken up. In 1835 there was a public outcry against the granting of those licences: but the government persisted in pursuing that course; and the result was, the worst fears of the country were more than realised. Where was the £75 000, which it was thought would be forthcoming; not a copper of it could be touched; and difficulties and litigation of the most extraordinary kind, had grown out of the granting of those five-year licences. He trusted the House would say they would not interfere. He did not wish to be uncourteous towards the hon. member for Charlotte, but he would almost have opposed the reading of the petition had he known its contents; and he certainly should oppose its reception.

Mr. Brown said after the reception which the petition had met with, it was scarcely necessary for any other member who was opposed to its prayer to say any more. It was true the report made by the committee, and to which his name was appended said the excess should not be credited in the manner proposed; it was impossible to tell what would be the operation of the recommendation; and if it were found that it was producing injustice, it should be remedied. Although he was opposed to the granting the five-year licences, and which the government persisted in granting, in spite of the remonstrances that were made, yet the House would do justice, and individuals should not suffer because the government had done wrong. The petitioners had extensive mills, and they had a right to avail themselves of the advantages which were offered. He said he now felt satisfied that the committee in making the report alluded to, had come to a wrong conclusion; and he must say it was operating injuriously to individuals, who he thought would keep faith with the government, if they paid all the government could claim within the five years. He should like to hear his learned friends show why this should not be the case, and how they were locking up the country if that were done. By the mode proposed the government would ultimately obtain more than it was entitled to. He never thought that would be the case, or he would not have put his name to the report. Either the petitioners must scatter their business, or pay for timber cut on one or two lots to excess, and also, upon lots where they did not cut. Hon. members were not favorable to lumbering pursuits; and were determined to visit the iniquities of the former government, upon those who obtained licences. It was two years before persons so situated, could get a petition before the House: and they were at length permitted to give up the lands they had obtained, upon forfeiting the money that had been paid. He supposed the petition would not be received; but still he felt that it would be working injustice.

The petition was then rejected.

The House resolved itself into a Committee for the consideration of the fifth section of the Civil List Bill, which is about expiring.

Mr. Fisher saw no necessity for the great hurry there appeared to be with this Bill. He thought the least the Committee could do was to wait till there was a full house. As it was a measure affecting the lumbering interests; they should defer it out of courtesy to Mr. Rankin who was deeply engaged in that business; there were various clauses that required amendment; and it would be useless to legislate upon the sale of the Crown Lands till the Emigration Committee reported, they might recommend an alteration in the system, and it could be embodied in the Bill. As it had been hurried on he had only applied his mind during the few moments afforded him for considering it to the most obnoxious part of it, the 6th Section, which authorised the granting of land to certain half pay officers upon a certain graduated scale, the benevolent intentions of the Legislature in passing the section had been completely prostituted. It pre-supposed an intention on the part of the officers to settle; now it was notorious that large grants were made to officers when no such intention existed. Out of all the lands granted upward of 350,000 acres; and upwards of 12,000 acres since the passing of the Civil List Bill, he did not know of two actual settlers. They obtained the lands without any idea of settlement, and were locking up the best part of the County of York and Carleton whilst the Province was deriving no benefit therefrom. There was great complaint made if a poor settler got a hundred acres of land payable by instalments if he did not pay up, but there were individuals getting land enough at once for a whole settlement for nothing at all. The grant made was generally a complete prostitution of the intentions of the Legislature. During the last summer one tract had been sold at auction for 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. an acre under the Absconding Debtors Act. Another had been offered at Sheriff's Sale, two others had been assigned in trust to pay debts; in this way lands granted under the provision of the 6th Section had been disposed of. This clause formed no part of the compact with the Government for the surrender of the Crown Revenue; it had been productive of evil, and he proposed to repeal it.

Mr. End hoped the House would not hastily make any alterations; particularly with the present thin benches. Mr. Rankin who was concerned with one of the largest houses engaged in the timber business was absent, and was at least entitled to be heard upon the subject, that is if the House wished to obtain information. It was not asking too much to request that hon. member might be heard before any determination were had, and also the colleague of the learned member for the County of York. He would ask if the operation of a general measure were to cease, because there were a few causes of complaint. Men were not faultless, it was one of the attributes of human nature to be defective. Was there ever a legislature that passed laws in which there was no defect. In his opinion the character of the country would suffer, were they to expunge what was allowed to officers on half-pay; which had been given to men who had fought and bled for their country, to enable them to settle in the province upon better terms than civilians; a boon founded upon regard and admiration for a service, which every lover of his country must feel a pleasure in upholding. Would the members of that House dash at, and trample this boon under their feet, and declare animosity against those brave men who should come among them. Would gentlemen say they would not have them in the Province. It was well known that if a facility was removed, an obstacle was created; and if this facility for settling half-pay officers in the Province were removed, their introduction would be prevented. It ought not to be said that when the House of Assembly got the control of the crown revenues into their hands, they would prevent those retired officers from taking up lands in the Province, to whom they should look up with pride. God forbid they should do so. The learned gentleman for York had said his object was not to excite feeling; but the whole tendency of his remarks was to that effect. But because one or two half-pay officers had been unfortunate, were the Legislature to stop the influx of brave men to these shores. Let the law be made as binding with reference to settlement as gentlemen pleased; but let them not throw obstacles in the way of settling the country. He concluded by saying that to do away with the clause as had been proposed, would be a reflection upon the well known loyalty of the people of New Brunswick. Let the House wait till other members had arrived; but let them not even then commit an act which would implicate the character of the country.

Hon. Mr. Crane must give the House some information which gentlemen did not seem to possess. The revenue was given up without reference to any provision for half-pay officers. And whatever credit was due for the provision, belonged to the House of Assembly for the time being, who voluntarily made the usual allowance with reference to that valuable class of men. He said he had taken the pains to enquire why they formerly received those grants, and ascertained that a certain sum was allowed as a commutation for the purchase of lands. But the object of the Assembly was to fill the country with a valuable set of loyal inhabitants; and therefore they were willing to extend the boon which had been animadverted upon. For his own part he should always be glad to see those persons arrive here; and he was satisfied the Province would be a gainer by the indulgence that was afforded. If it were necessary the act might be better guarded, but nothing more should be done.

Hon. Mr. Weldon said it was not necessary that the Bill should lie any longer on the table. They should proceed to business with all due dilligence, and if members absented themselves, they sho'd take the consequence. But what was the effect of the Bill, which had been in operation for four years. There had been no very general complaints against its operation. In passing the Bill now in operation it was deemed necessary to retain the present rates; and no injurious effects had resulted from that determination. That act is about expiring, and the present Bill is brought in to continue it in force. There did not appear to be any practical evil existing, and it was not desirable therefore to effect any change in its enactments. So far as related to half-pay officers, he said his learned friend's Bill to tax wild lands would effect all that was required: and if roads were made through their lands, by which they were rendered more valuable, a corresponding assessment should be made. Therefore as no evil existed, the Bill had better continue as it is, than that it should be changed. The learned gentleman concluded by saying that he was certainly opposed to reducing the duty on logs; a revenue was wanted, and from this source that for the payment of the civil list must be raised. The hon. member for Northumberland might complain of the amount; but the Legislature should not depreciate the revenue, particularly when no practical evil had been pointed out.

Mr. Brown said the present was a most important Bill, and although it was too late in the day to pass it, yet it was the proper time to discuss it. He agreed with the hon. members who had spoken, that they should not make any essential alteration. An attempt however had been made to alter the terms upon which lands were granted: not with reference to the price, but the mode of payment. It was the wish of a majority of the members in the House that payments should be made by instalments; and the reason given by his Excellency, that he could not comply with the address, was that the law would not permit it. He would therefore put it in the power of the Executive to dispose of lands upon the principle of instalments if it thought proper. With reference to the evils arising from the abuse of the privilege that had been granted to half-pay officers of the army and navy; if the law were lame, something should be done to rectify the evil; and as the learned member for Gloucester observes, the House should not show too much selfishness upon the subject; but should merely make such alterations as would correct any abuse that might have arisen. For his own part, as a member of the committee, he was desirous that they should come among us; and after their death leave here their posterity and their principles.

Hon Mr. Speaker said that something should be done with reference to grants to half-pay officers, as the object was that they should become settlers. This, he thought might be effected by address; and if the land were not settled within two or three years, then it should revert to the Crown. Otherwise the intentions of the Legislature would be defeated; as he did not recollect a single instance in which a half-pay officer had settled upon land that had been obtained in this way. It would be wrong however, to do away with the clause. As to the paying by instalments, it had been found to work badly in the Canadas and in this Province: and the Executive Government had come to the conclusion that it would be doing an actual injury to settlers, to grant them lands in that way. The better way was, as he had observed on a former occasion, for those persons who were too poor to pay, to hire out, till they had acquired information and were in circumstances to purchase a small tract of land, and understood the mode of cultivating it.

Mr. Street was satisfied there was no intention of passing so important a Bill at that time, and probably the best way would be to report progress. He did not apprehend there was any determination to alter the duties on timber, and therefore should not occupy the time of the committee, by any remarks upon the subject; but if any change took place, that on squared timber should be increased, as the time had now arrived when they should encourage the manufacture of that article, as it were much better for the country if squared timber were never exported. The learned gentleman said he considered the compelling persons to pay down the purchase money on lands, as having interrupted the settlement of the country. He therefore disagreed with the Hon. Speaker, and could not but regret, that the Executive Government had come to the decision which had been stated. It were very well if persons were prepared to pay down the requisite sum; but it was not persons of capital but those who depend upon their manual labor, who set themselves down in the wilderness parts of the country. He thought it would be an advantage if every alternate lot were given away; it would promote the settlement of the country and enhance the value of the remainder. The House should keep in view the opinion of Sir Robert Peel; that the object of a Legislature should be to foster settlement rather than increase the revenue by the sale of lands, because settlers by consuming dutiable goods benefit a country. Telling persons they must hire out, was amounting to a prohibition. The learned gentleman said he was satisfied from travelling through the Province, that the instalment system improved a country, and increased the means of employment, while it would secure many emigrants who now quit the Province. He repeated that government should turn its attention to the settlement of wilderness land; and there was no way more effectual, than by allowing applicants a reasonable time in which to make payment; and those who had obtained land in this way, were gradually paying off the claims of government. He concluded by moving that the Speaker leave the chair.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Now put your shields before your hearts,
And fight with hearts more proof than shields;
Advance brave "Fisher." *Shakespeare.*

Mr. Editor—A Bill recently introduced into the Legislature, having for its object the taxing of Wilderness Lands, is a measure pregnant with incalculable benefit to the country, and I trust will meet with cordial support by a large majority of the Assembly. It must be abundantly evident to every one possessing a knowledge of this country, that the making of roads throughout the wilderness traces of land is the first, the grand movement toward the settlement of the country; and from what source should the revenue for that purpose be derived?—surely from the land itself, which is thereby materially enhanced in value. Mr. Fisher has, in advocating this measure, taken a statesman-like view of the subject, and has gained for himself "golden opinions from all sorts of men." Yet sir, am I convinced that he will meet with opposition from the interested, the penurious, and the narrow-minded,—foremost in whose ranks, I am informed, stands the Hon. Speaker of the House. How is this? Is it because he is a great land-holder, and fears the penny an acre may affect his pocket? Shame—where now is his boasted patriotism. As a "man of the people" he was wont to be the loudest of the loud, and surely he will not now forego his popularity for the paltry consideration of a penny an acre. Can it be possible that he will lead the opposition on such a question? Would that gentleman and his clique rather see the pockets of the poor drained to make roads through, and to enhance the value of his wilderness lands, than consent to its coming out of the lands themselves? I cannot think it possible.—I sincerely trust that Mr. Fisher and his supporters will "put their shields before their hearts, and fight with hearts more proof than shields" until they shall have achieved a victory.—Some tens of thousands of acres of wilderness lands are now in the hands of selfish monopolisers, to the exclusion of the industrious settler, and will remain in a state of nature for many years to come, unless the *galling* tax of a penny an acre should induce the present proprietors to dispose of them to persons for actual settlement. From my room window where I write this, as far as the eye can reach, nearly all is forest, and that too after the country has been settled for sixty years. The proprietors of those lands will not sell—that appears to be a general understanding; nor will they ever lease them on such terms as will allow the husbandman an existence for his labour. Such policy is replete with ignorant selfishness and illiberality, and nothing short of a tax on the pockets of the monopolisers, (for that appears to be the only sensitive point,) will ever awake them to a due sense of their obligations to society, or cause them to part with a single acre of their overgrown properties. I am aware that the opposers of the measure will use their worn-out pretext of its falling hard on the poor settlers; but the spring of that old trap is too weak now to catch public opinion. It is not the poor man who will complain, it is the rich. The poor man will be well pleased to pay when he finds it is to make roads through his property, and the more especially so when he knows that the man of ten or twenty thousand acres must for the first time also contribute his quota towards the roads, which are of such vital importance to the settlement of the country.

Jan. 30. An Old Settler.

Dear Chronicle,—Having just returned from seeing the "Lions" at Fredericton, and having had an opportunity of witnessing the various gay equipages, tandem sleighs, &c. which our prided aristocracy are in the habit of exhibiting at Head Quarters, I was both pleasingly amused and highly gratified to see that all the real and would-be aristocrats, (dandies included,) were really and truly surpassed both in equipage and sleigh driving, by the neat and handsome two-in-hand turn-out of that eccentric, odd fellow, Jackson, of the Fredericton Hotel. His sleigh was light and richly painted—well covered with beautiful furs of animals caught in the forests of New-Brunswick, showing the masculine Bear, the voracious Lucifer, the cunning Reynard, and various skins of the minor tribe. I would therefore recommend all respectable travellers giving this eccentric fellow a call, and obtain a ride in his excelling vehicle of the day.

Your's, &c. WHIG.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 5, 1841.

Payment of Jurors.—A bill has passed the lower House for the payment of Grand and Petit Jurors in the County of Charlotte. His Honor the Speaker thought if Juries were paid, it should be by those who went to law. Mr. Gilbert was opposed to any bill of the kind, either of a local or general nature, and said, if Juries were to be paid, then every parish officer would require a similar remuneration. It is probable that Mr. Gilbert, at the time he was railing against the payment of Jurors, forgot to reflect on the large remuneration he was then receiving from the people's money, for what he terms his public labours at the Legislature. The Hon. Mr. Weldon's plan was a good one—he thought if Juries were fairly selected in each county and not chosen a second time until the list should have been gone through with, the duty would not be severe. Mr. M'Leod, the member for King's County, paid his constituents and the High Sheriff of King's a sorry compliment. With respect to venality or high-mindedness, Mr. M'Leod thought "the payment of Jurors would lead to their being packed, as parties having business at the shire-town or at Court, would apply to the Sheriff to be returned." So much for the noble constituency of King's County.

The Burnt District.—Our readers and the public generally will remember the prolonged controversy which took place respecting the right of interference on the part of our Provincial Legislature, in attempting to make laws for the City in opposition to the words of the Royal Charter. A minority of the Corporation insisted upon the right of the Legislature to make laws for the widening of the streets in the burnt district of the city; also for appointing Assessors over property of the citizens for awarding or levying damages. The majority of the Corporate Body opposed this, maintaining that the sole right, by the words of the Charter, was vested in the Corporation, independently of the Legislature, and insisted upon petitioning the Queen against the interference of the Legislature upon the rights of the citizens. In the mean time, the majority despairing of receiving any answer to their petition, assented to certain measures being taken respecting the widening of the streets, assessing the citizens, &c., in the full expectation after so long a period, that their hopes in their Petition had been frustrated. But what is now their astonishment; they find that immediately after the opening of the Provincial Assembly, a public despatch from Lord John Russell, dated the 23d May 1840, is communicated to the Legislature, announcing that "the Act for widening the streets of Saint John appears to be liable to the objections so strongly taken to it by the Common Council, that it amounts "to a direct and unnecessary infringement of the "Charter, granted by His late Majesty King Geo. "the Third—Her Majesty cannot be advised to "confirm it. It must therefore be amended." The majority state that this despatch, though written eight months since, has never been communicated to them, although they were the parties immediately concerned therein. The delay of communicating this despatch to them, has occasioned much unnecessary trouble and expence—will cause much confusion and perhaps litigation. The Legislature, it appears, has not the power of amending the Act without the full authority of the Corporation, and it is not probable that the majority will hasten their movements for any amendments by the local Legislature, after experiencing so great delay in answering their petition of remonstrance.

Quadrennial Parliaments.—Mr. Palmer the Member for Westmorland, has introduced a Bill to limit the duration of the New Brunswick Assembly to four years.—Such a bill has long been desired by almost every respectable elector in the Province, and as an accompaniment to the bill, it is hoped that the time for returning members will be materially shortened; the general elections throughout the Province, ought not to occupy a longer period than three days. The Sheriff's and their respective Deputies, can as well have three or four polls opened in one day, and at different places in the Counties for the accommodation of electors, as to be allowed so much useless and unnecessary time to be spent at one or two places, thereby causing too much excitement and foolish squabbles answering no good purpose.

Every well disposed person, who feel any interest or wish, to vote for any Representative who shall appear at the hustings, can make up his mind as to choice as well in three days, as he could in thirty, if they were allowed to him. Whether Mr. Palmer's bill will be allowed to pass the Assembly or not; of this we feel assured, that a petition from the electors to Her Majesty the Queen, will not fail in obtaining the same boon of Quadrennial Parliaments as is now granted to the Canadas and to Nova Scotia.

We tender our best thanks to the Queen's Printer, for a bound copy of the Journals of the House of Assembly, including an Appendix for the session of 1840.

The St. John with its tributary Rivers and Lakes.—We have received Mr. Ward's Pamphlet, and do not hesitate to recommend it, as being the best compendium of useful knowledge for Emigrants, and for the purposes of Emigration, that has yet appeared in New Brunswick.—Mr. Ward's advertisement of the work will be found in our advertising columns.

The New Brunswick Manual, &c. &c.—This compendium of Provincial Laws, so necessarily useful to the Magistrate, Merchant, Mechanic, Lumberer and Farmer, is now ready for the press, and will shortly make its appearance. The industry, and research, displayed by the author P. Stubbs, Esq. of this city, in compiling the work, will we trust meet with a corresponding share of public patronage.

Fire.—An alarm of this devouring element was given on Wednesday evening about five o'clock; the fire took place in the building occupied by Miss Martin, in Germain street, adjoining the Circulating Library; it burnt through the partition into the Library, but by the very prompt measures adopted by the citizens who had immediately collected, it was happily arrested without doing serious damage.

Secretary's Office, Fredericton, 30th January, 1841.

It appearing from a Report of the Board of Education for the County of Westmorland, that Theophilus Cowdell, a Licenced School-master, has been dismissed by the Trustees of Schools, for the Parish of Sackville, for highly improper conduct in his School; the licence granted to the said Theophilus Cowdell, is therefore withdrawn and cancelled. By Order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

Ordination.—On Sunday morning, the 24th inst. the Bishop of the Diocese, held an Ordination in St. George's Church; when the Revd. John Stokes, A. B. of Trinity College, Dublin, and Curate of the Parish, was admitted to the Office of Priest. The Revd. Jas. Wm Disbrow, A. B. of King's College, Fredericton, assistant Missionary at Lunenburg, and Mahone Bay, was also admitted to the office of Priest. And Alexander Stewart, from England, was admitted to the office of Deacon, on the nomination and title of the Revd. F. W. Gray, Rector of St. John, N. B.

The Bishop was assisted in the Ordination by the Venerable Archdeacon Willis, Dr. Twining, Garrison Chaplain, and the Revd. R. F. Uniacke, Rector of St. George's. The services were solemn and interesting, and calculated to impress both Ministers and people with a deep sense of the wisdom and piety of the Ordinances of the Church. The Bishop's Text was taken from the 20th Chap. of St. John, 21st verse. "As my Father hath sent me, even so, send I you." His Discourse was an able exposition of the Divine origin and appointment of the three Orders, Bishop, Priest, and Deacon, and of the Apostolic succession, in the Church. His Lordship addressed the Candidates in the most impressive manner on the sacred and important duties of the Ministerial office; reminded all present of their mutual responsibilities; and affectionately exhorted the congregation to improve the spiritual privileges they enjoyed, by keeping holy the Sabbath Day, and devoutly waiting upon God in all the appointed means of grace.

The Revd. J. Storrs, on leave of absence from St. George's, is to spend a few weeks at Cornwallis and Horton.

Revd. J. W Disbrow proceeded to Gay's River, and Revd. A. Stewart is appointed second Curate at St. John's, N. B.

Sir Colin Campbell was to leave England for Ceylon about the last of January.—*Halifax Times.*

Northeastern Boundary. Resolves of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Be it resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That we view with united approbation, the prompt and energetic action of the authorities of Maine, to protect the rights and honor, not only of their own State, but of the whole Union.

Resolved, that the act of Congress, conferring upon the President of the United States ample power and means to protect this nation from foreign invasion, has our full and most hearty assent.

Resolved, that while we highly approve the efforts made by the President of the United States, to avert from this country the calamities of war, and earnestly hope that they may be, as they heretofore have been, successful; yet, should a collision take place between this government and Great-Britain, in the settlement of the pending dispute, Ohio *tenders her whole means and resources to the authorities of this Union, in sustaining our rights and honor.*

Resolves of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana.

Be it resolved, that we fully concur in, and heartily approve of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That while we cherish the hope that, in the adjustment of the question of our national boundary, the integrity of our soil and the national honor may be preserved inviolate, without an appeal to arms, yet *we will ever prefer honorable war to dishonorable peace.*

Resolved, That should a collision take place between this government and Great-Britain, in the settlement of the pending dispute, Indiana *tenders her whole means and resources to the authorities of the Union, in sustaining our rights and honor.*

The arrivals of vessels of all descriptions, in the port of Havana, during the year 1840, was 1735; the clearances, 1740; passengers arrived, 7,001.

The British steamer Argyle was wrecked off the port of Vera Cruz on the 5th of December, and was entirely lost. She had on board a numerous party, on a pleasure excursion, all of whom were saved in boats. Two of the crew perished.

A tornado was experienced on the Pacific coast of Mexico early in November, which is represented to have been nearly as violent as that which visited Natchez, and to have been far more extensive. They had already learned of its ravages for a length of seventy or eighty miles by twelve or fifteen miles in width, prostrating almost every thing in its course. At Acapulco, more than 200 houses are said to have been blown down; while at Cayuco the number destroyed is stated at 350. Consternation and distress were universal among the surviving inhabitants.

Exports to Canada.—We learn from the Cleveland (Ohio) Herald that the clearance at that port for the various ports in Upper Canada, for the