and then followed as witnesses the names of the Duke of Wellington, Lord Gifford, Captain Peel, Mr. F. Peel, Mr. Sausome, &c. While this was going on, the bridegroom had returned into the chapel, and was distributing white favors with silver and gold leaves, such as may be put in the button-hole, and worn during the day.

As soon as the ceremony was concluded the family of the bride and bridegroom, with their intimate friends, repaired to Apsley House. The wedding breakfast was spread in the grand picture gallery, occupying the entire western side of the mansion. This gorgeous saloon is memorable as the scene of the annual Waterloo banquets, at which the great captain entertained the general officers who survived the field of Waterloo. The walls are hung with rare and costly pictures by the first masters. The first glance around the noble saloon to-day was bewildering, not only from the number and richness of the collection of pictures, but from the splendor of the banquet table. The table ran along the entire length of the saloon, but not more than half the company could find seats. The table groaned with massive gold plates, vases, orange trees, and candelabra. Upon a sideboard was the far-famed silver-gilt Wellington shield, presented by the merchants and bankers of London to the late Duke at a cost of £7,000, by the side of which were the three splendid candelabra, presented by the corporation of London, and the Waterloo vase from the city merchants and bankers. The exquisite service of Dresden porcelain, representing the late Duke's victories, was all in use to-day, for the first time for fifteen years. Upon the table was the splendid silver plateau presented by the Regent of Portugal, 30 feet long and 3 1-2 feet high, and also the huge candelabra of Russian porphyry, presented to the late Duke by the Emperor Nicholas, and the two vases of Swedish porphyry.—The gold and silver plate exhibited and used in the Waterloo Gallery to-day is estimated to be of the value of £300,000. But the wedding cake opposite the Duke and Duchess, in the centre of the room, was the great object of attraction. It was six or seven feet high, of pyramidal form, and was tastefully decorated with orange flowers, white satin ribbons, and the arms of the families of the bride and bridegroom. The Duchess of Wellington occupied the seat where the late duke presided over the Waterloo banquets, the duke being seated opposite her, immediately under Van Dyke's equestrian picture of Charles First. Among the company were Lord and Lady Palmerston, the Earl of Granville, the Countess Bernstorff, Sir C. Wood, Bart., M. P., Admiral Berkley, M. P., the Duchess of Montrose, Viscount Harding, &c.

Sir Robert and Lady Emily were not present at the *dejeuner*, having previously left town by special train for Tamworth. The company went out on the balcony to wave their adieus. The band of the first Life Guards were in attendance, in an ante-room of the Waterloo Gallery, and played "Robin lo'ee me well," and the wedding march from the "Midsummer Night's Dream." The bride was happy; for the sun shone brightly upon her, and all went merry as a marriage bell.

THE DRAMA AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

Her Majesty is a munificent supporter of the drama, and some grand apartment in Windsor Castle often rings with the splendid language of Shakspere, or resounds with laughter provoked by the witticisms of some of our best comic writers.

Our engraving represents one of the latter occasions—one end of the noble St. George's Hall being occupied by the stage, and the remainder by the royal aristocratic audience. The play is that inimitable comedy the *Rivals*, and the scene is the duel, in which Bob Acres cuts such an exquisitely comic figure under the manipulation of his Irish second.

St. George's Hall, during these theatrical representations, presents a very imposing appearance. The length is two hundred feet, but that is in some degree lessened by the music galleries erected at each end. The panels are divided into compartments, which are subdivided so as to form a vast range of shields, whereon are pictured the armorial bearings of the Knights of the Garter, from the period of the institution of the order.

This noble hall, which will probably, never again be used for theatrical representations, owing to the sound being imperfect, is that in which Her Majesty gives her state banquets. Here two emperors of Russia have dined, a king, and an emperor of France, and not the least illustrious of the imposing throng of royal visitors, the brave and enlightened King of Sardinia. Here also her Majesty entertains her newly elected Knights of the Garter, and celebrates their admission into that ancient order by a magnificent banquet.—That recently given to the King of Sardinia conveys an accurate idea of the splendor of these feasts.

At a quarter past seven, the Queen, the King, Prince Albert, and the members of the royal family, with the respective Courts of Great Britain and Sardinia, assembled in the throne room. Her Majesty's guests on a visit at the Castle, the Knights of the Garter, the Ministers, and the nobility and gentry who had been honored with invitations, met in the grand reception room. On dinner being announced, the Queen, conducted by the King of Sardinia, proceeded to St. George's Hall, preceeded by the great officers of the household; the royal personages came immediately after their majesties, and the general company followed from the grand reception room. On the entrance of the Queen and King into the hall, the band commenced playing the "Fanfare Sarde." Her Majesty took her seat in the middle of the north side of the table, having the King of Sardinia on her right hand.

The banquet was served with the greatest magnificence. The service was entirely of gold plate; down the centre of the table during its whole length were a succession of the most beautiful vases, epergnes, wine coolers, and candelabra, all in gold plates. Immediately before the Queen was placed the St. George's candelabrum. This is of large size, and noble proportions, and bears twelve wax lights. On the base are the figures of the infant Mars, and it is enriched with national emblems and badges. The whole is crowned by the statuette of the saint on horseback, in combat with the dragon. In addition to the great number of beautiful articles appropriated to the service and decoration of the table, two large and lofty buffets were erected at each end of the hall, lined with crimson, for the display of the more artistic and ornamental specimens of gold plate and articles of vertu in the royal treasury.

At the conclusion of the banquet, only one toast is given, generally that of the new elected knight, who, in this instance, was the King of Sardinia, and his health was proposed by the Lord Steward, after which the Queen, accompanied by all the ladies present, retired to the royal reception room, and were speedily followed by the King of Sardinia, Prince Albert, and the remaining royal and noble guests of the other sex. Her Majesty does not sanction the custom of gentlemen holding protracted after-dinner sittings. May the rest of her sex soon follow her good example in this respect.

Divest the hall of the banquet table, the gorgeous plate, and the hum of conversation, and fill it with seats, with a stage at one end, on which the best English actors are giving interpretation to the purest language and sentiment, in the presence of the greatest, noblest, and most beautiful of the land, and you have an idea of St. George's Hall, as it appears on the night of a grand theatrical representation.

We have stated that Her Majesty was a liberal patron of the English drama, and we can only add that it is gratifying to her subjects to know that in the selection of the pieces, she is guided by a pure taste and a sound appreciation of the excellence of the legitimate in that department of art. The best artists in both tragedy and comedy are engaged, and the scenery and stage management of the most perfect description.

Her Majesty's anxious desire is to restore the Pallet Fortunes of the drama, and elevate the theatre as a school of instruction. The institution is continually reviving, but very slowly, and it may reasonably be asked what has damaged this ancient festivity of the people of England? It is not impossible that the erroneous notion that the drama is hostile to religion, has in some degree injured the theatre and interrupted its prosperity, but not to a great extent, for we think the decline of the drama may chiefly be attributed to the restraints that are imposed by the legislature. In many countries the government actually expends large sums on the theatre. In other states, the rulers of which we are apt to stigmatize as tyrants, much money and great attention are bestowed to facilitate and encourage the movements of the drama. Such a disposition of the public treasure is not proposed to the spirit of our constitution. It is not to be expected or desired, but it may reasonably demand that the sources of innocent and instructive recreation should not be dried up hastily, or wantonly diverted by unjust and pernicious interference.

The licensing system seriously operates to the disadvantage of the drama. The authority of the Lord Chamberlain seems to have originated in the notion that every theatre is part of a royal palace; but it would be much better to allow liberty of the stage on the same footing as liberty of the press; for a free people, it is self-evident, have a right to demand it. Let there be no censorship, but make the proprietors and managers of theatres be responsible in the same manner, and subject to the same suits and prosecutions, whether public or private, as publishers of newspapers and other works. In short, let them represent what they please, at their peril, and at the risk of being punished if found guilty by a jury. The proprietors of a theatre must of necessity be known, and will most probably be responsible persons. Sermons and lectures delivered in chapels are not perused and licensed by any of the household, yet no inconveniences ensue from the omission. What would be the value of our national literature if every work were to be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain or his deputy, and the law as strictly enforced as it is in theatrical pieces?

As to the utility of the drama, we never heard it seriously questioned. Its appreciation is universal. Travellers inform us that persons even in a very rude state are found to amuse themselves by imitating some common event in life. But it is not necessary to leave our quiet homes to satisfy ourselves that dramatic representations are natural to man. All children delight in mimicking action, many of their amusements consist in such performances, and are in every sense plays. It is curious, indeed, to observe at how early an age the young of the most imitative of animals—man—begin to copy the actions of others; how soon the infant betrays its intimate conviction of the great truth "that all the world's a stage."—*London paper.*

THE LEGISLATURE.

MR. WILMOT'S SPEECH ON THE AMENDMENT.

Mr. Wilmot said, that in rising to address the House, he wished to place the question fairly before them, and before the people. This was not a question between the old government and the new as several members had laboured hard to establish; it was a matter between the present government and the people; and he trusted before he was done, he should show good reasons why the amendment should pass.

The Government had been in power about 16 months, and they must be tried by their actions. When the late Government was so summarily ejected in October 1854, he would not deny he had some feeling in the matter, for the members of that government had just been returned for their respective counties, high on the polls, and public affairs were conducted in a manner generally satisfactory to the country. The people did not expect the government would be turned out, nor did they wish it. The whole thing was the result of a conspiracy in an upper chamber of the Barker House, among certain members, to turn out the government and get the offices for themselves. At the present time, when it was proposed to construct railways at the public expense, it was necessary that the government should be composed of the best men in the Province. In 1854, the government was able to congratulate the country on the state of the finances. They had paid off the floating and funded debts. They left upwards of £40,000 in the Treasury, and more than £20,000 surplus of the Civil List, when they resigned their places. He, Mr. Wilmot, remembered, that at the election in 1854, he congratulated the electors of St. John, at the hustings, upon the state of the revenue, and the finances. The present Judge Ritchie, then a candidate, replied that it was one of the gravest charges that could be brought against the government, for they had been extracting money from the people, to lock it up in the Treasury; the £60,000 so locked up, ought then to be in the pockets of the people! If that had been the case—if the government had lowered the duties in proportion to the increase of imports, he would ask, in what state would the Province be now? He would leave it to that House to answer.

When the Hon. Secretary brought down the estimates last year, he, Mr. W., did not think it was merely as if it had been the report of a Committee of the House. He thought the government would assume some responsibility; he thought that as they had new men in power, who had been lavish in their promises, they would have produced some new measures, and not pursue what they had charged as "old system." He supposed the estimates were brought in to avoid the confusion and uncertainty of the old practice, when every member moved for such grants of money as he chooses. If the government were to act merely as a finance committee, he, Mr. W., as one member of the House, had the vanity to think that the Speaker could select a better committee from that House, and find men there quite as competent to prepare a report, and with quite as much experience in financial affairs, as the members of the government.

He would now come to figures. He must confess that when he heard the Hon. Secretary's financial statement on a previous day, and looked at the whole affair, he was surprised. He saw that it was expected last year to raise a revenue of £110,000.—(The Hon. Provincial Secretary—"that was according to the scale of duties in the old revenue bill.") Mr. Wilmot continued; he said, he had looked at the statement as the Hon. Provincial Secretary had submitted it, and as he found it on the Journals of 1855, page 62 of the Appendix. How much more did his hon. friend calculate would be raised under the present law? (Provincial Secretary—"£10,000.") Very well; he would take that as the basis, and carry it out. The Secretary had stated that the floating debt now was about £70,000, besides railway debentures; that the revenue last year fell short of the expenditure by about £30,000; the deficiency in duties on liquors this year would be about £25,000 more; and he would now call the attention of hon. members to page 101 of the same appendix. It was there stated that appropriations were made prior to 1st January 1855, amounting to £44,468, for which no warrants had issued. In the government estimate of the expenditure, the Provincial Secretary calculated that £37,000 of these appropriations would be called for in 1855. The Hon. Secretary in his statement the other day, exhibited a list of warrants amounting to £28,114 in order, he supposed, to show the correctness, which would leave, of these appropriations, only £7,353 remaining unpaid. But on examining the list, he, Mr. W., found that £5000 granted for public buildings had not been drawn; also £4840 for improving harbours in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; £2832 for Grimross Canal; and £3000 for the Grand Falls Railway,—amounting for these four items alone, to £15,000 and upwards, besides other sums—so that the Hon. Provincial Secretary in submitting his statement of £37,114, had either not understood the subject, *or had made it to mislead the House.* When he, Mr. W., saw it in that list, a civil list warrant for £3625, he was of opinion that the statement had been made up to suit the occasion; for he would like to know what that had to do with the appropriations of 1854, not drawn prior to the 1st January 1855? (Hon. Provincial Secretary—"these appropriations are included in the sum set down in the floating debt.") Well, it might be so; but if so, the floating debt would be found more than £70,000.

The revenue bill had been passed for four years. The same duties would be exacted this year as the last, unless they passed a new revenue bill.—If the revenue to be raised this year under the existing law, should be no larger than that of last year, and the duties on liquors cease, the House would not have at its disposal for all the exigencies of the country, including roads, bridges, schools, and everything else much more than £20,000! This was a sad prospect, and rendered it necessary that something should be done to sustain the credit of the Province.

Last year he was pleased to see the Provincial Secretary bring down the estimates, as he was in a much better position to know how the finances of the country stood, than a member of the House who was not in office. He, Mr. W., had been always on the Finance Committee since he entered the House, and since 1850, (when the present Surveyor General, formerly the Chairman, took his seat in the Legislative Council) he had been its Chairman. But the Finance Committee during the time he presided, always took care as to report as not to excite the hopes of members, and the revenue, he believed, had always exceeded the estimate. The Committee had adopted that prudent course, in order to limit the appropriations as much as possible. No man, except one well versed in figures, could follow the hon. Provincial Secretary in his statement and understand him. He dealt in generalities, and miscellaneous sums, that were calculated to mislead, rather than inform the house. But when the present Government came into power, they were told there would be a new era,—a political millenium. Therefore, when the estimates were brought down last year, he took it for granted, that the Government would in the expenditure, controul the House as far as possible. The Road-committee, however, in their report, recommended £20,000 more than the Government estimate. Two members of the government were on that committee, (Messrs. Smith and Fisher) and he had been informed, that the mover of the additional amount was the hon member for Westmorland, (Mr. Albert Smith.) He [Mr. W] was not certain such was the case, but he had been so informed. [Hon. Mr. Smith—"Who is your informant?") no matter; but if it was true, the hon. member could deny it. (Hon. Mr. Smith said, he did not admit he was the mover, but he supported it.) Then the hon. member had done wrong. He had no right to take a course that would nullify the estimate agreed upon by the government as a body; that was his, Mr. W's, opinion of the duty of a member of the Executive.

Among the charges brought against the Government in 1854, was, that they were not progressive. The new party charged them with not making the Municipal Corporation bill imperative, and dwelt upon the necessity of every County in the Province being incorporated. But what had they done since they had been in power? The Government had spoken this session of the necessity of the initiation of money grants being placed in their hands. But when that was done, every County ought to be incorporated. They, the Government, had done nothing toward that; but they had been guilty of the same sins of omission, as they termed them, as they had charged the old Government with, and for which they turned the old Government out.

At the close of the last session, a motion was made to take the restrictions off a grant of £3,000 in favor of the Grand Falls Railway, not in supply, but by address to the Lieut. Governor. It was carried—three members of the government, Messrs. Tilley, Brown and Smith, voting for it, thus further embarrassing their own estimate. He, Mr. W., was one of only three members that voted against it. (Hon. Solicitor General, "I was not present when the appropriation passed, and opposed the grant supply." Yes, it had been lost previously, and then brought up at the close of the Session, when only eighteen members were present, and carried by some kind of jugglery.—He would ask, was it proper for members of the government to support a grant of that nature, when they professed so much economy, and when it had previously been rejected in a full House?

It was the duty of the Government to sustain the credit of the Province by every means in their power, and he would ask, if it was true that checks drawn by the Provincial Secretary had been refused by the Banks? (Hon. Prov. Secretary—"Not to my knowledge. The only officer under Government authorised to issue checks, is the Provincial Treasurer, and there is more money in his hands than will be required to meet all the warrants issued." If so, he, Mr. W., would now take a retrospective view of the financial condition of the Province, when himself and Messrs. Gray and Hayward joined the Government in 1851, as compared with its present condition.

By referring to the appendix of the Journals for 1851, page 330, it would be seen that interest had been paid during that year on Loan and floating debt, exclusive of what was paid to depositors in the Savings Banks, to the amount of £4,076, representing a debt of £100,000. This had all been paid off, and when the Government resigned in 1854, they left over £42,000, in cash, in the Treasury. Upon examining the Warrant-book at the Audit Office, he found that warrants had been issued, and paid, from the first of January 1855 to 1st November, same year, amounting to £132,143

Warrants issued during the same period and not paid	16,825
Warrants issued after 1st Nov., received at Treasury and there payable, but for which there was no funds, about	8,000
Warrants issued since 1st Jan., 1856, and forwarded to the Treasurer, but not included in the statement made by the Provincial Secretary, amounting at least to	15,000
Appropriations made in 1855, for which no warrants had issued, as stated by the Provincial Secretary, about	5,000
Appropriations made prior to 1st January, 1855, for which no warrants had yet issued, about	17,650
Total	£193,618
Revenue raised, per estimate,	120,000
Deficiency,	£73,618

Then, let the House look at the prospect for the coming year. Revenue estimated under existing Law, £120,000

Less, Liquor Duties,	35,000
Net Revenue,	£85,000
Deduct appropriations provided for by Law,	63,000
Balance for all purposes, only	£22,000

So that, without making any provisions for the floating debt, there would only be £22,000, (taking the Provincial Secretary's statement as correct and he feared things were worse) for roads, bridges, schools, interest to Savings Banks depositors, and miscellaneous charges of all kinds. The Provincial Secretary had congratulated the House, that the public credit had been sustained, and that there was £1200 in London, to meet the interest falling due in March on railway debentures. He would ask whether the whole of that amount was not claimed by the Imperial Post Office, for monies collected and due on British letters? (Provincial Secretary—"There is an amount due the Imperial Post Office, which has been called for."—Under this state of things, he would ask the House, whether the facts did not prove the utter incapacity of the present administration to manage the finances of the country, or undertake the construction of railways at the cost of millions of money? Since they came into power, they had expended all the money in the Treasury; they had drawn the whole cash credit at the Bank of New Brunswick, amounting to £30,000; they had warrants to the amount of £17,000, on interest besides, and a large amount of warrants issued, without funds to meet them. On these grounds, if on no other, he, Mr. W., had "no confidence," and the mercantile community he had the honour to represent, had "no confidence" either, in the present Government.

When he looked at the speech, and saw measures only foreshadowed, he thought it a incagre affair. He would now ask the government if their railway bill was prepared, or if they had agreed upon it? The late government always agreed upon their measures, and prepared their bills before the Legislature assembled, and before the speech was written. He could see one Government measure very distinctly, although it was shrouded in mist, and that was,—a Government loan to meet the floating debt!

One of the charges brought against the late government was, that they did not bring down a comprehensive educational scheme. The members of the present government had reiterated the charge so often against the late Attorney General in particular, that he had been completely badgered by them. But where was *their* educational scheme? It had been rumored that they proposed the Legislature should adopt the report of the Commissioners on King's College. But if that was the fact, where was the hon. member for Westmorland, (Mr. Albert Smith) upon that question?—Could he support it after his speech at last session? If he did he must expect some of the censures he had lavished so freely on others.

The Provincial Secretary censured the late government for paying off the loan due the Bank of B. N. America, at a time when there was plenty of money in the Treasury. He (Mr. W.) was willing, as one member of the late Administration, to bear the responsibility of paying off that debt, and saving the interest. If from the want of financial ability, the government found itself embarrassed, the charge could not apply to the late administration, that it had done wrong in using the public funds on hand to pay off the public liabilities.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary had congratulated the country that the paltry sum of £1200 was lying in the hands of Messrs. Baring in London, to meet railway debentures due in March—but how stood the finances here? Warrants had been issued without money in the Treasury to meet them, and the statement of the Provincial Secretary made up to the 1st January last, gave a very false view of the state of the finances at the present moment.

How had public opinion been expressed in St. John with reference to the government? A young man had been returned who came out opposed to the government, in preference to the government candidate, and in despite of government influence. The people placed no confidence in the management of the men now in power; no doubt they were condemned by public opinion throughout the Province, and they must fall. What position did the Hon. Secretary himself occupy? He represented the city of St. John, with his two colleagues opposed to his government! He (Mr. W.) had shown that the Hon. Secretary as Finance Minister, would only have about £20,000 to meet the appropriations of the present year. The Hon. Secretary had put the administration in jeopardy in a new Revenue bill to meet the deficiency, or let things take their course, and increase the Provincial debt and embarrassments.

With respect to the first Act to prohibit the sale of liquors in the Province, he (Mr. W.) had voted for it, because there was a strong feeling in the country to repress the evils of intemperance, and many of his best friends were anxious it should be tried; but the law found inoperative, and it was repealed. When the Act passed repealing that law, he (Mr. W.) was in the chair; but on handing in the report, a motion was made to reject it—this he resisted, as the bill had been sustained in committee by a very large majority. For that course he had been posted and denounced in the Temperance newspapers, and opposed by the Hon. Secretary and several leaders of the Temperance party, at the election of 1854. He was also opposed by the Anti-Temperance party, who supported Mr. McLean, a Son of Temperance, as an opponent of the late government. Last year, in debate on the Prohibitory Law, he had expressed his fears, that it would not produce the results its friends anticipated; but he had voted for it because if it were possible to keep intoxicating drinks out of the country he would be rejoiced at it. When he gave that vote he assumed no responsibility as to the mode of supplying the deficiency in the revenue, and so stated at the time. The Hon. Secretary then said the deficiency could be made up by a duty on molasses, and some other articles. To the duty on molasses he was decidedly opposed; he had always opposed it, and had brought in the bill to repeal the duty formerly enacted, because it was a tax upon the poor man who was the principal consumer—and because he wished to encourage the trade with Cuba, and make St. John a depot for the article. It had already had a beneficial effect; and he would not agree to re-impose the duty. Had he been a member of the government, he would not have placed himself in the position of the Hon. Secretary, who had made his government responsible in the matter of sustaining the public credit. The Hon. Secretary had always expressed himself strongly in favor of temperance, and the country believed him sincere; yet if he was correctly informed, the hon. gentleman had given his influence in St. John, at the last election, to an extensive importer of liquors, in opposition to Sons of Temperance! He, the Provincial Secretary, had supported Cudlip & McLean against Godard and Armstrong, both Sons of Temperance. (Hon. Mr. Tilley—"That has not been proved.") Would the hon. Secretary deny it? If true—and he, Mr. Wilmot, could prove that it was true—how could the hon. gentleman justify his character for consistency!

The Hon. Atty. General had boasted of his birth place in the great county of York, and his peculiar regard for the interests of the great river St. John—it might be supposed that the hon. gentleman had been reading that notable historical work, the "Arabian Nights," and imagined himself the Genii of that great river, and embodied in himself and interests. He (Mr. W.) was a native of the same county, and lived on the banks of the same river; he felt quite as strong an interest in the prosperity of that section of the Province as the hon. Atty. General, and had always supported every measure to open up and develope its resources, without at the same time forgetting there were other portions of the Province requiring the aid of the Legislature. The hon. Atty. General had stated, he was always of opinion that railways should be constructed as public works. Now, he (Mr. W.) had a record in his hands—it was the Journals of the House for 1849. At that time, a great railway excitement existed throughout the Province; it was supposed the country would be deserted unless railways were built forthwith, and those that were not zealous on the subject, ought to be hanged, or at least burned. (The hon. member here quoted from the Journals of 1849, page 217, reading and commenting on the resolutions and amendments offered respecting railways, on March 24th, but these are too voluminous to copy.) From the resolutions and divisions he had read, the House would perceive, that the hon. Attorney General was then *opposed to railways altogether*—but if they were to be built, they ought to be constructed by private companies. He would now show what his (Mr. W.'s) views were at that time, which views he had never altered. He had then moved the following preamble and resolutions:—

"Whereas that section of the line of railroad contemplated between the city of St. John and Shediac, which will connect the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence with those at the Bay of Fundy, would be of great commercial importance; therefore, Resolved, that the Executive government be authorized to commence and complete the same, and that the necessary funds be provided, either upon the issue of Provincial debentures or Treasury notes."

This was his, Mr. Wilmot's motion, at a time when he was opposed to the government of the day. An amendment was moved as follows:—"To expunge the whole of the resolution after the word 'resolved,' as well as the preamble thereto, and substitute as follows:—'As the opinion of this committee, that the House should adopt so much of the report of the Select Committee, as relates to the construction of the railway from St. John to Shediac.'"

The present Atty. General voted against the resolution and the amendment, and they were both lost. The only member of the present government that voted with him (Mr. W.) was the present Chairman of the Board of Works, hon. Mr. Steeves. Had the resolution been sustained in 1849, the Province would now have at least one railway in operation, and the Provincial notes would now have been in circulation bearing no interest. With all the charges brought against him as a non-progressive man, the great leaders of the self-styled progressive party were only now adopting his (Mr. W.'s) views, after their own unsound theories had been scattered to the winds. But at that time the people had become so excited by political agitation, that he (Mr. W.) and some of his colleagues were burnt in effigy at St. John for not being willing to go far enough! The Atty. General had charged Mr. Gray with having deserted his party in 1851; this charge equally applied to him, (Mr. W.); both had tried their best on two occasions, to oust the government of that day, but the House had sustained the government on both occasions. The great scheme of an inter-Colonial Railway had been proposed by Mr. Howe, to unite Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was deemed necessary to carry out this great project, that public men should sink minor differences, and unite for this purpose. Mr. Gray and himself, by the advice of influential friends, joined the government of that day for so patriotic a purpose, although contrary to his (Mr. Wilmot's) own opinion. At the same time the scheme proposed of making it a public work, was approved by him, while it was opposed by Mr. Ritchie and the self-styled liberal party. It was in consequence of this junction that his hon. colleague and himself had been elected from office in 1854, for sins previously committed by the government of which the present Attorney General was a member!

During the debate on the motion of want confidence Mr. Tilley, in reply to Col. Hayward and Mr. Stevens, admitted that the temperance party (not exception himself) did support Mr. Cudlip, a wholesale liquor dealer, at the St. John election, in preference to two Sons of Temperance; he admitted that it was thought far more important to sustain the present Government then to secure additional help to sustain the prohibitory liquor law, when interrogated by Mr. Stevens, he admitted that the Government thought the prohibitory party in the House was strong enough to sustain the law even with Mr. Cudlip opposed to it. During the debate, also, both Mr. Tilley and Mr. Fisher admitted that the Government appointed members of the temperance league to the magistracy for the express purpose of carrying out the prohibitory law. How far the members quoted at the exposition of the rule. Several other members strongly opposed it. The Bill was finally received by the vote of a bare majority. The Bill to extend the Gool Limits in the County of Northumberland, involving the principle of the abolition of imprisonment for debt, was postponed for three months.

Additional Railway correspondence was laid before the House.

No time is yet fixed for the consideration of the Railway Bills. They are not expected to be taken up before next week.

The House again went into consideration of the bill to continue the Act to incorporate the division of the Sons of Temperance. The speeches made were directly in relation to the Prohibitory Law than to the question under consideration.

The Chronicle.

Saint John, N. B., March 14, 1856.

THE RAILWAY SCHEME.

We have received Mr. Fisher's Report, and shall furnish extracts from it in our next issue. As we prophecied sometime ago, and the employment is safe and easy so far as the present rotten administration is concerned, Mr. Fisher's mission to England has been worse than useless;—far worse because it will prove seriously detrimental to our best interests. This accomplished and statesmanlike Talleyrand has volunteered such degrading concessions to Baring's Brothers, in order to obtain the "needful," that a lasting impression must rest on the minds of British capitalists, that even in the opinion of a Bluenose Attorney General the financial condition of his country is hopeless in the extreme. Let our readers turn to Mr. Fisher's letter to Baring & Brothers, and they will necessarily be impressed with a similar conviction.

In the opening chapter of Ivanhoe, if our memory serves us correctly, a serf or villien is introduced to the reader wearing a metal collar, upon which is engraved these words—"Wamba the son of Gurth, the bon thrall of Cedric of Rothewood" Should the Attorney General's arrangement be ratified by the Legislature, such is the base thraldom under which the people of New-Brunswick will be placed, that forever after each man, or more properly speaking menial of our degraded land, would be richly entitled to a badge like that of Wamba, bearing an inscription distinctly announcing that he was the registered serf of Baring & Brothers.

According to Mr. Fisher's own acknowledgment he has ventured to assume a vast amount of personal responsibility, but, as this kind of assumption is not exactly like endorsing a promissory note for a somewhat doubtful friend, and as no pecuniary loss can possibly be sustained either by Mr. F. or the people of the Province, in the event of the magnanimous assumption not being sustained, it only amounts to this, and nothing more, that the country has been put to some little expence, in publishing the learned gentleman's pompous account of it, and we have by no means got value for our money.

The Attorney General's visit to London will cost probably some two or three hundred pounds—we do not mean to say, however, that it has cost him one-third of the amount—yet, indeed, it will be dirt cheap even at a higher rate, because his report will now produce a conviction in the minds of every one of his countrymen, who is not a Wambd, that he is as utterly unfit to negotiate any matter beyond the value of a college barn frame, as he is to sustain the dignity and true patriotism expected from a legislator. Three or four hundred pounds is a sum well laid out, if the people of New Brunswick can only be most effectually assurred that the present government has manifested a sad lack of judgment in sending Mr. Fisher to England; and, indeed, we might safely utter a similar remark, if they had sent forth any other member of their own body upon a like errand. "Coming events cast their shadows before."

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer *Arabia*, which sailed from Liverpool on the 1st of March, arrived at Halifax at 11 o'clock on Tuesday night. She brings 153 passengers.

The Herman sailed from Southampton on the 27th. The Quaker City had not arrived.

The Arabia met with no ice on the passage.

The non-arrival of the Pacific caused the following despatch to be sent to Brown, Shipley & Co., the Liverpool agents of Collins' line:—

"Glasgow, Feb. 27th.—The steamer Edinburgh arrived here from New York on the 14th instant, passed on Jan. 7th, a large quantity of broken ice and on it saw a quantity of broken cabin furniture, fine ornamental doors, with white on glass handles, a lady's work box and some other articles, such as would be in use in the cabin of a first class ship or steamer. The Edinburgh was then out 5 days from New York; lat. 40 38, long. 45 40, time 9.30 morning, 7th Feb." It is not thou't to belong to the Pacific.

The ship James Baines is 94 days out from Melbourne; anxiety is felt for her safety.

Insurances have been made on the cargo of the Pacific at £26 5s. free of average.

The Peace Conference.—The Plenipotentiaries held their first meeting at the Hotel of Foreign Affairs, Paris, on Monday, the 25th. Present—Buol, Huber, Walewski, Clarendon, Cowley, Orloff, Brunow, Gavour, Villa Marina, Aali Mehemet. Count Walewski presiding.

The session lasted 3 1-2 hours. Walewski opened by an introductory speech. Credentials were exchanged. A written guarantee was signed not to divulge the proceedings until the whole be concluded.

Discussion on the Armistice.—The armistice has been settled until the end of March, but not affecting the blockade. The Austrian propositions were formally paraded as basis of negotiation. The meeting adjourned.

On Tuesday there was no meeting, that time might be afforded to formulate and ratify the armistice agreed to on the previous day.

Wednesday Congress held its second meeting. Nothing can be known with certainty of the proceedings; rumours abound. Now it is asserted that Russia, while assenting to the dismantling of Sebastopol, Bomarsund, and even Nicholoff, refuses to cede the protectorate over the Greek Christians. Thus far indications favour the supposition that Russia really desires peace.

A Vienna letter asserts that Gortschakoff, the diplomatist, had stated, that the Russian Government considers that the convocation of a general European Congress immediately after peace is signed, as the best means of settling all questions. France and Austria favour the idea. England does not.

The evident cordiality existing between France and Austria begins to excite uneasiness in England, and a tripple league of France, Austria and Russia against England is surmised as not an improbable incident of the future.

THE CRIMEA.

Orders have been forwarded to the Allied Generals in the Crimea respecting the armistice, and it is said that Napoleon has intimated to the Generals and Admirals now in Paris that presently they need not return to their commands. Leave of absence is now freely given to officers in the Crimea.

The Allies were about to destroy the sunken ships in Sebastopol harbour by dropping heavy shells to explode under water.

The health of the Allied armies improved.

[illegible]

Fredericton, March 12.

The several Railway Bills received a second reading this morning. The Bill relating to the extension of Charlotte-street in the City of Saint John, was presented and give rise to a long discussion on the question of suspending the rule for the purpose. The St. John members barely support-