

THE



STAR,

AND CONCEPTION BAY JOURNAL.

Vol. IV.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1839.

No. 249.

HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, Newfoundland:—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Mr. W. Dixon's.

(From the *Cald's Frontier Journal*)

DREADFUL EARTHQUAKE AT MARTINIQUE.

The following extracts are from a letter written by Capt. David Clancy, who sailed from this place for Barbadoes, Nov. 12th. The letter from which the following intelligence is derived is dated "At sea, on board *Brig Adamant*, Jan. 17, 1839, and post marked at *Wilmington, N. C. Feb 9th*."

"On the 10th of this month, (Jan.) I was ready to sail from *Port Royal* for *Wilmington*; but was detained, expecting however to sail early the next morn., but God had otherwise ordained. How shall I relate to you what befell us? My pen is inadequate to the task, still I will attempt it. Just at day-light, on the morn. of the 11th Jan. 1839, we were visited by a terrible earthquake. The *brig (Adamant)* lay about twenty rods from the shore in 18 ft. water. We were all below except the cook, who was on deck. For a minute, it seemed to me the *brig* would go in pieces. I sprung on deck in a instant, and casting my eyes upon the City, all appeared well. Apparently at the same moment the whole Island appeared in motion, and in an instant more the whole City of *Port Royal* was levelled with the ground! And oh my God, what a tremendous crash it made! And the screaming, the screaming, the groaning of the dying and the living, oh dreadful, dreadful!"

"The city was principally built of stone, and you can perhaps imagine to yourself the horror of the scene when thousands of poor souls who were quietly enjoying their repose were in an instant buried beneath the shattered fragments of their own tenements, hurried into eternity without even time to exclaim, "Lord have mercy upon us!"

"I ordered the pumps of the *brig* tried and found she did not leak. I then, with the crew left immediately, for the shore, and aided and assisted all in my power in digging out the dead and wounded from beneath the ruins. How dreadful was the sight! Some all mangled to pieces, others alive with broken arms, legs, and bodies dreadfully bruised."

"There was an extensive Hospital, (it was a most beautiful and splendid building) in which were eighty persons sick, and not a soul of them was saved alive."

There are some building yet standing, but so badly shattered that most of them will probably be taken down. It was fortunate for the inhabitants that there were in the harbour ten ships of war, whose crews have been constantly engaged on shore digging out the

dead bodies from under the immense piles of stone."

GAUDALOUPE.—There is a distressing report in circulation this morning, that the centre of the island of Gaudaloupe has sunk far below the tide level. This effect is supposed to have been produced by some volcanic action having a connection with the late earthquake at Martinique. Gaudaloupe is divided by a creek running nearly through the centre of the island, one side of which is a limestone formation, and the other volcanic. Some very celebrated plantations, with extensive building, once of great value, are said to be completely submerged. —*N. Y. American.*

BOSTON, FEB. 16.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE.—Letters from Martinique dated Jan. 15th, say that the earthquake which has already been announced as having occurred on the night of Jan 11, with such frightful effect, was repeated on the nights of the 12th and 13th, and greatly increased the damage. The whole Island was injured more or less, and Fort Royal more especially. In that city 80 houses were thrown down, including the Government House Hospital, Treasury, Churches, and other large edifices. Not a house escaped injury more or less. Six hundred persons were killed. And the rest who were able had fled to the low ground. In Gaudaloupe and St. Lucia great damage had been done. Two schrs had arrived at Martinique from Gaudaloupe laden with wounded persons, seeking for Hospitals; but the inhabitants were compelled to turn them away, as they had more than their hands full of their own wounded.

CANADA, FEBRUARY 16.

The Frontier.—The accounts which reached town yesterday, and the day before, announce an extensive preparation to invade the Province from the Vermont frontier. We have only one fear, which is that they will not come in.

THE EXECUTION.

Yesterday morning at half past eight o'clock, both the Old and new Guard were under arms in front of the new Gaol. The Queen's Light Dragoons paraded at the same place and hour; the whole under the order of a Field Officer. The 7th Hussars stationed at the Current were held in readiness to turn out, should they be called upon.

At a very early hour persons had commenced to assemble near the fatal spot, and by 9 o'clock the crowd was immense, and so dense that it was no longer practicable for any one to force a passage along the road. There were a

great many Canadians upon the ground.

About 20 minutes past 9 the 5 prisoners mounted the Platform, attended by those Rev. gentlemen who had offered them spiritual consolation, and who still waited upon their last moments tranquilizing their minds, and endeavouring to produce a becoming state of feeling for the awful change they were so immediately to undergo.

The first who appeared on the platform was Charles Hindenlang, who sprang upon it with activity; they all 5 advanced with a firm step. Hindenlang then came forward to the very front, and briefly addressed the people in a clear steady voice, and in the French language. He asserted that the cause in which he had been engaged was a good cause, he denied the right of the British government to put him to death, and he concluded by exclaiming "Vive la Liberte!"

Nicolas then advanced to the front and addressed his countrymen, but in a different strain. He deprecated the cause in which he had been engaged, but which he said was got up and maintained through the ardour of youths, to whom their parents had neglected to give any instruction. He urged the increased necessity arising out of the want of instruction, of attending to the precepts of their clergy and the duties and discipline of their church. He did not directly advert to the fact of his having participated in the murder of *Chartrand*; but he admitted in general terms that he had led a bad life, and had deserved to die long ago, although he had been reserved for the atonement he was about to make.

After Nicolas had retired, the whole of the prisoners continued in communication with the Rev. gentlemen present, and it was not until 10 minutes to 10 that they took their stand upon the platform and the last terrible preparations were made. The Provost Martial no longer delayed the fatal signal, and the drop fell.

Louis Joseph Papineau, late Speaker of the Assembly of Lower Canada, was a passenger in the Packet ship *Sylvie de Grasse*, which sailed from New York for Havre (France) the 8th inst.

The Yankees on the other side, who have recently made prize of a British Spy, assert that he is the chap who hanged *Woodruff* and other notables. We beg to undeceive our friendly neighbours; the fellows who hanged the whole of the executed vagabonds were two of their companions, who seemed to have been promised their lives, on condition of their officiating as

Jack Ketch and his assistant. These men are both Yankees. This is as it should be, set one rogue to hang another.

(From the *Halifax Journal*, March 4)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

TUESDAY, FEB. 26.

The hon. Mr. Dodd entered this morning and called the attention of members to the intelligence which had been just received by the eastern mail, relative to the threatened invasion of the Province of New Brunswick, by a formidable force from the State of Maine. By papers which he had just read, it appeared that the Executive of that State had sent a Message to the Legislature, representing in strong terms the necessity for a Military organization, to assert the jurisdiction of the State over the disputed territory, and that that demand had been responded to by a vote of 10,000 men and 800,000 dol., to carry on the war. Under these circumstances, it behoved this House to act—and he should therefore move, that for the present all business be suspended—that some of the leading members of the House be added to the Committee of Defence, and that the House adjourn till 5 o'clock this afternoon, to give that Committee time to prepare and submit such measures as the state of affairs in our sister Province seemed to demand.

Mr. Howe, in rising to second the motion, said that the time had evidently arrived for the Legislature of this Province to act with vigour and unanimity. He hoped, therefore, that the course recommended by his hon. friend from Sydney would be followed, and that, as the mail left to-morrow, such an expression of feeling would go with it, as to satisfy our brethren in New Brunswick that we were determined to aid them in the contest in which they were about to be engaged. If the House would permit him, he would read the Message sent to the Legislature of Maine. Mr. H. then read the Message of the Governor of Maine to the Senate and House of Representatives.

The hon. Mr. Uniacke next addressed the House at some length. He dwelt upon the general character of American policy—upon the hollowness of their professions, and the grasping character they had displayed towards Great Britain, and other Countries along their borders. He had foreseen the state of affairs which was now fast approaching for some time—and he hoped the house would act in the spirit that had been recommended, and devise such a system as would put the militia force of the country on the most efficient footing, and enable us to send such assistance to our friends in New Brunswick as would convince them that Nova Scotians would resent any invasion of their soil, as if our own were polluted—would resist any attempt to disturb the integrity of the Empire as a common misfortune.

The hon. Mr. Dodd then moved and the House unanimously assented to the following resolutions:

That in consequence of information this day received from New-Brunswick, of the proceeding on the part of the State of Maine, involving a proposed invasion of the neighbouring Province, this House deems it necessary to suspend all other business at present, in order to prepare for joining in repelling any such invasion, and in defending the just rights of the neighbouring Province as well as our own.

That Messrs. Howe, Young, Doyle, DesBarres and Forrester, be added to the Committee on the Military Defence of the Province; that the Committee wait upon His Excellency to furnish any information he may have received from New Brunswick.