this opinion it tends rather to distract than engage the attention of an audience.

The Resolution he held in his hand was as follows, Resolved, a Temperance Society, while it is organized and conducted merely as an Auxiliary to the Gospel, is free from all reasonable objection as a mean of usefulness. Such Societies have already done incalculable good, to Individuals, to Families, and to Communities; and we may, with confidence, look for the further blessing of Heaven upon them."

It was very desirable that the principles and design of every public institution should be distinctly understood, since misapprehension frequently gave rise to prejudice, and prejudice was generally followed by hostility. There could be little doubt that many persons had entirely mistaken the nature and object of Temperance Societies. By some they were supposed to be inseparably connected with the Gospel—and that the promotion of the Temperance cause was the promotion of true piety. So erroneous a view however could never be seriously entertained by any well informed advocate of these Institutions. Others again affirm that the Bible having made no mention of the Temperance Society, it would be inconsistent with the principles of a real Christian to sign a Temperance pledge, as that would be adding something to the otherwise perfect requisitions of the Gospel. But it may be replied, that the Bible lays down general rules only for our guidance, and does not condescend to regulate every particular. That were this objection to prevail it would at once suspend the operations of all our great Bible and Missionary Institutions, since these are alike governed by private regulations of which no traces can be found in the sacred oracles. Temperance Societies do not claim indeed the credit of making men truly Christians. The members of them might still be strangers to real religion, though by forsaking one odious vice they may have assumed the appearance of greater morality. Nothing however can be more plainly laid down in Scripture than that no drunkard shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and while therefore we bear in mind the distinction which must ever exist between true and ostensible religion, may we nevertheless not assert that to reclaim the drunkard is to produce a moral reformation, which independently of its many temporal advantages, may by awakening reflection become subservient to the Gospel in promoting man's higher and more permanent interests. Among the many obstacles opposed to the progress of true religion there were none perhaps more pernicious in their effects than that of intemperance, since it frequently rendered its victim incapable of listening to the voice of instruction and even ashamed to attend a place of public worship, and thus excluded him from all hope of reformation: need he appeal to facts for a corroboration of this assertion. He had himself frequently known instances of this kind where the party otherwise well disposed had absented himself from the service of the temple lest others might become witnesses of his degradation; and he had also on the other hand known instances where the Temperance reformation had been closely followed by genuine religion. The Reverend gentleman here mentioned an instance of a person residing in Sackville, Westmorland, who was a magistrate for that county and had lately assured him that he attributed his first serious impressions of Religion to his having joined the Temperance Society established by Mr. Tupper at that place. Surely then, Temperance Societies, considered merely as auxiliaries to the Gospel, were so useful in that capacity that no reasonable objection could be urged against them.—But the Resolution further says that such Societies have already done inculculable good to individuals, to families, and to communities. This fact was so fully established that it would be unnecessary to enlarge upon it. Picture to yourselves for one moment the miseries produced by intemperance.—Look at that poor forlorn female whose midnight hours are washed away in watching over yonder heap of expiring embers. What means that heavy sigh? From what cause does it proceed? from drunkenness, from the habits of a man who once expressed the strongest feelings of affection and regard, but whose better nature has since been entirely subdued by intemperance. She is now perhaps sitting at the door expecting with dreadful forebodings the approach of one, who ere long may be borne home to her a lifeless corpse, instead of returning like a welcome guest to bless and encourage her with his presence.—But how beautiful is the reverse of this picture when the reclaimed father returns to the bosom of his family a sober and temperate man, and there are many instances of such reformations having been produced by means of Temperance Societies. With what delight is he now received by his friends, and how cheerfully does he leave his labour and business to join in the pleasures afforded by the domestic circle of which he is himself the happy centre. There was abundant cause indeed to lift up the heart in joyful thanksgiving to the giver of all good, for the blessings which had already followed the Temperance Societies, and to expect that the same blessings would still continue to follow them till intemperance itself should be driven from the face of the globe.

Samuel Bayard, Esq. M. D. then seconded the resolution, and it was adopted by the Meeting.

Capt. O'Halloran, 69th Regt., being called upon, moved the 3d Resolution, as follows, viz: "What can be a greater stimulant to patronize the Temperance reformation work, than, that it tends to save *souls* from death; as well as to dry up the fullest and bitterest fountains of Temporal Misery?" which he fully sustained in an eloquent speech of nearly two hours duration, and which, from its length, cannot be properly communicated through the medium of a newspaper, but will be shortly published in a pamphlet form, and public notice given when ready for sale.

This resolution was seconded by G. Hamilton Smith, Esq., H. P. Royal Navy, and also concurred in by the Meeting.

The Hon. Judge Parker then rose and said; That he would not obliterate the impressions made upon the audience, or exhaust them by bringing forward any new resolution: He hoped that the present occasion would not be lost upon any. It had been his painful lot to sit in judgment upon the unhappy individuals whose names had just been mentioned, and to pronounce upon them the dreadful sentence of the law, for the crime of murder. They had previously been guilty of no crime that he was aware of, and looking forward, probably, to long years of future happiness, had gone forth on the morning of the fatal day upon a party of pleasure. After visiting other places of refreshment upon the road and indulging in those opportunities for intemperance which every public house affords, they came at last to one where there was no less than eight inmates of the family; Sir, those individuals were driven out from their home, one after another by the violence of these men; all except one unfortunate old man whose inoffensive habite offered not the slightest provocation and ought to have protected him from injury. This harmless man, emphatically described by the witnesses as one who would not hurt or offend a child, became however the victim of their violence; and from whence did that violence proceed? from the free and repeated indulgence in Spirituous Liquors.

[Judge Parker here made some observations upon the noble part taken by Capt O'Halloran in bringing the prisoners to a sense of their guilt, his watching night after night with them in their cell, and now coming forward to *deter others by holding them up as an example* from pursuing the same course.] He had in the course of the evening been sensibly impressed with a passage of Scripture, which however had not been referred to by any previous speaker; (the passage alluded to here was that respecting St Paul's appearance before Felix.) St. Paul reasoned of righteousness, *temperance*, and judgment to come, until the haughty Roman Governor was forced to tremble; he could not resist the conviction forced on his mind by the Apostle's reasoning, but dismissed the subject till a more convenient season; this never appears to have been vouchsafed to him; he could see Paul often afterwards to endeavour to extort money from him; but temperance and judgment to come were forgotten.

He earnestly hoped that if there were any on the present occasion who felt the force of the arguments adduced by the gallant Officer and the Rev. Gentlemen who had preceded him, and would bear in mind the Apostle's connection of the subjects—TEMPERANCE AND JUDGMENTS TO COME—they would not stifle their convictions, nor wait for a more convenient season, which as in the case of Felix, might never arrive.

The business of the evening was then brought to a conclusion by a collection being taken up, amounting to £4 18s. 6d. and the Books being opened for signature, when 24 persons signed their names to the list; and since the meeting several more have come forward to add their signatures, to promote the good cause of Temperance.

☞ Captain O'HALLORAN's Speech at the Provincial Temperance Society meeting, is in course of publication, and will be ready for issue at Mr. Avery's Bookstore on or about Tuesday 10th inst.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, Feb. 29.

Mr. Brown, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject recommended by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in his Speech at the opening of the Session, relative to an improved system of expenditure on the Great Roads; also, as regards the facility of Communication between the North American Colonies, submitted their Report, and he having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

"The Committee appointed on the 31st January last, to take into consideration the paragraph in his Excellency's Speech, recommending an improved system of Expenditure of the monies on the Great Roads, and which also relates to facilitating the Communication between the North American Provinces, beg leave to Report:

"That from personal observation in various parts of the Province, and after the most diligent inquiry, they find that the Great Roads of Communication are generally in a state of rapid progressive improvement, and that therefore it is not necessary to make any essential alteration in the Law relating thereto. They are, however, of opinion, that the allowance of ten per cent. out of the several grants as a remuneration for the services of the Supervisors, operates unequally, and would therefore recommend, that the Great Roads of the Province should be divided into Districts; that one Supervisor should be appointed to each District, upon a fixed salary; and that the Supervisors, so appointed, should devote their time and attention to the supervision of their respective Districts, during their continuance in office.

"For this purpose, the Committee have prepared a Bill, under the title of—'A Bill to alter and amend the Act relating to the Great Roads of Communication through this Province.'

"Respectfully submitted.

"JAMES BROWN, Jn.
J. A. STREET,
W. WILSON.
A. BARBARIE.

"*Committee Room, 29th February*, 1840.

On motion of Mr. End, the House went into Committee of the whole in further consideration of the Messages from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor. Mr. Taylor in the Chair of the Committee.—Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.—The Chairman reported, that the Committee having again under their consideration the Despatch from the right hon. Lord John Russell, relative to the tenure upon which Public Offices are hereafter to be held, the following Resolution was moved—

"*Resolved*, as the opinion of this Committee, That the Despatch from the right hon. Lord John Russell, dated 16th October, 1839, regarding the Rules hereafter to be observed, with respect to the tenure of Public Offices, should be highly satisfactory to this House, affording, as it does, a most gratifying proof of a sincere desire on the part of Our Most Gracious Queen and Her Government, to infuse principles into the Administration of Colonial Affairs, strictly analagous to the principles of the British Constitution."

To which it was moved as an amendment—

To expunge the whole of the said Resolution, and substitute the following—

"*Resolved*, as the opinion of this Committee, That there is nothing in the Despatch of the right hon. Lord John Russell, now under consideration, to call forth any expression from the House on the subject of Colonial Government, and that in the event of any occurrence taking place to disturb the present happy political state of the Province, the House cannot but entertain the opinion that any loyal and dutiful representations which they may have occasion to lay at the foot of the throne, will receive, as they have always done, the Royal consideration."

When the following amendment was moved to the said proposed amendment—

To expunge the whole thereof and substitute the following:—

"*Whereas* the avowed object of convening this branch of the Legislature is to make Statutes and Ordinances for, and to advise the Executive Government in, all questions affecting the peace, welfare and good government of the Inhabitants of this Province: And whereas the exercise of all Executive functions should be controlled and directed with a special view to the attainment of the same objects: and whereas this Committee cannot waive or forego the inherent right of this branch of the Government to advise and assist in such control and direction, and to remonstrate against the abusive exercise of those functions; therefore

"*Resolved*, as the opinion of this Committee, That the House should view the Despatch in question, as that part of Executive Officers of the Representative Branch of the Provincial Government."

Upon the question being put for adopting the last proposed amendment, the Committee divided as follows—

Yeas.—The hon. Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Fisher, J. M. Wilmot, Beardsley, Freeze, M'Leod, Palmer, L. A. Wilmot, Hayward, Hill, Woodward, Rankin, Connell.—13.

Nays.—The hon. Mr. Weldon, Messrs. Allen, Barbarie, M'Almon, Stewart, End, Wilson, Hanington, Street, Partelow, Jordan, H. T. Partelow, Gilbert, Boyd, Brown.—15.

When it was decided in the negative.

The question was then taken on the first proposed amendment, when the Committee again divided as follows—

Yeas.—The hon. Mr. Weldon, Messrs. Partelow, Jordan, Brown, Boyd, Gilbert, H. T. Partelow, Allen, End, M'Almon, Street, Barberie, Wilson, Stewart.—14.

Nays.—The hon. Mr. Speaker, Messrs. J. M. Wilmot, Woodward, Hill, Freeze, M'Leod, Hayward, L. A. Wilmot, Fisher, Connell, Beardsley, Rankin, Palmer, Hanington.—14.

And the division being equal, he had decided the question in the affirmative.

And the Chairman further reported, that he was directed by the Committee to ask leave to sit again, in further consideration of the several Messages from his Excellency the Lieut. Governor.

Ordered, That the Report be accepted, and leave to sit again granted.

Monday, March 2.—Hon. Mr. Johnston, chairman of the committee appointed to inquire into the state of all the Roads of Communication in the Province, and to report what monies it may be necessary to appropriate for repairing and improving the same, have had under their consideration the subject of Great Roads, as also the expediency of making certain Special Grants for Roads, and recommend that the sum of £25,240 be granted and appropriated as follows, viz:—

Saint John to Nova Scotia line, -	£2500
Do. to Saint Andrews, - -	1500
Corporation of Saint John, for Piers and Landing places, in connexion with the Steam Ferry Boat, - - -	1500
Fredericton to St. John, via Nerepis, -	1000
Nerepis to Gagetown, - - -	200
Dorchester to Shediac, - -	150
Shediac to Bend of Petitcodiac, -	120
Richibucto to Chatham, - - -	500
Newcastle to Bathurst, including £100 for Little River Bridge, - - -	850
Bathurst to Campbelltown, - -	1500
Fredericton to Woodstock, - -	3000
For the Bridges already contracted for on the said Road, - - - -	1500
Woodstock to the Canada Line, -	500
Fredericton to the Finger Board, -	700
Fredericton to Newcastle, - -	3500
Fredericton to Saint Andrews, - -	2500
Salisbury to Hopewell, - - -	600
Shediac to Richibucto, - - -	400
Woodstock to Houlton, - - -	200
Waweig to Saint Stephen, - -	60
Bridge over Oromocto River, & approaches,	1000
Hammond River to Hopewell, - -	200
Oromocto to Gagetown, - - -	150
Towards widening the Bridge, and for improving the Road to Indian Town, -	500
Bend of Petitcodiac to the head of Richibucto,	100

Mr. End, from the committee appointed on the 3d February, to take into consideration sundry Petitions praying for Leases of certain Mines and Minerals in different sections of the Province, submitted their Report, as follows:—

"The Committee to whom was referred sundry Petitions respecting Mines and Minerals, report:

"That in the opinion of your Committee, no Lease to any individual or any Company should comprehend more than one Parish; that the Lessee should in all cases be required to commence immediate operation; that the term should not in any case exceed 50 years, and the other respects the sale or transfer should be governed by the existing Law.—All which is respectfully submitted.

"WILLIAM, Chairman."

March 3.—Resolved that the sums granted to the following persons, for Returns on Goods destroyed by Fire at Saint John the 17th August last, the following sums, agreeable to the Report of the Select Committee of 27th February last:

To James T. Hanford, -	£69	17	6
Charles M'Lauchlan, -	102	12	9
Crane & M'Grath, -	105	14	11
Crookshank & Walker,	148	8	1
Alexander Robertson, -	48	6	2
Thomas Parks, - -	384	18	4
John V. Thurgar, -	746	4	8
James Otty & Co. -	17	3	0
Daniel & Francis Leavitt,	85	18	6
Thomas M'Avity & Co.	112	10	0
Wm. O. Smith, - -	55	7	5
Honorable John Robertson,	200	9	4
Adam & Davidson, and J. & Alexander & Co.	73	2	5
Henry Blakslee, - -	17	8	3
Barlows & Ketchum, -	74	7	7
William Leavitt, - -	25	13	5
James Kirk, - -	42	15	11
Ratchford & Brothers,	514	2	6
James Lockwood & Co.	220	16	10
William Hammond, -	39	12	6

To the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of St. John, the sum of £74, to reimburse the Overseers of the Poor for the City of St. John for expenses incurred in the part and relief of sick and distressed Emigrants at St John in 1839; £12 16 6 of which to be paid to Overseers of Portland;—the same to be taken from the Emigrant Fund.

To the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of St. John, the sum of £[illegible] towards the erection of a new Gaol in the said City; one half of which sum not to be paid until 1841.

To the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Charlotte, the sum of £600 to enable them to pay off the debt on the Gaol recently erected for that County.

To the Justices of the Peace for County of York, the sum of £500 towards pay for the erection of the new Gaol in Fredericton, the above sum not to be drawn until 1841.

To the Hon. John Robertson, the sum of £45 18 4, being return Duties on Bricks, Exported from the United States, subsequently to the great Fire in August last.

To the Mechanics' Institute established in St. John, the sum of £250 in aid of individual subscription towards a building in the course of erection, and for the support of the School now in operation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Tuesday, 27th February.

Pursuant to notice, the Hon. Mr. Ward moved the following Resolution—

Whereas an Act of the Imperial Parliament passed in the second and third years of the reign of Her Majesty, intituled "An Act for the prevention of loss of life and vessels clearing from Ports in British North America, wholly or in part laden with timber, with Deck Loads, from 1st September 1839, to 1st May, 1840," has been construed as applying to Vessels clearing for Ports in the West Indies as well as Great Britain, although the former are neither wholly nor in part laden with Timber, properly so called: And whereas the said Act so construed has been found by experience injurious to affect the West India Trade of this Province, as well as that with the United States and the Coasting Trade; therefore

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to her Majesty, praying that the said Act may not be continued so far as relates to the Trade with the West Indies, the United States, and the Coasting Trade; and further Resolved, That the House of Assembly be requested to join in such Address.

And the question being put thereon it passed in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Master in Chancery do go down to the Assembly, and communicate the foregoing Resolution.

The following are copies of the letters referred to in His Excellency's Message to the Legislature of the 18th Feby., on the subject of the proposed buildings to be erected by Mr. John Walker, of the City of St. John, for a Custom House, &c.

Legislative Council of the 19th February.

Custom House, Saint John, N. B. 12th February, 1840.

SIR,

I have the honor to lay before Your Excellency a Plan of a Building proposed to be erected by Mr. John Walker, a Merchant of this City, upon premises belonging to him, which, in my opinion, are admirably adapted for the purpose, namely, for offices required by this Department, & also for the accommodation of the Provincial Treasurer, and for Warehouses wherein goods to be bonded for duties may be safely and conveniently deposited, secure from frost, and also from fire, as far as any precaution that can be taken will ensure.

In offering my views for the consideration of Your Excellency, I respectfully beg leave to state that I cannot be actuated by any other motive than a desire to afford security and convenience to the mercantile community, and facilities for conducting the business of a Department in which I have served in this Province for upwards of fifteen years. I am induced to offer this remark, as the proposition now submitted may meet with opposition from certain persons who may not fully understand the advantages to be gained, or from interested motives. I therefore propose to point out to your Excellency some of the advantages that will arise from the adoption of the Plan submitted, and I purpose to place this communication in the hands of the Provincial Treasurer, to afford him an opportunity of expressing his opinions thereon, before it is laid before Your Excellency, who can command such further opinions as may appear to Your Excellency necessary.

Owing to the numerous Fires that have taken place in this City, it will be readily acknowledged that fire proof Warehouses must be beneficial to the trade, and if better security can be afforded without additional expense of storage, the heavy cost of Insurance upon goods deposited in wooden Buildings will be a clear gain. The site of the proposed Building, from its contiguity to the places of landing and shipment, will prove a saving to the Merchant in cartage. In the Instructions from the Commissioner of Customs to the Collectors with respect to the approval of Warehouses, which instructions were no doubt based upon a knowledge of the requisites for Warehouses, the principle of approving of Warehouses point out, is, "that the approval is confined as far as practicable to one entire stack of Warehouses, and the preference given to those of Brick or Stone nearest the usual places of landing and shipping, and best adapted for the security of the goods deposited therein, and the accommodation of Trade."

By confining Warehouses to an entire stack of Buildings, a great saving is effected in the number of officers required to give attendance, as when Warehouses are scattered, unless a number of persons are employed, great delays will unavoidably occur in affording the facilities of inspecting and delivery of goods, furnishing samples, &c. which are absolutely requisite for the convenience of Trade and the Dispatch of business. The depth of water for Shipping at the Wharves near to the proposed site is said to be greater than any other part of this City.

Being desirous to avoid trespassing upon Your Excellency's time, I will not enter into a more minute detail of the advantages which I am confident would arise by adopting the proposed Plan. In the fire of 17th August last, there were consumed in Warehouses (which were only temporarily used for the convenience of Importers, the regular Warehouses being full,) 1,100 cwts. of Sugar, and 17,459 gallons of Molasses, the Imperial Duties upon which amounted to £500 sterling, dollars @ 4s. 4d, and the Provincial Duties to £210 currency.

The amount of rent for the offices required for the Customs and the Provincial Treasurer, would not exceed £400 currency per annum, the rent at present paid for very inferior accommodation is £150 currency per annum for the Custom House, and £60 per annum for the Treasury. Should the proposition, herewith submitted, meet with the approval of Your Excellency and the Legislature, I entertain no doubt that the Commissioners of Customs will meet their wishes by defraying a fair proportion of the expense to be incurred in providing offices which are necessary for this Department, upon an improved scale. The Trade of this Port, particularly for the past year, has been such as to warrant an expectation that an enlarged establishment is necessary, as well as desirable for the respectability of a Port that possesses a Trade to the extent that this place does.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's obd't humble servant,
H. BOWYER SMITH, *Collector*.

Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. & K. C. H. &c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, 15th Feby. 1840.

SIR,—The Collector of Her Majesty's Customs at Saint John, having handed me his Letter to Your Excellency, dated 12th instant, relative to a Building proposed to be erected by Mr. John Walker, Merchant, of Saint John, for a Custom House, Treasury and Bonded Warehouse, for the purpose of expressing my opinion thereon, I beg leave respectfully to submit for Your Excellency's consideration the following remarks:—

That the present Offices for the Custom House and Treasury are very confined and inconvenient.

That the number of Bonded Warehouses at present occupied, for want of one sufficiently large for the increasing business of the Port, greatly multiplies the duties of the out-door officers.

That the erection of such an establishment as is now proposed would raise the character of the Port in the estimation of Merchants abroad, and remove from their minds the fear of the loss by fire of such shipments as they might feel disposed to consign for sale to Merchants in Saint John.

That the confidence thus created would, by multiplying the business of the Port of Saint John, greatly assist the general prosperity of the Province, and increase its Revenues.

The principal income to be derived to the proprietor of the proposed Building, will be from the Storage of Goods in the Bonded Warehouse, which of course will not be increased above the rates at present paid by the Merchants. I would therefore suggest that Your Excellency would recommend to the House of Assembly to adopt the proposed plan, and to offer to share with Her Majesty's Government in paying the rent named for the Custom House and Treasurer's offices.

I have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble servant,
B. ROBINSON, *Province Treasurer*.

Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. & K. C. H. &c. &c. &c.

From the Fredericton Sentinel. March 4.

We have commenced in this day's Supplement the Debete on the important Despatch of the Colonial Secretary, which took place in the Assembly on Friday and Saturday last.

A variety of Resolutions were laid on the table; but the debate ultimately turned upon one introduced by His Honor the Speaker, stating it as the opinion of the Committee, that the rules hereafter to be observed, as respects the tenure of public offices, should be highly gratifying to the House, as affording a sincere desire on the part of Her Majesty to infuse into Colonial affairs principles analagous to the British Constitution.

To this Mr. Partelow proposed as an amendment, that there is nothing in the Despatch to call for any expression from the House on the subject of Colonial Government; and that in the event of any thing taking place to disturb the tranquillity of the Province, the House felt satisfied that any representation would receive due consideration on being laid at the foot of the throne.

Another amendment was proposed by Mr. L. A. Wilmot, expressive of the objects for which the Legislature assembles: that the exercise of all executive functions should be controuled by a due regard to the attainment of such objects: and claiming the right of the Assembly to advise and assist in such controul and direction: and resolving that the House should view the Despatch "as distinctly recognizing an efficient responsibility on the part of Executive Officers to the Representative Branch of the Provincial Government;" which was lost by a majority of two. The question was then taken upon Mr. Partelow's amendment, which was lost by a majority of two. The Legislative Council have thrown out the Bill for the better observance of the Sabbath; and proposed to expunge Mr. End's Ryder to the Bill for the neutralization of aliens, (which provided that they should express their belief in the Scriptures,) but which the House refused to do, by a majority of 18 to 3. Aliens, therefore, can only now be naturalized under the Act of Parliament which compels them to take the Sacrament.

The House of Assembly have voted £25,230 for the Great Road service during the present year; making, with the sum voted last week for Bye Roads, £40,000 for that important object.

Communications.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

MR. EDITOR,—One "BOND *of the Corporation*" has come to light in a very odd manner. Really, these *Bonds* seem not only to be multitudinous and ubiquious, but to be endowed also with a *zoophytic* nature; now reposing in all the placid dignity of their vegetable nature; anon, exercising the faculties of the animal kingdom, and above all, assuming the powers of oral communication. Shakspeare tells us that we may find

"Sermons in stones, books in the running brooks;"

but surely, a talking or a scribbling *Bond* is something beyond even Shakspeare's fertile imagination. What would Shylock have said, or *looked*, had his terrible "*Bond*" found a mouth, and begun prating to him, (as it ought,) of morality, and equity, and mercy, and such like? But it was reserved for our days, during the wondrous march of intellect, to witness "*bonds of the Corporation*" telling the secrets of their prison-house.—I do not mean to quarrel with the graphic "BOND"; albeit he has used one or two ill-tempered expressions, which might as well have been omitted. When a writer, like "*Plurality*," merely acts as the organ of very many, in warning the mass of his fellow citizens of danger, in exposing abuses, and endeavouring to subserve the public good, by exhibiting to them the improper condition of their affairs, he can have no other interest in so doing, than is common to the whole community; and it is therefore ungenerous and unfair, to charge him with using a pen "*dipped in venom*," when he can have no earthly reason for entertaining venomous feelings, or desiring injury or ill-will to befall any one. The "*Bond*," therefore, when he writes again, should beware of attributing improper motives, to writers actuated only by a desire for the public [illegible] with *very generally expressed opinions*; since no *personal* considerations can be at all concerned in such a case, and therefore no ground subsists, for charging them with *venom*, or "exciting hostility against the powers that be."—The "*Bond*," however, is but a *bond*: a bondman can act only by superior command; and if he therefore indulge in a few asperities of language, he may be forgiven, as not being *free* to write altogether as a gentleman should.—But seriously; the "Bond of the Corporation" has subserved the cause advocated by "Plurality." Every one must admit, that *debt*, and especially increasing and disproportionate debt, is equally injurious to individuals and public bodies. Anticipation of revenue is in any case a serious evil; but when extravagantly persisted in, it becomes a hideous *hydra*; and nothing but a determined abandonment of the system, and resolute extinguishment of the burden already incurred, will prevent final ruin. "BOND" has *disproved nothing* asserted by "Plurality." He admits the public debt to be £60,000; some of our Aldermen admit it to be *more*; therefore "*about* £70,000" is not disproved. All that "Bond" does, is, to give some of the items that make up the debt; but as to *why* that enormous debt was incurred,—Oh! "*it is not in the Bond!*" He admits the overgrown ugliness of the new Market House; but, why £7000 was expended on the monster, when for less would have sufficed;—"*it is not in the Bond!*"—He asserts that the shin-plaisters are manufactured, merely to supply the loss of those destroyed; but when we eagerly desire to know the *total amount* of such liabilities in circulation, why we "*do not find it in the Bond!*" The "Bond" charges "Plurality" with merely asserting things without proof; but does the "Bond" disprove one of them? Not a tittle; on the contrary, every important statement of "Plurality" is corroborated by the "Bond"; and the latter simply offers on his part, also, statements, with no other proof than his own assertion. The main fact remains uncontradicted; nay, it is actually *admitted*; viz. that an immense debt hangs over the heads of our citizens; that it has rapidly accumulated during the last few years; and the citizens, therefore, have a right to know *why* it has been incurred, and to demand that such a system of public involvement should be put an end to. If the *present* Corporation refuse to comply with the wishes of their constituents in this respect, the remedy is in their hands: the *Freemen* can cast out the "BOND-*men*," and insist on economy and retrenchment for the future; and if the "*Bond*" takes pains to ascertain the *opinions* of the citizens on this subject, he will find that those who abhor the idea of public debt, are, of the whole community, a vast

PLURALITY.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

MR. EDITOR,—My attention was attracted to a communication in your late number, under the signature of "Plurality," by the remarks in opposition to that writer which appeared in Saturday's Courier, from the pen of Mr. "Bond of the Corporation".—In common with the majority of my fellow citizens I was astonished by the admission of "Bond," that our City debt had reached the enormous sum of £60,000—independent of a large and *undefined* amount of *shinplaisters* in circulation, and this accumulation arising at the same time that the income of the City, say 5 or £6,000 per annum, was being expended.—Notwithstanding the free and easy manner in which "Bond" treats the subject, and the complacency with which he views the "public improvements" of the last three years, I deem the facts already elicited, as meriting the deep and serious consideration of every reflecting and debt-detesting citizen; and that the time has arrived for instituting a strict and searching inquiry, to ascertain how, and when, and where, so large an amount of money was borrowed and expended; and the why, and wherefore, the citizens have been kept in ignorance, for some years past, of the state of the City finances!—The apathy evinced by our respectable citizens, to the doings of our Civic body heretofore, must certainly now give way, and a more active and energetic *surveillance* be established, lest we verge of bankruptcy by their extravagance and injudicious expenditures and management.

Yours, &c. ARTHUR.

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1840.

There is no later intelligence from Europe than we gave in our paper of last Tuesday. We have however extracted a few additional items, chiefly from the *New-York Herald*. The latest London dates are sixty-five days old.

The Great Western was advertised to sail on the 20th February, for New-York.

Prince Albert.—A letter from Coburg, dated 27th ult., in the *Commerce*, says:—"Prince Albert, accompanied by his father, yesterday quitted his paternal residence for Gotha, from whence he will set out immediately for London, where the royal marriage will be speedily celebrated. As he left the house of his ancestors, he frequently turned towards it, and with tears in his eyes, bade adieu. Some days before his departure, the society of the Casino of the Nobles gave a ball in his honor, at which he was received by twelve young ladies in white, and wearing fresh-gathered roses. The Philanthropic Society gave him a serenade, and all classes joined in the expression of their joy on the occasion of his union. The Prince is to arrive in London between the 10th and 15th of January."

Ribbons to be worn at the Queen's Marriage.—A memorial has been presented to Her Majesty from the manufacturers of silk ribbons in Coventry, praying her sanction to an uniform color in the ribbons to be worn at and in honor of the coming royal nuptials. The Queen has returned an answer, commanding specimens of the articles to be transmitted to her Majesty. In pursuance of this command, a specimen of the lily or English white has been submitted to the Queen as the color to be used in the various manufactures of silk and ribbons for the public celebration of her Majesty's nuptials; but with the style of such manufacture the memorialists do not interfere, leaving that entirely to the prevailing style and fashion. This color has been adopted by her Majesty.

Her Majesty sees little company at Windsor; and the lists of guests at the Royal table rarely contain any names save those of members of the Household, the Duchess of Kent, and Viscount Melbourne.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—Mr. Blore, the architect, has three hundred men at work at Buckingham Palace, for the intended royal marriage. The orders are to have all finished by the middle of January.

The Queen's Marriage.—The London Sun says the Queen's marriage is not yet fixed, nor can it be, as it will depend on the time when the bill providing for Prince Albert, passes through Parliament. The "London Courier" says she will be married Feb. 16th—so says the Naval and Military Gazette. The Duke de Nemours is to be present at the marriage, and will probably be accompanied by the Duke d'Aumale.

Her Majesty is expected to lay the foundation of the new Houses of Parliament shortly after her marriage.

Russian Expedition against Chiva.—It appears that the Emperor of Russia contemplates a great expedition against Chiva. A St. Petersburg letter reports that the Russian expedition into Chiva will be accompanied by 8,000 camels, the only animals that can be used in that country for carrying the baggage, provisions, and ammunition across the extensive sandy tracts beyond Orenburg. The Shah of Persia has offered to the Russian Government escorts for all convoys of stores, &c. crossing his territories, for the expedition against the Khan of Chiva.—Many surmise this expedition is only to encourage the native princes of India to revolt against British power.

England versus Russia.—We infer from the tone of the London ministerial journals that the English ministry have at length opened their eyes to the policy of Russia, and that the unexpected news of the march of the Russians upon Chiva will produce an entire change in the policy of the English Cabinet towards Russia.

The President Steam Ship.—This noble vessel is now at Liverpool taking in her machinery. She sails faster than the British Queen. The President, it is expected, will be ready for sea by the month of June or July next, and will leave the port of London alternately with the British Queen.

New Coinage in England.—It is proposed to make a decimal coinage in England. The idea is to strike a silver coin equal to two shillings, or 1-10th of a pound, which is to be called a florin; and a tenth part of this florin is to be represented by another new coin, under the name of the stiver. This stiver is to be proclaimed equal to 10 farthings, five of which will be represented by the great, and four by the small penny. The coinage would then be thus arranged—

10 farthings equal to 1 stiver,
10 stivers, - - - - 1 florin,

[illegible] gent's Park in London.

The Rev. H. Pepys is the new Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Frost's trial was proceeding. All jurors who rented over 100 dollars a year, were challenged for the prisoner.

The London Globe of Jan. 4th, says, that Circulars have been issued by the banking house of Leland Bullen & Co. of Liverpool, announcing that they have reduced the rate of interest on discounts to 5 per cent. The reduction commenced on New Years Day.

The Duke of Wellington.—A Correspondent at Edinburgh informs us that a parliamentary meeting was held, at the close of the past week, to make the necessary arrangements for calling a public meeting to consider the propriety of erecting in the metropolis of Scotland a national testimonial to the Duke of Wellington. The general public meeting is announced for Tuesday next, at the Hopetoun Rooms, when the Right Hon. the Lord Provost, Sir James Forrest, Bart., will take the chair. It is added, that the proposal was immediately taken up by the most influential inhabitants of that city of all shades of politics.

The Queen of England has sent a magnificent saddle and accoutrements, as a present to Espartero, the Spanish General.

FRENCH MINISTERS.—According to a calculation of the changes of Ministers which have taken place in France since 1830, it appears that there have been 17 different cabinets, comprising together 49 various Ministers—making nearly two cabinets in each year.

Commercial Distress in France.—From the 1st January, 1839, to the 1st January, 1840, 1,013 bankruptcies were declared for the department of the Seine. The total amount of these failures was 60 millions of francs.

Climate in France.—All over France up to Jan. 9th, the climate had been warm as summer; thermometer up to 70 in the shade. Strawberries were gathered at Liege on the 2d January, and within the last few days some fine asparagus had been cut at Charonne, just outside Paris, from beds in the open air. A letter from Algiers, from one of the members of the scientific commission, states that the vegetation of that country is in full activity.

The guillotine is introduced into Constantinople.

Slave Trade.—H. B. M. vessel, Water Witch, has captured the slaver Mary Cushing, with 427 slaves; making 3 vessels and 1131 slaves in 4 months.

Such is the progress Temperance is making in Cork, that the revenue in that city on whiskey is stated to have decreased £10,000 in one month.—The distillers are talking of shutting up shop.

RESOURCES OF INDIA.—It is a curious fact that, at the present moment, although this country has possessed India for so many years, we know scarcely anything of its productions and capabilities.—Thousands of gallons of linseed oil have been sent annually to India, whilst millions of pounds of the seeds of linseed were rotting throughout the country. There are not less than 50 species of plants from which we might obtain caoutchouc, though as yet we have imported but little from India!—*London paper.*

The first week's experience of the working of the new post office arrangements gives an increase in the number of letters—80,000, and an increase of revenue, £60. The penny post will be quickly set in operation.

The British Queen steam ship was positively to leave London for New-York on the 1st of March.

Lord Brougham was suddenly called from Paris to England by the illness of his mother. The death of this lady is deeply lamented, she being distinguished for every feminine virtue.

The French only gained victory in their African possessions, with the most serious loss. The Arabs are very and they indeed have a sprinkling of Europeans, makes him a troublesome enemy.

We understand that the grant of £500 to the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton, which passed the Assembly about two weeks ago, has subsequently been agreed to by the Legislative Council.

There has been no Mail from Fredericton since Saturday evening; our Legislative intelligence is therefore in arrears.

We have received the two first numbers of the "*Scottish Patriot*," an elegantly printed quarto paper of eight pages, published weekly in New-York by Dr. J. G. Cumming, 75 White street. They are filled with a variety of interesting subjects written, selected, compiled, and arranged with much taste under appropriate heads; and possessing a more *literary* character than most of the papers with which we exchange. It will be particularly interesting to natives of Scotland, to the sons of which country throughout the U. States and the British Colonies, it is specially dedicated. The *Title* is embellished by a beautifully executed and very elegant *National* device. The numbers can be seen at this office.

In Upper Canada, the elevation of Mr. Hagerman to the bench is officially announced; also, the appointment of Mr. Draper as Attorney General, and also of Mr. Robert Baldwin, as Solicitor General.—It is stated that Sir Allan Macnab is to be Commissioner of Crown Lands.

"General" Theller, the indomitable Canadian patriot, has been appointed printer to the Senate of Michigan.

NEW VESSELS.—We have this week to add several first class, large sized Ships to the immense fleet of vessels already owned by our enterprising Merchants.—The "*Mountaineer*," of 900 tons, built by Mr. James Briggs, of Portland, for James Kirk, Esq. of this city; and the "*Ward Chipman*," of 700 tons, also built in Portland by Messrs. W. & J. Lawton, for Messrs. Mackay, Brothers & Co. of this city, were launched during the present week.—*Courier.*

We understand that THOMAS JONES, Esquire, of this City, has been appointed Sheriff of Charlotte County, in the room of COLIN