The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, APRIL 23, 1850.

The English Mail of the 6th instant, per steam ship *America*, in 12½ days to Halifax, was received in this City on Saturday. The America brought out 82 passengers, 10 of whom landed at Halifax, including Messrs. James Smellie, E. Hippisley, and John Anderson, of this City, and Joseph J. Johnson, of Indian Town.

The R. M. Steamer Canada arrived at Liverpool on the 28th ult. The steamer Washington, which left New York an hour before her, did not reach Southampton until the 5th inst.

The tone of the Manchester market has slightly improved, especially for yarns and fine goods.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET, April 6.—*Pine Timber*—Of St. John, one cargo of 20 inches average was sold from the yard at 19½d; by auction, 240 logs at 18d. to 18¾d. per foot; and by private, 62 logs at 17¾d. to 20½d. according to diameter. *Birch*—The demand is brisk for good quality fresh. A parcel of St. John, in the yard, was sold at 17d. to 17½d., and some by private sale at 20d. per foot. *Deals*—St. John Spruce, on the quay, was sold by auction at an average of £8 3s. 3d. per standard. By private, a cargo at £7 7s. 6d., and a parcel at £7 12s. 6d. per standard.

There had been an advance of ¼d. to ⅜d. on Cotton. Sales of the fortnight, 66,000 bales, of which 44,000 were after the receipt of the news from the United States; speculators took 17,000, and exporters 5500.

The Flour Market has advanced about one shilling per barrel. The quotations are Baltimore 23s. per barrel. Philadelphia 22s. 6d. and Western Canal 18s. to 21s. 6d.

Freights still continue high; Shipping scarce. The Money Market during the fortnight has been fluctuating. Consols closed yesterday at 95¼ for money and 96¼ a ⅜ for acc. Bullion still increasing in the Bank. There is now above 17½ millions.

The returns of the Quarter's Revenue were made on the 5th of April to the end of the financial year. The leading results had been anticipated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the statement lately made in Parliament. As compared with the quarter ending 5th April 1849, the quarter now closing shews a falling off in the Customs of from £100,000 to £200,000. With the exception of a trifling decrease in the stamps, arising probably from the transition to a lower scale of duties at the close of the present quarter, all the other items of receipts of the revenue will shew an improvement upon the corresponding quarter of last year. The Excise—the great criterion of the activity of trade and of the comfort of the lower classes, will shew an increase sufficient to counterbalance the loss upon the Customs. The increase in the property tax amounts to near £100,000.

The French Government is said to have received despatches from Germany, which lead to the belief that a collision between Austria and Prussia is almost unavoidable.

GREAT GALES.—*Dreadful Shipwreck.*—The English coast was visited by a severe hurricane on the 30th March, causing much destruction of property and a frightful loss of life. The Steamer Royal *Adelaide* from Cork to London, was lost on the Tongue Sand, at 11 P. M. and every soul on board, (206 in number,) was drowned. Of the passengers, 144 adults and 26 children were from Cork, and 14 from Plymouth. There were 25 of a crew, including the captain. The wreck has since been nearly washed away.

Not a vestige of any of the boats belonging to the Royal Adelaide has been discovered, from which it is inferred that they were launched, but not being able to live in the terrible sea that prevailed at that time, have all foundered. Several bodies have been picked up.

The American Packet Ship John R. Skiddy, from Liverpool to New York, was driven ashore near Glascarrick Monastery, on the coast of Wexford,—where she lays full of water—the crew and passengers all safe. The ship Howard, from Mobile to Liverpool, was wrecked at Southport, near the entrance of the Ribble. The crew were saved by the life-boats. The coast is everywhere strewed with portions of wrecks of vessels which have fallen a prey to the fury of the elements.

The late destructive storm along the eastern coast, has caused the wreck of several hundred vessels. The havoc, however, was not confined to the eastern coast. At Beaumaris, it did much damage to the shipping at anchor in the straits, and was the cause of a melancholy loss of life.—Along the Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Northumbrian coast, casualties almost innumerable are reported.—We have disastrous news from the Irish coast. Several Liverpool vessels have suffered. On Saturday evening, Dublin Bay was the scene of a shipwreck of a melancholy nature, which terminated in the deaths of nine of the unfortunate crew, amongst them the captain and mate. The brig Grace, of Newcastle, was the unfortunate craft.

Death of the Adjutant General.—We regret to have to announce the death, on Wednesday morning, of Lieutenant Gen. Sir John Macdonald, the Adjutant General, after a few days' illness. His loss will be much felt in the office which he occupied, and the duties of which he performed in the most efficient manner. The Colonelcy of the 42d Foot becomes vacant by his death.—*Globe.*

On the 25th ult., her Majesty's Royal Easter bounty to the aged poor, was distributed at the Royal Almonry, Middle Scotland-yard, by the Lord High Almoner and assistants. Upwards of 200 aged men and women were presented with 5s. each. Other similar distributions have taken place.

There is at present residing in Southampton, an old man named Wade, the last survivor of Capt. Cook's companions in his voyages round the world. He is ninety years of age, and is in possession of all his faculties. He was present at Captain Cook's death, and himself received a spear wound from one of the Islanders.

THE GORHAM CASE.—An address from the great body of the evangelical clergy is about to be presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury, expressive of the gratitude they feel towards his Grace for the firm stand he has made in defence of what they designate the pure principles of the Established Church of England. The high Church, or tractarian party, have, on the other hand, agreed to an address to the Bishop of Exeter.

On Sunday week, Dr. M'Neile, of Liverpool, commenced his sermon by offering his "sincere congratulations to his Christian brethren," and expressing "humble thankfulness to Almighty God" for "the recent judgment pronounced by the highest Court in this realm."

Lord Ross has recently been making observations with his great telescope, and has added three new spiral nebulæ to his former valuable discoveries.

REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.—It is stated in the *Berliner Allgemeine Kirchen Zeitung*, that the Jews have obtained a firman from the Porte, granting them permission to build a temple on Mount Zion. The projected edifice is to equal Solomon's temple in magnificence.

ARCTIC VOYAGERS.—The *Hull Advertiser* says,—"An affecting scene occurred on Tuesday last at this port, when twenty-two seamen, accustomed to the northern regions, and who had been engaged by Captain Austin, R. N., C. B., to accompany him in search of Sir John Franklin, took leave of their wives and children upon the pier of the Humber Dock, and immediately afterwards departed in the steamship Vivid, for London, there to join their commander and his crew, who are to sail on the 1st of May."

It is now said that the departure of the Pope for Rome is fixed for the 7th of April.

ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE IN ABERDEEN.—On Saturday evening, at seven o'clock, a locomotive engine crossed the Dee from the south, and entered Aberdeenshire amid the plaudits of an immense concourse of spectators. The Directors, passed over with an engine the last six miles of the line, which now completes a railway, without break, from Aberdeen to London. The Government Inspector is to be on the line on the 25th or 26th current; and it is intended that the regular traffic to the Ferryhill Station shall commence on the 1st proximo.

EMIGRATION FROM LIVERPOOL TO THE UNITED STATES.—The tide of emigration seems again to have set in. Six vessels for New York alone lay in the Mersey on Tuesday awaiting the tide. The aggregate number of their passengers was upwards of 3000. Meanwhile hundreds of other persons are awaiting to depart by other ships.

A Conspiracy, in which twelve Custom-House Officers were concerned, and by means of which large quantities of tobacco were stolen, has been discovered in the tobacco department of the Excise at Liverpool. This speculation has been carried on systematically since 1847.

It is said that Madlle Lind intends to appropriate the proceeds of her trip to America (nearly £50,000) to building and endowing an hospital in Stockholm her native city.

The Teetotallers affirm that there are upwards of 40,000 members of "Total Abstinence" Societies in Manchester, Salford, and vicinities.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN IRELAND.—Further cheering symptoms of improvement in the far west are thus announced in the *Tyrawly Herald*:—"It will be gratifying to our readers to learn that there are but three paupers receiving out-door relief in this union, at the weekly cost of 1s. 6d. This presents a very favourable contrast with the corresponding period of last year, when several thousands were on the relief lists, and the weekly expenditure amounted to £587. The saving is at the rate of £30,000 a year. A similar happy change is presented in the Swineford Union; for the out-door expenditure, for the week ending 10th March 1850, was only 7s., while, in the corresponding week of 1849, the amount was £240 10s. 2½d. These simple facts are a fair index of the improved state of things in this country, and are, we think, the harbingers of returning prosperity. The people are everywhere taking advantage of the genial weather for carrying on their spring operations, which are at present in a more advanced state than in many former years during the month of May. The weather has continued mild for several weeks, and has served to raise the drooping spirits of the farmers in no small degree, who are now most busily engaged in their farm operations. A very considerable quantity of potatoes will be planted."

A partial revival of the Repeal Agitation in Ireland, under the auspices of John O'Connell, is said to have taken place.

FAIR UNDER THE THAMES.—Monday being the anniversary of the opening of that great undertaking, the Thames Tunnel, the Directors, in celebration of the event, gave a grand fancy fair beneath the waters of Old Father Thames. The entire length of the tunnel and either shaft were decorated with myriads of variegated lamps, the panels being filled in with a variety of paintings, representing the most interesting views along the banks. Rows of stalls, covered with ornamental articles, shows, refreshment booths, the Wizard of the North, Ethiopian minstrels, and bands of music, were the amusements offered. During the day several thousands of persons visited the Tunnel.—*Standard.*

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—The Queen has given her presentation to Christ's Hospital to a son of the brave and lamented Brigadier Pennycuick, who fell, with another of his sons, at the head of his regiment on the fatal field of Chillianwallah. Prince Albert has given his presentation to a son of the Rev. Mr. Ward, of Tenterden, who married the daughter of Lord Nelson, thus testifying his sympathy with the efforts of those who wish to recognise, in some public form, the binding claim of Nelson's dying words.

A Suit which has been in Existence a Hundred Years!—In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, last week, the arguments in the case of Trant *v.* Deffel were farther heard. The pleadings are very lengthy and complicated, owing to the suit having been in existence above a century, but the only question now arising is as to the rights of certain persons under the will of a gentleman dated in 1693.

MEDICAL WAR OFFICERS.—We understand that the civil Order of the Bath, but not the military, is to be extended to the distinguished officers of the medical departments of both services.—*Morning Herald.*

LISBON, MARCH 29.—THE BRITISH SQUADRON IN THE TAGUS.—The force consists of the Prince Regent 90, Hogue, 60, Leander, 50, Phaeton, 50, Indefatigable, 50, Arethusa, 50, Arrogant, 46, Theatis, 36, and the Terrible and Conflict steamers.

PARIS.—The President of the Republic reviewed the troops at Vincennes on Monday, and afterwards inspected the fortress in every part. He was attended by General Changarnier and several officers of the staff. Several arrests were made on Saturday evening at a house in the Rue Souffleot, where a secret meeting was held to organise a subscription for dismissed Socialist schoolmasters. Eighty persons are in custody at the Prefecture de Police, and some important papers and revolutionary emblems were discovered at their residences. M. Proudhon's journal, *La voix du Peuple*, was seized on Monday for a seditious article. *Le Presse* announces the Minister of Finance had resolved to propose a duty on paper on its removal from the manufactory.

The President of France was insulted on Saturday by a mob, on his return from reviewing the troops at Vincennes.

INDIA.—By the arrival of the usual monthly mail we have intelligence from Calcutta to the 20th of February, and from Bombay to the 2d of March, by which we learn that, in consequence of some murders committed upon our people in the district of Peshawur by the Affreedi tribe, an expedition had been sent against them, which had proved successful but not without considerable loss on our side. The Rajah of Sikkim has also been chastised for his inhospitality to Drs. Hooker and Campbell, by the withdrawal of his pension and the appropriation of a certain portion of his revenues; but he himself has escaped, having fled to the hills India is otherwise quiet. Trade was dull at Bombay, but lively at Calcutta.

A report has appeared in a Calcutta paper, that the Seikhs have been undermining the ground beneath the fort at Lahore. The noise of their proceeding, it is said, has been heard, but no mine has asy et been discovered.

The new Common Council, after being sworn in, on Tuesday last, attended the funeral of the late Hon. Hugh Johnston on that day, in a body, pursuant to a unanimous vote of the Board.

Before the old members retired, it was resolved, on motion of Councillor Keans, that the Common Council should subscribe for Stock in the Saint John Water Company, (under authority of the Act of Assembly,) to the amount of £3,000, that amount being required to complete the subscription for the Company's new stock of £10,000. It is now expected that the Company will forthwith proceed to obtain an inexhaustible supply of pure water from Loch Lomond.

Aldermen Wetmore and Bond, and Councillor Keans, in appropriate speeches took leave of the remaining members of the Common Council, previous to the new Board being sworn in.

The Mayor subsequently appointed the Standing Committees for the ensuing year. Alderman Needham was appointed to prepare and submit a draft of Standing Orders for the government of the new Board in debate.

FREE PORTS.—A proclamation in the *Royal Gazette* announces that the following Ports, in this Province, are constituted Free Ports, for the admission of foreign as well as British and Colonial Shipping:—Dorchester, Richibucto, Dalhousie, Bathurst, Caraquette, Shediac, Saint Stephen, Saint George, and Campo Bello.

The subjoined scheme for raising funds to commence and complete portions of the Railway from St. John to Shediac, we take from the *Courier* of Saturday.—By reference to the Legislative proceedings, it will be seen that the Assembly have rejected the proposition for the erection of the line from this City to Hampton; but upon receipt of the letter sent from this City yesterday, bearing a very large number of signatures, (1419,) the House may be induced to reconsider the subject, and comply with the public wish previous to their adjournment.

FINANCIAL SCHEME

Devised to promote the immediate construction of *portions* of the "Great Eastern Railway," projected to connect the City of St. John, on the Bay of Fundy, with the Harbour of Shediac, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence—viz., the first three sections, ending at the 28th mile from the City, and the ninth section, commencing at the Bend, and terminating at Shediac—as surveyed by J. Wilkinson, Esq., Civil Engineer.—See his Report and Estimates, laid before the Legislature, 4th March, 1850—pages 32, 33, 36, 39 and 40.

First Section—From the first to the ninth mile, including the cost of the Terminus at St. John, and the intersection of the ridge of limestone at the fifth mile,—cost,	£53,339
Second Section—From the 10th to the 18th mile, including the cost of bridging Henderson's and Harris' Coves and Hammond River,—cost,	45,071
Third Section—From the 19th to the 28th mile, including the bridge at Green's Cove,—cost,	29,932
Ninth Section—From the Bend to Shediac,—cost,	65,204
Working stock, viz:—Locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars, &c., estimated at	12,301
Amount required,	£206,000

It is proposed, to meet the above, to create 20,000 Shares of Stock at £10 per share—to call upon the Province to subscribe for one half, or 10,000 shares—the Executive being authorised to issue Scrip, bearing five per cent. interest, redeemable in thirty years, for this amount of Stock; and for private subscriptions to be obtained for the remaining ten thousand Shares, such subscriptions to be paid in instalments, extending over one, two, and three years—thus;

500 Subscribers for 3 Shares each, or				£10 annually,	£15,000
300	do.	5	do.	16 13 4 do.	15,000
200	do.	10	do.	33 6 8 do.	20,000
100	do.	20	do.	67 13 4 do	20,000
50	do.	30	do.	100 0 0 do.	15,000
30	do.	50	do.	166 13 4 do.	15,000
1180 Subscribers representing 10,000 shares, or					£100,000
Add the Province 10,000 do.					100,000
					£200,0 0

The great object is to build those important portions of the Railway by our own unaided efforts and within our own resources, under, nevertheless, a confident expectation, that during the progress of the work, arrangements may be effected with capitalists abroad, to step forward and assist in completing the remaining intervening portions of the line, should such assistance be required.

By this simple plan, private shareholders would only be called upon to pay out money *pro rata*, as the expenditure was made, and the work so far advanced in various stages as to exhibit the *value* of the investment,—and this not before the general business and circulation of the country would have received an impetus beneficial and productive to all classes of the community.

It is anticipated that all parties interested in the welfare and progressive improvement of the City and Province, who can spare from their yearly incomes—accruing from their rents, their trading, or their salaries—say ten, twenty, or even one hundred pounds, will come forward, and energetically assist in carrying out this undertaking.

Let it be borne in mind that the labour requisite is within the Province—that the timber required is growing along the proposed line—that our mechanics possess the knowledge and ingenuity necessary for manufacturing locomotives and traffic cars, and that the iron for the rails is the only item for which money need be sent out of the country,—also, that at this present moment a lull exists in every branch of business—our people are moody and restless, and a more favorable time could not be seized upon for the economical construction of a great public work of permanent utility, such as the "Great Eastern Railway," by which to relieve the pressure and dissipate the gloom spread over every interest in New-Brunswick.

EVIDENCES OF CHRISTIANITY.—The eighth lecture of this course was delivered last Tuesday evening in the Wesleyan Chapel, Germain Street, by the REV. JOHN IRVINE, on the "*Ethics of the Bible.*" The lecture gave much satisfaction to all present.

The next Lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. KNIGHT, next Thursday evening at half past 7 o'clock, in the Centenary Chapel. Subject—"*The genuineness and authenticity of Revelation.*"

We have received from the Committee a copy of the Rev. R. Irvine's valuable lecture on the Evidences of Christianity, recently delivered, entitled—"Christ the Messiah of the Pentateuch."—For sale at the Phœnix Book-store.

☞ We would recommend to all the Young Men of the City to obtain these lectures on the Evidences of Christianity, as they issue from the press. They are printed in a very neat form, and will when finished and bound, form a handsome and valuable volume. The price is exceedingly low, only 2d. per copy.

The brigantine *Sarah*, 116 tons, Capt. Johnston, has been fitted out by Messrs. R. Rankin & Co., of this City, on a fishing voyage to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Coast of Labrador. The out-fits amount to about £350. This being the pioneer vessel in the enterprise since the promulgation of Mr. Perley's valuable Report, we trust the voyage may yield good returns to the parties concerned, and that others may thereby be induced to engage in the business.

The brig *Curlew* sailed from this port last week for Surinam, South America, with an assorted cargo, (shipped by Messrs. Allison & Spurr,) comprising various kinds of fish, lumber, and other articles, valued at £636 sterling. We trust the trade to this new market may prove profitable to the enterprising shippers.

The steamer *Fairy Queen*, which arrived from Portland on Thursday morning last, performed the passage in the short space of *twenty three hours* Both the *Commodore* and *Fairy Queen*, have thus far performed their passages handsomely this spring, and we hope Mr. Whitney may enjoy a full share of the patronage of the travelling public.

Last Saturday, a man named Looney, while employed in digging out the cellar at the corner of Prince William and Princess-streets, was accidentally killed by a stone falling on him.

A colored man, named Randall, while crossing the sand flats on Saturday, fell and instantly expired. He is supposed to have had a fit, to which it is said he was subject.

A fine ship, of 827 tons, called the *America*, was launched from the building yard of Storms & Johnston, on the 13th ult., she is owned by the builders.

The steam-ship *Europa*, 54 hours from New York, with 150 passengers for Liverpool, arrived at Halifax on Friday, and in a few hours proceeded on her voyage.

The steam ship *Atlantic*, the first of Collins' new line, is to leave New York for Liverpool, on Saturday next, the 27th instant. Heavy bets are pending regarding her speed and length of passage.

By a statement in the Eastern Chronicle it appears the whole amount of Coal shipped from Pictou the last year, amounted to 64 646 chaldrons—of this amount the United States took 55,922.

A salt mine has been discovered near Woodstock, Lower Canada, which it is said will yield salt sufficient to supply the whole of Western Canada.

The last *Royal Gazette* contains a notice from the Secretary's Office, stating that certificates have been duly filed therein, which authorize the Rev. J. D. Casewell, of this city, and the Rev. Elijah F. Foshay, of Harvey, Albert County, both of the Baptist Church, to solemnize Marriage.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—We are sorry to find, as we do in the Montreal Pilot of the 13th inst., an effectual contradiction of the Minesota story of the safety of Sir John Franklin. We give this below from a letter to the editor of the Pilot from Sir Geo. Simpson, dated at "Hudson's Bay House, Lachine, April 12." He says:—

"I regret to say there is no foundation whatever for the statement, which appears to have originated in the arrival at St. Paul of an express sent thither by the Hudson's Bay Company's Officer at Red River Settlement, with letters from McKenzie River, conveying there reports of Capt. Pullen and Mr. Rae to the Lords of the Admiralty, which reports are to the effect that nothing had been discovered throwing any light on the fate of the missing expedition.

Captain Pullen, who left H. M. S. *Plover* at Wainwright Inlet, reached the Hudson's Bay Company's post of Fort Good Hope, on the McKenzie River, on the 14th September, from thence he came up that river to the post of Fort Simpson, where he is passing the present winter with the intention of proceeding to York Factory on Hudson's Bay at the opening of the navigation, in order to take his passage to England in one of the Hudson's Bay Company's Ships from thence next autumn. It is possible, however, that instructions from the Admiralty, which were transmitted to me here about two months ago, and were immediately forwarded to Captain Pullen by express, may detain him during the ensuing summer and winter in making a further examination of the Arctic Coast, in connection with the Hudson's Bay Company's parties employed upon the same service."

A ROBBER APPREHENDED.—For some weeks an advertisement has been published, offering a reward of $100 for the recovery of a quantity of clothing, stolen on the 5th ult., from the dwelling-house of Mr. Aaron Hastings, in Garden-street, and the conviction of the thieves. Suspicion having rested on Lavinia Tierney, a servant girl who had been living with the family for some weeks, a short time before the robbery took place, Mr. H. kept a watch upon the passengers who have lately been leaving in the Steamboats for the United States, and on Monday morning last he met the suspected one going on board the *Fairy Queen*, with a bundle. High-Constable Stockford being called, the bundle was found to contain a part of the articles stolen, which consisted of a satin cloak, and several silk, satin, and other valuable dresses, &c., valued at from £30 to £35. One of the dresses was found fastened losely around her, and others were contained in a pillow-case, which she had tied around her waist. She stated that a girl whose name she gave as Jane Daly, and afterwards as McAfee, and a man with his face blackened, whom she pretends not to know, were with her when the robbery was committed. It was effected about one o'clock at night, by the man removing a sash from an end window in the house, which opened into a bed-room where the clothes were hanging. He brought the articles out to her and Daly. The latter, she says, had them in possession for a week, and then gave them to her on being paid $10 as her share. Daly went to Eastport, in the *Maid of Erin*, two weeks ago, where Tierney was to meet her on the day she was arrested. She underwent an examination at the Police Office, and has been committed to take her trial at the Supreme Court in August next. While in the Watch House for a short time, before being taken to the Police Office, she made an attempt to strangle herself by twisting her apron around her neck, and had so far succeeded in the attempt as to be black in the face and sensless when she was discovered. Since her commitment, we understand she made another attempt upon her life, by endeavouring to cut her throat with a piece of glass.—*Courier.*

PORTLAND POLICE OFFICE.—On Saturday morning, Peter Hall was brought before the Police Magistrate, Jacob Allan, Esquire, for having grossly assaulted James Woods, Policeman, on Friday afternoon last, and sentenced to pay a fine of £20, or to be kept at hard labour in the Provincial Penitentiary for ten months.

Hugh McAnulty, for endeavouring to rescue the prisoner Hall, to pay £10, or five months in the Provincial Penitentiary.

Patrick Lilley, for partially aiding McAnulty, fined £5. This fine was paid.

By reference to our Shipping list, it will be seen that 12 or 13 square rigged vessels, and several of a smaller class, have arrived at this port since Saturday last.

An order in Council has been made with reference to Mr. Perley's Report on the Fisheries, which directs that no further sales shall be made of sea beaches within the Gut of St. Lawrence and Bay of Chaleur, but the same are to be reserved and leased for fishery purposes. The leases are to be for five years only, and to terminate whenever the berths cease to be occupied. A renewal to be optional with the Government, but if the party is allowed to continue after five years, the rent to be doubled. All parties at present in illegal possession must take out leases immediately, or be proceeded against as intruders. A number of localities described by Mr. Perley in his Report are mentioned in this order, which we should suppose will yield a considerable annual income to the Province.—[New Brunswicker.

ACCIDENT.—On Thursday afternoon, three of the workmen engaged on the new Church erecting in Sidney-street, for the Rev. Mr. Thomson, were precipitated to the ground, a distance of about 35 feet, by the giving way of a portion of the scaffolding. Two of them were taken up much inqured; the other escaped with a few slight bruises.—*Ib.*

AT 12 o'clock yesterday His Honor the Master of the Rolls, in accordance with permission granted a few days ago, entered the House of Assembly, and delivered a speech at the Bar, which occupied about an hour. The occasion of this address was based upon the contemplated reduction of Public Salaries, on the part of the Government and the House of Assembly. The Hon. Gentleman maintained a calm and dignified manner throughout; and doubtless made out as strong a case as the circumstances would permit, not only for himself, but for his Brother Judges.—*Fredericton Reporter of Friday.*

It gives us pleasure to learn that a part of the Gas apparatus for this City is now on its way per the JOHN KERR, from Glasgow, having been shipped at that Port in the space of one month from the time when the order was sent from Fredericton. The remainder we learn, would be ready for shipment about this time; and it may now be anticipated that as soon as the spring opens, the preparatory works will be commenced, in order to have the light in operation next autumn.—*Ib.*

Be it for good or evil, there is little doubt that the fiat is soon to go forth, which will render the Legislative Council of this Province, dependant upon the suffrages of the people.—*Ib.*

YORK SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCES.—The United States Government have given notice, after the coming month of May, that all Spanish and Mexican money, such as quarters of dollars, York shillings and sixpences, shall no longer pass current at the present value. Quarters of Dollars are to be reduced to 20 cents, (one shilling Halifax currency,) and eighths and sixteenths in like proportion. The effect of this movement will be to flood the Canadas with this debased coin; where, by act of Provincial Parliament, they must continue to be received at the same value as British shillings and sixpences, until repealed.—*Halifax Rec.*

MONTREAL, April 13.—It is currently reported that Mr. Merritt is to take the Chief Commissionership of Public Works.

Lake Champlain is not yet clear of ice.

The *Canadian Gazette* contains the Governor-General's proclamation summoning Parliament to meet on the 14th of May for despatch of business.

ICE.—The ship John Ravenell, of Charleston, 45 days from Liverpool, reports that in lat. 44 10, lon. 48 30, discerned a field of ice a head, extending in a S. S. E. and N. N. W. direction as far as the eye could reach. Seeing no opening to the westward, coasted the ice along to the southward as far as lat. 43, when we were enabled to keep the ship to the westward. March 14, discovered a bark fast in the ice, apparently an English vessel.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

DETROIT, April 15th.—Loss of the Schooner *Lawrence.*—The *Keystone*, just down from the Upper Lakes, reports that on Wednesday morning the schooner *Lawrence*, Capt. Short, of Milwaukie, with 10,000 bushels of wheat, was sunk, about a mile to the westward of St. Helen, in 8 feet of water, being cut through by the ice. She sunk in 15 minutes after the leak was discovered, giving the Captain and crew barely time to lower the yawl and save themselves by flight.

California Paper Money.—The new State of California, in the absence of the means of converting the dust into coin, it seems is favored with the facilities of paper circulation. We have seen a $3 bill of the most approved pattern and in the best style of Danforth and Hufty of New York—purporting to be issued by "The Miners' Bank of California," J. E. Follier, cashier, and Will. H. Graham, president. The bank is located in San Francisco.

The steamer Empire City left New York this week for Chagres, taking 440 passengers, on their way to California—among the number are several physicians and ministers.

COMMERCE OF MOBILE.—Mobile has an annual commerce of many millions of dollars. Her exports vary from 15 to $20,000,000 annually. Her vessels, owned in whole or in part, for the year ending 30th September, 1849, amount to 17,978 tons, and the entries and departures at the Custom House for the same period were 458 040 tons. Of the clearances at the Custom House, since the 1st of November last, 48 ships alone took cargoes for Europe consisting of 117,790 bales of cotton, valued at $6,500,000. Her exports this year will exceed $17,000 000, though the products of the State has been materially lessened by temporary and adverse causes. The amount of her imports are indicated by these data with sufficient accuracy to authorize an estimate of $30,000,000 as the aggregate of her annual commerce.—[Mobile Register, April 6.

THE PROSPECT FOR PEACHES.—We understand that as there has been no weather sufficiently warm to cause the peach blossoms to shoot, that the prospect for fine peaches the ensuing season is very good, unless some unfortunate accident happens to them hereafter from changeable weather.—[Wilmington (Del.) Jour.

The number of Building Societies in Great Britain in 1849 exceeded 2,000, and the funds above £2,000,000.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

In the Legislative Council, on Monday morning, 15th inst., the Hon. Mr. Chandler in a short address, which was characterized by exceedingly good taste, communicated the official intelligence of the Hon. Mr. Johnston's death to his brother members of the Legislative Council, and suggested the propriety of the Legislature honouring his memory by putting on appropriate mourning;—an arrangement which was immediately agreed to.—*Reporter.*

SATURDAY, March 6.—To day the House passed a bill brought by the Hon. Mr Saunders for defining the use of Initials in the writing of Christian names, after which the hon. Mr. Hill spoke at considerable length on the subject of Law Reform, alluding to the great advantages possessed by the people of Nova Scotia and Canada over us in this particular, as their modes of practice were much more economical and simple. In illustration of this subject the hon. member read some extracts from the Dublin evening mail, on the subject of Law Reform in Ireland; and closed by giving notice that he should on a future day move an address to his Excellency to appoint a commission during the recess, to frame such a measure as would tend to simplify and cheapen the administration of the laws in this Province.

Hon. Mr. Chandler, while he agreed with his hon. friend as respects the question of reducing the costs at law would nevertheless advise him, to stop at present and watch the fate of his own Bill on this subject, which was now before the Lower House. Should that Bill pass,—and he (hon. Mr. Chandler) hoped it would,—there would be less necessity for the address; and in the mean time, the Country would have an opportunity, during the ensuing year, to watch its working, and if approved of, then the hon. member might follow out his plans during the next session.

Hon. Messrs. Hatch and Sanders concurred in the latter view of the question; and the hon. member withdrew his motion, in order to wait the action of the Lower House, on the two Bills which he had already initiated.

The Council next took up the appropritions of the 1st April, and after having discussed and agreed to a grant of £20 to Miss Turner, whose merits as a Teacher were warmly eulogized by hon. Mr. Minchin, they proceeded to the investigation of a grant for removing some rocks from the South west Branch of the Miramichi River. This grant was warmly sustained by hon. Messrs. Peters and Davidson, but was lost on a division.

MONDAY, April 8.—This morning, the Council agreed to a Bill for regulating the Trade of this Province with the West Indies.

In anticipation of the grants for Bye roads, the Hon. Mr. Robertson said, that it was too grave a subject to be discussed while seven Hon. members were absent from their places. He would therefore move a call of the House and test the principle upon which those Bye road grants were made. He would urge the small amount of money which the Legislature has at its disposal, the efficiency of the new statute labour bill, the immense debt owed by the Province, the goodness of the bye roads in general, and the reckless system of extravagance hitherto pursued in the face of all these circumstances, as good and sufficient grounds upon which to base his opposition to those appropriations. Our public debt was, he said, rapidly increasing, and even the charges of the present session, which would probably be prolonged to the first of May, would add to it materially. Last year he had been anxious to throw aside this branch of our expenditure, but it had still been continued; and it now amounts to about one third of our Provincial Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Chandler concurred in the view taken by the Hon. member as to the inconveniency arising from the absence of so many of the members. He would also grant that our taxes were growing enormously, as they were required to sustain our heavy expenditures. The Bye-roads, however, were not the best subjects for reduction, as they were indispensable to the very living of the poor settlers in the woods, who required them in order to give them a passage from the main roads to their homes in the Wilderness. Rather than curtail this service, he would lay a heavier tax upon such imports as involve articles of luxury, which are brought to the country for the special benefit of the wealthy. He thought the statute labour might avail to keep the old and well-made roads in order, but it never would be found sufficient for the wants of new settlements. He regretted that influences of an improper kind were often brought to bear during the contests which occurred in the distribution of those Bye-road grants; but he would assure their honors that the Government were doing all in their power to counteract the evil by giving it every check which prudence would allow them to exercise.

Hon. Mr. Hatch briefly stated that the enormous sums expended on the bye-roads did not produce anything like a corresponding benefit in the country. The truth was that the grants were made for electioneering purposes; but the amount raised for the purpose was quite too much for the country to sustain.

The Council subsequently went into committee on the appropriations of the 5th of April, but no important debate arose, until the introduction of the grant for the Great Roads, upon which Hon. Mr. Robertson rose and observed, that this was a highly important subject, and should not be disposed of without a full house and great consideration. If their honors thought the appropriations too large, they had the power and the right to reduce them, and £10,000 was too serious a sum to be disposed of in a hurry. He supposed, however, that the grant would be permitted to stand, although it would raise our entire road-service to the enormous sum of £30,000; which, in addition to £20,000 granted for education, swells our outlay for two branches of expenditure to the amount of £50,000! His plan would be to pass one half of the present grant, and one third of that for Bye-roads; while, so far as relates to education, he would include the whole sum in one general Bill, and make it commensurate with the requirements of the Province. He intended to bring a motion to urge upon the Government the bad policy of the present mode of making these grants, and also the improper manner in which they are expended; and so far as their rejection was concerned, he would have no objection in taking his share of the responsibility, while they were originated and carried on under the present unjust and indefinite system.

Hon. Mr. Harrison stated that he had last year voted for those heavy appropriations principally on account of the relief which was needed in the country, where it was known a great amount of distress prevailed; but he was in the present instance prepared to lay his hand on any grant which could bear curtailment, in consequence of the urgent necessity which exists for public retrenchment. (Progress was afterwards reported upon several Bills, when the House adjourned.)—*Ib.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Tuesday last, the House went into committee of the whole on a Bill regulating the manner of disposing of the different kinds of grain, by adopting weight as the standard, instead of measure, as formerly. The Bill was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Rankin, and passed the committee without much opposition.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed a number of grants, without much debate, until the grant to the Adjutant General of Militia came up, when the Committee resisted every motion for every sum mentioned, and finally rose without agreeing upon anything. The Committee divided nine times, and twice, refused to negative the resolution.

On Monday, the Hon. Mr. Partelow moved a resolution, which passed unanimously, that Members of the House of Assembly go into mourning for the late Hon. Hugh Johnston, during the remainder of the Session.

A grant of £25 to Mary Collins, widow of the late Dr. Collins, was carried after some discussion—Dr. C., it will be remembered, died while attending Emigrants at the Quarantine Station, St. John, in 1847.

A rather lengthy debate occurred on a grant of £150 to Alfred Street, Esq., to reimburse him for money expended in preliminary operations connected with the New Brunswick Railway Company. This grant was warmly supported by the Hon. Mr. Partelow, who produced the petition of last year in Mr. Street's favor, signed by two hundred and fifty most respectable inhabitants of the City of St. John, whose names the hon member read. All the St. John members supported the grant, and it was finally carried: Yeas 21, Nays 9.—*Head Quarters.*

We understand that on Thursday Mr. Partelow laid before the House, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, an elaborate and satisfactory Report, accompanied by accounts, of the affairs of the Fredericton Savings' Bank; from the Trustees appointed to wind up its affairs.

SATURDAY, April 20.—On motion of Hon. L. A. Wilmot the House went into Committee on the State of the Province, Mr. Hayward in the chair, when the Hon. L. A. Wilmot's and Mr. Gilbert's Resolutions were read.

Dr. Wilson thought there was no need of the resolutions before the Committee. Every man in the country knew the necessity that existed for the reduction of salaries; and he did not think it was proper for the committee to take up time in discussing a principle which all believed to be right.

Hon. Attorney General followed in a speech which occupied nearly two hours. He commented in eloquent and forcible terms on the speech of the Master of the Rolls, and went for a general reduction in the public expenditure, and for local control in all local affairs.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot was ready to go for a reduction of salaries to a degree compatible with the means of the Province, but he did not believe that any reduction that could be made in the salary of the Master of the Rolls, or that of all the other public officers put together, was going to do much good to the Country, while nothing was done for general improvement.

Mr. Street next rose and made a very lengthy speech. He condemned the idea of reducing the salary of the Master of the Rolls, as he considered it would be a breach of the contract.—He dealt heavy blows at the Government for not bringing forward measures that might be of real and permanent good; and charged them with burking every question of importance enumerated in the Governor's opening speech.

It was now about 5 o'clock, and a motion was made for reporting progress, and to resume the debate on Monday morning, which motion was carried. After which, Mr. Ansley asked for and obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend an Act for imposing a duty for raising a Revenue. The principles of the bill are, that all goods coming to any port in this Province, being of British Manufacture, should be treated as the productions of Foreign countries, if brought in by foreign Vessels.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot brought in a Bill to reduce the Judges' salaries; also a Bill for the reduction of the salary of the Master of the Rolls; also a Bill for the reduction of salaries therein mentioned. The state of the Province is to be resumed on Monday.—*New Bruns.*

On Wednesday, the House went into a committee of the whole, on a Bill to facilitate the erection of a Railway between Shediac and the Bend of Petitcodiac. This Bill was introduced by the Hon. Attorney General, who pointed out the advantages which would accrue from the erection of a Railway across the Isthmus which connects this Province with Nova Scotia, by which a ready and expeditious means of communication would be op