

The Gleaner.

AS A CROCKET. EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1888.

CENTENNIAL OF THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE, 1788.
We are somewhat surprised that, in this age of centenary celebrations, when in all countries, men looking down the vista of the centuries, delight to honor their great persons—the poets, reformers, statesmen, and soldiers who have cast a lustre over the land of their birth, and the great struggles which have achieved for them civil and religious liberty, no patriotic son of New Brunswick and citizen of the capital has been moved to agitate that the first political event connected with it should be commemorated.

If St. John on May 18th, 1883, commemorated with great rejoicing the centenary of the landing of the Loyalists, and the birth of the city, when all the poets of the province were invited to write competitive odes in honor of the memorable event, and clergymen and orators improved the occasion by the delivery of impressive sermons and addresses why should not our citizens have been called upon to celebrate the centennial of the first meeting of the legislature in Fredericton. For yesterday, one hundred years ago, July 20th, 1788, the Lieutenant Governor, Thomas Carleton, opened the first session of the first Legislative Assembly and Council in the old building, the oldest in the city, which is yet standing on Queen Street. The citizens of St. John were not well pleased (and some of them hold it a grievance to this day) at what they considered a visit of the first Governor, removing the seat of government so far up river, but His Honor had his reasons besides. "The general convenience," the chief being, we believe, that he thought a seaport and commercial mart not a fit place for the sittings of a grave deliberative body, and he could point to the example of the State of New York, where the capital, Albany, is removed from the turmoil of the city by the Sound. At any rate his whim, if it was that, was the making of Fredericton, and has given the Province a beautiful capital of which they may be proud, and which year by year is quietly improving.

In another column we give some interesting data concerning the opening of the Legislature by Governor Carleton, the composition of the Council, and the members of the House.

In the hundred years that have passed away since the opening of the legislature in Fredericton great political changes and struggles have taken place in the B. N. American provinces. It is a fact that Lord Dorchester, (formerly Sir Guy Carleton, brother of Governor Carleton), first Governor General, in a speech opening the legislature at Quebec, about the year 1788, duly admonished the idea of Confederation by dwelling on the forest provinces would have in developing the respective strength and resources of each.

Fredericton no doubt was a more important political center during the first half and longer of its century than it has been since Confederation. The Crown appointed Governor, with his military surroundings and the residence in the midst of large salaried permanent officials gave it tone and social prestige; and the spirit of resistance to the autocracy of the family compact brought able men to the legislature, and important constitutional questions were debated in the assembly and opposed in the legislative council. It seems to some that there are not now men of the same calibre in the New Brunswick legislature as those who fought the battle of responsible government and figured in the house of assembly in Fredericton in 1826-27. But great occasions produce men equal to them, and it may be that when some other great constitutional change engages the earnest attention of the people of this province a new breed of Chancellors, Wiltons, Johnstones, Grays, Smiths, Mitchells, & *hoc genus omne* will appear.

QUEEN NATALIE AND HER TROUBLES.
Even royalists cannot keep their rational troubles out of the papers. For some time past there have been rumors of differences between the King of Serbia and his consort, Queen Natalie, and they have culminated in complete estrangement "in irreconcilable natural antipathy." People are talking who to them, and the fact seems to be that there are faults on both sides. The King is, from all accounts, not an amiable man, and the Queen, a young and most beautiful woman, is described as being strongly self-willed. As far as the public know, the cause of the estrangement has sprung from jealousy and political antagonism. The king has not been faithful, they say, besides he has developed by his policy anti-Russian proclivities, which are not shared in by the Queen, who is strongly pro-Russian, and takes very great interest in political matters generally. No doubt, some will say that she has stepped out of her sphere, that she should have contented herself with the duties of a queen, and not to have attempted not only to rule, but to rule in antagonism to her consort. Last year there appeared to be some prospect that the jarring couple would be reconciled, efforts having been made in highest circles in Vienna to shake the asunder. The latest news, however, is that it is a case of utter incompatibility of temper. The king has applied for a divorce, and the only child of this ill-starred marriage, a boy of twelve years, has been taken away from his mother, and Queen Natalie has been left desolate and alone.

NEWS OF THE WORLD CONDENSED

From Our Own Telegraphic Reports and Our Exchanges.

Personal, Political and Religious News of the Day.

Cable, American, Canadian and General Topics.

Cable.
The electric telegraph was resumed on the coast of Spain yesterday.

Personal.
A dispatch from our correspondent reports the prevalence of storms with heavy rain falls, which are destroying the crops. In Spain many of the crops have been lost.

Fire on Thursday.
A fire on Thursday, on the Spanish steamer Astoria, at Rosas, near Barcelona, caused a tremendous explosion of her cargo of gunpowder. Eight of the crew were killed.

A brilliant scene took place at Constantinople Thursday when Emperor William of Germany met the Grand Vizier, the Sultan, and the other members of the cabinet.

A meeting of Congress was held at St. Louis last night after the work of the legislative council had been concluded. Mr. Johnson, V. P. for the United States, presided.

A big fire broke out in Port au Prince, Haiti, July 19th, and two hours a thousand houses were burned and thousands of people rendered homeless.

A dispatch from Carson City, Nev., says the appeal has been made to the United States court for the extradition of John McKee.

The strikers on the Chicago Burlington & Quincy railroad charged with conspiracy to keep up the strike by force.

A terrific storm hit the coast of the United States on Thursday last in five thousand dollars each for the grand jury.

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THE LATEST CONFIDENCE GAME.

Got all he asked for, even to a wife. He was a man of the name of Miller, a professional crook, and a confidence man. He was a man of the name of Miller, a professional crook, and a confidence man. He was a man of the name of Miller, a professional crook, and a confidence man.

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THE BATHY TO ARABIA.

On the fortieth day the baby's head is shaved—a ceremony which could scarcely be performed in our own country, where thick hair is usually of a later growth. This operation is considered a very important one, and thirty or forty persons are witnesses to it, for the performance of certain rites.

The disposal of the first hair is regarded as a very weighty matter; it must not be buried, nor carelessly thrown away, but is carried off by the parents, the slaves on the crew of a wall.

This fortieth day marks a turning point in the child's life. Hereafter it has only been seen by its parents, the slaves on the crew of a wall.

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Fredericton, July 14th, 1888.

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