

**SAINT JOHN, N. B. April 6, 1816.
DISTRESSING FIRE!**

On Saturday last, about 2 o'clock, P. M. an alarming fire broke out in the upper part of the house of JOHN BERNIE, on York Point, which in its first stage, threatened the destruction of that populous and thriving part of the town; but from the united exertions of the citizens and military, the fire was got under much before expectation, though not until it had consumed five dwelling-houses, two barns, and a blacksmith's shop—The Theatre, and houses adjacent were in the most eminent danger. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the military for their general good conduct in their exertions to subdue the fire. The officers of the army and navy also merit the warmest thanks of our fellow-citizens for their personal exertions in their endeavors to allay the devouring element. The principal sufferers by this awful dispensation of Providence, are—Messrs. John Bernie, James Ballandine, William Smith, Robert Morrall, Levi Lockart, William Fraser, William Berry, William Godsoe, James Grant, and the heirs of the late Mr. Nicholas Lake—Those persons who were tenants, as well as all in the neighborhood suffered much by the removal of their furniture, &c. &c.—City Gaz.

Tuesday last, being the day appointed by the Charter of this City, for the election of Aldermen, Assistants, &c. for the ensuing year, the Elections were accordingly held in the respective Wards, and at the close of the Polls the following Gentlemen were returned duly elected:—

KING'S WARD.

EZEKIEL BARLOW, Esq. Alderman.
Mr. ———, Assistant.

QUEEN'S WARD.

HUGH JOHNSTON, Esq. Alderman,
Mr. WILLIAM DURANT, Assistant.

DUKE'S WARD.

THOMAS HARDING, Esq. Alderman,
Mr. BENJAMIN GALE, Assistant.

SIDNEY WARD.

THOMAS SANCTON, Esq. Alderman,
Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Assistant.

BROOK'S WARD.

SYLVANUS WHITNEY, Esq. Alderman,
Mr. JOHN WHITEMAN, Assistant.

GUY'S WARD.

GEORGE GARDNER, Esq. Alderman,
Mr. SAMUEL BULYEA, Assistant.
JOHN THOMPSON, Esq. Chamberlain.
Mr. WM. GODSOE, High Constable.

The Election of the officers in King's, Queen's, and Duke's Ward, were well contested, and carried on with great spirit, but perfect harmony throughout. No Assistant has been returned for King's Ward, as a Scrutiny was demanded by one of the Candidates—The Corporation, we learn, have ordered a new election, which is to take place this day.

LAUNCH.—On Thursday last, was launched the Steam Boat *General Smyth*, from the Ship-Yard in the Parish of Portland, amidst a great concourse of Spectators.

The beautiful fast sailing brig *Ida*, owned by Messrs. Gilbert & Simonds, we learn has been totally lost near Shelburne harbor. She was from Demarara, bound to this port—crew saved.

The Brig *Hope*, Spike, of and for this Port, from Guadaloupe, out 14 days, struck on a reef of rocks at the West side of Bermuda, on the 14th of February, and in a short time went to pieces—Crew saved.

The *Cerberus*, Thompson, from New-Brunswick to Liverpool, was totally lost on the Island of Jura, during a violent gale on the 17th inst.

**LONDON, FEBRUARY 1.
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS, Thursday, Feb. 1.
OPENING OF THE SESSION.**

The House met at two, when the Royal Commissioners, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Montrose, Lord Harrowby, and Lord Shaftesbury, sent for the House of Commons. The Speaker having come into the House of Lords, attended by the Members of the Commons in the usual manner, the Lord Chancellor read the Prince Regent's Speech as follows:—

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,
We are commanded by his Royal Highness the

Prince Regent to express to you his deep regret at the continuance of his Majesty's lamented indisposition.

"The Prince Regent directs us to acquaint you that, he has had the greatest satisfaction in calling you together, under circumstances which enable him to announce to you the restoration of peace throughout Europe.

"The splendid and decisive successes obtained by his Majesty's arms, and those of his Allies, had led, at an early period of the campaign, to the re-establishment of the authority of his Most Christian Majesty in the Capital of his dominions; and it has been since that time his Royal Highness's most earnest endeavour to promote such arrangements as appeared to him best calculated to provide for the lasting repose and security of Europe.

"In the adjustment of these arrangements, it was natural to expect that many difficulties would occur; but the Prince Regent trusts it will be found that, by moderation and firmness, they have been effectually surmounted.

"To the intimate union which has happily subsisted between the Allied Powers, the nations of the Continent have twice owed their deliverance. His Royal Highness has no doubt that you will be sensible of the great importance of maintaining in its full force that alliance, from which so many advantages have already been derived, and which affords the best prospect of the continuance of peace.

"The Prince Regent has directed copies of the several Treaties and Conventions which have been concluded, to be laid before you.

"The extraordinary situation in which the Powers of Europe have been placed, from the circumstances which have attended the French Revolution, and more especially in consequence of the events of last year, has induced the Allies to adopt precautionary measures, which they consider as indispensably necessary for the general security.

"As his Royal Highness has concurred in these measures, from a full conviction of their justice and sound policy, he relies confidently on your co-operation in such proceedings as may be necessary for carrying them into effect.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"The Prince Regent has directed the estimates for the present year to be laid before you.

"His Royal Highness is happy to inform you, that the manufactures, commerce, and revenue of the United Kingdom are in a flourishing condition.

"The great exertions which you enabled him to make in the course of the last year, afforded the means of bringing the contest in which we were engaged to so glorious and speedy a termination.

"The Prince Regent laments the heavy pressure upon the country which such exertion could not fail to produce; and his Royal Highness has commanded us to assure you, that you may rely on every disposition on his part to concur in such measures of economy, as may be found consistent with the security of the country, and with that station which we occupy in Europe.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"The negotiations which the Prince Regent announced to you at the end of the last session of Parliament, as being in progress, with a view to a commercial arrangement between this country and the United States of America, have been brought to a satisfactory issue. His Royal Highness has given orders that a copy of the Treaty which has been concluded shall be laid before you; and he confidently trusts, that the stipulations of it will prove advantageous to the good understanding which so happily subsists between them.

"The Prince Regent has commanded us to inform you, that the hostilities in which we have been involved in the Island of Ceylon, and on the continent of India, have been attended with decisive success.

"Those in Ceylon have terminated in an arrangement highly honourable to the British character, and which cannot fail to augment the security and internal prosperity of that valuable possession.

"The operations in India have led to an armistice, which gives reason to hope that a peace may have been concluded on terms advantageous to our interests in that part of the world.

"At the close of a contest so extensive and momentous as that in which we have been so long engaged in Europe, and which has exalted the character and military renown of the British nation beyond all former example, the Prince Regent cannot but feel that, under Providence, he is indebted for the success which has attended his exertions, to the wisdom and firmness of Par-

liament, and to the perseverance of the public spirit of his Majesty's people.

"It will be the Prince Regent's constant endeavour to maintain, by the justice and moderation of his conduct, the high character which this country has acquired amongst the nations of the world; and his Royal Highness has directed us to express his sincere and earnest hope, that the same union amongst ourselves, which has enabled us to surmount so many dangers, and has brought this eventful struggle to so auspicious an issue, may now animate us in peace, and induce us cordially to co-operate in all those measures which may best manifest our gratitude for the Divine protection, and most effectually to promote the prosperity and happiness of our country."

The Speech having been read, the Commons retired to their own House.

DOWNING STREET, Jan. 29.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to appoint Lieut. General Sir JOHN COAPE SHERBROOKE, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, to be Captain General and Governor in Chief, of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, and the Islands of Prince Edward and Cape Breton.

It is with grief we announce, the loss of three transports on the coast of Ireland with several hundred men. A dreadful tempest prevailed during the greater part of the last week from the south east, blowing right on shore, and no disembarkation of the troops could be effected from these vessels. The *Seahorse* was lost near Waterford, with near 300 soldiers, &c. including several Officers; and the *William and Boadicea* full of troops, drove on shore near Kinsale, when 220 out of 280 on board the latter perished; Capt. Retford, of the 62d, and the wives of Capt. A. Mancor and F. Dawson, who were on board the *Lord Melville*, are said to have been drowned. Most of the *Lord Melville's* crew and passengers were, however, saved.

FEB. 6.

The King's Health.—On Saturday the Queen held her Monthly Council as directed by the Regency Act, at Windsor Castle, at which her Majesty was attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Montrose, and Lord Arden. They received the report of four of the Physicians, appointed to attend the King, Dr. John Willis being absent; and on Sunday the following Bulletin was exhibited at St. James's, for the inspection of the public:—

"*Windsor Castle, Feb. 3.*—His Majesty has passed the last month in a general state of tranquility, and in the enjoyment of good bodily health. His Majesty's disorder remains unaltered.

Brighton, Feb. 4.—Although the Prince Regent is gradually recovering from the effects of the gout, it has so much weakened the limbs attacked, that his Royal Highness is still confined to his room.

FEB. 7.

Sir George Cockburn is, we learn, expected home from St. Helena, and will be succeeded in the command of that station by Sir Home Popham.

The *Minden* man-of-war and the *Doris* frigate are arrived from the East Indies and St. Helena: the former took a cargo of provisions and live bullocks from the Cape to St. Helena, and left that Island the 26th of December. Bonaparte continued to reside at the cottage; every thing was perfectly quiet, and provisions of every description were in plentiful supply.

About 100 sail of men-of-war have been sold out of the service since the cessation of hostilities.

As the enormous exaction of harbour dues on English vessels entering French ports, is still continued by the Bourbon Government, it is stated that Mr. Vansittart means to propose a similar tax upon all French vessels coming into English ports. This is fair. We only lament that the measure was not adopted in 1814.

The Prince Regent has granted a large sum of money for the erection of a splendid Monument to the memory of the Cardinal Duke of York, the last of the race of the Stuarts. It is to be placed in the Basilisk of the Vatican at Rome. Canova is to execute the monument.

It is said that the proposals lately made by the province and city of Carthage to England, through our authorities, besides being connected with our interests in trade, do in fact, include a great and important point of our possession.

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