

returned who would not be properly qualified. Perhaps it would be better were the Sheriff to return a limited number of competent men, and let the jurors be balloted from among that number; and in this way the attendance of persons would be secured, who would be capable of discharging their duties. Then he would not have the enactment to pass in its present form which went to exclude the Acadian French; it would cause complaint. He thought the Sheriff therefore should select from among them, persons having a knowledge of the English language. Another objection was that it required the list should be made out too often; this might however be met by providing that it should be returned once in two years. Upon the whole, he thought the Bill was a good one; he agreed as to its principles, and thought it would answer the purpose which was contemplated; as at present in the hands of the Sheriff, it was used for corrupt purposes. He might be a violent partisan; and gentlemen all knew the tendency of human nature to exercise power improperly.

Mr. HILL said there was already a qualification for jurors pointed out. The objection at present is, there is too much power placed in the hands of the Sheriff, who may pack juries and do as he pleases. This the Bill was intended to remedy; he thought there should be no exception, and that the conduct of the Sheriff should be removed from the possibility of suspicion.

Mr. BARBARIE considered the Bill very desirable, and much credit was due to the learned member for Carleton for having introduced it; it takes away all inducement to abuse power from a good Sheriff, and prevents a bad one from using it improperly and to the injury of individuals. He thought a freeholders' book should be kept in every county, in which the names of freeholders should from time to time be registered, and from which the names of persons to serve should be drawn every year. He had not paid particular attention to the provisions of the Bill before it came up in debate that day, but he could not agree with that which had reference to the Acadian French; he thought there should be no exceptions. In the county which he represented there were among them many respectable persons who speak English well and are good farmers or acquainted with business, and who were competent to be qualified as jurors.—He therefore should not vote for the provision as it then stood. With that exception he considered the Bill as a very good one. The Committee might proceed with a part of it; and progress could be reported if members had not fully made up their minds.

Mr. END wished the exception that related to the Acadian French struck out; and that the box in which the names of the jurors would be put, should be placed in the custody of the first judge of the common pleas. The Bill contemplates that it should be kept by the clerk of the court. He wished to prevent abuse; those clerks are practising attorneys; and he thought they ought not to know beforehand what jurors would be chosen to try causes. He was not aware that any abuse existed; but in framing a Bill like that before the Committee, he would guard if possible against its occurrence.

Mr. McLEOD said the first judge of common pleas might not live near the court house, but in a distant part of the country. The proposition might answer very well if that officer lived near it. His main objection however did not relate to his residence, but was that the clerks of the common pleas should not be practising attorneys; they ought to be professional men, but not engaged in the business of the court of which they were officers. The law should be the same in that respect as it is in England. As to the box, it should be in the custody of the clerk, for it would be quite absurd to have a judge riding from a distance with a box placed before him.

Mr. END said while the courts are constituted as they are, the clerks must be appointed as at present. He had no objection to their having the custody, but would rather place it elsewhere.

Mr. WILSON said the first judge of the common pleas generally resides near the court house, and where the clerk is a practising attorney, he thought he should not have the custody of the box. The hon. member for King's had said the office should be filled by a professional man, but not a practising attorney. That could not be effected without providing for him; and he could never see the propriety of the objection that had been urged against a clerk of the common pleas being a practising attorney.

Mr. END would say so long as there are on the Bench, persons who are not of legal habits, it becomes necessary that a legal person shall be the clerk. If here it were the case as it is in Nova Scotia, where the inferior courts have professional men presiding over them, the clerk might be exempt from that qualification; but it were necessary to have law in the courts of law. What he disliked was, that the clerk who as far as it related to his clients, might be deemed an interested person, should know the names of jurors who were about to serve, several days before the meeting of the Court. He begged to say he meant no imputation; no improper practices on the part of these gentlemen had yet occurred, but as Legislators they were bound to guard against abuse.

Mr. BARBARIE replied to the objections urged by the hon. member for King's, against the situation of the clerk of the court of common pleas being filled by a practising attorney. But that officer must frame indictments and file papers, whether a barrister were on the bench or not; and if any other than a gentleman of legal attainments should fill that situation, he must be paid by the public, as it not unfrequently happened that he was called upon beside his other duties, to assist in taking down evidence for the magistrates.

Mr. BEARDSLEY said he was not wedded to the details of the Bill, as he had before observed, and was willing to agree to any amendments that might be deemed proper. The measure was one from which no danger was to be apprehended, but it had for its object to prevent the exercise of a corrupt influence.

The principles of the Bill being approved, the disqualification which applied to the Acadian French was removed; and upon motion of Mr. Beardsley, the Committee reported progress, Mr. END undertaking to frame certain amendments required by the Bill.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the consideration of the Bill for the naturalization of aliens.—Mr. Boyd in the chair.

Mr. BROWN said he should like to hear from his learned colleague, who he presumed had some observations to make.

Mr. HILL again explained that his object in introducing the Bill, was to substitute it for that which is about to expire, and of which it was a copy. The effect of the Bill is to dispense with the taking of the sacrament; for any other purpose it was unnecessary, as foreigners could at present be naturalized by Act of Parliament. Mr. END was surprised to find a Bill of that nature about to pass without debate. It was some years since the Act alluded to was passed, and received the royal assent, and was intended for the benefit of a certain description of persons who were desirous of being naturalized. Since then difficulties had arisen with the citizens of the neighbouring States, and it was the general feeling that the Legislature had already gone far enough. He considered the Bill as intended for Americans only; other foreigners fell in with the ways of the country, and were received with

a confidence which they never betrayed. He might as well speak his mind; and he considered it about as impossible to wash an Ethiop white, as to make a good subject of an American; as all the oaths which might be imposed would not have the effect. They were like the statue of King William which stood in College green, and notwithstanding all the paint that could be put upon it, the stuff beneath would make its appearance every hot day. He felt bound to say what he believed; and he would not allow them to come within the pale of the British constitution.—Let what had passed be past; but he would not again open the door; when they were pirating upon the borders of a neighbouring Province, and were attempting to snatch the frontier territory from this. He for one would not consent to pass the Bill; let these people wait till the difficulties between the two countries are settled. Every day afforded proof not only of the want of good faith among these people, but in their government. There was the notorious Bill Johnson, after being convicted of a course of piratical proceedings, was merely fined five shillings, and sentenced to six months imprisonment.—Such conduct was not to be endured. It had been said very properly that John Bull is too much of a gentleman to deal with these people, they always weather him. Besides, he saw no necessity for the measure, they could trade in the Province and carry on any business; but they should not be admitted as members of the British family, bringing with them animosity and infidelity in their train. He did not wish to be uncharitable; but he felt it imperative upon him to vote against the Bill.

Mr. HILL said under the imperial act any man can be naturalized. But the misfortune attending it was, that men of principle who entertained conscientious scruples, would not take the oath connected as it was with a religious ordinance; while others of no principle would not hesitate to do so, and then the better portion were rejected and the worse were retained. The Bill he repeated was merely to do away with the test, which had so mischievous an effect; and an opportunity would thus be afforded to those who were disposed to remain in the Province, to take the oath of allegiance.

Mr. END replied that under the imperial act parties could do that. It was formed for the benefit of the Huguenots; and the provisions of the act prescribes that foreigners should be permitted to take the oath of allegiance, upon taking the sacrament in any reformed church. It was amusing to hear gentlemen talking about conscientious scruples. There were 175 brigands taken in Upper Canada, every one of whom should have been hanged; eleven of whom had never been baptized, and nineteen-twentieths of them belonged to no Christian denomination. He was determined to oppose the Bill in every stage of its progress.

Mr. HILL. The learned gentleman, he presumed, did not mean to say that foreigners could not be naturalized under the Act alluded to. He believed it was not against the policy of any country to naturalize; and was not aware that distinctions were made with reference to any nation.

Mr. FISHER would enquire if the learned member for Gloucester thought those 175 persons would hesitate to take the sacrament, if they could promote their interest by so doing?—Certainly not. By the laws which are at present in operation, Americans may come into the province with their families, and after remaining till they grow old, would die aliens; and their children, were it not for the provisions of the Bill, must remain such.

Mr. BROWN could not permit the observations of the learned member for Gloucester to pass without contradiction, and which exceeded the bounds of credibility. There were doubtless among the Americans some good and some bad; but from an experience of upwards of thirty years since he first came into the Province, he could declare that there were among them many excellent men; and who would go as far as any one to defend the country; but who, with their children, are aliens. He mentioned the case of a young man, who at the commencement of the last war, was desirous of remaining, but who could not take the oath of allegiance, clogged as it was with the test which had been referred to; he quitted the Province, entered into the American army, and afterwards when the peace took place, and he was discharged, returned and settled in the country, many others did the same; others joined the Church for a short time, and remained in the country; and others again let their land go to other persons. He thought they had better let the Bill pass, secured as it is by certificates of good conduct and a residence of seven years; without which the oath could not be administered.

Mr. END considered the reference to the church that had been made as uncalled for; persons were not required to partake of the sacrament in church; the act referred to, mentioned any reformed congregation, which embraced every Protestant sect of Christians whatever. If the terms upon which allegiance was to be sworn, referred to a particular denomination, another act might be passed to remove such cause of complaint; but he would not allow foreigners to come in without having some Christian character. He should like to see the oath refused to a party who had taken the sacrament anywhere; and any construction of the Act which confined its provisions to the church of England would be decidedly wrong. That Act entitles a foreigner to the blessings of a Christian country by being a Christian himself; and where a person had a certificate of good conduct, who would refuse to administer the oath? He repeated he considered the Bill as unnecessary and useless, and as permitting those to come in as British subjects, who were to be regarded with extreme jealousy; and this at a time when the Legislature were granting extraordinary powers to the Executive, and the representatives of the people were pledging their lives in support of the just rights of the government. Where he would ask, was the justice and humanity of such a proceeding. It was downright folly; well might it be said, that John Bull is too much of a gentleman to mind his own business.

Mr. BROWN said the learned gentleman for Gloucester did not reason correctly. He would ask what took place in 1812, when Americans had the option of either leaving the Province or taking the oath, according to the construction which had been placed upon the Act. At present war does not exist between the two countries, and he hoped it never will.—It would be most deplorable if such were the case. But even when a state of warfare really existed, it was not refused these people to take the oath of allegiance; they were told they must do it or leave the country, and upon their enquiring upon what terms they might do so; they were told they must join some Episcopal church in the neighbourhood; and this many of them being dissenters and belonging to various bodies of Christians refused to do. Some of them however did so; took the oath and then rejoined their respective churches; others remained without taking the oath, and some have never taken it at all, and are still aliens old and settled residents in the country. It were not necessary perhaps to pass the Bill, if an Imperial Act to the same effect were already in force.

Hon. SPEAKER thought gentlemen had better consult the Act of Parliament, and see if it bears the liberal construction which had been placed upon it by the learned member for Gloucester; and not by passing another Bill. Gill the country with infidels, for at present infidelity is making great progress in the United States. He thought

it would be better to fall back upon the old Act, if its provisions were such as had been stated, and thus exclude this description of persons from partaking of the rights of British subjects.

Hon. Mr. WELDON said the invariable practice had been to construe the act very differently; and it had been held by the supreme court, that a person could not take the oath, until he had taken the sacrament, administered by a minister of the Church of England. The act had been construed to have reference to that church which was established at the time of the reformation. That was the meaning which was applied to the term reformed church; and even in these more liberal days, he apprehended such a construction would still be maintained. He believed infidels however, would not scruple to comply with the requisitions of the act, no matter how construed, but persons of correct moral feeling, would hesitate before doing so.

Mr. FISHER would go farther; many persons of high moral feeling would not take it at all, from an apprehension that they did not possess those religious requirements which they considered essential. That it was the practice to construe the act as meant to apply to the Episcopal church was well known; and he was astonished to hear it asserted that such was not the case, when in Upper Canada, at the present time, it is contended that the grant of the clergy reserves to Protestant ministers, was meant to apply exclusively to those of the church of England.

Mr. PARTELOW said the act was passed in 1836, and was to have effect for three years; after receiving the royal assent; consequently it may be said to have expired; and it was passed at the express recommendation of government. The hon. gentleman here called the attention of the Committee to the dispatch which was received at the time of passing the present act, wherein it was stated, that Government would consent to the passing of a Provincial Act, for the naturalization of persons, who had lived seven years in the Province, provided they took the oath within three years, which period as he had already stated, was about expiring; the Bill was to have a retrospective operation; but the minister refrained from entering into details, of which the colonial legislatures were the best judges. Both Houses in this Province, were unanimous as to the hardship of every young man who might wish to take the oath of allegiance, being obliged to join the Church of England; which had been the invariable practice, founded on the opinion of the judges of the land and other legal men; and although he entertained great respect for that of the hon. member for Gloucester, yet he would not prefer it to those of the Bench. The act having passed unanimously and gone into operation, it had been productive of benefit; and he did not see any reason, notwithstanding the declamation of that learned member, why it should not be renewed; as he considered it a case of excessive hardship, when a lad upon arriving at maturity, could not be permitted to take the oath of allegiance, without partaking of the sacrament, however unworthy he might consider himself.

Mr. HILL said the language of the Act was of some Protestant church, but the construction that had been placed upon it, confined its operation to members of the Church of England.—But the objection is to taking the sacrament at all; many persons considering it as requiring certain religious prerequisites, and that it should not be taken for any temporal purpose. The door is already open for the admission of foreigners to the privilege of naturalization, and the Legislature cannot close it; but it were wrong to force persons to partake of a sacred ordinance for any particular purpose. An infidel would not scruple to comply with such a requisition, while a man of moral worth, and who might possess a strong attachment for the institutions of his native country or his religious belief, would be excluded; thus giving a preference to the most worthless of mankind.

After some desultory remarks as respected the meaning of the term reformed church, and in reference to the statute, the Bill was passed, and the Committee rose.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

Another insult—we believe the fourth within twelve months—has been offered by officers of the French Navy at the English flag. It appears that two French ships were lying in harbour of Port Louis, in the Isle of France, for repairs, and that the officers commanding them made an after dinner bet among themselves, that they would dress their ships and place the flag of England at the bottom—below that of every other national ensign. They did this, and Captain Driver, who was in command of a small English vessel, seeing the flag of his country exhibited in this dishonourable position, retaliated, by substituting a tricolour for his telegraph flag, and stopping it underneath his bowsprit. This was slight for slight, but the French Captains made immediate complaint to Sir W. Nicoley, the Governor of the island, and the Governor compelled Captain Driver to offer a most ample written apology to the French Captains, for the insult which he had offered to the flag of France.

Having been guilty of this folly—nay, in the position which he holds, folly is not the word—of this misconduct—the Governor next attempted to draw an apology from the Frenchmen, and after a most contemptible series of threats, accompanied by a display of warlike force, and a declaration that they would do it, he suffered them to sail away, without even hoisting the English colours and saluting them. He suffered them, while lying under the muzzles of the guns, with which he could have knocked them to pieces in five minutes, to insult and laugh at him and then to sail away at their leisure, and to boast of their achievement. Sir W. Nicoley's conduct has been so bad, that he must at once be recalled.

We see with pleasure that the officers in garrison at Port Louis, complimented Captain Driver, by especial invitation to their mess table. We propose that our fellow citizens should also make their sense of his spirited conduct, by a vote of thanks at a public meeting. It is incentive like this that our officers want. If the nation does not sympathize, with those who irregularly represent affronts offered to it, and does not express its contempt of those who regularly stand by, while it is being insulted, we cannot expect but that these insults will continue, and that every dinner among foreign seamen will be ended by a bet, as to which can offer the most popular offence to the English flag.—*Atlas*.

MONTREAL, Feb. 6.

A very important correspondence, between Her Majesty's Minister at Washington and Mr. Forsyth, on the subject of the boundary question, has been laid before Congress. It is too voluminous for insertion at length; but it is of too deep an interest to the subjects and citizens of both nations, to be slightly passed over. In making extracts from this correspondence, we shall not enter upon any discussion of the points at issue, but we regret to observe that they are referred to by the authorities of Maine, as well as those of the Federal Government, in a style

and manner which, we confess, reflects no great or enduring credit upon either. There seems to us to be a littleness and pettifying chicanery in the communications proceeding from the United States, far from being worthy of a great country. Indeed, the diplomacy of the Republic is generally carried on, as if it was driving a bargain on some subject of mere commercial intercourse. It is characterized by no generosity or magnanimity; and reminds one of a game of chess, where the adversaries are disposed to take every possible advantage of one another.

But as between great nations, such a principle of conduct can neither endure nor be tolerated long. The secret design can easily be traced by the efforts that are made to conceal it; and the more elaborate the art with which it is attempted to be hidden, the more fore and insidious will it appear in the sequel. It is a great misfortune to have to deal with a nation capable of pursuing such a course of policy; but it is to be hoped, that dear bought experience has long before now taught the British Government, that the best species of diplomacy that can be carried on with a supple and grasping nation, like the United States, is to maintain our rights, and enforce them when we are sure that justice is on our side. It is but simple justice to our Minister at Washington to observe, that neither the right, the dignity, nor the Empire will ever be compromised by him.

Chaplain to the Senate of the United States.—The Rev. Mr. Cookman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been elected Chaplain to the Senate of the United States.—Mr. Cookman is son of Mr. Cookman, the present Mayor of Hull, England. He came to America about twelve years ago. It would seem from his present appointment, (by a ballot vote of the Senate), that the prejudices against Englishmen are not so strong in the highest quarters in the United States, as they are against Americans in this country, among many who claim pre-eminence in intelligence and refinement.—*Toronto Guardian*.

INDIA.

The Devonport (Eng.) Telegraph contains advices of a still later date from Kurnool, viz: to Oct. 19th. They communicate the fact of a battle having taken place four days previous, a few miles from the Fort, between a body of British troops and the insurgent forces, in which the latter were defeated with the loss, in killed and prisoners, of near 1000 men. The conquerors also obtained a large amount of treasure. Particulars as follow:

Battle near Kurnool—Capture of more Stores and Treasure.

A private letter received by a highly respectable inhabitant of this town, from the seat of operations at Kurnool, furnishes us with several days later intelligence from that quarter than will be found in the London journals. It communicates the fact of a battle having taken place, and of further seizures of treasure and stores. The letter is dated Kurnool, 19th of October, 13 days after its occupation by the forces of General Wilson, and five days later than the intelligence contained in the Madras papers received by the last mail.

It appears that General Wilson, having on the 15th been joined by the 34th Light Infantry, a body of horse and foot Artillery, some Dragoons and Light Cavalry, and two companies of her Majesty's 39th Regiment, determined, if possible, to secure the person of the Rajah, who remained encamped, with a strong force, a little more than three miles from the fortress on the banks of the river.

The newly-arrived troops were ordered on this duty, and Colonel James's brigade, consisting of the 51st Native Infantry, with some artillery and horse formed a reserve for their support in case of need.—It is not said whether the Rajah was then a prisoner in the hands of his own troops, or kept aloof voluntarily; but, being summoned to surrender, and the half an hour's grace allowed him by the British officer in command having expired without his appearing, the horse artillery sent some shells among them, when, after discharging their muskets, they rushed on the British, sabre in hand, fighting with the greatest desperation. After a short but severe conflict, they were routed on all sides. A number of the fugitives took to the river, where they were peppered by the horse artillery, and nearly all these were killed, drowned, or taken prisoners. The rest fled to the grain fields, where they were pursued by the cavalry and cut down in great numbers.

Altogether nearly 1,000 were killed or taken prisoners, the remainder escaping with the Rajah, in pursuit of whom the cavalry and light troops were out scouring the country in all directions. An immense quantity of jewels and about £150,000 in specie were found in the camp, affording abundance of prize money to the lucky conquerors. The British lost several officers, among whom were Col. Wright and Lieut. Yates of the 34th regt. and Lieut. White of the 39th Queen's regt. killed, besides several wounded. The loss in non-commissioned officers and privates is not stated.

All these letters describe the discoveries at Kurnool to be of a most extraordinary nature, affording undoubted evidence of an extensive and deep laid conspiracy against British power in India. Eight or nine of the native rulers were already pretty well ascertained to have been mixed up with this conspiracy, and it was strongly suspected that evidence would yet be afforded showing Russia to be at the bottom of the whole. Kurnool was the focus of their stores. The following account of the treasures and stores found in the fortress is extracted from the letter of a young officer of the 51st, a native of this town:—

“We have already discovered 500 or 600 brass guns, and stores, which, for quantity and excellence, almost cut out the arsenal at Fort George, and the treasure alone amounts to nearly a million sterling. There is powder enough in the fort to blow the whole of India to the North Pole. The military stores are sufficient to supply 100,000 men for two years. There are about 500 suits of complete chain armour, beautiful things, and swords Damascus blades worth 40l. to 50l. each. The Rajah has a pair of pistols the butt, barrels and every other part, except the springs, of solid gold, with the pure agates as substitutes for flints.”—*Devenport Telegraph*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SENTINEL.

Sir.—Having been in Fredericton in the Crown Land Office last week, respecting a lot I wished to have purchased in the County of Carleton, what was my astonishment when I was told that I must pay right off with my petition, twenty shillings, and the remainder of the purchase money in two months after. This Sir was more than I expected, and after all that has been said about the settlement of the country, I must tell them this is the very worst way to set about it, as to get money in this part of the country is out of the question. Having a wife and two children, I have worked hard these three years past, hoping to be able to get on to a farm of my own; but Sir my expectations are completely frustrated, the money I cannot raise, it would be easier getting a cow

here than a dollar in cash; besides I could not pay for a lot in such short time, a poor man sitting down in the woods has a pretty hard scramble for two or three years to get along, plenty of hard work and not much other comfort.

I would ask Sir in the name of God, what time all the waste land in this Province will be settled, if it has to be paid for before a man can eat a praty off it. I am told Sir they don't know what to do with this money they get for the land, but store it away in the vault of the Bank, where it cannot be of the least manner of use to a poor man like me; this Sir still verifies the words of the Poet Burns, “man is the worst enemy to man.”

We thought Sir, the members of the House when they would get the controul of the Crown Land Office, would do every thing that would enable a poor man to settle himself on it again; but if they don't alter this way of letting it, we must go seek a home elsewhere, although I would like to remain a British subject as all my forefathers did.—Now Sir I cannot see why they would not give a poor man the chance of sitting down for three years, without paying any thing but the interest of his purchase money (and we will say twenty shillings with his petition, which it will give him enough to do to make up) then Sir two or three years to pay it up by instalments, holding his land in security until all is paid up.

This Sir would give to many a poor man a chance to make a home for himself and his family, and would it not be better still for the increase of the funds of the Crown Land Office, this Sir would be living and let live, a plain fair way of going to work, and you may depend upon it Sir, the woods would soon be cleared; and this would be the first grand step to agriculture, as until the woods are well cleared it is all a farce about Agricultural Societies. Now Sir as the axe is laid upon the root of the tree, enable us to get on; all we want is a fair start and down the hemlocks must come.

I remain Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

AN EMIGRANT.

Andover, February 10, 1840.

THE SENTINEL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1840.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

We have brought our Report of Debates down to Wednesday. On that day the Bill for the payment of Grand and Petit Jurors came under discussion in Committee, and notwithstanding Mr. Boyd moved to strike out the clause relative to Grand Jurors, it was lost by a majority of eleven. In the afternoon the Bill providing for the future drawing of Jurors, the first debate on which we have reported, again came under discussion in debate; and was opposed by Messrs. Wilmot and Street, who were absent on the previous day, and the committee reported progress without coming to any decision; on Thursday it was again taken up and debated, and was carried by a very large majority, the minority being six. It being the last day for receiving petitions, the Committee again reported progress; but the Bill will pass, there being a strong majority in favour of the measure, and it being in accordance with public sentiment.

It may be proper here to remark, that the evil against which the Bill is meant to guard is already felt in this Province, in the summoning of jurors to Magistrates' Courts, where the Constable often makes his selections, as friendship or hostility may dictate; but it is no argument against the introduction of an improved code of laws, that although the one already in operation may be susceptible of abuse, yet no injury has hitherto resulted from it. The House were the remainder of Thursday occupied in receiving private petitions.

The likeness of Lord Glenelg has been placed behind the Speaker's chair; and is an elegant picture.

Mr. Weldon has bro't in a Bill authorising a census of the population of the Province, which was yesterday passed in Committee of the whole House. The last census was taken in 1834; and the object of taking it at the present time, is to render it conformable with the period when it is taken in the neighbouring colonies.

Hon. Mr. Johnston delivered messages from the Lieut. Governor, containing resolutions of the College Council with reference to the charter of that institution, also a communication from the Collector of the Customs at St. John, embracing the regulations proposed to be adopted, as respects the trade between Nova Scotia and this Province.

Mr. Street yesterday presented a petition from Mirimiclie, with reference to a watch house at Chatham, and praying that the county should be assessed for the same; but after a short discussion it was determined not to dispense with the rule, which limited the reception of petitions to the 20th February.

Yesterday, among the petitions received, was one from the Rev. Mr. GRAY and others in St. John, members of the Temperance Society, praying for the interference of the Legislature, to restrain intemperance. Mr. WOODWARD presented it with appropriate remarks; after which, he introduced the following Resolution, for the purpose of calling public attention to the subject, and in that way accelerating that change in public sentiment, which is evidently rapidly approaching a favorable issue:

Whereas the consumption of alcoholic liquors, is injurious to the Public interest, and often produces very great individual suffering and distress;—and whereas any measure that will tend to alleviate what is now admitted to be a great evil is very desirable.—Therefore resolved as the opinion of this House, that to prevent so great an evil, it is necessary to prohibit the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Province; that whenever any ardent spirits or alcoholic liquors may be found in the possession of any person or persons, the same may be destroyed.—And further resolved, that in the opinion of this House; this subject should be taken up at the next Session of the Legislature, and a Bill introduced to prohibit the importation, and domestic manufacture of all alcoholic liquors; provided in the mean time, there shall not be such an expression of public opinion, as to make it apparent that such a measure would not be sustained by it.

To which Mr. Partelow moved the following amendment.—Strike out the whole of the resolution and insert,

That so long as the importation of spirituous liquors and their distillation are sanctioned and authorised by the Imperial Parliament, and other parts of the British dominions, and the world at large, it would be both inexpedient and unwise to adopt any prohibitory measures in