

terror-stricken wives, and bearing in their arms their helpless children. To attempt to describe the scene of destruction that followed would be useless, as it would baffle the pen of the most ready descriptive writer. First of all, a large steam boiler in Mr. Donald's work, at the Townhead, was raised by the force of the current, and borne along on the sweeping torrent like a child's toy. The house and garden of Mr. Sirling of the Foundry was then inundated—the outhouses being literally swept away. The stables of Mr. Cuthbertson, carpet-manufacturer, in which were two valuable horses, were, in a moment as it were, next filled; and here it is our mournful duty to record the loss of life which occurred. It appears that a carter, named James Bruce, had hurried to secure the horses. Another man, named Pettigrew, had been first at the place and succeeded in bringing one of the animals safe to dry ground. He observed Bruce carried down with the current. The work of destruction, however, is only begun. The bridge at the Townhead totters, and the wall from that part to the Messrs. Blackwood's Mill is almost entirely swept away. The poor people's houses at Lade Side are inundated, and everything borne off. The waters rushed on, filling the Green, pour down Green-street, and rise, in less than a quarter of an hour, to a height of six feet. And now they expend their tremendous force in Waterloo-street. The water forced its way through the Angel Inn close, and totally carried away a house in Back Lane, occupied as a smithy. Almost the whole of the houses in this street were completely gutted, and the loss is very severely felt. The water now fills the Cross and sweeps round and down King-street. Fancy the principal thoroughfare of the town converted into a rapid river, carrying on its waters trees, carts, chairs, tables, &c.—the poor prisoners being removed to a place of safety from their lonesome cells in Guard Lane—women wringing their hands, children screaming, and men exerting themselves to calm their fears, or bear them out of danger.—Bank Street too, was flooded as far up as the Low Church. To give a list of the sufferers would be to enumerate all the names of shopkeepers down the whole of King-street, in the Cross, Waterloo-street, Cheapside, and even as far as Glencairn Square. The river has carried off no less than three wooden bridges in a distance of two miles. We have learned that a poor beggar woman has been drowned at Waterside, Fenwick, while sleeping in one of the outhouses. It would be difficult to assign a meteorological cause for this awful occurrence. It is generally supposed that a waterspout, surcharged with an immense volume of the liquid element, burst near Fenwick, for six miles up the water, the debris lies on its banks. That it has fallen in a moorland part of the country we think is shown from the fact, that a large adder was found in Bank Street and killed. It measured about 18 inches in length. The flood had gained its height at about five o'clock, and at this time it was fully nine feet above the highest point ever reached in the memory of man. Among those who have suffered severely by the flood, we may mention Mr. Alexander of Fenwick, whose premises are nearly wholly destroyed—his house literally gutted, and nothing almost of it standing but the bare walls. The water, we may state, rose speedily and subsided as quickly, and continued no more than two hours. The scene presented in the morning was one of woe. Every countenance was sad, and all were sympathising with the sufferers. Friends assisted friends, and neighbors lent a helping hand. At St. Marnock street the work of destruction has been great, and in some places complete. The wooden bridge swept away—houses down—and the long line of wall with its iron railings, levelled with the ground—and the embankments undermined, and houses rendered insecure. Great difference of opinion exists as to the cause of this unparalleled flood. The heavy rains on the wide moorlands, and near the sources of the river, are quite adequate to account for it. Messrs. Wilson and Blackwood proceeded towards Fenwick in order to ascertain the cause, and to see what damage had been done in other quarters. From them we learn that there had been an excessive rain, but nothing like a waterspout, as the various little streams which are the feeders of the Kil-marnock Water, and which draw their supplies from different tracts of country, had been nearly all equally swollen.

[From the Quebec Gazette, August 20.]

## PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Quebec, (Friday,) 20th Aug., 1852.

His Excellency the Governor General, at 3 o'clock P. M., this day, proceeded in state to the Legislative Council Chamber, and having taken his seat upon the throne, commanded the attendance of the Legislative Assembly. The members of that body, preceded by their Speaker, the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, speedily appeared at the Bar. The Hon. J. S. Macdonald informed his Excellency that the choice of the Assembly had fallen upon him to be their Speaker, and he craved for the Members the customary Parliamentary privileges. After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following

### SPEECH.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I have much pleasure in meeting you, in order that we may unite our endeavors for the promotion of the interests of the Province.

Notwithstanding the deep interest occasioned by a General Election, the utmost tranquillity has, I am happy to inform you, prevailed throughout the Province during the period which has elapsed since the close of the last session of Parliament. I am enabled, under these favorable circumstances, again to congratulate Parliament on the prosperity of the Province. Provincial Securities continue to rise steadily in value, and the returns of the Census, recently completed, furnish most satisfactory evidence of the advancement of the Colony in wealth and population.

The estimated deficiency in the Postal Revenue has not been exceeded, although greatly extended accommodation has been afforded to the public by the establishment of additional Post Offices and increased Postal service.—There is reason to believe that before long the Receipts of the Department will balance the expenditure.

A heavy calamity has, however, I am greatly concerned to state, befallen the Province, in the destruction by fire of a large portion of the important City of Montreal. I am confident that you will bestow your best consideration on any measure that may be proposed to you for the purpose of mitigating its effects.

The importance of placing the Currency of British North America on a uniform basis, and of introducing the decimal system, has been frequently recognized by Parliament. A measure will be submitted for your consideration, which will, I have reason to believe, promote the accomplishment of these objects.

I shall cause such documents to be laid before you as will put you fully in possession of the steps which I have taken during the recess, with the view of giving effect to the intentions of the Legislature, embodied in the Acts passed last Session for promoting the construction of Railways. I have endeavored in these proceedings to act, in so far as circumstances have permitted, in concert with Lieut. Governors of the Lower Provinces.

In connection with these works, and with the subject of public improvements generally, the position of Bonds issued on the credit of the Municipalities in Upper Canada, merits attention. The security afforded to holders of such bonds under the Municipal Act now in force in that part of the Province is of a very ample and satisfactory description. It is not improbable, however, that your wisdom may devise measures which, without materially altering their character, may tend to enhance their value in the market.

The importance of establishing direct Steam communication between Great Britain and the Ports of Quebec and Montreal has been repeatedly pressed on the Government, by persons interested in the Commerce of the Province. The subject which has a material bearing on the prospects of Immigration and the reduction of freights on the St. Lawrence, has engaged my anxious attention during the recess. A plan for the attainment of the object in view, which will, I trust, meet your approbation, will be submitted for your consideration.

I shall lay before you a Despatch which I have received from the Principal Secretary of

State for the Colonies, communicating the views of Her Majesty's Imperial Government in reference to the Clergy Reserves, and stating the grounds on which Her Majesty's Ministers refrained from introducing a measure into the Imperial Parliament, during its last session, for the repeal of the Imperial Statute on this subject.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

The condition of the Revenue is satisfactory, and indicates general prosperity among the consuming population of the Province.

I shall direct the Accounts for the past and the Estimates for the current year to be laid before you, and I rely on your readiness to grant such supplies as may be necessary for the maintenance of the credit of the Province and the efficiency of the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen:*

Various subjects of much importance to the interests of the Province will, no doubt, engage your attention during the session which is now commencing.

An addition to the Representation seems to be called for by the increasing population of the Province, and the rapid development of some of its more recently settled Districts.

It is possible that through the instrumentality of the Municipal System now in full operation in Upper Canada, and of the Assessment Law, you may be enabled to establish an efficient and inexpensive mode of registering Parliamentary Electors in that part of the Province.

In connection with this subject I recommend for your consideration the Claims of certain classes of Occupiers now excluded from the Franchise, on whom, there is reason to believe, it may be conferred with advantage to the public interests.

The interests of Agriculture are entitled to the special care and attention of Government, in a country where so large a portion of the community is employed in Agricultural pursuits. The absence of any sufficient provision for obtaining correct statistical information respecting the productions of the country and for diffusing knowledge which may be serviceable both to those engaged in Agriculture and to persons proposing to become settlers, has been long a subject of complaint. I do not doubt that you will bestow your best consideration on any unobjectionable measures that may be suggested for remedying this defect and for effecting the more speedy settlement of unoccupied lands in both sections of the Province.

It is probable that grievances which are alleged to exist under the Feudal Tenure, that obtains in certain parts of Lower Canada, may engage your attention. I am confident that in dealing with this subject, which is one of great delicacy, you will manifest a scrupulous regard for rights of property which have been acquired and exercised in good faith, and with the sanction, tacit or declared, of the legal tribunals of the Province.

The arrangements now in force in both Sections of the Province for the maintenance of Indigent Patients consigned to the Lunatic Asylum, appear to be, I regret to observe, in some respects defective. The care of these unfortunate persons involves considerations of humanity of the highest order, and I confide in your readiness to bestow your best attention on any measure that may be submitted to you for the remedy of this evil.

In all the measures which you may adopt for the promotion of the interests of the Province, and the happiness and contentment of the people, you may rely on my zealous co-operation; and I shall now further detain you from the important duties in which you are about to engage, only to express my humble hope that the Almighty may render our endeavors efficacious for the public good.

**STEAMERS ON A NEW PRINCIPLE.**—A new plan for building steamers has been brought out in England, and an experimental boat built to run from London to Boulogne. This boat is 235 feet long, 20 feet beam, of 250 tons burden and has an engine of 50 horse power. The bow and stern are filled with fixed air like a life boat. If it meets the expectations of the inventor and builders, two immense vessels of 10,000 tons and 1,000 horse power will at once be built on the same plan: they will run from London to the East Indies in 30 days, without stopping on the way.

[From the Halifax Wesleyan.]

## WOODSTOCK, N. B.

A correspondent in one of our exchanges, speaking of Woodstock, N. B., says:—

"I have traversed many a river in North America, but the quiet beauty of the St. John is, in my opinion, unsurpassed; its character is placidity and cheerfulness, highly in keeping for the relief to the languor induced by the July atmosphere of Fredericton. Farms are making and settlements progressing on the banks of the river, but slowly, too slowly for the length of time elapsed since the hardy pioneers of our Province first located their homesteads on the verdant banks of the noble stream.

Skirting the luxuriant banks as the river flowed through the fruitful County of Carleton, we at length arrived at Woodstock, whose white buildings shewed prettily amidst the green shrubbery. The pleasantly situate Hotel of Mr. Balloch stood invitingly at hand, while the kindness of its urbane landlord showered his attentions on his guests with independent heartiness, as might a private host anxious for the accommodation of his visitors, his profit not thought of in competition with their comfort.

Woodstock is a rising village, fast increasing in importance, with every indication of present prosperity; many of its buildings are elegant, that belonging to one of its enterprising men to whose energy Woodstock is much indebted, might content the most fastidious, its impression on strangers is the conviction that our successful New Brunswick merchants can lodge themselves with equal elegance and taste as the wealthy British landholder of a many quartered esquire: the kindly hospitality of the gentleman and the liberality of his establishment is in keeping with the means he possesses of displaying these qualities, and proves that fortune was not blind nor Providence unmindful of the good of others when he crowned his energy with success and smiled on his *go-ahead* career. The ladies of the family also, by their kindly and polite demeanor, and the cordiality of their reception, render the mansion delightful to visitors, and cheer the fatigue of the traveler who is fortunate enough to be introduced there, while they also largely dispense the blessings of Providence to all who stand in need, while the very children seem impelled by like cordiality. May such families abound in New Brunswick and be equally successful.

**SCENE IN CONGRESS.**—*Washington, Aug. 24.* The House having considered the Bill for the personal safety of passengers by steamboats, went into committee on the Light House Bill.—Mr. Polk, of Tennessee, said it was not his purpose to discuss the Bill before them, but, among other things, to show that the Whig party had "gone into liquidation, and cannot pay ten cents to the dollar." These and other reproachful expressions brought Mr. Cullom on his feet, and he repelled the charges as utterly false.

The Chairman, amidst great confusion, called to order.

Mr. Polk, (in reference to assertions made by Mr. Cullom)—"I will make the charge a fixed one—he (Mr. Cullom) lies."

Much excitement hereupon ensued, and apprehensions were entertained of a personal conflict.

Mr. Cullom—"When my colleague insinuates that I have made false representations, he is a liar."—(Sensation.)

Much more in the above style of oratory followed, Mr. Polk observing, among other things, "I said you were a liar, and I say so again."

Mr. Cullom retorted that he held Mr. Polk and his braggadocio in utter contempt.

The Committee rose without coming to a conclusion.

**SUPREMACY OF THE OCEAN.**—The Ships of New Brunswick stand at the head of the Colonial marine; and apart from prejudice, with a fair share of fair play, are perhaps for symmetry, stowage and sailing, the first in the world. They are fast winning their way into public favor, and will doubtless ere long be awarded by common consent the position to which their merits justly entitle them.—*Halifax Chronicle.*

St. John has beaten the New Yorkers in the boat race by "backing out."