

the Thames, and passing over into Essex, but Alfred intercepted them at Farnham, put them to flight, and chased them on board their ships, which carried them up the Clone, to Mersey in Essex, where they entrenched themselves. Hastings, at the same time, and probably by concert, made a like movement, and deserting his encampment, took up his quarters in the same County, where he hastily threw up fortifications against the power of Alfred.

The East-Anglian Danes, (who had been conquered by Alfred, and pardoned on condition of their embracing Christianity, and engaging never more to take up arms against England,) being no longer restrained by their princes—Guthrum, their chief, being dead, as was also Guthred, whom the king had appointed governor of the Northumbrians—being encouraged by the appearance of so large a body of their countrymen, broke into rebellion; and yielding to the inveterate habit of war and rapine, embarked on board two hundred and forty vessels, and appeared before Essex in the West of England.

Alfred, having left some forces in London, to make head against Hastings and the other Danes, lost not a moment in opposing this new enemy, and falling on them before they were aware, compelled them to retreat on board their ships. They sailed next to Sussex, but meeting with a new repulse, were again obliged to put to sea, and were discouraged from attempting any other enterprise.

Meanwhile, the English army left in London, assisted by a body of the citizens, attacked the Danish army under Hastings, overpowered the garrison, and having done great execution upon them, carried off the wife and two sons of Hastings. Alfred afterwards generously restored these captives to Hastings, on condition that he would depart the kingdom.

Though the great armies of the Danes were now broken, Alfred had not entirely subdued or expelled the invaders; the country was full of the straggling troops of the Danes, who being accustomed to live by plunder, were not disposed or capable of industry, but indulged themselves in committing violence, even beyond what was necessary to supply their necessities. The English, from these continual depredations were reduced to the most extreme indigence, now shook off all bands of government, and from despair joined the robbers in pillaging and ruining their fellow-citizens. For these evils it was necessary that the vigilance and activity of Alfred should provide a remedy.

This may be regarded as the period of Alfred's highest military renown. He was, more properly than his grandfather, Egbert, the first sole monarch of England, because the kingdom of Mercia was incorporated in his state, the Welsh acknowledged his authority, and though the Danes who peopled East-Anglia and Northumberland, were for some time ruled immediately by their own princes, yet they acknowledged a subordination to Alfred, and submitted to his superior authority.

Alfred was severe in the administration of justice, but he took care to temper the rigour of the laws by other institutions favorable to the freedom of his subjects. The institution of juries has been ascribed to him, and what is now known as COMMON LAW is also supposed to have had its origin with him. He put the Danes on the same footing with the English in respect to the administration of the law, and the fine for the murder of a Dane was the same as that for the murder of an Englishman—the great symbol of equality in those times. He always preserved the most sacred regard to the liberty of his people, and there is a remarkable sentiment preserved in his will, namely, that "It is just that the English should forever remain as free as their own thoughts."

The care of Alfred for the encouragement of learning was another useful branch of his legislation, and tended to reclaim the English from their former dissolute and ferocious manners. He established Schools in England, and invited over the most celebrated scholars from all parts of Europe for the instruction of his people, and in order to encourage the common people in the business of educating their children, he sent his own son to be taught amongst them. He gave preference, both in church and state, to such only as had made some proficiency in

learning, and he was inflexible in selecting only such persons for public offices as were competent to perform their duties. Earls, Governors, and Ministers, who had been illiterate from childhood, were compelled to learn reading and writing, or lose their employments.—He soon had the satisfaction of seeing a great change in the face of affairs, although he was not guided in this matter so much by political views, as by his own natural bent and propensity towards letters.

This was not all he did for the encouragement of education, but his own example was a much more effectual expedient. The Saxon language forms part of the basis of the modern English, but before Alfred's time it was hardly if it all, used in writing. Latin was the common language of books and documents, but books and writings of all kinds were rare among the Saxons. Alfred was himself an author, and besides propagating among his subjects former translations which he had found in the Saxon tongue, he gave Saxon translations to many Latin and Greek works, some of which are extant to this day.

While he was thus exerting himself in promoting knowledge among his subjects, he did not neglect Commerce and the Mechanical Arts, which have a more sensible, though not a closer connection with the interests of society. He invited from all quarters, skillful and industrious foreigners, and no inventor or improver of any ingenious or useful art did he suffer to go unrewarded. He encouraged Commerce by prompting men of energy and activity to betake themselves to navigation, to promote a trade with foreign Countries, and to acquire riches by propagating industry among their fellow-citizens; and the people, by seeing these productions of the peaceful arts, were taught to respect the virtues of justice and industry, from which alone they could arise.

In summing up the character and merits of Alfred the Great, we may truthfully assert that his prudence, vigilance, and magnanimity have never been surpassed by any monarch in ancient or modern history. His civil and military virtues about equally challenge our admiration, but the former, being more rare among princes as well as more useful, seem the more prominent, and have deservedly acquired the praise and admiration of posterity. The solid judgment, immense capacity, and deep penetration which he exhibited in the government of the country,—in the administration of justice,—in his exertions for the promotion of education among his subjects, and his zeal for the encouragement of the arts and sciences,—his arrangements for preventing and defeating the predatory incursions of the Danes,—and his measures to redeem the country from the depressed and wretched condition into which it had relapsed after such a long period of warfare, all conspire to warrant us in the assertion that the merits of this prince, both in public and private life, might, with advantage, be set in opposition to those of any monarch or citizen, which the annals of any age or of any nation can present to us.

On the whole, perhaps, by the extraordinary combination of the many virtues which were so happily blended in his disposition, he approached as near to perfection as the frail and defective nature of man will admit; and in the vigour of his age and the full strength of his faculties, he died in the year 901, after a glorious reign of twenty-nine years and a half, in which he deservedly received the title of Founder of the English Monarchy and the appellation of ALFRED THE GREAT.

FOREIGN ARTICLES AT THE NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE.—The New York Times in enumerating some of the receipts at the Crystal Palace, says that over 1900 packages of articles have been already received there through the Custom House, and that over 1400 more are in the Custom House waiting to be passed. Besides these 700 or 800 more are known to be on board ships which have arrived in the harbor. It is supposed that no more than a third of the articles intended for the exhibition have been received in the building. Of these already received in the foreign department are consignments by various ships from England, appraised £40,985 stg.; from Holland \$158,000; France \$158,000 and amounting for 7 European countries to £613,154.

Personal and Political Sketch of the Members of the House of Assembly of N. H., as we find them in 1853.

CAPTAIN J. J. ROBINSON.

This Gentleman is one of the Charlotte County Representatives—is son-in-law of Admiral Owen, resides at Campobello, is Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, and considered possessed of a very handsome fortune. In personal appearance, is of short stature, firmly built, muscular, and agile—with a certain freedom of action, sea-faring carelessness, and "devil-may-care" sprightliness about him, that plainly enough bespeaks him one of the "Sons of the Ocean." With his abilities on the quarter-deck of a British man-of-war, we have nothing to do—it is only as a Legislator of New Brunswick, and for the County of Charlotte, that we have to regard him. Accordingly, in debate, Capt. Robinson speaks with difficulty, laboring under some natural impediment, seemingly, and yet it is neither stammering nor stuttering! It may be from a desire to deliver himself as soon as possible—if that be the cause it seriously militates against the intention. His speeches may certainly be in man-of-war style—open and above board, but they are far from statesman-like—his action is sometimes vehement, and very frequently he evinces a warmth of temper when opposed, indicative of one who loves to command. His love for England, English Institutions, and English Laws appears to be sincerely cherished. He glories in them, and the introduction of any political measure into this country, not in strict accordance with the well understood assent of the Home Government, would find in Capt. Robinson an unflinching antagonist. He considers vote by ballot a mean system, and treats the subject with contemptuous scorn. Notwithstanding Capt. Robinson's acknowledged Conservative predilections, he always evinced in the Legislature a warm interest in the prosperity of the Province, and particularly in that of the County he represents—the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad receives his zealous support, and the Fishery question finds him equally ready to combat the dispute for the good of the Province in particular and North American Colonies generally. Capt. Robinson appears as independent in principle as he is in purse, and would never barter his nobility of soul for a "mess of pottage."

JAMES BOYD.

This gentleman is a Representative of Charlotte County—arrived in this Province from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1813, during the American War, and served the same year in the embodied militia of New Brunswick. Whether he entered the ranks as Private or Subaltern we cannot say; however, the fact that he holds the rank of Colonel in the New Brunswick militia at the present time, is sufficient to justify us in recording our opinion, that Mr. Boyd has proved himself an effectual Militia Soldier. In personal appearance this gentleman is, in stature, above the common standard—well proportioned in body and limb, and wearing a frank, manly countenance. His hair is dark, complexion florid, and appears about sixty years of age. By reference to authority before us, we find him a member of the House of Assembly in 1839, for the same County which he still represents, and has for the last 14 years, with the exception of *lost time* on account of two Scrutinies, through both of which he passed successfully—the last one, which closed last winter, is celebrated throughout the Province, we may say Provinces. It commenced in 1851 and ended in 1853, and the expense incurred by the rival candidates—Messrs. Fitzgerald and Boyd, must have been enormous! while the time occupied by sitting committees at the Legislature, allowing three dollars per diem to each member, besides contingencies, must have cost the people of the Province no mean sum. Perhaps the amount expended on this notorious scrutiny case, would have made a railroad from St. Andrews to Chamcook! In debate, Mr. Boyd evinces no pretension to oratory—his action is dignified enough, being unaffected and natural; his speeches are generally brief, and noted rather for common sense logic, than the graces of eloquence—he is a stubborn advocate for any case he takes in hand—and never beats a retreat from the ground he occu-

pies until fairly overpowered by numbers, or out-generalled by superior political stratagem. As this gentleman's votes on important subjects will be classed with those of others, in a condensed and methodical form, we omit them here. However, we may just observe, that as Mr. Boyd has served the County of Charlotte 14 years, he must be well known to his constituents, and they to him. Respecting the abominable *loafing* which was carried on last winter among the Members, Mr. Boyd must certainly be quite innocent, as he did not take his seat until near the close of the Session—and even so, we believe he always carries his own *Snuff-Box!*

THE TWELFTH OF JULY IN UPPER CANADA.—The celebration of the twelfth of July, on the part of the Orangemen of Upper Canada, seems to have been very general, and so far as we have yet learned, peaceable. Some time ago, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto issued a circular, enjoining the members of his church not to interfere with the anticipated celebration; and the episcopal injunction seems to have been generally obeyed. It is fortunate that no collision or difficulty took place; for at this particular time the danger was perhaps more than ordinary great, consequent on the exasperation growing out of the Quebec and Montreal riots. The number of Orangemen is said to have greatly increased since those events. From Montreal have come accounts of fabulous numbers of Orangemen being made in a single night; and the process of creation has met a decided, but more moderate stimulus in Upper Canada. The Orange influence appears to have acquired temporary strength from the excitement; not merely in numbers, but in the modified nature of the feeling with which the institution is regarded by a large class in Upper Canada. This is not so much a political as a religious feeling. Many persons, rightly or wrongly, look upon Orangeism as in some sort a mainstay of Protestantism; and it required but a very slight assault upon the liberty of speech to create a strong sympathy between that class and the Orangemen. Hence the sudden increase of strength, moral and numerical, which Orangeism has obtained from the Quebec and Montreal riots. Whether this feeling will be more than temporary depends entirely on the future course of events.—*Leader.*

MORE OUTRAGES ON THE 12TH OF JULY.—Besides the assault on Mr. Breckenridge, we have of two other attacks upon inoffensive individuals, if possible, more wanton than that upon him. The first occurred to two gentlemen from Bytown, one of whom, an extensive lumberman, having left his trunk at a Hotel in McGill street, had requested the other to go with him to fetch it thence to the Ottawa Hotel, in Great St. James street. They took a cab and drove to several places where they had business, before they went for the trunk. When they had got it and returned to the street, they found their cab gone. They then took up the trunk, with a view to lift it to a cab a few paces distant, when they were suddenly accosted by a group of fellows who just then came up.—They said—"let us pass on," whereupon one of their assailants asked,—"where are your orange lilies to-day, or are you carrying your orange lilies?" and immediately began an attack upon the two gentlemen. Both received several blows, and the owner of the trunk, which contained several hundred pounds, in attempting to save his property rather than protect himself, received a very severe wound on the forehead, which laid bare the skull for several inches, so that the consequences may possibly be very serious. His companion, in escaping from the scoundrels who attacked them, was twice fired at, but luckily without danger. Thus two visitors, engaged in their ordinary business, making no offensive demonstrations whatever, were assailed in one of our most public streets and narrowly escaped with their lives. Yet no one is arrested, and no one will be punished.—Are we a civilized people at all? The other person who we hear was maltreated on the 12th was the steward of the *Lady Eglinton*. Having been on shore somewhat late, upon business connected with the ship, he stepped into a tavern to inquire his way on board, when he was knocked down and very badly beaten by a number of persons, without any previous communication. He has been unable to sail with the steamer. A member of the water police, named Bell, was also badly beaten last night.—*Montreal Herald, 14th.*