

SALMON FISHERY.

MR. EDITOR,

In a number of your paper published about two years ago, you very properly called the attention of the Public and the Legislature to the subject of the waste committed in our Salmon Fisheries, by the practice of catching those fish during the spawning season. You at that time stated for the information of those interested in the preservation of so valuable a branch of commerce, that on the South-West River, in the year 1776, three thousand, three hundred tierces of Salmon were cured by Messrs. Davidson & Court, and from 1783 to 1790, there were annually cured from nine to ten thousand tierces.

From an authentic official source, I subjoin a list of persons, twenty-one in number, who resided on the south side of the harbour of Miramichi, in the year 1788, and who cured in the aggregate, one hundred and thirty-seven tierces. That a trade so valuable should be now ALL BUT EXTINCT, and that the resort of fish to this river should have sustained so serious a defalcation, is surely a lamentable misfortune. But the evil which we deplore, is undoubtedly one of our own creation; and, which is a source of great consolation, the remedy is obviously within our reach. If the fish are to be disturbed and caught during the time of their spawning, and when they are congregated for that purpose, no one who has not closed his mind against conviction, can entertain the belief that the act is not a robbery committed on nature's self;—a thwarting of our maker's beneficent intentions;—a crime against heaven!

With justice you asserted, in the number to which I have alluded, that the productiveness of that species of fishery in the mother country, owes its origin to the wise and beneficiary laws enacted for the preservation of Salmon during their spawning operations; and so far as the habits of the fish can be ascertained and acted upon, there can be no doubt that the same Legislative provisions, if properly enforced here, would be productive in a few years, of similar beneficial results. An Act passed by the Legislature of the Province, establishing many excellent provisions, after the same model, and if it were not perfect, it was only because perfection is unattainable in all human institutions.

I have been informed that a number of individuals, acted by honest and well-meant intentions, I entertain no doubt, have signed a petition to the Legislature, to abrogate the provisions of the law; but before the Representatives of the country should undertake an alteration of an act so important to the community, and so productive in all human probability of lasting good consequences to trade, it will behove them to investigate the arguments of the petitioners; to weigh the probable advantages to be derived from persisting in their former legislation, and to bear in mind the benefits derived by other countries from similar provisions. Above all; it behoves them not to give way to selfish motives, and to short-sighted schemes for private convenience; for the advantages to be reaped by a very few individuals, can never repay the positive loss accruing thereby to the community at large.

Murdoch M'Leod	81-2 tierces.
John Edward	81-2 "
James M'Donald	8 "
John M'Donald	8 "
Thomas Lobin	13 "
George Henderson	61-2 "
Patrick Henderson	61-2 "
Wm. Brown	7 "
Peter Taylor	6 "
Robert England	7 "
Alexander Taylor	1 "
George Roy	3 "
John Dalton	12 "
Daniel Newton	10 "
James M'Comb	10 "
Alexander Gregg	7 "
Alexander M'Donald	3 "
Dond. M'Grah	3 "
Duncan M'Grah	3 "
Robert Logie	3 "
Duncan Robertson	3 "

Total—177 tierces,

Cured by 21 settlers, as ascertained by the personal enquiries of Thomas Milledge, Esq. in 1788.

SPIRIT OF THE PROVINCIAL JOURNALS.

PICTOU PATRIOT.—We learn with great satisfaction, that a requisition numerously and respectably signed, has been made to the Deputy Sheriff, to call a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants on Tuesday first, to petition the Legislature for a Division of the County of Halifax. This obviously just, necessary, and important measure, will not, it is hoped, be defeated by any mean and sor-

did jealousies, nor by unworthy considerations of faction. We would suggest the propriety of such meetings being immediately held in each township in the District. We anticipate a full attendance in this town on Tuesday first.

EUROPE.

The Committee of the Stock Exchange have admitted into the market the bonds of a loan which has been raised for the Queen of Portugal, on whose behalf an expedition has been prepared, for the purpose of overthrowing the despot Miguel, and placing the crown on the head of its lawful owner. To raise the requisite funds for that purpose, a contract for loan, nominally for £2,900,000 sterling, and bearing Five per Cent. interest, was concluded at the price of 48. The subscribers paid immediately a deposit of 3 per Cent. and it was stipulated further that the lawful Government of Portugal should have power to make a further call of Five per Cent. on acquiring any portion of the soil of that country, the non-payment of which would incur the forfeiture of the Eight per Cent first paid. The remainder of the loan is not to be called for but on the establishment of the Queen in Lisbon. Should the expedition wholly fail, the payment of the Eight per Cent. is secured on such territory as may belong to the Queen, exclusive of the terra firma of Portugal.

The ex-Empress of Brazil was safely delivered of a daughter on the 1st inst.

A Paris paper says that an attempt was made on Friday week to assassinate Dona Maria, the young Queen of Portugal. A ball, which must have been fired from one of the houses opposite the Palace at Meudon, is said to have come through the window of the room in which she was sitting, and having passed close by her, struck a pier-glass by her side.

Belgium.—The series of rejoicings on the recognition of the King by the five powers were disturbed by the melancholy intelligence of the death of the Duchess Dowager of Saxe Coburg; the King's mother, who died on the 15th ultimo, at Coburg.

Spain.—The King has had a relapse, and it appears that his present illness is not the gout, but the dropsy. It has been attempted to conceal the nature of his complaint from the public, but it is now too late.

Holland.—The King has found it necessary to ask his faithful Hollenders for 45,242,262 florins, in order to maintain the army in warlike equipments, to hold the nation in its present defensive position for the year 1831.

Sir Francis Burdett has abandoned the National Union, on the ground that it is intended to be a permanent body, in other words it is not to be dissolved at the passing of the bill.

Public peace and good order have been restored at Lyons, into which city the Prince of Orleans and Marshal Soult marched on Saturday last.

We have had two arrivals this week from Lisbon, by which we learn that some dissatisfaction has manifested itself in the Portuguese army, the name of Don Pedro having been heard in several regiments, and 40 soldiers have been arrested for 'political insubordination.' We understand that the Portuguese government had not consented to the release of our Consular Agent at Combo, notwithstanding the earnest remonstrances of Mr. Hopner against his arrest and imprisonment.

The supplement to the London Gazette of Friday, contains the appointment of a special commission to inquire into all offences against the law committed in the city of Bristol, and to deliver the jail of the said city at such time as to any two of them may seem meet. The trials, it is expected, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th instant. Colonel Brereton will forthwith be tried by a Court-Martial.

The accounts from the north of Germany and Prussia, show that the price of grain was still advancing in the market there, in consequence of the shortness of supply and the increased number of buyers. It was understood that so little grain was in the country this year compared with former seasons; that should the next harvest be bad, serious distress would be occasioned by the want of provisions. A great deal of rain had fallen and had impeded the operations of agriculture.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

This day his Majesty went down in state to the House of Lords to open the parliamentary session. His Majesty left the palace a few minutes before two o'clock, accompanied with the usual state attendants, and passed through the park to the House of Lords, where he arrived at a quarter past two o'clock. He was much cheered during his progress. After the usual preliminaries, his Majesty delivered the following most gracious speech:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"I have called you together, that you may resume, without further delay, the important duties to which the circumstances of the times require your immediate attention; and must sincerely regret the inconvenience which, I am well aware, you must experience from so early a renewal of your labours, after the short interval of repose allowed you from the fatigues of the last session.

"I feel it to be my duty, in the first place, to recommend to your most careful consideration the measures which will be proposed to you for a reform in the Commons' House of Parliament. A speedy and satisfactory settlement of this question becomes daily of more pressing importance to the security of the state, and to the contentment and welfare of my people.

"I deeply lament the distress which still prevails in many parts of my dominions, and for which the preservation of peace both home and abroad will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, afford the best and most effectual remedy. I feel assured of my disposition to adopt any practical measures, which you will always find me ready and anxious to assist, both for removing the causes and mitigating the effects of the want of employment which the embarrassments of commerce, and the consequent interruption of the pursuits of industry have occasioned.

"It is with great concern that I have observed the existence of a disease at Sunderland, similar in its appearance and character to that which has existed in many parts of Europe. Whether it is indigenous, or has been imported from abroad, is a question involved in much uncertainty, but its progress has neither been so extensive nor so fatal as upon the continent. It is not, however, the less necessary to use every precaution against the further extension of this malady; and the measures recommended by those who have had the best opportunity of observing it, as most effective for this purpose, have been adopted.

"In parts of Ireland a systematic opposition has been made to the payment of tithes, attended, in some instances, with afflicting results; and it will be one of your first duties to inquire, whether it may not be possible to effect improvements in the laws respecting this subject which may afford the necessary protection to the Established Church, and, at the same time, remove the present causes of complaint. But, in this and every other question affecting Ireland, it is above all things necessary to look to the best means of securing internal peace and order, which alone seem wanting to raise a country blessed by Providence with so many natural advantages to a state of the greatest prosperity.

"The conduct of the Portuguese Government, and the repeated injuries to which my subjects have been exposed, have prevented a renewal of my diplomatic relation with that kingdom. The state of a country so long united to this by the ties of the most intimate alliance, and must necessarily be to me an object of the deepest interest, and the return to Europe of the elder branch of the illustrious House of Braganza, and the dangers of a disputed succession, will require most vigilant attention to events by which not only the safety of Portugal but the general interests of Europe may be affected.

"The arrangement which I announced to you at the close of the last session, for the separation of the states of Holland and Belgium, has been followed by a treaty between the five powers and the King of the Belgians, which I have directed to be laid before you as soon as the ratifications shall have been exchanged. A similar treaty has not yet been agreed to by the King of the Netherlands; but I trust the period is not distant when the Sovereign will see the necessity of acceding to an arrangement in which the plenipotentiaries of the five powers have unanimously concurred, and which has been