

framed with the most careful and impartial attention to all the interests concerned. I have the satisfaction to inform you, that I have concluded with the King of the French a convention, which I have directed to be laid before you, the object of which is the actual suppression of the African slave trade; this convention, having for its basis the concession of reciprocal rights to be mutually exercised in specified latitudes and places, will, I trust, enable the naval forces of the two countries to accomplish, by their combined efforts, an object which is felt by both to be so important to the interests of humanity.

"Regarding the state of Europe generally, the friendly assurances which I receive from Foreign Powers, and the union which subsists between me and my allies, inspire me with a confident hope that peace will not be interrupted.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be prepared, and they will in due time be laid before you. I will take care that they shall be framed with the strictest regard to economy; and I trust to your wisdom and patriotism to make such provisions as may be required for the public service.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The scenes of violence and outrage which have occurred in the city of Bristol, and in some other places have caused me the deepest affliction. The authority of the laws must be vindicated by the punishment of offences which have produced so extensive a destruction of property, and so melancholy a loss of life. I think it right to direct your attention to the best means of improving the municipal police of the kingdom, in the more effectual protection of the public peace against the concurrence of similar commotions.

"Sincerely attached to our free constitution, I never can sanction any interference with the legitimate exercise of those rights which secure to my people the privilege of discussing and making known their grievances; but in respecting these rights it is also my duty to prevent combinations, under whatever pretext, which in their form and character are incompatible with all regular government, and are equally opposed to the spirit and to the provisions of the law; and I know that I shall not appeal in vain to my faithful subjects to second my determined resolution to repress all illegal proceedings by which the peace and security of my dominions may be endangered."

His Majesty, who appeared in excellent health and spirits, read the speech in a firm and audible voice.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at about a quarter past five.

Earl Grey moved the first reading of an act for the better regulation of select vestries.

Bombay papers to the 29th of Aug. inclusive have been received. An extraordinary Gazette of that date states that they had received advices from China of the 30th of May, up to which time no change in the position of affairs relative to the probable suspension of intercourse between the Chinese and the British merchants had taken place.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 7, 1832.

By the December mail, which arrived at Halifax on Wednesday last, we received our English papers to the 12th of that month, but, with the exception of the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament, on the 6th, they furnish nothing of moment. The Cholera continued to prevail at Sunderland and Newcastle, but was on the decline at both places, and it was expected the disease would be confined to those towns, as it was evidently of a less malignant nature than the pestilence which carried off so many thousands on the Continent.

THE SALMON FISHERY OF THE MIRAMICHI, AND BASS FISHERY AT RICHIBUCTO.—About two years ago, we called the attention of the Legislature, then in session, as well as the public, to the subject of the Salmon Fishery in this river, and in another column of this day's paper, will be found a Communication on this subject, the great importance of which to this part of the Province, being so obvious, that no remarks of ours, or of

our Correspondents, can enhance it—calling on the public and the Legislature, to bestow on it the most serious consideration. Happy indeed should we esteem ourselves, if any exertions of ours, through the medium of our press, should have the effect of conferring on our fellow subjects, any wise regulation by which they might derive from the inexhaustible bounty of nature, an increase, however small, of the fruits of the earth, or of the waters under the earth, of the beasts that toil or afford food or raiment for man, or of the finny tribes that are sent by an all-ruling Providence into our rivers from the mighty deep. Overweening as is at all times the self-sufficiency of man, yet we by no means assume for ourselves the consequence of a judge, dictatorially to determine that which is good or bad; but, like the widow's mite, we cheerfully throw our portion of knowledge into the treasury of the common stock, for the advancement of the body politic, resting in humble confidence on the wisdom of those to whom is delegated the awful duties of legislating for a people's good; of fostering by wholesome laws, the bounteous gifts of Heaven, and of pointing to a loyal people's view, the imposition in their acts of the hand Divine.

We have been forcibly drawn into the above observations, by the attention which we have lately paid on a journey into Kent, to the present state of the Bass Fishery at Richibucto. Eight or ten years ago, we have been informed, people who lived on the banks of this beautiful river, attended to the fishery during the whole of the winter, and it was by no means unfrequent for a single family to catch in one night ONE THOUSAND FISH. The sizes of these fish varied from 30 lbs. to 4 lbs.; and measuring in length from fully 3 feet to 10 inches. The head of the tide—where the fishery is most abundant—was a mart daily frequented by persons from the adjoining County of Westmorland, and from that which is now Northumberland, as well as even from the settlements on the St. John's River, in search of an article of luxury, of no ordinary estimation, during the inclement season of winter. The usual prices for the Bass, varied according to the produce of the nightly fishery; but the largest size generally realized readily enough, FIVE SHILLINGS, and the smallest worth notice, FOUR PENCE. A source of wealth, so abundant and so conveniently situated, it is to be supposed, would by rational beings, have been fostered as a mine of gold; but like the mine of gold, it turned the brains of the possessors;—like the owner of the fabled goose, who, not satisfied with the daily precious egg, ripped up her belly in search of those stores from which it was produced. So the Richibuctonians, thirsting for more of the stream of wealth which flowed to their doors, than was their share, by acts the most besotted, have completely drained it, and left the sources dry. Not content with using nets sufficient for catching fish of a moderate size, they gradually reduced the length of the meshes, until they actually adopted HERRING NETS. Inevitable ruin to the fishery was apparent to all; and this of course called for Legislative interference. Laws have accordingly been enacted, prohibiting the use of nets with a mesh of less size than that prescribed; but in their zeal to crush an evil of so glaring a description, our legislators ran into the opposite extreme, and the effect of which would have been to create a total stoppage of the fishery. The size of the mesh limited by law, is, we believe, eight inches, and through which NEARLY the largest fish can freely pass. This, instead of obviating the evil, had quite a contrary consequence, for, as prohibition was evidently never intended, the law was found totally inadequate to its purpose, and therefore is at present TOTALLY NEGLECTED. Thus, the men of Kent—like the monsters of the great deep, which follow the shoals of herring—the large and moderate-sized eatable fish, being out of their reach, are now reduced to the devastating necessity of devouring THE FRY.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—We have this day given the debate in full which arose in the House on the 21st ult. on his Excellency's Speech. Nothing of consequence was before the House on the two following days, but on the 25th a very warm discussion arose, on the Despatch of Lord Goderich, on the subject of the Casual Revenue, which we will publish entire next week. On the 26th, the members waited upon His Excellency with their Answer to his Address at the opening of the Session, to which he made a courteous reply. On the 28th Mr. Partelow, from the Road Committee, presented their Report, recommending the sum of £12,300 to the improvement of the Roads this year.—Considerable discussion followed.

COMMUNICATED.—On Tuesday the 31st ult. the Annual Meeting of the "RICHIBUCTO SABBATH SCHOOL SOCIETY" was held in the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John MacLean, the President of the Society, in the Chair. The Society's Schools are now ten in number, and contain about 230 scholars. Into all these

Schools, Gall's Catechisms and system of teaching have been introduced. The fears which were at first entertained by many, that the system was too complicated and difficult for general adoption, have been found to be utterly groundless, and teachers and pupils find the work of communicating and receiving religious instruction, both vastly facilitated, and rendered much more interesting and delightful. The grand and important distinction between the old system and this, is, that under the former, learning was made an exercise, almost exclusively of the memory, under this, it becomes chiefly an exercise of the judgment.

The Society is every year extending the sphere of its operations as the population on the rivers and in the adjoining settlements increase, and it is continuing, and certainly deservedly, every year, to receive more patronage and pecuniary support from the community at large. The funds collected during the year last past, by annual subscriptions, by donations, the sale of books, and the annual sermon on behalf of the institution, amounted to £22, and upwards; and the Society's Catechisms, Keys, and other Books from Britain for the ensuing spring, to the value of £25, sterling.

Richibucto, Feb. 3, 1832.

Extract of a Letter, dated, Liverpool, November 22. "We may now quote good Miramichi White Pine at 18d 3-4 to 19d 1-2 per foot, but we are very confidently looking for an improvement in course of the next month, as many of the dealers have low stocks, and are waiting with expectation of a fall in prices, which they cannot accomplish."

AMATEUR THEATRE. The Amateurs performed on Thursday evening last, to a crowded House, Coleman's admired Comedy of the HEIR AT LAW, with the Farce of FORTUNE'S FROLIC. The audience were much gratified with the evening's amusements, and the performance was highly creditable to all concerned.

Letters from St. Thomas, announce that that place has suffered a great calamity, about one third, and nearly the whole business part of the Town, including all the warehouses, wharves, &c. have been destroyed by fire on the 31st December.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

On the night of the 2nd December, the ship Briton, of Whitby, Dixon, Master, from Miramichi, went ashore, on the North side of St. Paul's Island, and in two hours went to pieces. The Captain and 16 of the crew were drowned, three men got ashore, one of them succeeded in getting to the house on the island, about 5 o'clock next morning, and gave information to Mr. Kenzie, who with his party went in pursuit of the other two, whom they found dead about half a mile from the house. The survivor of the Briton's crew, has arrived at the Bay Bras d'Or, in company with McKenzie, who left a party on the island.

On Christmas Eve, the brig Ceres, 235 tons, Duncan McAndrew, Master, in ballast bound to St. Andrews, and belonging to Port Glasgow, went ashore on Scattaree Island.—Previous to the brig driving ashore, the Captain and crew attempted to land in the long and jolly boats, in which attempt six of the crew were drifted to sea, in the long boat, and have not since been heard of, two of the crew died on board. The captain, mate, and three of the crew have got to Main-a-dieu, very much injured from frost. After the vessel had driven ashore, they made a fire on the cabin floor, and not taking the necessary precaution, the brig took fire and burnt to the water's edge, had not this been the case, those who survived would in all probability have suffered, as the flames which the inhabitants of Main-a-dieu observed on Scattaree Island, induced them to take to their boats, at the risk of their lives, and ascertain what it was; when they found the five unfortunate persons nearly suffering with cold.

Such persons as are disposed to take SHARES in the BANK about to be established at St. John, are hereby informed, that a Subscription paper has been left at this Office.

MARRIED.—At Aberdeen, on the 22nd September, Mr. JOHN ANDERSON, of Miramichi, New Brunswick, to MARY GARRON, relict of Alexander Bransby, late of Elgin Academy, and daughter of John Garron, Manufacturer.

DIED.—On the 5th inst. at the house of Mr. William Stothard, Newcastle, Mr. WALTER GLENDENING, a native of Scotland—highly esteemed for rectitude of conduct, and moral deportment, and much justly regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.