

Thus, it was not wicked to lie on a bed; to swear to the truth; to cheat the devil, or steal from bad company.

COLONIAL.

NOVA SCOTIA.

From the Halifax Royal Gazette, of 22d January.

This day, at two o'clock, His Honor the President of the Government, went in the usual State to the Council Chamber, and being seated, commanded the attendance of the Representative Body. Mr Speaker, and the House attended accordingly, when His Honor was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr President and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council; Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

As the duty of addressing you at the commencement of your annual Legislative labors has again devolved upon me, I avail myself of the opportunity of renewing to you the assurance of my earnest desire to promote the welfare of the Province.

Permit me to hope, that your valuable aid and support, to which I have been already so much indebted, will continue to encourage my efforts to advance the public good.

Although I inform you with much satisfaction, that the Revenue of the past year has progressively improved, and has been collected and paid into the Treasury with regularity, I regret to add, that, from the best information I can at present collect, there is much embarrassment in the Commercial part of the Community.

If, in the enquiry which I recommend you to make into the circumstances that have contributed to that embarrassment, you shall be of opinion that the unsettled and fluctuating condition of the Currency has been one cause of it, it will be for your wisdom to ascertain, and for your justice to afford, the best remedy that can now be applied to this very serious evil.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have much pleasure in acquainting you that His Majesty, aware of the desire of His Loyal Subjects in this Province to have the management of all the Revenues arising within it, and graciously anticipating a formal application to him on the subject, has authorised me to express his readiness to place his casual and territorial Revenues at the disposal of the Colonial Legislature, on their agreeing to make a suitable and permanent provision for those Public Servants, whose Salaries have hitherto been paid from the Funds which he is disposed to surrender, or from Parliamentary Grants which are discontinued: I am instructed to communicate more fully with you on this subject in a separate Message.

The Public Accounts are ready for inspection, and will be immediately laid before you, with the Estimate for the current year: I rely upon your public spirit and known liberality, for such Supplies as the state of our affairs shall be found to require, and I cheerfully promise a vigilant regard to their economical and faithful application.

Mr President and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council, Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I shall direct the usual Official Returns respecting our Trade, Fisheries, Schools and Roads, to be submitted to you, and if I possess information on any other subjects which can assist your deliberation I shall at all times gladly afford it.

I trust that the investigation I have recommended you to make into the causes of our present commercial embarrassments, will terminate in convincing you that they are merely of a temporary nature: that all the main sources of our prosperity are still unimpaired, and that the intelligent and industrious people of this Province have ample reason to be grateful for the manifold blessings they enjoy.

JOHN LEE, convicted in the present Term of the Supreme Court, of Highway Robbery, attended with very aggravating circumstances, was yesterday placed at the Bar, and sentenced to Death. Mr Ritchie who had kindly undertaken the defence of the unfortunate man, made some ingenious objections to the Indictment under which he was tried, and the verdict passed upon him by the Jury, which were replied to by the Attorney-General, and over-ruled by the Court. His Lordship the Chief Justice, with whom were Judges Wilkins, Hill, and Uniacke, then addressed the Prisoner, and under the influence of painful and agitated feelings, pointed out to him the heinous nature of the crime of which he had been convicted—he would hold out to him no hopes of mercy—the Jury, before whom he was tried had offered no recommendation in his favor—the Court could not and would not: be urged upon him the necessity of preparing for the doom which awaited him, and finally pronounced the awful sentence of the Law.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Pursuant to a notice from the Chamber of Commerce

there was a meeting of the Merchants and others interested in the trade of this place held at the Exchange Coffee-House on Wednesday last, at 12 o'clock. The large room was crowded to overflowing with persons of all classes, and was the most numerous meeting on commercial purposes that we ever witnessed in Halifax. By an unanimous call, ANDREW BELCHER, Esq, was appointed the Chairman. The first object announced from the chair was the present extent of smuggling carried on throughout the Province; but the meeting decided to waive the consideration of that subject, and to take up first, one of a more immediately pressing nature—the state of the currency of the Province. Mr. John Williamsons submitted the following Resolution.—

Resolved,—That the principal cause of the present distress in the trading community is in a great measure owing to the depreciated and degraded state of the Paper currency, which is at a discount of seven or eight per cent.—and in the Sister Province at a discount of ten or twelve per cent.; and the only mode to remove the evil is an immediate return to cash payments.

Which, on being seconded by Mr. Esson, and proposed from the chair, elicited an animated and lengthened discussion, in which the present state of our currency—the character and conduct of the Banks—and suggestions from future remedies were all brought under review were much display of practical knowledge. The speakers were I. L. Starr, Esq. W. Lawson, Esq. (President of the Bank of Nova-Scotia,) S. Deblois, Esq., and the Solicitor General, (Representatives for Halifax,) Mr. T. Forrester, Mr. J. H. Braine, Mr. Esson, Mr. J. Crosskill, L. Hartshorne, Esq., Mr. Higgins, Mr. Allan M'Donald, Mr. Joseph Howe, Mr. Dooly, J. B. Uniacke, Esq. Mr. Head, and Mr. J. E. Fairbanks, Mr. Deblois moved an amendment to the resolution "that the Provincial paper is the ostensible cause why the Banks were not compelled to pay their notes in specie," which was put and lost. The original Resolution was then passed.

Upon motion of J. L. Starr, Esq. it was *Resolved*,—That a committee of seven of the present meeting be appointed to prepare a Memorial to the Legislature, founded upon the Resolution now passed, and also to prepare a report of such other measures as they may deem to be necessary at the present crisis.

The following Gentlemen were then severally proposed, and elected as a Committee:—Andrew Belcher, Esq. John Williamson, Esq. J. Leander Starr, Esq. Messrs. J. H. Braine, Joseph Howe, J. E. Fairbanks, and Thomas Forrester.

Upon motion of Mr. J. E. Fairbanks. *Resolved*, That the committee do wait upon the Managers of both Banks, and request information as to the causes of the present restrictions of Discounts, and under what circumstances the operations of the Banks are designed to be resumed.

On motion of Mr. Deblois it was then resolved "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Belcher for his efficient services in conducting the business of the day."

We understand that the Committee had an audience with the Managers of the respective Banks on Friday when they were received with every courtesy, and obtained from each Board a reply to the queries proposed by the Resolution which was read by Mr Belcher, the Chairman.

By a notice in another column it will be seen that the Committee have called another Public Meeting for to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, when the result of the above conference, the memorial to the Legislature, and their general report will be submitted.

We have copied the foregoing from the Halifax Journal of Monday last:—A second Meeting of the inhabitants took place at the Exchange Coffee-House yesterday, when the Committee, appointed under the second Resolution passed at the preceding Meeting, presented the draft of the Memorial to be delivered to the Legislature, and reported the substance of the conferences which they had held with the Directors of the Banks, by direction of the Meeting.—The Memorial, after some discussion, was adopted, and ordered to be lodged in the respective offices of the Gentlemen composing the Committee, for signature.

We are glad the Legislature is to assemble to-day. The embarrassments of all classes of the community

particularly the mercantile, are, at the present moment, unquestionably great, and all the wisdom of the three Branches will be required to investigate their causes, and devise measures of relief. Never, in our recollection, was the Trade of the Country so depressed as it is at the present moment, nor did we ever know the markets of the world to offer less encouragement to speculations from this Province than they now do; for the last twelve months, we think we may confidently assert, the West India Trade has been far from prosperous, and the shippers of Timber and Deal to Great Britain have been subjected to very great losses. The Discounts of the Banks, last year, we understand, were very large, and, in consequence of disappointments in trade, and the little encouragement afforded to enterprise and industry, the sum now due to them is very considerable, and they have, we are told, limited their issues to a small scale. Generally speaking, our fellow townsmen, at the Meeting which took place on Wednesday, expressed a desire that the Banks should be obliged to pay their Notes in Specie—and some individuals considered it necessary, that the Provincial Paper in circulation should be called in and funded.—The Memorial to be presented, however, no doubt, embraces the whole subject, and we are quite certain it will be immediately and fully considered by the Legislature.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

St. JOHN OBSERVER.—*Legislatures*.—The Legislature of Nova Scotia meets to-morrow.—The Parliament of Lower Canada has been in session two weeks to-day.—Our Provincial Legislature meets next Monday week, when the arduous duties of our Members, and the no less fatiguing labours of the Printer, will be renewed.—Whether we are to have the debates Reported this winter, (as in the last three Sessions,) or be compelled to content ourselves with the meagre information contained in the daily Journals of the House,—the *ayes* and the *nays*,—is yet uncertain. In giving the debates publicity, the Reporter and the Printer most unquestionably have a greater labour to perform than the Legislator from whose lips the remarks fall, and in the end notwithstanding his efforts to furnish his patrons with as full and explicit details of the words and deeds of their representatives as possible, he (the printer) is perhaps the poorest paid of any engaged in the matter; in a pecuniary point of view, therefore, he may not be over anxious in the matter. Still, urged on by a laudible ambition, and a desire to please, he is wont to esteem the task as much a pleasure as a toil. Many persons in this city who have been in the habit of annually subscribing to defray the expense of Reporting, have, perhaps, at length become careless about such subscription; but the approaching Session, let it be remembered, promises to be full as worthy of such an expense as any of its predecessors.—We observed in an editorial article of the last *Courier*, that a Meeting of all persons desirous of securing the services of a Reporter, is requested at the News Room, to-morrow, (Wednesday) at one o'clock, P. M., to devise measures for effecting that purpose. There is no time to be lost, if any thing is to be effected,—therefore, let all who wish well to the measure attend.—If a Reporter is to fill a seat in a corner of the Hall of Legislation, it is important that he should be a person who is known to be competent to the task. We should, however, like to see the Speeches reported at less length than heretofore, which would make the labour more easy to all concerned, and perhaps answer as good a purpose;—the *meat*, not the *shell*, being what is most wanted,—for in some cases the whole speech is but an empty shell!—We would suggest this to the Reporter.

The weather continues very mild for the season of the year, at least when compared with some of our late winters; the mercury has fallen below zero but since this winter, and at was on Saturday the 11th instant, when it stood at 2 below. To-day the air has been quite sharp, but by the thermometer of the gentleman who furnishes us with our weekly table of the state of the weather, and who resides in an elevated situation, the mercury was only down to the cypber.—The slight fall of snow yesterday, has made the travelling about the city very good; it was much needed for that purpose, for during a fortnight or upwards previous, the only covering our streets had was a sheet of smooth ice, and travelling on foot, without creep-