

on, would sally forth, and, with his cigar as a match, would set the neighbourhood in a roar, as he presented his arquebus, and chased the sable beauties round the room.—*Bower's Naval Adventures.*

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIAL ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MANAGING THE AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A number of bills having been introduced into the House of Commons in the last Session, connected with the Laws of the Customs, caused apprehensions to be entertained that they were intended as vehicles for the introduction of serious changes in the regulations affecting the Trade of the Country, and the vigilant attention of your committee was directed to their progress; which was only discontinued on their receiving an assurance that the consolidation of the existing laws was the sole object of the Bills in question. In one of them, viz: that 'To regulate the trade of the British Possessions abroad,' it was discovered by your committee, after it had passed into law, that owing to an accidental omission 'Ashes' were not inserted in the list of articles exempt from duty upon importation into Canada, as they had been in the previous Act, and that consequently they would be subject under the general clause of 'Goods not otherwise charged with duty, and not declared to be free of duty,' to an *ad valorem* charge of 15 per cent.; but upon application to the Board of Trade, they were informed that the omission in question had been discovered by their Lordships immediately after the passing of the Act, and that they had already recommended to the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, that the Officers of Customs in Canada should be directed to continue until further orders, to admit Ashes duty free; and your committee observe, by a recent communication from the Collector and Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs, to the Committee of Trade at Montreal, that this course has been pursued, so that no practical inconvenience has been experienced by the Trade in consequence of the error that had been committed.

Your committee's attention has been again directed to the state of the existing Law for regulating the conveyance of Emigrants to the North Colonies, in consequence of the arrival in London of Mr A. C. Buchanan, His Majesty's Agent for Emigrants in Canada, by whom various suggestions for the improvement of that Law, has been laid before the Colonial Secretary. It was not, however, deemed advisable to introduce any new bill on the subject into Parliament during the late Session.

Among the proofs which constantly offer themselves of the rapid growth of improvement, in all the Provinces of America, indeed principally by the vast influx both of Labour and Capital during the last three years, not any has appeared to your committee so interesting in character, or calculated to have so permanent an influence on the prosperity of the Colonies, as those having relation to their Internal Navigation, particularly in Upper Canada. During the last season, the completion of that splendid triumph of skill, the Rideau Canal, has opened a more safe, commodious, and expeditious communication between the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada; and a most liberal grant of money was made by the Legislature of Upper Canada in their last session, for improving the navigation of the River St. Lawrence, by means of which it is confidently anticipated, that ere long, vessels of considerable burthen will be enabled to convey their cargoes direct from the ports of the United Kingdom to the head of Lake Ontario, a distance of not less than 1,200 miles from the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; or even through the Welland Canal, almost an equal distance westward, to all parts of the Great Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior.

The complaints relative to the injury arising to the trade of Quebec, and the shipping frequenting the port, from the operation of the Court of Vice-Admiralty at that place, have become so incessant, that the subject has engrossed much of the attention of your Committee; although they have not yet collected the evidence on this subject, in a form proper to be brought under the notice of the Colonial Department of Government, the investigation which they have made, has already convinced them that the evils of this Court are manifold, and that every exertion should be made by the parties interested, for their removal. The office of Judge of the Admiralty Court, has been for many years held by one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, an union which cannot but be objectionable, as the office, considering the great increase in the commerce of the port, has become of too much importance to be held in subjection to any other; and as the Court of King's Bench possesses a controlling power over the Admiralty Judge, it is manifestly improper that he should have a seat in the Court. The custom that had been introduced, of the Judge deriving a part of his emolument from fees, thereby giving him a direct pecuniary interest in the encouragement of litigation in his Court, was as improper, as your Committee believe it to have been illegal; and it is to be hoped that it will be now abolished; that the whole constitution of the Court will be strictly investigated and remodelled, and that an able and upright man—remunerated by a fixed salary only—unconnected with any other office,—and who would carry with him the confidence of the mercantile classes, both in this country and in Canada—may be called to preside over it.

Reports have been recently prevalent in London, and also in all parts of the country, that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government, to propose to Parliament at its ensuing Session, certain alterations in the Duties imposed upon Timber and other Wood Goods, to the prejudice of the American Colonies. Your committee have been unable to trace these rumours to any official source, and have every reason to believe, that they originate with parties interested in the trade of the North of Europe. They are the more forcibly impelled to this conclusion, from

the circumstance of the pretended schedules of new duties, which have been circulated, being framed on such a scale as must inevitably destroy the Colonial Timber Trade for ever; a result which, they feel confident, cannot be contemplated by Ministers. When it is considered that the North American Colonies have, during three years, absorbed no less than 146,296 of the surplus population of this Kingdom—that they have received British Manufactures to the annual average real value of more than Two Millions Sterling—and have given employment yearly, to upwards of 500,000 Tons of British Shipping, navigated by more than 23,000 Seamen—it is impossible to suppose that His Majesty's Government would incur the fearful responsibility of introducing a measure calculated to cripple such a trade, much less one certain to destroy it. The immensely increased demand for imported wood in this Country has been met, and the price to the Consumer kept at a minimum point for many years past, through the competing supplies of the British Colonies and the Baltic, encouraged by the balanced rates of duties, established on the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Trade in 1821. And it is unlikely that the reports of intended alterations, would have gained such general currency without some foundation, your committee are induced to believe that a new adjustment of the balance of duties, may be considered advisable by Government, for the purpose of keeping up the efficiency of the competition, so essential for the interests of the Consumer. Should this conjecture prove correct, although your committee are decidedly of opinion that any apparent preponderance of the scale in favour of the Colonies, at present, may be ascribed wholly to the extreme, but it is to be hoped temporary, depression of the Shipping Interest, they will be ready to communicate to His Majesty's Government, all the information on the subject in their power. In the very improbable alternative of such alterations being proposed, as would have the effect of destroying the important Timber Trade of the Colonies, your committee, beg to assure the Meeting, that they will not be found wanting in the discharge of the duties imposed upon them, but will use every exertion to prevent any such measure from taking effect.

In connexion with the preceding subject, your committee have to express their regret, that the Legislature should have allowed the continuance of the Clause (originally passed, as they presume, through inadvertency) by favour of which, the cupidity of the Prussian Merchant, aided by the distress and despair of the British Ship Owner, has been allowed to rob the British Exchequer, by transporting timber from the Baltic to Halifax, in Nova-Scotia, and afterwards introducing it for consumption in the United Kingdom, on payment of the Colonial Duty. This, it has been ascertained by your committee, after strict enquiry, is entirely a question of Freight. The Ship Owner who has undertaken the voyage on his own account, for the sake of employing his vessel, has invariably lost money by the adventure. The Merchant who has engaged Ships at so low a rate of Freight, that the Owners' loss has been greatly and inevitably increased, has made a trifling gain; trifling in comparison to the loss of the Ship Owner; trifling in comparison to the injury inflicted on Colonial Interests, by the substitution of Foreign Timber, for that of their own growth; but above all, trifling when compared with the loss sustained by the Public Revenue, through the introduction of foreign goods, without payment of the duty charged upon them by law.

Your committee have much pleasure in announcing the accession of several new Subscribers during the current year, because they consider it a proof of the increased estimation in which the Association is held by those, who, being interested in the results, are also capable of judging of the benefits to be derived from its exertions. They are also gratified in being able to state that, although extraordinary expenses have been incurred, the Fund, established for the permanent support of the Institution, has been increased in amount since the last Report. The usual Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditure will be laid before the Meeting.

Your committee earnestly hope that the course which they have pursued since the last General Meeting, as detailed in the preceding Report, will be approved by the present Meeting; and that they may continue to receive that encouragement and support from all those who are interested in the welfare of the North American Colonies, by which the laborious duties hitherto imposed upon them, have been rendered light and pleasant.

By order of the Committee,

ROBERT CARTER,

Honorary Secretary.

No. 11, Leadenhall Street,
London, 8th Jan. 1834.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:
TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1834.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—To the kindness and attention of Messrs. Duncan & Loch, we are indebted for the London Dispatch of the 30th March, received by the brig Susan, the latest British paper in our possession.—We are also indebted to Capt. Thomsen for London papers of the 27th of the same month. We have made some extracts from these papers, but they furnish little of consequence.

Several vessels have arrived with short passages, and had their Captains been so attentive as to have procured on sailing, the latest paper, we could have been in possession of dates as late as the 10th of April.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—Below we give the Annual Report of this Society. It must be highly gratifying

to those zealous individuals who first embarked in the cause in this place, to see their labors crowned with such success—and that they have proved highly beneficial, no person who has taken the least trouble to look around him, and contemplate the altered demeanour and circumstances of a number of persons in our community, will attempt to deny. We wish the Society every success, and trust that it may continue steadily to persevere in the good work which it has so well begun.

The Annual Meeting of the Miramichi Temperance Society was held on Thursday evening last, in St. John's Church, Chatham, Mr ROBERT MORROW, Vice-President, in the Chair. The meeting being opened with prayer, by the Rev. Henry Daniel, the following Resolutions, accompanied with suitable and impressive observations, were unanimously passed.

Moved by the Rev. H. Daniel, and seconded by the Rev. John M'Curdy.

Being convinced that Intemperance is a growing evil, prejudicial to the personal and domestic happiness of men; and that Temperance Societies, in the hand of God, are among the most powerful and efficient preventives of it; your committee therefore loudly call upon the members of this community, to co-operate with them in its suppression.

Moved by Dr. Thomson, and seconded by Mr Joseph Spratt:

Your committee, persuaded that TEMPERANCE is not only instrumental in promoting the comfort of those who are the subjects of it, but also tends to the preservation of health, and the prolongation of life; and preserves the mind a fit receptacle for those truths designed by God, for promoting the eternal interests of mankind, would urge the necessity of temperate members of this community, joining and aiding this Society, in suppressing a vice, so baneful and so fatal in its consequences.

Moved by the Rev. J. M'Curdy, and seconded by the Rev. H. Daniel:

That much of the opposition waged against Temperance Societies, springs from inadequate views of their principles; and that if the objections usually urged against them, were impartially and dispassionately considered, multitudes now standing aloof, would join these institutions, and become cordial and efficient supporters of the good cause.

Moved by Dr. Thomson, and seconded by the Rev. John M'Curdy:

That Ministers of all denominations, being members of Temperance Societies, shall, on signing our rules, be members of the Committee.

The following persons were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:

President—The Rev. JOHN M'CURDY.

Vice-President—MR ROBERT MORROW.

Secretary—MR DAVID SADDLER.

Committee:—John Thompson, Esq.; Messrs. John Hen, William Hay, Joseph Spratt, Joseph Dutton, John Le Lacheur, George Johnstone, (Napan), and Edward Lobban.

At a meeting of this Society, held some weeks ago, to deplore the loss of its late President, and to obtain an accession to its numbers, the following resolution, moved by the Rev. J. M'Curdy, and seconded by the Rev. A. Desbrisay, was unanimously passed:

That the members of this Society, view with feelings of deep regret, the removal by death of the late Christopher Clarke, Esq.—that we will long hold in remembrance, the disinterestedness he displayed, in banishing ardent spirits from his store, as an article of merchandize; the readiness with which, upon conviction of their utility, he espoused the cause of Temperance Societies, and the ability and faithfulness with which he discharged the duties of a member and President of this Institution.

This Society, despite the indifference of some, and the insinuations of others, is steadily advancing in numbers, and usefulness. The leading characters of the community are beginning to see, and acknowledge its benefits, while several are pledged to its principles. So great is the change wrought upon the public mind, that persons suspected of intemperate habits, are cautiously received into employment, and many have great difficulty in obtaining situations. They must ere long do the drudgery of all work, and obtain the lowest wages. Mechanics of sober habits are now universally preferred; and it is almost as rare as snow in midsummer, to see, in any circle of society, except that of drunkards, the bottle extended as a rite of hospitality. The Committee are confident of the ultimate success of the institution; and call upon all the members to adhere steadily to their pledge, and with unabated zeal, by every prudent measure, to extend their operations.

By order of the Committee.

DAVID SADDLER, Secretary.

Chatham, May 5, 1834.

On Friday last an Inquest was held at Richibucto, before George Pagan, Esq. on the body of John M'Nulty, who unfortunately fell from a load of hay on a large canoe. It appeared in evidence that the poor man left the mill of John P. Ford, Esq. on Saturday week in a log canoe loaded with hay, and probably too deeply laden, and meeting a pretty fresh breeze of wind near Middle Island, he was seen by a female to rise up, with the intention as was supposed, of going to the head of the canoe, when he slipped down, and was no more seen, although his cries for help were heard by the witness, but of course without her being able to render the least assistance.

The Royal Assent was given on the 26th of March,