

at 11 got clear of the field. On the 19th and 20th was completely surrounded by ice.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Guardian, May 6.

Meeting of the Synod.—The Synod of Nova Scotia meets this year at New Glasgow, on the third Wednesday of June next, and will be opened with public worship by the Moderator, the Rev. Dugald McKichan of River Inhabitants, Cape Breton. We understand that several subjects of great importance, not only to particular Congregations, but to the whole Church, will be brought under the notice of the Synod, and therefore it is earnestly to be desired, that all the members should endeavor to be efficient to give their deliberate opinion, and lend their sanction to such measures as may be proposed and sanctioned by the Court. We have no hesitation in declaring, that if the Presbyterian Church is desirous to take a strong and lasting hold of our Provincial population, and afford the means of religious instruction to them and their offspring, she must begin to raise up pastors and teachers within our own borders, and endeavor to form and to establish some efficient and comprehensive plan of Missionary operations, which shall carry the glad tidings of salvation to every district and every destitute settlement and neglected cottage throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Halifax Gazette, May 5.

Packet News.—The Columbia arrived from Boston on Monday afternoon, and sailed in the evening for Liverpool.

The Britannia arrived yesterday morning from Liverpool, and proceeded to Boston at one o'clock.

The Unicorn, with Mails from England to Canada, started for Quebec at nine o'clock yesterday morning.

The lady Ogle, Mail Boat, with the Mails for Bermuda—and the Charles Buchan, for St. John's, N. F., sailed yesterday afternoon.

We have received Newfoundland papers the 27th ult., by the Sandwich. On the preceding day His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor prorogued the Legislature—closing the Session with the following Speech:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

A Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to enquire into the state of Newfoundland, before which Committee I shall have to appear;—I will on the present occasion confine myself to the expression of my regret that such a proceeding should have become indispensably necessary to the tranquillity and welfare of the Colony.

The General Assembly was then declared to be prorogued to the 10th May next.

The usual supplies were not granted—provision was made to defray the expense of Delegations to Her Majesty's Government, from the Council and Assembly.

An Address, it appears, was transmitted to Her Majesty, praying for the separation of the Executive from the Legislative Council—in answer to which Lord John Russell, under date of March 31, says, that he has received Her Majesty's Commands to state that there are several other questions relating to the affairs of Newfoundland, which must precede the subject of the establishment of an Executive Council in the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Pictou Mechanic & Farmer, May 5.

We learn that the proprietors of the Steamboat Pocahontas have contracted to carry the Mails in that vessel twice a week between Prince Edward Island and Pictou, during the present Season, making three trips to Charlottown and one to Georgetown every two weeks.

Halifax Times, May 4.

A Letter from Antigua, in the Bermuda Royal Gazette, states that Bermuda and not Samana is to be the final port of departure of the West India Steamers. This letter also confirms the intelligence by the last packet from England, that the West India line will commence their voyages in October next.

Craig vs. Ross.—James F. Gray, Esq. for the plaintiff.—Hon. A. Stewart and James Stewart, Esq. for the defendant.—This appeal case was decided last Thursday by His Excellency the Chancellor, attended by the Honbles. the Chief Justice Halliburton and Judge Bliss. The Counsel on both sides were present. His Excellency heard the Judges, whose views of the case were in complete accordance with the opinions and pleadings of the Counsel for the Defendants, as we have before stated them in our previous notices of this case. His Excellency then ordered that the decree of the late Master of the Rolls should be reversed—that the Plaintiff's bill should be dismissed with costs—and that the additional deposit of £20 paid by Ross the defendant, should be

returned. We conceive that the public are much indebted to the Honble. A. Stewart and brother, for their determination in opposing the late Master of the Rolls, to advise his Excellency the Chancellor in appeals from the Rolls Court. Such a precedent, once established, would have had a most mischievous tendency, and we are glad that the question has been settled, as we firmly believe, in a strictly constitutional mode, and in the only way in which present and future justice can be secured to parties appealing to the highest and last tribunal of the country. His Excellency deserves much credit for his patient attention to the details of the case. This is decidedly the best act of his administration.

CANADA.

Toronto, Patriot, April 16.

More Burning on the Frontier.—On Saturday night last, the 10th inst., 'The Gothic Cottage Inn,' opposite Clifton House Hotel, at the falls of Niagara, was burned by an incendiary. The house had been leased the day previous for a term of five years. The tenant had not yet removed into it, nor had it been occupied for a month previously. The whole was the property of Captain Creighton, now a resident in Toronto, who having been unable to effect any insurance thereon, thus suffers a loss of between 6 and £700. This gentleman's barns, stables, and out-houses, on the same property, were also burned by an incendiary in September, 1839.

Timber duties.—An article in the late Quebec Gazette contains the following arguments on this subject:

The Ministry is urged to impose new duties by a deficiency in the Revenue, by the 'pressure from without,' by a spirit of change in which they have indulged.

That they will urge on new duties, and particularly a change in the timber duties, we have no doubt. There are many interests concerned; the Baltic interest, the manufacturing interests, the landed interests, the ship building interest, the consumers of timber generally, all of which are powerfully represented, while those who, in the first instance, are to be effected by the measure, can hardly be said to be represented at all.

There is, however, some inconsistency in the appeal to the interest of the home consumers of the imported timber, and the ministerial project of increasing the Revenue. We cannot understand how the consumer is to be benefitted by increasing the taxes on the article he consumes. If the revenue is to be increased on any article consumed, including the competition profit of the persons employed in bringing it to market. The Baltic merchant may gain something, by having his facilities of competition enlarged, but the consumer must still pay the duties, in addition to what he now pays, or there can be no increase of Revenue.

The lower duty on North American Colonial timber, created the trade. The North American Colonies did not ask for it. It was done by Act of the British Parliament for national objects, at a time when Great Britain was excluded or threatened with exclusion of a supply of timber from the Baltic. People of North America engaged in any branch of industry cannot well afford to be the subject of experimental or fanciful legislation, on the other side of the Atlantic.

It is not fair that existing interests in the Colonial should be made the play thing of other interests on the opposite side of the Atlantic. The relations between the Colonies and their parent State, ought not, in truth to be altered but by something amounting to mutual consent.

A million and a half of souls in the British North American Provinces, with a wide world before them, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, cannot be long at a loss to employ their industry, and find a market to obtain such articles of European production as they may really want. The men, the forests, and the lands and streams of North America cannot be destroyed by Act of Parliament.

The people employed in the lumber trade, have furnished a home market for the agricultural produce of the new settlements, and to the industrious classes in the towns, and supplied them with British manufactures in exchange. If the trade is done away with or materially diminished by an alteration of the duties, let the people continue industrious, sober, moral and peaceable, and they will soon find new fields of employment.

Trouble at the Bar.—At Sherbrooke, L. C. in the latter part of March, Mr. Short, Barrister, got into an altercation with Mr. Justice Fletcher, respecting evidence adduced on a trial. Subsequent judgment was given in the case, and Mr. Short declared it the most unjust he had ever known rendered. He was committed to jail for a period of ten days, for contempt of Court. The subjoined extracts from resolutions passed by the bar at Sherbrooke will further explain the state of affairs in that place.

That without approving of the language

made use of by Edward Short, Esq. which resulted in so severe a consequence, the bar cannot hardly overlook the highly irritating department of the Honorable the Provincial Judge during the progress of the suit on that occasion, which, if it could not justify, certainly provoked, and might have been allowed to alleviate very materially the act for which Mr. Short is to be so seriously punished.

That the Bar feel that they would be wanting in duty to the public, and in respect to themselves, if on this occasion, they passed over in silence, the extremely contemptuous and insulting department of that functionary generally towards the members of the Bar, by unjust and uncalled for comments upon them and their proceedings.

That the Bar have too long and patiently remained silent under repeated and abusive observation indulged in by the Provincial Judge, when on the bench, at the expense of some of them, tending to lower them and the profession generally in the estimation of the public, and necessarily provoking, as in the present instance, unguarded expressions from gentlemen of the Bar towards the Court.

THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

London Atlas, April 17.

THE RECESS.

A holiday week offers few topics for discussion to this department of our journal. All classes, high and low, have been employing the interval in amusement. O'Connell is the only man who, knowing no rest, and appreciating on holiday from agitation, has been busier in this festival time than he is even upon his ordinary days of labour. He has employed the time in setting all his repeal myrmidons shouting, and he appears to have met with his usual success. If the rabble rout which thronged about him expressed the sentiments or the determinations of the United Irish people, no doubt the Easter demonstrations in Ireland would go a great way towards repealing the union; but knowing, as we all do, that this repeal agitation is a rootless vegetation, we can dismiss it as a circumstance of no very great importance.

Lord Cardigan also has stepped forward to seize another opportunity of claiming his usual place before the public. He has, it is said, chosen Easter Sunday as the day on which to inflict a flogging upon a private soldier, and he has, moreover, chosen the building in which divine service had just been performed as the fit scene of this dreadful military punishment. We hope, for the sake of public decency that the report may prove untrue; but should it be true in every letter, we shall not again be easily found among the public accusers of Lord Cardigan, or among those who call for his punishment. Lord Cardigan, we confess, knew the man he had to deal with better than we did. He knew the bold contempt of justice which reigned at the Horse Guards, he knew the servile patience of oppression which pervaded the army, and he had calculated more accurately than ourselves the entire disregard of the House of Commons for any delinquency committed, any tyranny displayed, any ruin suffered by generous and innocent men when the principles of honesty and justice only were at stake, and the interests of party were not involved. It is an evil sign for a state when Cardigans exist and act with impunity.

With the exception of Mr. O'Connell and Lord Cardigan, all other public characters have desisted from their ordinary labors, and have given us nothing to remark upon. We shall find abundant compensation for this holiday dearth in the stirring subjects which are now pressing upon the attention of Parliament, and which will soon engross the country.

London Times, April 19.

AFFAIR OF M'LEOD.

According to our latest advices from the United States, it is quite evident that the M'Leod affair is about to be amicably huddled up in a series of ingeniously contrived shifts, which we cannot but think savour rather strongly of elaborate skulking. The changes, indeed, which American tactics have undergone upon this once portentous subject are somewhat curious. Not long ago the fury of the Lockport population against our imprisoned countryman was so great, that notwithstanding the bad blood of the Lockportians, it is the opinion of judicious men that they would give him a fair trial. Formerly, the presumptive proofs of the prisoner's guilt were said to leave little doubt that his crime would bring him to execution; but we learn the impression is now general that the accused is entirely innocent. By the last

mail we were given to understand that the mere clemency of the American Government had appointed Mr M'Leod to be tried at Albany; yet later accounts assure us that the place as well as the time of his trial shall be left to his own discretion. Scarcely a month has elapsed since we were informed that he was subjected to severe restraints and privations: it turns out latterly, however, that besides the privilege of seeing his friends whenever he chooses, he enjoys at present every reasonable comfort and indulgence.

At first, the Americans would listen to no representations from any quarter that might retard the course of justice; but, on further reflection, every facility is to be granted for preparing his defence, and any length of time will be allowed to enable him to collect testimony. In a word, owing to an informality on the part of his arraigners (doubtless an unpremeditated one) his long anticipated trial has not only gone off, but has been carefully allowed to do so, under such leaky circumstances as may legally warrant the prisoner to demand his immediate release: nay, the tables are so far turned, that after having made every necessary arrangement to enable him to obtain his discharge without let or hindrance; his outwitted persecutors are so provoked at his refusal to do so, that they are now accusing him of sordid motives, declaring that his recent difficulties have been occasioned by his own vain boastings, and that he calculates upon being well paid for his wrongful sufferings—perhaps by bills on some of the Michigan banks, whose chests of specie have been found to consist chiefly of lead, iron nails, metal buttons, and such like ponderous bullion!

Really, all this is very pitiable. Mr M'Leod has now been several months in confinement. No sooner was he arrested than his impugners were officially apprised that, even on the assumption of his having been concerned in destroying the Caroline, the British Government undertook the entire responsibility of that transaction, though at the same time, the brother of the accused endeavored in vain to show the American authorities that his relative was wholly innocent. To the spirited remonstrances of Mr Fox, the central Administration of the United States (as long as bluster and subterfuge might possibly do the work of powder and shot) declared with great solemnity that the entire affair belonged to a particular province of the federal republic, with whose internal rights no interference could be constitutionally exercised. Month after month was spent in this sort of fencing. A spirit of animosity between the two countries was rapidly and perilously engendered. The English cabinet had instructed its plenipotentiary, on certain imminent conditions, to demand his passports and return home. Every post was expected to bring tidings of the actual commencement of hostilities. And lo! what is the upshot, after all? Why, when bluster and subterfuge would no longer answer, discretion, which is the better part of valour, has been substituted in their room. By a strange accession of visual power, Mr M'Leod is at length discovered to have been no party to the piece of patriotism of which he had been accused. By a sudden effort of transatlantic magic, a mysterious *Open, sesema*, is pronounced, which sets the prisoner free. More than all—the original pretext that the central government could not interfere with the legal jurisdiction of an independent state belonging to the Union, is now superseded by the declaration that Mr Crittenden, the Attorney General of the Federal Republic, had travelled 400 miles to attend M'Leod's mock trial, for the purpose of asserting the exclusive jurisdiction, not of the provincial tribunals, as was formerly argued but of the general courts of the United States. Thus the whole has been a discreditable shuffle from beginning to end. Nor is its conclusion likely to be more dignified than its commencement and progress. No demand of reparation for the loss of the Caroline is not so much as hinted at. No transference of responsibility from Mr M'Leod to Lord Palmerston is even dreamt of. The necessity of detaining the prisoner till the law, in its tardy course, releases him next October, is matter of consequential talk, but will never be realized. In short, the cauldron has boiled over, and exhausted itself in idle and contemptible vapour.

NOTICE.—The subscriber will feel obliged to any person who has Razors, Scissors, or any kind of cutlery to sharpen, to furnish him with the same. He is also prepared to do any work in making or repairing Tin Ware. Residence—nearly opposite the Methodist Chapel. Orders will meet with prompt attention.

CHARLES PAREN.

Chatham, April 6, 1841.