

line; and in the camp he far exceeded them in sobriety and good conduct. In danger the Hindoo exhibited a calm resolution, which no reverse could overturn—his fidelity was unbounded—his loyalty not to be shaken—want or suffering could never induce him to desert his officers—and death alone detached him from those colours, which, whether in victory or defeat, he regarded with a devotion that bordered on idolatry. His character united opposites; for with a disposition imbued with the mildness of a woman, he combined the indomitable courage of a hero. Many instances could be adduced to show that in some of the best requisites of a soldier—the Indian auxiliary might serve as a model to every soldier in Europe; and that when circumstances required it, he was willing to seal his loyalty with his life, and abandon everything but his faith. In the record of an Indian siege it is stated, that “on one occasion when the provisions of a garrison were very low, and surrender, in consequence, appeared unavoidable, the Hindoo soldiers entreated their commander to allow them to boil their rice, the only food left for the whole garrison.”—“You English soldiers,” said they, “can eat from our hands, though we cannot eat from theirs; we will allow them, as their share, every grain of the rice, and subsist ourselves by drinking the water in which it has been boiled.” A still more striking trait of the deep affection a Hindoo soldier feels for his European comrade is recorded: When the remnant of Baily’s army were delivered up by that truculent monster, Tippoo Sultan, they were marched across the country to Madras, a distance of 400 miles. During the march, the utmost pains were taken by Tippoo’s guards to keep the Hindoo privates separate from their European officers in the hope that their fidelity might yet sink under the hardships to which they were exposed, but in vain; and not only did they all remain true to their colours, but swam the tanks and rivers by which they were separated from the officers during the night, bringing them all they could save from their little pittance: “For we,” they said, “can live on anything, but you require beef and mutton.” The fidelity of the Hindoo soldier was never to be shaken, and the strongest human tie, kindred, or affinity, could never swerve the sepoy from his duty. On the occasion of a native revolt, a battalion of the 27th native infantry, with 400 Rohilla horse, recently embodied, were all that could be brought against the insurgents, who were above 12,000 strong. They continued to resist till 2,000 were slain, and although many of them were their relations and neighbors, and their priest advanced and invoked them to join their natural friends, only one man was found wanting to his duty, and he was immediately put to death by his comrades, who throughout maintained the most unshaken fidelity and courage.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.
NEW BRUNSWICK.

The following is a copy of His Excellency’s Speech on opening the Legislature on Wednesday last.

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

Having assumed the Government of this Province after the close of the last Session, I should have been anxious to have met you earlier if the public affairs required that I should have called you together before the ordinary time.

The distresses in St. John occasioned by commercial embarrassment and the late calamitous Fires, admitted only of partial alleviation; and relying on your support in measures of a general nature, which would be calculated to establish the credit and develop the resources of the Province in a manner likely to prove beneficial to all classes, I have felt every confidence that the sufferings which have been occasioned by these occurrences would be transient, under the beneficent dispensations of Divine Providence, for whose bounties this Province has such abundant cause of thankfulness.

I cordially congratulate you on the auspicious event which has been recently announced of the birth of an heir apparent to the Throne—an event which has given heartfelt satisfaction to all Her Majesty’s faithful subjects.

Aware of the importance you attach to a settlement of the Boundary, I may be permitted to hope that a sense of the benefits that would be derived to the inhabitants of the contiguous States, as well as of the British Provinces, from the termination of the dispute, will lead to an early and satisfactory issue of the negotiations between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States.

In the consideration of measures by which the general welfare may be promoted, I have been impressed with a conviction of the paramount importance of providing for the introduction of those principles of Municipal Government which are recognized in the constitution of England, and which I am persuaded will be found peculiarly adapted to the situation of the people of this Province.

On the local Institutions recently introduced into a neighbouring Province, some important ameliorations have been based, for the success of which the support and co-operation of the people is essential.

In these views I recommend the subject to your early attention.

The judicious application of the public credit for the investment of capital in works of general utility and in assisting the local communities where their own resources may be inadequate for such objects, would accelerate the improvement and settlement of the Province, and for the efficient execution of all such works, I recommend to you the incorporation of a Board of Works, to be invested with adequate powers and subject to due responsibilities.

To facilitate intercourse and to promote the occupation of the vast Tracts of fertile and unclaimed Territory in the Province, you have appreciated the importance of opening Roads. These works and others will require the aid of science for their survey and due execution.

Amongst the most important which have been proposed are the completion of the Great Road to Canada—the opening of direct communications to the Restigouche, and the survey of that River, a Canal for connecting the waters of the Bay of Fandy with the Gulf of St. Lawrence—the construction of Dry Docks in St. John—the Port of which is open at all seasons—and the improvement of the navigation of its river.

In some of these projects the neighbouring Provinces are interested.

The communications with Canada should be completed as soon as practicable, and the other works if ultimately approved, may be executed in the order of their importance. I recommend to you that the necessary surveys should be immediately undertaken.

To encourage attention to Agriculture, several tracts of land have been selected and laid out, and notwithstanding the lateness of the season, various Associations have been formed for the occupation of them. The success of these spirited undertakings will hold out encouragement to Emigrants from the United Kingdom to form settlements in the Province on the same principle.

The Geological Surveys which have been executed have developed the Agricultural capacities and Mineral resources of the Province, and the further prosecution of these useful researches will merit your encouragement.

My attention having been drawn to the condition of the Indian Tribes, and the situation and extent of the valuable Lands reserved for them, I have instituted enquiries which have been zealously prosecuted, and from the reports which have been made to me, I am gratified to find that no material obstacles exist to the introduction of measures for their social improvement. To facilitate the settlement of the Indian Reserves and the domains of the Crown, some Legislative provision will be necessary.

The formation of Indian Villages and the establishment of Schools in them have been recommended.

The state of Education in the Province has engaged my anxious attention, and from the reports which I have received of the condition of the common Schools, a more efficient system of instruction in them is urgently required.

The funds which you have liberally granted will require to be more appropriately distributed, and the schools placed under effective superintendance.

A revision of the Laws for the regulation of Prisons is also required, with a view to the introduction of a reformatory system of Prison discipline, upon the principles adopted in England.

I earnestly recommend to you a revision of the Criminal Law, and the adoption of those ameliorations in the Statutes of the present Reign, by which capital punishment for certain offences has been abolished.

The Laws regarding the imprisonment of Debtors having also undergone important changes in England, will merit your attention.

Having appointed a commission to enquire into the Laws relating to insolvency, I have received a Report in which the enactment of a Bankruptcy Act has been strongly recommended with a view to sustain commercial credit.

Some provision for the protection and encouragement of the valuable Coast and River Fisheries of the Province will be necessary.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

Notwithstanding the occurrence of severe Commercial distress, I have had the satisfaction to find that the Revenue has not diminished. From the estimates which I have directed to be prepared and laid before you, I hope it will be apparent that under an improved system of Finance, which I earnestly recommend to your adoption in conformity to Parliamentary usage, the credit of the Province may be amply sustained, and provision made—after defraying the ordinary expences of the Government, and the bounties which your liberality has hitherto extended to useful undertakings—for raising and ultimately redeeming the Funds required for the construction of Roads and other reproductive Works, and the improvement of School Houses and Prisons.

As the ordinary Appropriations will be fully adequate to provide for these objects, no additional charges on the Province will be required, and the people may be relieved from the burden of Statute Labour by the substitution of a moderate rate.

The consolidation of the Departments of Revenue, and the establishment of an efficient audit of the Public Accounts is required to

facilitate these financial arrangements, which would be further assisted, with general advantage to the Province, by the adoption of British Sterling as the money of account, and by an improvement and consolidation of the Banking system, in accordance with the views recommended by Her Majesty’s Government.

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

In the opportunities of observation which I have had since my arrival in New Brunswick, I have been no less impressed with a conviction of the great natural resources of the Province, than of the disposition of the people to support the efforts which are required to develop them.

Their warm attachment to the Country of their ancestors, and veneration for her institutions, constitute a strong claim to that support on which you may at all times confidently rely.

In the more important measures which I have recommended, I have had mainly in view to secure to you, under Providence, a participation in the advantages which the British Constitution has imparted, wherever its principles have been recognised; and if the experience of a life devoted to the public service may enable me to assist you in realizing them, I shall derive an ample recompense in the advancement of your welfare.

Colonial.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

St John Herald, January 19.

The public and us are both anxious for the first English mail of the year 1842, to arrive—and bring the glad tidings of revivals in trade—in ships, and in timber—and in whatever else may be deemed necessary for the public weal. As for ourselves, we were selfish; we wanted the mail to arrive this morning—and we to be the first to proclaim the same to our worthy citizens; but in this we were disappointed—and our patrons are deprived of much that would probably have been worth reading. But after all, perhaps it is as well;—the news might not be good, ‘ships, colonies and commerce’ may be duller than ever—manufactures in no demand—failures and bankruptcies with other dire consequences so usual to follow upon the present state of matters and things of continued occurrence, and if it is so, what use is the arrival of the English Mail to us? better that we should be always without it, than to have additional tales of misfortune heaped upon our already tottering pile; better that we remain in our hopes for brightest days, than to be told that we have no reason for those hopes.

—We know that our merchants are looking for better times—and we pray that they may have encouraging news by the mail; but the present appearance of commercial affairs throughout the world forbids our hopes; and increases our fears that our wishes cannot be realized! St John has never seen such gloomy times before, and in common with other cities of the world, of greater opulence and extent, must bide her time, before a favorable reaction can take place. In New York and Boston, as well as in other principal seaports in the United States—ships are a complete drug, and freights are at the lowest ebb; so that this year, we have nothing to expect from a hope that Boston freights may be a lucrative employment for our shipping. In these times, our merchants should not lose their resolution—but endeavour to hold on to what they have, by prudence and honesty; and should they be eventually compelled to fall under the ‘severest pressure they ever experienced,’ let it be but to rise again, with the brighter times, which, with their wonted experience and enterprise, again will put them in a few years upon the pinnacle of prosperity, that changes and chances of trade destroyed them from.

‘The Times’ appear to keep up much the same appearance they have done through the winter—and our city is slowly moving on a very limited trade in the necessaries of life. Bread stuffs and such like sell; but scarce anything else—and what to speculate in to advantage, puzzles the brains not only of our traders, but likewise our money and bill brokers—who loudly complain of the scarcity of good paper in the market. But such is the fact—there is very little good paper made—purchasers are few—and none buy but upon an emergency. Everything is consequently contracted—and with the exception of an occasional small wholesale transaction in West India produce, at a low figure, there is nothing else to note. Auction Sales are rare, and bidders diffident.

Fire at Gazetown.—On Monday evening about 9 o’clock, the House owned and occupied by Henry S. Peters, Esq. as a dwelling and Recorder’s office, was discovered to be on fire—and is supposed to have ignited in consequence of a defect in the stove pipe.—All the public documents, furniture; &c. were saved.

St. John Observer, January 18.
A Bill for the incorporation of the Town of Fredericton, is to be brought before the Legislature this session.

Fredericton Sentinel, January 13.
Meeting of the Legislature.—The approaching session of the Legislature promises to be one of the most important which has occurred for many years. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has since his arrival devoted the energies of his active mind, to the acquirement of a knowledge of the capabilities and requirements of the Province, and is prepared to recommend those measures of practical usefulness, which have suggested themselves.

To carry these out, Bills have been prepared; and as we understand, after having been duly considered in the Executive Council, will be sent down to the Assembly as government measures, and will be supported by the members of the Government who have seats in that Body; thus ensuring to the people of this Colony, so far as Legislation is concerned, the beneficial workings of the British constitution.

It would be premature to discuss the subjects which we understand will be proposed, until they shall have been finally announced in the opening speech, or subsequently by message; but we feel satisfied they are such as the public at large will approve, and that they will meet with the respectful consideration and support of the other branches of the Legislature.

Among the subjects that will come before the Assembly in the shape of Bills, will be the establishment of a Board of Works, composed of competent persons, by whom estimates will be made of the sums that shall be required for proposed services; an improved system of education; and the introduction of district councils and municipal institutions throughout the Province, by which a portion of self government will be communicated to the people, and an impetus given to patriotism and public spirit.

A private belonging to the 69th Regiment, stationed in this garrison, has voluntarily confessed, that he was concerned in the murder of a clergyman in Ireland several years since, and has been committed to prison until he can be sent home for trial.

While the introduction of the Total Abstinence Plea has been productive in other parts of the Province, of marked benefit, it is gratifying to learn that the Rev. Mr Langevan at Madawaska, has introduced it among the French inhabitants there, and that about 400 have already embraced the cause. The good effects resulting from the Temperance movement in Westmorland, was very evident during the last sitting of the Court in that County; and the French people, who before had flocked in hundreds to the taverns near the Court House, deserted them entirely; and were left to obtain a scanty support from the English portion of the inhabitants.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Journal, January 17.

We are indebted to Mr Keefer for files of Demerara papers to the 17th and Barbadoes to the 24th ult. The weather had been favorable at Barbadoes, St. Lucia and Dominica, and the appearance of the crops was very promising.—A malignant fever prevailed at Dominica, which was carrying off a number of the inhabitants.

UNITED STATES PRESS.

From the Albany Daily Advertiser.
THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

In spite of the severe laws and strenuous efforts of the most powerful nations in christianity, this trade seems to flourish as rankly as ever. For her efforts in this behalf, England, notwithstanding her earlier sins, is entitled to the meed of praise. In addition to the abolition of slavery throughout her dominions, she has persevered against interest and indifference until she has succeeded in arousing other countries to a sense of the enormity of this traffic. France, Spain, Portugal and Brazil, themselves slave holding nations, have united with her to suppress it. They have entered into a treaty, by which the most efficient means are to be used for this purpose: the mutual visitation of their vessels in the African seas, is allowed to each other’s cruisers, and the detention of all their ships and subjects found violating this compact, is followed by their condign punishment.

Although this league has been some years in existence, it has failed of success. All the necessary elements have not been obtained. Our own Government has declined entering into the arrangement, and in consequence the inviolability of our flag has been used as a shelter for this trade, under the very guns of the vessel sent by powers to prevent it. It is perfectly clear then, that so long as the foreign slaver shall avail himself of this protection, his career must continue unchecked. With a full knowledge of this fact it is certainly the duty of our Government to look to the matter,