

public thoroughfares, not plundering property indiscriminately, not molesting passengers, but taking and eating bread wherever they can find it; not seeking concealment, not attempting to evade the penalties which the law denounces against robbery, but, violent only in their determination to eat bread, following the ministers of the law contentedly to prison, and surrendering themselves joyfully to hard labour and strict confinement, that they obtain a roof to shelter them from the cutting sleetstorm, and a modicum of coarse food to distend their collapsed stomachs.

All fares the land where multitudes of creatures such as these exist. Let moralists decide whether the human law which requires a man to starve to death can be morally binding, we, as men of the world, are satisfied to know that it never can be of any practical efficiency. When the first law of nature becomes diametrically opposed to an act of Parliament, it requires little foresight to say which is certain to be broken. It is a delicate point, and one which we shrink from discussing, whether a man in an actual state of starvation has or has not a right to take by violence and to eat so much food as may preserve his life. But what must be the state of society when such a question can come before us practically—and continually?

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.
NEW BRUNSWICK

Correspondence of the New Brunswicker. Loss of the Municipal Bill in the Council!—the Bankrupt Bill sustained in the House!

Fredericton, 11th March, 1842.

Mr Till,—The Bankrupt Bill was taken up this morning by the Assembly, in Committee of the whole, and some progress was made; the principle of the Bill was adopted, and it now, therefore, only remains to settle the details of the Bill, and define the mode of carrying out that principle.—These details would have been proceeded with to-day, but nearly all the members went off to the Council Chamber, to hear the debate on the Municipal Bill, and the House was consequently adjourned. Thus, at this late period of the Session, with so important a measure as the Bankrupt Bill before them, the members of the Assembly neglect the business of the country, and leave it dragging along.

In the Council the debate on the Municipal Bill was opened by the Solicitor General, who advocated the measure, on the ground that it was optional with the people to accept or reject it; he said for his own part, he would not take the bill, but still he would like to have the power—in short, he advocated the bill, as *Solicitor General*. He was followed by Mr Chandler, who opposed the measure, and argued that it was not required by the people, because they had not petitioned for it, although he admitted that petitions could be got up for anything. He alleged that the bill was full of all sorts of evils, and would lead to great expense—it was a very pretty speech amounting to nothing, as all the great constitutional questions which are involved in the principle of Municipal Corporations, were left untouched. Mr Chandler merely assaulted some of the outworks, but did not attack the citadel—the stronghold of the measure.

He was followed by Mr Hatch, who opposed the Bill with all his might; it will be borne in mind that Charlotte is the county where the people have struggled so long for a sight of their accounts, and actually wearied the Legislature with petitions, to interfere in their affairs; in the House, it was generally admitted, that the Bill would be a great boon to Charlotte. Mr Kinnear followed next in order, and went back to the time of King Alfred: he talked very long and learnedly, and for an officer of the corporation of St. John, very reprehensively—his speech may be characterized by the very expressive phrase 'twaddle.' Next followed Mr John Robertson, who attacked the measure right and left, and fell upon the government too—he said the Bill was as full of evils as Pandora's Box—it was quite evident throughout that Mr Robertson had not made himself master of the details of the question, and by no means understood its principles or bearing. Mr Botsford said but little, as he understood that the Government did not intend to press the bill to a division; he stated that he had intended to have gone at length into his reasons for opposition, but

should reserve his remarks for another occasion.—His speech which it is generally understood has been several weeks in preparation, will be laid up in lavender ready for future use, and it is to be hoped it will keep in the meantime. Mr Saunders made a few remarks in answer to the opponents of the Bill, which were very much to the point, set forth clearly and distinctly, the essential benefits which the people would derive from it, and the beneficial effects it would have on the advancement of the Country. A motion was then made to postpone the Bill until the next Session of the Legislature, which was carried without a division—and this urgent public measure, one which would confer upon the people the right of managing and controlling their own local affairs, if they thought fit, has been thrown aside for the present. As the country however becomes more fully acquainted with the power which it would vest in the people, and the valuable and extensive privileges it would give them, there will be a general rising in its favor throughout the Province and the measure will be carried.

Saturday is generally an idle day in the Assembly, but if the members should not make a holiday of it, the bankrupt Bill will probably be taken up.

A FREDERICTONIAN.

From the St. John New Brunswicker.

THE TIMBER TRADE DURING 1841.

We find the following statement of the Timber Trade, during the past year, in the Liverpool European:—

Pine Timber from Quebec,	3,490,000 c. ft.
St. John,	1,636,000 "
St. Andrews,	101,000 "
Miramichi,	230,000 "
Other parts,	474,000 "
Red Pine from Quebec and other Ports,	412,000 "
Total import in 1841,	6,343,000 "
Total import in 1840,	5,166,000 "

Increase of Import, 1,177,000
The consumption during the year 1841 appears to have fallen off very considerably, being less than that of 1840 by 1,012,000 feet. The stock remaining over has consequently increased very greatly, and is said to have been greater at the close of the year than ever heretofore known. In the early part of the year 1840, there appeared a fair prospect of a good business being done, at remunerating prices, but from political causes, and a general depression, particularly in the manufacturing districts, those prospects were soon blighted, and when the import set in, miserably low prices only were obtained. St. John Pine having ranged from 17d to 20d per foot, and Quebec 15d to 16½ per foot.

The importation of Pine Plank and Deals from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, during the past year, is stated as follows:
In 1841, 8,779,000 feet of 2 inches.
In 1840, 5,750,000

Increase, 3,029,000
Owing to the decrease in the consumption, the stock remaining on hand at the close of the year, amounted to 5,000,000 feet of 2 inches. Pine planks and deals have been very low during the past summer and autumn, but an improvement appears to have taken place latterly, Spruce Deals of good quality being worth 2½d to 2½d to 3d.

The quantity of Birch imported, much exceeds that of former years, while the consumption has been nearly the same; a large stock consequently remains over. It is stated, that the Birch imported the past year, has been of a very common and inferior kind, and brought 18d and 14d per foot. Large and fresh birch, is said to be always in request, and will bring 16d and 18d per foot.

The quantity of Lathwood imported the last year, also greatly exceeded the importation of 1840, and as the consumption has not increased, a large quantity remained over at the close of the year. Lathwood has been generally sold in the cargo at £2 and £3 per fathom; when sold separately, it has brought £4 10s. and £5 per fathom.

The above are the principal articles in which the people of this Province are interested, and from the foregoing statement it will be seen that the consumption of Pine Timber, and of Spruce and Pine Deals, has very considerably decreased, while the importations have increased very much on those of former years. The market is therefore glutted, and until a revival of Trade and Manufactures takes place, no improvement can be expected. The financial statement of Sir Robert Peel was looked for most anxiously by the mercantile community, as upon the statements therein, and the course which Sir Robert should propose to adopt, the business prospects of the year would greatly depend. By the March Mail, which we shall probably have within a week, we shall very likely have such Parliamentary and mercantile information, as will enable us to form an opinion with regard to the business of the coming season. That a change in the Timber Duties will take place this Session of Parliament, may be deemed almost certain, but the nature and extent of the change will depend in a great measure in the alterations which may be made in the Corn Laws.

THE STEAM NAVIGATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.
Of all the many wonderful things which

have of late years been effected by British energy and enterprise, none appear to have so much astonished the people on the Continent of Europe, as the perfect ease and celerity with which England has recently increased her means of communication with all parts of the world, by means of Steam Navigation. The French in particular express great amazement, and view with no small degree of jealousy and alarm, the short space of time which elapsed between the period when the contract was entered by Government for the West India Steamers and their being finished, fitted and ready for sea. On March 20th, 1840, a contract was entered into by the Government for fourteen large Steamers, capable of carrying the heavy artillery now in use, called the Paixhan guns, and in twenty months thereafter, eight of these magnificent and stupendous vessels were assembled in Southampton water, ready for sea. In their trial trips none of these vessels performed less than 12 knots, and one of them, the Clyde, performed 15, per hour. This fine vessel was at Halifax last week, having performed the run from New York to that port in very stormy weather, at an average of 12 knots. In a very short time all these vessels will be on their allotted stations, and a direct communication will be opened between England and the Gulf of Mexico. A powerful navy of the largest and finest class of steam vessels has been created by Britain, in a space of time almost incredible, and will may the natives of Europe wonder at the power of a people, who can with such facility erect a navy of so effective a description. The Americans too have expressed their astonishment at the energy of this movement, which they have never done any thing to equal, and they also view with some degree of alarm the powerful armament of steamers which will hereafter be continually sweeping along their shores. If by any unfortunate combination of circumstances, a war should occur between England and America, the latter would find the armed steamers of Britain a description of vessels with which they could produce nothing fit to cope. By her steamers in various parts of the world, England has strengthened and consolidated her naval power, and may now bid defiance to all who would attempt to wrest from her, the Sovereignty of the Seas.

From the St. John Morning News.

THE TIMBER TRADE.
The circular issued by Messrs. Duncan & Ewing, timber merchants, contains observations on the suggested alteration in the Timber Duties, which proposes to favour the importation of that material from the North of Europe, at the expense of the Colonial Trade. They represent such a measure as fraught with danger, and deem it highly impolitic to hazard the injury of so important a branch of Trade as that with the North American Colonies, for a doubtful prospect of increased gain by establishing a Trade with foreign nations. The present trade in Timber with our North American Colonies is stated to have employed in Liverpool during the last year, 75,000 Tons, a proportion equal to one sixth of the whole engaged in foreign and colonial commerce entering the port; and since foreign timber is almost exclusively brought here in foreign bottoms, the interest of our shipowners shown to be involved to so important an extent will also suffer by an increase of foreign trade, and that nearly in the same proportion as the displacement of Colonial by Baltic Timber. They then alluded to the opinions which some have industriously circulated, setting forth the immense inferiority of Colonial Fir Timber compared with the European, and show that each has useful properties which are not shared by the other; that although European Timber is stronger and more durable than Colonial (Red Pine excepted), and accordingly obtains higher prices, yet there are many purposes for which it is unfitted, and where Colonial common Yellow Pine is used in preference, and many to which the latter is equally adapted. They observe that an increase of duty on Colonial Timber is at variance with the acknowledged principle of encouraging the importation of raw material, tends to oppress the poor classes, to whose wants it is more especially applicable, as being cheaper. At the same time they are not opposed to a reduction of duty on Foreign Timber, but rather recommend it as tending to reduce the price to the consumer. After adverting to the general distressed state of the whole trading community, they add, that the Timber Trade is of course involved in the same difficulties, though perhaps they are less serious than those of others.

Colonial.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Novascotian, March 18.
Address of Congratulation.—We learn by the Acadia, Steamship, that the address of the Halifax City Council, which had been entrusted to Mr Binney, he being recognized as the municipal head of that body; but that the other addresses of which his Worship was the bearer, were not received, as not coming by the regular channel of communication. Thus, it appears, one vexed question is set at rest. The Secretary of the Province has announced the gracious reception of the

Addresses of the Charitable Societies which were transmitted by Lord Falkland.

An Address respecting a change of regulating duties, by the British Parliament, was promptly prepared and adopted by the House on Friday last, and forwarded to England on Saturday, by the Acadia.

Halifax Times, March 15.

We have copied from an English paper, the scale of alterations proposed to be made in the duties on foreign imports into the British possessions—and regret to find that they would be highly detrimental to our commerce. They have been commented upon in the House of Assembly, and the Chamber of Commerce has also taken action upon them. This speedy attention to a question of so much importance, will we hope, be generally imitated throughout British America and prevent the sacrifice of our commercial interests.

A New Trade.—Two ships and a brig are at present loading in this port with ice, for the United States. We understand there is not a pound of ice to the southward of Boston.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

St. John Mirror, March 12.

St. Patrick's Society. At a very numerous Quarterly Meeting of the Saint Patrick's Society, held at the Saint John Hotel on Monday, the 7th March, it was Resolved unanimously—That in the present times of privation and distress, the most patriotic mode of celebrating the Festival of our Patron Saint, will be to contribute for the relief of our suffering fellow countrymen, the amount which had usually been expended in a Public Dinner.

A subscription was at once entered into and the sum of £20 subscribed.

United States.

BOSTON, March 8.

Another War Question—the Caroline Affair in a New Dress—McLeod No. Two.

On Monday night, Feb. 28, a young man by the name of Hogan was arrested about 8 miles from Lockport, and brought to that place, charged with being one of the party who attacked the steamer Caroline.

The evidence against him is said to be, that he disclosed to Dr. McKenzie, of Lockport, in 1838, that he was one of the party, and that, having occasion to come to Rochester, he wrote to the Doctor to know whether there would be any danger in his doing so, and asking for a brace of pistols.

Hogan is a resident of Hamilton, and had been to Rochester to attend Court. He was lodged in jail for one night, and the next day taken by writ of Habeas Corpus before Judge Hansom of the Common Pleas Court, upon the plea that there was sufficient evidence to warrant his detention. What the result of the hearing was, we shall probably know tomorrow.

From the Rochester Post.

In addition we have been permitted to peruse a private letter to a Canadian exile in this city, of the same date, from which the following is an extract:

"John Sheridan Hogan, one of the Caroline invaders, about whom there can be no mistake, has been arrested, and will doubtless be committed to take his trial for the part he took in the Schloser murders. I am told he is clerk to the Sheriff of the Gore District, who was McNabb's Lieut. Colonel, opposite Navy Island, and that he was formerly in McNabb's law office, and acted as his secretary while at Chippewa. He is a good looking, bold, manly little fellow—Tory and game to the back bone."

This will revive the whole question involved in the celebrated McLeod case. A more important movement has not taken place for some time. Hogan is one who, we are told freely admits his connexion with the Caroline outrage, and throws himself on the protection of the British Government.

March 9.

Hogan Released.—It seems Hogan is released—and we hope will make his way back to Canada without delay. It is said, according to his deposition on McLeod's trial, he made one of the 'Caroline Expedition'—and it would have been a source of regret for a difficulty similar to that of McLeod's to have occurred while negotiations are going on between the two governments in relation to the whole matter. The Niagara Courier of Wednesday says—

'This morning the prisoner was taken out of the hands of the magistrate, and carried before Judge Ransom, by whom he was set free, on the ground of the insufficiency of the warrant of arrest, notwithstanding there was sufficient evidence, as we are informed on the best of authority, to have detained him for trial, had it not been for the defect in the warrant.'

COALS.

The Subscriber offers for Sale 100 TONS of excellent ROUND SCOTCH COAL, now lying on his Wharf.

WM. ABRAMS.

Newcastle, March 1, 1842.