

garrison to be very small, and unable to resist a sudden onset. The debate was now resumed but another hour passed and the General could not make up his mind. A second spy was despatched, whose report tended to corroborate what the first had said. I was then sent to Lieut. Start, the engineer, who was nearly recovered from his wounds, for his opinion. He at first expressed himself in favour of an immediate attack,—but on hearing that some of the enemy were on the watch at the gate, he judged it prudent to defer the assault till an early hour in the morning—this decided the General, though not before several hours had elapsed away in fruitless discussion.

Orders were at last given for a detachment to be in readiness at four a. m., at the Kohistan gate,—and Captain Bellew, Deputy As. Quartermaster-General, volunteered to blow open the gate,—another party of her Majesty's Forty-fourth were at the same time to issue by a cut in the south face of the rampart, and march simultaneously towards the Commissariat fort, to reinforce the garrison. Morning had, however, well dawned ere the men could be got under arms, and they were on the point of marching off, when it was reported that Ensign Warren had just arrived in cantonments with his garrison, having evacuated the fort. It seems that the enemy had actually set fire to the gate, and Ensign Warren, seeing no prospect of a reinforcement, and expecting the enemy every moment to rush in, led out his men by a hole which he had prepared in the wall. Being called upon in a public letter from the Assistant-Adjutant General to state his reasons for abandoning his post, he replied that he was ready to do so before a court of inquiry, which he requested might be assembled to investigate his conduct—it was not, however, deemed expedient to comply with his request.

ORIGINAL.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,
Sir,

In my last, owing to a want of further space in your paper, I closed my letter abruptly, on having given particulars or substance of a negotiation between Phineas Williston and John Cuppage, Esquires, as to entertainment for Mr Williston's party at Cuppage's; and now resume by asking whether you, Mr Editor, could for a moment have supposed that any person need have entertained the slightest doubt of the stability of any arrangement entered into with Mr Cuppage, at least on the part of Mr Cuppage? However, your readers generally may not enjoy the pleasure of knowing Mr Cuppage so well as I do, Sir, and for that reason I will introduce to them a very venerable looking Gentleman, of somewhat about eighty years of age—with hair as white as flax—a Justice of the Peace for the County of Northumberland—and moreover a Gentleman who has for a great number of years acted as censor, not only of the manners, but of the conduct—civil, political, and religious—of his neighbours;—whose word was as good as his bond;—whose rule of faith was the Bible. As I before observed, Sir, we left Chatham a little before day-dawn; the morning was very frosty when we left, and continued to become so much more so, as that by the time we reached the ice on the North West, or about nine miles from Chatham, we began to freeze; and altho' all our men were perfectly sober and watched each other with vigilancy, yet very few escaped getting frozen, and some to a frightful extent—in fact to so great an extent, as that some of them have not yet recovered; I do not think I exaggerate when I state, that from 50 to 60 men got frozen on that morning! (The Thermometer stood at 22 below zero at 8 o'clock, Monday, January 2nd). By the time we reached Cuppage's, scores of men might be seen with the skin rubbed off their noses, cheekbones and chins, in getting the frost out, and consequently with their faces covered with blood: others with their fingers and toes frozen. However, your readers will conclude of course that their sufferings ended here. No, no, Mr Editor; their situation when reaching Mr Cuppage's comfortable quarters was like that of a young Bear, viz. in the beginning of their misery. Mr Williston and his Poll Clerk reached there some time before we did—left his horse and sleigh on the ice while he went to look for Mr Cuppage; and after a tedious search, just discovered that there were no quarters or accommodations for him or his people, and consequently he had to send his horse across the river, and to proceed immediately to the House in which the Poll was opened, being an uninhabited one, which had been used as a carpenter's shop—with a stove in it, and this house was so cold as that the Clerks were obliged frequently to thaw the ink in their pen. It will be as well for your readers also to know something of the locality at Cuppage's. The river is about a quarter of a mile across—there is not a dwelling house within a quarter of a mile above it, or in fact any where about it, with the exception of a House occupied by one James Bell, within a few yards of Cuppage's, and which is scarcely large enough to hold 15 men standing.

I was in advance of the main body of our people, and on reaching Cuppage's found that all my anticipations respecting the extent of what we had to contend with were more than realized, as it respected numerical force, and hostility of demeanor. I tried to approach

the Hastings, and met with every disposition to treat me roughly. I was jostled, collared, and in every respect badly treated. I, not knowing how matters stood at Cuppage's, thought I would step into the house for a few minutes until our people would have reached up, but was met at the outer door by two men, one stationed at each side, who acted as a guard, and upon my approaching, questioned me as to who I was? and upon my replying and declaring myself, told me that I could not enter there; however, I persisted, pushing past them, and stating that I wanted to see Mr Cuppage, and should see him—when behold, I had another guard to pass! two others stationed at the inner door, who also interrogated me, and refused me admittance. However, I contrived to find my way to Mr Cuppage's kitchen hearth, and there found the old Gentleman, who was so very busily engaged, (settling the fire) as that when I accosted him he could not find time to straighten himself up, but looked under his brows at me, and I was obliged to be satisfied with accepting the tops of the fore and I think middle fingers of his right hand!—and thereupon I made up my mind, notwithstanding that it took place on the hearth, and where there was a very large fire, that it was rather a cool reception. I shall not tax the patience of your readers to any greater extent, Sir—the fact is that Messrs. Rankin & Street determined, that if they could not have all their own way at the North West, they would have the satisfaction of starving and freezing us to death! This is strong language did you say, Sir? perhaps I was premature in offering an opinion. Well then, let your readers judge for themselves.

James Bell's house had not been engaged before that morning, but on that morning, evidently for no other purpose than is above stated—his little house was also engaged, and double guarded! Our party arrived—no admittance to a fire or stove—no hay—no oats—no bucket to water horses—no axe to cut a hole in the ice with—no, Sir, not so much as a coal of fire to light a pipe with; the whole of these were literally refused. Two of our men impudently requested of me to procure them admittance to a fire, I with much humility requested permission of two of the other side freeholders for these men, both of whom they knew personally, to warm at the fire in Cuppage's; the men addressed by me assented with apparent cheerfulness, and directed the men to the door. I however took the precaution to suggest the necessity of their seeing them past the guards; the attempt was made—and made in vain! One of my own heels was frozen hard, and my remedy was to kick at a hardwood log until I kicked it soft, and caused the blood to circulate. It has just occurred to me that as yet there is a little loophole by which the venerable old Gentleman (?) Mr Cuppage, may escape, and if the reader will mark the recital of the following little incident, he will be able to judge how far Mr C. can avail himself of it.

Immediately upon the failure of the two men to procure admittance to Mr Cuppage's fire, a person, a stranger to me, accosted me, enquiring whether I was not John Hea, from Chatham? and upon my replying in the affirmative, he asked me how it was that I went into his house? and further, that I sent two men into his house to warm themselves? I, upon ascertaining that his name was Parden, told him that I went into see Mr Cuppage, from whom Mr W. had engaged accommodations, and very respectfully narrated the circumstances under which I sent the two men to his door—he told me not to attempt to use such a liberty with his house again, and accompanied the injunction with threats. Now Sir, it may be just as well for me to introduce to your readers at a distance, this said Mr Parden, as a relative of Mr Cuppage's, and a person who is said to have Mr Cuppage's house rented, and of whom Mr Cuppage makes just such uses as he thinks proper. However, Mr Williston after engaging accommodations from Mr Cuppage also saw his Fac-totum, Mr Parden, both on the North West and subsequently, even as late as Saturday, in Chatham, who confirmed and re-confirmed the arrangement with Mr Cuppage.

A short time after our people reached Cuppage's, I despatched a team for Oars, and owing to the person who was sent being a stranger, he travelled about 15 miles before he got it. A person resident in the North West despatched a span and man for Hay, and it was not very long before our horses at least were made as comfortable as they could be, in standing on the ice after a drive of 19 or 20 miles. While matters were progressing as above, we contrived to establish ourselves in the passage leading to, and at the Hastings, but not without something in the shape of a death struggle. I had, previously to our leaving home for the Northwest, endeavoured to impress upon the minds of our people the policy and expediency of being peaceable, and in fact urged them rather to receive a blow than to strike one. This was the first day that I took charge of them, and as to how far they acquitted themselves in accordance with my injunctions, I, not daring to appeal to any person, no matter of what standing in society, who is of our side of the question—have no objection to appeal to Mr David Johnstone, John Chalmers and Alexander McKillop, of Douglastown: to ———— Morrison, and ———— Donovan, two of the leaders of their force, or even to Mr Wm. Masson himself, who appeared to act as the General of their forces on the

Northwest, notwithstanding his having been the mover of the Resolution at the meeting of Mr Street's friends (see Gleaner of the 10th of January),—to Jared Tozer, Esq., even to John Cuppage, Esq., and to Mr Wm. N. Venning, of Newcastle, notwithstanding that he was at the meeting of Mr Street's friends as above. But by the bye nothing is said of the fifth or Northwest day in that Resolution, nor in any other document issued by the opposite party, except in Mr Street's petition to the House of Assembly, which it must have been supposed we never could have had a look at, any more than it was intended I should, at the precious document prepared against me by Messrs R. & S., to the government a few years back.

When we had been there some time, probably about noon, Mr Parden, it would appear, consented to let Mr Edward Williston have some hard bread and butter, but owing to the circumstance of his not being able to find the key of his store room, even with the assistance of Mr Cuppage! there was a great deal of difficulty in getting the bread and butter. However there was one poor man, who lived at the opposite side of the River, and who upon being applied to, set our people at liberty to warm at his fire, and further, stated that anything that his house afforded was at our service; here was some relief, but of which we scarcely dared to take advantage. I cautioned our people to go but a few at a time, and to stay as short a time as possible, under the apprehension that the other side force would re-possess themselves of the Hastings and of the avenue leading to them, and a want of strict adherence to my advice led to another struggle which continued for several minutes, but in which our people again gained the ascendancy. I think I shall have a word with Mr William Masson of Newcastle, (whose name is already figuring before the public in rather a conspicuous situation, viz. as the mover of the first Resolution at the meeting of Mr Street's friends on the day the Poll closed) and would ask him whether he recollects some words of command given by him, as general of the Rankin and Street forces, during one of these struggles. I am apprehensive his words of command must have escaped his memory, and that very shortly after having given them; else for consistency sake, he would not have suffered himself to be thrust into so conspicuous a situation, as the part he took in Mr Street's meeting has placed him. I think your readers will agree with me in opinion, Sir, when I hazard a few words in that way upon the subject before us, but I dare not offer an opinion even in this instance, and therefore shall recapitulate General Masson's commands delivered by himself in person, and not through any one of his Aid-de-Camps, and let your readers as usual, draw their conclusions. General Masson's words were these—'now boys'—'now is your time'—'d—n them, let them have it'—'stick it into them'. At the same time that General Masson gave his men these commands, Sir, I thought I observed something strange in his gait, and having made up my mind that he, as a general officer, could not have reached the battle ground far behind the main body of his troops, who had found their way to the field on the night previous, and consequently that his peculiar gait did not result from a forced march, I must say that I had some misgivings as to what appeared to me, digressive or equivocal in his gait.

The horrors of war instantly flashed across my mind when I heard these frightful words of command uttered! We were cold—frozen—fatigued—hungry—and unarmed. While our opponents had had their night's rest—breakfast—and access to comfortable fires and stoves. But more than all was I horror-stricken on considering how our enemies were provided with arms—it having been reported to me from a source that I had no right to question, that at least twenty-five cases of pistols had been distributed amongst them.

I had not a moment to lose, and expostulated with General Masson immediately upon the horrors which may be produced by his orders being obeyed; and contrasted his mode of managing their force with mine,—which was all peace—and quietness—recommending to our people by no means to raise their hands to any man. To my astonishment, when I called him to account for having uttered these commands, he appeared to have forgotten all about what he had been saying. The matter is now before your readers, Sir, who will dispose of it as they think proper. I went amongst the people, recommending peace and quietness, and in order to insure it, giving the opposite party to understand that we had the power in our hands, upon which alone depended our safety, and to which alone we are indebted for it. The Poll closed—not an act of violence was committed by our people—not a blow struck through the day—not a drop of blood spilled. Our people endured their sufferings like men—and like sober, sensible men. I should have observed, that at one time thro' the day, instigated by Mr Street's man, who took every opportunity of not only insulting, but of assaulting me, and taking advantage of a weak spot in the line, no fewer than four men at the same moment had me by the collar and throat—Mr Street's man being the first to take hold of me, and the whole of this I endured, and insisted upon our people enduring, without retaliating. Immediately upon the close of the Poll, Messrs. Rankin & Street's force was despatched for Coughlan's, on the South West, where the Poll was to be opened the next morning at 9

o'clock; and we proceeded down to Mr John Goodfellow's on our route, where we endeavored to get something to eat—many of our people not having tasted food or drink from the time they took breakfast in Chatham before day being from about 5 o'clock in the morning to 7 at night.

I think I shall close this letter here, Sir, and have some expectation of being enabled to close the Election with two or three other letters.

I am, Sir,
Your obed. Serv.
JOHN HEA.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 14.

Mr Wilmot, pursuant to leave granted, brought in a Bill to amend the Charter of King's College; which was read a first time.

On motion of Mr Partelow—That the House proceed to the order of the day to go into Committee of the whole House in consideration of the Message of his Excellency the Lieut. Governor of the 11th inst. and which was laid before the House yesterday, communicating a Report from the Treasurer, with the estimate of Revenue for the present year, calculated upon a Scale of Duties recommended to be levied.—The Order of the Day being read, the House accordingly resolved itself into Committee of the whole on said Message:

'Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, That all aids and supplies, and aids to her Majesty in Parliament, are the sole gift of the Commons; and all Bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies ought to begin with the Commons; also all Bills imposing charges, and burthens upon the people; and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, charges and burthens; and farther

'Resolved, That the House should therefore view any recommendation for laying Duties upon the people from any other quarter, as an interference with its acknowledged rights and privileges.'

To which an amendment was proposed—To expunge the whole of the second clause in the original Resolution, after the words 'farther Resolved,' and substitute the following:—

'The House should always resist any interference from any other Branch of the Legislature, with regard to the mode of levying all Duties for the purposes of Revenue, and the objects thereof, yet it will always give due consideration to any suggestion of the Lieut. Governor in relation to the Provincial Revenue.'

And upon the question for adopting the amendment, the Committee divided as follows: Yeas 9. Nays 22. Whereupon it was decided in the negative. The question was then taken upon the original Resolution, when the Committee again divided as follows: Yeas 21. Nays—The Hon. Mr. Sisson, Messrs. Palmer, Alexandre, Williston, Barker, Connell, Fisher, Hill, Boyd, and Rankin—10. And it was thereupon carried in the affirmative. Ordered, That the Report be accepted, and the Resolution as passed in the Committee adopted by the House.

Mr End, by leave, presented a Petition from John Miller, Deputy Treasurer for the Port of Bathurst, praying for an increase of Salary, for the reasons therein set forth. Received.

February 15.

Whereas in the present unexampled crisis in the affairs of this Province, arising from the extreme difficulty of collecting the outstanding dues, and from the unprecedented decrease of the Revenue of the last year, an amount of money is necessary to be immediately raised to meet the existing demands against the Province,—therefore

Resolved, That in order to discharge the present debt and to sustain the public credit, it is highly indispensable that the House should negotiate a Loan; and further

Resolved, That the subject should be referred to a Select Committee to report thereon by Bill or otherwise.

February 16.

Read a second time, a Bill to repeal an Act intitled—'An Act in addition to the Laws now in force for the protection of the Fisheries in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent and Gloucester.'

Read a Third time as engrossed, a Bill relating to the qualification of Members of the Legislative Council. Resolved—That the Bill do pass.

February 17.

Mr Rankin, by leave, presented a petition from Wm. Abrams, Esquire, and 52 others, inhabitants of the Parishes of Nelson, Newcastle, Northesk and Blisfield, in the county of Northumberland, praying for a continuation of the grant towards the support of the Grammar School taught by John Seweright, in the Town of Newcastle; which he read.

Mr Partelow, by leave, presented a petition from Rev. Wm. Temple, and Rev. S. Busby, Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville, praying Legislative aid towards the support of that Institution, which he read. Received.