

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI: MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 27, 1843.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.—The Courier, with the Southern Mail, arrived on Thursday, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

European News.—On Saturday week the Royal Mail Steamer Columbia, arrived at Halifax with the British March mail. She had a passage of 14 days: the news she brings is not important. There is no intelligence from India or China.

We are sorry to perceive, that there appears to be no amendment in trade, or abatement in the distresses of the manufacturing population.

Our dates are from London to the 3rd, and Liverpool to the 4th of the month, from which we have made numerous extracts, which will be found under the proper head.

The Late Earthquake.—We give below all the news which has reached us, in addition to what we published last week, respecting the late disastrous Earthquake in the West Indies.

New York, March 11.—By the arrival of the schooner Chappelle, at Wilmington, N. C. from St. Thomas, we have further accounts of the dreadful effects of the earthquake in the West India Islands. All the buildings in Pointe à Pitre were thrown down by the shock. Immediately upon its occurrence, about 2000 of the inhabitants rushed from their dwellings into the public square, which they had scarcely reached, when the earth opened beneath their feet, and swallowed the whole mass!—It was supposed that full 7000 people were destroyed together in various ways. Directly after the earthquake, a fire broke out among the ruins, which burnt five days and completed the work of destruction.

The other parts of the island suffered but little. On the islands of Antigua and Montserrat, nearly all the stone and brick buildings were shaken down, but not those of wood. A few were only were lost at English Harbour, Antigua, a high hill overlooking the Harbour, was shown into it by the shock, filling it up. It was not known that any islands were sunk, as had been reported by vessels arriving elsewhere.

From the Baltimore American. FROM JAMAICA.—We learn from Captain Wain, of the barque Orb, at this port yesterday from Black River, Jamaica, that the earthquake on the 5th February, was not felt at Jamaica.

The following is a copy of a letter from Captain Fayer, of the steam-ship packet Forth, dated 14th February, off Bermuda, to the Governor of that Island:

"On the 5th February, at 10 30 a. m. I was sitting at table with Mr. Courie, of the Colony Bank at Saint Thomas, his private house being on a declivity half way up the highest part of the town—we were suddenly surprised by a confused sound, very much resembling the accompaniment of a strong draught of one of the large beer's flues with the door shut, attended by a hissing sound.

"Our first impulse was to fly to the balcony, from whence there could have been no escape. The houses fallen. Every thing was on the move, glass windows in our house and those in the streets immediately under us, presented an extraordinary scene—people rushing out of their houses, many out of the lower windows in all directions, wringing their hands, and crying in these minutes—the shock came (rather vibrated) not perpendicular, but horizontal—then a perfect calm. All business was suspended, and the awakened inhabitants hastened to return thanks to Divine Providence at their respective places of worship, for their escape from destruction.

"I cannot say that personally, I felt any great alarm—though much startled at the effect, and from the motion did not conceive that any thing serious would occur, or has there, beyond much of the usual.

"The ships at anchor in the harbour, felt the shock very plainly, and those who were below deck at the time, came on deck to see what was the cause.

"A French brig coming to St. Thomas, off Pointe à Pitre, felt the shock so severely, he thought that the vessel had struck on a rock.

"The Spanish man-of-war corvette Cubana, came in from the westward, and though close to the west end of St. Thomas, did not feel any shock.

"I regret it is much to be feared, serious calamities may have occurred amongst the Islands to windward. A vessel arrived from St. Kitts. The court house and custom house were fallen, but no mention of any loss of life.

On the following day arrived the Royal Mail packet Thames—from which the following particulars were gathered:

"Captain Haste, says the Thames was about two miles off English Harbour, at 10 25 a. m. running at full speed, when suddenly she was brought up as if on a reef of rocks, to his own dismay, and of all on board, and continued for a short period to jump and kick as if beating on rocks. His attention was called by a passenger exclaiming, 'Heavens! look at the land!' All was enveloped in a cloud of dust—the shock had passed. Many declare the moment before they saw large houses standing (supposed the barracks on the ridge) but after the shock no houses were to be seen, but many soldiers running about the vicinity."

The following is the latest intelligence. It is copied from the Bermudian of the 25th ult. received by the last mail.

"By the arrival of H. M. steamer Dee, Commander Driver, on Saturday last, from Antigua, additional intelligence has been received concerning the great Earthquake, which visited Antigua and the neighbouring Islands on Wednesday the 8th inst.

It is a matter of the most hearty thankfulness that amid this awful visitation—while buildings were falling and the earth was rocking with convulsion—Life was mercifully preserved from destruction. The tidings brought here by Captain Driver, of the Dee, make no mention of a single loss of life.

The Earthquake has left in Antigua, fearful marks of its terrible power. It lasted between 3 and 5 minutes; and the earth oscillated and upheaved in the most perilous and awful manner. The houses and public edifices are either in a heap of ruins or generally untenable. The residence of the Governor was very seriously injured; it had been abandoned by His Excellency and Family, and would be pulled down. The fine Cathedral at St. John's lies in ruins; and the Court House is so much cracked and mutilated as to be deemed unsafe. The elegant and commodious Chapel recently erected by the Wesleyan Methodists received serious damage; and the Church of Falmouth, on the south west coast of the Island, with the Parsonage House, is prostrate. On the Estates, the visitation was calamitous in the extreme. Scarcely a boiling house or mill, is in a fit state for work, and many are entirely destroyed; the fine crops of Cane which were ripe for the mill, must, to a great extent remain uncut, and will be lost. The buildings at English Harbour Dock Yard, received very material injury. Those which escaped entire demolition are in a tottering and dangerous state, and will have to be taken down, and reconstructed. The Wharf, which was of made ground, was sunk several feet by the Earthquake. The fine Naval Tank capable of containing 1000 tons of water, and which cost the government a very large sum, was destroyed, and all the water lost. Fears are entertained of a serious drought, as the Tanks which escaped destruction, are said to contain not more than two months supply of water; and the rainy season does not commence before May. The island has no springs.

His Excellency Sir Charles Fitzroy, had appointed, by Proclamation, Friday the 17th inst., as a day for Public Humiliation and Thanksgiving. A large Tent was to be erected in front of Government House for the solemn purpose.

Intelligence from Montserrat had been received at Antigua, stating that every house in the town of Plymouth was injured more or less by the Earthquake. The celebrated volcano of Guadalupe, the Soufriere, emitted clouds of vapour.

The next steamer from the West Indies will bring ample particulars.

Two very slight but distinct shocks of this Earthquake were felt here on Wednesday the 8th.

The New Governor General.—Sir Charles Metcalfe, and Suite, came passengers in the Columbia. He proceeded in that vessel to Boston, on his way to Canada. The Halifax Morning Post gives the following description of his person.

"Sir Charles Metcalfe is about the middle height—with a corpulency that imparts dignity of appearance, without impeding physical activity. His countenance rather fleshy and placid—slightly disfigured by a fleshy tumour on the left cheek, about the size of an acorn. Taking him altogether, Sir Charles is not a bad picture of 'a fine old English Gentleman;' and the silvery locks that streamed in the breeze as he raised his hat when the guard of honour saluted him at the wharf, added the venerable appearance of age to his vigorous gait and staid demeanor."

Proceedings of the Legislature.—The Journals of the Assembly in our possession, are to the 21st of this month. The journal of the 15th, contains two Reports from Captain Crawley, the gentleman who has for time past been engaged in making a "Survey of a line for a Canal, to unite the Bay of Fundy with the

Gulph of St. Lawrence." After detailing a number of difficulties, he concludes his second report as follows:

"These circumstances deduced from theory, appear to me to render it doubtful after all, if a Canal, as proposed, would be easily navigable. At all events, so much uncertainty appears to exist, that the project would be extremely hazardous. With this view of the case, your Excellency may probably agree with me, that it is not desirable to prosecute the inquiry farther."

We understand that the College Bill, unanimously passed by the Assembly, has been rejected by the Council. We trust the people will not allow the subject to rest here, but that they will year after year bring it before the Legislature; and if redress cannot be obtained from that quarter, that they will cause the same to be laid at the foot of the throne.

We copy the following summary from the Sentinel of the 21st inst.

"A Bill introduced by Mr. Rankin, for authorising the Executive to appoint Overseers of the Fishery at the mouth of the Miramichi river, created upwards of an hour's discussion yesterday afternoon. It being contended on the one hand, that it was much required, and on the other that if it was, the appointment should be made by the sessions. Mr. Williston expressed a desire that his colleague and himself, should agree upon a Bill which would suit all parties; at the same time expressing a determination to support the bill then under consideration, should his proposal not be acceded to. It was ultimately decided to defer the farther consideration of the bill till that day three months, which was carried 17—13; the members for Miramichi voting in the minority.

"On Tuesday the House went into a committee of the whole, on further consideration of the Loan Bill. The first section, involving the question of loan or no loan, having passed on a preceding day; the discussion was on details. A question was put by the member for Gloucester, early in the debate of the first day, which gave a shape to the whole of this important measure. The answer to his question elicited the important fact, that the Banks and not the original public creditor, were to be provided for by the Loan; as it was admitted, that nearly 90,000 pounds of the warrants had found their way into their hands; and it was supposed that a Loan from England might be avoided altogether, by an arrangement with the banks. Mr. Fisher was for a small loan only, and moved 40,000 pounds; and that the credit already established by law with the Bank of New Brunswick should be continued. The amount of this credit appears to be 80,000 pounds.

"Mr. Partelow contended that the transaction with the Bank of New Brunswick could not properly be deemed a credit; it was only a power invested in the Treasurer of the Province, to keep the Province accounts with that Bank, throwing in his receipts and drawing for his expenditures, what was called by merchants a 'lively account,' the balance being sometimes one way, and sometimes another; and that the 30,000 pounds question, which some honorable members were fain to consider as a kind of right to contract a debt to that amount, was merely a limitation; so that the balance of this lively account should never be more than that sum against the Province. The sum of £70,000 was after considerable debate, proposed by the Speaker and passed; Commissioners are to be named in the Bill to negotiate the loan, and a discretionary power is given to them, as to where the Loan is to be obtained.—But it is pretty well understood, that they will not have to cross the water.

"The amount of the sum having been determined, it was then proposed to make the increased duty, which is to be appropriated to meeting the interest, and paying off the Loan, one per cent. on all British and Foreign manufactures imported into the Province. Several members were for making it one and a half per cent., but ultimately the former was agreed upon. As to the time to be allowed to pay off the Loan, Mr. Fisher proposed that it be limited to ten years. Mr. Partelow moved that the Loan be paid off in twenty years by fourteen annual instalments of 5000 pounds each; the first payment to be made in the year 1849; those payments to be made in such manner as may be agreed upon between the Commissioners who are to effect the Loan, and the capitalists by whom it may be advanced.

"The Bill having been completed with the exception of inserting the names of the Commissioners; the committee reported progress, and asked leave to sit again for that purpose.

"The House of Assembly have been engaged since Friday in Committee, in consideration of the Casual and Territorial Revenue accounts; and a series of Resolutions were passed yesterday, condemnatory of the issuing of Warrants, drawn upon the gross proceeds of that revenue; the services for which they were issued, having been either rejected or disapproved of by the House, or the expenses being borne upon the Surplus fund. The debate and resolutions are of great importance; and we shall anticipate other debates, by publishing the Report on Friday.

"Yesterday Mr. Wilmot reported that the Legislative Council had rejected the Bill for amending the Charter of King's College; and he moved a spirited Resolution upon the subject; which we have been unable to obtain in time

for publication to-day; but which will also appear on Friday.

"A Bill has passed the House to authorize the payment of interest on Warrants semi-annually; and this morning the Loan Bill had its final reading, and was passed."

Important Changes.—We have been kindly furnished with the following extract of a Letter, dated at Fredericton on the 22nd inst. —

"I can inform you that a great change has taken place in the Councils of the country. Yesterday, O'Dell, F. P. Robinson, Shore, Black, and Crane, were removed from the Executive, and E. B. Chandler and Hugh Johnston were sworn in.—Hugh Johnston is to be sworn into the Legislative Council to-day, and will take his seat, which will save the Timber Bill. Hazew and Wilmot are appointed to the Executive Council, but will not take their seats until the House rises, as they will be required to go back to their constituents to be re-elected. John Montgomery is also appointed to the Executive Council, and is expected here soon. This information you can rely upon as being correct."

Sir Charles Bagot.—The last report respecting the health of Sir Charles, is very unsatisfactory.

Northumberland Election.—We were kindly favored this morning with a copy of the Report of the Committee of the Assembly, who have had our election matters before them. We insert it below, by which our readers will perceive that our election, as far as Mr. Williston is concerned, is null and void.

The Committee appointed, agreeably to the Act of Assembly, to take into consideration the Petition of John Ambrose Street, Esquire, complaining of the undue Election and Return of John T. Williston, Esquire, as a Member for the County of Northumberland, Report.—That from the testimony adduced before the Committee, and after mature consideration of the same, it appears there were great tumults, disturbances and intimidations, and unjustifiable interference with the free access of Voters to the Poll, at the late Election of Members to serve in General Assembly for the said county of Northumberland, to the great interruption of the proceedings, and in violation of the freedom of Election, and that the said tumults, disturbances, intimidations, and unjustifiable interferences appear to have proceeded from the friends, supporters and partisans of the said John T. Williston, Esquire, the sitting member. The committee therefore do declare and determine the Election of the said John T. Williston, Esquire, to be null and void, and his seat vacant.

The Committee also report that the riotous proceedings, intimidation to persons, and destruction of property in Chatham, during the said Election, are to be greatly deprecated,—call for an expression of their strongest regret and disapprobation, are highly disreputable to the county, and destructive of the peace, good order and security of the People. And further that the charge of Bribery and Corruption attempted to be proved by the sitting Member, in the course of proceedings, against the said John Ambrose Street, Esquire, is altogether groundless.

The Committee are also of opinion that time should be given to allay the excitement at present existing in the County of Northumberland, before a new Writ should issue for the Election of a Member in place of the said John T. Williston, Esquire.

And the Committee further report that the opposition to the said Petition is not frivolous or vexatious.

D. HANINGTON, Chairman. Committee Room, March 24, 1843.

COUNTY OF KENT.—We perceive by Mr. Philips's new Paper, entitled the "Head Quarters," that Le Baron Drury, Esquire, has been appointed High Sheriff of Kings County, vacant by the death of the late incumbent, and that Mr. William A. Black, son of the Hon. William Black, will be appointed Sheriff for Kent.

The Acting Deputy Postmaster General having signified his determination to exact the sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence, yearly, for all papers transmitted by us by mail, our Subscribers are informed that that sum will in future be added to their subscriptions. We sincerely trust that the remonstrances which our Legislature intend making against this highly objectionable tax, will have the effect of speedily relieving our subscribers as well as ourselves from so obnoxious and heavy a burden.

As the late hour at which the mail arrives on Monday, precludes the possibility of our making any extracts from the papers received by it, in time to transfer them to our columns, ere the mail is despatched to the Southward; we have determined to publish our paper in future on SATURDAY AFTERNOON.