

Committee only conceive the interest that would be excited among masters, parents and friends, when those little fellows come up to Frederickton to undergo an examination; the anxiety that would be created, and the powerful influence that would in this way be exercised upon all ranks of society. He hoped when the charter became amended that the fees would be abolished, that the doors of the college would be thrown open, and that the youth of the country would be seen flocking to it. It owed a large debt to the Province; and he trusted some return would be made for what had been expended.

Mr. PAYNE concurred with many of the remarks that had been made; and although he was favorable to proceeding by address, yet would go with the Bill. He understood the college was not as exclusive as had been represented, the professors not all belonging to the church of England; and he would remove all exclusiveness as respected the scholars. The despatch requests that the modification proposed to be made, should be sent home, preparatory to issuing a new charter.

Mr. FISHER wished the number of ex-officio officers reduced. If the Governor as Chancellor chose he might select them, but it should be left optional. He should move to strike out the Secretary of the Province, the Master of the Rolls, and the Attorney General; and all that should be completed by the Bill would then be the Governor, the President of the Legislative Council, and the Speaker of the Assembly.

Hon. SPEAKER thought it best to retain those which were in the Bill. He wished it to be as near as possible to that of Canada. He thought it right those named should remain, as they would probably be men of commanding influence, and possessing public confidence. He wished the modifications proposed to have a degree of permanency. He did not imagine that in this way unfit persons would be appointed.—He hoped the officers named, would be retained in the Bill, as in this way it would comport as near as possible with the Charter; and the House would be more likely to obtain what they require.

Mr. EXP wished to know why his Honour thought as he did. If by any possibility it could be imagined, that either of these high officers alluded to could be bigoted or selfish in their dispositions, it would be no more than right that the Governor should exercise a discretionary power. The learned gentleman said he thought at one time that the inefficiency of the College was attributable to the abuse it received; but that had ceased, and it was still inefficient. He thought it would be better to try what effect would be produced by giving the Legislature control over it. And in the appointment of ex officio persons to seats in the College Council, he would stop with the President of the Legislative Council, and the Speaker of the Assembly; and he would leave it to the Governor, to make the other appointments, without regard to sect or party. Referring to the picture that had been drawn, of little fellows coming up from the Grammar Schools to be examined by a College Council as now constituted. Why, they would be withered into nothing; their faculties would become paralyzed, and they would experience nothing like sympathy. He would make the institution as free as possible.

Mr. RANKIN said if hon. gentlemen wished to defeat the Bill, they would leave out the officers alluded to. Those whom he represented in Miramichi did not wish for the alteration; the effect of which would be to defeat the Bill in another quarter.

Mr. WILMOT would rather the Bill should remain as it was. If it were once carried through and was found not to be productive of benefit, it could be amended.

Mr. FISHER had never altered his opinion upon the subject; the greater number of ex officio members there were in the college council the more the discretionary power of the Governor would be limited. He differed from his Honor the Speaker upon this question. Besides the Master of the Rolls, although at present he has little to do, would be very much occupied at a future period; and although he might be a very good equity judge, yet he might not be a very good member of the college council; and if he were fit the Governor could appoint him. Unless the charter were remodelled, the college must fail; and even then a great deal would depend upon the construction of the college council. He did not see why the Attorney General and other officers should be appointed; and should press his amendment.

Hon. SPEAKER said it was to be presumed that the persons referred to, from their standing and ability would be eligible; and therefore they should remain in the bill. Another reason which actuated him was, that they had always been left in the bills that had been formerly passed. If every year the House changed its ideas, what confidence could be reposed in its proceedings; and persons who were opposed to the proposed alterations would say they were actuated by no fixed principles. The petitioners did not wish the amendment; and the principle was in operation in Canada and England. He thought hon. members were cavilling too much in this instance; if the committee were called upon to decide, he hoped they would retain the college council as it then stood.

Mr. BROWN was gratified by the unanimity that prevailed, and should not say one word about the principles of the bill. Though the learned member for the county of York wished a choice to be exercised, yet for reasons set forth, and that uniformity might be preserved, he would retain the section as it was formerly; as the introduction of so many changes would be to weaken their efforts; and when the learned member saw the effect would be to neutralize the intentions of the house, he trusted the committee would not be divided. He was anxious the bill should pass with the concurrence of the

country, and the petitioners wished it to pass in its present shape. He was in favor of the Divinity chair being filled by a clergyman of the church of England; and he was anxious for such alterations alone as would render the college useful. He thought hon. members would coincide with him, when they saw what had been the effects of an improper course in Nova Scotia, where three or four colleges had sprung up; and here there are institutions of learning belonging to dissenters, which promise to surpass that which was then under consideration. But if the bill should become a law, the children of dissenters could go there, and even obtain degrees in divinity itself.

Mr. EXP said that by leaving out these officers the committee would be rendering the bill more liberal, than if the Governor was restricted in his choice.

Mr. WARK hoped the amendment would not be pressed. And that it would go abroad that the house composed of a number of new members entertained similar views with the former house on this subject; and that the college council would perceive that their opinions was the same. He was opposed to the proposition of the hon. member for St. John that they should proceed by address; for he agreed as to the importance of giving the Legislature a controul over the educational establishments of the Province. Another reason why he would proceed by bill, was the present state of the finances of the Province; as a charter would cost £500; and the passing of the bill would not cost £5. As to its provisions, he had examined them carefully, and although the church of England would not retain fewer advantages, yet others would obtain more.

Mr. FISHER said the clause was originally introduced to meet the views of the college council; and if they had not accepted the modifications which were formerly proposed, the house was not bound, by a proposition made under such circumstances.

Mr. WILMOT replied that from 1840 to the present time, the bill had remained the same as at present, and the number of ex officio members had also been embodied in the address to the throne. The original number of the college council was nine, but when they came down with their proposal, it was increased to fifteen; which would leave the appointment of nine members.

Mr. FISHER's amendment was then negatively.

Mr. HANINGTON wished to know if the clause for excluding clergymen from the college council had been struck out, and was answered in the affirmative. He still retained the opinion which he expressed last year; he wished to see the fees abolished, and if there were no provision in the bill to that effect, he trusted steps would be through the chancellor of having that effected. He thought the bill had been hurried; but should offer no opposition.

Mr. WILMOT stated the fees last year amounted to £199, which were divided between the three professors—Dr. Jacobs receiving £37, Dr. Robb's £52, and Professor Jack the remainder.

The bill was then agreed to; and the house resumed; when it passed to be finally engrossed.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI: MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 20, 1843.

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

Earthquakes in the West-Indies.—The papers by the last mail, furnish intelligence of a most dreadful Earthquake with which a number of the West India Islands was visited on the 8th of last month. The loss of life, as well as of property, has been immense. All the information relating to this most disastrous affair, will be found under its proper head. The following Islands have suffered—St. Thomas, Antigua, Nevis, Barbadoes, Montserrat, and Guadeloupe. The town of St. Petre, in the last named island, was entirely destroyed, together with ten thousand of its inhabitants. Part of Montserrat, it is stated was engulfed. A British steamer was despatched to the different islands, we may therefore expect in a week or two, to learn more detailed particulars.

United States Congress.—From the Boston Courier, we take the following highly complimentary remarks on the above-named Legislative body.

The Twenty Seventh Congress expired last night at twelve o'clock. We have not time to write its obituary, for time would fail us, were we to attempt to enumerate all its follies, and our ink is not black enough to give a suitable coloring to its character. It has been in session nearly eighteen months of the twenty-four to which its existence has been extended. It has cost the country about \$2500 every day

while it has been in session; and who can tell what it has done for the benefit of the country?

State of Trade in Canada.—The Woodstock (Canada) Gazette, gives the following very unsatisfactory intelligence respecting the commercial affairs in Canada.

The pressure of the times still continues without any abatement. We believe that Canada never saw such an amount of pecuniary distress as exists at present, and there appears not a glimmering of better times. The Government is, of course, blamed for all this embarrassment, which the people have brought on themselves by living beyond their means. This is all absurd enough, but no less so is it for the Government papers to be putting forth such glowing statements as they do, about the happiness and prosperity of the country. Why, there is not one business man out of ten throughout the length and breadth of Canada, who is not, or might not be made, a bankrupt any day; and yet we are told how flourishing a people we are. The distress of the country, it is true, is owing to causes in a great measure beyond the control of the Government; but it is a mockery on the part of the pampered officials of the Government, to tell the people that the country is progressing, when every body is trying to sell his neighbour's property by the hands of the Sheriff or Bailiff, in order to prevent his own from being sold in the same way. If the covering over the walls of every public house with notices of sale by execution, be any indication of public prosperity, Canada is indeed a flourishing country.

Proceedings of the Legislature.—The Journals of the Assembly in our possession, are to the 11th instant.

We refer our readers to the extracts which we have taken from them, as well as the summary below, copied from the Sentinel of Tuesday last, for information respecting the doings of that body. Nothing definite has transpired, as far as we can learn, of the course intended to be pursued by the Committee, respecting our Election. The following is the summary above alluded to:

On Saturday the House resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill authorising the granting of Land by Instalments. A provision which was introduced by Mr Payne, created considerable discussion, which had for its object to extend part of the purchase money on making roads to new settlements.—This was opposed because it was introducing too much machinery into the Bill, and giving the Executive the appropriation of a large portion of the revenue, which may be raised from the sale of land, without the intervention of the House; and which in all probability would not be faithfully expended. And as there seemed to be no disposition to part with the right of appropriating the Bye-Road money as usual, the proviso was withdrawn, having been ably supported by Messrs. Payne and Hazen.

Yesterday morning the Bill for regulating the Duty on the cutting of Timber, by collecting it at the shipping port, was re-committed; when a motion was made by Mr Hill to strike out the Proviso, exempting from duty Timber cut on the American territory, and shipped to American ports. He grounded his motion upon the circumstance, that the Bill as originally brought in, did not exempt American property from duty, although it was intended it should extend to private property. Mr. Boyd said several members of the House including himself, were absent on Committee, when the proviso was passed, and as he was opposed to the principle of the Bill, he should oppose the proviso; and he read a letter from one of his constituents, expressing much alarm at the probable passing of the Bill. Mr S. Earle was opposed to the Bill, because it authorised the levying of a duty on Timber cut on private property; and Mr Gilbert was desirous of having the duty increased on the better description of Timber, which he would raise to two shillings; otherwise, he said, the effect would be to grant a boon to monopolists.

The Hon. Mr Simonds was of opinion, that American Timber after arriving on the St. John must be treated as British Timber. The question of allowing Timber to pass free of duty to American ports, he said had been referred to him by Lord Ashburton, and he had replied to his Lordship while at Washington. He was in favour of letting the Timber pass free of duty during the present year, in the hope that the Americans would reciprocate, and allow it to be carried by British vessels also duty free.

It having been stated by Mr. Hill, that the proposed alteration would not produce 12000; the Hon. Speaker stated the saving to the Province would be at least 12 0000. Not one-fifth of the Timber he said, is cut upon private property; and at present it takes 0000 to collect 90000. Col Allen was opposed to the Bill, because it interfered with private rights; a great number of private individuals, cutting logs on their own lands. If there were a discriminating duty, however, he was disposed to agree to the Bill, although after the manner in which the American interests had been preferred, he did not expect any Bill would become a law, which went to impose a duty on American timber. Messrs. Wilmot and Fisher were in favor of the Bill passing, as it had been reported. The proviso, was however, struck off by

a majority of one; but was afterwards reconsidered, and the Bill ultimately passed.

The House then went into a Committee of Ways and Means, when it appeared that the amount required to meet the usual appropriations is 73,0000. There has been an immense falling off in the amount of revenue collected during the last year on spirits, not one-fourth of the quantity consumed according to the best information paying duty. The much cheaper rate at which articles may be purchased in the United States; tea and other necessaries, being procured cheaper at Fish River on the upper part of the St. John, than at the city of that name, at its mouth in the Bay of Fundy; operates as a further drawback. Considerable discussion took place on the subject of laying a duty on agricultural produce imported from Nova Scotia; and a committee was appointed to bring in a Bill to impose such duties as the Province can bear, consisting of Messrs. Partelow, Street, Wilmot and Boyd.

The Loan Bill was then taken up, and after some discussion the first section agreeing to obtain a Loan was passed. There was more opposition to the measure than was contemplated, owing to the diversity of sentiment that prevailed; altho' all agreed as to the expediency and necessity of obtaining the relief, which it is expected to produce. The principal part of the unpaid warrants that have been issued being in the Banks led to the suggestion, that probably some one of those institutions would advance the amount required by the Province. And it was pretty well understood in debate, that the Bank of British North America would make such advance, the first section was passed, and the committee adjourned for the purpose of having the necessary information obtained.

We sincerely hope this plan will be adopted, and that the amount required will be obtained here, as it will probably be August before the Royal assent can be attained to the Bill authorizing a Loan.

American Stocks.—An exchange paper gives the following sketch of the American State Stocks.

The American stock, on which the payment of interest has been suspended, is stated to amount to about 100,000,000 dollars; of this there are probably 75,000,000 dollars held in England, directly or indirectly. Some of the holders are persons of large fortune and great personal influence. The mass are of limited income, without influence or connexion—their sole dependence, in many instances, being the payment of this suspended interest.

The Governor General.—The 28th ult. is the date of the latest bulletin which has reached us. It states that the health of the Governor General had undergone no material change since the last report. The bulletin of the previous day reports, that the Governor General spent a restless night and his present condition is on the whole, less satisfactory than when last reported.

Civil Appointments.—The Gazette contains the appointment of the following Gentlemen, as Sheriffs for the present year:

- J. M. JOHNSON, for Northumberland. LE BARON DRURY, for Kent. H. W. BALDWIN, for Gloucester. J. PAUL, for Restigouche.

United States.—Under this head, in another page, will be found the President's Message to Congress, on the important question of "Right of Visit," together with a document from Mr. Webster, on the same subject, which accompanied the Message. This gentleman, it is said, is to be sent to England, as a Special Messenger, to treat upon this, and other matters in dispute between the two governments.

To Correspondents.—A communication from the Rev. James Hudson, in answer to Mr. Souter's last letter, was received by us on Friday last. It is under consideration.

The Season.—The weather during the week, was very boisterous. A large quantity of snow fell, which being drifted up by the high wind, has rendered the travelling both dangerous and difficult.

Marriages.

At Douglstown, on the 14th March, by the Rev. James Souler, A. M., RICHARD HUTCHINSON, Esq., to ELIZABETH, daughter of Mr. A. Mackie, all of the Parish of Newcastle.

At Chatham, on Thursday evening, the 16th ult., by the Rev. Samuel Bacon, Rector, Mr. JOHN WILD, bachelor, to Mrs. BEATHE, widow; both of the Parish of Newcastle.