

The chairman having left the chair, and Robert Ferguson, Esq. being called thereto—

Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

T. DESBRISAY, Secretary.

**Election Law.**—We would call the attention of our readers to the following Petition from the inhabitants of Carlton county to the Legislature, praying for an alteration in the *Election Law*.

The plan suggested of compelling every resident Freeholder to poll in his own district, and requiring all votes to be polled in one day, is an admirable one; but we would propose—in our opinion—a decided improvement—that the *Ballot* be adopted instead of the old system. We feel convinced, until this method be adopted, the *free expression of public sentiment* will never be obtained at Elections.

The Petition of the undersigned Freeholders—Inhabitants of the County of Carleton—  
Respectably Sheweth,

That your Petitioners being duly impressed with the importance of a proper exercise of the Elective Franchise, and of the Law of the Land affording every facility for the attainment of an object so desirable, beg to represent that the present system of holding Elections is liable to gross abuse, and tends in a great measure to destroy the true design of this constitutional right.

That the assembling at the Poll of large bodies of people, sometimes amounting to several thousands, among whom great diversity of opinion generally exists, is highly calculated to excite, foster, and encourage party spirit, and the close contact into which opposing parties are thus brought, frequently induces a resort to the most immoral and violent means for the purpose of securing the return of such Candidate as each may consider the most suitable.

That the continuance of the Polling at Elections for a number of consecutive days and the excitement consequent thereon, almost invariably produces the most bitter and rancorous feeling, which, increasing as the contest approaches to a close, is often exhibited in riotous proceedings and acts of violence.

That in the opinion of Your Petitioners the only means by which these evils, together with others consequent upon the present Election system can be remedied, are, an enactment by the Legislature, dividing the several Counties of the Province into Districts—directing the Polls to be held simultaneously in each County, providing for the Registration of persons qualified to vote,—requiring all votes to be polled one day—compelling every resident Freeholder to vote in his own District—attaching heavy penalties to persons coming to the Poll armed with offensive weapons and empowering the Returning Officers to appoint Special Constables and adopt such other means as will be necessary for the preservation of order and the securing free admission to the Poll.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully solicit Your Excellency and House to erect a Law containing the foregoing provisions with such others as in your wisdom and discretion you may consider most advisable, to preserve the purity of the Elective Franchise.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

**Church Society**—We understand that through the active exertions of the Rev. Samuel Bacon, the sum of *Thirty-four Pounds* has just been collected from the members of his church in the parishes of Newcastle and Chatham, being *nearly treble* the amount remitted last year to the treasurer of the Church Society, for the promotion of the various benevolent designs embraced by this institution.

**Coroner's Inquest.**—An Inquest was held on Thursday last, at the residence of Mr John Decantlin, in the parish of Blissfield, before Martin Crannay, Esq. Coroner, on view of the body of the late *Hannah Weaver*.

The Jury having retired a few minutes returned the verdict that the deceased came to her death by having a pot of burning charcoal placed in her room.

This inquiry was instituted by direction of a number of the Magistrates, in consequence of very grave and serious charges having been made against certain persons, which caused considerable excitement in the parish in which the deceased lived. After a very minute investigation, nothing was elicited to throw the least suspicion or blame on any one. The body was raised after being interred a fortnight, and appeared as if it had been laid in the grave a day or two, so trifling was the change in its appearance.

The Jury examined the body very minutely, and could not observe any marks of violence thereon (notwithstanding the reports to the contrary); and Dr. Key, who accompanied the Coroner, with great risk to himself and horse, the ice on the river being in a dangerous state, on viewing the body externally, and after the *post mortem* examination, could not come to any other conclusion than that she came to her death by suffocation, by charcoal being impudently placed in her room on the night of her death.

An inquest was held on the body by two Magistrates, a short time after the melancholy occurrence; but as there was no Medical gentleman present, these unfounded reports got into circulation.

**The Legislature.**—Our Legislature met for the despatch of business on Tuesday last. By the mail we obtained the Speech of His Excellency on opening the session; and by a private conveyance we received the Journal of the first day's proceedings. *John W. Weldon, Esq.* was appointed Speaker. He was proposed by Mr Partelow, whose proposition was seconded by Wm. End, Esq. Both gentlemen spoke in high terms of the conservative principles of the learned gentleman—of his intimate knowledge of the constitution and parliamentary usages—of his firmness upon every occasion where the constitutional rights of the people of the Province required his support, and of his abilities, which admirably qualified him to hold the proud position of the first Commoner in the Province. We do not think the House could have made a better choice. Mr Hill proposed L. A. Wilmot, Esq. but that gentleman declined the honor of being put in nomination.

The house was to go into committee of the whole, in consideration of the Speech of His Excellency, on the 3rd instant.

**Fire.**—We are sorry to state that a Barn, the property of Mr Andrew Woodside, a little below Douglstown was destroyed by fire, together with the greater portion of its contents, about 9 o'clock on Sunday night last. It was with much difficulty the horses and horned cattle were removed from the building.

**New Works published at the New World Office, by J. Winchester.**—*The Last of the Barons*, a new work by Bulwer, is in press, and will be published in a double extra, at 12s cents.

The publication of the *Pictorial Life of Wellington*—the prospectus of which work we inserted a few weeks since—is unavoidably postponed until the 31st January. Price 25 cents.

*Memoirs of the Queens of France, with notices of the Royal Favorites, from the earliest period to the present*

time, is the title of a work which has been just issued. Price 25 cents.

*The Nautilus, a Collection of Select Nautical Tales and Sea Sketches*, with an authentic narrative of the Mutiny of the Somers, is also about to be issued from the same prolific press.

**The Lady's Wreath, and Young Ladies' Magazine.**—In another page will be found the prospectus of this cheap and highly attractive publication, issued from the press of Messrs. Drew & Scammell, of Philadelphia, at the extremely low price of *one Dollar a year*. When received—we shall cheerfully shew the Magazine to any person desirous of subscribing.

**The Weather.**—The season continues very mild. In the early part of the week, a quantity of rain fell, which almost stripped the roads of their winter garb. Yesterday, and last night, we had a fall of snow, and the sleighing this morning is better than it has been for the last six weeks.

**To Correspondents.**—The letter of Mr Hannay, and a communication bearing the signature of Observer, will meet with attention in our next.

THIS MORNING'S MAIL.

**Legislative Council.**—The Saint John papers state, that the Hon. Wm. Black, is appointed President of the Legislative Council, vacant by the retirement of the Hon. Judge Chipman.

**Pr. Ed. Island.**—The Legislature of this Island met for the despatch of business, on the 24th ult. Hon Jos. Pope, was appointed Speaker.

It appears that the members of the St Mary's Total Abstinence Society, of Halifax, number *one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven*.

Halifax Day Star, Feb. 3

**Fire.**—The Dry Goods Store of John Robertson, Esq. at Barrington, took fire on the 21st ult. The fire was speedily extinguished,—yet the Goods were much injured, and a Chest containing about £200 in Bank Notes completely consumed.

The King of the Sandwich Islands has joined the Temperance Society!!

The Philadelphia Gazette says:—It affords us much pleasure to be enabled to state that Capt. Mackenzie has been unanimously and triumphantly justified from all blame, by the Court of Enquiry. This result must have been anticipated by every one who has given a candid perusal of the evidence. The New York Courier & Enquirer also says—It is confidently remarked by some of the Naval Officers in this city, the Court of Enquiry for the Trial of Commander Mackenzie, have unanimously acquitted him, and a Court Martial in the case is deemed entirely unnecessary.

**PROVINCIAL REPORTER.**—This is the title of a Publication issued by H. P. Sancton, the proprietor of the St. John Herald, at Fredericton. We obtained the first No. this morning. Price 5s. in advance.

MARRIAGES.

At Backville, on Tuesday, the 27th inst., by the Rev. John Turnbull, Mr Daniel Sullivan, to Miss Mahalia Ann Astle.

At Bathurst, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., by the Rev. George McDonald, Mr James Dunn, to Miss Ann Armstrong: both of Bathurst.

At Glenelg, on the 6th inst., by the Rev. Angus McMaster, Mr James McKay, of Wick, Caithnessshire, Scotland, to Miss Catherine McRae, of Black River, Glenelg.

A meeting of the Board of Education for the County of Northumberland, will take place at the Office of the County Clerk, on Wednesday, the 1st of March, at Ten o'clock, A. M.

J. SOUTER, Secretary.

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\* \* Editors giving the above a few insertions, and sending the Nos containing it marked with ink, the Publishers shall receive the work for one year.

Editors giving the above five insertions and calling attention to it Editorially, shall receive, in addition the nineteenth volume of the KNICKERBOCKER, commencing January, 1843.

County of Gloucester.

To be Sold by Public Auction, in Bathurst, on SATURDAY, the 20th day of May next, at noon, under and by virtue of an Act of the General Assembly:

The Building lately used as the Gloucester County GAOL. Together with the PIECE OF LAND attached thereto, being an unequal sided Piece of the following dimensions, viz—The front side (on Water Street) measuring Ninety Three feet, the west side 77 feet, the rear 82 feet, and east side 17 feet six inches.

—ALSO—The Front or WATER LOT on the North side of Water Street, directly opposite the above, containing 93 Feet on the said Street, by 100 Feet seaward.

Sale to take place on the Premises. TERMS 20 per cent. down at time of Sale—and the remainder in Three Months.

By Order of Sessions.  
RICHARD CARMAN.  
Bathurst, 21st January, 1843

NOTICE.

Whereas, on the night of Thursday, the 26th inst. or early on the morning of Friday the 27th, the Subscribers Stable in Nelson, was by some evil disposed person or persons broken open, and a

Pair of Horses, one a dark Chestnut (an Entire), and the other a Grey Gelding; (the Entire about eleven years of age, and the Gelding about nine) both the property of the Subscriber, were feloniously taken therefrom. The subscriber therefore hereby gives notice of the above Theft, and cautions all persons against receiving or purchasing the said Horses.  
PETER ESSON.

Miramichi, January 30, 1843.