

## Colonial News.

## New-Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswick, April 27.

## ADDRESS RELATIVE TO THE POST OFFICE.

The object of this Address, as therein stated, is to draw the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the necessity of a reform in the Post Office department in this Province. It sets forth that there is abundant reason to represent that the taxes and rates now imposed and exacted by that department, are of a most grievous, burdensome and oppressive character; and that although it was hoped the labours of the Post Office Commission would have resulted in the establishment of a more equitable system, yet the country has been disappointed and obliged to submit to additional burthens, imposed with an utter disregard of its circumstances and interests. The address then states particularly, the enormous rates charged on the transmission of printed papers, the high rates of letter postage, and the absurd and impolitic regulations lately enforced, and concludes with a prayer that Her Majesty would graciously consider the subject, and make such alterations in the existing rules, as would abolish all postage on newspapers, and establish a uniform rate, not exceeding three pence currency, on all single letters sent from one place to another within the Province.

A Committee was appointed to wait on His Excellency and request him to forward this address, and this duty was performed on the last day and almost at the last hour of the Session. The prayer of this address has our best wishes, and we only regret that the House had not found leisure at an earlier period in their protracted Session to take some very energetic action on this matter, which concerns every inhabitant of the country, instead of slurring it over at the latest possible moment.

**UNGRATEFULNESS OF THE LABOURERS**—Ingratitude is unquestionably the blackest of all crimes; and nothing more signally deserves the utmost detestation and retribution than this abominable species of guilt. Our community has been severely tried by adversity of late, and various powerful causes have combined, during the past year, and especially throughout the late winter, to render it a period of universal depression and privation. When we consider the very general hardships which have latterly borne down this community, we are warranted in saying, that the noble efforts which have been made, for the relief of the abject poor and miserable, have been almost incredible. Thousands of the labouring poor have received assistance in both money and provisions, from the various associations and subscriptions formed for so laudable a purpose during the winter; and we speak knowingly when we say, that hundreds of labourers, their wives and children, must have perished of starvation but for such charitable and benevolent relief. How shamelessly ungrateful, then, is the conduct of these very men, who, the instant that shipping appear in our harbour, and a prospect of reviving prosperity gleams upon us, turn round upon these benefactors who have gratuitously fed them and kept them alive, and not only themselves refuse, but by unlawful violence and force compel the better disposed to refuse to work, under the exorbitant and outrageously extravagant rate of six shillings per day; while skilful mechanics can obtain only, and are thankful to get, half that sum for labour in their respective trades! Such ingratitude deserves the utmost abhorrence; and we hope, that whatever may be the consequence, our merchants and shipmasters will resolutely resist such a disgraceful attempt at coercion, and teach these men to be content with reasonable payment for their labour.

St. John Courier, April 29.

There are, we believe, a larger number of Ships in this port, at present, than has ever before been seen here in the month of April, the square rigged vessels amounting to nearly sixty, and all actively engaged in unloading or taking in cargoes. Such an unprecedented influx of shipping, at one time, so early in the spring, has given quite a spur to business, and Deals and Timber are looking up in price. The demand for laborers, thus occasioned, caused them in the beginning of the week, to ask the exorbitant wages of six shillings per day, or nine pence per hour, but from the number of unemployed mechanics who would be willing to do the work required, for the wages offered, which exceeded what they were earning at their trades, and the fact of there being but little inducement for seamen to desert their vessels, (as only one or two new ships are fitting out,) the laborers, we understand, were compelled to accept the ordinary wages, which range from three shillings upwards.

**THE SEASON**—We are glad to hear from several parts of the Province that the snow which covered the ground until lately to a great depth, has nearly disappeared, and the grass and herbage generally have sprung up rapidly within the past week, which will soon afford pasture for cattle, and thus greatly relieve farmers, many of whom have been feeding their stock for some time past on potatoes and other vegetables.

Potatoe planting has been commenced very generally in the neighbourhood of the City, but the weather this morning is unpropitious, a cold North East wind prevailing.

The River Steamers commenced their trips between the City and Fredericton yesterday morning, when the Fredericton, Capt. Akerly, started from Indian Town. She was followed this morning, by the New-Brunswick Capt. Wylie. The ice, we understand, gave way at

Fredericton on Tuesday last, but afterwards jammed in the river some distance below the Town, causing the water to overflow the banks to a great depth. We have not heard, however that any particular damage has been sustained thereby.

The freshet is expected to be very high this Spring. The water in the St. John is already at its usual height at this season, and is daily rising. This will enable the Lumbermen to get to market all the Timber upon the small streams which some years they are unable to do owing to the want of water to float it down them to the main river.

**ACCIDENT.—LOSS OF LIFE**—We have to record a melancholy loss of life which occurred on Thursday evening last, about half past nine o'clock.—The particulars as far as we can learn are that Capt. Barron, of the ship Prudence, was proceeding on board his vessel, which lies at the end of Merritt's Wharf; he was accompanied by Mr. James Hinds, boot and shoemaker, of this city who expressed a wish to see Capt. B. safe on board before he returned home; the night was very dark and stormy, and when going from one wharf to the adjacent one, where it is connected at the end with Mr. Disbrow's, they unfortunately fell together into an uncovered space between the two wharves and where drowned. Capt. Barron was a native of Portaferry, Ireland, where he has left a wife and four children. Mr. Hinds was also a native of Ireland, and has been in business here for several years; he has likewise left a wife and children to mourn their unexpected bereavement. Capt. B's body was found shortly after the accident, much bruised by the fall; that of Mr. Hinds has not yet been found.

**MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT**—A friend at St. George has written the editor of the St. Andrews Standard the following:

"A melancholy accident took place on Adams' Island, on Thursday afternoon last. Mr. Daniel Jordan, was boiling tar to put on his boat which was within a few rods of his house and having gone towards the boat, his wife came out and called to him that the tar was on fire; she was returning to the house when Mr. Jordan's sister fearing that the tar might set the place on fire, took the pot with the blazing tar off the fire, ran to the door to throw it out, and melancholy to relate, dashed it directly upon her sister-in-law, whom she could not see for the flames. Mrs. Jordan's clothes took fire immediately, and together with the tar burned her in such a shocking manner, that she expired in a few hours. She was quite a young woman, only married about two years. Thus in a short time was an infant child deprived of a fond mother, and a kind husband of an affectionate wife.

## Canada:

Quebec Gazette, April 19.

Yesterday afternoon between three and four o'clock two square rigged vessels under full sail, made their appearance coming round Point Levi. It was first imagined that they were some of the vessels which had got ashore down the River last fall, but on their being boarded they were found to be vessels from England, as stated in our arrivals.

We believe that the earliest arrival from sea at this port was on the 16th April, 1831, two days earlier than the present. The view of their "desired port" must have been rather forbidden to these new comers, nearly half the width of the River to the north, from the Island of Orleans upwards, being covered with fixed ice, and the channel entirely closed on a line from Cape Diamond to Point Levi. The two vessels came to an anchor in the stream off the mouth of St. Charles, and have since got into the Point Levi shore.

**THE SEASON**—The weather continues fine. The ice bridge still holds and the force of the spring tides is spent. There was frost last night and plenty of snow for the making of maple sugar. The rossignol, the first singing bird, has arrived. A Detroit paper of the 1st instant, says that the present winter has been the longest known in that quarter for fifty-two years. Here, at a thousand miles further down on the waters of the St. Lawrence, we are not much worse off than usual.

Some rocks fell from the cape last night on the back part of an occupied house in Champlain street, nearly opposite the steps to the Cul de Sac. No great injury was done; but the accident has occasioned some alarm among the occupants of houses on the west side of the street.

**KINGSTON, April 13**—We are pleased to learn that Sir Charles Bagot is gradually recovering. He is so far better as to be able to walk about, not however, yet venturing out of doors.

## Prince Edward's Island:

P. E. Islander, April 21.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.**  
**POST OFFICE REGULATIONS**—A long, able, and spirited Report, intended to bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Imperial Government, the high rates of postage, and other inconveniences experienced in this Colony from the operation of the present Post-Office regulations.

**SEAM NAVIGATION**—A liberal provision has been made to enable the Company to buy an additional Steamer. This well timed liberality has arisen from a conviction, on the part of our Legislators, of the advantages which must accrue to the Island from more extended and regular means of communication with

different ports and places in the neighbouring provinces.

**ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN**—The address to the Queen relative to the State of the Colony, and on the subject of back rents, we regard as proof at once of the wisdom, true sense of justice, and right sympathy with the people of the majority of the House of Assembly; and sincerely do we hope that before long, the answer to that Address will induce many whose judgements are a present perverted by the pressure of their circumstances, and whose indignation this our opinion may rouse—to adopt our sentiments and echo our language.

## Nova-Scotia.

Halifax Herald, April 28.

## EARTHQUAKE AT YARMOUTH.

Extraordinary Rising of the Waters!—The following is an extract of a letter addressed to the editor of the Yarmouth Herald, and published in that paper of the 21st inst.

"The schr. Bee, having on Board in addition to the master, (Capt. John M'Gray,) Bradford M'Gray, Samuel Hatfield, Reuben Clements, jr. and Jacob Ring, coming in from fishing, and arriving at the entrance of Cook's harbour about 8 o'clock, p. m. it being low water, and there being little or no wind, and a smooth sea, was struck with dreadful shocks, being in mid channel. All at once heard loud roaring of the tide coming in, the vessel shook with great violence as if beating over large rocks—we expected her masts would go over, and that she would crash to pieces, and had great difficulty in keeping ourselves on deck. The tide rose, as high as we could guess, ten feet, and then directly went out to low water mark, leaving us high and dry at the top of the beach. We found her keel and rudder split, one of her butts started, and a great part of her oakum wrenched out.

BRADFORD MCGRAY."

**SINGULAR PHENOMENON**—At low water, a little before dusk, on Tuesday evening, the tide suddenly rushed in, in the space of a few minutes, to the height of from five to seven feet, and immediately receded with equal rapidity, dragging some small craft from their moorings, and leaving the flats again bare. The whole took place in about 20 minutes.

At Bunker's Island and the Cove we understand the water rose ten feet.

## Newfoundland:

By the Mail Packet, which arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, Saint John's papers to the 5th inst. have been received. The Halifax Times remarks—

"Sir John Harvey had received some despatches from Lord Stanley, in which his Lordship distinctly discourages all applications for the assistance of government or parliament in raising loans in the Mother Country for the purpose of local improvement. For these purposes his Lordship observes, he must look to the economical and prudent application of the actual surplus revenue, and if this is insufficient recourse must be had to local taxation. His Lordship also informs Sir John, that he will be expected to keep the proposed expenditure within the limits of the fairly estimated revenue.—and desires him to take care to inform the House, that no increase of any item of such estimate can be moved, except by his previous sanction—that the Speaker ought not to put such motion from the Chair—and that the course his Lordship lays down is analogous to parliamentary practice, which must be followed.

[We wish Sir John had received similar instructions while administering the government of this Province.]—Ed. Gleaner.

## United States News.

HARRISBURG, April 8.

**A Fight in the Pennsylvania Legislature.** A man stabbed on the floor of the House.

The House of Representatives has been the theatre of a sanguinary and bloody affray.—A fight occurred to the right of the Speaker's chair, between Edward McGowan, a member from the County of Philadelphia, and John B. Bratton, editor of the 'State Capitol Gazette.'

The cause of the affray was an offensive article in this morning's Gazette, reflecting on Mr. McGowan.

The Gazette was laid upon the desks of members a little after ten o'clock, and the article above given was shown to Mr. McGowan soon after. About the time the paper was shown to McGowan, Mr. Bratton, the publisher, came into the Hall, and walked to the fire, at the right of the Speaker. As soon as Mr. McGowan saw him he walked to him, pointed out the offensive article, and asked if he was the author. Mr. Bratton said he was. Mr. McGowan then spit at him and gave him a blow.

The blow was returned, and after one or two passes, Mr. McGowan stepped him back, picked up a chair, and struck Mr. B. over the head. Bratton grasped the chair as it hit him, and a short scuffle ensued, when it dropped between them. Bratton, stunned by the blow, attempted to raise the chair, when McGowan drew a small Spanish dirk, and made towards him. At this time a member sitting near, called out 'he has got a knife.' Bratton seeing the knife, and being unable to defend himself, retreated behind the Speaker's chair, and was followed by McGowan, who stabbed him in the shoulder, just as they got behind the desk or House Post Office.

As they emerged from the other side into the open hall, Mr. T. J. Miles threw himself between them, and immediately McGowan was seized by several members. Bratton went to

the dressing room, washed the blood from his face, and went to his dwelling in Chesnut street.

On examination, it was found that the dirk had struck the shoulder blade, slightly shattered the bone, and was itself very much bent by the force of the blow. If it had struck two inches lower, it would have taken his life on the spot.

Mr. McGowan was arrested about 12 o'clock, while the House was still in session, he having surrendered himself, and was bound over in bonds of \$1000, by Justice Sayder, to appear at the next court of Sessions in this county. Mr. Bratton, though not dangerously injured is confined to his bed.

Boston Notion, April 22.

## FRESHETS.

The papers from various quarters speak of freshets, owing to the sudden approach of Spring, and the dissolution of the immense masses of snow, which for months past have covered the earth. The Philadelphia Gazette says that the freshet on the Delaware continues. The cars from Bordentown had to pass for miles through water two feet deep. Many of the wharves in Philadelphia were overflowed.

The National Intelligencer says there is a great flood of the Potomac, from which disastrous effects are apprehended.

**CONNECTICUT**—The Hartford Courant of Monday says that the effects of the warm weather in the north, has caused an unusual rise of the Connecticut, which was on Sunday 21 feet above low water mark, and rising at the rate of an inch an hour. Commerce-street is covered with water throughout its entire length, and the upper part of Front street is in the same condition. Our merchants in State street, below Front, were busy in removing the goods from their cellars, fearful that the water might rise much higher.

P. S. The river has risen a foot and a half during the night, and is still rising.

A gentleman just arrived at this city, informs us that the cross-way about three miles from the town of Wayland, is at present inundated with water to a depth of three feet. For a distance of about one mile at this place, boats are actually brought into requisition for the conveyance of the people, and at the time of writing this, the water still continued to rise. Being between Marlboro' and Feltonville, the accumulated snow and ice is three feet deep. It is to the sudden thaw that this freshet is ascribed.

**ALBANY**—The cars from Albany arrived about the usual time last evening, although there was some detention owing to a flood upon the Hudson, occasioned by a very heavy rain on Sunday night. We learn from Messrs. Hamden & Co's express agent that most of the ice had left the Hudson river; that he left Albany about half past 7 o'clock in the morning, at which time all the lower streets were inundated, the water being as high as the street lamps, and it was thought it would soon reach Broadway.

The cellars in the Exchange were filled. During the short detention in Albany and Greenbush, the water rose eighteen inches. At Springfield he learned that the communication between that place and Hartford, was off by the rise in the Connecticut river, and was reported that the bridge at Hartford had been carried away. Owing to precaution taken upon the Western Railroad, no damage to it had thus far sustained no damage.

We understand that the sudden melting of the snow has inundated the railroad between Nashua and Concord to such an extent that a train of cars has discontinued its usual route between Hooksett and Merrimack.

The bridge at Goofe's falls has been rendered impassable, the earth on one end of it has been entirely washed away, and passengers are still rising.

At the time of writing this the water was still rising.

**ROBBERY AND OUTRAGE AT HAVANA**—The Mobile Herald of the 4th inst. gives an account of a terrible affair which occurred at Havana on the 21st ult., the information being derived from Capt. Post, of the Schr. Argonaut, on the night of the date above mentioned, a car on the Havana Railroad was attacked about 60 miles from the city, by a band of brigands numbering about 200, who robbed the passengers, about 75 in number, of their money and valuables, wounded those who resisted, and killed the females. The cars were upset by rocks and trees piled on the road, and the confusion attending this, prevented the passengers making any resistance. Five hundred soldiers were immediately despatched after the robbers, and took a number of prisoners, and carried them to the city safely secured.

**BLOWING UP A LAKE**—An unsuccessful attempt was made at Buffalo, New York, on Thursday week, to blow up the ice in that harbor by the explosion of gunpowder. Twenty pounds of powder, with a suitable fuse attached, were placed upon a pole, which, upon being fired, exploded and excavated a piece of only about twenty feet in diameter, the fragments raised several feet in the air.

This is truly an immense idea! We would what "highfluting" genius conceived a magnanimous project of blowing up Lake Erie with twenty pounds of gunpowder. How Zampa! Saw off my leg!

The river Potomac, at Washington, is higher than it has been known for many years previous—and the Delaware is so high that many of the wharves in the upper part of Philadelphia are over.