

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1844.

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL—The Southern mail reached the Post Office, on Monday night, at 10 o'clock. We went to press to-day at three o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The Courier did not arrive until Monday night, and to our surprise, brought the British February mail. The Halifax papers of Friday make no mention of the arrival of the steamer, we therefore conclude she arrived late on Friday afternoon; if she left on her regular day, she could not have had a passage over twelve days. We believe the Hibernia brought the mail.

Our regular files are from London, to the 3rd, and Liverpool to the 4th of the month.

Parliament was opened by the Queen in person on the 1st instant. The Speech on the occasion will be found among our extracts.

In the House of Lords, the address in reply to Her Majesty's speech from the throne was moved by the Earl of Eldon, and seconded by Lord Hill.

Nord Normanby gave notice of his intention to call the attention of their Lordships to the condition of Ireland, so soon as the proceedings of the trials should be concluded.

The Lord Chancellor in reference to some remarks from Lord Campbell, stated his intention of introducing measures for legal reform, in relation to the ecclesiastical courts, &c. in a few days.

In the House of Commons, the address to the Queen was moved and seconded by Lord Clive and Mr Cardwell, whereupon Mr Sharman Crawford moved an amendment, to the effect that the supplies should be stopped until the grievances of the manufacturing community were redressed.

Mr Hume also moved an amendment to the effect that the "provision" laws should be considered and dealt with.

Lord John Russell opposed the amendment regarding the stopping of the supplies.

Sir Robert Peel declared his intention of maintaining the existing corn laws.

After a lengthened discussion a division took place on the amendment. The numbers were in reference to Mr S. Crawford's amendment—
For the amendment... 229 | against... 255
Majority... 256.
For Hume's amendment... 49 | against... 235
Majority... 186.

Our papers are crowded with details of the state Trials in Dublin, which were rapidly progressing. On this subject, Charles Willmer's Willmer's News Letter remarks:—

"The absorbing topic for the last three weeks has been the trial of Daniel O'Connell and others, which commenced in Dublin on Monday the 15th ultimo, an outline of which will be found in another column. As yet it is difficult to form any positive idea of what the result will be, but the general feeling is, that the government had made out but a poor case—and that the prosecution will tend rather to advance than to crush the cause of repeal. The speech of the Attorney General in opening the proceedings, was characterized for nothing particular except the most consummate bigotry and hatred of Repeal and Repealers. The evidence in support of the Crown disclosed nothing that was not previously known to the whole world, whilst the speeches of the counsellors for the various traversers have been marked by the most sterling eloquence—which will no doubt have their effect upon the jury. One circumstance preceded the commencement of the trial which has caused no small degree of excitement in Ireland—from one end of the country to the other—and which is regarded by some as tantamount to a repeal of the Catholic emancipation act. It was the successful effort of the crown law officers to exclude from the jury every Roman Catholic. This proved the signal for renewed agitation—and the insult, as it is termed, will not easily be forgotten, and may perhaps cause some discussion in Parliament during the present session."

The outline referred to above we have transferred to our columns; and we shall next week make some extracts from the speech of Mr Shiel, counsel for Mr John O'Connell. This effort of the learned counsel is spoken of in high terms of praise "displaying all that gentleman's elegance of diction, happiness of illustration, and brilliant eloquence." We cannot refrain from giving below his closing remarks:

"You may deprive him of his liberty—you may shut him out from the light of nature—you may inter him in a dungeon, to which a ray of the sun never yet descended; but you never will take away from him the consciousness of having done a good and noble action, and of being entitled to kneel down every night before he sleeps, and to address to his Creator the divinest portion of our Redeemer's prayer. The man to whom that letter was addressed, and the son of the man to whom that letter was addressed, are not guilty of the sanguinary intents which have been ascribed to them; and for

this they put themselves upon their country. Rescue that phrase from its technicalities—let it no longer be a fictitious one: if we have lost our representation in the Parliament, let us behold it in the jury box, and that you participate in the feelings of millions of your countrymen let your verdict afford a proof. But it is not to Ireland that the aching solicitude with which the result of this trial is intently watched will be confined. There is not a great city in Europe in which upon the day when the great intelligence shall be expected to arrive men will stop each other in the public way, and inquire whether 12 men upon their oaths have been doomed to incarceration the man who gave liberty to Ireland. Whatever may be your adjudication he is prepared to meet it. He knows that the eyes of the world are upon him, and that posterity, whether in a goal or out of it, will look back to him with admiration; he is almost indifferent to what may befall him, and is far more solicitous for others at this moment than for himself. But, at the commencement of what I have said to you, I told you that I was not unmoved, and that many incidents of my political life, the strange alterations of fortune through which I have passed, came back upon me. But now the bare possibility at which I have glanced has, I acknowledge, almost unmanned me. Shall I, who stretch out to you in behalf of the son the hand whose fetters the father had struck off, live to cast my eyes upon that domicile of sorrow in the vicinity of this great metropolis, and say, "Tis there they have immured the Liberator of Ireland with his fondest and best beloved child?" No! it shall never be! You will not consign him to the spot to which the attorney-General invites you to surrender him. No. When the spring shall have come again, and the winter shall have passed,—when the spring shall have come again, it is not through the windows of this mansion that the father of such a son, and the son of such a father, shall look upon those green hills on which the eyes of so many a captive have gazed so wistfully in vain; but in their own mountain home again they shall listen to the murmurs of the great Atlantic, they shall go forth and inhale the freshness of the morning air together; "they shall be free of mountain solitude;" they will be encompassed with the lofliest images of liberty upon every side; and if time shall have stolen its suppleness from the father's knee or impaired the firmness of his tread, he shall lean on the child of her that watches over him from heaven, and shall look out from some place far and wide into the island, whose greatness and whose glory shall be for ever associated with his name. In your love of justice—in your love of Ireland—in your love of honesty and fair play—I place my confidence. I ask you for an acquittal, not only for the sake of your country, but for your own. Upon the day when this trial shall have been brought to a termination, when amidst the burst of public expectancy, in answer to the solemn interrogatory which shall be put to you by the officer of the court, you shall answer "Not Guilty," with what a transport will that glorious negative be welcomed! How will you be blessed, adored, worshipped, and when retiring from this scene of excitement and of passion, you shall return to your own tranquil home, how pleasurable will you look upon your children, in the consciousness that you will have left them a patrimony of peace, by impressing upon the British Cabinet that some other measure beside a state prosecution is necessary for the pacification of your country!"

The intelligence from the manufacturing districts, is highly cheering: and it appears by the Queen's speech, that the country is rapidly recovering from her commercial and financial difficulties. By an extract from Willmer's News Letter, which we copy below, it will be perceived that the branches of business in which we are so deeply interested is in a much more healthy state than it has been for some time past, and is likely to continue so, provided the Colonists do not commit themselves, as they have too frequently done before, by overstocking the market. This causes fluctuations, which is highly injurious to all parties concerned.

"In conformity with the practice usual at this period of the year, we proceed to take a review of the Timber trade for the past year, and we do so with much pleasure, as evidencing a greatly improved state of the general trade of the country, and refuting in a marked degree the anticipations of evil that prevailed with those opposed to the Government measure for the reduction of the duties. This year has, in fact, been the first of the operation of the new tariff, and has proved in a remarkable manner, the truth and judgment with which that measure was framed; for, being based upon the principle of affording to consumers, at low prices, an article so essential as timber, it has shown, by an expanded consumption, the powerful stimulus that has been given to the trade, when taken in connexion with the improved state of the manufacturing districts. With the very untoward circumstance abroad of an unusual and excessively high price of timber, what would have been the position of consumers had they been obliged to add thereto the lately existing high duties? It is only reasonable to conclude that of the four years previous to that ending February, 1843, (which was the year of the change, and which was scarcely more than half an import, as explained in our last annual report,) we should have hardly been in the favorable position that we now held, with a light stock to meet an expected animated spring demand. The consumption as regards the main articles of import, has exceeded [with one exception] any previous year since 1838,

and bids fair to progress in a ratio far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the supporters of the measure, if it be not now checked by too great an advance in prices previous to the new import. These remarks apply particularly to Colonial Timber, which, in this locality, receives the estimation it deserves, and which is gradually superseding the use of Baltic.

Prices have fluctuated much; throughout the spring, and previous to the fresh arrivals from Quebec, a fair remunerating rate ruled, and which, if it were possible to have established within a small range, would have left a living rate for both ship owner and importer, but the superabundance of tonnage, seeking for employment in carrying Timber, was such, that prices were forced up abroad to extreme rates, and the quantity of Timber thrown on this market at one time in the summer was so great, that, notwithstanding the high cost, prices suddenly receded to rates detrimental alike to the shipowner and importer, and unnecessarily low for the consumer; the number of ships, therefore, going a second voyage, was reduced, and, in consequence, the fall supply has been limited—but the consumption meantime, progressed favorably, prices again rallied, until they have attained present rates. The supply of St. John has been more steady, and prices have fluctuated less, the general character of its import this year being of very large size and superior quality, extreme rates, in some instances, have been obtained. These fluctuations in the market are much to be regretted, as preventing the steadiness of price which is so desirable, but which, we fear, will annually occur, until the over supply of shipping is diminished. The stocks wintering at Quebec are this year unusually small, and consequently the spring arrival will probably be late, and will cause the present high prices to be maintained until then."

The papers state that Mr Pakenham, the newly appointed British envoy to the United States, carries out with him, it is confidently stated, full instructions to negotiate a settlement of the Oregon territory dispute.

Sir Francis Burdett, for many years distinguished as "Westminster's glory and England's pride," died at his residence in London, on the 23rd ult.

INDIA AND CHINA.—Our English papers contain a few items of India and China news, which we give below:—

"The most important intelligence from China is the arrangement of a supplementary treaty between the Chinese and the British Governments, one clause of which is for the purpose of guaranteeing to all foreign nations the same privileges of trade as to the British themselves. This will have the effect of rendering unnecessary all negotiations between the Chinese Emperor and other powers. The Chinese Government is said to be sincere now in its determination to abide by the regulations of the treaty which will prevent all disputes with other foreigners.

"Great sickness prevailed in the newly acquired possessions of Scinde, in India.—Peace continued throughout British India, although the preparations for war were busy throughout the north-western districts. Much attention has been directed towards the Punjab. The chiefs are represented as disunited, the soldiers are mutinous, and the provinces are distracted by their fears of an invasion from the Afghans at Peshawur, and of the British at Lahore. The news from Cabul current during the month, that Dost Mahomed had been murdered, though generally believed, had turned out to be a fabrication.

"The intelligence received by the Overland Mail, commercially speaking, is regarded as cheering by the merchants, who gladly perceive some chance of returning prosperity in the branches of business conducted both with imports and exports."

MOUNT ETNA.—Private letters from Palermo give the following account of a frightful occurrence near the above named place on the 9th ultimo:

"Not far from Cartiera, the lava collected in a low spot, where a quantity of water was lying. As it continued to form a smoking mass, a number of spectators came from various points, to look at the unusual spectacle. A number of workmen were also employed in cutting down trees near the spot. All at once a loud explosion was heard, from the steam produced by the lava acting on the water, and the superincumbent mass was thrown around in all directions with great violence. Upwards of sixty persons were killed or severely burnt by the burning steam and pieces of red hot lava—some of them were at a distance of 150 metres. The horses and mules which had brought the crowd there were also much injured, and the scene is described as an exceedingly lamentable one. The exact number of persons killed is not stated."

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—The Journals of the Legislative Council and Assembly in our possession, are down to the 15th of the month; and the Report of the Debates, one day later. The large space occupied to-day by the intelligence from Europe, has prevented us from taking as extensive a review of the sayings and doings of the "collective wisdom" of the Province, as we could wish. We shall endeavor to make up for our unavoidable lagging next week. Nothing of special importance, as far

as we could perceive from a hasty glance of the proceedings, has taken place in either house.

We are indebted to the Sentinel of Friday last for the following information:—

"We have brought down the Proceedings and Debates in the Assembly to yesterday, with the exception of a second discussion on the Timber duty bill, which has passed the House, without the provision exempting American timber from duty at the port of shipment; the speeches of Mr. Brown and Mr. J. A. Street on the previous day, will be found on our first page. On the last page there are several despatches, that have been communicated to the House; and the substance of that relating to the Legislative Council, will be found in the report of Wednesday. The House is at present engaged in committee of Ways and Means, and in determining what duties it will be proper to impose.

"Nothing of importance has as yet occurred in the Legislative Council, with the exception of a motion for information relative to the recent changes in that body; any important debate that may take place it is our intention to report, if not prevented by what may be going on in the Assembly."

NOVASCOTIA LEGISLATURE.—The two great factions in the Assembly of our sister Province, are at it "tooth and nail." A motion was made by Mr Huntingdon, on the 6th instant, "that the House go into a committee of the whole, to consider the address to His Excellency, in answer to his speech on opening the session, which had been moved by Mr Wilkins." This was the signal for a general set-to. The debate had occupied the greater part of eight days, and had not been brought to a close. The Morning Post, which gives a very elaborate report of the speeches, says that the debate, in all probability, will be brought to a close on Saturday. No mention is made of which party is likely to have a majority.

The Resolution passed by the Assembly, appointing the Rev Mr Twining sole Chaplain of that body, has been rescinded, and another appointing a clergyman from the several religious bodies, passed in its stead.

Fredericton Gazette, February 7.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Doubts having arisen as to the construction of the Order of Council of the tenth October last, relative to the Duty on Logs: Notice is hereby given, that the *upset price only* [and not the *Duty*] is reduced from 3s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per thousand.

By order of the Lt. Governor in Council,
Wm. F. ODELL
Secretary's Office, 6th January, 1844.

IN COUNCIL, January 5, 1844.

Claimants for the payment of private survey money on account of Crown Lands advertised for Auction, are hereby notified to present their claims before the sale to the local Deputy; and in cases of default, the local Deputies are hereby authorized to demand the rate of three pence an acre only from the purchaser as the expense of survey, and the same shall be paid over to the proper claimant afterwards.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Her Majesty has been pleased to make the undermentioned appointments:—

Captain W. F. W. Owen, to be a member of the Legislative Council, vice Thomas Baillie, Esquire.

William Crane, Esquire, vice Harry Peters, Esq., resigned.

George Minchin, Esq., vice James Allanshaw, Esq., resigned.

Thomas H. Peters, Esq., vice Thomas C. Lee, Esquire; the retiring members retaining their honorary distinctions.

Wm. F. ODELL.

Secretary's Office, 7th February, 1844.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—I would enquire through the medium of your valuable paper, why there is not a *Debating Club* set on foot in the Town of Newcastle, in which certain subjects might be discussed. Such an Institution would be of great benefit in any community, and would be the means of encouraging our young men, to devote their attention to Literature, and other useful branches of learning, instead of trifling away their time, as many of them are now doing. If those whose duty it is, from their rank and station in society, would encourage such an object, and take measures to establish such a society, I am satisfied that the result would be equal to their utmost wishes. Trusting that this will have the desired effect, of bringing about the formation of such a society in Newcastle.

I remain, yours, &c,

A CONSTANT READER.

The following Testimonial is one of many thousands addressed to Messrs. Rowland & Son, Hatton Garden, London, whose advertisement appears in another column.

Gentlemen—I consider it almost an imperative duty to state the valuable efficacy of your most excellent MACASSAR OIL. For the last fifteen years I have been bald, occasioned by a most dreadful fever whilst in India. I have used almost every means to procure a head of hair again, but all my efforts seemed fruitless, until accidentally a friend advised the use of your valuable Hair Restorer—(I can give it no better name), and, after using a 3s. 6d. bottle every