

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1844.

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL.—The Southern mail reached the Post Office, on Monday night, at 8 o'clock. We went to press to-day at two o'clock.

UNITED STATES.—Our readers will perceive how things are progressing in the neighbouring "Great Republic," when they read below the titles, or as they are called the "captions" of paragraphs, copied from the New York Sun, for the week ending the 2nd instant, received by Kelly's mail:—

Awful murder of a Lady, at Lowell, Massachusetts; horrible murder of a husband by his wife, at Damascus, Pennsylvania; melancholy disaster, a father and two children burnt with their dwelling; another case of seduction at Philadelphia; suicide of Governor Reynolds, of Missouri; great row at a concert in Philadelphia; a kidnapper shot by an officer in New York; brutal outrage on a young girl, at Livingston, New York; a dreadful tragedy—the family of G. W. Gardner, consisting of Mrs G., his brother, and an infant, murdered by a negro, and the premises set on fire by him; brutal row at the National Theatre, Boston—a respectable young man named Moore, kicked, and literally pounded to a jelly; murder in the Cherokee nation; further particulars of the Lunenburg murder—and a man named Thomas Barrett been arrested; highway robbery at Mobile—the person assailed was very severely beaten; an outrage at Baltimore—a gentleman pulled out of the railway car, by the Postmaster and assistants, on suspicion of his having letters; strange suicide of a man named Riley, at New Orleans; steam boat burnt; murder—John Woods, of Illinois, committed to prison, on suspicion of murdering his own child, ten months old; robbing of the boot of a mail, Pennsylvania; a new Mormon war; arson—a person arrested for setting fire to a house to cheat the insurance company; fire in Boston—house burnt; heart-rending occurrence—the asylum for the poor at Nantucket, burned to the ground, ten of the inmates consumed in the flames; destructive fire at Rome, U. S., five houses burnt; destructive fire at Norwich—12 houses burnt; destructive fire at New Orleans—3000 bales of cotton destroyed; forgeries in Philadelphia—to the extent of seventeen thousand dollars, by a young man respectably connected; another extensive trunk robbery, containing \$15,000, on the Albany and Buffalo road; besides a number of small affairs in the police offices.

The mail received on Monday night, adds another item of melancholy and heart-rending intelligence to the number mentioned above. We give below a brief account of the same, from the New York Journal of Commerce, and National Intelligencer:—

"Explosion of one of the large cannon on board the U. S. steamer Princeton. Two members of the Cabinet instantly killed,—also, Commodore Kennon, the honorable Virgil Maxcy, Colonel Gardiner, of Long Island, and several other persons.

"Seldom indeed have we been called to record a more awful calamity than that which we are about to describe. On Wednesday last, the United States steamer Princeton, commanded by Captain Robert F. Stockton, made an excursion from Washington city down the Potomac, having on board a great number of persons, among whom were the President of the United States, the secretaries of State, War, and Marine; Commodore Beverley Kennon, chief of the Bureau of Naval Construction, Equipment and Repairs; the honorable Virgil Maxcy, late minister to Belgium; Colonel Gardiner, of Southampton, L. I., who has been accustomed to spend his winters in this city or at Washington; several members of Congress, and many ladies.

"The Princeton, as most of our readers know, carried two enormously heavy guns, [besides several smaller ones] throwing balls of 200 lbs. weight, and requiring between 40 and 50 pounds of powder for a charge. The more formidable of the two has been playfully termed "the peace maker." But the event has proved that she might have been more fitly termed, "destruction to her friends."

"The steamer made a pleasant run as far down as Mount Vernon, and was on her return, and within three or four miles of Alexandria, it being about sunset, when the disaster occurred. The big gun had already been discharged twice during the trip, and being again loaded, but not with ball as before, the match was applied, when, awful to relate, the gun burst at the breech, and in an instant the deck was strewn with death and destruction: among the persons killed, we are pained to say, are the hon. Abel P. Upshur, secretary of State; hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, secretary of the Navy; honorable Beverly Kennon, chief of the Bureau of Con-

struction, Equipment and Repairs, Navy Department; hon. Virgil Maxcy, late minister to Belgium; and Colonel Gardiner, of Southampton, L. I.

"A colored servant of the President, was also killed, and five men in charge of the cannon, making a total of eleven killed outright, excepting that the President's servant lived about ten minutes. Most of the bodies were shockingly mangled. Judge Upshur was nearly cut in two. Captain Stockton was wounded, it is believed not dangerously, and Senator Benton slightly."

"In the whole course of our lives it has never fallen to our lot to announce to our readers a more shocking calamity—shocking in all its circumstances and concomitants—than that which occurred on board the steamer Princeton, yesterday afternoon, whilst under way, in the river Potomac, fourteen or fifteen miles below this city.

"The ladies had partaken of a sumptuous repast; the gentlemen had succeeded them at the table, and some of them had left it; the vessel was on her return up the river, opposite the fort, where Captain Stockton consented to fire another shot from the same gun, around and near which, to observe its effects, many persons had gathered, though by no means so many as on similar discharges in the morning, the ladies who then thronged the deck being on this fatal occasion almost all between decks, and out of reach of harm.

"The gun was fired. The explosion was followed, before the smoke cleared away so as to observe its effects, by shrieks of woe which announced a dire calamity. The gun had burst at a point three or four feet from the breech, and scattered death and desolation around. Mr Upshur, secretary of State, Mr Gilmer, so recently placed at the head of the Navy, Commodore Kennon, one of its gallant officers, Virgil Maxcy, lately returned from a diplomatic residence at the Hague, Mr Gardner, of New York, were among the slain. Besides these, seventeen seamen were wounded, several of them badly, and probably mortally. Among those stunned by the concussion, we learn not all seriously wounded, were Captain Stockton, himself; Colonel Benton, of the senate; Lieutenant Hunt, of the Princeton; W. D. Robinson, of Georgetown. Other persons also were perhaps more or less injured, of whom, in the horror and confusion of the moment, no certain account could be obtained.

"The scene upon the deck may more easily be imagined than described; nor can the imagination picture to itself the half of its horrors:—Wives widowed in an instant by the murderous blast!—Daughters smitten with the heart-rending sight of their father's lifeless corpse! The wailings of agonized females! The piteous grief of the unhurt but heart-stricken spectators! The wounded seamen borne down below! The silent tears and quivering lips of their brave and honest comrades, who tried in vain to subdue or to conceal their feelings! What words can adequately describe a scene like this!"

Nicholas Biddle, the Great Financier, died at his residence, near Philadelphia, on the 28th instant.

Mr Fox took official leave of the President at Washington, on the 21st instant, and introduced his successor, the Right Hon. Richard Pakenham. Some complimentary addresses were delivered by the parties on the occasion.

BATHURST.—A meeting of the Bathurst Total Abstinence Society, was held in the Grammar School House, on Monday, the 5th day of February last, being the second annual meeting of the society. It was opened with prayer by the Rev. Robert Chesley, after which a Lecture was delivered by that Gentleman on the Evils of Intemperance.

The Rules of the Society were then read, and the Officers elected for the ensuing year, as follows:

The Revd. Robert A. Chesley, President,
John Stevens, Secretary and Treasurer,
Committee—Messrs William Deacon, John Randle, James Smith, Samuel Weaverbe, Christopher Lockhart, Robert P. Hickson, Robert Ellis, and Thomas H. Carman.

The following Resolutions were moved, seconded, and carried—

That this society deeply regret the lukewarmness of some of the members and professed friends of total abstinence, in their frequent absence from the monthly meetings of this society.

That the President of this society be requested to distribute such temperance tracts, and publications as may be procured at his discretion, as the society feel strongly convinced of the necessity of disseminating information on the subject.

That the Rev. Robert A. Chesley be requested to preach a Sermon on total abstinence, as soon as may be convenient.

That Mr Pierce be requested to insert the proceedings of this meeting in his paper.

It is now two years since this society was formed, and although our number is comparatively small, yet we are happy to state that it is gradually increasing, at every meeting some new members are enrolled.

The beneficial effects of this society, in connexion with two others of a similar character, are evident in our community, and we are led confidently to hope, we shall yet see the day when intemperance shall be entirely banished from our land, and peace and sobriety prevail.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.—Last week we informed our readers that the proprietors of the Loyalist, had been committed to the Gaol at Fredericton, by a warrant from the Speaker of the Assembly, for a Breach of Privilege. The parties appealed to the Judges, who ordered—as we anticipated—their immediate release. Thus is set at rest a highly important question; and we congratulate the inhabitants of the Province on the issue, for they were all deeply interested in the matter.

The remarks of the Editor of the New Brunswick are so much to the point, and harmonize so exactly with our own, that we give them entire below.

"We have seldom felt greater satisfaction than we do this day, in announcing to our readers, that their Honors the Justices of the Supreme Court, acting on the decision recently given in England, have, under the writ of Habeas Corpus, discharged the Editors of the Loyalist from the Gaol of York, to which they had been committed by the House of Assembly. The question is therefore settled, that the erudite and immaculate House of Assembly, have no longer the power of incarcerating the liege subjects of Her Majesty, at their own will and pleasure, without troubling Judge or Jury. Their boasted "privilege" of imprisoning, under which the grossest oppressions have been heretofore committed, is at an end; they can no longer commit, save for a contempt committed in their presence, in precisely the same manner as the Courts of Law. Beyond that they are no longer permitted to go; and it is high time that the arbitrary and oppressive power they have heretofore exercised, should be taken from them. They have ever proved themselves unfit to be trusted with it. We feel assured that the whole Press of New Brunswick and all its inhabitants, will most heartily and sincerely rejoice at this decision of the Judges. This curtailing of the illegal power assumed and exercised by the Assembly, will place the Province on a very different footing. The Members of the Assembly will hereafter know and feel that they must conduct themselves, both in debate and in their written proceedings, like gentlemen and men of honor—they must learn to avoid those gross personalities and slanders, which are constantly uttered on the floor of the house, and they will be compelled to abstain from placing either upon their journals or in the appendix, any base imputations or gross libels. When they have been schooled into decency and good behaviour, and their proceedings are marked with some degree of self-respect, and regard for the rights and the feelings of their fellow subjects, they may expect to obtain that deference and degree of respect to which their position should, but has not hitherto, entitled them.

"We beg it to be clearly understood, that we do not for an instant, attempt to justify or extenuate the libels of the Loyalist; those libels ought to meet their proper and richly deserved punishment, at the proper time and place; and we sincerely trust that they may be brought before the tribunals of the country for a trial.

"Under the decision of the Judges, by which the Editors of the Loyalist have been discharged, they will be entitled to an action against the Speaker and the sergeant at Arms; we presume that such an action will be brought, and we shall hope to see substantial damages given. We are for upholding the legal rights of all classes, whenever they may be invaded, and for punishing all invaders of those rights, in a constitutional manner, before a Judge and Jury.

"New Brunswick is free! The Assembly can no longer invade the rights of British subjects with impunity, and must conduct themselves with decency."

When the House became aware on Saturday week, that the Editors of the Loyalist were liberated on a Writ of Habeas Corpus, the standing order was moved, and the House occupied for some time in discussing the subject. The Journals furnish us with the following result of their deliberations:—

On motion of Mr End, Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms be directed to bring to the Bar of this House, from the common gaol of the county of York, James Doak and Thomas Hill, the parties committed to the said gaol, by order of the House, on the 27th ult. To which Mr Brown moved as an amendment—to expunge the whole of the said Resolution, and substitute as follows:—

Whereas it appears that James Doak and Thomas Hill, lately imprisoned for breach of Privilege of the House, are at large; therefore Resolved, That the Sheriff of the County of York be called to the bar of this house, to answer such questions as may be put to him regarding the release of the said James Doak and Thomas Hill.

The Honorable Mr Hazen then moved as an amendment—to expunge the whole thereof, as well as the original Resolution, and substitute the following:—Resolved, That the Committee of Privileges be directed to report to this house what steps it is necessary to take, in respect of James Doak and Thomas Hill, committed by this House on Monday last.

The question being then taken upon the last proposed amendment, the House divided as follows:—

Yeas—The Honorable Messrs Hazen, Simmonds, and Wilnot; Messrs Smith, Stewart, Taylor, Palmer, Hanington, Partelow, Jordan, S. Earle, Perley, Fisher, Wark, Hill.

Nays—Messrs Rankin, Boyd, Brown, Thomson, J. Earle, Barker, Payne, W. A. Street,

J. A. Street, Allen, Barberie, End, Scoullar, Gilbert. And so it was carried in the affirmative.

BANKRUPT LAW.—It is with much satisfaction we perceive that the Press of the province is discussing the inconsistent Legislation of the Assembly on the Bankrupt Law. Last week we copied some excellent remarks on the subject from the Saint John Temperance Telegraph, and give below some judicious comments from the Head Quarters.

"A bill has passed the house of assembly, by a large majority, to repeal the bankrupt law, and it will no doubt pass the council also.

That the present bankrupt law has some defects none will deny—it would be stranger if it had not; but we are not prepared to see a measure the principle of which is founded on a wholesome expediency as well as morality, and which is essential to the existence of confidence in every commercial community, swept so unceremoniously away before any sufficient time was allowed to prove either its good or its bad effect.

A great outcry has been raised against this law because in the Royal Gazette, and other papers, long lists of Bankrupts are to be found; but the reason of this may be traced rather to the non existence of a bankrupt law for previous years than to the existence of it for the last year. The bankruptcies that at present disfigure the credit of the country are, many of them, of ten, fifteen and some perhaps of twenty years standing. The property of the most of these persons has been wrested from them by judgments, or used in preferences to their favorite creditors; and they have since been living "from hand to mouth," comparatively useless to themselves, their families and the community. Now what can be gained by keeping men always in this abject condition? They have no energy to engage in business further than to supply themselves with the mere necessities of life, because they know their hungry creditors are watching them every moment, ready to come down upon every particle of visible property they may accumulate; and although they may be perfectly willing to pay all their debts, were opportunity allowed them to turn their labour and enterprise to account, they yet feel that the eagerness of their creditors each to secure himself will subject them to continual sacrifices and embarrassments, so that they can entertain no reasonable prospect of succeeding.

"Now, what harm can follow from giving an individual in this position a release from all his debts, and allowing him a free and fair chance again in the world? His creditors would lose nothing, for he could never pay them—while his family, if he has one, would have gained a supporter that can more than supply their wants, and the community a useful and industrious citizen.

"Another complaint against the bankrupt court is, that most of the persons who have gone into it have no property, and the debtor has thus been discharged while the creditor has got nothing. But this objection has no weight so long as it is certain that in the absence of a law providing for his release the debtor would never have any property of which the creditor might get the benefit, and the mere satisfaction of keeping a man in perpetual fear of arrest and imprisonment is too sordid and barbarous a feeling ever to be legalized in a christian community.

"The better effects of the bankrupt law are to be seen not in its direct and immediate operation upon those cases of insolvency that may have existed before its enactment, but in its indirect influence upon business transactions afterwards; as it would tend in a great measure to deprive the creditor of the power of coercion, he would be extremely careful to know the character and circumstances of the man he was trusting, while the debtor feeling that any fraud or preference would place him without the protection of the Law would be proportionately careful to observe that course of correct proceeding on which his future safety depended.

"From this good effect the country will be debarred by the contemplated repeal of the present bankrupt act, and we will revert to the old system of preferences and collusions, mortgages and judgments, and Law expenses without end, by which the most oppressive and unworthy creditor will get all, leaving to the other creditors a debtor stripped of his property, and to the country a man bankrupt in character as well as fortune.

"We scarcely know of an instance of such hasty and inconsiderate Legislation as the passing of the act to which we have alluded will evince. We feel assured that the Country will very soon apprehend the full extent of the error that will have been committed, and the House, will, no doubt, be besieged at its next Session, with Petitions from all quarters, praying for a revival of the bankrupt Law."

APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFFS.—The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last, contains the appointments of the Sheriffs for the ensuing year. Among them we perceive the reappointment of—

John M. Johnson, for Northumberland;
William A. Black, for Kent;
Henry W. Baldwin, for Gloucester;
John U. Campbell, for Restigouche.

CIRCUIT OF THE JUDGES FOR HILARY TERM, 1844.—Hon Judge Botsford—Kent—27th August. Hon Judge Parker—Restigouche—Tuesday, August 27. Gloucester—September 3. Northumberland—Tuesday, September 10.