

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1844.

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL.—The Southern mail reached the Post Office, on Monday evening, at 6 o'clock. We went to press to-day at four o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The first British April mail, was received at our Post Office, on Monday evening last. It was brought to Halifax by the steamer Acadia, which vessel arrived at that port at one o'clock, P. M., on Friday last, after a passage of 15 days. It appears she experienced heavy head winds from the time she left until she reached the Banks of Newfoundland; and after that she met much ice, which caused a delay of 18 hours. She brought out 98 passengers, 73 of whom were for Boston. We have obtained our regular files of British Journals to the 4th of the month, from which we have extracted as much of the intelligence as we conceived would be interesting to our readers, as our space would admit of. There is no news of any great importance. The trade and commerce of the mother country still continues to improve.

In speaking of the late Irish Trials, Charles Willmer's paper says:

"There exists a vast diversity of opinion on the subject of the punishment to be awarded, and the papers abound with reports and statements, most of which, if carefully examined, will be found in no way consistent with the law. The best-informed parties seem decidedly of opinion, that whatever punishment the court inflicts, will be steadily adhered to and carried out. It is not at all likely the government will interfere in any shape or form, unless it be to see that justice takes its course, and that the traversers are not allowed to escape from the net just at the moment of its being closed upon them."

The Great Western steamer has been purchased by the Oriental Steam Company for the sum of £32,000.

The Great Britain is a singular instance of a ship too great for the dock in which she has been constructed. The dock gates, it appears, are too narrow to admit of her egress to her proper element, and that ocean queen, fitted to speed her way through the storm and tide, is pent up like the imprisoned eagle of a menagerie.

At Adrianople, an inundation has destroyed about 2,000 houses, the Europeans being severe sufferers.

The Hibernia arrived home in 9 1/2 days. Her Majesty's accouchement may be expected about the beginning of July next.

Captain Mathews, late M.P. for Shaftesbury, has been appointed Governor of the Bermudas. The Potteries are again in a state of confusion, owing to an extreme turn out of the men.

A bill is before Parliament for making a new suspension bridge across the Thames.

The Boscawen, a fine new ship of 70 guns, was launched on the 3rd instant at Woolwich.

A magnificent steamer is building at Brest, by the French government, to convey the Royal family to England next summer.

5th Light Infantry—Ensign McNair, 2 sergeants, and 80 rank and file, are ordered to embark at Cork for Nova Scotia.

Her Majesty's brig Childers, is now on her passage from England to China with one million of dollars.

The Scottish Guardian says—"It gives us the greatest pleasure to learn that our spring ships already on the berth for Canada have received full cargoes, more goods being about to be exported to that valuable colony this season from this city, than for several years past. The Bellona and Caledonia cleared on Wednesday with full cargoes, and numbers of other ships about to sail from the Broomielaw are also well filled with merchandize.

Mr O'Connell.—Every arrangement has been made for the appeal to the House of Lords, and Sir Thomas Wilde, Mr Kelly, and Mr Sergeant Murphy, have been retained for the traversers. Some delay took place at the Home Office, in allowing the usual license for these Queen's counsel to appear for Mr O'Connell, but it was at last concluded, and he will have the services of as strong a bar as could be brought to bear in his behalf.

It is rumoured that the contemplated visit of King Louis Philippe to England, will take place early in June, and that his Majesty will be accompanied by the Queen, and the Prince and Princess de Joinville.

Major General Sir Robert Sale is to be Quarter Master General to the Queen's troops in India, vice Churchill, deceased.

STEAMER ST. GEORGE.—The Charlottetown papers state that this vessel will recommence plying between this port, Charlottetown, and Pictou, about the 1st May next.

CLOSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.—The session of the Legislature was brought to a close on Saturday week, and such is the efficient state of the Post Office Department, that the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the occasion, reached us for the first time, by Kelly's mail, which was received in Chatham on Monday morning, ten days after its delivery.

It appears that His Excellency having been invalidated, and unable to meet the Legislature at the Council Chamber, the Council and Assembly were summoned to meet at Government House, when the following Speech was delivered, by the Lieutenant Governor.

"Mr President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

"The termination of the business which has engaged you, enables me to relieve you from your further attendance.

"The unremitting attention which you have given to the Public Interests, has amply realized the expectations which I was encouraged to form at the opening of the Session; and I congratulate you on the accomplishment of several highly important measures which I had recommended to your consideration, and which I confidently hope will be productive of lasting benefit to the Province.

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

"I thank you for the Supplies which you have granted for the Public Service, and also for the confidence which you have reposed in the Government, by liberally placing at my disposal the Funds which are required for various important objects.

"The encouragement which you have afforded by bounty to the Fisheries of the Province, will revive an important Branch of its resources.

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

"It is gratifying to me to reflect that the prospects of the Province are such as to hold out reasonable hope of an early relief from the embarrassments which for the last three years have tended so much to depress the energies of the people, and to retard the general improvement; and it is with the utmost satisfaction, in relieving you from your labors, that I recur to the spirit of unanimity and devotion to the public welfare, which have characterized your proceedings at such a period, and in the continuance of which, under Providence, we must rely for surmounting the difficulties with which the Province may still have to contend."

The following is a List of the Bills to which His Excellency gave his assent previous to closing the Session:—

An act to amend an act imposing duties for raising a Revenue.

An act to appropriate a part of the public Revenue for the payment of the ordinary services of the Province.

An act to appropriate a part of the Public Revenue for the services therein mentioned.

An act to provide for opening and repairing Roads and erecting Bridges throughout the Province.

An act to incorporate the Fredericton Boom Company.

An act for more effectually securing the navigation of the River and Harbor of St. John, in the City and County of St. John.

An act to establish the value of certain British Coins in this Province, and to amend the Acts relating to the establishment of a legal Tender.

An act to provide for a drawback on Flour exported in certain cases.

An act to amend an act, intituled "An act to make more effectual regulations relating to Pilots within this Province."

An act to enable the Justices of the Peace of the City and County of St. John to pay off a portion of the debts now due by the County of St. John.

An act further to continue an act to provide for the prompt payment of all demands upon the Provincial Treasury.

An act further to amend the laws relating to Wills, Legacies, Executors and Administrators, and for the settlement and distribution of the Estates of Intestates.

An act to amend the Laws relating to Bankruptcy in this Province.

An act to repeal an act intituled "an act to provide for the greater safety of Passengers on board Steamboats," and to make further provision in lieu thereof.

An act to encourage the Fisheries of this Province.

An act further to facilitate the means of supplying the City of St. John with water.

An act to prevent the spread of a disease now existing in certain parts of the Counties of Gloucester and Northumberland.

An act to regulate the management and disposal of Indian Reserves in this Province.

An act to afford relief to persons unfortunate in business in certain cases.

An act to restrain the provisions of the fifth section of an act intituled "an act for the support of the Civil Government of the Province," and to establish sundry regulations for the future sale and disposal of Timber in certain cases.

An act to facilitate the collection and recovery of small debts due to the Crown, arising from the sale of Crown Lands and Timber.
An act for the division of the County of Carleton into two Counties and to provide for the Government and Representation of the new County. (With a suspending clause.)
An act to incorporate the Arestook Boom Company. (With a suspending clause.)

An act to enable Her Majesty's Government to carry into effect within the Province the provisions of the fourth article of the Treaty of Washington. (With a suspending clause.)
An act for the relief of the Rev. Samuel D. Rice.

THE SEASON.—The weather for some time past, has been most delightful. Our farmers are busily employed in their fields ploughing, and performing their spring work. The ice in our river opposite Chatham, began to move on Thursday morning last. On Friday afternoon it was sufficiently clear to enable the inhabitants of Newcastle and Douglastown to cross in boats. Since Sunday the ice has entirely disappeared, and we understand there is no impediment to the free navigation of the river.

FORTIFICATIONS.—A late number of the Montreal Times contains the following paragraph:—

"A line of permanent fortifications of the strongest description, is about to be constructed upon the frontier between New Brunswick and Quebec. They will be made with reference to the intended Military road, to protect or sweep it as the case may require. As soon as the surveys and plans are completed, the works will be commenced. This does not look as if Great Britain has any present intention of giving up this colony to be governed by itself, or any other nation. We have not heard whether the chain will be extended to Dundee and St. Regis, but it will be incomplete without; those parts of the country are at present much exposed."

NEWCASTLE SACRED MUSIC SOCIETY.—

A number of individuals in Newcastle, on or about the 1st of January last, in order to improve the musical talent of the youths of the place, formed themselves into a Society, and procured an instructor for three months, to superintend the same, and by that means to ascertain what results might hereafter be anticipated from the continuance of such a society. They invited all the youths to join, without distinction of creed, and the institution at its commencement, numbered about seventy, and was carried on with energy and spirit. Through the indefatigable exertions of Mr. JAMES BRYANT, who kindly consented to take the management, the school was divided into classes, great decorum was observed, and harmony reigned throughout; taking into account that the great proportion of the pupils, if not the whole, knew nothing about the science, and one and all began with the first principles, the improvement at the end of the term was truly astonishing, and far surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its promoters. Such institutions, if carried on with vigour, must tend greatly to the harmony of the respective services of the Churches on this River, and we would recommend that similar institutions be established; and should the results be similar to the one now under consideration, the expence and labour connected with the formation of such a society, would be amply repaid by its successful results. We trust that our friends in Newcastle will continue the society in effective operation, and thereby stimulate others to go and do likewise. —Communicated.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.—Last week we acknowledged the receipt of the Journals of the Legislature up to the 4th of the month; since then the only Journal which came to hand is that of the 9th instant; what has become of the remainder we are unable to state, for we feel persuaded our attentive Agent at Head Quarters has sent them to us.

We give below all the information we have been enabled to collect from Fredericton and St. John papers. The following is taken from the Sentinel of April 12:—

"The Committee of Supply closed on Wednesday evening. Among the other grants of the Session there is one placing at the disposal of the government the sum of £590, for the purpose of appointing three or four Inspectors of Common Schools; who are to examine and report upon the state of those institutions in this Province, preparatory to the subject being taken up during the next session, when the present School Act expires.

"The medical men who were despatched to Tracadie, to enquire into the nature of the disease which exists in that section of the country, having returned and made a Report;—£500 in addition to the sum already voted, making in all £1000, has been placed at the disposal of the Executive Government, to provide for the establishment of a lazaretto in that part of the Province, and the maintenance

of persons who may be placed therein.—The disease is what is termed the Egyptian Leprosy; and altho' ultimately fatal to those whom it attacks, and may be considered as contagious, yet it is only communicated by contact; and while it has existed twenty years in the district alluded to, has been caught but by a limited number of persons.

"A motion made by Mr Fisher yesterday, for an address to the Lieutenant Governor, praying that the Bye Road warrants for 1842 may be issued; produced the declaration on the part of the members of the Government, that it is the determination of the Executive, to issue them immediately upon the Loan being taken. The House went into committee yesterday on the Bill introduced by Mr Fisher to vacate the seats of members in certain cases; which after considerable discussion with reference to the clause which extended its provisions to Executive Councillors, were ultimately passed in that way.

"The Bill for regulating the Inspection of Lumber was sent down from the Legislative Council on Wednesday, so amended as to prevent the House from considering the amendments; and it will be printed and circulated during the recess.

"The Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr Wilmot, for altering the Charter of King's College, has passed the Legislative Council, by a division of 9 to 6, and will go home for Her Majesty's approval.

"A Resolution was passed by the House of Assembly this afternoon, protesting against any interference with its privileges; and authorizing His Honor the Speaker to defend any suit that may be brought against the Speaker or Sergeant at Arms."

We are indebted to a Correspondent of the St. John Observer, for the following brief view of the Bankrupt Laws, passed by the Legislature:—

"As the public may possibly be interested in the present state of the Bankrupt Laws, now that the session of this year is over, the following is a brief view of them. The opponents of the present Bankrupt acts were not satisfied with repealing those sections of the last act which enabled a Debtor, when in failing circumstances, to apply for a fiat, but they struck at the root of the voluntary system, by repealing also the Declaration of Insolvency inserted by the Legislative Council in their amendments of the first act framed by the Commissioners, and passed by the House of Assembly. By this measure the Law can only be made available by the creditors against such of their debtors as commit one of the acts of Bankruptcy set out in the original law, such as—concealment to avoid arrest—remaining on the limits or in gaol two months; procuring their goods to be seized—giving any fraudulent deed, &c. The amount is also brought back to £500.

"As a substitute for this partial repeal, we now have an entirely new act, by which any debtor for any amount, may apply to the Court of Chancery, exhibiting its debts and assets, on which an order issues for the Clerk of the Peace for such county where the debtor may reside, to call a public meeting of his creditors; if at this meeting 3-6ths of his creditors agree to a composition, assignment or other arrangement, the clerk transmits this to the same Court, which after allowing time for any further opposition of Creditors, confirms or rejects the arrangement, according to the circumstances—if there be fraud, undue preferences, &c. he is to reject, if the contrary, it is to be confirmed, and the debtor is absolutely discharged, as in the case of a Bankrupt's Certificate of discharge. This was intended as a substitute for the whole system of Bankruptcy laws, and should it be found to be as simple as it appears, and work well, it will probably cause the repeal of the remaining part of the Bankrupt Acts. One thing is clear, that the latter, without the voluntary clauses, will remain a dead letter on the statute book, unless it be exercised by some creditor."

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKETS.—We take the following extracts from the Review of the Timber Markets, ending on the 31st March, from Willmer's News Letter:—

"American Pine Timber.—The import of this month consists of 3 vessels, 2,022 tons. Of St. John, one cargo in the early part of the month, of large average, was said to have been bought by a speculation at 18 1-2d per foot, and this week one of 20 inch average has been sold at a higher rate, but the exact price has not transpired. By auction, early in the month, 10,000 feet of Saint John, in the yard, of fifty feet average, was sold at 16d to 17d per foot, and this week, in like manner, 100 logs of better quality and larger size at 18 1-4d to 19 1-4d per foot. Quebec Pine being all in the hands of the trade, moves off by retail at 16d to 17d; Red Pine 16d to 19d. The demand throughout the month has been fair, though not so animated as had been hoped for.

"New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Fir Planks and Boards.—Of a choice cargo of St. John offered by auction, 500 feet were sold at 2d 5-10ths per foot; and since, the remainder has been cleared off at from 2 3-8d to 2 1-2d per foot; Scantling at 2 3-8d to 2 1-2d per foot of two inches, and boards at 1 1-4 per foot of one inch; with cargo St. John have been sold at about 2d per foot of 2 inches.

"Lathwood, with cargo, has been sold at 50s and by auction, at 2 1/2 15s. per fathom; and Sawn Laths, in like manner, at 14s 6d. per M."

To make room for the British News, we have been compelled to omit a number of advertisements.