

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1844.

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL.—The Southern mail reached the Post Office, on Tuesday morning, at 7 o'clock. We went to press to-day at three o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—We are indebted to New York papers for the following extracts from London papers to the 7th of March, two days later than were obtained by the last steamer. The news from India is important.

The House of Commons was discussing on the 4th the army estimates, with the usual prompt rejection of all endeavors to reduce them. The force proposed was 129,677 regular troops, 10,000 enrolled pensioners, 8811 artillery and engineers, 6,000 marines on shore, and 9,000 Irish police—in all 163,388. The money estimate was for £8,225,000.

Mr Sharman Crawford moved a resolution declaring the maintenance of so large a standing army unconstitutional, and dangerous to the liberties of the people, but only eight voted for it, against 87.

From the Continent there is little or no intelligence of interest. Queen Christina, when last heard from, had reached Perpignan, on her way to Madrid.

A strange story comes from Morocco, that a Spanish Consular agent had been beheaded for wounding a Moor, one of a party which he suspected of a design to attack him; under this impression he fired at and wounded one of them, for which he was arrested, condemned to death, and executed. The story seems to be doubted by the London papers, but there was much excitement about it at Madrid, and serious talk of going to war with Morocco, under the advisement it is said, of the French Government, and with a promise of pecuniary assistance.

France, it may be observed, has a quarrel on her own account with Morocco, for alleged assistance rendered by the latter to Abd-el-Kader in Algiers.

The Gibraltar Chronicle, of March 5, brought by the barque Douglas, Captain Townsend, from Palermo and Gibraltar, contains a brief summary of the news by the Overland Mail, the advices from Bombay being to the 1st February.

The principal intelligence is, that hostilities had broken out in Gwalior between the British and the natives (Mahrattas). Three battles had been fought, which were vigorously contested by the Mahrattas, and in which, though they were defeated, they inflicted severe loss on the British. The list gives 141 as the number of the latter killed, and 866 wounded. The Mahrattas are said to have had between 4 and 5 thousand killed and wounded.

The following English officers were killed or died of their wounds—General Churchill, Col. Saunders, Major Crommelin, Captains Stewart, McGrath, and Cobban, Lieutenants Newton and Leaths, and Ensign Bray. Forty officers were wounded.

The fort of Gwalior surrendered to the British after the defeat of the Mahrattas, and several of the native chiefs made their submission.

The Governor General had declared that the country would not be occupied by the British, and that the requisition of the Anglo-Indian Government would be limited to the establishment of a subsidiary force, to be officered solely by the English, but maintained by the Gwalior Government. The British troops were to retire immediately from the country.

In Punjab, matters were still unsettled, and appear to be watched with the intention of following them up for the purpose of conquest, as in the Gwalior case.

In Scinde, the troops were recovering their health; there was no other change in matters of interest.

BOMBAY, February 1.—Two, we might almost say three battles have been fought within the last month, which in character are no way inferior to any that have taken place on Indian soil. The enemy were the first to commence hostilities, by firing on the baggage party under Colonel Sleeman, on the 28th, and then on a reconnoitering party sent out on the 29th. The right wing of our army under the immediate command of His Excellency Sir Hugh Gough, attacked the Mahrattas in their position of Maharajpool, while our left wing, under Major General Grey, did so at Pannair, and gained a complete victory over them. Our loss, however, on these occasions, has been very severe—the list amounting to 141 killed, and 866 wounded; that on the part of the enemy amounts to between 4000 and 5000 in killed and wounded, with the loss of 56 pieces of artillery.

Very late from China.—The Helen, Capt. Benjamin, arrived last night in ninety day's passage from Canton. This is a remarkably short run.

What news she brings is of a very uninteresting character. It was into January. Since the settlement of her difficulties with the 'outside barbarians,' China seems to have settled down quietly, and with a better knowledge of the rest of the world. This knowledge will, of course, give us great advantages in all future time, in our intercourse with the Celestials, and there is now every prospect that China will, in a few years be thrown open as America is, for foreigners to roam over and abuse.—New York Herald.

Important from Hayti.—The General Marion,

Captain Shepherd, arrived last night from Port au Prince. We are indebted to Captain S. for *Le Progres* and the annexed. It seems that the recent outbreak has a wheel within a wheel—that the French are at the bottom of it—owing probably to their late defeat in their negotiations with the existing Haytien Government. But the following tells the whole story:—

General Riviere, the President, was at Arah, within thirty miles of St. Domingo, with one division of his army, consisting of 15,000 men. Several schooners have gone round with artillery. The insurgent force is estimated at from 5,000 to 10,000. The President's son, Colonel Deo Herard, who commanded one of the regiments stationed at St. Domingo, with all the force that sided with him, were liberated on parole, and the Colonel had Port au Prince via Jacmel. A Colonel Piemontal took possession of a town bordering on the Spanish part in the name of the insurgents. The town was mostly inhabited by mahogany cutters, who were away. On hearing of the march of the President, they assembled at night, and took the colonel prisoner with his papers, and sent him to head quarters. Amongst these papers, was one purporting to be a negotiation between the insurgents and the French government, through the French consul lately stationed at St. Domingo. The French offering to supply money and arms, with the aid of 10,000 men, if necessary, on condition that they were to receive the island Samana [at the east] as a naval depot, and to have the original French part of the island restored to them.—This, of course, has excited a vast deal of indignation.

A difficulty took place between some of the officers of H.B.M. sloop Eurydice and the Haytiens. It appears the officers went on shore to bathe, and after bathing, amused themselves with knocking cocoa nuts down from the trees, &c. sailor like, when a guard appeared and drove them to their boats at the point of the bayonet.—The next morning this was repeated. They then went on board and arming their boat, went ashore and captured the whole guard, and took them into town, and there delivered them up to the authorities. The matter was not settled when the General Marion left.

Further accounts were received at Boston on Saturday last per brig Rocket, which sailed from Cape Haytien on the 17th March. The cause of the revolt is stated to be a breach of promise on the part of the President, in not instituting a civil, instead of the present military form of government. The insurgents had collected a large army, some say twenty or thirty thousand men, with a Priest at their head, and had shot the son of the President. The President, with an army of equal number, had marched toward their city [St. Domingo.] The Government is destitute of funds, and their troops are poorly equipped.

From Matanzas.—We learn from Captain Clark, of the schooner *Puuxet*, which arrived last evening from Matanzas, 23d March, that the disaffection among the slaves is more general than was at first supposed. It is said that there are about 3000 slaves in irons in the different forts near Matanzas. Numbers are daily tried, and, if convicted, are immediately shot. A regiment of troops had just arrived from Havana, for the purpose of scouring the country.—New York Journal of Commerce.

From Portugal.—It appears, from the following paragraph from the New York Journal of Commerce, that there is trouble again in Portugal:—

"We learn from Captain Stevens, of the schr. *Lyra*, which left Oporto on the 5th of March, that that place was under martial law, and the mail had been stopped for two weeks. Some fighting had occurred in the country. It was reported that on the 7th of March an action took place between the insurgents and a body of the government troops, in which one of the Queen's Generals was killed.—An outbreak was daily expected at Oporto. It was reported also that the Ex-King, Don Miguel, was in Portugal. This, we presume, was incorrect."

FARE OF THE UNICORN.—We perceive by a communication in the Charlottetown Islander, that the former fare for a Cabin Passage in the above named vessel from Quebec to Pictou, is to be reduced from £5 to £3, Halifax currency.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The Legislature of this Colony was prorogued on the 30th March. We do not perceive anything of interest in the papers.

EFFECTS OF OUR REVENUE BILL.—The St. John Chronicle relates the following incident, illustrative of the pernicious effects which the Revenue Bill will have on our trade with Nova Scotia:—

"The injurious effects of this Bill on one principal part of our trade with Nova Scotia, was forcibly illustrated one day this week, when a Nova Scotian had arrived in the harbour with several head of cattle, among which was a calf: on being informed that 10s. duty would be exacted for it, he tied a weight to its neck and threw it overboard. If there be any consideration among the 'collective wisdom' for the injury inflicted on our trade with Nova Scotia, we trust they will, before the House rises, even yet remedy the evil, and free this important intercourse of all restrictions."

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—By Kelly's mail we obtained our files of Journals of both branches of the Legislature to the 4th of the month.

On the 3rd instant, the committee to whom were referred the various documents relative to the recent Riot in this county, consisting of Messrs. Brown, Hanington, Jordan, and Scoullar, handed in the following Report:—

"The Committee appointed on the sixteenth ultimo, to take into consideration and report upon the several matters referred to them relating to the preservation of the Public Peace in the County of Northumberland, Report—

"That from the numerous and voluminous documents which have been submitted to them it appears that there were, great tumults, disturbances, intimidations, riots, and breaches of the Peace in the said County, connected with the two last Elections for Members to serve in General Assembly; and that in several instances these proceedings were carried to such an alarming extent as to set all law and order at defiance, rendering the presence of a military force necessary.

"That these riotous proceedings appear to have grown out of local jealousies for sometime previously existing between the inhabitants on the opposite sides of the River Miramichi, and that this spirit of strife was imbibed by several of the Magistrates and others, whose duty it was to suppress such proceedings and to promote sentiments of harmony and good will among all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

"It is the opinion of this Committee, that had the Magistrates and principal inhabitants done their duty, the alarming state of insubordination and anarchy which required the presence of a military force in the County, never would have arisen.

"With this view of the case, they respectfully recommend, that however the expenses connected with these unfortunate affairs, amounting to £697 4 4, may be borne in the first instance, the sum ought to be refunded by the County of Northumberland, by assessment or otherwise."

The comments of the Committee on the origin and perpetration of these riots, are perfectly just, and such is the unhappy state of our affairs, that we feel persuaded, that if the Legislature does not interfere with some wholesome measure—such as increasing the number of our Representatives, to which we are justly entitled, or by dividing the county into two counties, or into sections, with certain defined regulations, that the same disgraceful scenes will be enacted every General Election.

If such is to be the case—and there is every reason to apprehend the worst—we had better be without the Elective Franchise, for the sending of two members to represent us in the Assembly, is but a poor equivalent for the prostration of all law, the heart-burnings and bitter hostile feelings, which a contest engenders. We trust the members of the Legislature will be made sensible of our unfortunate situation, and that another session will not be allowed to pass over without their bestowing on the question proper consideration. We were in hopes the committee would have recommended some such measure to their consideration.

The Report was adopted, but private letters of a later date than the Journals, state, that the House made provision for the expenses incurred, therefore the county will not be saddled with them, as recommended by the report.

On Tuesday week, a Bill granting a Bounty to Fishermen, passed the Assembly. By it the bounties in any one year are not to exceed the sum of £3,000, and are to be distributed as follows:—

For vessels from 10 to 15 tons, 10s per ton.
For vessels from 50 to 100 tons, 12s 6d per ton.
Codfish 1s. per quintal
Scale Fish 6d. per do.
No. 1 Mackerel 1s 6d. per bbl.
No. 2, do. 1s. do. do.
Herrings 1s. do. do.
Shad 2s. do. do.

The Sentinel of the 5th instant says—"From what we can collect, the Bankrupt Law will not be repealed; but the required amount of debts of a bankrupt we believe will be increased, and some other wholesome amendments will be proposed by the Legislative Council."

We understand that the Council have agreed to the grants passed by the Assembly to the Prince Edward Island Steam Navigation Company, for the services of the St. George.

FREDERICTON SENTINEL.—How is it that this Journal has not been received for the last two weeks? Subscribers, when they do get it, complain that it is a week older than it ought to be.

THE SEASON.—Our weather for the last ten days has been very fine. Sunday last was a most extraordinary day—there was a strong breeze from the southward, and the sun was most oppressively hot, more like the end of June, than the middle of April. The ice in the

river has sensibly felt the effects of the warm winds and rays of the sun. During Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, horses and sleighs broke through in all directions, and in one instance, up the South West, a span of horses, together with a loaded sled, were not recovered. Since the last named day, we believe there has been no travelling on the river, large spaces of open water being visible in all directions. The roads are bare of snow, and quite dry.

We are informed that the ice in the South West branch is entirely broken, as well as in the main channel, as far up as Burnt Church. By the end of the week we expect once more to see a clear river.

REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.—Last week we gave our readers the remarks of the St. John Courier on this subject, and we furnish them to day with the opinion of the Editor of the Chronicle. Also with the Petition to His Excellency from the inhabitants of St. John.

"We cordially participate in the desire so generally and strongly expressed, in favour of the consummation of this measure.—Our principles lead us to deprecate change, merely for its own sake, and we always incline to entertain with deliberate caution, any proposition which embraces extensive alteration in existing establishments. The glaring necessity of this change, however, has forced itself upon our conviction. The novelty, the chance of individual gain, the enhancement in value of local property, private and public, and the various other small considerations, which some of our contemporaries have been pleased to display as inducements to the scheme, are not the circumstances which have gained us to its support. We regard these as trivial indeed, in comparison with the one grand object, to accomplish which, we think the whole energies of the Press and the people should be directed—We mean sound Legislation for the trade and commerce of this Port. This end involves all the important interests of the whole Province, and the experience of only the present Session, must have convinced the most casual observer, of the utter hopelessness of attaining it, while the business of the Assembly is conducted at Fredericton.—It is well known, but for the praise-worthy exertions of several Deputations of Merchants sent from this City during the present Session, the most pernicious measures would have been completed—the Revenue Bill absurd as it is in many particulars, would have been rendered more so—the Currency measure would have been entirely frustrated, and the most abominable blunders perpetrated before the world; and all owing to the deplorable ignorance of correct commercial principles which pervades the members. Three fourths of these gentlemen are from the rural districts of the Province where no means of information on these subjects exists; and it is only by mingling with the commercial society of this city, that they will become instructed.

"The only objection we have heard urged against the measure, which deserves notice, or possesses even plausibility, is, the injury to be brought upon the town of Fredericton. This, even if certain, ought not to countervail the manifold advantages to accrue to the whole province; but we deny the probability of such a result. We will willingly leave to her the Military Head Quarters, and every other Department, which necessarily is not connected with legislation; and for the loss of this, if a loss it be, she will be more than compensated by the Free Warehousing and other trading advantages which the government are about to extend to her. We shall return to this subject at a future period, and we trust that the intelligent portion of the Press, will continue to keep it prominently before the public, until it shall force itself upon the attention of the Government.

"The following petition on this important matter has been numerously signed in this city during the week, and forwarded to Fredericton for the consideration of the Legislature:—

"To His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, C. B., Lieutenant Governor in and over the Province of New Brunswick:

"To the Honorable the Legislative Council:—

"And the Honorable the House of Assembly:—

"The Petition of the undersigned Magistrates, Merchants, and others, inhabitants of the city of Saint John,

Humbly Sheweth—

"That your Petitioners are deeply impressed with the belief, that the general interests of the Province would be advanced by a removal of the seat of Government from Fredericton to the city of Saint John.

"That not only is the locality of Saint John more convenient for the majority of the members of the Legislature to resort to, but the great proportion of the business of the country being transacted there, the members of the Assembly would rather repair to such mercantile mart, than to Fredericton—where, but for Executive and Legislative proceedings, few think of going.

"The period has long since passed, if it ever existed, when it was necessary to have the seat of Government in an inland part of the Province; while on the contrary, the extent of population, of trade, of legal proceeding, and the presence of the monied Institutions of the country, all point to Saint John as the spot where the Executive should reside, and where a superintendance of the varied interests of the country should be exercised.

"Your Petitioners believe that a vast ma-