

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th January, received by the Britannia Steamer.

Great distress prevails in London, and various remedies have been proposed to relieve it, the distress is not perhaps greater than is usual at this season of the year, nor is it confined to London—every great town in the three kingdoms swarms with it. But in London—the seat of government, the focus of the aristocracy, the abode of wealth, and the residence of the law makers—the contrast which daily meets the eye between absolute destitution and superabundant luxury is more striking, and as regards the thousands of houseless wanderers, more appalling than elsewhere. Perhaps no great capital in the world contains half the amount of personal misery, and its concomitant crime, as England's luxurious metropolis.

The Lord Mayor has hit upon a novel method of relieving the thousands and tens of thousands of destitute poor, namely, by calling into active service a whole army of scavengers! He calculates that out of the 250,000 houses which London contains, voluntary subscriptions to the amount of half a crown from each house, may be raised for sweeping the streets. This would produce upwards of 31,000l; and out of this sum he proposes to employ 5000 men for thirteen weeks at nine shillings per week.

Shutting the Gates of Derry.—On Monday the usual demonstrations of rejoicing on the anniversary of shutting the gates of the 'maiden city,' passed off with much spirit; the bells of the cathedral ringing, the ancient cannon from the old wall firing and many of the inhabitants cheering. There was no procession, nor any disposition to opposition—Derry Journal.

The Newry Telegraph reports of the linen trade in the North of Ireland, "that every operative to be met with had his hands full of work—and that wages had increased full thirty per cent."

The Port of Hull.—Business has scarcely ever been remembered so brisk as at the present time. During the past week there left this port 108 vessels. Of these 44 were in ballast, 17 were steam packets with goods and passengers, and the remainder laden with wood, linseed oil, and seed cake, &c. During the same period 104 vessels entered this port, including five in ballast, and 16 steam packets.

The indisposition of Earl Grey has increased so much during the last few days, as to excite the most serious apprehensions of the family, nearly all the members of which are assembled at Howick. The venerable Earl is confined to his room, and is said to be gradually sinking from exhaustion arising from decay of nature.—Newcastle Journal.

One hundred and twenty shipwrights are busily employed upon the Janus steam vessel, at Chatham, which is now rapidly approaching completion.

The building of the Wall steam vessel is now progressing rapidly, two additional gangs having been just put upon her. Orders have been given to complete this vessel as soon as possible.

Mr. Blake's new frigate is to be called the Leander. She is to mount 52 guns, and is to be of 2000 tons burthen.

The ex-King of Holland died recently at Berlin, aged 72 years. The Paris papers state that the fortune possessed by the ex-King amounts to 155,000,000 florins (12,000,000l). The greatest part of this immense fortune is vested in the funds of the Belgian General Society.

Education.—The present magnificent efforts to supply the educational wants of the people, of all classes of the community, The Wesleyans led the way, and the Independents have followed, with splendid subscriptions for the diffusion of education among the people, to be imitated, we hope by every other denomination of Christians. Nor would we grudge our meed of praise to the Church party, which has also subscribed most liberally of late for the purposes of Education. The Congregational body of Dissenters have made a splendid beginning, having raised upwards of Seventeen Thousand Pounds at the Congregational Conference in London, on Wednesday week, and propose to increase that sum to at least One Hundred Thousand Pounds. The spirit displayed at the meetings of this body was of the most enlarged and liberal kind, and will doubtless serve to give a great impetus to the philanthropic efforts of the present day, to diffuse more widely the blessings of Education among the people.

The weather, says a Newcastle journal, was so remarkably fine at Alwick on Christmas Day that a number of boys were seen bathing in the river Ais, near that town. Several persons were engaged in angling, numerous jacks were on the wing, the song of some of the warblers was heard, and the whole had more the appearance of spring than winter.

Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B. has been gazetted Governor and Commander in Chief at the Cape of Good Hope. Sir Peregrine was formerly Governor of Nova Scotia. The Hon. Colonel Bago, of the Grenadier Guards, proceeds to the Cape as Military Secretary, and Viscount Manderville and Lieutenant Maitland, also of the Guards, as Aide-de-camp to the new Governor.

The Colonial Bank.—A meeting of the proprietors of the Colonial Bank was held on Tuesday, and at which the Directors had to make an unfavourable report. The embarrassing state of affairs in the West Indies having re-

dered the managers of the Bank extremely cautious in the business they have done; the profits have declined again, the amount for the half year ending the 30th of June last being £10,412. The circulation of the Bank is given at £182,578, and the deposits and other liabilities are £820,617. The specie is returned at £272,054. The robbery of £11,000 committed on the Barbadoes branch is set down as a dead loss. The Directors estimate the loss upon cash credits and overdrawn current accounts at 15 per cent. or £30,000, on bills at about £11,5000, making the total loss, less the reserve fund, 116,000l. In consequence of this untoward state of things no dividend was declared. One proprietor moved for the dissolution of the Company but the idea was not supported.

On the Dublin and Kingstown line, passengers are carried in one of the trains at the rate of half a farthing per mile. Before they reduced their fares, shares were at ten per cent. discount, but now they bear seven per cent. premium, and the passengers have increased 200,000.

A line of rail-road through Wales, to cross the Severn, uniting with the extension at Worcester, and joining the Taff Vale and Birmingham and Gloucester, is said to be again in contemplation, at a cost of 1,500,000l.

The Criminal Law.—There is a rumour among the profession that the Government contemplates a modification of the criminal law, and also that one of the earliest announcements of the next session of Parliament will be a bill for the abolition of appeals in settlement cases. The conflict and the immense accumulation of litigation have been, it is stated, the occasion for this intended alteration.

A British surveying party at Cloudy Bay, New Zealand, which was accompanied by a military detachment, was attacked by the natives, in June last, and about 20 persons were killed, including two captains.

Earthquake in Guernsey.—Extract of a letter dated Christmas day.—"Last Friday, at about ten minutes to four o'clock in the afternoon, there were two violent shocks of an earthquake so terrible that people were shaken in their chairs, hearing at the same time a loud rumbling noise in the earth. The general opinion here is that there has been some dreadful earthquake in France, and that the shock we had was the effect of it."

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET, January 4.—Pine.—The imports last month consisted of 20 vessels, and 10,492 tons.—The demand has been very good both from dealers and consumers, and advanced rates on previous prices have been obtained on all sales made. The accounts from Quebec show an unusually reduced stock held over this winter, which leads to the expectation of higher prices in spring. Of Quebec Yellow Pine, three cargoes yarded have been sold at 14 1/2 per foot, and from the quay, one at 15d, one at 15 1/2d, and two at 16d per foot. Of St. John, one cargo of 17 inch average was sold at 17d, one of 19 inches at 19d per foot, one of 18 inches at 19d, one of 19 1/4 inches at 19 1/4d, and one of 22 inches at 20 1/2d.—one of a larger average say 22 1/2 inches, is being yarded 21 1/2d being demanded but not obtained. A cargo of Richbucto Timber has been sold at 14 1/2d per foot. Birch with cargo, St. John has been sold at 14d to 14 1/2d, and by auction at 15 1/2d to 16 1/2d; and in like manner, Halifax at 11 1/2d to 13 1/2d per foot. Of Spars 530 Halifax Spruce, of good quality were sold at from 16d to 19d per foot, and 2560 Rickers at from 13 1/2d to 15d each. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Fir planks and Boards; St. John Spruce, with cargo have been sold at 1 1/2d to 2d per foot. A cargo of Saint Andrew's Spruce at £9 per standard, and two cargoes of Miramichi Pine and Spruce at £9 per standard. By auction a parcel of St. John's Spruce was sold at 2 1/8d per foot of 2 inches, and in same manner a lot of Halifax Deals and Battens at 1 7/8 for Pine and 2 1/8 to 2d 3/16 for Spruce; and a cargo of same description at 2 7/8 for Battens and 2d 3/16ths for deals.

Miramichi Head, brought over from page 131.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK. At the annual meeting of the Highland Society of New Brunswick, held at Hamilton's Hotel, Newcastle, 13th January, 1844: Doctor ALEXANDER KEY, President, in the chair.

The Secretary read a highly interesting report from the Highland Society of London.

Moved by Alexander Rankin, Esquire, and seconded by William Loch, Esquire,

Resolved—That the warmest and most respectful acknowledgments of this society be tendered to "The Highland Society of London," for the distinguished honor conferred upon this society in being admitted a Branch of that highly influential and honorable body; and for the most interesting and voluminous Report received by this society of the transactions of the Highland Society of London.

That the society have pleasure in conveying to the Highland Society of London, His Excellency's acknowledgments for the commission issued for organizing a branch society in Miramichi.

Several communications being read by the Secretary,

Moved by Alexander Fraser, Junior, Esquire, and seconded by Thomas C. Allan, Esquire,

Resolved—That the Secretary do communicate with His Excellency Sir W. Colebrooke, and convey to His Excellency the dutiful acknowledgments of this society for the interest manifested by His Excellency in the organization and objects of this society; also that His Excellency's acknowledgments have been respectfully conveyed to the Highland Society of London.

Moved by Mr Niel McLean, and seconded by Mr D. Johnston,

Resolved unanimously—That a committee of six be appointed, to procure from London, at as early a period as practicable, a Seal and Plate, with the proper Arms and Devices of the Society engraved, and that a sufficient number of Tickets of admission be caused to be struck off for the use of the society. That such committee consist of the President, Vice Presidents, and Secretary.

It was Resolved unanimously—That the following gentlemen be nominated to the respective offices, viz:

President—Dr. Alexander Key. Vice Presidents—Rev. Angus M'Marster, Alexander Fraser, Junior, Esquire, Alexander Rankin, Esquire, Colonel R. C. McDonald, T. C. Allan, Esquire.

Treasurer—T. C. Allan, Esquire. Directors—Roderick M'Leod, Esq.; Richard Hutchison, Esq.; A. M'Laggan, Esq.; George Kerr, Esq.; Wm. Loch, Esq.; Mr John Renny; Mr John McDougall; Alex. Davidson, Esq.; Mr Archibald Haddow; James Caie, Esq.; Mr David Johnstone; Donald McKay, Esq.; A. Goodfellow, Esq.; John Nesmith, Esq.; Wm. Napier, Esq.; Bathurst; Allan A. Davidson, Esq.; John M'Donald, Esq.; Bay du Vin.

Chaplain—The Rev. John C. Macbean, A. M. Secretary—Mr Niel M'Leen.

That societies of a patriotic and philanthropic nature are highly useful and meritorious, will not be denied. Their value, upon numberless occasions, has been fully tested both in Britain and in America. In Britain we find that Royalty and the nobles of the land, "delight to do them honor;" to promote their objects and mingle in their festivities, and which are instrumental in effecting much good. In America, where the field is ample, the duty of organizing and fostering such societies would appear as imperative as their operation must prove delightful to all whose hearts throb toward the land of their birth and of their fathers, its usages and institutions, and who may feel for the weal of many of their expatriated countrymen.

A society whose objects embrace the cause of education; the improvement of our countrymen, and contemplates extending relief to those of them who may require aid from the benevolent, must rest secure of the best wishes of the community, and merits the most active and extensive patronage. Although this society, as yet in its origin, cannot look back upon the past, and with satisfaction, enumerate good acts already achieved; yet, the anxious hope is entertained, that it may be found as it increases in numbers and in means, to tread in the footsteps of its illustrious Parent, and of other kindred Institutions, and make the cause of the indigent and suffering its peculiar care, as well as to foster attachment to Queen and country; and that it may prove a bond of union among Scotchmen and their descendants. The society hope for the co-operation and countenance of countrymen far and near. As already referred to, the principal objects of this society are Education—the improvement of our countrymen—particularly the rising generation—and perpetuating Highland manners, language and feelings, and to recommend sobriety and industry.

The society hope that the following may be found interesting to distant members and other friends:—

Fredericton, 13th April, 1843. May it please Your Excellency,

The Highland Society of London, by a commission which I have the honor to lay before you, have appointed your Excellency, in conjunction with Mr Gilmour and myself, to organize and establish a branch of that society in Miramichi in this Province.

As the objects contemplated to be attained by the society are fully pointed out in the commission, it is unnecessary to recapitulate them in this place.

I have therefore only to pray your Excellency's favorable attention to the subject, in the hope that a measure so beneficial to many of the inhabitants of this province, may receive from your Excellency that encouragement and support which you have hitherto granted to all institutions of a benevolent character.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's most obedient, Humble servant,

A. RANKIN. His Excellency Lieutenant-colonel Sir William M. G. Colebrooke, Lieutenant Governor. Fredericton, N. B., April 19th, 1843.

Sir, I am directed to acknowledge and thank you for your communication of the 13th instant, addressed to the Lieutenant Governor, and to request that you will convey to the Highland Society of London, his Excellency's acknowledgments for the commission which you have laid before him.

The Lieutenant Governor will be happy to afford any assistance in his power in organizing a branch of the society in Miramichi, and in promoting its patriotic and benevolent objects.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, (Signed) A. READE. A Rankin, Esquire. London, 20th September, 1843.

Sir, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith extracts from the records of the Highland Society of London, during the last two seasons, which I hope will give you every satisfaction in regard to our proceedings.

It will afford the society much pleasure to hear of the continued prosperity of the Highland Society of New Brunswick.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, (Signed) GEORGE BAIN, Honorary Secretary. To the secretary of the Highland Society of New Brunswick.

EXTRACTS.

Committee, 5th February, 1842. The committee having taken into consideration the great usefulness of the Gaelic Monthly Magazine, published under the management of the Reverend Doctor M'Leod, of Glasgow, one of the honorary members of the Highland Society of London—

It was resolved—that it be recommended to the next general committee to subscribe for an additional hundred copies per month of the said Periodical for one year.

A very satisfactory Report of the state and progress of the "Caledonian Asylum," is given, affording convincing proof of the eminent usefulness of that Institution, conferring on its inmates not only the blessing of a comfortable maintenance, but also an education at once religious and useful, which to the parent society must be highly gratifying.

The annual Examination, being conducted as usual by the Presbytery of London, were favored on the occasion with the presence of The Chisholm, and William Noble, Esquire, on the part of the Directors of the Highland Society of London.

"The school Books used in the institution are the same which have been so long used with so much advantage in the Parish Schools of Scotland, and the system pursued in the use of them is a thoroughly intellectual one.

"The medals presented by the Highland Society for the encouragement of meritorious boys were awarded to Robert Macdonald, Hugh E. Macdonald, and Thomas Edwards."

The Report concludes thus—"The Directors embrace this opportunity of renewing the expression of their best acknowledgments to the Highland Society for the paternal interest which they continue to take in the Caledonian Asylum, and for their liberal annual contribution towards its support."

(Signed) JOHN LEES, Secretary. Regarding an application at the Colonial Office, "for the promotion of Education in the Colonies, and soliciting assistance from the Government for the purpose of affording the means of education in Nova Scotia."

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected honorary members of the society—Sir Allan Napier MacNab; Colonel FitzGibbon; Lady Mary McNab was elected, by acclamation, an honorary member of the society.

Colonel Carmichael, in a communication dated Coteau du Lac, Canada, 21st December, 1842, acknowledged the receipt of a vote of thanks, accompanied by the silver medal, for his Highland spirit displayed on various occasions in Canada, and mentioned the erection of the first Cairn, which was raised to the honor of Lord Seaton and other gentlemen who distinguished themselves in putting down Rebellion in 1837 and 1838. The Cairn is 52 feet square at the base, and 52 feet high, surmounted by an inverted cannon, and which is calculated to brave the elements for a thousand years.

A Publication called the "Clans," the printing by R. R. McLarnie, Esquire, the Letter Press by James Logan, Esquire, was submitted to the committee.

It was Resolved—that leave be granted for the publication of the same under the patronage of the society.

Special Committee, 13th May, 1843. It was Resolved—that Sir George Murray, Henry Langland, Esquire, and George Bain, Esquire, be appointed a deputation to wait upon the President, and confer with His Royal Highness Prince Albert on the subject of His Royal Highness Prince Albert's becoming Chief of the Highland Society of London, vacant by the death of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Sussex.

St. John—Simpson, the sailor who stabbed one Graham, in that city on New Year's Eve, in a drunken brawl, has been found guilty of manslaughter.

A cargo of Flour, manufactured at the "City Mills," from American Wheat, was recently exported from that establishment for Liverpool.

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