

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1844.

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

THE WEATHER.—There has been a very sensible change in the weather during the last ten days, which has been very pleasant. Influenza exists to a very great extent; hardly a family residing here but one or more of its members is suffering from this disease.

The Halifax Gazette thus speaks of the weather experienced there:—

"The present winter, hitherto, has been very severe. The "oldest inhabitant" speaks of it as unprecedented in his memory; and persons acquainted with more northerly climes, intimate that the late January of Nova Scotia would not suffer, as regards intensity of rigour, by a comparison with Newfoundland. The snow lies in heaps;—where drift accumulated it reached the height of from six to eight feet in some places. A rapid thaw would make floods down the hills respectable enough for a Swiss canton,—and very threatening to many lower compartments of dwellings. Travelling must have been extremely difficult;—even along the streets, sleighs, in many places, pitch up and down, like vessels labouring in a rough cross sea.

"The piercing wind made our late weather appear to be of an extremely low temperature, but we must not pretend to equality with our sister Provinces, in this respect. The degrees marked by the thermometer here, on coldest mornings, were 4 below zero; during some nights it may have gone to 8 and 10, as is said;—but in St. John, N. B. the figure quoted is 15,—in Fredericton, 25,—and in Miramichi and Quebec 30, below zero.

"If the house well fitted with stoves and carpets, was chilly, and shook in the wintry blast, what must the poor have experienced in their bare, dilapidated dwellings?"

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Legislature of our sister Province met for the Despatch of Business on Thursday last. The Hon. Mr Young was appointed Speaker. We copy from the Gazette, the proceedings in the Assembly, on this appointment.

The following is the Speech of Lord Falkland on opening the Session:—

Mr President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

Glad as I have always been to avail myself of your assistance in conducting the business of the country, I am especially so at the present juncture, when there are matters of grave importance to bring under your consideration.

You will rejoice with me to learn that, during the recess, the domestic happiness of our beloved Sovereign has been augmented by the birth of a Princess.

A bountiful Providence has vouchsafed an abundant Harvest to the Agriculturist, and an ample reward to the toils of our hardy Fishermen.

The depression of the times has operated somewhat injuriously on the Revenue, and we must be prepared to meet difficulties, which I trust will prove to be but temporary in their nature, by a strict and judicious economy.

The severity of the winter has demonstrated the prudence of the Legislature in making last year a provision for casualities, and I hope you will find that the fund placed at the disposal of the Executive for the purpose of keeping the Main Post Roads in repair, has been wisely expended.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The Accounts and Estimates will be laid before you. I feel confident of your readiness to provide for all that is absolutely necessary for the public service, having due regard to that fragility which the exigencies of the times imperatively demand.

I have the permission of Her Majesty to submit to you a proposition for the surrender of the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown, in exchange for a permanent Civil List; and I trust that you will, on mature deliberation, deem that the terms on which I recommend that this exchange should be effected, are adapted to the present financial position of the country.

Mr President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

For nearly four years my best energies have been devoted to the advancement of the interests and happiness of this Province, and being satisfied that a Government composed of individuals of one political party only would be ill suited to its actual condition, I have ever distinctly avowed my reluctance to form such a Council, and my earnest desire and intention to administer the affairs of the Colony with the advice of a Board at which all interests should be represented. This desire and intention I still retain. By the aid of a Council thus constituted the just claims of all classes may be urged on the attention of the Representative of the Sovereign: Whereas a Party Government would expose the Lieutenant Governor, who

must unavoidably be often ignorant of local relations, to the great danger of being made an instrument of oppression to some portions of the community for the aggrandizement of others, however much his own inclination might lead him, as his interest always must, to promote the general welfare without preference or distinction.

Well assured of the love that the people of Nova Scotia bear to the person of our Gracious Queen, and of their attachment to the connexion which binds them to the Mother Country, I am convinced that, so long as I adhere to the principles from which I have never departed, of firmly resisting any invasion of the Royal Prerogative, while I use the powers which that Prerogative confers, justly and impartially for the benefit of all Her Majesty's subjects, I shall deserve and secure their approbation and affection, and that both will be made manifest by the cordial and efficient support I shall receive from you as the Representatives of their opinions.

On the return of the House to the Chamber for the purpose choosing a Speaker, the Clerk of the House signified His Excellency's command on the subject. James McNab, Esq. proposed Mr. Young, and made some complimentary remarks on that Gentleman's conduct in the chair during last session. The nomination was seconded by B. Smith, Esq.

L. M. Wilkins Esq. enquired, whether it was designed to make the choice a party question.

Mr. McNab answered in the negative.

Mr. Smith gave a similar reply, and said that he thought all questions should rest on their own merits.

No other nomination was made, the Clerk put the question, and Mr. Young was elected by unanimous vote.

Hon. Mr. Dodd moved that Rev. Dr. Twining, Rev. J. Scott, Rev. W. Coscombe, and some clergyman of the R. Catholic church officiate as Chaplains.

The motion was in accordance with a resolution of 1841.

Mr. Dickey moved that the Rev. Dr. Twining only be chosen. He explained, respecting absence of feeling on the subject, but thought that the former practice was preferable.

The amendment was put and carried, 25 to 23.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.—The Halifax Gazette states, in an "official communication," that Sir Charles Metcalfe had received Despatches from the Colonial Secretary, expressing the unbounded approbation of the British Cabinet of his recent conduct in the late political movement in Canada, and stating that the Home Government would sustain him in carrying out his views.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITANNIA AT HALIFAX.—

The papers state, that this vessel arrived at Halifax from Boston, at 2 o'clock, on Tuesday afternoon, 6th inst., and sailed for Britain, on Wednesday, with a large number of passengers. Her regular time of sailing, was on the Saturday previous, but it appears she was detained at Boston, that harbour being frozen over. It took five hundred men to cut a channel for the steamer, to enable her to proceed to sea. The distance out was ten miles, and the ice was from six to twelve inches thick. It cost £625. The weather during the first day's work was intensely cold, and a number of persons engaged were severely frost bitten.

STATE OF IRELAND.—We have been kindly favored with the following most admirable extract of a private letter from a gentleman in Ireland, to a friend in this Province, received by the last steamer:—

"Well knowing that you are even more accurately informed than myself of passing events, so far as all public sources of information can supply you with intelligence, I shall, in the difficult task which I now undertake, endeavour to confine myself to observations which seem to have been overlooked or suppressed by the party press on both sides. That Ireland has not derived from the extension of popular privileges, national or municipal, more substantial practical advantages than the advocates of those measures anticipated, is, I believe, universally admitted. The interval has in truth been properly designated one of transition. The struggle has been even more desperate than was that for the establishment of those measures. The recently enfranchised sought naturally for the fruits: * * but Ireland was sadly neglected—Parliament being more occupied in the discussion of abstract and theoretical measures, which constituted the battle ground of party, than in calmly considering the means of improving the country by practical and substantial measures, upon which none ought to differ. It is not easy to determine on which side the fault was. * *

In the conflict of parties, Ireland was still, in many essential points, slowly progressing in improvement—in the pure administration of the laws; local justice at length relied on, superseding the faction fights; education advanced rapidly; steam navigation increased, and with it the advantages of increased intercourse with England; her railroads served us; the nature of our commerce was quite revolutionized, but it became more healthy; a poor law was established, founded on principles the most rational, and certainly involving the most constitutional elements; even the masses were

improved, for an All-wise Providence raised in men's mind the blessed thought of practising and promoting Temperance:—nothing was wanted but an honest and cordial desire to unite in carrying out the laws fairly and impartially, and so far as Ireland was concerned, I would not have cared to see St. Stephen's shut up for the next seven years; but alas, Providence willed it otherwise, and the same head and the same hands which were so invaluable to Ireland in the attainment of her rights, conceived and promoted the unhappy project of Repeal—than which nothing could have been more calculated to convert friends into enemies, and increase the violence of party spirit.

One of the most natural questions that may be asked, in reference to the present state of things, is—are the measures which have been adopted, the best that under all circumstances could be resolved on? To this question, I should hesitate long in giving an answer. I am firmly persuaded, that there is no organization—that there are no leaders—that there is no spirit of rebellion, or most remote notion of any outbreak. I repeat most distinctly and unequivocally—*there is no danger!* The military and the ships of war are received in the country with more of satisfaction than of displeasure; and so long as they use the produce of the country, and pay for it, they will continue to be most welcome visitors. I firmly believe that some of those signal fires, which have lately been made on the tops of our hills, to the great terror of the Protestant inhabitants, were no more than demonstrations designed to induce more military and naval importations. As to *Anti-English* feeling, I do not believe that it exists to any degree in the country, and I am fully convinced that generally, a kind and benevolent spirit evinced by Englishmen and Scotchmen, would be responded to with as grateful feelings, and with as little regard for creed or party, as in England or Scotland. Still it is impossible to deny, that there is a disjointed state of society—vague and wild expectations on the one side—terror and distrust on the other. The apprehensions of the timid would alone have been sufficient to warrant the precautionary measures of the government; but unhappily, while they have allayed the fears of some, they have excited in the minds of others, a full conviction that being the result of superior information possessed by the government, they indicated the certainty of a coming storm. A universal admission is now made on all sides, that the evils which have existed so long in the state of society here, must be looked to *boldly*—and there is a very anxious desire to apply healing remedies."

P. E. ISLAND.—The Charlottetown papers received by the mail, state that the storms of Monday and Wednesday, the 28th and 30th ult. were very severe in that quarter. The first storm is described as "raging terrifically, rendering it almost an act of madness to venture out of doors." The second is stated to be "almost as violent as that of Monday, causing a still further accumulation of snow drifts, and completely blocked up the roads leading to the metropolis."

During the first storm, a dwelling house at Crapaud, occupied by Mr James Bulpit, was destroyed by fire, and on Thursday morning, at 4 o'clock, while the storm still raged, the alarm of fire was given in Charlottetown. The dwelling house at the north east of Queen's square, occupied by Mr Webber, was discovered to be on fire, which was totally consumed. It was, with much difficulty, prevented from spreading. The adjacent buildings, including the Methodist Chapel and Mission premises, were in imminent danger.

The honble Charles Hensley, we perceive, has resigned his seat in the Legislative Council.

WOLVES.—We are indebted to a correspondent for the following piece of local intelligence. It is dated at Blackville, on the 8th instant.

"The wolves have made their appearance in this neighbourhood to an alarming extent, and have within a few days since attacked a man with a team of horses on Cains River, who narrowly escaped with his life; the facts are as follows:—a man of the name of Kennedy, had driven his horses with a load of lumber from the woods to the landing, where he deposited his load, and while returning the same road towards the camp, when about midway between the landing, and the place from where he hauled the timber, in the dusk of the evening, a drove of wolves, the number he could not ascertain, made from the forest towards the bob-sled on the bank of which he was sitting driving his team of horses leisurely along, they approached within a short distance of him stealthily and without his being aware of their proximity, when they commenced a terrific and dreadful howling, and made directly towards the sled. Kennedy, aware of his danger and fearful for his safety, urged his horses to their utmost speed, all the time lashing the horses with his whip forward, and cutting backward at the wolves, who were desperate in their endeavours to seize him; in one of his backward blows fortunately for him his hat fell off, which attracted the attention of those ferocious monsters of the forest, who set to work in rending and tearing the hat, and in this momentary respite the horses still flying from their pursuers, and terrified by their howling, at length reached the camp in safety. Kennedy stated that his preservation is solely attributable to his hat falling off, as from their proximity to him, he could distinctly hear them gnashing their teeth

in close pursuit. His curiosity next morning was directed to the spot and the hat was found to be completely destroyed, not a piece could he find larger than a sixpence."

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—We have made such extracts from the Journals, and Legislative Reports, as our space would admit of. Nothing of importance has yet transpired. We perceive that an address to Sir Charles Metcalfe was to be considered on the 15th ult.

UNITED STATES.—Boston, Portland, Portsmouth, and all the harbours to the eastward, have been frozen over. At New York, the navigation had been much impeded by ice.

FIRE.—On the morning of Sunday, the 28th ult., an hour before day, and the thermometer 20 degrees below zero, the House, furniture, clothing, provisions, &c. of Mr William Wood, of the Little South West, was totally consumed by fire. The inmates, consisting of Mr W., his wife, and several small children, barely escaping with their night clothes on; and in that state had to travel some distance to the nearest neighbor's house. Had not the crackling of the fire woken Mr Woodward, the whole family would have been consumed, and none left to tell the sad tale.

About mid-day on Saturday, an alarm of fire was given in Chatham—the fire bell was rung, and the Engine turned out. A large building, on the hill above Messrs. Cunards ship yard, owned by Mr McLean, was discovered to be on fire. It was got under before the Engine arrived. The building received considerable damage.

POST OFFICE.—Soon after the arrival of the southern mail on Monday last, our Postmaster, Mr Caie, entered our office to enquire by what medium we had sent as far as Fredericton, a small package—which he held in his hand—containing eight Gleaners, and directed by us to New York? Our reply was, that being ignorant till lately that papers for the United States must needs be *pre-paid*, we had continued our old practice of enclosing our few American Exchanges, in the Fredericton bundle. On the back of the envelope in which we had put the said papers, we observed a severe reprimand tendered to Mr Caie, by one of the chiefs of the Post Office Department, for his "carelessness, irregularity," &c., in having allowed these papers to pass through his office without claiming the advance penny each. Now, we hereby clear Mr Caie of any such "carelessness, irregularity, &c." when we state that it was not possible for him—without destroying our Fredericton package, to discover that it contained any other than papers for persons at Fredericton. We feel bound in justice to say this much respecting Mr Caie, of whose uniform, kind, and obliging behaviour we have before taken occasion to speak.

Marriages.

At Chatham, on the 1st inst., by the Rev. John MacBean, M. A., Mr. WILLIAM MOARHEAD, to Miss ANNE GRAY, both of the Parish of Chatham.

On the 7th inst., by the same, Mr. WILLIAM VANDESTINE, to Miss GRACE LEWIS, both of the Parish of Aulwick.

At Bathurst, on Tuesday, the 6th inst., by the Rev. George McDonnell, Mr. WILLIAM EDDY, to Miss JANNET CROFUR, both of Bathurst.

At Chatham, on the 18th ult., by the Rev. Angus McMaster, of Glenelg, ALEX. MILLS, of Bay du Vin, to CHARLOTTE, eldest daughter of John Wells, of Chatham.

Deaths.

At Dalhousie, Restigouche, on the morning of the 3rd February, inst., in the 81st year of her age, ANNABELLA, widow of the late Charles Stewart, Esq., of Prince Town, Prince Edward Island, second daughter of the late Chief Justice Stewart, of Prince Edward Island, and a native of Campbeltown, Argyleshire, Scotland.

Auctions.

By the Subscriber, in front of his Room, Wednesday, the 21st inst., at 11 o'clock, a variety of articles, viz:

2 Franklin Stoves, 2 Dumb Stoves, and stove pipe, 1 Carpet 41 yards, 1 Sofa, 2 Tables, a variety of Chairs, 1 single Sleigh, and skis; 1 double Sleigh, lined and trimmed with Bear Skin, 1 excellent draft Horse; 2 Bedsteads, 1 set Sleigh Harness, Glassware, and Window Glass, and a variety of other articles. Terms of Sale—Cash.

W. M. LETSON, Auctioneer.

Chatham, 12th February 1844

To be sold at Public, on Friday, the 16th day of February, instant, at the Residence of Mr John Pond, in the parish of Ludlow, by order of the Commissioner of the Estate and Effects of Bankrupts for the county of Northumberland:

The following articles—3 horses, 4 cows, 4 oxen, 10 sheep, 1 yoke of steers, rising three years, 3 young cattle, 4 pigs, 1 waggon, 2 carts, 1 double sled and harness, 1 harrow, and other farming utensils, and other articles. Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, forenoon.

M. CRANNEY, Provisional Assignee.
Chatham, 9th February, 1844.