

principle is now brought forward in the Address to the Queen, and used in justification of the measures pursued by the Assembly. This is to be regretted, because it brings forward other grounds of objection besides those urged in the Resolution; and because Lord Metcalfe expressly stated in his reply to the Gore Addresses, that the principle of Responsible Government could only be acted upon when the parties engaged in it were "guided with moderation" and with a freedom from "party spirit." We must say, that we fear moderation and a freedom from party spirit have not been dominant in the late proceedings; and if such be the case the advantage of quoting Lord Metcalfe is not apparent.

But to go back to the Resolution. It is true that it does not object to the appointment of Mr Reade on the ground of his being a stranger; but that argument has nevertheless, been constantly used. It affirms that he "possesses no claims," without stating the reason for arriving at such a conclusion; while the Address urges as the chief objection that Mr Reade is "private Secretary, and son-in-law of the Governor." It does not even charge that the appointment was made without consulting the Executive. Such objections do not appear to have much force, and this circumstance fortifies us in the opinion that the whole proceedings have been done somewhat in haste.

The address seems to convey an opinion that the House expected the Governor would rescind the appointment as soon as the vote of want of confidence was passed; but if such an expectation was justifiable, what becomes of the royal prerogative? If every appointment by the crown be subjected to the supervision of the House of Assembly, what rights are left to the crown to exercise? The royal function would dwell no longer in the sacred recess of the throne at London, but in the House of Assembly at Fredericton.

The Address avows that the House will, notwithstanding the unfortunate collision, pass the Revenue and Appropriation Bills. The people of England will give the House credit for this act of moderation, but will they not be apt to say that it is rather incompatible with the vote of want of confidence? Ought the House to entrust the disbursement of the civil list to a government in which it has solemnly declared it has no trust or confidence, but it has made the same declaration in behalf of the people of the province. Here is the Resolution.

"Resolved, (by Mr Partelow,) that the present Executive Council in this Province, do not possess the confidence of this House, nor of the County at large."

Surely all this savours of haste, and indicates an absence of that 'moderation' which Lord Metcalfe, so emphatically declared to be necessary for the due exercise of principle of the Responsible Government.

Fitness for office is or ought to be the ruling principle in making all public appointments; and it does not appear that Mr Reade is so very unfit as is represented. If there be any truth in the Speech of Mr Simonds, reported in our last number; if there be any accuracy in the statement of our own correspondent and in public report generally, the fitness of Mr Reade for his office is not so very questionable. But the House of Assembly, the representatives of the people must be the judges of the fitness of persons for official appointments; then why trouble the Governor at all? His function would be a nullity, and his representative character of the Sovereign all a mockery. He would no longer reflect the light of the great luminary of our monarchical system, but become a mere will-o'-the-wisp—an ignis fatuus—casting a deceptive and noxious glare around him.

Communications.

Mr. Editor,

It was with surprise that I read the decisions of the House of Assembly, with regard to the numerous Petitions for the return of duty on Lumber cut under License, but which did not come to market until the first of May last, thus becoming liable to an export duty. The request of the Petitioners to be freed from paying duty twice on the same timber was only just and equitable. It was generally understood in this part of the Province, that the reason a clause freeing such timber, was not introduced into the Bill for the collection of the Export Duty, was, that it would then have to be again sent home for approval, and would not come into operation in time to secure the duty on American lumber, but that the House would grant

relief at a future session; such however does not appear to have been their intention.

Not less in this instance, than by their Revenue Bills have they shewn of what little importance they consider the Timber trade. Instead of leaving it to individuals to find advantageous employment for their capital and labour in a country where there is such ample field for both, they tax our staple productions to foster with protection what they term Domestic Manufactures; thus causing capital and labour to be embarked in channels that can only be profitable as long as such protection is continued, but which must be extinguished by free competition, to the ruin of the parties engaged and with loss to the country.

An able writer on Political Economy has remarked, that—"It does not require much instruction to shew that water will always find its level; and in a country of untouched lakes and fountains a great deal may be done on this simple principle without any extraordinary hydrostatic or hydraulic knowledge. But if great works have already been constructed in contempt of it—if vast sums have been spent in pumping up the waters beyond their natural points of elevation, and in manufacturing basins and canals at such an artificial level, it is plain that these cannot be at once abandoned without prodigious loss to individuals and danger perhaps to the community, and that a far nicer and more exact estimate of the powers and forces employed will be necessary for a restoration of the true system which might have been sufficient for its first adoption. A moderate degree of medical skill, little more perhaps than mere common sense and observation may suffice to regulate the diet and exercise of a man in health, though it may task the learning of a whole college of physicians to prescribe either safely or successfully for a sick debauchee."

And such, Mr Editor, is the state to which our Legislature is driving the trade of this province, by bolstering up, at the expense of the natural resources of the country, the miserable bantlings of the provincial association. It is from the Lumber trade that the entire revenue of the country is derived—through it that the farmer, mechanic and labourer find a market for their produce and labour; and to subject it to depression, is to seriously injure the industry of the Province. If the supply of timber for the home market was exclusively derived from this province, they might then urge that to increase the cost of production here would enhance its value at home, but we require every advantage to compete successfully with Canada.

The truth however is, that there are too many Lawyers in the House, who are regardless of any interest but their own; their talents may indeed recommend them as our fittest representatives, but those very abilities, unless employed for the benefit of their constituents, ought rather to be an objection. Much of the time of the House this session has been occupied in vain contentions as to who should receive the benefit from place and patronage, instead of being devoted to beneficial administration. Through your paper, then, Mr Editor, the bulwark of these counties, so interested in the success of the Lumber trade, and especially in the decision that has caused me to trouble you with this communication, (since at Saint John and Saint Andrews much of the Lumber is cut on the United States territory) I would urge the farmers, merchants, and people generally, to be true to their own interests, and the best interests of the province, not allowing themselves to be deceived with the shadow, while they lose the substance.

I am, yours,

MERCATOR.

Richibucto, 19th March, 1845.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MARCH 25.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The Royal Mail steam ship *Cambria*, with the March mail, arrived at Halifax on Sunday, the 15th instant, after a passage of twelve days. It is stated, that during the last three or four days of her passage, she experienced much difficulty in making her way through the ice, by which the floats of her paddles were much injured.

The news, in a commercial point of view, is very satisfactory; business of all

kinds was brisk, and all classes of the people contented, and busily employed.

We have given the Speech of Her Majesty on opening Parliament, as well as numerous extracts from our British papers, which embrace all the items of interest to our readers.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The Charlottetown papers furnish intelligence of the destruction by fire, on the morning of the 4th instant, of the large building known as the Royal Hotel, and the adjoining house, the property of Mr John Scott. Mr Thomas Dodd, unfortunately had his leg broken, and received other injuries. The principal part of the furniture was got out of both houses, but was very much damaged.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY.—We have much satisfaction in publishing the following Address to His Excellency, from the inhabitants of the city of St. John, approving of the recent appointment of Mr Reade, to fill the situation of Provincial Secretary. It obtained the signatures of 620 inhabitants.

To His Excellency Sir William McBean George Colebrooke, K. H., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, &c.

The undersigned Citizens and Inhabitants of the City of Saint John, respectfully represent to your Excellency,

That they are of opinion that it is just and expedient that such persons should be appointed to fill the most important public offices in this Province, as have full capacity to discharge the duties thereof, and on whose integrity and assiduity, the people and the Governor of the Province for the time being, have full reliance and confidence.

That the undersigned view the recent appointment of Alfred Reade, Esquire, to the office of Secretary of the Province as made by your Excellency under the impression that that Gentleman possesses the confidence of the people of New Brunswick, and they therefore humbly address your Excellency to express our cordial approval of such appointment, and their confidence in the fitness and integrity of Mr Reade to fill and discharge the duties of the said office.

To James White, Esq., High Sheriff, Thomas Meritt, Esq., H. Gilbert, Esq., and the Citizens and Inhabitants of the City of St. John, &c.

GENTLEMEN—

I return you my sincere thanks for the address you have presented to me, and for the opinion which you have expressed in concurrence with my own, that the public offices should be entrusted to persons on whom full reliance can be placed for their integrity and assiduity in discharging the duties.

As the correspondence of the Lieutenant Governor with all classes of Her Majesty's subjects passes through the office of the Provincial Secretary, it is essential that it should be conducted with unremitting attention, and freedom from all party bias and influence, and having since my first arrival in the province upheld and inculcated this principle, and desired that the most prompt and impartial attention should be given to the business of every individual, having occasion to address the Government, it is very gratifying to me to find from your address, that the provisional appointment of Mr Reade, which has been made in strict accordance with the Royal Instructions, is regarded by you as affording a guarantee to the people that the duties of the office will be executed by him in a manner to give general satisfaction, and to justify the confidence which from the experience of many years, I have been led to repose in his character and qualifications as a public officer.

We perceive by the St. John papers, that a similar address was presented to His Excellency from the parish of Portland, with 462 signatures; to which His Excellency made the following reply:—

To James Gallagher, Esq., J. P., Thomas Allan, Esq., and the inhabitants of the Parish of Portland.

GENTLEMEN—

Accept my cordial acknowledgements for your address, from which I am gratified to find that you have rightly appreciated my desire that the duties of the public offices should be conducted with integrity and assiduity.

The Office of the Provincial Secretary being one through the medium of which the Lieutenant Governor corresponds with all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, it is especially important that the person appointed to it should be entitled to full confidence for his impartiality and freedom from party influence and bias; and as I should exceedingly regret if, at any time, the case of any individual addressing the Government should fail to receive the most prompt and impartial attention, I hope that the provisional appointment I have made, in accordance with the Royal Instructions, will justify the favorable opinion you have formed of Mr

Reade, and the confidence which, from long experience, I have been led to repose in him as a public Officer.

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

COLONIAL TRADE.—The following caution to the Colonial Timber Merchant, appears in the Twelfth Report of the Committee of the London North American Association. It is worthy of serious attention:—

"As every advance in the rates of freight decreases the power of the Colonies to compete with the Baltic in the shipment of Timber, and as there are indications of freights being still dear in the ensuing season than in the last, it is of great importance, with a view to the successful continuance of the Colonial Trade, that the shipping prices of wood goods should not be enhanced, and your Committee think it right to warn the Colonists against making large shipments to this country at high prices and freights, which in the face of the increasing importations from Foreign ports, would most probably be attended by heavy losses."

RIOT AT PORTLAND.—The St. John Courier furnishes us with the following account of a most disgraceful riot, which occurred in Portland, on the night of the 17th instant:—

"Another disturbance of the peace took place in Portland last Monday evening, among the same parties who have so frequently of late been the occasion of reproach upon that hitherto quiet and industrious district. Early in the evening in question, knots of persons assembled on the streets leading through the village; shots were soon after fired, and two persons named McElheny and McGrath, were severely wounded. From the many stories current, it is impossible to say whether they had given any provocation or not. The assemblage now increased, and both parties became so violent, parading the streets with fire arms and clubs, that the civil authorities thought it necessary to send for the military, who made their appearance under Major Whynates, and remained on the ground till after midnight, by which time the mob had in a great measure dispersed, without any further display than the brandishing of a few clubs, the distant firing of several muskets into the air, and a large portion of threatening language. The medical gentlemen, in attendance upon the sufferers, were inhumanly attacked on York Point: by a detachment of the mob who had assembled there, at a safe distance from the military, and without the fear of being disturbed by the civic authorities. His Worship the Mayor, B. L. Peters, Esq., W. O. Smith Esq., and James Gallagher, Esq., accompanied the military to the scene of disorder."

THE UNICORN.—The Halifax Times reports that a rumour was prevalent, that the Unicorn was to proceed to England, and that the Margaret would remain as a reserve steamer; but since the arrival of the Cambria, it is said that the Unicorn will resume her station on the opening of the navigation, between Pictou and Quebec.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The following is the arrangement of the Circuits for the present year.

Judge Botsford

Kent, Tuesday August 26.

Judge Parker

Restigouche, August 26.

Gloucester, September 2.

Northumberland, September 9.

RAILROAD TO WINDSOR.—The Halifax Times says—that a report was in circulation in that city, that a proposal has been made by a company in England, to furnish means for constructing a Railroad from Halifax to Windsor, provided the Legislature of Nova Scotia will guarantee the payment of the interest on the capital invested, if the profits arising from the speculation be not sufficient to meet the same.

TIMBER TRADE.—The following is an extract from a Circular, published at Liverpool, bearing date the 4th March.

Pine Timber.—The supply of the month is comprised in three cargoes from St John, and a portion of a cargo from Quebec, via a port in Ireland, where it had been wrecked. One St John's Cargo of 20 1/2 inches average, has been sold on the quay at 20 1/2d per foot, and another cargo, tried by auction but withdrawn, has since been disposed of by private sale at about 20 1/2d per foot. The sales of Quebec have been by retail.

Quebec Deals.—Pines are at fair demand at former prices; but Spruce are considerably reduced value by the decline in the price of lower port Planks.

Pine Spruce Planks.—In the early part of the month two or three cargoes were sold at 21 1/2 to 22 1/2 per foot, according to specifica-