

LEGISLATIVE PORTRAITS.

[We copy the following Sketches of two of our Members of the Assembly, from the *Fredericton Head Quarters*. In publishing these, or any others that may appear, we wish it to be distinctly understood, that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the truthfulness of the picture drawn.]

HON. JOHN W. WELDON.

The first person which arrests attention on entering the gallery of the House of Assembly, when the members are not in committee, is the Hon. John W. Weldon, Speaker of the House. We have already given a short sketch of this gentleman's personal appearance, the dignified and efficient manner in which he presides over an Assembly containing among its members a good deal of talent, and an amount of Parliamentary knowledge and tact, which sometimes requires the utmost vigilance on the part of the Speaker to keep members within the prescribed rules. Mr Weldon's conduct in the chair during the time he has held the high and responsible station of first commoner in New Brunswick, has met with the unqualified approbation of all parties in the Assembly. When on the floor of the House, the Speaker is sometimes found fault with by those who are opposed to him in politics, for the ingenious and oftentimes successful manner in which he exercises his parliamentary experience to defeat a measure of which he does not approve, or carry a point which he believes would be beneficial to his constituents, or forward the interests of his party. Our own observation would certainly go to confirm the general opinion of Mr Weldon's ability as a parliamentary tactician; he is evidently at home through all the protean shapes which a measure is made to assume while passing through the house, and the secret of his influence when in committee appears to be the singular readiness with which he can detect and expose the real object of his opponents, and the bearing which the measure, if carried, would have with reference to the general policy of his party. We are obliged likewise to confess, that in our opinion the Speaker is nearly as successful in covering from his opponents his own movements as he is in discovering and exposing theirs;—taking his stand generally on the least defensible points, and gradually retiring to stronger ground, where he is frequently able to rally the whole strength of his party, and carry or defeat the measure under discussion. It is seldom that the Speaker takes an active part in local matters, unless those immediately connected with the county of Kent, which he represents; the members for which are not unfrequently reminded that they take very good care to have at least a fair share of the public revenue. While occupying the chair, the Speaker knows no party and no person. Strict and impartial is meted out alike to those who oppose and those who agree with him in politics, and we have never, in or out of the Assembly, heard the slightest murmur of disapprobation breathed against him as the organ of the house. It would perhaps be difficult to find Mr Weldon's equal as Speaker, certainly none in the present house would excel him, and the constituency of Kent in returning him to represent them, while they have consulted their own interests, they have at the same time rendered the Province at large essential service. Mr Weldon's politics belong to the Conservative, if not the high Tory school; his religious persuasion is that of the Church of England.

ALEXANDER RANKIN, Esq.

On the right of his honor the Speaker, at the extreme end of the benches, sits Alexander Rankin, Esquire, one of the members for the county of Northumberland, and one of the oldest members of the House of Assembly.

Although Mr Rankin is said to take a prominent and very active part in the business which comes before the several important committees, to serve on which he is annually appointed, it is seldom that he rises to address the house. When he does speak it is in a mild and low tone of voice, which is sometimes inaudible in the gallery. His addresses are always short and to the point, and delivered without the slightest effort at oratory; the matter before the house is dealt with in the simplest and plainest light in which it is possible to present the subject, and his opinion for or against the measure given in a very few words. On matters relating to trade Mr Rankin's opinions are always listened to with the utmost attention, and we have sometimes heard his opinion called for by other members before he had taken any part in the discussion. During the absence of his colleague, John A. Street, Esq., who was in England in the early part of last session, Mr Rankin was obliged to be on his legs much oftener than usual, and apparently oftener than was agreeable to himself. When opposed, as he sometimes was, in the measures which he submitted to the house, he occasionally exhibited in his language a little of that perseverance and energy of character which has placed him at the head of a branch of one of the largest and most respectable Commercial Houses in British North America. Oratory, however, is by no means Mr Rankin's forte, and with the exception of the energetic and feeling address which he delivered in behalf of the dreadfully unfortunate Lepers on Shelldrake Island, when the grant for their support had been lost in his absence, he did not during the last session make a speech of any length. On that occasion he was evidently much excited by the idea of these poor

creatures being let loose among their relatives and acquaintances to spread and perpetuate that horrible disease. The importance and urgency of the case seemed to break down entirely Mr Rankin's reserve, and he appeared to have no difficulty whatever in finding plenty of words, which he could make distinctly heard at the further extremity of the gallery, and which had the desired effect. Mr Rankin's influence in the house, when he chooses to exercise it, is said to be very great; his standing in society, his wealth, the power which the mammoth commercial ramifications of the extensive house of which he is a partner, coupled with his own sound judgment and unobtrusive manners, necessarily produces that effect; but whatever may be the extent of his influence, it is, we should suppose, sparingly applied. The business habits which have raised this gentleman to eminence and wealth as a merchant, are obvious in the Assembly. Regular and early at his post, his pen is in constant occupation, and he seldom leaves the house for any length of time until the business of the day is completed. In person Mr Rankin is above the middle height, with light hair and fair complexion. The expression of his countenance would indicate the possession of reflective, rather than strong perceptive powers. In politics he is conservative, and his religious persuasion is that of the Established Church of Scotland.

The Southern Mail.

Halifax Times, July 8.

By the Schooner British Queen, which arrived this morning from Boston, we have dates from that city to the 2nd July. They contain news of some importance from Mexico, which we have copied below.

From the N. O. Picayune, of the 24th ult.

Highly Important from Mexico.—Another Revolution.—Four Days Later from Vera Cruz.—Jalisco in Revolt and declaring for Santa Anna.

We received yesterday a copy of El Locometer of Vera Cruz of the 8th inst., which is four days later than any advices received by the Falmouth. The news is important.

A revolution had broken out in the Department of Jalisco, it commenced on the morning of the 20th of May, in the Gaudalaxara. The battalion of Logos, followed by other bodies of military, and by the enthusiastic populace, attacked the Palace of the Governor.

The assault of the insurgents was so prompt, that the guard had only time to make one discharge, by which one man was killed and one wounded.

Some of the defenders recognized friends among the assailants, and refused to fire. The disaffection then became general, and some of the leaders of the government troops were arrested, to save them from the fury of the insurgents.

Some skirmishing ensued and preparations were making for a general engagement, when General Duque, who had taken command of the government troops, proposed a parley. This was agreed to, and the result of the deliberation was, that the troops under General Duque should be allowed to retire with the honours of war, by a route designed by them, directly to the city of Mexico.

Provisions were given them, and they were allowed till the 23rd, to prepare for their departure.

Don Jose Maria Tanez was at the head of the insurrection. A formal declaration was drawn up by the insurgents proclaiming Santa Anna their chief, and declaring that a new Congress should be summoned to be elected by the people, according to the electoral laws of 1824, to form a new constitution in which the monarchical principle is to be excluded. It also provides that Congress should meet four months after the liberating army shall gain possession of the capital.

Don Juan Camplido is recognized as Provisional Governor of the Department, and his oath includes the repulsing of the infamous usurpations of the Americans.

A Vera Cruz correspondent of the Bee, under date of the 12th, writes:

"The blockade is rigorously maintained, and business is at a complete stand still. The American squadron is daily expected, and the panic at Vera Cruz is so great, that the majority of the families have evacuated the city.—It is thought that both the city and castle will be attacked, as it is said that two line of battle ships and four frigates are coming. Entrenchments have been constructed in every street. Heaven knows why.

New batteries have been placed on the "Bulwarks," consisting of 60 pounders and abusses of large calibre.

All this is calculated to attract the fire of the Americans on the city, to the destruction of many of its edifices. The garrison is suffering greatly from vomitine, which is making terrible havoc, and thinning daily the ranks of the soldiers.

President Paredes opened the new Congress by a message, in which he called for a declaration of war, &c. I shall endeavor to send it to you. The Custom House is packing up its papers and preparing to decamp, most of the public officers are in the same predicament.

Halifax Morning Post, July 7.

The Railway.—It must give the People of British America sincere pleasure to learn that the government have taken this work actively in hand.—Captains Phipon, Lieut. Henderson, and miners having arrived to make the survey.

We understand that the Home Government is also encouraging the plan copied by us from the *St. John's Courier* a week ago, viz.—that of promoting the formation of a land and emigration Company in England, consisting of artisans, tradesmen and mechanics, who are depositors in Savings' Banks, the enormous funds of which will find a profitable investment in the laying of Railroads in the Colonies where these workmen settle.

The Government have, we are informed, ordered the advance of the necessary expenses of the Survey from the Commissariat—to be refunded, we suppose, from the Provincial Chest, according to the resolution of the Assembly last Session.

New Transatlantic Steamers.—We have already mentioned that three new steamers are to be built for Cunard's company, to enable them to fulfil their contract to carry the mails weekly between Liverpool and the United States. The *Glasgow Citizen* gives the following description of the projected vessels:—"We hear that three immense steam-ships have already been contracted for. They are to be about 2000 tons register each; the length of keel and forerake is to be 250 feet; the length over all, 280 feet; the breadth of beam, forty feet. They are to be built of timber by Messrs Robert Seal & Co., of Greenock; and the engines, of about 700 horse power each, are to be supplied by Mr. Robert Napier, of this city. In order to show the great size of these vessels, we may state that the *Cambria* and *Hibernia* are only 220 feet keel, 245 feet all over, and 36 breath beam; while the engines do not exceed 500 horse power each. The *Britannia*, *Acadia*, and *Caledonia* are still smaller, being no more than 205 feet keel, 225 feet over all; and being 34 feet beam; with engines of only 450-horse power. It is also intended, we believe, by the same enterprising company, to order a new iron steamer, of the same splendid dimensions as the three wooden ones now about to be laid down."

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1846.

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The following highly commendatory remarks on the admirable Annual Report of the above-named Society, is taken from the *Toronto British American Cultivator* for June, which we have much satisfaction in transferring to our columns.

"The Gleaner of the 4th April contains an Annual Report of this Society, which has been ably drawn up, and shows in a most conclusive manner the benefits of Agricultural Societies. The Legislature of New Brunswick has appropriated a large sum of money for the purchase of seed potatoes, which are to be distributed among the farmers of the several counties of the Province. It omens well to see so much interest felt in the cause of Agriculture by those in authority, and we hope that the farmers will appreciate such aid by giving due diligence to business, and practicing such improvements as will pay a handsome interest upon the capital invested.

"Agricultural Clubs and Colleges are highly recommended in the report, and as the views set forth are such as we highly approve, and as those institutions, if carried out in conformity with their true spirit, are calculated to give a stimulus to improved Agriculture, we have thought it proper to copy the following extracts. Our readers will please bear these important topics in mind, and if possible exert their influence in having those patriotic institutions carried into practice in their several localities."

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The second June mail was brought to Halifax by the *Britannia*, which steamer arrived on the evening of the 2nd inst.

The intelligence which has thus been received, adds but little to our previous stock of European news.

The Corn Bill, it is confidently stated,

will pass triumphantly through the Lords.

The news from the manufacturing districts is highly satisfactory—trade being in a healthy state. The prospect of the growing crop is represented as being most cheering. The Potatoes look well, except in some districts where the seed was cut, which has caused a partial failure.

We have copied numerous extracts, which will be found under the proper head.

NEWFOUNDLAND SUFFERERS.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Fredericton, for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of the sufferers at Newfoundland by the late disastrous fire, was held on Thursday last, His Excellency filled the chair.

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILROAD.—

The Halifax papers state that Captain Phipon and Lieutenant Henderson, of the Royal Engineers, with a party of Sappers and Miners under their command, arrived in the last steamer from Britain, having been sent out by government to survey the line of the proposed Railway from that city to Quebec.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.—The Legislative Assembly of this Colony has been dissolved by a proclamation from the Lieutenant Governor. The writs for a new election are made returnable on the 31st August.

NOVASCOTIA.—All the Halifax papers concur in stating that the government has accepted the resignation of Lord Falkland, and that he is to be succeeded by Sir John Harvey. The Recorder says that H. M. S. Hyacinth is to proceed at once to St. John's to convey Sir John to Halifax.

The Provincial Government has sent £1000 towards the relief of the Newfoundland sufferers.

AGRICULTURAL.—Several parties in the vicinity of Chatham have commenced cutting their grass. The crop is not heavy, but is a full average one.

MR WILLIAM RENNIE.—This gentleman being about to leave the place, where he has resided for a number of years, for his native country, the office-bearers of the Mechanics' Institute, at a recent meeting, passed unanimously the following resolution.

Whereas Mr. William Rennie, one of the Directors of this Institute, is about to leave Miramichi for Great Britain, after a residence of more than eight years in this community, during which time he has been occupied as a Naval Architect and Inspector, as well to the interest as Credit of the Province generally, and this section in particular,—

Therefore Resolved, that a committee of three persons be appointed to prepare an address to Mr Rennie, to be signed by the President and Directors of this Institute, expressive of our regret at his intended absence, and hopes for his speedy return. And further Resolved, that George Kerr, James A. Pierce, and John M. Johnson, Jun., Esquires, be such Committee.

The Address, signed by the office-bearers of the Institute, was presented to Mr Rennie last evening, when a large number of mechanics, and other inhabitants of the place, were in attendance.

The following is a copy of the address:

Miramichi, 10th July, 1846.

Sir,—As a brother Director of the Miramichi Mechanics' Institute, a practical Mechanic and Draughtsman, and a most useful member of our community, we cannot allow your intended absence from Miramichi, whether of a permanent or temporary nature, to pass unnoticed.

Your residence for more than eight years, has taught us to respect and appreciate your talents and personal character.

Your services as a Naval Architect and Inspector, have not only established your own character as a skillful Mechanic, and tended much to raise the character and value of New Brunswick built vessels in the British market, but placed Miramichi in this respect, as second to none in the Colonies.

Your conduct as a member of society, no less than your talents, demands our admiration and respect.

We do not think you leave behind you a single personal or political enemy; and are satisfied that in wishing you a safe passage to the land of your own and our fathers', a speedy