

longer he is likely to tire his pursuers, and make them give up the undertaking as hopeless. That he will be able to do so, is not unlikely, seeing that it was in the same mountain district that general Tranti, during the Peninsular war, with but a handful of men, kept a division of French troops at bay during a whole winter, and finally got off free.

An official announcement has appeared in the *Diario*, to the effect that the Queen's army under marshal Saldanha, is soon to attack Oporto, and as it is her majesty's earnest desire that foreigners should be secured as much as possible from injury, all foreign vessels now in the river Douro, and all foreign residents at Oporto, will be allowed till the 30th instant to depart from that city: after the expiration of that period the government will not be responsible for anything that may happen.

Communications.

FOR THE GLEANER.

Mr. Editor.

Sir,—However unwilling I am to appear in the field of public controversy, I find that I must trouble you again, in order to throw off the foul aspersions which have been cast on me; not only by the individuals who subscribed that article in your last number, but by those who have written and used their secret influence to obtain signatures to it. Mr. Editor, you will see the spirit in which it was written, and how ridiculous they were making themselves appear to the public. I am accused therein of using misrepresentations in order to obtain signatures to the Petition, which I utterly deny. To show how truth has been outstripped in that article, in order to obtain the desired purpose, that of defaming me, I shall go through it, and point out the notorious misrepresentations and inconsistencies which it contains. First, it is said "We, the subscribers, do severally, and each for himself declare" what? "that our signatures have been obtained through misrepresentation." By whom? by David Johnstone, certainly. To show the falseness of this statement, I have only to say that it was other persons who handed the Petition to more than Twenty of those individuals who subscribed that article. It is said that "our signatures have been obtained through misrepresentation" this is a dreadful accusation! your own statement is that my misrepresentation consisted in informing you "that the session of the said Church fully concurred in the proceedings with regard to the said petition;" of this no doubt, I informed some of you, nevertheless it is a fact: for any of you may convince yourselves of the truth of what I say, by applying to the Session Book, and you will find there, that on the 15th day of October last, the said resolution was moved and passed unanimously by the whole Session then present, Mr. Perley alone being absent; so it appears now that my misrepresentation entirely consists in telling the exact truth. Again you say that "We were under the impression that the Minister of said Church was not unwilling to have the Spirit of the said resolution carried out." My friends your public declaration of the Minister's unwillingness to adopt the resolution, confers no honor on him whatever, and to expose your Minister's illiberal principles is an act which you should not be guilty of. However, to shew the inconsistency of the above statement, I ask could not any person almost of the meanest capacity, have inferred from the nature of a petition, that the person to whom it was to be presented, had not as yet concurred with the design of such petition, and if we had the concurrence of the Minister, there certainly was no need of presenting a petition to him, to adopt the sentiment of it. Again you say, that when you signed the petition you were ignorant of the resolution that was passed in October last, being laid aside at a subsequent meeting, that is to say you have been informed of it since, permit me to tell you, my Friends that now indeed—and not till now—artifice in a most especial manner has been practised upon you in order to obtain your signatures, and that the party who informed you so, is undoubtedly guilty of misrepresentation of facts. But with regard to the resolution being laid aside, I must certainly understand you to say it was laid aside legally, that is, a resolution expressive of such a design moved and passed by at least a majority of the Session. That it was ever laid aside I utterly deny, and in proof thereof, I again refer you to the Session Book. I deny that the October resolution was ever reconsidered, in February, as is said by some, all that was said about it arose from a question put by myself, if it was Mr. McCurdy's intention to carry out the resolution or acknowledge the principle. As long as the October resolution is acknowledged to be true, I am all right—even had it been rescinded or dropped as some say it was, at the February meeting of Session. I refer you to the petition itself as a proof of this remark. With regard to the sweeping assertion with which your article is closed, I should have passed it over; I will merely say however, that it is an unbrotherly one, and savours nothing of the charitable spirit which the scripture enjoins upon us, and which we should be unwilling to make use of towards the most unworthy of our brethren, whether I deserve it or not on the grounds you mention. I leave it with a disinterested and Christian community to judge. One word more with respect to the last Session Meeting; even they the Members who suspended me have not regarded the sim-

plestatement of facts as they should have done, they have suppressed part of the truth, the reason thereof they know themselves they have kept hid from the Congregation and Christian community, that I gave notice at a Session meeting upwards of twelve months ago, that I would take the minds of the Members of the Congregation, in private to most of them. I have often said that I would do so. I called upon one of the Members of Session at his own house—the very person who signs his name as Session Clerk, in the presence of a Church Member, and showed him the petition before any had signed it. I shall here make a few observations with respect to the Shepherd's conduct towards the stray Sheep, and then a Christian community will see the means (if any) that were used to bring it back, and the means used to destroy it when astray. I was in company with the Minister for some hours in a Friend's house, at that time he knew of the petition being in circulation for signatures and at that time I had not got one to sign it. I spoke to him on Chatham streets a few days after, he knew where I resided and knew further my house was always open to him, but up to this moment he has never called upon me, nor spoken to me personally about the petition. I had a few angry words with him upwards of eighteen months ago, but I have always acted in my official capacity up to the first of March, and during that time we joined in sacred communion with each other two separate seasons. If we were not reconciled to each other we at least by our conduct professed to be so. They have further suppressed that part which justifies me in what they are pleased to call my disregard of the authority of the Session. My reasons for non-attendance at that meeting they have very prudently kept out of sight, but they are contained in the following letter delivered to Mr. McCurdy after the session was constituted by one of its Members.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

DAVID JOHNSTONE.

Douglstown, 8th March 1847.

To the Moderator of St. John's Church Session,

Rev. Sir,—On the 2nd inst., I was notified to appear before the Session at Saint John's Church, at 2 o'clock P. M. to answer for circulating a petition through the Congregation, the session believes to be unconstitutional. I have many weighty reasons for not attending, but at present will give the following. 1st—You have not observed that rule that our Divine Lord, has laid down in his word. 2nd—You have already judged it to be unconstitutional. 3rd—A majority of the session has said the petition was at variance with the truth. I am willing to let a higher court and a Christian community judge whether I could expect justice from you as a Church Court. I am, and I think Church Members and a Christian community must be at a loss to know, and must conjecture many things, why I am called upon to answer for circulating an unconstitutional petition, and not for a false petition at the same time, unless you consider the former a heinous offence, and the latter of minor importance.

I am, Rev. Sir, yours respectfully,

DAVID JOHNSTONE.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1847.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH, otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

A Public meeting was held in the Court House, at Dalhousie, on Thursday the 26th of March, with a view to adopt measures to aid in the relief of the suffering poor in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

JOHN U. CAMPBELL, Esq. having been called to the Chair, and Mr GEORGE B. COWPER appointed Secretary. The following Resolutions were moved and carried.

Moved by Dr. Taylor, and seconded by Adam Ferguson, Esq.

That whereas this meeting has been called for the purpose of adopting such measures as may be deemed necessary for raising a fund to aid in the relief of the suffering poor in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland—

Therefore Resolved, that this meeting deeply sympathising with them in their distressed and destitute condition, feel themselves imperatively called upon to use their utmost endeavours to promote the object of the meeting.

Moved by W. S. Smith, Esq. and seconded by John Cunningham, Esq.

Resolved, that in order to carry the

foregoing resolution into effect, a Committee be appointed to raise a fund by subscription or otherwise, for the above purpose, and that the following Gentlemen do compose said committee—Rev. James Steven, Rev. Mr Olscamp, Adam Ferguson, Esq. Dr. Taylor, John Duncan, W. S. Smith, Esq. Donald Stewart, Patrick Greene, John M'Kedre, Esq. Hugh Montgomery, Esq. William Hamilton, Esq. and R. M. Montgomery.

Moved by Hugh Montgomery, Esq. and seconded by Mr John M'Niesh—

Resolved, that in order to afford those who may not at present have money to contribute an opportunity of otherwise aiding in said relief, produce of any kind will be received, and a public sale made of the same, the proceeds of which to be added to the general fund.

Moved by John M'Keddie, Esq. and seconded by Mr Donald Stewart—

Resolved that one half of the fund raised for this purpose be appropriated towards the relief of the Highlands of Scotland, and one half towards the relief of Ireland.

Moved by Mr George B. Cowper, and seconded by Mr James Wands—

Resolved, that the Committee be authorised to transmit the amount so raised in such way as to insure its being applied as intended by this meeting.

Moved by Mr Patrick Greene, and seconded by Mr David Ritchie—

Resolved, that W. S. Smith, Esq. do act as Treasurer to the committee.

The Chairman having left the chair, W. S. Smith, Esq. was called to the same, it was then Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given to Mr Campbell for his conduct in the chair.

GEORGE B. COWPER, Secretary.

Dalhousie, March 26, 1847.

The Secretary also informs us that SOIREES are to be held immediately in Dalhousie and Campbellton, under the auspices and superintendance of the Ladies of those places, the funds so raised are to be appropriated to the same benevolent object.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

The Rev ANDREW BARRON has transmitted by the April mail, to the Most Rev. Doctor McHale, for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Ireland the sum of £150 sterling, contributed by the Inhabitants of Bathurst and its vicinity. Subscription lists are still open, and it is expected another remittance will be ready for the May mail.

NOVASCOTIA—The Legislature of this Province brought its labours to a close on Thursday the 31st March, when Sir John Harvey prorogued the same with a short speech, which contains nothing of special importance.

THE SEASON.—Our season is rather backward, affording a strong contrast to that of last year. On the 3rd April last year the river was entirely free of ice, and our farmers were enabled at that time to plough their ground,—one person in Chatham sowed wheat on Good Friday. Now the ice is so strong that travelling on our river is perfectly safe, and there is sufficient snow on the ground to offer no impediment to travelling thereon with sleighs.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE—The Journals of the Legislative in our possession are to the 27th of last month. Extracts therefrom will be found in another page. Below we give a summary from the Head Quarters of Wednesday last.

We have in this day's number, concluded our report of the debate on Mr Fisher's resolution. We have necessarily omitted many excellent speeches, but when it is considered that almost every member in the house spoke to the question, it will hardly be expected that we should continue it at a greater length than we have already done.

On Monday last a rather interesting debate took place on a bill to authorize the ministers of certain dissenting congregations to solemnize marriage, which was sustained without any serious opposition. A bill to incorporate a company to erect an electric telegraph from Halifax to Quebec, via Soint John and Fredericton, was also discussed on Monday until a late hour. Yesterday, the same Bill was

again taken up and passed. A resolution introduced by Mr. End, pledging the House to grant £2,500 to the Company, on completion of the work, also passed the House.

To-day, Mr Brown's Parish School Bill was again under consideration, and four sections have already passed, on which several divisions have been had. To-morrow will likely decide the fate of this important Bill in the lower House.

ROBBERY IN CHATHAM.—The store of Messrs Johnson & Mackie was forcibly entered on the night of Sunday last. The parties obtained but little plunder. An attempt was also made to enter the store of Messrs. Parkers the same night. Many years have gone by since we had to notice such an event, and we trust many more may elapse ere we have to make a similar announcement. We trust every exertion will be made to apprehend the guilty parties, so that they may be brought to justice to answer this violation of the laws—

HAYTI.—United States papers report that intelligence of the death of President Riche has been obtained. It is reported and believed that he was poisoned.

UNITED STATES.—Congress has passed a law, regulating the value of Foreign Coins, which are in future to be taken at the Customs at the following rates:—

The specie Dollar of Sweden and Norway at one hundred and six cents.
The specie dollar of Denmark, at one hundred and five cents.
The Thaler of Prussia and Northern State of Germany, at sixty-nine cents.
The Florin of the Southern States of Germany at forty cents.

The Florin of the Austrian Empire, and the City of Angsburg, at forty-eight and a half cents.

The Lira of the Combaro-Venetian Kingdom, and of Tuscany, at sixteen cents.

The Franc of France and of Belgium, and the Lira of Sardinia, at eighteen cents six mills.

The Ducat of Naples, at eighty cents
The Onco of Sicily, at two dollars and forty cents.

The pound of the British Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Canada, at four dollars.

QUEBEC.—The following petition to the Colonial Secretary on the subject of employing emigrants on the proposed line of Railroad, has been got by a Committee appointed for that purpose, at a meeting held at Quebec:—

"That your petitioners, inhabitants of the City of Quebec, having heard with the deepest sympathy that throughout large portions of the United Kingdom great distress prevails from the failure of the ordinary supplies of food, have contributed to the utmost of their ability to the relief of that distress.

"That the Port of Quebec receives annually the larger portions of the emigrants who remove from the United Kingdom, and especially from Ireland to America, and that last year more than 31,000 emigrants were landed at Quebec.

"That viewing the present distress in Ireland and Scotland, your petitioners cannot but contemplate with alarm the probability of a large increase of emigration, to this Port, of persons flying from famine and destitution, and casting themselves upon this community, without the means of present support, unable to procure employment, and too probably bringing with them actual or latent disease.

"That the inhabitants of Quebec, in common with all their fellow colonists would gladly welcome to these shores all their distressed fellow subjects who would here seek better fortunes, being convinced that the poorest of them, if time and opportunity be afforded them, cannot fail, with prudence and industry, and the blessing of Providence, in their livelihood, competence and prosperity. But that they are strongly impressed with the conviction that unless means are adopted by the Imperial Government to assist the pauper emigrant on his landing, and to put him in the way of working out his own support, he will in this rigorous climate, and in a community of more limited resources, soon find himself in greater distress than that from which he has attempted to escape.

"That the waste Lands of the Crown in the North American Colonies and the public works now projected or in progress afford a resource by which the Government of the mother country may obtain both a present and permanent provision for a large portion of the perishing population of United Kingdom, and that among those public works none stands more prominently distinguished for its importance both to national and provincial interests than the projected Railway from Quebec to Halifax.

"That such a Railway, if commenced, must necessarily pass (whatever line may ultimately be chosen) through large tracts of waste lands of the Crown, suitable for cultivation, and that the emigrant directed would thus