

the pillow of death. Can such a book be the offspring of human genius? Does not the vastness of its effects demonstrate the excellency of the power to be of God.—Dr McCollough.

Communications.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

FREDERICTON, 9th March, 1848.

Dear Pierce, Since I had the pleasure of addressing you, the Assembly have passed the Revenue Bill, which has gone to the Council, and as it cannot be amended, but be passed or rejected, there is but little doubt it will become a law as passed in the lower house. There are no alterations from the one I sent you, except the articles of Bread and Biscuit, which are to be admitted at a duty of 4 per cent. on British and Colonial, and 10 per cent. on Foreign.

Several other Bills have been passed, but as they are of little importance, I need not notice them. The Bill for paying Juries sent up to the Council, came down amended, but as it was a money bill, the amendments were not concurred in by the house; but another bill for that purpose was introduced, adopting the amendments, and was passed. This bill requires the Plaintiff in each cause, not summary, to pay to the Clerk of the Court 30s.; and in summary causes the sum of 15s., to form a fund for the payment of Petit Jurors. This sum is to be divided among the Jurors for their travel and attendance at Court, allowing 20 miles travel as equal to one day's attendance, but not to exceed 4s. per day.

On Tuesday a bill brought in by Mr Hazen relating to the Provincial Penitentiary, was under discussion. This bill made it imperative on the several Counties to bear the expense of transporting criminals to the Penitentiary, sentenced by the Courts of Oyer and Terminer, to be imprisoned therein. An amendment was moved, authorising the expense to be paid by the Province. After a long and animated debate, in which Messrs. Hazen, Partelow, and other honorable members took part against it, and Messrs. End, Carman and Barbarie in favour of the amendment. It was carried by a small majority, all the northern members, I think, voted for it! The arguments in favour of the amendment were—that the more distant Counties would not be on the same footing as those nearer the city. The arguments against it were principally, that it would entail a heavy expense on the Province, and as the counties would have to support their criminals if they were imprisoned in the County Jails, sending them to the Penitentiary would be a relief to the Counties.

The Road Committee met on Monday, and although they have not yet reported, I am told they have agreed to recommend an appropriation of £22,000 for the Road service; £13,500 for Great, and the like sum for Bye Roads and £5,000 for Special Grants. This is £5,250, or 10 per cent. less than last year, and although it will run the Province in debt £30,000, it was thought more advisable to do this in the present state of the Province than to withhold the road grants. The division of the Bye Road money to the several counties will be the same as in 1846, in which case your proportion will be about £1,320.

The Relief Bill has passed the upper House. By this Bill £600 is appropriated to Northumberland for immediate Relief, and for the purchase of seed, to be repaid within three years, by an assessment on the several parishes in which the money is distributed. The money to be drawn by His Excellency on the application of the Justices in Session, either General or Special—in the latter case, all the Justices must be notified. A bill for altering the Law relative to highways, has been under discussion, and the House have agreed to a scale, increasing the number of days' labor on those persons who possess large properties, and reducing the commutation money from 2s. 6d. to 1s. 3d.; but as the bill has to undergo another ordeal it may not become law. To-day the house was in Committee of Supply, and among other grants passed one of £200 asked for by Mr Carman, for the purpose of Building Approaches in Chatham and the opposite side of the river, for the Steam Ferry Boat. Although the Council are against granting money for Slips or Wharfs, perhaps they may, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, pass this grant. I understand Mr Carman intends moving for £200 to aid our Mechanics' Institute in the Erection of a Building; but in the present state of the finances of the Province I have great doubts if the same will be granted.

No advices have been received by the last mail of or from our new Governor.

The Troops stationed here have received orders to proceed to Saint John, where they will embark for England—a division will leave here on Monday next. I understand they will be relieved by the 1st Royals.

Much anxiety is evinced by the citizens here on the subject of the removal of the Seat of Government. This question I think, will not be mooted this session. There is a Bill now before the house for incorporating the City, and as self government is the order of the day, I suppose we shall soon have municipal corporations, vote by ballot, and universal suffrage.

DISTRESS IN LIVERPOOL.—The Irish nation is scandalously neglecting its duty to its poor, who swarm in such numbers, that they cannot possibly find shelter, much less food; and many are committing offences against the law that they may be put into gaol.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MARCH, 14, 1848.

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.

VENEZUELA.—The United States papers furnish the following startling and melancholy intelligence from this place.

The Venezuela Congress met on the 24th ult., and was overwhelmed by the populace, set on, it is said, by the President, and several of the members were horribly massacred. It was expected that a revolution would immediately break out throughout the republic. The greatest excitement prevailed when the Susan Ludwig sailed.

UNITED STATES.—The following scraps of news are taken from late papers:—

Ship Fever.—The British Ship Emigrant, Capt. Hill, arrived at New York on Monday afternoon, after a long and boisterous passage from Liverpool, via Cork. She had 208 steerage passengers. Of this number, 16 died during the passage, also two of the crew, with ship fever. 130 of her passengers and 4 of her crew were landed at quarantine, all of whom were sick with the same disease.

Terrible Treachery.—At Mobile, on the 18th inst., while in a fit of jealousy, Francis Conklin, an engineer, caught his wife by the head, and inflicted a deadly wound with a razor. He then made an attempt to kill three other women who were present. Afterward he cut his throat—expiring immediately.

CANADA.—The Governor General opened the Legislative of Canada on the 28th ult. with a very short Speech from which we select the following extracts:—

During the recess I made an extensive tour through the Province; and I have much satisfaction in informing you that I met with the most gratifying indications of general prosperity and contentment in all the districts which I visited.

With the view of maturing a plan for placing the Post Office in British North America on an improved footing, Commissioners from the several provinces assembled lately at my suggestion in Montreal. I trust that it will be in my power before the close of the session to bring under your consideration a measure for effecting this important object.

The information which I have received, enables me to state that a good and practicable line of railway between Halifax and Quebec has been discovered by the Officers to whom this exploration was confined.

The distress and suffering by which last year's Immigration to the Province was attended have occasioned me the deepest concern. Her Majesty's Government have bestowed on the subject the most anxious consideration with a view to the introduction of such provisions into the Imperial Passengers' Act as may afford a security against the recurrence of these disasters. It will be for you to determine whether it may not be advisable to pass some Provincial enactment which shall have the effect of discouraging the introduction of diseased and helpless persons into the Province, without however checking the tide of healthy Immigration, which so powerfully contributes to its advancement.

The Constitution of the University of King's College—a more equitable mode of assessment in Western Canada—and the improvement of the system of Judicature in both sections of the Province—are among the subjects which will probably engage your attention.

Canada possesses, in singular abundance, the elements of prosperity and social happiness—great natural capabilities—an enterprising, intelligence and rapidly increasing population,—institutions fitted to reconcile liberty with order—and the blessing of peace secured to her under Providence by the patriotism of her sons and her connection with a State which is both just and powerful. The duty of turning these advantages to account, in so far as this object can be properly effected by Legislation, devolves upon Parliament. God grant that we may acquit ourselves of the responsibility with fidelity and success.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—The Philadelphia Register reports, that the Treaty recently presented to Congress, for bringing hostilities to a close between the above named countries will be confirmed beyond a doubt. It further adds:—

There are some sticklers to forms who are still opposed to it, but it is now ascertained that Messrs Colburn, Yulee and Hunter will vote for it.

The President, though approving of the treaty, has recommended that certain obnoxious features of it be amended, and this will be done. The objectionable features consist in

the securing of certain British interests in Texas and California in the shape of Empresario grants of land.

The amended treaty will be sent back by one or more commissioners, but whether the Mexicans will accept such an amended treaty, is quite another question.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The business of this Institution has been going on with much satisfaction since we last made mention of it, four weeks ago. Lectures have been delivered by James Cate, Esq., Mr. Joseph Spratt, Revd Mr. McCurdy, and Mr. William Forbes.

The first named gentleman, after a few preliminary remarks, introduced the subject of his Lecture, by drawing a deeply interesting and instructive contrast between the faculties of the Human Mind and the Instincts of the Brute creation. He then proceeded—1st, to trace the past history of Literature and Science—2nd, to illustrate their present aspect and position; and 3rd, to describe their future prospects. Having handled these topics at considerable length, in a clear and masterly manner, he concluded his highly interesting and instructive Lecture by pronouncing the end of all knowledge to be the adoration of the power and wisdom of the Creator; and characterised the general knowledge of the day as flimsy and imperfect, and said, "nothing can be more evident than this, the more exciting any publication is now a-days, the greater is the number of its purchasers, and the profit of its publishers."

On the following Thursday Mr. Joseph Spratt appeared upon the platform, and said, at the desire of some of his esteemed friends he ventured to appear before them in a character to which he had but very slender pretensions, but as the Institution had been established for the very commendable object of imparting information connected with moral and intellectual subjects, more especially for the Mechanical and Labouring classes of the community, and feeling himself identified with all that affects their interest and welfare, he felt it to be an act of duty he owed to the community, to come forward and cast his mite into the general treasury, and forward the very laudable and praiseworthy designs of the Institute.

He then proceeded to his task—and gave a graphic and instructive outline of the history of Heathen Mythology, or that system of Religion which existed from a very remote age of antiquity, and was professed by mankind, generally, with the exception of the Hebrew nation. It was merely an introductory Lecture, and we hope he will fulfill his promise, and continue the subject he so ably commenced.

Mr Spratt was followed by the Revd. Mr. McCurdy, who, before proceeding to read his Lecture, said—he had spent many profitable and agreeable hours in that room, in listening to the able Lectures that have been delivered therein, but last Thursday he had enjoyed a much higher treat than at any previous period, simply, because the party Lecturing was a Mechanic, and the first one that had occupied that platform in that capacity. He complimented that gentleman on the able manner in which he had handled his subject; and said he considered it an honor and a privilege that it had fallen to his lot to follow him. He expressed a hope that other Mechanics would be induced to follow the example that had been set them.

The Revd Gentleman then delivered a most admirable Lecture on the Cultivation of the Mind, in its bearings on the Practical purposes of Life.—First—he pointed out some of the ways in which we may all increase our intellectual store, namely—by Observation and Reflection, by Conversation, by Reading, and by availing ourselves of Institutions such as this. Second—he shewed the importance of every one giving his

chief attention to those departments of knowledge which have a more immediate bearing upon his avocations, or suits in life, and thirdly, he furnished a number of instances of individuals of nations that had become eminently distinguished by the Cultivation of Mind. He then gave some striking specimens of the wonderful achievements of man in the departments of Geology, Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy, Astronomy, in Mechanism, in the application of Steam Power, and in the Magnetic Telegraph, and concluded by showing, that it is possible to set bounds to human attainments, and that notwithstanding the mind has created and can create nothing—it can only observe and avail itself of nature's properties, and natural laws.

The subject of Mr Forbes' Lecture Thursday were Industry and Economy opposed to Indolence and Extravagance who illustrated his subject by relating a number of instances where persons in humbler walks of life had qualified themselves to fill the most important and honorable situations, and acquired immense wealth by industry and frugality.

The whole of these Lectures were listened to with profound attention large audiences, who testified their approbation at their conclusion—and many instances during their delivery by loud and continued applause.

John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq. Lectured on Thursday, and will be followed by James Miller, Esq., the popular Teacher of our Grammar School.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The election for town and county of Halifax took place Saturday week, and the Liberals, it is admitted have returned their majority (Messrs Howe and Uniacke) by large majorities. The Times says, a formal protest was entered against the election on the grounds of violence.

ENCOUNTER WITH WOLVES.—It will be seen by the following communication which has been handed us for publication, that these rapacious animals (wolves) have again revisited this county.

On the night of the 25th Feb., as two lads belonging to Newcastle, one named Landy, the other Thos. Copp, were going along the Portage Road from the Copp settlement, they were suddenly startled by a howl and great bustle in the woods, within a few rods of where they were walking. Presently a large Cariboo leaped out on the road before them, followed by five or six Wolves who were striving to turn the Cariboo into the woods again, but he endeavoured to keep the road. They were within two miles of Laurence Grenan's camp, on block ten, when they arrived within a few yards of the hole torn in his side about 12 inches long, several others on his body. The Wolves did not wait to take "supper," but started to the woods where they saw the people belonging to the camp, who watched all night with loaded guns, but they did not return. The Cariboo would weigh between 3 and 4 cwt.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The following novel scene occurred in the Council, and shews a state of things which should not be allowed to exist.

On the 25th February the Council were occupied in discussing a Bill for taking the Census of the Province, and obtaining other Statistical information. The Chairman observed that it appeared to be the wish of the Committee that the Bill should pass. It was then discovered that there was not a quorum present, as is eight members.

Hon. Mr. Hatch said, this occurred so that it was intolerable, and he should certainly take an early opportunity of bringing it under the consideration of the House, in order that some stringent remedy might be applied. Hon. Col. Shore jocosely remarked, that he was on the Chair, and could neither proceed nor sit out. An hon. member remarked that one of the absentees had gone to a meeting connected with the Model School, and would not be long absent. A messenger who had been dispatched for the hon. Mr. Saunders returned, and it was announced that in consequence of the Mail being about to close for England, he could not return just then. Hon. Mr. Simonds said, that according to the