

he was ten times as large as he seemed to be. There are many people in this world who act like this poor worm.

Colonial News.

Novascotia.

Halifax Times, Feb. 29.

Fire in Marchington's Lane.—Great Destruction of Property.—A fire broke out last night between the hours of eight and nine o'clock, in the Brewery of the honorable Hugh Bell, which spread rapidly to the surrounding buildings. Though the alarm was immediately given, it was found impossible for some time to stop the progress of the flames, nor until the brewery, and soap and candle manufactory were totally destroyed, and considerable complete and partial destruction of other property was likewise occasioned. The night was exceedingly cold, and it was with considerable difficulty in consequence, that the engines could be got to play—the water freezing and otherwise impeding their operations. The scene this morning is one of striking desolation—a large amount of property lying in the streets, and stacks of chimnies, the cellar walls, the mouldering embers alone remaining to mark the site of the premises of which the evening before they formed a part. The wind was from the southwest, and large flakes of fire fell on the stores adjoining the wharves in Water Street,—fortunately none of them took fire. The building on the upper side of Water Street, just in the rear of the flames, were much exposed to danger, and their occupants deemed it prudent to remove their stock and furniture—and twice before 6, a. m., and after all apprehension had subsided, the fire bell again summoned the citizens to prevent their destruction. How the fire originated is we believe a mystery, but there is little doubt of its being accidental.

From fourteen to sixteen buildings have been destroyed, either wholly or partially—representing property to the amount of twelve or fifteen thousand pounds. Partial insurance to the amount of two or three thousand pounds was effected on Mr Bell's stock and other premises—but we should suppose that all that has been done in this way will not go far to cover the actual loss.

His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor and members of his Staff were present—and the utmost zeal was manifested by all classes to assist in preserving the property. The Military and Fire companies as usual did their duty zealously and nobly.

New-Brunswick.

St. John Observer, Feb. 29

Yellow fever was prevailing among the Troops at Barbadoes, at the last accounts. Lt. Colonel Phibbs, commanding the 88th Regt. Connaught Rangers, died of it on the 17th January, and his remains were interred on the following day with all the honors due to his rank and attended to the grave by Governor Reid, General Berkeley commanding the Forces, and a large concourse of military and civilians.—A number of men belonging to that fine regiment had also died of the same disease.

Canada.

The Bytown Gazette of the 17th inst. gives a melancholy account of the state of society in that place. Outrages are committed, the law is set at defiance, the most peaceable and orderly amongst the inhabitants are maltreated, property is injured and destroyed, and the guilty perpetrators escaped with impunity. It is not only by night, but it appears that in broad daylight scenes of violence are enacted; one individual having died of injuries received a few days ago. From all accounts, it would appear the well disposed are unable to protect themselves from the ruffianism which prevails. It would therefore appear to be the imperative duty of the executive authority to interfere and afford that protection and redress for which all good governments are instituted.

Quebec Morning Chronicle, Feb. 23.

Literary and Musical Festival of the Quebec Mechanics' Institute.—Yesterday evening the above festival took place in the Hall of the Assembly. The attendance was numerous and respectable, amounting to about 400 persons. In giving a hurried notice of the meeting, we would state that the decorations were tasteful and the entire arrangements such as reflected the highest credit on the managing committee. The walls were

festooned with flags and on a number of escutcheons, at regular intervals, were displayed the names of the most eminent scientific and literary characters, both British and foreign. The chair, which was chastely yet elegantly ornamented, was occupied by His worship the Mayor, on either side of whom were arranged the speakers of the evening and the committee and office bearers of the Institute. The gallery of the Hall was occupied by the members of the Quebec Philharmonic Union, who during the evening discoursed sweet sounds both vocal and instrumental, to the great delight of the audience. The speakers for the occasion were—the Rev. Mr Marsh, Dr. Fisher, A. Plamondon, C. G. Holt and N. Aubin Esquires, all of whose addresses elicited the warmest applause.

Joseph Eden, Esq., late Returning Officer at the Gaspé election, has been appointed Inspector of Revenue of that District.

Quebec Morning Chronicle, Feb. 25.

Progress of the Telegraph in Canada.—Upwards of twenty telegraph stations have already been opened, and are now in successful operation in Canada. Their locations are as follows:—The London Line have officers at London, Woodstock, Brantford and Hamilton.—The Niagara, and Chippewa Line, at Niagara, Queenstown and Chippewa.—The Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara, at Queens-town, St. Catherine's, Hamilton and Toronto.—Montreal Telegraph Company, at Toronto, Oshawa, Port Hope, Cobourg, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Prescott, Cornwall, Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec.—The Troy and Montreal Line are in operation between Troy and St. Johns.

Communications.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

Fredericton, 2nd March, 1848.

Dear Pierce,

The question of Responsible or Departmental Government having been adopted in the lower house, by a large majority, it remains to be seen whether the upper house will follow their example. The Honorable Charles Simonds laid a series of Resolutions on the table of the Council yesterday, of which the following is a copy.

Whereas, the copy of a Despatch from the Right Honourable Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency Sir John Harvey, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, dated 31st March, 1847, in which is contained the views of His Lordship on the system of conducting public affairs in the Administration of the Government of Nova Scotia, was laid before the House on the 14th day of February, in pursuance of an Address of this House of the 11th February, with a verbal statement by a member of Government, made by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that these views of Earl Grey did not only relate to Nova Scotia, but are of general application in British America.

And whereas, it is highly expedient that this House should express their opinion of what are the views of Earl Grey, as explained in the said Despatch.—

Therefore Resolved, that in the opinion of this House, His Lordship does undoubtedly make the surrender by the Assembly to the Government of the initiative in all measures relative to Revenue and Appropriation, the basis of all the changes which the said Despatch contemplates in the constitution of this Colony.

Resolved as the opinion of this House, that the system of Government, as explained in the said Despatch cannot be carried into effect, without providing adequate pensions to those Public Officers who have faithfully discharged their duty, who did not accept their offices upon a political tenure, and who may be compelled to resign by the operations of the new principles of Government suggested in the aforesaid Despatch.

Resolved as the opinion of this House, that if the Departmental system of Government is established in this Province, and the Assembly continue to exercise the sole right to initiate all measures of Revenue and Appropriation, the elements of discord and agitation will be awakened to a most injurious extent, and a settled Government can no longer exist;—the Government chiefly composed of Heads of Department, without possessing even a shadow of power, and without the means of incurring any real responsibility;—thus will be established the absolute responsibility to the Assembly without the essential safeguard against extravagance and corruption, which in the present state mainly contributes to the safety of the Empire.

Thus you see, while men who have opposed Responsible Government, all their lives, now change their opinion and vote for its adoption, while others who formerly advocated its adoption, begin to see the error of their ways, and oppose it:

but it is no use—it has now, I presume, become the constitution of this Province, and it is the duty of every loyal man, however much he may disapprove of it, to aid in its practical working. Additional expense will have to be incurred, for although we may avoid pensions, still by adopting the Despatch in toto, the House of Assembly must meet the views of the Minister, and provide means for paying the additional Councillors.

The House of Assembly have been engaged for the last week with the Revenue Bill, and have not yet got through with it. After having debated for two days on protection and free trade, they are framing a Bill without regard to either.

Several bills passed the House on Tuesday, and were sent to the Council—among them were two introduced by Mr Carman, one for consolidating and amending the laws relative to Offences against Property, and the other for consolidating the laws relative to Forgery. These are the last of the series of five bills introduced by that Gentleman, for Consolidating the Criminal Laws. The House amended these Bills, by adopting the punishment of death, as in the old law. On the same day the House were in Committee on a bill sent down from the Council, for amending the Jury Law. This law gives the Plaintiff and Defendant each a right to challenge, without cause shown, three jurymen; and removes any difficulty that may arise in consequence of the Sheriffs' neglecting to file their lists. This bill is considered as an improvement on the one introduced by Mr. Carman last Session, which required the Juries to be drawn by the Clerk of the Peace in the presence of two Justices. This Bill still leaves great power in the Sheriffs'; this is an objection, but in the present state of society, perhaps better cannot be done, although balloting is certainly the fairest mode. The Bill also provides for the striking Special Juries, the same as in Mr. Carman's Bill, printed last winter.

To-day there was a question of privilege before the House, on a Bill sent to the Council, relating to Mill Reserves. The Council sent the Bill down with amendments, and on the question being put by the Speaker for reading the amendments, it was decided in the negative. His Hon. the Speaker, Mr. Partelow, Street and Hannington, giving its as their opinion that the Council might amend the Bill, without infringing on the privilege of the House; Messrs Wilmot and Fisher were of a contrary opinion. From what fell from the Speaker, it appears that the house have varied in their practice on similar occasions. This Bill is precisely the same in its nature as the Bill to Restrain the fifth Section of the Civil List Bill, which was sent down by the Council with amendments, in 1837, which amendments were concurred in by the House. As the amendments were not read, I do not know what they were: of course the Bill is lost.

The House have passed a Bill relative to Inter-colonial Trade, which authorizes the Governor, by Proclamation, to allow all articles, of the growth and manufacture of the Colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, or Newfoundland, to be imported into this Province, duty free, on their reciprocating,

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 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.

CANADA.—Montreal papers report that Ministers had tendered their resignations to the Governor General, who preremptorily refused to accept them till after the meeting of the Legislature.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—A very severe shock of an Earthquake was recently felt at a place called Lisbon in this Island.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.—In the absence of more interesting or important matter, we have devoted a large space to the publication of the Debate which took

place in the House of Assembly on Earl Grey's important Despatch. It is copied from the St. John Morning News.

A Correspondent has furnished with another letter from Fredericton giving a summary of the Legislative news down to the evening of the instant. In it our readers will find a series of Resolutions introduced into the upper House by Mr Simonds, in reference to the doctrines propounded by Earl Grey. That the Despatch implies the surrender of the Initiative of the matter of Revenue, &c. by the Assembly to the Government, there cannot be doubt, and we perfectly agree with Hon. Mr. Simonds, that if the House persist in retaining this right, that will lead to 'discord and agitation.' We are to have a paid Council, let the attend to the duties of developing the resources for the improvement of the wilderness lands, the opening of roads, the building of bridges, the framing of a Revenue Bill, in fact ever thing connected with the management of the Government, and let these measures be brought down to the Assembly for approval. This plan be adopted, which we conceive to be the one contemplated by the Despatch, we shall then know who to blame for bad measures, and who to praise good ones. At present there is no responsibility and no system—each member a scheme of his own, and in the struggle to carry out individual opinions, much valuable time is squandered, and a promise generally ends the contest. It has been the case for years past with the Revenue bill. On its introduction several days are occupied by the protection and free traders, advocating their favorite doctrines, but the result proves neither party have succeeded; and a compromise, and unsatisfactory Bill is the result. Such is the case it appears this year.

Who have we to blame for this? Representatives of the People. Granted but when we endeavour to affix it on Members, they throw it on the shoulders of others, and reply, we could do no better—we were opposed in our views, were glad to effect a compromise. Thus shifting the blame on others, no doubt holds good with respect to all the representatives. There is virtually no responsibility under the present system. But should the duty devolve on the Executive to originate measures conducting the affairs of the Government, we would then know where responsibility rested.

Should they at any time come in collision with the house, and not be able to carry out their measures—the Assembly could be dissolved, and an appeal made to the people. If a majority of members opposed to their views were returned the Council would have to retire; otherwise they would retain their places, people having approved their measures. This, in our opinion, is the system intended to be introduced by the Despatch. Deprive the Executive of this power, and we would ask—what will be their duty—how can they be a "working government"—and what will they be paid for Responsible Government without an essential and all-important feature, would be a shadow without a substance, a deception; and disguise it as they may. Members of the Lower House know that they wish to retain the initiative, because it gives them patronage and consequently power.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT NEWCASTLE.

The Grammar School in Newcastle, taught by John Sivewright, A. M., was examined on Thursday last, the result, in presence of the Trustees, and some of the parents of the pupils, the appearance made by the pupils, a highly creditable, fully sustaining the reputation which this school has already attained. The scholars were examined in English Reading, Spelling, and Grammar, History and Geography, Arithmetic