

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the St. John New Brunswick.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

We promised in our last to advert to the necessary additions to be made to the Legislative Council. This branch of the Legislature, when it is full, should consist of twenty one members, but at present there are but seventeen, leaving four vacancies to be immediately supplied. We presume that the necessary appointments will be made before the next session. The question now to be determined by the Government is, what are the necessary political qualifications for the new Councilors? And on this point we shall give our decided opinion.

Those who are familiar with the former history of New Brunswick, are aware that appointments to the Legislative Council were generally made from one political party, and we might add from one religious denomination, —two of the present members, one a Baptist and the other a Presbyterian, being, we believe, the only exceptions since this Province existed. The selections, too, were always made from the Compact party, and generally the Councilors were men well advanced in life—Government loafers or officials, who were so full of loyalty that they set their faces decidedly against any improvement in the government of the country. Until about twelve years past, the Judges had seats in this body, and the Chief Justice remained at its head for seven or eight years after his brethren of the Bench were removed. The only instance which we recollect of the appointment of a young man, was that of the Hon. Amos Bosford, who could not succeed in securing his election to the Assembly, and was immediately elevated to the Legislative Council.

Even since the advent of Liberalism into the Assembly, the second branch, as hitherto constituted, has been regarded by the friends of the new principles as an insurmountable obstacle to their permanent establishment in the government of the country. Accordingly, we find as early as 1842 or 3, a Bill introduced by Mr. Fisher, requiring a property qualification in the members of the Legislative Council, which was rejected by that body. In the same session, the mover of the bill proposed an address to the Queen, "on the subject of the composition of the Legislative Council," and praying certain alterations principally concerning the removal of some of the officers of the Government, of which it was complained there was an excess, and claiming representation for "the different religious interests of the country." This address, as far as we recollect, was carried unanimously, and forwarded to the Imperial Government. The object of the Liberals undoubtedly was, to get an infusion of Liberalism into the second Branch, and they doubtless believed that by having regard to the different religious interests of the Province, the new appointments would be made from classes which have political sympathies in common with their own. Well, the address went home, and the leading principles were approved of by Her Majesty's Government. Despatches were sent out to this effect to Sir W. Colebrooke, and our Executive was instructed to make the necessary changes. Four gentlemen were accordingly removed, and four new Councilors were appointed—the Hon. Messrs. Owen, Crane, Minchin, and T. H. Peters—all of them adherents of the old party, and connected with the dominant church. This was done just before the meeting of the House in 1844, and of course gave great dissatisfaction, and we find by reference to the Journals, and debates of that session, that Mr. Fisher introduced two resolutions, complaining of the conduct of the Government in the matter, which were lost by large majorities. The discussion, however, had the good effect of calling public attention to the subject, and as the House of Assembly have adopted a new Constitution, it is of great consequence now that the Legislative Council should be gradually assimilated to it.

The Fredericton Reporter, in an able article on this subject, advocates the claims of the Liberal party to all the vacant seats. With one exception (the Hon. W. B. Kinnear, who is identified with the Liberals), the Legislative Council consists of Tories. Now comes the development of the antagonist principles in the Coalition. The Liberals say, that with one half of the Government, they can secure for their party one half of the patronage. Thus far, we have no proof of this. Mr. Wilnot is Attorney General, but beyond this we know of nothing which the Liberals have got for themselves, their families, or their party; they have either not tried to get anything, or they have been overruled by their Tory colleagues. But this Legislative Council business is one which they cannot trifle with. If the Tories in the Government are sincere in wishing to act fairly, they will not object to the vacant seats being filled with Liberals—and not Liberals in their own choosing either, but Liberals in whom the Liberal members of the Executive will have entire confidence.

If these appointments are now made without reference to the present preponderance of Tories in the Legislative Council, what will the Liberal party throughout the country think of their leaders in the Executive? Especially, can Mr. Fisher, after the prominent position which he took against a former Government, and an overwhelming majority of the Assembly, defend before the country appointments which do not do justice to his own party? It is folly to say that party distinctions exist no longer; we say, they do exist, and they must be respected, or the country generally will

adopt the conclusion, that the Liberals in the Government have thrown principle overboard. We tell these gentlemen that there are many who love them not, who watch for their halting, and they must take care that no consideration shall induce them to compromise their party in this matter.

It is not our purpose to name candidates for the present vacancies, but the government can lay their hands upon them. One gentleman, the Hon. Mr. Hill, we recommended some years since, in consequence of his high standing, and consistent political conduct; we presume that in any state of things he will be appointed. We think, as we have already hinted, that the Liberal members of the Executive should select their own men, and they must take care to get the best materials they can; men of talent and respectability, who will ultimately justify their appointments before the country. If they cannot find men who will in every respect equal their wishes, they must make the best selection they can for the present. Meantime, as the country grows older, men will rise up whose talents can be pressed into the service of the public.

The British Press.

THE COLONIES MADE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A CHANGE OF OUR MONETARY LAWS REQUIRED TO PROTECT NATIVE AND COLONIAL INDUSTRY.

Mr. Isaac Buchanan, of Glasgow, continues his effort to bring the condition of home and colonial industry before the public. From an article, which we have not room for, he states the case as follows:—

"The bark of our national prosperity seems, therefore, approaching the breakers, and what do we see? Are the master and officers of the good ship about changing the course? No. Do they then pretend they are right? No. They now scarcely dare so far to insult their dupes, but, trusting to the chapter of events, they in the meantime have set themselves to divert the alarmed passengers. The master (as represented by the Liverpool Peelites) protest that the wages of the seamen and their retiring allowances have been too high. The officers (as represented by Mr. Cobden, with friend Bright, and the peace men) entertain the passengers with some new regulations for the wind of heaven. SUCH IS THE DREADFUL ABSENCE OF ALL PREPARATION FOR THE COMING EXTREMITY OF OUR WORKING CLASSES. We want a pilot to weather the storm within, not the storm without. We want a man superior to our presently existing factions and parties, who are mere embodiments of men, not principles, and, what is worse, of unprincipled men, whose personal character for consistency is all they care about utterly neglectful of the bodies and souls of the laboring masses. The people at this dark moment ask for bread, they are offered a stone. We ask for bread, and we are tendered financial reform on the one hand, and the extreme doctrines of peace on the other. We have no objection to these things in their proper place, which is a very insignificant one in comparison with the FEEDING OF OUR PERISHING MASSES. Even if our whole national debt were extinguished, our population would still starve under the combined influence of bullionism and irreciprocal Free Trade. And on the other hand, we feel it an insult to be told that BY TREATIES WITH THE FOREIGNERS we may achieve universal peace, and that by men who have denied the possibility of practically securing by treaty from foreign countries the benefit of Free Trade, which they think so obvious an advantage to these countries. We ourselves believe in the possibility of securing by treaty from the foreign country everything which it is in its interest to give, but we insist on the object of our first treaties being the acceptance of our manufactures by foreigners, on the same terms as we receive foreign produce.

"We are not mere FAULT-FINDERS. Our whole object is to increase the employment, and, as a natural consequence, raise gradually in this, the only way they can be raised, the wages of our manufacturing population. We believe that if our manufacturing population is prosperous, so will our agricultural interest, as a matter of necessary consequence. We think it fair, however, to the agriculturist, that he should be given distinctly to know that he will not be subjected to the competition of untaxed foreign corn, without having the prosperity of the manufacturer secured by the foreign wheat growing country taking payment in British goods. WE INSIST ON COLONIAL SUGAR AND OTHER PRODUCTIONS BEING RECEIVED DUTY FREE, except where there is an excise duty on the same article at home. This, we sincerely believe, would save the colonies to Great Britain, while nothing else will effect the great purpose of enabling us to retain those vast and magnificent territories which are the only countries able and willing to Free Trade with us.

"We, of course, hold that the principle of Free Trade, would, if attainable in practice, be the best for this country, because we have more industry, more capital, and more economy than any other country; and none could object more than ourselves to the protection, for its own sake, of any class interest in this community. We, however, have always expected Free Trade to be, at least to a great extent, reciprocal, because we have always seen the absolute necessity of our currency—the life's blood of all our interests—being protected from invasion at the will of our foreign opponents, by their draining us of our precious metals."

Communications.

[Written for the Gleaner.]

ON THE VONDY TESTIMONIAL.

Oh! sons of earth, now cease your trivial ire;
Now cease thy zeal—and let not friends conspire
In mutual broils your passions to inflame;
But study peace, your grosser minds to tame.
Oh, think of him, thy brother, lately here—
Think of his kindred, and silent drop a tear.
Arrest thy voice, and open not again
Those grief-filled fountains that time has partly lain;
Forsake those feelings that trouble while they rise—
Forget the past and study to be wise.
The grave, how silent! how strifeless is the tomb;
Let life's rough passage meander without room
For envious venom, or bickering passions wild—
Contemplate him who teaches to be mild,
Let glimmering reason dissipate afar
Sectarian feeling, that feeds the world with war;
Let it uproot its vain, uplifted pride,
That on earth's children sure and silent rides.
If Bells their strains in mournful melody
Speak when they chime, and strengthen memory,
Memorial language upward in tuning praise,
Will soothe much sweeter,—our soul in transport raise
To Him above, who all our actions guard,
Who views our work, and settles our reward.
The chilling tomb!—retiring—oh, how drear;
Its gloomy precincts instil a lonely fear;
Associations crowd to feed the gloom
That settle o'er us. Oh, the frigid tomb,
What mystic influence surrounds thy mournful shade;
How in thy presence pride and beauty fade;
Wealth and ambition sink with powerless sway;
All vital must crumble and decay.

A FRIEND TO MERCY.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, NOV. 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.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Mail Steamer America arrived at Halifax on the morning of Monday week, after a fine passage of 8½ days. Under the European head will be found numerous extracts from the papers thus received, which embrace all the leading features of events that have transpired in the old world since the departure of the previous steamer.

UNITED STATES.—New Orleans papers officially announce that Yellow Fever has disappeared in that city. In the same city, in four days, no less than twenty females were arrested on charges of assault and battery, some for cowhiding other women, and others for performing similar operations on men.

The Boston Herald thus quizzes the people of New York on the extremely slight manner in which dwelling houses are erected in that city.

There was once a gentleman who, having moved into a house in Hudson street, tilted his chair backwards against the front wall after dinner, as all Americans do, to enjoy his cigar. The dining room was on the second floor. The wall gave way behind him, and he was spilled into the street. He was an alderman, and luckily, pitched upon his head—or, perhaps, he might have been hurt. He had a two hours' headache as it was. When he sought damages in the Court of Common Pleas, he was nonsuited, on the ground, that living in New York, he must have been aware of the peril—and was not entitled to compensation for harm of his wilful or careless seeking. A washer-woman in Canal street, going to drive a nail into a brick wall of the next house, there to attach her clothes-line, struck the iron through into the skull of the tenant, who happened to be taking his afternoon nap in the posture of the sufferer of the preceding story, and killed him as dead as Sisera.

A late Boston paper states that a shocking accident occurred on the Marblehead Branch Railroad, which was attended with a fearful loss of life. It appears that a train left Salem at about 12 o'clock with the Marblehead delegation, who had been present at a democratic meeting in that city, and on reaching the Marblehead branch road, the train encountered an extra train of cars with the Salem delegation, returning from the wing meeting at Lynn. The collision occurred on the crossing, and was frightful and me-

lancholy in its consequences, instantly killing five persons and seriously wounding six or eight others.

THE BRITISH MAILS.—The Halifax Courier says—an advertisement appears in the Quebec Gazette, which puts an end to the report of a renewed arrangement for the passage of the English Mails thro' the United States, at least through the ensuing winter.

CANADA.—It is stated in a late Montreal paper, that the Lachine Railroad has been sold to Sir George Simpson, for the sum of £30,000. It is said to have cost £150,000.

On the 27th ult., the new Gas Works building, in the course of erection in Caline-street, Montreal, fell in, killing and injuring from 10 to 14 persons.

HALIFAX.—The Sun gives the following humorous dialogue reported to have occurred in the City Police Court.

Alderman—Do you know, you naughty child, where bad boys, who play marbles on Sundays, go?

Boy—Yes, your Worship, some of 'em goes to the common, and some of 'em down to the wharves.

FREE TRADE VS. PROTECTION.—We copy the annexed paragraphs from a late number of the Quebec Gazette.

A Nut for the Free Traders.—Protection of Home Products against Foreign Competition.—We find the following letter in a Maine paper, and think it worth publication; it tends to show the animus of the Whig party in the United States, on the question of reciprocity, and it is important, because it is pretty evident that that party will elect the President, and consequently the United States will, for the next four years, be governed in accordance with their political principles:

The Fisherman.—Mr Editor, I have always voted the Democratic ticket, and had continued to do so, had it not been for what I have lately witnessed, and what I will try to relate, though in rather an awkward way, as I never wrote anything for the papers before.

I am a fisherman, and have been about four months on a fishing cruise, and have just come out of the Bay of Chaleur, and after labouring hard, have got but a scanty fare. This is discouraging enough, but it is not the worst; for there are so many fish brought into the States from the British Provinces, almost free of duties, that they are fetching almost nothing at all. When I was in the Bay, I saw enough to convince me, that if we allow the Nova Scotia fishermen to fetch their fish into this country, we will be ruined. Thousands of the Blue Noses were in the Bay when we were there, catching fish, and they say they shall send their fish into the States, for the duties are so light there and the fish so much higher than they are in the Provinces, that by doing so they can do twice as well. Therefore, Mr Editor, I can never again vote for my own party till they are willing to put on higher duties, and keep out the foreign fish. For, if we do not, the fishermen can never do anything, I am convinced of it. If you can find out what I have written, you may put it in your paper, for I am anxious that my brother fishermen should know what is going on.

A FISHERMAN.

THE SEASON.—Old Winter pounced down upon us very suddenly on Thursday last. On the morning of that day it commenced snowing, for the first time this season, which continued until about six o'clock in the evening. There has been sharp frosts every night since, particularly on Sunday; and yesterday morning, considerable ice was to be seen in the river, floating up and down with the tide, and a large collection on our shore, which extended a considerable distance into the river. Judging from appearances, we should presume that all intercourse was cut off with the other side of the river. This is very unusual at this early period of the season, but we expect to have a clear river again in a few days, as we have not yet had what is called our Indian Summer, a short season of most delightful weather, which we experience about this period. We are, however, too apt to believe what we wish. Several vessels from Halifax and Quebec are hourly expected with supplies.

FIRE IN CHATHAM.—We had a very narrow escape from a serious disaster on Saturday last. About 7 o'clock in the evening of that day, the dwelling house owned and occupied by Mr William Tobin, situate in the most crowded part of our town, was discovered to be on fire. The fire bell gave out an alarm, and the populace were soon on the spot. The fire had made some progress before it was detected, and flames were seen issuing from the roof. As all hands went cheerfully to work, and as there was plentiful supply of water, the fire was, in a short time got under, not, however, until the premises had received considerable damage. The night was very cold, but providentially there was but a slight