

diffared in opinion, Mr Cranney voting for, and Mr Carman against the bill. Mr Gibson is here, urging the interest of the Electric Telegraph Company. He makes three propositions,—one, that the House shall allow the Company to run their line direct to Amherst, and give them a bonus of £2,500; another, that the Company shall complete the line to Amherst, via St. John, and the Province take stock to the amount of £5,000; and the third, that the Company shall complete the line to Miramichi, and the Province the remainder to Amherst, via St. John, and the Company will give up the control of the line in this Province to Commissioners to be appointed by the Executive. These propositions are now under the consideration of a select committee, consisting of End, Carman, Montgomery, Bailie, and R. D. Wilmer.

Nothing has yet been done relative to filling up the Council. That body are transacting business with a bare quorum; on Wednesday they could do nothing, as the members of government are absent in Council, and a quorum could not be had. It was supposed that the present would be a short session; but I am informed that there is more business before the House to be got through, than in any former session.

THE PRESS.—In the first page will be found an extract from a most excellent Lecture delivered by Dr. HARRT, of Fredericton, at the Mechanics' Institute of Saint John, on THE PRESS. It is worth an attentive perusal. The Dr. has in a most able manner handled his subject, and clearly pointed out the benefits which the world has already received from this great engine, and what it is destined to accomplish for the moral regeneration of the human family. The position which Editors occupy, and the important duties devolving on them at this critical period in the Colonies, are also clearly defined, and affords a most striking contrast to the charge delivered by a certain Bermuda Judge in a late libel case, referred to in another column of this day's paper.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.—The Revd. William Stewart, from St. John, came passenger by the Fredericton stage on Saturday last. Having received and accepted a cordial Call from the congregation of Saint Andrew's Church, Chatham, and his removal having been sanctioned by the Church Courts, Mr. Stewart entered upon his new field of labour last Sabbath, when he preached a highly interesting and impressive discourse to a large congregation. The induction of Mr. Stewart will take place next month.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—In another column will be found a communication from Richard Hutchinson, Esq. which in justice to ourselves, we cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

He says—"He was inclined to believe the declaration made by us, that no anonymous communication reflecting on the character or credit of any man, or body of men, would be countenanced by us, or have a place in our Journal." We presume he has reference to some remarks made by us a few weeks since, on refusing to publish a communication bearing the signature of "Castigator." This writer, in no measured terms, complained of the character and standing of certain individuals, Magistrates of the County. This we refused to publish, not that we thought in so doing, we would be overstepping the limits of our duty, but because we have had ample proof from past experience, that no beneficial results would ensue from the publication of his letter. We at the same time stated, that no anonymous communication reflecting on the character of the individuals composing the Bench, would find a place in our columns; but knowing that this was a very sore subject with the public, and one bitterly complained of, we suggested a course of action which we considered more honorable, and one likely to effect the change desired, namely, that if the public have any fault to find with the members of the Bench, let them request the High Sheriff to call a meeting, where the subject could be openly discussed, and a remonstrance made to the Executive, requiring their removal.

From what we said on that occasion, it appears that Mr. H. came to the conclusion that we intended to close our columns against the admission of communications condemning the proceedings of the Bench. This was not, however, the interpretation put on our language by the public generally, for the following week we received a letter bearing the signature of "H. M." censuring certain acts of the Bench during their recent session. At the publication of this article Mr. H. has taken umbrage, and accuses us of having falsified our declaration. We are extremely sorry that our language was so ambiguous, as to induce Mr. H. or any other individual, to place a construction on it we never intended it should

convey; and for fear there may exist a difference of opinion on the subject, we now distinctly state, that no communication reflecting on the character or circumstances of any individual composing the Bench of Magistrates in this County, will be admitted into our Journal: not that we imagine in so doing we would be trenching on the liberty of the subject, or surpassing the limits assigned us as Public Journalists, but for the reasons we have stated above. But considering that the Acts of the Sessions, as well as of all other public men belong to the public, and that they have an undoubted right to canvass them, either at public meetings, in a public journal, or at their own fire-sides, our columns will at all times be open to the discussion of the acts of our Public Men, whether they occupy seats in the Legislature, hold commissions as Justices of the Peace, or fill any other office. What! close our columns to the free expression of public opinion. What! allow our public men to act as they please, and not allow the public to express an opinion thereon through their organ—The Press. This may be considered by some individuals the course an Editor should pursue—but we differ very widely from them. It is not the one we have followed, nor the one we ever will adopt while a Press is under our control.

In publishing the letter of H. M., we contend we did not depart from our publicly expressed declaration, or from our duty. We have carefully re-perused this article, and we cannot perceive where Mr H. (to use his own language) has been assailed by a "malicious slanderer." Our Correspondent merely comments on certain transactions of the Sessions, and draws inferences with respect to the motives which influenced them in acting as they did. This he had an undoubted right to do, but whether they were false or true, it was not our business to enquire into. In making this assertion, we feel persuaded we will be supported by nine-tenths of our readers. From what Mr H. says—it appears our Correspondent has not stated the facts as they occurred. This may be—we were not cognizant of the transaction referred to by H. M., although he states we were, and finds fault with us for withholding it from the public. If the Sessions would set apart some particular day or days, for the despatch of public business, we would cheerfully attend; and to the best of our ability, give an outline of their proceeding; but it is done so irregularly, that to accomplish this object would occupy much more time than we are able to devote to it. There is another plan we might adopt, but it is too expensive for us to follow, namely, to procure from the Clerk a copy of the record. To obviate these difficulties, and prevent mistakes in future, we would suggest that the Clerk be requested to furnish us with a copy of their proceedings, free of charge, and we shall cheerfully transfer them to our pages, without any compensation, for the information of the public.

Mr H. concludes his letter by saying, "Whoever the person may be who handed the Bermuda libel case for insertion, he must have intended it for your own good, and it is to be hoped the advice will not be altogether lost." We do not doubt the sincerity of the motives which prompted this act, but why he has referred to this document, we are at a loss to conjecture: but we can assure him, if we wished to obtain a chart by which to guide our bark o'er the boisterous ocean of politics, we would not make choice of the darkly defined or narrowly prescribed one drawn out by Judge Butterfield. We are sufficiently acquainted with the history of our mother land, to know the measure of latitude the majority of Judges would allow to the Press. Never perhaps, was a greater libel perpetrated on common sense, or a greater outrage committed on the rights of the people, than the interpretation put on the law of the land by Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice of England—"that the greater the truth the greater the libel." No, if we wished for guides to conduct us in our path of duty, we would sooner follow the example set us by those great men, who through trial and persecution, battled against the prerogatives of sovereigns, servile ministers, venal courts, corrupt parliaments, and a multitude of other grievances, both small and great, which has raised the Press in the old country, to the imposing and honorable position it now occupies—as the fourth estate of the realm.

We have received two critiques on the Report of the Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi, published in last Tuesday's Gleaner: one signed "A Member," the other "One of the Public." We decline inserting them. If the former had any objections to the matter or phraseology of this document, he

should have stated them at the meeting, and failing to obtain the alterations sought for by him, he was bound to abide by the decision of the majority. The latter has no right publicly to express an opinion on the report of a society of which, we presume, he is not a member.

The Reports of the Agricultural Societies of Gloucester and Restigouche were obtained by the last mail, and they shall receive early attention.

The letter from Gaspé, signed a "Teacher," will be published next week.

THE SEASON.—Papers from Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Ed. Island, and intelligence received from quarters nearer home, speak of the severity of the weather, and the large quantity of snow that has fallen during the winter. For the last seven weeks we have had a continuation of bitter cold weather, which seemed to grow in intensity day after day as the season advanced. There was a change yesterday, and we hope it may continue. The wind has prevailed from the north, and frequently blew with much violence, but we have had but little snow up to the present time, and consequently have not to complain as our neighbours have, of bad travelling—on the contrary, it has been excellent during the greater part of the winter, but such has been the intensity of the frost, that frequently those who ventured out, placed in serious jeopardy their noses, ears, &c. We question much if a more severe winter was ever experienced in the country.

A HINT.—The importance of our Agricultural over almost all our other interests, appears to be deeply impressed on our Legislators, and it is believed that their most anxious and serious attention will be devoted to the subject. This section of the Province is held up as foremost in the culture of the soil, and in the system adopted by our Farmers. The best mode of encouraging the introduction and settlement among us, of an intelligent class of Farmers from the mother country, to open up and settle some of the valuable tracts of ungranted lands with which the Province abounds, will no doubt be another subject that will engage the attention of the Legislature. We believe that many valuable suggestions on these deeply important subjects might be obtained from many of our intelligent practical Farmers; and we cannot doubt but that any suggestion from such a quarter, would be gladly received by Members. With this view, and believing that much good would result from more frequent meetings of our Farmers, to discuss matters affecting Agriculture and Rural Economy, we would suggest to the Office-bearers of the Agricultural Society, whether a few hours could not be usefully occupied in holding meetings, say in the evenings, at some convenient place, where all who are interested could attend for the purpose of discussing such matters as we have alluded to. In the United States the practice is common, and much good has resulted from such meetings. We have all an interest in promoting the prosperity of the country, and we will be glad if our hints shall be the means of inducing some action to be taken. What say you Mr. President?

THE ETHIOPIAN CONCERT.—This entertainment given, by a few young men, for the benefit of the Poor, came off in the Band Room in Chatham, last evening. The room was crowded, and we understand the parties acquitted themselves with much credit.

Marriages.

At New Bandon, on Monday, the 5th inst., by Benjamin Dawson, Esq., a Commissioner for solemnising marriage, Mr RICHARD PETERS, to Miss URSULA JAGOR.

On the 6th, by the same, Mr WILLIAM EEDY, to Miss ELLEN SERGENT, all of the Parish of New Bandon.

At Shediac, on the 13th inst. by the Rev. Mr McPhail, Mr AMES SMITH, to Miss ALICE ARMOUR.

At the same place, on the 14th, by the Rev. G. R. Jarvis, D. D., Rural Dean, Mr GEO. BATEMAN to Miss MARGARET HANINGTON.

Deaths.

At Point aux Car, on Sunday morning last, Mrs AMIE GUNN, aged 70 years.

At the residence of Mr John Smith, in Chatham, on Sunday morning last, Mrs ANNA H. POOLE, aged 76 years.

At Pictou, on the 9th inst., ELIZABETH MCKAY, wife of Mr A. G. McKay, in the 53d year of her age.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

SHEDIAC.—An attentive Correspondent at this place, under date of February 16, writes to us as follows:

The present winter has been the coldest and most severe one that has been felt here these many years. Snow has fallen to such a height and in such masses, that in many places the roads are as high as the fence tops; consequently the travelling is bad in the extreme, and will account for any delay or irregularity in the arrival of the mails from the southward. On Monday last we had a most piercing and terrific gale; it blew and drifted with such violence, that neither man or beast durst venture out. About 2 o'clock that night, a house occupied by Mr George Taylor, situated at the north end of Cogan's bridge, was reduced to ashes, with its contents, and melancholy to relate, one of Mr Taylor's children, an infant of about seven weeks old, perished in the flames;

the rest of the family narrowly, yet most providentially, escaped through a window, and were completely exhausted when they reached the next dwelling. The same night the Dwelling House of Mr Michael Harris, at the Bend, was also burnt to the ground, with the greater part of his household effects. Three other houses in this neighborhood also took fire, but the flames were subdued before any material injury was effected. Two families at Grand-degagne, Kent County, have been attacked with Small Pox. It has also appeared on the Shediac River settlement; two individuals, a man and a woman, have fallen victims to the disease. We are also informed that it has broken out among the Indians at Buctouche, several of the tribe from the north having lately arrived there. It is apprehended that unless every possible precaution is taken, it will eventually spread, and carry the disease to the different settlements.

NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR.—It is currently reported in Fredericton that James Davidson, Esq., of Oak Point, in this County, is to be called to the Legislative Council.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The great Railroad meeting came off at Halifax on Friday, when the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, and a Committee of 60 gentlemen representing all classes in the city, appointed to present a memorial based on them, to the Legislature:—

1.—Resolved.—That this meeting desires to express its satisfaction with the able Report of the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government on the proposed Railroad between Halifax and Quebec, and this meeting is of opinion that the construction of such a Railroad is a measure essential to the prosperity and best interests of this province, and will greatly tend to develop its resources, and expand the trade of the North American Colonies.

2.—Resolved.—That this meeting, firmly impressed with the conviction that the prosperity of this Province is deeply involved in so important an undertaking, are of opinion that the Imperial Government supervision and interdict therein should be paramount, and most respectfully suggest that the sum of £20,000, sterling, the amount named in the Engineer's Commissioner's report, as proper to be borne by this Province, be appropriated by the Legislature to carry into effect the views of her Majesty's Government until the line pays the working expense and 4 per cent. interest.

3.—Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the augmentation of Revenue arising from the expenditure of so large a Capital as will be required for the construction of the Railway and from the increased consumption attending the necessary influx of population consequent thereon, will soon compensate to the Province, the outlay contemplated by the foregoing resolution.

4.—Resolved.—That this meeting duly appreciating the beneficial results to the Province at large, and more particularly to the Metropolis should the same be made the terminus, which so important an undertaking as the Halifax and Quebec Railroad is calculated to produce, deem it their duty thus strongly to express their opinion that the county of Halifax should unhesitatingly pledge itself to raise annually the sum of £4000 sterling by a property tax assessed on the Real estate therein until the line pays the working expense and 4 per cent. interest.

5.—Resolved.—That the said sum of £4000 stg. so to be assessed, should be raised and apportioned in the same ratio as the Provincial Grant; and that the portion assumed by the county and city of Halifax, be annually paid into the Treasury, to enable the Province to fulfil its engagements with the Imperial Government.

6.—Resolved.—That a memorial be presented to the Legislature, embodying the foregoing Resolutions, and most respectfully praying that such measures may be adopted as will speedily lead to the commencement of the Rail Road and will insure its continuance to completion, and that a committee be appointed to wait on our county and town members, requesting them to submit the same, and urgently to press upon the consideration of the Provincial Assembly, the necessity of granting the amount required by the Imperial Government.

There are 55 Divisions of the Sons of Temperance in this Province, which comprise 3000 members.

The inhabitants of Halifax have had their share of cold weather, judging from the annexed paragraph copied from the Times and Courier of Saturday last:—

The long continuance of severe weather has quite astonished the moderns of our city, who have been for the last few years accustomed to this comparatively mild seasons of variable temperature of the 45° of latitude. Saturday was an intensely cold day, and during the night while Cetus slumbered, Jack Frost took possession of the surface of the old Chebucto, which was not surrendered until the south easter and snow storm of the following day succeeded in rescuing from his frigid embraces, that which is so essential to navigation.—clear cold water.

The Pictou Chronicle has the following paragraph on the same subject:—

On Tuesday last we had a snow storm of the most respectable kind, like nothing of modern times, but one of the real old fashioned storms, blocking up doors and windows and raising drifts ten feet deep. The Indians, who are no bad weather prophets, predict an early and favorable spring as a necessary consequence of the unusual severity of this winter.