

United States News.

DIABOLICAL MURDER NEAR LOWELL.—One of those crimes which startle humanity by their atrocity, has been brought to light within these few days past at Lowell. It appears that a young and singularly handsome girl, only 19 years of age, who had been employed in the factories, had suddenly disappeared, leaving no clue by which she could be traced. It was more than suspected that she had been seduced, and a person named Taylor, a livery stable keeper, was pointed at as the victim by whom she had been victimized. When last seen alive, she was entering the house of Dr. Clarke, a medical man, residing near Lowell. This date was 31st of December, and it was not until the 3rd instant that her fate became known, for on that day a coarse looking sack, which had lain for weeks in the river near the bridge of Lowell, was taken up and examined, where her body was found enclosed. Her nostrils were stuffed with cotton wadding, a cotton band passed four times round the head, covering mouth, eyes and nostrils, and a fine rope drawn round the throat, which was indented half an inch with the pressure. The post-mortem examination established the fact of her having been five months *en famillie*. Her murder was perpetrated under circumstances which have induced the arrest of Dr. Clarke and his wife, and the above named Taylor, the reputed father.

MR WEBSTER'S COMPROMISE.—Reports come pretty thick that the senator from Massachusetts will soon introduce a compromise, on the basis of the Missouri line, running to the Pacific, which will be satisfactory to the south. The New York Herald says that "several southern members of congress had a long and interesting interview with him on Saturday night. The whole subject was discussed, and the result is, that the limitations of a compromise have been examined, which are satisfactory to our southern brethren."

DARING ATTITUDE OF THE HERO OF BUENA VISTA.—A private letter to the editor of the New York Tribune, made public in that journal, says—"The President is very firm, and the southern members are in full possession of his views. A committee of them inquired in an interview with him if he had expressed himself ready to maintain the Union at any cost. He replied that he had—that he should blockade every southern port in case of an armed resistance to the collection of the customs—that he should not interpose the regular army, but should call for volunteers from the northern and western states, putting himself at their head, and should pour out his blood in defence of the Union. He is confident that the people of the southern states would themselves put down any attempt to break forcibly out of the Union. When told that the southern members would, in a certain contingency, secede and go home, he quietly remarked that there would be enough more good men ready to come in their places." The employment of free state volunteers would cause more heart-burings than if the commander in chief should only make use of the regular army. Heretofore he has rather disliked volunteers.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AMERICA AND ENGLAND.—Sir George Simpson, President of the Hudson Bay Company, and the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, on a mission from Canada, were in town yesterday, en route for Washington.

The object of Mr Cameron's mission to the capital is two fold; first, to promote the passage of the reciprocity bill through Congress; second, to stop the progress of the annexation movement.—It is thought by the Governor General of Canada that, if the reciprocity bill is passed, the efforts of the annexationists in that Province will cease.

The President of the Hudson Bay Company goes to Washington to complete the sale, if possible, of the property of that company in Oregon, worth, according to the estimates, one million of dollars.—*New York Express.*

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.—The steamship Alabama arrived at New Orleans on the 28th ult., from Onages, with 65 passengers, and \$450,000. She brings dates from San Francisco to the 24th January, being fourteen days later than our previous accounts.

Sacramento city had been overflowed by the sudden rising of the river, and only a few spots were visible above the water. The cattle were all swept away. The loss of property is estimated at one million of dollars. The inhabitants were suffering dreadfully from the calamity.

A serious outrage had been committed by a party of Chilians at the mines near Stockton, upon some Americans, several of whom they killed, and took the remainder prisoners. They were afterwards released. This affair has created great excitement, and it was supposed that all the Chilians would, in consequence, be expelled from the mines.

A new Steamship, for Collins's Liverpool line, was launched at New York at noon on Saturday. She is called the Baltic, is over 3000 tons burthen, and is finished with great elegance and neatness.

Large quantities of lumber have been shipped to California from Bangor, during the past summer and fall, and the stock on hand is exceedingly light. Prices have advanced within 60 days at least 15 per cent, and the best lumber is held at a higher rate than in Boston. Heavy shipments have also been made from the towns along the coast between Portland and Calais, and also from the Province of New Brunswick.—*Boston Courier.*

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.—MR WEBSTER'S

COMPROMISE.—The correspondent of the New York Herald says under date—

Washington, February 25.

The greatest excitement prevailed at Washington. There are stirring scenes in Congress. There was an important debate to-day on Mr Foote's motion for a committee of thirteen to arrange the question. It indicates Mr Webster as chairman, and includes his compromise. The movement of Mr Webster to settle the slavery question is attracting the attention of every one. It will command the attention of the whole country. Since Saturday Senators Downs, Badger, Berrien, Dawson, Mangum, Foote, Bell, and others, all from the south, have called at Mr Webster's house, and came away satisfied with the new plan. On the other side Senator Corwin is said to be with the senator from Massachusetts. All eyes are turned to Mr Webster. Expectation and confidence are high.

It is clear that Foote urged the appointment of the committee for fear of some terrible event if delayed another week. It is feared that if Mr Doty's California resolution is passed on the House next Monday, there will be a bloody scene and breaking up.

Washington, Feb. 27, P. M.

The rumours current in the Capital to day are of startling importance.

It is said that Southern members of Congress are to-day going to the Capitol armed; and rumors of shooting and assassination are freely discussed. We never recollect a period when so much excitement has existed at the seat of government.

The difficulty between Bissell and Davis has been settled by the intervention of the President. They were to have fought with muskets at 15 paces; the preliminaries were all arranged this morning.

The Hudson river is now open; the first boat from above arrived at New York on the 25th February.

Colonial News.

Nova Scotia.

Pictou Chronicle, March 7.

We understand that a Bill for the incorporation of a company to erect a telegraph from Truro to Pictou, was laid before the House of Assembly on Saturday last by the Hon. G. R. Young. We further learn that the whole of the stock required will be taken immediately that an act is obtained, and the work will likely be commenced early in the spring.

From the Halifax Recorder.

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS OF RUMOR.—We hear that orders have arrived by the last packet, from the Home Government, directing the Ordnance Department to undertake the erection of two barracks—one at Point Pleasant, the other at Fort Needham—in the ensuing summer. Provided the report be true, this does not seem as if Great Britain were inclined to relinquish her dominion over Nova Scotia at an early day.

It is also stated that Sir John Harvey will shortly be removed, and be succeeded by the Marquis of Sligo. Probably Sir John may be appointed Governor General in place of Lord Elgin.

New Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswicker, March 9.

AMERICANS EXCLUDED FROM AUSTRIA.—The Austrian Ambassador at Dresden, lately refused an American a passport to Prague; as instructions had been received from the Cabinet at Vienna, formally forbidding American citizens entering the Austrian dominions.

It is stated on the authority of the Austrian Lloyd's that the Austrian Government had given its Ambassadors at foreign courts, orders to refuse signing passports of all Americans from the United States for Austria.

St. John Courier, March 9.

DURABILITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK-BUILT SHIPS.—We this day publish a list of vessels built in this Province upwards of twenty years ago, and which are known either presently, or within a recent period, to be still in existence. We have no doubt but that this schedule, which has been furnished by Peter Stubs, Esq., of this city, could be very materially extended, although the maritime interest of New Brunswick is not the less indebted to our Correspondent for the trouble he has bestowed on its compilation. The information thus conveyed will at once negative the assertion so frequently made by interested parties elsewhere, that our Provincial vessels do not possess those lasting qualities which is so desirable. The more recent improvements adopted in our Colonial ships, as manifested in the selection of the materials with which they are built, together with the symmetrical and substantial mode of their construction, must inevitably be the means of causing them to attract greater attention both at home and abroad, and thus favorably advance one of the most important branches of our Provincial industry.

Provincial Legislature OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

From the Saint John Courier of March 9.

A bill to levy a tax on Passengers has passed the house and been sent to the Council. Between the 1st April and 1st September

the tax on passengers will be 5s. per head; from 1st September to 1st October 7s. 6d. per head; and from 1st October to 1st April, 10s. per head. If the ship is placed in quarantine there will be two shillings and six pence per head additional; and if the ship remains ten days in quarantine there will be a still further charge of two shillings and six pence per head. If the ship has on board any idiot, lunatic, maimed, or infirm person, whom the visiting physician certifies is likely to become permanently chargeable, the master must enter into a bond to the Queen, for £75, with two sufficient sureties, to save harmless the Province, or any County, City, or Parish, or charitable institution therein, and indemnifying for all expenses incurred in the support and maintenance of such person, during the period of three years from the time of arrival.

An important law-bill (prepared by the hon. E. B. Chandler) has passed the Council, and been sent to the Assembly. The object of this bill is to abolish the great and unnecessary prolixity of legal papers in the Province, and to introduce those concise forms of pleading which are now in use in the mother country. The bill provides, that instead of filing a number of pleas, as is now frequently done, the defendant may plead the "general issue"—that is, a simple denial of the suit—in bar to the action, and at the trial, give in evidence any matter of defence whatsoever, provided notice of such other matter of defence is given to the plaintiff's attorney at the time of delivering the plea. The insertion of a number of counts in a declaration, many of them having no relation to the action (which now creates such prolixity and expense) is provided against by this bill, which enacts, that if there is more than one count in the plaintiff's declaration, and he fails to establish a distinct subject matter of complaint in respect to each count, a verdict and judgment shall pass for the defendant, on such unnecessary count, and he shall recover all costs occasioned thereby. In actions on notes, bills of exchange, bonds, or other writings, costs are only to be allowed for one count in the declaration, unless the Judge certifies there is reasonable cause for inserting other counts.

We understand that the effect of this bill, if it becomes law, will be to reduce the costs from one third to one half, in almost every suit, while justice will be equally well, if not better administered. The unnecessary and prolix pleas, replications, and rejoinders now in use, were invented, and still continue to be used, solely for the purpose of creating heavy costs; but what is still worse, they involve so many nice questions of law, that a party not unfrequently finds he has lost his case upon some legal technicality in complicated pleading, the merits and justice of the suit being wholly overlooked.

February 28. The House went into committee on Mr. R. D. Wilnot's Bill to authorise the issue of Treasury Notes, which elicited a very interesting debate. A motion was made to postpone the bill for three months, which was lost by a division of 21 to 10. The bill passed.

The bill to repeal all the laws relating to Bankruptcy, which was under consideration yesterday, was then taken up in committee of the whole. Mr. R. D. Wilnot moved that an additional section be added, which was to the effect, that all the debts and effects of the Bankrupt should go to the general creditors and not to the first assignee, as has been the case. Mr. W. in strong and convincing terms, condemned the Bankrupt system as it has existed. He considered it unjust—may, robbery, that a Bankrupt should be allowed to purchase in his own estates at a mere nothing, and after getting through what he (Mr W.) considered a legal robbery court, turn round and obtain from his creditors 20s. in the pound. He (Mr W.) wished to have something to protect the honest man against such licenced fraud. This state of things prevailed too long to the injury of the just dealer.

After some observations from Messrs. Thomson, Ritchie and Woodward, Mr. Steves said he would test the house at once on the principle of the bill, and moved that its further consideration be postponed for six months. The house divided—for the motion 14, against it 17. The bill passed with amendment.

March 4.—Hon. Mr. Partelow, on the part of the Committee appointed to prepare a Revenue Bill, brought in a report to the effect that they had prepared a bill. The report and bill were received, and the latter read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Partelow laid before the house the Blue Book for 1848—a report on the contemplated Railroad between Saint John and Shediac; together with a number of other public documents.

Mr. R. D. Wilnot asked when it was intended to go into consideration on the Revenue Bill. Mr. Partelow moved that the consideration of that bill be made the order of the day for to-morrow, on the second reading.

Mr. J. Earle moved that an address be presented to his Excellency praying for a return relating to all mines and minerals in this Province.

Mr. Ritchie presented a petition from inhabitants of Westmorland, praying for aid to construct a Railroad from Shediac to St. John; and praying that the same be commenced during the present year.

The Bill relating to the trade between the British North American Provinces, was next taken up, and after a few observations it passed without a division.—*New Brunswicker.*

Communications.

COUNTY OF KENT.

TO THE FARMERS OF THE COUNTY OF KENT.

In the next Gleaner will appear a notice from the High Sheriff calling a Public Meeting, for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Society in this County. I venture to take this opportunity of suggesting to the Farmers the propriety of their aiding and assisting in this movement, to the utmost extent of their abilities. Unless they do so, it must fail; but let it no more be said, that nothing of a public nature can thrive in Kent. Let those who are favorable to the project (which most of you are) come forward on the day named by the Sheriff, and there testify by your acts that you are not going to lag behind in the onward march of improvement. If any doubt the efficacy of an Agricultural Society to effect the improvement we so much require, I would merely point to the reports of those Societies in other Counties. Although a Society of the kind cannot do everything, still, much may be done by the united efforts, and the united capital, of a society of Farmers, than could possibly be done by the efforts of the capital of an individual, as for instance one of us could not afford to import an improved breed of cattle, while as a Society the expense would be divided, and all would be benefited. Let it not be supposed that benefits such as these are out of our reach. Farmers, remember, for every £1 you subscribe, the Government grant you three. Thus—if we subscribe £50, we shall be in immediate funds to the amount of £200. Farmers, if you let this opportunity pass, never again complain of the want of capital when you are told you have a very bad breed of Cows, or that your Sheep are run out; and never again complain of the want of Legislation for the benefit of the Farmer, if you neglect to come forward with alacrity now, to claim the benefit of this the first great boon offered to him.

A YEOMAN OF KENT.

County of Kent, March 7, 1850.

PARISH OF NORTHESK.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—With your permission, I would, through the columns of your Journal, put a few plain questions to the gentlemen who at present hold the responsible office of Overseers of Poor in the Parish of Northesk; and if they will favor me with an answer, I shall be grateful to them, and I think it will also be satisfactory to a number of our Tax Payers.

1. How is it that the Supplies required for the maintenance of our Paupers is not put out to public competition, as they are often procured in that way at the lowest rate.

2. Has any one received parochial aid during the past year, who at the time of receiving such aid, you were aware of their being in possession of several months provisions, and they did not refuse to work for low wages, as "found."

3. Are we, in these times of general depression, to be taxed for providing our Paupers with Merino and such like dresses, in order that they might be sent to a neighboring Parish more like ladies than Paupers; and if any of our Paupers die, must we pay two shillings for a coffin, when our neighbours in another Parish can procure one equally good for seven and sixpence.

4. Are there any of our Paupers who board and lodging was set up to public competition, and afterwards you provided them with another boarding house, without giving any public notice.

And last, though not least, have you taken any live stock as security for aid given in excess of official capacity; and if so, has the value of said stock been put to the credit of the Parish.

Northesk, March 12, 1850.

PARISH OF NELSON.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—As you are no doubt aware that the situation of Overseer of Poor is anything but a lucrative one, I think you will agree with me it is no part of our duty to reply to an anonymous scribbler, who, from private spite, under the pretence of working a reform in the Parish, assails the Parish Officers with frivolous enquiries.

If "Tax Payer" considers himself aggrieved, and if he wishes to establish what he states, that the great number