

European News.

Willmer & Smith's European Times, February 23.

The New Arctic Expedition.—Highly to the honor of the officers of the British navy, a spirit of chivalry exists at the present day equal to any that has existed at any former period of the history of this country, as it is evidenced by the number of volunteers who have offered their services for this perilous enterprise.—Amongst others, Captain William Peel, son of Sir Robert Peel, Commander Codrington Forsyth, Lieutenants M'Clintock, Browne, and Osborne, with upwards of thirty other officers, have been pressing their claims to be permitted to serve in the expedition, and, consequently there will be some difficulty in making a selection when so many able officers are desirous of proceeding to the Arctic regions.

Party Processions in Ireland.—The bill to restrain party processions in Ireland has been printed. The first section renders it an act of misdemeanor to join any assembly of persons in Ireland who are bearing weapons, banners, &c., or accompanied by persons playing music, calculated to provoke animosity between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects. Persons refusing to disperse after due notice, may be apprehended and summarily proceeded against. On conviction they are to be fined £5, or imprisoned for one calendar month. The fine or term of imprisonment is doubled for any second offence. It is provided by the fourth section that no person thus summarily proceeded against can afterwards be indicted for misdemeanor for being present at the same unlawful assembly.

Dreadful Event at Naples.—A dreadful explosion and fire occurred at Naples, on the 6th inst., which threatened extensive destruction. The cellars of the Darses, or closed port, extend from the water's edge to a considerable distance under the principal buildings of the city, including the magnificent palaces of the Princes of Salerno and Capua, and the King's palace. In these cellars were warehoused 277,000 cantara of coal, and on the morning of the 2nd an explosion of fire-damp took place underneath the palaces of the Princes of Salerno and Capua, which threw down large portions of the walls, and it was with great difficulty that the inhabitants escaped. It was ascertained that the coal had ignited and there was every reason to fear that the King's palace and the church of St. Francesca de' Pabla would be destroyed.

Miraculous Escape.—It has been said that reality frequently exceeds romance, and nothing can better exemplify the axiom than a notice of the providential and almost miraculous escape which Captain G. W. Andrews, of the Caroline, whaler, which ship touched here on Saturday, has lately experienced. Captain Andrews, in this instance, whilst in pursuit of a whale, a few days since, took the place of the harpooner at the bow of the boat. On closing with the whale he struck home, and the monster flew immediately downwards like lightning, but by some means the bight of the rope caught the ankle of Captain Andrews, and whirled him overboard. His sensations at this moment may be imagined, but cannot be described. Descending rapidly into the depths below, he had yet sufficient presence of mind to retain his hold of the knife; but the pressure of the water was so great that both his arms were drawn over his head, and he found it impossible to get them down to release himself. Happily the whale, from some cause or other, ceased to run, and Captain Andrews was enabled to sever the rope below his ankle, and ascended to the surface totally exhausted. The depth to which he descended must have been from fifteen to twenty fathoms, from the time he took to bring himself to the surface again. He found his ankle cut to the bone and otherwise severely injured. Probably an accident like the one here noticed has never occurred before in which the sufferer has ever escaped with life, and had not Captain Andrews happily retained his hold of the knife he most certainly would have perished.—*Ceylon Times.*

Ploughing by Steam.—The *Banffshire Journal* states that a patent for a steam plough has been taken out by the inventor, Mr James Usher, of the firm of Usher and Co., of Edinburgh, and the machine will shortly be before the public. The machine is constructed to plough six furrows at once, thus doing the work and saving the expense of six double horse ploughs. The great weight of the machine, which is estimated at three tons, may be thought an objection; but this is in a great degree obviated by the

use of a large roller, which is so placed in the centre as to balance the machine, and prevent the wheels sinking. The cost of the entire apparatus is estimated at £300.

The New Steam-ship Asia.—We have much pleasure in noticing the magnificent first-class steamer Asia, which was recently launched at Greenock, arrived in our harbour yesterday, having been tugged up from the former port. She has been placed alongside the frigate Simoom, at Lancefield-quay, preparatory to getting in her engines, &c., which have been constructed by Messrs Napier. No time will be lost in getting this fine vessel ready for sea. Her machinery, we understand, is all ready, and it may be confidently predicted, from the celebrity of both builder and engineer, that the Asia will prove another triumphant instance of the superiority of Clyde-built ocean-going steamers. We had, on Wednesday, the pleasure of examining this gigantic and beautifully proportioned steamer. Not having her exact measurement, we cannot give her length, breadth of beam, &c.; but it may serve as a point of comparison to state that she is several feet longer than the Simoom war-frigate, and has at least 200 tons additional tonnage. In all respects the Asia is a counterpart of the four steamers the America, Canada, Europe, and Niagara, constructed by the same builders and engineers, and, with the difference of dimensions, any description of the one might serve for the other. The present vessel is the largest which has yet been built on the Clyde, being 2240 tons burthen, while her engines are computed at upwards of 800 horse-power. We believe that no exertions will be spared, in order to have her ready for sea some time in the month of April; and, though this period may seem almost too brief for the fitting up and finishing of such a large vessel, the arrangements made by the Messrs. Napier are so complete, that we will not be at all surprised if the Asia is able to leave the harbour for Liverpool in the course of little more than two months hence. Our transatlantic brethren are characterised for their go-ahead propensities, but, certainly, nothing in the history of the States can surpass the progress of our own harbour, which, but a few years since, comparatively speaking, could with difficulty admit a coaster of 100 tons, and now floats proudly on its bosom the magnificent ocean-steamer of more than twenty times the burthen.—*North British Mail.*

Provincial Legislature OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

February 27.

Read a third time as engrossed, a bill to provide for more effectually repairing the streets and bridges in a part of the parish of Richibucto. Resolved that the bill do pass.
Mr Street moved for leave to present a petition from the Hon. Joseph Cunard, A. M'Laughan, Esq., and one hundred others, of the County of Northumberland, praying that a Grant may pass towards removing obstructions in the South West Branch of the River Miramichi, in order to improve the passage for Scows and Rafts. Order that the Petition be received.

February 28.

Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill to establish a Line of Road leading to Fredericton to Richibucto, via Salmon River, as one of the Great Roads of Communication in this Province. Resolved, that the Bill do pass.

March 1.

Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill to authorize the issuing of Treasury Notes.
Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill in addition to an Act to repeal the several Acts of Assembly, relating to Bankruptcy in this Province.
Resolved that the bills do pass.

March 6.

IN COUNCIL, 5TH MARCH, 1850.

Present His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Messrs. Hazen, Rankin, Wilmot, Partelow, Fisher, and Hanington.
Read a Letter addressed to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, from the Governor General of Canada, dated February 21st, 1850, enclosing an extract from a Report of a Committee of Council to the following effect—approved by the Governor General in Council, viz:—
The Committee of the Executive Council have had under consideration, on Your Excellency's reference, a Report from the Hon. L. H. LaFontaine, and the Hon. W. H. Merritt, of certain Resolutions adopted at a Conference of Delegates from the Executive Governments of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, held in Halifax on the 3rd and 4th days in September, 1849, at which the Members of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia were present.
The 4th Resolution adopted at the said Conference contains a recommendation to the res-

pective Colonial Governments of British North America to propose to their Legislatures the removal of all Duties on their respective natural products, which are enumerated in a previous Resolution.

The Committee of the Executive Council are respectfully of opinion that it is highly expedient that Reciprocal Free Trade, in the articles enumerated, should be established between the several North American Colonies, and are therefore prepared to recommend to the Canadian Parliament to pass an Act to carry out the recommendation above referred to; but they are anxious to ascertain the views of the Legislatures of the other Provinces now in Session, and therefore humbly recommend Your Excellency to communicate with the several Lieutenant Governors on the subject, and to obtain from them copies of any Bill which may be introduced for giving effect to the recommendation of the Delegates who met at Halifax.

Certified.

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH, C. E. C.

Whereupon—Resolved, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and the Executive Council fully concur in the views expressed in the Minute in question, and that His Excellency be requested to forward a copy of the Bill now before the House of Assembly to the Governor General of Canada, the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia, and the Lieut. Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Extract from the Minutes.

R. FULTON.

3. Resolved, That the following be the articles to be so imported, viz:—Grain and Bread Stuffs of all kinds, Vegetables, Fruits, Seeds, Hay and Straw, Animals, Salted and Fresh Meats, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Tallow, Hides, Horns, Wood, Undressed Skins and Furs of all kinds.

Ores of all kinds, Iron in Pigs and Blooms, Copper, Lead in Pigs, Grindstones and Stones of all kinds, Earth, Coals, Lime, Ochres, Gypsum ground and unground, Rock Salt, Wood, Timber and Lumber of all kinds, Firewood, Ashes, Fish, Fish Oil, viz., Train Oil, Spermaceti Oil, Head Matter and Blubber, Fins and Skins, the produce of Fish or creatures living in the Sea.

4. Resolved that it be recommended to the respective Colonial Governments of British North America to propose to the Legislatures the removal of all Duties on their respective natural products as above enumerated.

LEPER ESTABLISHMENT AT TRACADIE.

REPORTS FROM HON. MR. DAVIDSON.

MIRAMICHI, September 8, 1849.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Health to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that all the persons affected with Leprosy in the Counties of Northumberland and Gloucester, are now in the Lazaretto at Tracadie, and number 31. They appear to be well contented, and so far have not shown any disposition to leave the establishment—they all came of their own accord, and I have much pleasure in being able to state, that they now pay every attention to cleanliness, both as regards their own persons and the interior of the Lazaretto. Indeed there is a decided improvement in the whole arrangement, and I have every reason to believe that the management of the Institution will be carried on in a much more satisfactory manner, both as regards those unfortunate people themselves, and the public, and at considerably less expense than heretofore. Their ordinary diet consists chiefly of porridge and milk, morning and evening, and soup and meat for dinner, with potatoes, fish, bread and tea on certain days.

In my communication of the 4th of June, I mentioned that the amount paid for the erection of the buildings, and the piece of ground, was two hundred and sixty nine pounds fifteen shillings; but on enquiry we found that the number of Lepers exceeded our expectation, and we were therefore induced to finish the upper part of the building, which cost 13 pounds additional, making the whole amount for the buildings and the purchase of land two hundred and eighty seven pounds fifteen shillings. Had the upper part of the building not been finished prior to the Lepers going in, it could not have been done afterwards, as no person could be got to do it for fear of contracting the disease. The building will thereby contain nearly double the number, and much more comfortable, as they sleep in the upper part, and occupy the lower flat during the day; and should there be an increase of Lepers, it will save any additional building for some time at least. In addition to the above, we had to sink wells, erect privies, with some extra work on the buildings, and other unavoidable necessities, amounting to the further sum of £52 2s 11½d, thus making the whole amount up to the present time, for the establishment at Tracadie, £239 17s 11½d., exclusive of provisions and clothing. This expenditure is altogether for articles of a permanent nature which will not be required to be renewed for several years. I am directed by the board to state, that it would require about seventy or eighty pounds more to complete the establishment, viz:—for the purchase of a small piece of ground adjoining the piece already purchased, which is too close to the Lazaretto—for the erection of a wash house, with a chimney, which is indispensable, and for the erection of a rough verandah in front of the Lazaretto. These additions would be highly desirable, and would afford great additional comfort to these poor afflicted people; but, as the Board have already

exceeded the grant made by the Legislature in erecting buildings, &c., they do not intend to make any further improvements without the sanction of Government. They are anxious to have His Excellency's instruction on the head.

The grant for the support of the Lazaretto on Sheldrake Island was wholly expended, except a few pounds, before the Lepers were removed from that place to Tracadie; a particular account of which, as well as the expenditure since, will be sent to the Auditor General in due time.

The Board have been at considerable expence for provisions, clothing, &c. for the Lazaretto at Tracadie, and they are anxious that a Warrant may issue for the £250 granted at the last Session of the Legislature for the support of the same.

I have, &c.

J DAVIDSON, Secretary to the Board.
Hon. John R. Partelow, Secretary's Office.
Fredericton.

MIRAMICHI, December 15th, 1849.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Health to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that in the early part of September last, an application was made to the Board by the Lepers and their friends, praying that one Charles LaFrance, a gentleman who is said to have been a surgeon in the French Army, and who has been practising for several years on the north side of the Bay Chaleur, in Lower Canada, might be allowed to attend and prescribe for the patients in the Lazaretto, and giving the Board to understand that this man had cured several persons who were affected with the same disease, or a disease very similar to it, about 20 years ago at Caraquette, and that he was allowed to attend the sick in the Lazaretto their friends would pay him for his services. The Board having taken the said application into consideration, and being desirous of indulging the Lepers in every possible indulgence consistent with the public safety, passed an order authorising the above named gentleman to visit the Hospital as often as he might consider necessary, and prescribe for the patients, but at the same time giving the Board to understand, as well as the friends of the Lepers, that the Board would not incur any part of the responsibility, nor would they be accountable in any way for the payment of his services. He has been attending since that time up to the present time, and it is his opinion, as well as the opinion of the Rev. Mr. LaFrance, (a member of the Board, and who was educated in early life for the Medical profession,) that several of the Lepers are completely cured and are now free from the disease. So strong was the impression of Mr. LaFrance on this point that he took upon himself to discharge three of the Lepers, two of which were cases of very long standing who had been in the Lazaretto on Sheldrake Island for several years. He states that from his knowledge of the disease, he felt assured that those three cases were cured and free from the disease, as well as ten other cases still remaining in the Lazaretto; and as he could not, at the time, conveniently convene a meeting of the Board, and there being no convalescent ward belonging to the establishment, nor any place where he could separate the healthy from the infected, he had acted on his own judgment, and discharged those three persons, considering that it would be dangerous to keep them longer in the Lazaretto with the infectious persons, for fear of again contracting the disease. A meeting of the Board was called, and the conduct of Mr. LaFrance for discharging any of the inmates of the Lazaretto was approved of, (although they conceive he did so from the best motives) on the principle that the Government ought to be made acquainted, in the first instance, before any such step should be taken, and that the Board ought to have the opinion of other medical men on a matter of such importance. I am therefore directed by the Board to suggest to the Government, the propriety of being allowed to employ one or two of the Medical men of Miramichi, to go down to Tracadie, and examine those persons who have been discharged, as well as those in the Lazaretto who are said to be cured, and to make such Report as they may consider necessary, for the information of the Government and the Board. I fear the state of Doctor Key's health will not permit him to go down there, particularly at this season of the year, but there are two other Medical Gentlemen of high standing here, viz. Dr. Benson and Dr. Thomson, whose services might be had. The Board are particularly anxious that such examination might take place with as little delay as possible, so that the matter may be set at rest; and if those persons really are cured, and free from disease, as represented, they may at once be separated from the others who are still infected. I have visited the Hospital lately myself, and do not hesitate to say, that there is a decided improvement. In most of the cases the tubercles have wholly disappeared, the swelling completely removed, as well as the yellow spots on the skin; the whole of the sores or ulcers on the face, hands, feet, and other parts of the body, are completely cured, and the skin is white and returned to its natural color. They are their general health is very much improved, and they appear to be in good spirits, but I do not consider myself competent to give an opinion as to whether the disease is eradicated or not. His Excellency will therefore see the necessity of having the Establishment examined by one or two Medical men as early as possible, so that as many of the patients as may be free from disease may be discharged at once.