

paid on his account at a former election, &c.; and that more than one witness proved those charges to be true, and that a jury who were acquainted with him, estimated the damage inflicted on his character by such charges, at no less a sum than £10, a nice price for the character of a liberal M. P. P.

We have no inclination to indulge in a dissertation on the freedom of the press. We believe that no press in the world is more untrammelled than the press of New Brunswick, and that the people would require no promptings to repel any serious attempt to infringe its liberties. Unfortunately for Mr Pierce 'truth is a libel'; and as this legal principle cannot safely be abandoned, it must continue to depend on Judge and Jury, in cases like his, to determine the cause, and award the damages. The press is not, even in this case, wholly defenceless—the notoriety now attained by Mr Williston would alone be sufficient proof of this—and we cannot imagine that the friends of reform, and the great engine of reform in Miramichi, will allow Mr Pierce to be victimised.

From the St. Andrews' Standard.
LIBEL SUIT.

In the Miramichi Gleaner, of the 23d ult., is published a report of the action for libel brought by Mr Williston against the Editor of that Journal, for having published an advertisement over the signature of 'John Hea,' which contains charges against Mr Williston, representing him unworthy of the people's electing him a Representative for the County. We have read the trial carefully, and are surprised that a jury of intelligent men in the present day, could be found to give damages, be the amount ever so small; particularly when it was proved in evidence, that the defendant was absent from the office at the time the article was inserted; and when called upon upon by the Plaintiff's Attorney, he stated that he regretted its being published, and offered to prove that Hea was the author. The damages were laid at £1000, and the Jury gave £10! which with costs of suit will amount to a large sum, and should be subscribed and paid by the friends of a well conducted and independent press in the county. We trust the decision will not injure the usefulness of Mr Pierce, who conducts one of the best papers in the Province.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1850.

"IMPORTANT—IF TRUE."

The St. John New Brunswicker of the 5th instant contains the following article. We think it a piece of the grossest injustice, that under the present circumstances of the country, the Attorney General should be allowed to step into the shoes of the retiring Chief Justice, and thereby shirk his share of the odium attached to our present rulers; but we would submit to any measure which would have a tendency to break up our present miserable apology for a Government, and make room for men who would have the welfare of the Province at heart, and use their power and patronage for the benefit of the whole people, and not for the aggrandizement of a few. We would hope for better things from Mr Williston, but suppose he thinks it prudent to "make hay while the sun shines," as such a golden opportunity may never again present itself for placing himself forever beyond the reach of popular influence. "Responsible Government" has proved a fat goose for him, and he has plucked it to good purpose.

If some place could be provided for the Provincial Secretary, which would withdraw him from the Legislature, it would be of essential service to the country. We have ever looked upon that man as the evil genius of the Province, and the experience of every Session confirms us in that impression.

The New Brunswicker says:

The Coalition Government on its last legs!!! The crisis is at hand!—The die is cast, and we hope and trust this oppressed Province shall no longer be ruled by a selfish, peculating faction. Now is the time for the Liberals to prove themselves true to their own principles, and to the vital interests of New Brunswick.—The present Coalition Government is about to be scattered to the four winds of heaven. We have all along warned our readers and the new Members of the Assembly, that the results of the general election had forever settled the fate of the present mongrel Cabinet; and we are now happy to announce that the time has arrived, or, at all events is close at hand, when our predictions shall be amply verified. The Liberals have only to prove true to themselves, and the victory shall now be easily accomplished—and from this Province shall be forever emancipated from the iron grasp of its present insolent oppressors!

There is now no doubt that Chief Justice Chipman is about resigning his office, and that the Hon. Attorney General will be elevated to the Bench, and with his elevation away will go the last hope of the Coalition! We understand that the resignation of the

Chief Justice has been forced upon him by the Government, in consequence of his increasing infirmities; in fact he has been quite incompetent to discharge the important duties of his office for many years past. We are happy to find that certain members of the Government are well satisfied that "coming events are casting their shadows before," and that in order to meet the inevitable changes which must soon take place, they are making the most and the best of their official existence.

The Attorney General, like a wise and prudent man, is determined to take care of himself, by obtaining a position where he will be altogether beyond the reach of popular influence; but alas! what is to become of his hon. colleague—Mr Partelow;—he is to be left to the tender mercies of the new House, and we think he will find in due time that, like Iphigene, the glory hath departed from him; and that he will have no power to call to his aid any of the large majority who have been returned by the different constituencies, for the express purpose of upsetting the present rotten coalition. We are well satisfied, on what we consider the very best authority, that when the house meets there will not be found among the whole number more than from ten to twelve members who will dare to support the Government. A bold attempt is being made at this very moment to subsidize certain members, but we are satisfied that they are all too independent, both in principle and in their present political position, to listen to the projects of a selfish and falling faction. The whole inhabitants of this Province, with the single exception of the Old Sarum of New Brunswick—Victoria—have spoken out against the Government—and if it were possible for any man to be weak enough to incline his ear to the enchanter of the do nothing Cabinet, he must bear in mind that ere he can enjoy the spoils of his office, he must go back to his constituents and ask their permission. Such a contingency as this, we feel satisfied, cannot arise at this time.

As retrenchment is, and ought to be the order of the day, why not allow the three Judges to continue doing all the business as they have done for a number of years past, and thereby save salary of one Judge, which would be at least six hundred pounds to the Province? The Judges are certainly quite competent to do all the work, and even then not suffer much from hard labor.

We trust that every liberal member will be on his guard at this time, and lend a deaf ear to the applications of our present Executive. Their days are numbered, and retributive justice is at last about falling on their guilty heads, like an overwhelming avalanche.

ESCAPED.—Robert Purden, who was convicted of Forgery, at the last term of the Supreme Court for this County, and committed to the Provincial Penitentiary for five years, made his escape from that institution on the afternoon of Monday last, together with three others. By some means they obtained a ladder, by which they ascended the high wooden fence, jumped from the top, and made off. The criminals who escaped with him are Ishmael Reed, convicted at the last August St. John Circuit Court, of forgeries, and sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with hard labour; Thomas Crawford, sentenced at the same time to 5 years imprisonment with hard labour, for a murderous assault upon his wife, and a deserter from the garrison.

St. JOHN.—The ship Hannah, recently built by Wm. Olive, Esq., has been purchased by some monied gentlemen in England for the purpose of being fitted up as a pleasure yacht, in which it is contemplated to make a voyage round the world. The St. John Editors boast loudly of the superiority of their ships. They are probably not aware that several vessels have been built at this port, by special contract, to run as packets between Liverpool and South America, and by their sailing qualities have proved themselves superior to any thing with which they have come in contact.

General Tom Thumb has been delighting the citizens of St. John, and drawing good houses.

Mr Whitney's new steamer Gipsy commenced her trips on the Bay of Fundy last week. She is spoken of as a fine, speedy boat.

The Regatta was to come off on Wednesday last.

UNITED STATES.—Congress adjourned on the 30th ult. As usual, the proceedings were highly unbecoming, and reflected little credit on the assembled "wisdom" of the Nation. The following is a report of the closing scene:—

"Mr Featherston raised the question—It is now ten minutes past twelve o'clock, and Sunday morning. I don't believe we can sit any longer. I move we adjourn. (cries of "Agreed!" "Oh, no!" "Yes!" "Let's go home.")

"The question for adjournment was negatived by 40 to 109.

"Mr Bayly—is Sunday a dies non?"

"The Speaker signed several bills, among

them the Navy appropriation, Bounty Land and Fortification.

"Refreshments were served in the ante-room. The breaking of glass was occasionally heard; members were to be seen in the lobbies, asleep on the sofas; some coming in with bread and cheese; the galleries thinned, and the ladies gone.)

"At two o'clock, Mr Jones wanted to adjourn. The preacher would come there presently.

"The House refused to adjourn.

"Gentlemen in every direction strove to introduce resolutions, to take up bills and other matters.

"Motions made to adjourn. It was Sunday, and irreligious. ("Let's go home!" "Let's take a drink!" "I'm hungry, by thunder!"

"Cigar smoke getting thick. ("Order, order!")

"A call of the house ordered.

"Messages were received from the Senate.—Now half past two o'clock."

Not less than half-a-dozen members were too drunk to articulate, while many others were not far behind them. Senator Foote, it appears, was in a drunken frenzy when he attacked Col. Fremont.

The Fugitive Slave Bill, recently passed by Congress, by which persons who have escaped from slavery, may be rescued, and restored to their owners, is creating a great excitement throughout the non-slaveholding States. Meetings have been held by the colored population in Massachusetts, New York, and other places, at which resolutions were passed, pledging themselves to resist any attempt to deprive them of their liberty, by force of arms, if necessary. Large numbers of fugitive slaves, who have been residing in the free States for many years, have left for Canada. A negro named Hamlett, doing business in New York for a length of time, has been seized by his former master, and carried into slavery. He was not allowed to see his wife and children before leaving.

The first ticket for Jenny Lind's Concert at Providence, sold for \$650. A large party went from Quebec to Boston to hear her sing.

The New York Tribune says: We understand that just before leaving New York, Mdle. Lind sent \$1000 to the Swedish Episcopal Church, being now erected at Chicago. This generous donation was promptly made, on learning of the embarrassments of the Church.

COUNTY OF KENT.—There are now lying at the wharf of L. P. W. DesBrisay, Esq., at Richibucto, four vessels of different nations, namely, a Russian, Prussian, Norwegian, and English. This is something new.

The bark Commodore, from Boston, is daily expected at Shediac. She has on board nine convicts, recently discharged from the hulks at Bermuda. They were not allowed to land at Boston, and took passage in the Commodore.

NEW COUNCILLORS.—The Fredericton Head Quarters of Wednesday last says—"It is rumored among those likely to know something of the matter, that the vacancies in the Legislative Council of this Province have been, or are immediately to be, filled. Madam rumour has bestowed legislative honors on Dr. Wilson, Mr Brown, and Mr Wark, all members of the late House of Assembly.—Neither of these gentlemen possess the qualification which was once thought necessary for a Legislative Councillor, i. e., having been rejected by the people—for neither offered for re election as members of the Assembly."

We have no doubt the appointment of Dr. Wilson and Mr Wark will give general satisfaction, that of the latter gentleman particularly, as we consider him a man of good practical talents, and would prove a valuable acquisition to the Legislative Council; but we cannot imagine what claim Mr Brown has to a seat in that body, except it may be that of having sacrificed his independence to serve the Government.

Mr Merritt has returned from Lake Temiscouata impressed with the belief that a canal between the Lakes and the St. Lawrence is impracticable. The land to be cut through is so high that more lockage will be necessary than was supposed. A communication however, may be maintained by means of a short railway, and we trust that no trifling obstacle will be allowed to interpose itself to the execution of a project, which is much desired, not only by the people of this province, but by the New Brunswickers. However necessary the improvements may be, we trust that no exertion will be spared to render the intercourse with New Brunswick much more frequent than it is. We certainly are not of opinion with a contemporary that Ministers purposely intend to delay the work.—Quebec Chronicle Oct. 7.

ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS,

BY THE MAN IN THE MOON.

Why is the present House of Assembly of this Province like a ring? Because it is without an End.

Why is the Editor of the Gleaner like a newly-swept chimney? Because he has lost his suit, (soot).

Why is the Hon. John R. Partelow like Prince Albert? Because he could not succeed any where but with Victoria.

Why is a sailor in war time like a Napaw farmer? Because he is always on the look out for a good price, (prize).

Why is an egotistical literary production like a potatoe? Because it contains a great many eyes (I's).

Why is the eye like the back of a negro slave? Because it is often covered with the lash.

Why is a tattling woman like a very high building? Because she is made up of a great many stories.

Why is a barber like the sun? Because his front is covered when he clips, (eclipse).

Why is an angry man like a horse's head? Because he is very often in a choler, (collar).

Why is a careful driver like a farmer? Because he minds the rains, (rains).

UNITED STATES.—Gloucester (Mass.)—Several large fares of mackerel have arrived at Gloucester this week from Bay Chaleur. The vessels on this coast, especially the Cape Cod and South Shore vessels, have done literally nothing. Schrs John, Capt. Parker, arrived on Sunday with four hundred bbls. mackerel, absent only five weeks. Mackerel are sold as soon as landed at \$10 for No 1's; \$8 for No 2's. The market will improve if the catch does not increase.

Marriages.

On Tuesday, 8th instant, by the Rev. Wm. Henderson, A. M., Mr DAVID CREIGHTON, to Miss EUPHEMIA MILLER, both of the Parish of Newcastle.

Deaths.

At the residence of his son, T. W. Underhill, Esq., Sabbie's Mills, Parish of Blackville, on the 9th ult., Mr BRITISH NATHANIEL UNDERHILL, aged 79 years. The deceased came to St. John with his father, one of the Loyalists, in 1783, and removed to Miramichi in 1806.

At Blissfield, South West, on the 24th ult., MARGARET, wife of Mr Thomas Doak.

Ship News.

PORT OF MIRAMICHI

The barks Annandale, from Liverpool, and Pollok, from Philadelphia, arrived yesterday.

PORT OF DALHOUSIE.

ENTERED, October 6, bark Napanima, Nichol, Liverpool, British goods, A. Ritchie & Co.

8th, brig Royalist, Campbell, Glassendock, ballast, A. Ritchie & Co.

11th, schr Lady, Landry, Labrador, fish, A. Ritchie & Co.

CLEARED, October 7, schr Belinda, Caldwell, Bathurst, sundries.

8th, schr Martha Sophia, Boudroit, ballast, Quebec; brig Pilot, Clarke, Lanely (Wales), timber, Wm. Hamilton.

PORT OF RICHIBUCTO.

ENTERED, September 30, Jessie, Sheridan, Boston, ballast, J. W. Holderness.

30th, Sophia, Poe, Boston, ballast, Wm. S. Caie.

October 3, Marceline, Gallant, P. E. Island fish, J. W. Holderness; Unity, McRae, do., horses, W. Deacon.

4th, Myrtle, Smart, Newfoundland, ballast, D. Wark; Mary, Boudrian, Quebec, flour and provisions; Mary Ann, Pudgen, Liverpool, general cargo, D. McAuley and others.

ENTERED, October 9, schr Temperance, Sire, Quebec, general cargo, Wm. Bowser and others.

11th, schr Swift, LeBlanc, Quebec, general cargo, W. Bowser and others; schr Sally, Siteman, Halifax, general cargo, John Jardine.

12th, Prussian bark Die Tugned, Schultz, New York, ballast, L. DesBrisay; Russian bark Furst Menschikoff, Lalin, New York, ballast, do.

The Albion and Rosetta outside the bar, bound in.

CLEARED, October 1, Sovereign, Hayden, Pictou, deals and shingles; Progress, Feagan, Cork, deals, L. DesBrisay.

2nd, Dahlia, Lovitt, Hull, deals, J. W. Holderness.

5th, Sophia, Poe, Liverpool, deals, Wm. S. Caie.

7th, Mary, Boudrian, Perce, ballast.

8th, Magdalen, Brothers, Montreal, oysters.

9th, Marceline, Gallant, P. E. Island, salt.

10th, Temperance, Sire, Perce.

11th, Unity, McRae, P. E. Island, lumber.

12th, Swift, LeBlanc, Quebec, oysters, master.

Quebec, October 4, cleared, schrs St. Ann, Hoffman, Miramichi. 5th, Fly, Restigouche.