

dit which his hon. colleague thought fit to bestow on Messrs. Samuels, for his share in the transaction, he (hon. Mr. R.) thought it anything but creditable to charge 1d. or 1½d. more than the market price for an inferior article, for the use of sick emigrants, at the public expense. With respect to cutting down the pay of the laborers, the committee should recollect that able-bodied men about the deal yards, and elsewhere, were then receiving five shillings a day, and finding themselves, while the audit committee allowed the laborers on Middle Island three shillings a day and found them. Besides this, it had been stated that they worked day and night. He (hon. Mr. Rankin) believed that they did no such thing; he believed that they had relays, and relieved each other. The audit committee had only done their duty to the public, and that audit, which had been so much abused, was an example to other audit committees, and would remain a credit to those concerned with it.

Mr. HATHWAY differed entirely from the reasoning of the hon. and learned member from St. John, with respect to this resolution, and with those who thought this should be a charge on the County of Northumberland. He differed from them for this reason, that the County of Northumberland had nothing more to do with the visit of this ship to the harbor of Miramichi than the people of County of York had. He differed from the hon. and learned member from St. John (Mr. Gray) with respect to the delay which he wished should take place before this money was granted. If the claim was a fair one pay it at once, and if they wished an investigation into the conduct of the magistrates, let that be done afterwards. Delay in this cause amounted to a denial of justice, and harassing these parties, by heaping law suit upon law suit, might be of more serious consequences to the parties interested than the hon. and learned member was aware of. He would therefore support the resolution.

The hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said, he thought but fair that Mr. Williston should be heard before any other hon. member gave his opinion.

Mr. WILLISTON rose and said, that he was gratified and proud of having an opportunity of explaining before that honorable house the circumstances connected with this unfortunate affair, with which he had so much trouble, and which had caused so much discussion. He hoped hon. members would bear with him for a few moments, and he would assure them that he should state nothing on the floor of that House that he was not ready and prepared to prove. On the 4th of June 1847, a little after sundown, a boat rowed by four men came up the river, with a person sitting in the stern, who hailed the people on shore; this was the captain and four men belonging to the Looshtauk, which lay about twenty or twenty five miles below the town. The captain explained the miserable condition in which his passengers were and craved assistance from the inhabitants. The sympathies of the people were all at once awakened, and all the milk, bread and wine which could be collected in Chatham at the moment, was immediately put on board a boat and conveyed to the ship, for the immediate relief of the sufferers. A special Session was then called, at eleven or twelve o'clock at night, to deliberate on the best course that could be pursued for affording these miserable creatures, suffering with typhus fever, shelter and food. After a good deal of discussion it was resolved to land them at Bay du Vin Island, which afterwards was found not to afford the means of erecting temporary accommodation for the sufferers. The Sessions then proceeded to appoint a Committee, from their own body, to carry out the plan agreed upon, and Mr. Letson and himself were appointed that committee. He distinctly stated at the time when they were appointed, that they would be willing to do the duty without asking any pay, provided the time they were employed did not exceed a month; but if it exceeded that time and they had to loose their summer, they would expect to be paid, and to this the Sessions assented. Next day the Honorable Joseph Cunard sent down his steamer to tow the ship up to Bay du Vin, when it was found entirely impracticable to land the passengers on that island, consequently they had to remain on board for another night, and on the following day were landed at Middle Island. The committee had been directed to erect sheds on the spot which was chosen for their landing, and they accordingly went to work and procured material, and the hon. Joseph Cunard raised something like four hundred men, and sent them to assist in their erection. These men were not paid by the Committee but performed the work gratuitously. There were, however, some twenty others who were paid for their labor. When the temporary shelter was in readiness the passengers proceeded to land, or rather to be put on shore, and he (Mr. W.) was with the medical man employed by the committee, when the landing was effected, and that gentleman told him that out of four hundred souls landed on the island, there were not more than twelve that were well. The ship, when she left Ireland had four hundred and seventy passengers on board; seventy had died on the voyage, and the squallid wretchedness of the survivors was beyond description. The committee then proceeded to hire laborers to guard the island, and to assist the sick and protect the public from contagion, by keeping these people from escaping from Middle Island. His hon. colleague was mistaken when he said that they had relays of men for that purpose; it was no such thing. Half of the persons employed, when daylight came, lay down to

take rest; the other party continued actively employed until twelve o'clock, when the party who retired at daylight took their places, and when night came all were again at their posts. To do this duty the committee were obliged to pay the wages which these people charged, and when it became noised about that the funds at the disposal of the committee were exhausted they threatened to leave, and Mr. Letson and himself were obliged to say that they would hold themselves personally liable for the amount, in order to induce these people to stick to their posts. It was this promise on which the Jury found a verdict against them, and his hon. colleague who conducted the case for the plaintiff would bear him out in what he stated. The next account to which he would refer was that for the beef, and it was perfectly true that the committee applied to the butchers both in Chatham and Newcastle, and could not obtain tenders for a supply of that article until Mr. Samuel came forward and gave his guarantee that the money would be forthcoming weekly. The Doctor's account was the next that he should refer to. It was well known that Dr. Vondy, the first medical man employed, died in consequence of having contracted the disease. The committee applied to every doctor in the place to take his station on the island, but they all declined. In this emergency another special Sessions was called, Dr. Thomson was sent for, and as his hon. colleague had stated, the Bench agreed to pay him three pound ten shillings per day, yet that account was cut down to two pound ten shillings per day. It had been objected that a legal adviser was likewise employed; this was true, but he (Mr. W.) objected to that appointment from the very beginning, stating it as his opinion that the Clerk of the Peace for the county was bound to give the committee legal advice free of charge, the Bench, however, insisted upon making the appointment, and hence the charge in the accounts for that service. In conclusion he could assure the house that the committee of the Sessions had these accounts cut down in the way mentioned, without ever his being called upon to explain or allowed a hearing before the audit committee. They had been harassed with law suits, put to costs in defending these suits, and kept out of their money for years. They had no remedy here unless that house interposed to save them from oppression. They could not sue the Sessions, but if hon. members who objected to this grant would bring in a Bill and give them the privilege of bringing the sessions into court, he would promise the House that they should hear nothing further about these claims.

If they failed in the Legislature, there was only one other court to which an appeal could be had, and that was to her Majesty in Council, and should they fail here, that appeal would be made. They had not taken a single step in this matter without the sanction of the Sessions. They had supplied nothing from their own establishment for the Island; every thing was contracted for at public sale, and the committee had not received one copper's benefit beyond the commission of 5 per cent. on the money actually passing through their hands, which was a very moderate remuneration for four months' work. It had been said, why not apply to the Government. They had applied to the Government; petition after petition could be found on the files of the Executive Council, begging and praying for an investigation. Petition after petition would also be found on the files of this House, with a like prayer, but up to this hour they had been unable to obtain an investigation. They had in fact been treated, throughout the entire transaction, worse than if they had been Turks, and he hoped the House would now do them justice.

Dr. Gordon, regretted exceedingly that the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Johnson) should have felt it necessary to make an attack on the highly respectable bench of Magistrates in the county of Northumberland. He thought such attacks uncalled for, and believed the bench of magistrates would have no other object in view than that of doing justice. He, however, thought this an extremely hard case, and would vote for the resolution.

After a few words from Mr. Wilmot, Mr. Gray, and others,

The hon. SECRETARY entered into a complete detail of the whole transaction, showing how the accounts had been disposed of, and how that and other monies to the amount of £14,000 had been refunded by the British Government.

[This was effected principally, if not entirely, through the instrumentality of the hon. Secretary himself, who was then Mayor of St. John.]

The ATTORNEY GENERAL again, and at great length, defended the bench of magistrates in Northumberland, and it then being half past five o'clock, the debate on the resolution closed without the question being taken, and will be resumed to-morrow.

April 8.

The House then went into committee of the whole in further consideration of the supplies to be granted for the public service, when the debate on the grant to Leison and Williston was resumed. A long and rather warm debate again ensued which lasted from half past one until half past four o'clock when the resolution was finally sustained by a large majority.

The hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL then moved that the blank be filled up with £132 13s. 2d., to which Mr. TILLEY moved as an amendment that the blank be filled up with £87 2s. 8d. On the question being taken, the amendment was rejected by a large majority. The

question was then put on the original motion when there appeared, yeas 21—nays 13.—The grant is consequently sustained for that amount.

Immediately after this question was disposed of, the House resumed, when Mr. NERHAM rose and moved an address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, which in substance prayed that His Excellency would be pleased to issue a commission to investigate the charges made on the floor of that House against the Bench of Magistrates in the county of Northumberland, with reference to the ship Looshtauk, which passed.

April 10.

Mr. JOHNSON called the attention of the House to a Report of Mr. Barberie's speech of the 4th inst., when on this Bill, (the Deputy Treasurers' Salaries) and which appeared in the Head Quarters of yesterday. The hon. member then read as follows:—

Mr. Barberie said, before progress was reported he wished to say a few words in reference to what had fallen from the learned member from Northumberland (Mr. Johnson) that learned gentleman in his (Mr. Barberie's) opinion, departed from the Parliamentary course of debate, and had chosen to make a most unwarranted attack on the private character of the Deputy Treasurer at Dalhousie—a gentleman whose character for honorable conduct, strict integrity, and honesty of purpose, stood far too high to be at all sullied by any insinuation from the gentleman who had chosen to descend so low in debate as to make a personal attack on an individual who was not there defend himself.—He (Mr. Barberie) would, in the name of his friend, throw back the aspersion in the face and teeth of the hon. member who made it, and would tell him that it was a base fabrication; that it was not only unparliamentary in debate, but it was ungentlemanly and unmanly. He would ask and demand of the learned member what he meant by the assertion that the Deputy Treasurer of Dalhousie kept two establishments? If by a person owning two houses and renting one of them was to be a justification for such an attack, he (Mr. Barberie) could not view it in that light, and the insinuation was therefore more base and uncalled for. That gentleman's character was too well known in the community where he resides for his charitable and kind disposition to the poor and fatherless, to be at all affected by any such unfounded insinuations as those thrown out by the hon. member from Northumberland, and only that it was made in debate, he (Mr. Barberie) should have considered it too mean and low for notice; as it was he felt it due to the gentleman who was absent, to call the hon. member to account, and to caution him for the future.

The hon. and learned member had never failed to trumpet his own praise within the walls of that House, and in his numerous speeches to the gallery, and to tell them how high he stood in the estimation of the public—as a young man of merit and abilities in his profession; that he stood at the top of his profession; how learned he was in the law, in literature, and in science; that he had lectured at the Mechanics' Institute, and in every hole and corner of his county, to the praise and admiration of every body, and that only the young and rising men should hold office. Now, if that gentleman should succeed to office upon his own terms and according to his own measure of vanity and conceit, the Lord help the Province. (Laughter.) Why, the whole available revenues would not satisfy him—his services could never be paid for. His vanity, if possible, exceeds his beauty, all of which he never fails to tell us in his words, actions, and gestures. (Great laughter.)

Mr. Johnson continued, stating that no such words as were here reported were ever uttered in the House.

Mr. Barberie said the report was correct; he would endorse them, and then and there repeated them.

Mr. Johnson immediately moved the standing order; the gallery was cleared, and the House sat tully an hour with closed doors.

St. John New Brunswick, April 12.

It will be seen by our Legislative summary to day, that the Bill relating to the collection of the revenue has passed the house. This bill contains some stringent sections imposing penalties upon parties who are caught smuggling. It also reduces the salary of the Treasurer to £500. It was proposed to reduce it to £400, and this was supported by Messrs. Steves, Gilbert, Johnson, Barberie, Williston, Stiles, English, Beardsley, and Ryan. Some of the members opposed reducing the salary of the Treasurer at all. They are, hon. Messrs. Rankin and Street, and Messrs. Wilmot, Gray, Montgomery and Robinson. We are decidedly in favor of paying all public officers a fair remuneration for their services, but nothing more, and when we find men who represent this community opposing any reduction in salaries which are on all hands allowed to be too large, we would caution them how they act. Coolness and circumspection, and a desire to represent the views and interests of their constituents fairly and fully, should be their motto. The people expect that every pledge will be faithfully carried out.

Pay to the members of the Legislative Council.—The rejection of the Bill by the Assembly to provide pay for the Members of the Legislative Council appears to meet with the approbation of the Press and the People. The conduct of a majority of this body in rejecting the elective principle, has raised a feeling against them, which will not soon subside and most persons will back the House for taking this determined stand in order to bring these irresponsible to their senses. It

is thought that in order to be revenged on the House, the Council will refuse passing the Bill to pay the members of the Assembly. Whether they do so or not, we trust the house will petition her Majesty, to dissolve the House by Royal Proclamation, and this will doubtless have the desired effect. The people are not now in a frame of mind to allow themselves to humbugged any longer.

European News.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, March 22.

DREADFUL COLLIERY ACCIDENT IN SCOTLAND.

Loss of Sixty-one Lives.—Early on Saturday morning a fearful explosion took place at the coal pit of Mr. George Coats, near Nitsbill, between two and three miles from Paisley. The Victoria Pit, in which the explosion took place is the deepest in Scotland, being 1050 feet deep at the downcast shaft, which is situated about centre of the southern edge of the workings, from which the inclination of the strata tends upwards to the north, at an angle of about one foot in five, so that the upcast shaft or pit, which is about a quarter of a mile distant from the working pit, the workings are only 750 feet below the surface.

Saturday being pay day, a large number of the men employed in the pit had commenced work at an earlier hour than is usual on other days, and at the time the explosion took place about sixty three men and boys had gone down. This was about twenty minutes to five o'clock, and the report was so loud that it was distinctly heard at Paisley. The whole neighborhood, of course, was alarmed, and on the people rushing to the pit mouth it was found that one of the cages, which had descended a few fathoms, had been blown up the shaft to probably the height of the pit framing, some thirty feet above ground, and after jerking the rope off the pulley at the top of the framing, fell back down the shaft.

The shaft presented a scene of wreck and havoc such as perhaps was never seen on any similar occasion of a coal-pit explosion. The wood work had been blown from the bottom of the shaft, and scattered for one hundred yards all round the pit head in a perfect shower. The same appearances were presented round the ventilating pit mouth, called the 'Free Trader,' and situated at the distance of half a mile from the main down shaft.

Every effort was immediately made to relieve those who might remain alive below, but this was a work of extreme difficulty, as the shaft was choked by various obstructions. On Sunday evening, the men employed reached the bottom of the shaft, where two men were found alive, but in an extremely weak and exhausted condition. They were immediately brought to the surface, and means were taken for their restoration. They could give no account of the cause of the explosion.

The latest particulars state, that from examinations which had taken place, it had been ascertained that the work of recovering the bodies would be one of time and danger.—Two dead bodies have been brought up, but the bulk of the others, fifty-nine in number, are supposed to be in another portion of the pit, the approaches to which are so filled with foul air, that the miners were beaten back. There is no hope that any of those in the pit remain alive. A number of coffins have been made to receive the bodies of those who may be brought to the surface.

IRELAND.—There are now 244,296 persons in the workhouses of Ireland, and 6,450 receiving out-door relief.

Potatoes are likely to be grown to a greater extent in Ireland this year than in any year since the disastrous blight in 1846.

The annual flax sowing in Ulster averages 50,000 acres. For the rest of Ireland it is but 4000. Supposing each of the other provinces to cultivate flax as extensively as Ulster, the value of the crop for all Ireland would, it is estimated, be £4,500,000.

The tide of emigration continues, the emigrants being chiefly persons of a superior description. During last year draughts to the amount of £25,000 were paid through the office of Mr. Miley, emigrant agent in Dublin, remitted from former emigrants to bring out their friends. The Royal Bank of Dublin was drawn upon to the extent of £100,000 for the same purpose.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.—The Bombay papers announce the unconditional surrender of the fort Dharoor, in the Nizam's dominions, on the 4th February, and give a report that a portion of the Prince's territory has been made over to the Government of the East India company as an equivalent for the debt of £60,000 due to it.

The China papers confirm the intelligence of the death of Commissioner Lin. Key-sing had fallen into disgrace at the Chinese Court for showing a predilection to Europeans. Fears were entertained of a new Chinese insurrection in the disturbed provinces.

The North China Herald announces the discovery of an interesting race of Jews in the interior of the country, 350 miles from Peking, by some missionaries of the London Society.

TURKEY.—The insurrection in Bosnia is still far from being extinct. The conquest of the city and citadel of Banjaluka has furnished the insurgents with a stronghold by which it is likely they will be able to support their plans. The Austrian Reichsarmee protests that the condition of the Bosnian loyalists and christians is distressing in the extreme, and that "some Power ought to take the part of these beautiful and wretched provinces of