

## Communications.

## A CURIOUS RHYME.

What weather we have had this week,  
So gloomy, cold, and disagreeable;  
The wind chills through your very cheek,  
And pierces sharper than any needle.  
You look in vain for one bright spot,  
In all the clouds of dismal grey,  
Where, through, the sun might take a pop,  
And chase a little gloom away.  
But no! above, beneath, and round,  
'Tis all monotonous and dull;  
The river o'er with ice is bound,  
And when 'twill go, oh! who can tell?  
And yet it looks so leprous o'er—  
Consumptive quite—and so has been  
For one good week, and something more:  
And weather-wisdomed men are green,  
Their prophecies are quite adrift—  
I wish the ice was also so.  
There! now the wind has quickly swept  
A hat from off a head—Oh, what a go  
He has to catch it. The boys from school  
Run shivering home to get a warm;  
The very smoke looks blue and cool,  
I look in vain for one good charm.  
'Tis fairly fit to give the ague,  
Or introduce the dreaded blues;  
Where'er you walk—where'er you do,  
The east wind shivers you to your shoes.  
The cheerful sun forgets to look  
Upon us quite—above are clouds—  
Beneath our feet is mud and muck  
That Day & Martin quite enshrouds  
With such a covering o'er sole and upper,  
Which damps at once quite through your boots,  
From thence 'tis natural to infer  
The tooth and head-ache or sore throats,  
And hypochondria most dolorous,  
With all its dismal black forebodings;  
Of all our troubles get one much worse;  
It comes! it comes! with all its goadings.  
Your nose stuffed up, your shivering skin,  
Proclaims a touch of influenza;  
And when a friend pops kindly in,  
With drop on nose, he says, "good day, sir."  
I'm half inclined to say "not true,"  
Because 'tis evident to all our senses,  
That days that breed such good, or brew  
Such evils, cannot be good—(our ways  
Of greeting are so strange)—but pshaw!  
The door just opens, and such a gust  
From polar regions, bleak and raw!  
(Do shut the door, or else I'll burst  
Into a passion with you! you boy.)  
Just take one look upon the street,  
A horse and cart now passes by;  
The driver seems grown to his seat,  
So numbed he is: he looks so blue  
About the mouth, you'd think he had  
Been eating blue berries not a few.  
In vain I look for Cleopatra,  
Or any other as fair a creature,  
Such as Melissa or Musidora;  
Not one angelic face or feature  
Can I discover, of each or any;  
But some old women, who, I s'pose,  
Go out on gloomy days, or rainy,  
And on fine days scarce show their nose.  
But I am tired of such a subject,  
It makes Philosophy a jumble;  
For when my mind tries to reflect,  
All lofty things become too humble,

JAMES SQUARE.

April 17, 1851.

"Some busy and insinuating rogues,  
Some coggling, cozening knaves, to get some  
office,  
Have fanned this flash into existence."

Mr. Pierce,

I fear you will think me drawing too largely upon your liberality, by soliciting a place in your paper for this note, accompanied as it is by a sample of "States favorite brand," 25th March, 1851; the rural population of this County having shown a decided aversion to flummery, though recommended by a much more dignified *high Street*, than the *Street* from whence emanated the effusion of last week, (which, judging from its tenor,) must be low, and consequently at this season of the year, accounts in some degree for the mud. It is probable that I shall not again soon trouble you in this matter; and now beg to thank the correspondent of the *Hartford Daily Times* for his information relative to the affairs of the Insurance Company, which must place beyond a doubt their ability to be prompt, liberal and fair in the adjustment of all legal claims. In the meantime, the *Farmers* may as well ascertain the result of the Pittsfield meeting, preparatory to a verdict.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

R. HUTCHISON.

April 19, 1851.

"The Washington County (N. Y.) Mutual Insurance Company, which has been doing a large business throughout Western Massachusetts, has just thrown a bombshell into the ranks of its customers hereabouts by a call for 30 per cent. on their premium notes. Some propose to resist payment, and a portion of the disaffected call a public meeting of all interested parties in Berkshire County at Pittsfield, on the 25th inst.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican*."

"We understand that this Company filed with the Comptroller of the state of New York, on the 1st of January last, a statement of its condition, from which it appears that they have now outstanding \$90,000,000 of risks that have an average of three years to run—that they have on hand \$1,000,000 of premium notes—that the total cash receipts of the company, since it commenced business has been \$333,500—that it has paid for sala-

ries, expenses and losses, \$333,500—that the company owed Jan. 1st, 1851, \$70,000, and had not a dollar to pay with—and hence the attempt to 'raise the wind' by assessing the premium notes as above stated.

"We understand further, that this company has now outstanding in this State about *Eighteen Thousand Policies*, that have an average of three years to run. These policy holders in the Washington County Mutual, were all anxious to find *cheap Insurance*, and we think as they now see the 'beginning of the end,' that they will be satisfied that they have found it.

"The country is full of such kind of humbugs, which flourish for a day and then disappear. Their emissaries are scouring every village, and so long as they can find customers, the swarm of wild cat insurance companies, based upon nothing, will flourish through a brief existence, to the benefit of officers and agents, but to the serious injury of the community.—*Correspondence of the Hartford (Conn.) Daily Times*."

## Editor's Department.

## MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1851.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer *America*, arrived at Halifax at one o'clock, on the morning of Wednesday last. The mail did not reach here until about 5 o'clock on Saturday; the delay was no doubt occasioned by the state of the roads. We have obtained our file of British papers to the 6th April, from which we take the annexed extracts. The news is not important.

Lord Stanley's Address as the proximate premier was given to the world at Merchant Taylor's Hall on Wednesday. His Lordship is fully prepared to take office when he is called to it, and the most distinct announcement in his speech, about which there can be no mistake, is, that he will reverse the whole Free Trade policy which the genius of Peel consummated, and in the beneficial results of which during recent years the country has so largely participated. The speech, which is sufficiently mystified on other matters, is distinct and unequivocal on this. His panacea for all the ills the country is an heir to, is a tax on imports. The object of his Lordship is, of course, to tax the bread and food of the people. This is the be all and end all of his manifesto.

The times are sadly out of joint. The Whig Ministry, when Peel lived and was at their back, was vital, and promised to attain a respectable longevity. They are now in the throes of dissolution, and Lord Stanley maliciously gloats over their agonies. Peel himself, the triumph of whose life was the repeal of the Corn Laws, now that he is withdrawn from the stage of life, has his actions criticised and censured in the very hall where a dozen years back he was feted as the saviour of his party.

The coming struggle will be one of the strangest in the history of our times. It will be less a contest of party than of classes. The landed gentry, the church, and the professional people will find themselves opposed by the manufacturing and the commercial classes, backed by the operatives, in all the great towns. Lord Stanley strongly impressed upon his followers the necessity of securing a large majority in the House of Commons. Without this all would be worthless, and to secure it every other consideration must be sacrificed. A year or two more in opposition would be well spent if such a result were attainable. The contemptuous tone in which he spoke of the Whigs was in the spirit of a rival tradesman who wished to damage his opposite neighbor. In denouncing their Papal measure, which he did unsparingly, he was careful to enshroud himself behind a mass of verbal redundancy, which might be construed to mean anything or nothing.

The substance is, that Lord Stanley will take office when he has a majority that will enable him to keep it. We should have little fear of such a result if parties were in a less entangled state. On the simple questions of free-trade and protection the issue could not be doubted; but the Pope is evidently to be a trump card in the hands of the Stanley, to be played according to the turn of the game. This is the turning point in favor of the bread-taxers. By means of the 'no popery' cry, and appeals to the prejudices of the people, they hope to raise the issue on an extraneous question. It is a desperate experiment on the credulity of the people; but necessity, that imperative monitor, demands it and it must be made.

In this respect the Whigs and Peelites are at a discount. Lord John is in a worse position than if he had not stirred at all against the Pope's Bishops. All parties repudiate his measure. The Peelites are not better off. They have declared that they would do even less than Russell. The liberals and free-traders make no secret of their preference for Graham. Much will depend upon what party may hold the reins at the time of the dissolution. Lord John Russell declared emphatically the other evening, having the fear of Mr Locke King's motion before his eyes, that, next session he would introduce a comprehensive measure of reform; that it would in short reform the Reform Bill. These promissory notes, at a long date, have been the

curse of the Whigs for years past, and being so often dishonored, have brought them at length to the verge of bankruptcy.

But the Stanley manifesto will do good. The enemy is so near the citadel that, unless past differences are healed, he will enter it as a victor. All the forces opposed to him must be united, and never more than at the present time was the wisdom of the aphorism apparent, that 'Union is strength.' In the manufacturing districts we happen to know what the state of feeling is. The bare idea of re-enacting the Corn Laws, even in the shape of a moderate fixed duty, excites a feeling which every man would bare his arm to resist, and even the capitalist open his purse to defeat.

In one of those sudden fits with which the Legislative Assembly of France is sometimes seized, it was resolved at the end of last week, to consider whether the electoral law of May last was or was not applicable to the election of President, and definitively to decide this important question. The Ministers to stop the debate, volunteered a most unequivocal declaration that they considered the law of May applicable to both, and that it was clear and complete. The Mountain laughed this declaration to scorn, and though one of their party, intimated that whatever the Assembly might vote, the 46th article of the Constitution prescribed that the election of President should be by the direct and universal suffrage of all Frenchmen. A ballot was taken upon the question, in which the Mountain refused to take any part, and a direct motion for the repeal of the law of May was afterwards put and formally rejected. Now, with all these incidents before us, we are told that, within a day or two after the discussion had taken place, the President sent for M. Odillon Barrot, and gave him a *carte blanche* unconditionally to form a permanent Ministry; and there can be no doubt that this gentleman did consent to modify this very law of May, which Louis Napoleon's Ministers were at the same breath declaring to be 'clear and complete.' After several days' intrigue, rather than negotiation, M. Odillon Barrot resigned his task as hopeless, having failed to procure the co-operation of any such influential names as would enable him to appear on the Treasury bench.

From the accounts in the Paris papers of continual disturbances in various departments some of these being so alarming that the disaffected threaten to march on Paris, it seems to us that the Socialist party, taking advantage of the general depressed state of agricultural and manufacturing industry, are using every effort to bring out some convulsion. The statements made in the British Parliament, upon it, is alleged, undoubted evidence, warrant the supposition that the refugee Democrats in London are organising some extensive confederacy, the object of which is to exterminate sovereign power in every quarter of Europe.

We have later news from Rome and Naples. At the Church of St. Praxide, in Rome, a bomb has been thrown into one of the side aisles, but, beyond the contusions caused by persons rushing out to save themselves, no one, providentially was hurt.

The German question remains in *statu quo*. We are told of 'notes' being continually interchanged between the Austrian and Berlin Cabinets, and we are led to expect an ultimatum upon the Executive question in the ensuing week. We, therefore, think it unnecessary to recapitulate all the various schemes with which the German papers are still inundated.

The insurrection in the Bosnian provinces, which for some time threatened to spread throughout the whole of European Turkey, has it seems, been effectually suppressed. The insurgents, after having carried everything before them, were encountered by Omer Pacha, who completely routed them in a pitched battle.

TRADE.—The past week's accounts of the state of trade generally may be pronounced satisfactory. Although the funds have been languid there has been no alarming decline, while yesterday and to day a decided improvement has been observable. In Corn the reports of all the provincial markets concur as to the steadiness of recent rates. In the Woollen districts there is a decided tendency to improvement. Full employment is obtained at Birmingham, and the cutlery and hardware districts generally. The Manchester market is healthy; and the Produce markets have suffered no further reduction.

The English papers report that a Prospectus has been issued by an "European and American Steam Packet Company," provisionally registered, the object of which will be to establish a line of first-class Steamships to ply between Galway and some port or ports of America, to be hereafter determined. It is proposed for the purpose of carrying out the project, to raise a capital of £250,000 to begin with, in 5000 shares of £50 each.

Willmer & Smith's *European Times* says: "We have every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government are at length fully determined to complete the line of Railway between Halifax and Quebec. There will be no immediate advance of money, but an ultimate guarantee of interest the Imperial Government. The outside cost ought not to be beyond £5000 per mile."

It would appear by some of our English papers, that apprehensions of a Revolutionary movement by foreigners, on the occasion of the London Exhibition, are entertained in the mother country; but it appears from remarks made in the House of Commons, that the

Government is fully prepared for any emergency.

We find the following item in a late British paper:

"It is said to be in contemplation to form a Colonial Free-trade League, the object of which shall be to place our commercial intercourse with the Colonies, in so far as the requirements of the Imperial revenue will admit, upon the footing of a home or coasting trade."

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

Last week we published a series of Resolutions which Mr Ritchie laid before the Assembly. They embrace several subjects, many of them of vital importance to the people of this Province. The debate was opened by Mr Ritchie on Monday last, in a very able speech, which occupies nine columns of the *Head Quarters*. We give below a concise report of the speeches on the first and second days, as reported by the correspondent of the *St. John News Room*; and the Letter of our attentive Correspondent furnishes us with an account of the action of the House on the different Resolutions.

The late hour at which the mails arrived, allows us but little time to consider the matter. The Government has been very severely and justly handled, and we hope it will convince them that to occupy their present position they must work, and bring the affairs of the Province into a more wholesome condition than they are at present.

The Council and Assembly have agreed on a joint Address to Her Majesty respecting the contemplated remission of the duty on Foreign Timber imported into the mother country.

From the St. John News Room Despatch.

FREDERICTON, April 14.

At twelve o'clock to-day, the resolutions on the State of the Province were taken up.

Mr Ritchie, in a speech of two hours and thirty five minutes, reviewed the history of Responsible Government, showing the principles on which it was based, from Lord Durham's Report, and Earl Grey's Despatches. The old sore, that burst into rebellion in Canada, was the irresponsibility of colonial authority, and referring everything of importance to the Home Government. The Minister had now taken away the constitution ceded to the Province, and would, if allowed, assume the right to appoint to every office—referred to the speech of Lord John Russell and the Declaration relative to the Rebellion Losses Bill, to show that he intended the colonies to have the entire control of their own affairs—his declaration relative to the Governor General's salary, to show that the colonists were allowed to decide what the salaries should be; and would they now submit to dictation from Earl Grey? He then took up the Despatches, and at length, showed where most important parts were omitted, and asserted the right of the representatives to all despatches when required—dwelt on the recent appointments, and insisted that the government should have resigned. If they had done so, the country would have approved of their conduct, and no traitor would have dared to take office. Spoke of retrenchment, and the Attorney General's enunciation, in which he adopted the principles of the Despatch that declared the Governor's salary not too high, and last, spoke of the agricultural interest. He ended by declaring that remonstrance was not the proper mode of proceeding.

On this, Mr Partelow made a short speech—said the government knew nothing of the two last despatches sent by the Governor about the appointments—they were written on his own responsibility—the government did not resign because it was in the recess—waited till the despatches were laid before the House, and their opinion pronounced. If the resolutions passed in their present shape, it would amount to a vote of want of confidence. He was in favor of Responsible Government, and wished it defined and carried out.

Mr Hannington said he would vote for both parts of the resolution, however it may be put.

Mr Fitzgerald would support also.

The Attorney General replied, said the Governor had acted fairly on the whole. The Council did not agree, and gave him no advice; he did what was best under the circumstances, and afforded all necessary information to enable the house to form an opinion—the principle now proposed had never been proposed before, that nothing should be withheld. If any discretion was allowed, the Governor was the proper person to exercise it. The facts relating to the appointments were well known, when the resolution was proposed at the opening of the house, by passing by them then, the house approved of the conduct of the Governor; this should not be drawn into a precedent, and was made subject of grave remonstrance, which he considered the proper constitutional course. The conduct of the opposition looked like persecution.

Mr Gilbert was inclined to support the resolutions, but it was not fair to call the government to account for the conduct of their predecessors—salaries must be reduced.

The House adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

APRIL 25.—The debate on Mr Ritchie's resumed.

Mr Gray spoke first—took up the question