

pression, that Mr. Barbarie is making an effort to free the Newspapers of the Province from taxation. In this good work he will be supported by the Press of the Province, and we believe by public opinion throughout British North America."

It will be seen by the letter of our Correspondent, that the Council have thrown out the Bill introduced by the Government, making that body elective. They have also rejected the Bill passed by the Lower House, reducing the Fees of the County Registrars, and providing that no practising Attorney fill that situation. The same body have postponed until the next meeting of the Legislature, the Bill passed by the Assembly, relative to the "eligibility of certain officers holding seats in the House of Assembly." Thus have three highly important bills been shelved by this non-elective, non-responsible body. Who will have the hardihood to say after this, that there is no reform necessary there?

We publish below our Correspondent's letter. He lays the lash on the shoulders of the Government with no sparing hand, and we feel assured that but few will be found who will not say they deserve it. It is absurd to call it a "Responsible Government," when they submit to have nearly all the measures introduced by them, altered by the Assembly, and one thrown out by the Council, and still hold on to office.

We are glad to learn that the ill constructed and unpopular School Bill, has been withdrawn by the Government, with a promise that they will introduce another better adapted to the necessities of the Province, next session.

FREDERICTON, April 3, 1851.

Dear Pierce,—During the latter part of the past and the present week, up to this date, much of the time of the House has been occupied in the supply, and something has been done to prevent inordinate grants of money for mere local purposes. A motion to grant £2000 for the erection of a wharf at St. John for sea-going steamers was lost by a large majority. Rankin, Street, and Johnson voted against, and Williston for this grant. You will see by the late Journals that the latter gentleman has, for some unaccountable reasons, voted for several grants of this nature. Was he any amount to ask for, for his own purposes, which could induce him thus to seek support in return? If so, he has certainly not taken the proper mode to ensure success. It may be, however, that he has conscientiously supported these grants, as men do take very opposite views on such questions, without at all warranting the accusation of improper motives.

The Bill to incorporate the Richibucto Telegraph Company, for a line from the Bend of Petticoat to Richibucto, was committed on Saturday, when the House was thinly attended, Rankin and Street being absent on Government business, and Johnson on the scrutiny committee. Williston opposed it, but it was reported as agreed to. Before the House rose that evening, Johnson gave notice that he would divide the House on the third reading, and expected to make out such a case as would induce the house to reject the Bill. On Monday morning, when the bill was read as engrossed, Johnson stated that a bill had already passed the house, and received the sanction of His Excellency, incorporating the Miramichi and Richibucto Electric Telegraph Company, to build a line from the Bend to Miramichi, through Richibucto; that the persons seeking the present act were shareholders, and parties to the former bill; that they had petitioned for the former act, and that the bill was prepared by the same person who had drawn the present, and who was himself a shareholder in each; that it was fully agreed that the whole line should be in one company, and alternate meetings of directors should be held at Richibucto and Miramichi; that this bill would destroy the measure altogether, because it would withdraw so much stock from the one company, and be an act of injustice, inasmuch as the Miramichi shareholders had ordered the wire, and contracted for the posts, under the original agreement, and could not now withdraw; that the present bill was in violation of the agreement that the stock should be joint, and while the Richibucto line would profit by the communications from Miramichi, the other shareholders would lose all the advantages or profit arising from the Richibucto correspondence to the south. This view was supported by Rankin, Street, Williston, Ritchie, Gray, the Secretary, and others, and opposed by Cutler, McPhelim, Hannington, &c., but the bill was lost by a large majority.

Today, a bill introduced by Ritchie to abolish the Judges' fees, was committed, and agreed to by an overwhelming majority. The opposers were Rankin, Street, Robinson, and Montgomery.

The Attorney General also committed a bill to provide for the protection of the Revenue. The Speaker moved a section to reduce the salaries of the Deputy Treasurers so as not to exceed £200, instead of £300. This was also carried by a large majority. Of your members Williston and Johnson voted for, and Street and Rankin against the reduction.

The bill to reduce Registrar's fees, and to prevent practising Attorneys holding the office, has been lost in the Legislative Council.

This branch have also rejected the Elective Legislative Council bill, by a division of 10 to 7, so that the government have failed to carry any of their important measures, except the Railway Bills, in either branch. I say failed, because the municipal bill, in principle or provisions, was not sustained in any instance. The Law bill was quietly shelved, in order to get rid of it, when the opinion of the house was found to be decidedly against it, and the School Bill has been got rid of in the most unprecedented manner, the Attorney General stating that he did not think it would meet the approbation of the house, or suit the wants of the country, but that he should be prepared to adopt the alterations which the house might suggest for its improvement. R. D. Wilmot moved that the bill should be referred to a select committee, and the Attorney General actually jumped at the opportunity thus afforded him to escape the responsibility. Ritchie and Johnson, with a few others, opposed this as being unparliamentary, and as laying down a precedent which would abolish all government responsibility in future. They stated at the same time that so far from wishing this to be a question of opposition, they would be content to allow the Attorney General to withdraw the bill, inasmuch as he had recently gone into the government, and might reasonably urge that, in so important and difficult a measure, he required further time; but as the government had last year excused themselves for not introducing a School Bill, and had promised that it should be introduced at the next session, and as the Speech had reiterated the excuse for former neglect, and positively stated that they would be prepared to introduce an efficient measure at this session, they could not exonerate those members of the government who were then in office, nor consent to take further responsibility off their shoulders in this odd manner, and they hoped the Attorney General would not submit to have a government bill handed over to a committee, and thus acknowledge at once the inability of the government to prepare an efficient bill, and admit that what they did not possess within their own body, was to be found in a committee chosen from the house, and in those who had not only no part of the government, but it might be in direct opposition to it. The bill was finally submitted to a select committee, and I doubt if it will be before the house again this session. Many of the opposition voted in favor of the committee, in order to get rid of the difficulty, and fearing there would be a repetition of the municipal bill absurdity, and that the opposition would in fact have to make a new bill of it.

I would like to know whether you think "Government Measures" mean such as in principle the country require and will approve of, or if the meaning of the term be simply that the Government must bring down Bills, the titles of which are only sustained by the House, but none of their substance retained; or, if it be fair that they should gain the consent or support of the Assembly through a secret arrangement or compromise in a committee room, instead of boldly and firmly maintaining their position, and defending their acts and their offspring on the floor of the Assembly and in the eye of the world. The Attorney General is constantly reiterating the charge of "factious" against the opposition, and I really believe he considers the charge well-founded. He is one of that compact which is now growing "small and beautifully less" in this Province, which fancies the whole country made for them; and the Attorney General considers all who stand in the way of his ambition, or contravene his policy, as not only factious but something approaching rebellious. The old doctrine of "vested rights" is the leading maxim of men who cannot bend to the changes, who boast of fixed principles; ay, "fixed as in a frost"—who mistake obstinacy for firmness. But as he has started the question on this charge of factious opposition, he should have shewn on what ground he founds it. Was the opposition to the Law Bill factious? The Attorney General himself admitted that it was not, by moving to shelve the measure by a side wind. Was the opposition factious in making a Municipal Bill out of the thing brought down by the Government? If so, why did he consent to the organic and vital changes in its nature. If the opposition were wrong in making these changes, the Attorney General has sacrificed the interests of the country for the sake of office, in submitting to these changes while he should rather have avoided participation in the sins of the opposition by adhering to the measure as tenaciously as to office, and only consenting to yield up the one with the other. Was the opposition to the School Bill factious? If so, he has joined the factious party, because he admitted it was no bill, and that he could not make it one unless the House would lend him the aid of half a dozen picked men, who could do more in one day in committee room than the whole Government could do since last winter. Was the opposition factious when they introduced a section into his Revenue Bill, which reduced the Deputy Treasurers' Salaries £100 per annum? Was it factious when they forced upon him the Bill to abolish Judges' Fees, and when he found but three members to vote with him against it? Was it factious when, against all his interested efforts, they carried the Bill to reduce the Registrar's Fees? In short, if the Government have failed in carrying out a single measure in its integrity, but on the contrary, have consented to any dictates of the opposition as to political and constitutional changes, have not they been the factious party? The opposition have carried out all their most important changes, and this in the face of the Attorney General's

expressed opinions, and in defiance of the Government opposition, and all these measures are the act of the opposition, as they now stand marred and disfigured certainly by the skeletons of the Government Bills, and which still remain beneath. The House has again and again expressed their want of confidence, but the Government won't take the hint. The Government have more than once acknowledged their incapacity to perfect measures; and the Attorney General should manifest more discretion than to be constantly stirring up altercations by the charge of factious. 'Tis clear that however invulnerable he may be in debate, he is little skilled of fence; and though he may not win, the public are well satisfied that the tide of war is against him.

"Though vanquished he will argue still."

'Tis unfortunate that he went into the Government; and the difference between him and the factious opposition may prove the poet's words:

"The Gods and Gato on this point divide,  
He chose the conquered, they the conquering side."

#### TELESCOPE.

#### NOVASCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

The subject of Mr. Howe's Mission to Britain, was brought under the notice of the Assembly by the Attorney General, who, after a very able and lengthy speech, laid the following Resolution on the table. Its consideration was the order of the day for Wednesday last.

"Whereas, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir John Harvey, and the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, by their Delegate, the Hon. Joseph Howe, proposed to Her Majesty's Government to make a Loan to the Province of £500,000 Sterling, or that the payment of the Interest of a Loan to that amount should be guaranteed by the Imperial Parliament: And Whereas Her Majesty's Government are prepared to recommend to Parliament that this guarantee shall be granted or the Money advanced from the British Treasury, on the conditions that arrangements be made with the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick, to ensure the construction of a line of Railway through British territory from Halifax to Quebec or Montreal; and in aid of such arrangements Her Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament that like assistance shall be rendered to those Provinces as to Nova Scotia, and further to include a communication between the projected Railway and the Railways of the United States, and it is required that the several Provincial Legislatures shall pass laws making the loans thus raised a charge upon the Provincial Revenue after any existing debts and payments on account of the Civil List settled on her Majesty by law now in force, and also that permanent taxes shall be imposed (for taxes to continue in force till the debt shall be extinguished) sufficient to provide for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the Loan proposed to be raised, after discharging the above prior claim.

"Resolved, therefore, That it is for the interest of the people of Nova Scotia that a work so important, and fraught with so many advantages to the Province, should be immediately undertaken and proceeded with after the consent of Canada and New Brunswick is obtained; and that this House do accept the proposition of the British Government for advancing the above amount for constructing a Railway across the Province of Nova Scotia, on the terms and conditions embodied in the letter of the Under Secretary of State, B. Hawes, Esq., to Mr Howe, bearing date the tenth day of March, 1851."

THE SEASON.—There is every appearance at present, that travelling on the river will speedily be brought to an end. Our roads are in a most wretched condition. The snow is rapidly disappearing, and should the present mild weather continue a few days longer the roads and fields in our immediate vicinity will be entirely bare. The past winter was one of the coldest ever experienced in the country.

REMITTANCE.—The Letter of our attentive Agent at Bathurst, with remittance, came safely to hand. The proposal is satisfactory.

P. E. ISLAND.—The Legislature of this colony was opened on the 26th ult. His Excellency Sir A. Bannerman in his opening speech said:

"I feel myself authorised to announce to you, that I am prepared, (without at present entering into a particular detail) to introduce Responsible Government into this Colony, and also to surrender the disposal of Her Majesty's Revenues, when the Legislature shall have agreed to certain conditions, which I shall without delay submit to their consideration, with respect to the terms on which the Crown will consent to this change, and also to the surrender of its Revenues."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—If we thought the writer who signs himself "A Sincere Friend of John T's," was what he pretends to be, we should not hesitate to publish his letter—but the veil is too thin to disguise the fact—and the public would at once recognise it as a hoax perpetrated at his expense. We shall

cheerfully allow him or any individual to see the manuscript of the letter we published last week. It is all correct—letter for letter—capital for capital—point for point, as it came from the pen of the honorable gentleman.

"The Stranger," "A Constitutionalist," and "Caustic," are received. They shall meet with early attention.

CANADA.—It is confidently reported that the Hon. Mr. Lafontaine will retire from public life after the close of the next Legislative season.

#### LONGEVITY.

There is an old lady by the name of Frost, now living in Eaton, New Hampshire, who can say, "Arise, daughter, and go unto thy daughter, for thy daughter's daughter has a daughter. She is 101 years old.

The above is clipped from an old volume of the New Orleans Picayune. The old lady alluded to is still living, and is now in the 103rd year of her age, and is the mother of Mr. Shepherd J. Frost, of Chatham.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—Newcastle Division, No 45; the following are the Officers elected for the current quarter:—

Wm. Falconer, W.P.; R. Gremley, W.A.; A. Mitchell, R.S.; W. J. Miller, A.R.S.; E. Driscoll, F.S.; W. Dalton, T.; C. Sargeant, C.; James Witherell, A.C.; J. Crane, I.S.; R. Nesmith, O.S.

Dr John Thomson takes the Chair of the P.W.P.

FREE PORTS.—The port of Hillsborough, Albert County, has been declared a port of foreign trade. The port of Monkton, Westmorland County, known as the Bend, will also soon be opened as a free port.

CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES POSTAGE ARRANGEMENTS.—An arrangement has been effected by which direct sealed bags will be made up for the chief places in Canada. The postage will be the same in each country.

A letter not exceeding half an ounce will be charged five cents to the line from any part of the United States, and five cents to any place in the province of Canada—the postage to be prepaid or not, at the option of the person sending letters. The postage upon newspapers to be prepaid, as heretofore.

#### PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENT.

#### SUPREME COURT.

Hilary Term, 14 Vic., A. D. 1851.

John Macdougall, Gentleman, is appointed a Commissioner to take Special Bail in the County of Northumberland.

GEORGE SHORE.

#### Marriages.

At Chatham, on the 27th March, by the Rev. William Stewart, Mr Wm. McDONALD, of the Parish of Glenelg, to Miss MARGARET McFARLANE, of the Parish of Chatham.

At Black River, on the 3rd instant, by the same, Mr ALEX. DICK, of Napan, Parish of Glenelg, to Miss ELIZABETH McNAUGHTON, of the Parish of Glenelg.

On the 27th ultimo, by the Rev. John Turnbull, Mr JAMES ASTLE, to Miss REBECCA VANDERCOCK, both of the Parish of Nelson.

#### Deaths.

At Dalhousie, on Sabbath, the 30th ult., of Water on the Brain, HARRIET ANN, youngest child of David Sadler, Esq., aged seven months and four days.

#### Ship Carpenters.

A few good SHIP-CARPENTERS will meet with employment at the Shipyard in Campbellton, Restigouche.

For particulars enquire at the offices of A. Ritchie & Co., Campbellton or Dalhousie, or of Johnson & MacKe, Miramichi. Restigouche, April 2, 1851.

#### List of Letters

Received at the Newcastle Post Office, during the month of February, and remaining delivery.

Panton Brophy, Bartholomew's River.  
Susanna Cain, North Esk.  
Peter Foley, Nelson Village.  
John Jodry, near Newcastle.  
Mrs Andrew McCallum, Miramichi.  
Andrew McCallum, do.  
James Murphy, Burnaby's River.  
James Merry, Newcastle.  
Patrick O'Brien, care of Rev. McEgan.  
Walter Lime, near Newcastle.  
Jane Woodward, Little South West.  
Thomas Wheeler, Newcastle.  
Gilbert Young, do.

Persons asking for any of the above, will please say Advertised.

HUGH MORELL, P. M.

#### Pails! Pails!

The Subscriber having been appointed Agent for the Sale of Pails manufactured at the Provincial Penitentiary, in St. John, is prepared early in offering to supply PAIL superior to any similar imported article, low, if not lower, than can be imported.

WM. J. FRASER

Chatham, 17th March, 1851.