

some miserable substitute. We should find ourselves grumbling at heavy taxes laid on nearly all the necessaries and luxuries of life—even upon salt; blaspheming at the high prices of coffee, tea and sugar, which confined these articles, in any adequate abundance, to the rich and easy classes of society; paying twofold for our linen shirts, threefold for our flannel petticoats, and above fivefold for our cotton handkerchiefs and stockings; receiving our newspapers seldom, poverty-stricken, and some days after date: receiving our Edinburgh letters in London a week after they were written, and paying threepence halfpenny for them when delivered; exchanging the instantaneous telegraph for the slow and costly express by chaise and four; travelling with soreness and fatigue by the 'old heavy,' at the rate of seven miles an hour, instead of by the Great Western at fifty; and relapsing from the blaze of light which gas now pours along our streets into a perilous and uncomfortable darkness, made visible by a few wretched oil lamps scattered at distant intervals. But these would by no means comprise the sum total, nor the worst part of the descent into barbarism. We should find our criminal law in a state worthy of Draco; executions taking place by the dozen; the stealing of five shillings punishable and punished as severely as murder; slavery and the slave trade flourishing in their palmyest atrocity. We should find the liberty of the subject at the lowest ebb; freedom of discussion and writing always in fear, and frequently in jeopardy; religious rights trampled under foot; Catholics slaves, not citizens; dissenters still disabled and despised. Parliament unreformed; public jobbing flagrant and shameless; gentlemen drank a bottle where they now drink a glass, and measured their capacity by their cups; and the temperance medal was a thing undreamed of. The people in those days were little thought of, where they are now the main topic of discourse and statesmanship; steamboats were unknown, and a voyage to America occupied eight weeks instead of ten days; and while in 1850 a population of nearly 30,000,000 paid £50,000,000 of taxes, in 1801 a population of 15,000,000 paid no less than £63,000,000.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

### NEW BRUNSWICK.

Fredericton, Saturday March 15.

This morning the Road Committee (one member from each County) was sitting. In the meantime the House went into Committee and passed a bill to incorporate the Northumberland Straits Fishing Company; capital £20,000.

The house then resumed committee on the Municipal Corporation Bill.

Mr. Chapman said there should be time given for consideration, he therefore moved the postponement of the bill until the next session of the Legislature.

After a few remarks from Messrs. Taylor and Johnson in opposition to postponement, Mr. Chapman said he would not press the motion if it did not meet with the wishes of the committee.

Mr. Earle seconded the motion. He was opposed to Municipal Corporations, as it would lead to direct taxation.

Mr. Crane followed, and spoke of the people managing their own affairs in sarcastic terms.

The Hon. Attorney General then spoke for two hours and a half, recapitulating and replying to the arguments adduced in opposition to the bill. He ridiculed the idea of making the bill coercive, stating his conviction that the Government and Legislature could not force Municipal institutions upon the people. He also sneered at the idea of Government coming down to the house to ask for the power to initiate money votes; he said it would be seeking to deprive the house of one of its privileges. He charged Mr. Ritchie with *unmanliness* in moving a vote of want of confidence, when he (Mr. Street) was in the lobby with his hands tied and his tongue gagged, and for not having moved a vote of want of confidence last session.

Mr. Ritchie retorted, asking the Attorney General why he had not moved a vote of want of confidence last year, when he was in opposition. He also quoted from Mr. Street's address to his constituents last June, when he called the Government 'politically dishonest,' and attacked him for having joined that dishonest Government, instead of helping him (Mr. Ritchie) to turn them out, as the country expected him to do. As to his moving a vote of want of confidence in the Government for their past acts, he asked what business was that of his (Mr. Street's) who was constantly exclaiming that he did not identify himself with those acts? Mr. Ritchie wound up by quoting from one of Mr. Street's speeches of last session, wherein he blamed the Government in good round terms, for not coming down to the house and proposing that the Initiation of Money votes should be yielded up to them.

Mr. Street strove hard to explain away some of the inconsistencies with which he was charged, but with little effect.

Mr. Needham then commented upon Mr. Street's speech and the bill, with much wit, and the house (and galleries) was frequently convulsed with laughter.

The question for postponing the bill was then put, and negatived, the minority being Messrs. Chapman, Crane, Earle, and Gilbert.

Mr. Ritchie then pointed out difficulties in the first section, to which the Attorney General replied. His Honor the Speaker and Mr. Johnson proposed amendments, but the com-

mittee rose and reported progress without coming to any decision. *New Brunswicker.*

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1851.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

We have obtained our English papers to the 1st instant, by the Royal Mail Steamer Asia, at New York. They furnish but little news of interest in addition to that which we gave in a telegraphic despatch from the Halifax Sun last week:—

No Ministry had yet been formed. Lord Stanley had been unsuccessful in forming a Cabinet, and it was generally supposed Lord John Russell would still hold the reins of Government. There were some talk of placing the Duke of Wellington at the head of affairs.

The London Standard of Feb. 28th says: Lord Stanley has failed in forming a Ministry and has in consequence restored to Her Majesty the commission with which she had entrusted him.

The ports of Glasgow and Greenock show an increase of Customs' revenue for the year 1850, of more than £10,600, and now present a total of more than £1,000,000 sterling per annum.

The news from France is uninteresting.—The anniversary of the Revolution had passed off without any disturbance whatever. Rumours are afloat that Austria contemplates the invasion of Switzerland. The Piedmontese are arming to defend the Italian refugees in their States.

By advices from Vienna of the 22nd ult., rumours were still rife of an Austrian expedition against Switzerland.

Very little news from Rome. The Pope has granted an amnesty to several of the ex-Roman constituent assemblies, and others have obtained intermediate periods of provisional liberty.

The Turin papers give a rumour that the Northern powers have addressed a note to the Piedmontese Government, demanding the expulsion of the Italian immigrants, the suppression of the liberty of the press, and the immediate reconciliation with the Court of Rome.

It is stated that the greatest activity prevails in the Piedmontese War Office and that extensive preparations are making for the defence of the country.

The Turkish insurrection has been completely quelled.

It is shown in a return to Parliament, printed lately that the estimated net revenue of India for the year 1849-50, amount to £20,498,412, and after paying all charges, the estimated surplus will be £7,766,2.

#### COUNTY OF KENT.

##### PUBLIC MEETING.—ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A Public Meeting, convened by the High Sheriff of the County in pursuance of a requisition to him directed, was held in the Court House, in Richibucto, on Tuesday, the 18th inst, for the purpose of taking into consideration the provisions of a Bill now before the Provincial Legislature for establishing an Elective Legislative Council in this Province. A large number of Freeholders and others having assembled when the hour of eleven o'clock arrived (being the hour appointed for opening the meeting) the High Sheriff read the requisition, and called upon the meeting to choose their Chairman.

On motion of David Wark, Esq., JOSEPH WETMORE, Esq., High Sheriff, was unanimously called to the Chair, and

On motion of George Pagan, Esq., ROBERT HUTCHINSON was chosen Secretary to the meeting.

The following Resolutions were then moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Moved by J. G. G. Layton, Esq., and seconded by David McAlman, Esq.:

Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that a principal reason why the Legislative Council as at present constituted, has not given entire satisfaction to the country, is, that its members having been almost exclusively selected from a few of the most populous counties, they did not on all occasions, possess such information as would enable them satisfactorily to decide on questions affecting the local interests of the less favoured Counties.

Moved by David Wark, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Wm. Brait:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the Government measure to establish an Elective Legislative Council, so far from remedying the evil complained of in the foregoing resolution, will aggravate and perpetuate it, by virtually confining the whole representation to the more populous counties, while it will entail an enormous and unnecessary expense on the Province; and that we should therefore remonstrate in the strongest manner against the proposed annexation of this county to Westmorland, or any other measure which would deprive the County of Kent of a fair representation in the Legislature, or unnecessarily increase the burdens of the people; and that it is further the opinion of this meeting, that a measure granting a fair representation to each respective County would be much more acceptable to a majority of the Counties of the Province, and might be so framed as to provide for filling up periodical vacancies in the representation at one quar-

ter the expence contemplated by the Government Bill.

Moved by Mr James Mooney, and seconded by Mr Robert Lawson:

Resolved, That the substance of the foregoing Resolutions be embodied in Petitions and forwarded to the Representatives of the County, to be presented to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

Mr Wark then submitted the following Petition, which was approved of and adopted by the meeting:

To the Honorable the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, in General Session convened.

The Petition of the undersigned Electors, and others, Inhabitants of the County of Kent:

*Humbly Sheweth—*

That the Members of the Legislative Council having heretofore been selected with scarcely an exception, from a few of the more populous Counties of the Province, complaints have sometimes been made in the less favoured Counties, that on questions affecting their local interests, the members of that Honorable House have not on all occasions possessed such information as would enable them to arrive at a correct decision; and that, in consequence, the interests of such counties have suffered. That your Petitioners hoped a remedy for this would be provided in the Bill now before the Legislature for establishing an Elective Legislative Council; but they regret to find that the Bill referred to, so far from remedying the evil complained of, would aggravate and perpetuate it, inasmuch as the leading county in each of the Electoral Districts proposed to be established, contains a majority of the population of the whole district, and in most cases also a majority of the votes; and, therefore, should the Bill become Law, it would virtually secure to such leading County the entire representation of the district. Your Petitioners feel persuaded that the annexation of this County to Westmorland, would amount to a denial to the County of Kent of any share in the representation, and they believe that such an enactment would place a majority of the Counties of the Province in a similar position. They therefore feel bound to protest against any measure having so objectionable a tendency. Your Petitioners further object to this measure on account of the enormous and unnecessary expense which would be incurred in carrying it out. They believe that the employing of five returning officers, one hundred sheriffs and subordinate returning officers, and one hundred poll clerks, and the calling from their houses and occupations fifteen thousand electors every second year, merely to fill up five vacancies in a branch of the Legislature, would occasion an expenditure of the public money and a waste of the people's time altogether disproportioned to the object to be attained; and further, that in the present depressed state of the Province, it is neither desirable nor politic to involve it in the expense and excitement of three general elections every four years. Your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that of each of the six counties containing twenty thousand inhabitants and upwards were divided into two Electoral Districts, and each of the remaining eight counties, for the present, constituted one, making twenty in all, each county or district being entitled to return one member to the Legislative Council; the advantage of a fair local representation would thus be secured, while an election in five of these districts to fill up periodical vacancies, could be made at one quarter the expense proposed to be incurred by the measure now before the Legislature; and they would further suggest, that as soon as any of the last named eight counties reaches a population of twenty thousand it should be entitled to return a second member. Your Petitioners would respectfully crave the attention of your Honorable House to the Constitution of the United States, which provides that each State, whether large or small, shall return two members to the Senate, and that the members shall reside in the State they are chosen to represent; and they believe that the satisfactory working in that country of an Elective Upper House so constituted, entitles it to the serious consideration of the Legislature of this Province. Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House, that in legislating on this important subject, a fair share of local representation may be secured to each County in the Province, and that in providing for carrying the measure into effect due regard may be had to their economy.

And in duty bound we will ever pray.

Moved by Mr Wark, and seconded by Mr Levy, That a committee of three persons be appointed by the Chairman, to carry into effect the object of the preceding Resolution. Passed unanimously. Whereupon Mr Wark, Mr Layton and Mr Hutchinson were nominated by the Chairman to compose said committee.

Moved by Mr Creelman, and seconded by Mr John Shorrat, and carried unanimously:

That copies of the Resolutions and Petitions be transmitted by the Secretary to the Editor of the Gleaner, for publication.

On motion of Mr John Clark the Chairman then left the Chair, and Mr William Brait was called thereto, whereupon it was moved by Mr Layton, seconded by Mr Wark, and carried by acclamation:

That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Joseph Wetmore, Esq., for his kindness in acting as Chairman, and his able and impartial conduct while occupying the Chair. Mr Wetmore acknowledged the vote in a brief and appropriate speech.

On motion of Mr Layton a vote of thanks

was cheerfully and unanimously accorded to Mr Wark for the vast amount of important and valuable information he had afforded the meeting, on a subject so vitally affecting their privileges and interests.

Mr Wark replied to the vote in a very suitable speech, stating that he considered it to be his bounden duty, as it certainly was his determination, to exert his influence at all times and under all circumstances, to prevent any undue advantage being taken which would tend in any way to jeopardize the political interests of the County of Kent.

R. HUTCHINSON, Secretary.  
Richibucto, March 29, 1851.

*Mr Editor,*

My duty as Secretary to the meeting being now fulfilled, I would gladly avail myself of this opportunity to afford your numerous readers a synopsis of the very excellent and interesting speeches delivered by the several gentlemen who moved and seconded the respective resolutions contained in the foregoing communication; but knowing that you are anxious, at this particular period, to devote as much of your valuable journal to the sayings and doings of our assembled wisdom as you possibly can, and the above communication being very long, I can only venture to give you the merest outline of the different speeches.

Mr Layton, in introducing the first Resolution, made a very excellent practical speech, explained the principles on which the existing Legislative Council are based, pointed out the evils following from the want of local information among the members of that body, and fully sustained the views embodied in his resolution.

David McAlman, Esq., in seconding the first resolution, commented at length upon the constitution of the present Legislative Council, and the manner in which appointments to that body have hitherto invariably been made. He contended and demonstrated conclusively that a few of the populous counties have engrossed the entire representation in that body. Mr McAlman was particularly emphatic in his remarks, and his speech was listened to with much attention.

Mr Wark, in moving the second resolution, observed that he believed it was the first political meeting ever held in the county of Kent, and he was extremely gratified to see such a large and respectable number of Freeholders in attendance, as it evinced to his mind that the people of the county felt a lively interest in their political affairs; and he hoped the meeting would be productive of much good. He then proceeded to discuss the subject before the meeting, and succeeded in demonstrating to the entire satisfaction of the meeting, that the Government Bill, if carried into effect, would virtually exclude the small counties in the Province from any share in the representation in the Upper House. He then submitted well arranged statistics, clearly proving the correctness of the views set forth in the second Resolution and the Petition, but as I believe these statistics will shortly be in your possession in another communication, I shall at present abstain from any further notice of them. The allegations in the petition are predicated on these statistics, which contain much useful information of a local character, and are well worthy a place in the columns of the Gleaner. Mr Wark's speech throughout was remarkably lucid and argumentative, and was received with general satisfaction and applause.

Mr Brait, in seconding the Resolution, expressed his concurrence in the views enunciated by Mr Wark, and commented at some length on the provisions of the Government Bill.

Mr James Mooney, on rising to move the third resolution, remarked, that as the Provisions of the Bill now before the Legislature, for making the Legislative Council Elective, had been so ably and eloquently discussed by the several speakers who had preceded him, he would not occupy the attention of the meeting by touching upon any of the topics that had been so thoroughly argued. He believed, however, the time had arrived—and he was strengthened in that conviction when he looked round upon the intelligent audience before him, composed of the yeomanry of the County—when it behoved every man, and assuredly every well-wisher of his country, to raise his voice in defence of his political rights, and resist with firmness and determination the slightest encroachment upon them. The voice of the people to be potent must be united, and he considered it the imperative duty of the people to make their voice heard in the halls of Legislation, not alone through their representatives, but by memorial and petition; and he regarded it as an act of justice to our Representatives, to place them in possession of the views and opinions of their constituents. Feeling, as he ever must do, a deep interest in the prosperity of his native County, and believing that the Government Bill, if carried into operation, would prevent the County of Kent from assuming that political position in the Councils of the Country, which, from the intelligence, industry and wealth of its inhabitants, it is justly entitled to occupy; he therefore felt bound to protest against so unjust a measure, and concluded by moving the third Resolution.

Mr Robert Lawson, in seconding the resolution, briefly explained his entire concurrence in the sentiments which had emanated from Mr Mooney.

I have thus, Mr Editor, briefly noticed the speeches, and I regret that it is not in my power to do full justice to their merits. A strong degree of interest was manifested by the people during the whole of the proceedings, and I doubt not it will lead to other po-