

SECOND EDITION.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 13.

MIRAMICHI MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—At the Annual Meeting, held last evening, the following persons were appointed Office Bearers for the ensuing year:—

President—James A. Pierce.
Vice Presidents.—James Caie and William Carman, Junior, Esquires.
Treasurer—George Kerr, Esq.
Secretary—John M. Johnson, Esq.
Directors—Benjamin Millar, George Johnston, Hugh Bain, Robert L. Thomas, John Frith, John Ritchie, James Patterson, John Nicholson, John Macdougall, Wm. J. Fraser, John Mackie, William McNaught.

A meeting of the Directors will be held at the Hall of the Institute on Monday evening next, at half past 7 o'clock.

ST. JOHN, May 10, 1851.

Mr Pierce,

On my return home I notice Mr Hutchison's last communication, and that he has wisely dropped the subject of his own claim against the Company. The "mare's nest" which he has discovered in the Hartford paper, has been some weeks in my possession, and to that I will reply in time for your next paper, and shall, at the same time, publish a statement of the Company's affairs. I am authorised to state that they DO NOT OWE ONE DOLLAR ON MATURED CLAIMS.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES L. STREET,

General Agent Washington County Mutual Insurance Company of New York.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

This mail arrived about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, being several hours earlier than it has been received for some weeks past. From the papers we have made the following selections.

UNITED STATES.—Steamboat Disaster.—A despatch from Vicksburg, dated the 3rd instant, says that the steamboat Webster took fire the day previous, 100 miles above that place, and was burned to the water's edge. The number of passengers and hands on board was about one hundred, of whom only about sixty could be found; the rest are supposed to have perished with the boat. It was with difficulty that any of the females could be saved, many of them being separated from their husbands and friends. The flames spread with great rapidity, and the scene was terrible in the extreme.

Arrival of the Georgia at New York.—Important from Havana!—Great Excitement!—Rigorous treatment of American Seamen!—The steamship Georgia, via Havana, arrived at New York on Tuesday last, from Chagres, with the California mails. She had \$1,500,000 in gold and 500 passengers.

The Georgia left Havana on the 1st inst. There was great excitement in Havana in relation to the expected invasion, and every approaching steamer and vessel were looked upon with suspicion.

Many persons have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the anticipated invasion and attempt to overturn the government: and these persons have been thrust into prison—among them are three priests.

One man has been executed after having been subject to severe tortures for the purpose of getting from him a confession.

A row occurred between some American seamen and the inhabitants of Havana, when the seamen were arrested and their heads put into the stocks, where they were so ill treated that two of them subsequently died.

The fourth of the Chagres murderers has been arrested at Porto Cabello and brought to Panama, where he was confined in prison. The Georgia reports that they were all to be shot in a few days.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.—A telegraph despatch to the News Room states that the steamship Europa arrived at New York on Thursday last, with Liverpool dates to the 26th ult. The Canada, from Halifax, arrived at Liverpool on the 21st.

There is no political news of interest from Great Britain. Parliament would not assemble before the 28th. From the Continent there does not appear to be anything worth noticing.

No report on the Timber market.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Shubenacadie Canal.—The latest Royal Gazette contains the important intelligence that the Shubenacadie Canal has been transferred to the Provincial Government. When this enterprise was first undertaken the prospect of a navigable communication direct from Halifax to the Bay of Fundy, gave promise of very great and varied advantages to this Province, and, therefore, its failure was a public misfortune of no trifling magnitude.

For several years past, Charles W. Fairbanks, Esq. has been indefatigable in his exertions to prove to the citizens of Halifax that something greatly beneficial might yet be done with this great public work, and if we are not mistaken those efforts, on his part, have caused its transfer to the Government. We presume that the subject will not be allowed to rest here, but that a survey will at once be ordered and the scheme again taken up under such supervision as will ensure its success.

al matter and did not concern the Imperial Government. Whose money would be given? that of the people of New Brunswick. To whom would it be given but our own people, and for what but the business of this country would it be applied? He considered the Government should have acted even in opposition to despatches, because he found the doctrine in these cases to be that the Governor came out with a general order to govern the Colony in all local matters according to the wishes of the people. That in matters of imperial policy a despatch might be peremptory, but in local matters despatches, however worded, were always considered conditional, and though the Governor was expected to use his influence to carry them through the Assembly, yet if he found the majority against the measure he should submit; the conditional despatch could not infringe upon the general order to govern by the majority of the Assembly. This principle was the only consistent construction of a despatch on local matters when taken in connection with the general Responsible Government rule. He would again refer to the article he had quoted: it was there stated that "Responsible Government was not conceded unless the Governor's instructions enjoin on him as a rule, that he is so to conduct his administration as to carry with him, in matters affecting the Province, the vote of the House of Assembly. Now what is the effect of such an instruction? The Colonial Office may give him whatever orders it may please; but to be consistent, these orders will require to be all interpreted with a constant reference to this, its first and chief command. On questions of purely imperial policy they may be peremptory. On questions of provincial concern they must be held to be conditional; and he will try to carry them out. But if the temper of the Province be such that he cannot act on them, without thereby setting it against him, the general command laid upon him to govern through the Assembly, will be his warrant for deferring to his wishes. * * * It will be for the Home Government simply to judge of the sufficiency or insufficiency of his endeavors, to bring his ministers and house to their views. Satisfied of his fidelity and judgment, they must be content. He had disobeyed no order. He would have disobeyed their most positive order, had he risked a collision for the sake of a conditional instruction."

He had quoted thus largely from this article, not because his own views were based upon it, but because it contained the only sound doctrine of Responsible Government, and agreed to the letter with the principles of the British Constitution. He would ask where could be the difficulty in understanding, and what the danger of carrying out such a system in this Colony? The difficulty and the danger all lay in not carrying it out. He would ask the committee, by passing this resolution, to convince Earl Grey that the bounty despatch was but conditional, and that the Assembly preferred holding the Governor to his general instructions; that the people of this province having heard his advice, had conceived themselves the best judges of their own business. The sixth resolution had been very fully remarked upon; and as it did not refer to any great political principle, did not require any argument; it was agreed on all hands that the agriculture of the country had become the foundation upon which we must build our future welfare, and that as such it called for all the aid and encouragement which the Legislature could bestow. He did not much care whether the resolution or amendment were carried, but as the Attorney General had said that the government did not contemplate bringing down any distinct measure for the advancement of this branch of industry, he would vote for the resolution. The hon. Attorney General had said that he would yield to none in a desire to promote agriculture, and he believed him serious, but he differed with him in the mode of doing it. He had trespassed too long on the patience of the committee, but the subject was too important to be lightly dealt with, and he feared that had he been less tedious, it might be thought that he did not consider the question so all important as it really was to the country. It was not so much a question of government and opposition, as one between the Colonial Office and this Province. It might indeed involve the fate of the Government, but it also involved questions of more importance to the Province than Whig or Tory rule, high or low salaries. The sum and substance of our political liberties was involved; the very existence of local government and local legislation—things which would be important when all who now spoke or listened should be forgotten. If the present members of the Executive went out, others would be found to take their places; if they remained in, time would remedy the evils: but if the principles of these resolutions were not maintained, nor Whig nor Tory could revive our legislative independence; men could not secure our rights, nor time redress our wrongs.

He was opposed to the government politically, because he considered them opposed to the popular opinions. They did not think and feel in common with the people, and were not therefore the men to carry out popular measures; but however strong might be his views on this subject, he would, if necessary, forego them all, in order to carry out the principles involved in the resolutions; he could forgive all that had passed, if by so doing he could induce the committee to establish those principles for future guidance. He believed it the duty of every hon. member to support the resolutions, and he should vote for the whole of them and against the amendments.

He did not think the policy of giving bounties was at all involved. It was simply the right; and were we ever so much opposed to bounties he would vote for a bill to grant them; if it were but for the purpose of testing that right. It was a purely Provincial

himself accountable for every public act, either of the crown or his colleagues, which he has suffered to pass without instant resignation. Could he relieve himself from the responsibility by asserting afterwards that he protested, or objected, or was not advised with, he were no responsible minister at all; he might stay in office half a lifetime, and to the last disclaim all personal agency in every transaction that any one should find fault with. Nay, with such a rule, a ministry might purposely mislead the Sovereign by bad advice, or criminal remissness, into errors grave enough to compromise his crown, and then slip out of the trap themselves, by declaring to the country that they remonstrated in vain. * * * The minister can always retire from office if he should not like what the Sovereign may do, or mean to do. That one check is all he can either have or ask for. And it is and must be just as truly the one sufficient check in a Colony as in a Kingdom." Here, then, it was clear that the government had but one course to pursue—Resignation; that course they had not pursued, and the second resolution should pass as the mere declaration of a constitutional principle. The hon. member for Charlotte (Mr Robinson) had said that Earl Grey must have laughed when he made these appointments, and he appeared to enjoy the joke himself as he said it, but it was no laughing matter; it was a serious thing if the people of this province were to be the slaves of Earl Grey. (Here Mr Robinson rose to order, and said that he had not called the people slaves, nor did he think less of their liberties than many who claimed patriotism) He (Mr J.) had not accused the hon. member of calling the people slaves; but he had certainly laughed when he spoke of Earl Grey's amusement at our expense. He (Mr J.) did not claim any great amount of patriotism, but in this case he rather claimed a selfish interest in the question—for himself and for his children.

The third resolution merely affirmed that this colony had the right of determining what salaries they should pay their public officers, and that the Despatches were an improper dictation on the subject. This resolution he was prepared to support, as also the fourth, which censured the government for not bringing down a measure for their reduction. The civil list was the great argument advanced by the government to meet these resolutions, but the despatch of Lord Glenelg in 1836, when establishing the civil list, and subsequent despatches had been already cited to show that these salaries were not considered permanent, but subject to reduction at any time. The country now called for reduction, and it was worse than useless to resist the call. He observed that in Canada, though a civil list had been established by the union act, yet no Colonial Government has ever dared to draw the amount under it, but had regularly obtained the amount in supply from the Provincial Legislature; and this was always granted under protest against the civil list. That local authorities were the proper judges of local duties, and the amount of salary for such duties was a necessary consequence of the present constitution; and it was not a little remarkable that this doctrine had been promulgated by the judges of this province before the question arose in reference to their own salaries; he would refer the committee to the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Kavanagh against Phelon, in Kerr's Reports; in that case the late Chief Justice Chipman used this language: "It is difficult to conceive of any subject that must be dealt with upon considerations more entirely local, than the proper remuneration to be allowed for the services of public officers; the just measure of allowance must depend entirely on the particular circumstances of the country in which the officer exercises his functions, of which the local authorities are the only competent judges." Let the committee then take the opinions of the judges, thus given in 1842, and apply it to their own case, to the services and the salaries of the Judges in 1851, and it would be found that the opinion was correct, and in strict accordance with the opinion of Lord John Russell and other British Ministers; nay, the only common sense view of the case. Why then had the Government failed to bring down a measure for retrenchment and reduction of salaries.—The hon. member for the County of St. John (Mr Gray) had said that he did not go for the reduction of salaries to the same extent as some of the opposition; but this was a matter of opinion and had nothing to do with the present question. That hon. member agreed with others as to the right of this house to determine the question, and the right was all that the resolution involved. Let the committee now determine the right by passing the resolutions; and each particular case could be dealt with on its merits. Did the Government complain that they had not time to introduce such a measure. Why it had been introduced last session; but he feared it had been introduced at the end of the session when the Government knew there was no time to carry it through the Legislature; and if they had been serious they would have brought it down the present session—they had not done so and must take the consequences in the present vote. The fifth resolution came next in order and complained of the despatch interference on the bounty question. The government amendment proposed to remedy this evil by address and remonstrance, but they had twice remonstrated with no effect. He did not think the policy of giving bounties was at all involved. It was simply the right; and were we ever so much opposed to bounties he would vote for a bill to grant them; if it were but for the purpose of testing that right. It was a purely Provincial

The weather, since the beginning of the week, has set in quite spring-like, and is now clear and delightful, which is a most agreeable change after the cold easterly winds that prevailed during the last fortnight, accompanied as they were with rain and snow. We must yet expect some chilly weather, however, until after the freshest, which is now running quite strong.—Halifax B. N. American.

CANADA.—There was a considerable fall of snow at Quebec on the 2nd inst. The Quebec Bar has resumed practice notwithstanding the diminution of its emoluments by the new tariff of fees.

Deaths.

At Richibucto, on the 2nd instant, of consumption, after a lingering illness, FANNY ELIZA, daughter of John Wheten, Esq., aged 22 years. Her end was peace.

WILL OPEN, On FRIDAY, the 16th instant, GLASGOW HOUSE, Commercial Building, CHATHAM, MIRAMICHI.

The Proprietor of this NEW ESTABLISHMENT, in soliciting the patronage of the inhabitants of Chatham, and the surrounding country, begs leave to inform them that he has received per Pollok, from Glasgow, part of his Extensive and Well-selected

Stock of Dry Goods,

which he has determined to sell at a very small profit. The STOCK comprises in part Black, blue, invisible, and other shades BROAD CLOTHS; Pilots and Beavers; black, drab, and fancy Cassimeres; Doeskins and Tweeds; Canteons, drills, moleskins, jeans, blankets, linens, table cloths and covers, canvass, csnaburgh, towels, sheeting, grey and white Cotton, colored muslins, printed calicoes, gingham, apron checks and striped shirtings; Orleans in all shades and colors, plain, shot, and figured; Coburgs and Lustre Cloths, Delaines, Cashmeres, and other fancy Dress Materials; medium, mull, book, check, and tarlatan Muslins; bonnets, ribbons, cap fronts, flowers, black and colored Demi Veils; Hosiery, Gloves, Laces, and Edgings, together with a large supply of other Goods, too numerous to particularize.

As the above has been purchased under favorable circumstances, from some of the best manufacturing houses in Europe, they will be sold at such exceedingly low prices as cannot fail to give general satisfaction.

The remainder of the Stock daily expected, per Charles from Halifax, ex Steamer America, from Liverpool.

M. RYAN, Proprietor.

Chatham, May 12, 1851.

N. B. The business of this establishment will be carried on under the fair and equitable system of No Second Price, so that a child will have the same advantage in purchasing as the most experienced person.

NOTICE.

Dissolution of Co-partnership.

The Co-partnership for the past six months existing between the undersigned, as Tanners and Shoemakers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, and will, in future, be carried on by WILLIAM and JOHN SUTHERLAND, who will settle all transactions arising out of the late Partnership.

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, JOHN SUTHERLAND, DAVID McMINN.

Richibucto, May 9, 1851.

List of Letters

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

- Wm. Butler, Barnaby's River.
- James Brophy, near Newcastle.
- Michael Carroll, do.
- John Crotty, care of L. Kenn.
- Peter Foley, care of John Bagnell.
- Patrick Mallan, near Newcastle.
- Donald McKay, North Esk.
- John McLaughlin, near Newcastle.
- Daniel Murphy, do.
- James Ryan, Newcastle.
- Wm. Scott, near Newcastle.
- Samuel Sherrard, North Esk.
- Peter Walsh, Newcastle.
- George Whitney, North Esk.
- John Walsh, Barnaby's River.

Persons asking for any of the above, will please say Advertised HUGH MORELL, P. M.

Timothy and Clover Seeds, &c.

The Subscriber has on Sale—Timothy and Clover SEED; Yellow, Aberdeen, and Swedish TURNIP SEED. They are of the growth of 1850, and superior articles.

Also—a VEGETABLE CUTTER—an excellent labor-saving machine for farmers.

WM. MUIRHEAD.

Chatham, March 24, 1851.