

who talk of abandoning "our profitless territory," should tell us where they would draw the boundary line. They evidently write in profound ignorance of the subject.

The news by the Indian mail adds very little to the information we have already given respecting the Burmese war. The Governor-General seems desirous to avoid further hostilities if possible. The Persians have, after an interval of fifteen years once more invaded Herat with a large army, and their invasion, owing to the divisions consequent upon Yar Mahommed's death, promises to be successful. The news from China announces the continuance of the war in the south. A large piratical fleet had appeared off Ningpo, and our vessels were on the spot to render such assistance as might be necessary. Seventeen American whalers were in Hong Kong harbour; the fishing during the past season had been unprofitable. The emigration of Chinese to California was greatly increasing.

The Late Disasters in Algeria.—According to the last accounts from Algeria the number of soldiers who perished in the terrible snow storm at Djemaa el Taouint, or who have not since appeared, is 144, viz. 97 of the 5th Regiment of the Line, 24 of the 20th, 7 of the 3 bataillon d'Afrique, 16 of the chasseurs, spahis, and waggon train.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1852.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

Thursday's mail put us in possession of British papers to the 20th of March, received by the Steamer Canada, which vessel arrived at Halifax on the morning of Tuesday last. We have made selections, but the news is not important.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

The papers furnish us with little that is important from the Legislature. We learn by telegraph that the Session was expected to terminate on Wednesday or Thursday next.

We insert below a letter from a Correspondent, which furnishes some interesting intelligence of the doings in the lower House.

FREDERICTON, March 27, 1850.

Dear Pierce,

I observe that your Attorney General Representative does not consider the Requisition sufficiently signed to claim his resignation, and contends that he has not broken any pledges made at the Hustings. On the first point he may have some grounds if the Requisition has been generally circulated through the county. The number is indeed small; but were this the only ground taken I presume it could easily be removed, as I have little doubt that three-fourths of the constituency of the county would sign a similar requisition. As to his not having broken pledges, there may be room for special pleading. He was in all cases so general in his statements as to mean anything or nothing, and your people have never been sufficiently particular on this point. You will remember his pledge to reduce salaries so far as consistent with the public service and public faith, and not saying how far this would be—leaving him at liberty to oppose any reduction by asserting his right to be the judge in the matter. His promise to support agriculture, &c., &c., but declining to say by what means, thus being at liberty to do an absolute injury to the farming interests, and allege that it was for their ultimate good. In the same way all other statements made by him meant nothing, excepting perhaps the ones referred to in the requisition, which were by far the most unequivocal, and which he now tells you did not include the Railroad. The fudge about "Railroad or no Railroad" being the question, is too transparent to deceive the most simple. Canada alone objected to the Eastern Line. Nova Scotia was in favor of it, and Great Britain certainly had given it a decided preference. New Brunswick, through Mr Chandler and the Government had alone enabled Canada to deceive Nova Scotia into this scheme. Had the Government tried the other with Great Britain and Nova Scotia, and then failed, there might have been some ground for trying the Valley of the St John Line as a last resort. But the Attorney General assumes the right to be himself the judge in his own cause; 'tis the constituency and not the representative who must decide whether he has or has not redeemed his pledges; 'tis they and they only who can determine when their interests have been overlooked or themselves misrepresented. To admit the contrary were to place it in the power of any Representative to treat with contempt the unanimous call of his constituents for his resignation. If the interests of the county require his seat he should at once vacate it, and then should the general interests of the Province require his valuable services, some constituency might surely be found to return him, so that the Province would be served and no constituency deceived or abused. To assert that a man can fairly retain his seat against the wishes of his constituents is to maintain the absurd doctrine that a County should be placed in a worse position than she would be without representation;

each vote she sent to the Assembly might thus add the strength of two votes against her interests. Should the Attorney General be really serious in stating that from the smallness of the requisition in point of numbers he cannot think that he has lost the confidence of Northumberland, what a chance he now has of shewing his high spirited magnanimity, his independence and his popularity: let him resign and try the county again. He appears by the contemptuous tone of his reply to have forgotten the fact, that among the names on the requisition are those of many of his strongest supporters, and without whose aid he would not now be enabled to oppose the interests of Northumberland. He forgets, too, that he has directly insulted those gentlemen and challenged their opposition; but 'tis the man—'tis his nature; he cannot believe any man honest who differs with him; and amid all his boasted candour and independence would seek to shirk a difficulty while he pretends to scorn it. The Surveyor General is evidently a kindred spirit of the Attorney's; and were the Province in the power of these two gentlemen for six months, we should soon have practical illustration of Russian despotism, and feel more keenly for the wrongs of Hungary. You can form no idea of the domineering disposition of the Surveyor General by reading his speeches—'tis the tone and manner which so fully represent the tyrant; but fortunately the talents and power of these gentlemen are ill calculated to support their wishes; and if anything were wanting to increase the unpopularity of our Government, the course and conduct of these Generals would sufficiently furnish it. The Secretary is more a man of the world: sees at once the tone of the majority on any subject, and instead of directly resisting until forced to yield at discretion, makes a virtue of necessity, and yields to their wishes in such a way as not only to avoid increasing demand, but so as to avoid even the appearance of yielding.

Grey avoids all hostile controversy, and his deportment is courteous and gentlemanly—gives and takes a political rebuke or raparantee in the proper spirit, and in such a way as not to raise any personal ill feeling. Had he maintained his faith with the opposition and liberal party, or had he at the beginning of last session given over to the Government, he would command the respect both parties as a politician as he does now as a gentleman. 'Tis the opposition last winter and his severity on Government and measures he now supports and advocates, which do and must ever tell against him in the political world.

Hayward is a mere vote in the Government—one of those good natured men in the rough state with whom no person can be offended, first because he is believed to be kind-hearted, and on the best terms with himself and all mankind, and secondly because little heed is taken of anything he says. He often thinks himself witty when the whole House and particularly the Government members, have missed the wit in laughing at the man. If he is not the acknowledged wit, he is at least the standing joke of the house.

The Government have got the School Bill through; and while they resisted all amendments moved by the opposition, they added so many of their own to gain a majority that it would be impossible to know the Bill as of affinity to the one brought in. The Speaker played dry nurse to this Government bantling throughout, and while he is constant in denouncing long and frequent speeches from those who differ with him, or which is the same thing, with the Government, there is no member in the House who inflicts on it a greater amount of theorising twattle than himself. He has a peculiar fund of latent sarcasm, (so latent as only to be discernible to himself) which will not allow any chance to escape. Even in the chair he has constant altercation with members. He hates the Attorney General, and don't love Patelow, yet clings to the Government for his own purposes. You know how much the harmony and proper conduct of any society depends upon the dignified and correct deportment of the Chairman, and can understand why our Assembly is not more orderly and its debates less personal and recriminating. The chair is the very opposite of what it should be. Some men command respect by their personal appearance; some by dignified deportment; some by commanding talents, and others by a well-established reputation for impartiality and so on. But none of these qualifications are brought in to support or ornament the Speaker's chair. He possesses neither the *sauviter in modo* nor the *fortiter in re*. He meddles in Committee on Government questions quite as much as any member, though by parliamentary fiction it is supposed that when the House is in Committee the Speaker is in his own room; and he is not supposed to use his influence in a party question. He sometimes gets a hard rub, and winces. He accused Johnson of want of experience on the School Bill, and spoke as if he thought young men children. Johnson replied that the speaker should not forget there were two stages of childhood; and might have added, that while in the first there were hopes of improvement, in the second there was a certainty of growing worse.

The manner in which the School Bill was forced through the House will give you some idea of the present position of Government. Up to the nineteenth section it had been opposed. The Government, losing one section by a majority of two, moved a reconsideration the next day, (some members being absent,) and carried it. Another section they carried by a majority of one, and then, when the two scrutiny committees were sitting, they committed the Bill with nine members in the

House, having to send for four or five others to make a quorum, passed all the remaining sections and reported the Bill as agreed to. Harding moved to report progress as the House was too thin for such a measure to be considered. This was refused by the Government—4 members being present, and some understanding was made that, if necessary, the Bill would be recommitted. To-day the Bill came up for third reading as engrossed. Harding moved to recommit, which was refused. The division taken on the third reading, and the Bill carried, many members saying that they would have voted against it in Committee, but as it had gone so far, should not now oppose it. Johnson opposed on the ground that the House had not been fairly dealt with; asked what the Government would say, and justly say of the opposition had they committed the Bill and carried a postponement for three months, when the Government members were absent at the Council Board, and contended that the very fact of the Government having met with a defeat on one section, and barely carried another, rendered it more imperative that there should be a full House. The Speaker said there had been a call of the House, and members were bound to attend. Johnson said he was sitting on Committee, and had received no call, and called on Grey, Ryan and Scoullar, who were also in committee with him, who corroborated what he said, and that they had heard of no call until after the Bill had passed, and the House had gone into Supply.

While Johnson was speaking the Attorney General was constantly attempting to irritate and annoy him by sneering remarks. Johnson called on him to reply by argument, and asked if his conduct in this instance was emblematic of general dignified deportment of the Government.

Montgomery to-day moved a Resolution that in Supply no member should speak more than five minutes; this was necessary, as debating in Supply can give no information to the public, and have no effect on the Grants.

Johnson was in the Clerk's room, and the Speaker called for him in his usual undignified tone and manner. Johnson came in: said he should vote for the Resolution; reminded the Speaker that he had before urged the necessity for such a resolution, and asked his opinion; and reminded him that did he use his influence in preserving order and checking members instead of setting the example of recrimination and holding conversations from the Chair, more harmony would be preserved and much time saved. The Speaker had committed himself, and had to pocket the rebuke, though he winced much.

FIDES.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.—Willmer & Smith's Times contains a Report of the Timber Trade of Liverpool, from which we copy the annexed extract:

"As is usual at this season of the year the supplies of Wood since the 1st February have been on a very limited scale. The demand, too, during the last month has been inactive, yet prices of Deals and Planks are fully supported, but those of square Timber have given way a little, and are 1d to 1½d per foot lower than they were twelve months ago. They are, however, so moderate, and the prospects of important additional supplies so remote, that we do not apprehend any further reduction; and when the proceedings of the new Ministry meet with the approbation of the country, more confidence will be placed in the result of commercial undertakings, which will also be promoted by the extraordinary increase of the bank stock of bullion and the low rates of discount. As the spring advances an additional demand for Wood, as usual may be looked for."

THE RAILWAY—MR STREET—MR JOHNSON.

In our last we published a copy of the Memorial to be forwarded to the foot of the Throne, from the County of Gloucester, in reference to the change in the route of the great Trunk Railway. It is couched in chaste and respectful language, and its prayer is reasonable, and founded on a desire to see the aid of the mother country judiciously expended, and prevent what should be a great national blessing from becoming a Provincial incubus.

The people of the North only ask that the line by the Valley of the St. John should be surveyed before the money is granted, and we feel confident that if such a course is pursued, the Northern section of the Province will yet have that justice extended towards it which has been so wrongfully withheld.

On this point the sentiments of our people are all but unanimous. All admit that our interests have been sacrificed—that our confidence has been betrayed—that our future prospects have been blighted, and that the blow has proceeded from a source whence it was least expected.

To us it seems that the conduct of the Attorney General has not been characterized by those "high and honorable principles" which he has always professed, and which he has never failed to impress upon his auditors on all occasions, when addressing the Freeholders of the County, and which many of them believed, because he told them so. Yet when the test was applied, the metal was found to be alloyed, and the ex-

pectations of many of the people disappointed.

We are strongly of the opinion that a desire to hold on to office—with promotion and extensive Government patronage in perspective—and the desire to retain the £600 per annum, has a good deal to do with the past and present conduct of the Attorney General, on the Railroad question.

He has been our representative for many years, but never was the choice of the people. He was returned through the influence of a few powerful individuals, from a want of the necessary material to select from, rather than because the constituency approved of his conduct or his principles. His last act has sealed his political doom as far as Northumberland is concerned,—mere carelessness or dislike has grown to actual enmity, and should he again desire to be returned to the Provincial Assembly, he will have to seek another constituency, as this County will not suffer itself to be again mis-represented by him.

We have inserted several communications to-day in reference to the conduct of the Attorney General. In his answer to the requisition sent him from this quarter, that gentleman speaks of the small number of Freeholders who signed the paper; but another document of a similar nature is now in circulation, and we understand that it has already received such an array of signatures as must remove any doubts which Mr Street may entertain, that his conduct meets with the almost universal condemnation of his constituents in this County.

It appears that the determined opposition of Mr J. M. Johnson, one of the members for this County, to the Railway Bills, and other matters introduced by the Government, has brought down upon him the ire of some of the supporters of the Executive, as well as of one or two of the presses which represent their views. Had Mr J. been less severe or conspicuous, or more easily answered, all this would not have occurred, and it is therefore more complimentary than otherwise to him.

Mr Johnson has the satisfaction to know that his conduct meets with the unanimous approbation of his constituents, which will more than compensate him for the ridicule (for argument it is not) which they have endeavored to heap upon him.

The St. John Freeman takes a far different view of Mr Johnson's conduct. Speaking of the Temperance Bill, in its passage through the House, the Editor remarks:

"Scoullar and Needham were the great temperance champions. They displayed on many occasions the most intemperate zeal, especially Needham, and seemed disposed to quarrel for the honors. Johnson, who opposed the Bill and supported every fair amendment, was cautious that it should not be defeated by a side wind of any kind: he wished it to be dealt with fairly; he voted against it again on the third reading."

Again:

"A very good rule, if it were only adhered to, passed to day. It is, that in Committee of Supply, no member should speak more than five minutes. The Speaker on this occasion received a severe and merited rebuke from Mr Johnson. It has been much the fashion of late to charge this gentleman of talking unnecessarily. He does often talk a good deal, but though it is often without effect, no one who wishes to see trickery exposed, treacherous Bills examined, explained and resisted in their progress, and measures recklessly undoing all that had been done in obedience to the wishes of the people, denounced and opposed, could say or think that it is unnecessary and a waste of time. The Speaker more than once joined in the cry, though when he has a favorite measure to carry, he never hesitates to waste a little time himself. He remarked, when the resolution was proposed, that it would be unfair to put it without drawing Mr Johnson's attention to it particularly. Mr Johnson, who just then came from the Clerk's room, replied—he thought it would be well if the Speaker himself showed less disposition to waste time, for in committee no one spent so much time in attacking others."

The following communication, addressed to the Editor, appears in the Freeman of the 23d March:

"NASHUA, March 13.

"The New Brunswick and Fredericton Reporter, at issue on many other points, join in denouncing the conduct of Mr Johnson, and his opposition to the railway bills: both charge him with wasting public time and public money, and prefer these charges in various ways. The reason for this is, that Mr Johnson has consistently and ably opposed the Government, and resolutely and persistently opposed the railway bills. For his opposition to Government, I need scarcely undertake to be his apologist. His colleague, Mr Street, amply vindicates the correctness of his conduct in this respect as often as he enunciates his doctrines, which is quite often enough; and for his opposition to the Railway Bills, though I am far from agreeing with him in all his views on this question still I am free to admit that when it is considered of what vast importance this measure must prove, how far the future of the Province will depend upon its consequences