

cottages. These are new ideas in building: they are the embodiments, in brick and mortar, of a grand movement in society. Prince Albert, Lord Ashley, and others of the great, are working nobly in the cause. Peel's greatest speech ends with a prayer for the poor man's blessing. These are only beginnings, however; we want poor men's churches, and more than I dare occupy your valuable columns by mentioning. In this movement lies the salvation of society. When from the lowest depths of society there flows upward a stream that will purify and renovate instead of corrupting, then we may be sure that our civilization will go on, ever assuming higher forms, and will not be swept away like that of old; because it is founded on a rock—God's blessing.—*The Builder.*

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1852.

#### THE SHERIFFS' CONVENTION.

"The Sheriffs of the different Counties of the Province, assembled at Fredericton last week, and have held a convention in relation to their emoluments. It appears that they consider the fees at present allowed by law as insufficient, while they are liable for large amounts of money in certain cases. They wish to get their fees increased."—*St. John New Brunswicker.*

The above, we understand, conveys a very erroneous impression of the object of the late conference of the Sheriffs at Head Quarters, not one of whom manifested any inclination to move for an increase of fees, though all desired some additional power to enable them to enforce and secure the payment of their legitimate charges, which is now in some cases successfully evaded.

Although the Sheriffs' fees in this Province, are not so high as in England, or some of the other Colonies, yet it is presumed they are adapted to the circumstances of the people, and quite as great as suitors can afford to pay. But the difficulty lies here: *there are now few or no suits to produce fees.* Litigation has been growing "small by degrees and beautifully less," till the only source of remuneration to the Sheriffs for their multifarious and responsible duties, is almost cut off.

It would perhaps surprise many besides the Government, to learn the amount of income on which some of the Sheriffs have been obliged for a few years past to attempt to eke out an existence. Excluding three Counties, the annual emoluments of the Sheriffs would be found not to exceed the average of the School Teachers' incomes, on whose behalf so much public sympathy has been claimed; while in one or more instances, they have declined to a degree that it would be imprudent and painful to expose.

Candidly and fairly to make known their condition, which pride, or the hope of improvement had too long concealed, was the object of the Sheriffs on the occasion referred to, and to seek a moderate annual allowance in commutation of fees, or some smaller sum, as a permanent aid in addition to the present fees, in order to preserve the once high and lucrative, and still very responsible and necessary office of Sheriff, from sinking into absolute insignificance and impotency.

The following is a copy of the Memorial drawn up at the meeting, and presented to His Excellency. It is well worthy the consideration of the Government, and we hope it will receive that attention which its importance deserves:—

To His Excellency Sir EDMUND W. HEAD,  
&c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the undersigned Sheriffs of the Province of New Brunswick,  
Humbly Sheweth—

That the Office of Sheriff, from the earliest times, has been held under the British Constitution, one of great trust, honor and responsibility.

That in the Mother Country the office is conferred on men of independent fortune, who hold it as a mark of honor and distinction, and not for profit; while the Under Sheriff who is seldom changed, studies the duties as a profession, provides for their performance, assumes all responsibility, and enjoys the emoluments which are generally very large.

That there are yet no men of affluence to be found in these Colonies, nor is it probable there will be for some generations to come, who would accept the office of Sheriff for the mere honor it confers. The Incumbents, therefore, are now, and must continue to be, men who, like the Under Sheriffs of England, undertake the duty as a means of support, study it as a profession, and hope, while they perform the service faithfully, to receive a return that will not only supply their present wants, but leave some surplus for their old age.

That the Income of many of the Sheriffs at the present time, is quite inadequate alone to

provide them the common necessities of life, and is inferior in many cases to the most subordinate officers of Government in other departments, which appears to your memorialists to be not only unjust, but in its operation injurious to the public service, for in this Country the Law must be put in execution more by moral than by physical force; and nothing tends more to weaken the influence of an Individual in society, constituted as it is in this Province, than straitened means or indigent circumstances. A Sheriff should at least be enabled to hold a respectable position in society, as any other Government Officer in his County, or as the better class of Farmers or Tradesmen in his vicinity, in order to fill his office with efficiency.

That while Sheriffs depend solely on the fees arising from civil litigation they must remain impoverished. In Canada, an allowance varying from £300 to £60 sterling per annum, is enjoyed by the Sheriffs exclusive of fees. Some such provision should in justice be made in this Province, or a commutation offered, acceptable at pleasure, and when accepted, the fees to be paid to the Receiver General.

That if no annual allowance in aid, nor commutation be granted, it is to be feared that the office will be soon reduced into such utter insignificance that the very prestige of the name, will be lost to our successors, for already has the rank and honor of the office become but a tradition, and the emoluments a delusion and a snare.

All which is respectfully submitted.

#### COMPLIMENTARY ADDRESS TO THE REV. MR GAUVREAU.

We have been handed the following highly flattering Address to the above-named Rev. Gentleman, from the inhabitants of Westmorland County, on his removal from that place:

Address of the Protestant Inhabitants of the County of Westmorland, to the Reverend FERDINAND GAUVREAU,

Sir,—

We, the undersigned, Protestant Inhabitants of the County of Westmorland, cannot allow you to remove from among us without giving some testimony of the high estimation in which you were held while you sojourned among us.

To all of us you have been personally known for many years, and as a Minister of the Gospel, your conduct has been characterized by a pious zeal worthy of your high and holy vocation, ever ready to inculcate feelings of peace and good will towards all mankind.

As a Gentleman, in private life, your habits and conduct have been such as to merit the approbation of all who had the pleasure of your acquaintance.

In all public works, promotive of the prosperity and happiness of the people, you have always been ready to lend a helping hand.

In Agriculture you have shown yourself to be a scientific and practical farmer, and as such your example and instructions have been largely instrumental in improving the circumstances and condition of your flock and others.

We deeply regret your removal from among us, and hope your usefulness may be as marked in your new field of labor as it was here; that you may long live to enjoy the good reputation you so deservedly obtained while a resident in this county, accompanied with good health and every earthly blessing.

We are, Dear Sir, your sincere friends and well-wishers,

E. B. Chandler, Member Ex. Council,  
William Wilson, M. D., J. P.,  
Thomas Keillor, J. P.,  
Thos. S. Sayre, Barrister at Law,  
Edmund Clawson, M. D.,  
Christopher Milner, Barrister,  
Joseph McMaster, Architect,  
S. C. Charters, Merchant,  
Robert Godfrey, Merchant,  
John Robb, County Treasurer,

and a number of Justices of the Peace, Barristers at Law, Merchants, and Gentlemen of the County of Westmorland.

#### REPLY.

Honorable Sir, Gentlemen, and Friends,

I am not a little proud and pleased in acknowledging the receipt of your friendly, respectable, and affectionate Address, in testimony of the high estimation in which you held me while I sojourned among you in Dorchester. As a just return, I assure you, in all sincerity and candour, that since I have left the beautiful and rich County of Westmorland, not a day has passed without thinking of the absence of so many respectable friends whom I have left behind me; and I feel that privation among others, even surrounded and honored as I am here, with the respect and esteem of my new parishioners, and with the consideration of many members of different religious beliefs.

If I have taken any part in promoting any public social good, I have been prompted so by your example and readiness; and as for having endeavored to inculcate feelings of peace and of good will towards all men, and that being in the order of my holy vocation, I am bound to return my most fervent thanks to the God of Peace, and Author of all Good, if ever I have been instrumental in obtaining so desirable and laudable an end. In peace-making my anticipations and wishes were at all times that its beneficial effects should spread also among you.

If, as a gentleman in private life, my habits and conduct have been such as to merit the approbation of all who were acquainted with me, I am happy in declaring that I could not but win your approval, having, as I had, to transact business, converse and intermingle with gentlemen possessed, as you are, with such good manners and excellent politeness.

Respectively to Agriculture, observing that all professional men are, in our days, ambitious in the study and practice of that ennobling science, how could I remain inactive at the sight of such feeble efforts made in improving the mode of cultivation among the people over whom I had to preside, and if I have arrived at any successful issue, I owe it much more to your example than to any scientific acquirements.

I have now entered into a new field of public labor; and as much remains to be undertaken, I feel I cannot better gratify your wishes and my own ambition, than to exert myself in encouraging the farmers of these quarters to improve their mode of farming, and arrive thereby at the high degree of scientific agricultural knowledge which you have already reached by your study and perseverance.

I thank you most cordially for this expression of attachment and respect towards me. It is the more honorable to me as there are among you professional men, men of position, ability and influence.

Wishing you every happiness and blessing, I have the honor to remain, Honorable Sir, Gentlemen and Friends, your most obedient humble servant.

FERDINAND GAUVREAU,

Priest Missionary of Tracadie.

St. John Freeman, News, New Brunswicker and Observer please copy.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

The telegraph puts in possession of highly important news from Europe, received at New York by the steamer Franklin, and at Halifax on Wednesday night last, by the mail steamer America.

The British Ministry is broken up, and the Earl of Derby (late Lord Stanley), it is expected, will be the new Premier. Affairs in France are very unsettled, and fears are entertained by the British nation, that peace will not be much longer preserved on the Continent.

#### THE BALLOT BOX.

The following extract from the Montreal Gazette showing the admirable working of the Ballot system in the municipal elections in that city, will be interesting at the present time, when this mode of electing our public functionaries in our Province is claiming the attention of the public:

"Judging from the preceding, yesterday, the vote by ballot, for municipal officers, will turn out a most satisfactory experiment. The arrangements at the City Hall were perfect. Voters entered by the western door, and passed up stairs to the central corridor; thence they entered a room on the right hand, where they obtained the tickets certifying their right to vote. They afterwards passed out, and in one of the rooms on the right hand side of the passage they found pen and ink, with which to fill up the names of the candidates for whom they desired to vote. Passing then into the City Clerk's Office, the name of each voter was entered in a book kept for that purpose, and the ticket dropped into a box labelled with the name of the ward for which it was given. Instead of the disgraceful scenes of riot and blackguardism, which have disgraced other municipal elections, everything was conducted with the greatest peace and order.—A number of policemen were present; but their services did not appear to be required. We were informed that 2,000 could be easily polled during the day."

ST. JOHN.—It appears by the papers from this city, that four or five hundred inhabitants, held a meeting and expressed their views favorable to the Government Railway scheme.

The Maid of Erin, steamer, will commence running to Portland on the 9th inst. She has been supplied with a new boiler, and has had other improvements made on her.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Last week we announced that the election for Cumberland County was decided to be illegal, and that the Hon. Mr Howe, and Mr Fulton, would again appear as candidates. Some informality in the Sheriff's return is the cause assigned. The election is to be held on the 18th instant, and the candidates above-named will be opposed by Messrs. McFarlane and T. A. S. Dewolfe. The liberal papers speak confidently of the return of Messrs Howe and Fulton.

The iron screw steamer Glasgow put into Halifax on the morning of Wednesday the 25th February. She was from the Clyde, bound to New York. She experienced very heavy weather on the passage, and was 17½ days out.

The Halifax Church Times of February 23 says:—"The Consecration of a Roman Catholic Bishop (Rev. Dr. McKinnon) took place yesterday, at St. Mary's Chapel. Dr. McKinnon is designated as Bishop of Arichat in this Province. A great crowd attended to witness the ceremony."

#### LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

It will be seen by a telegraphic despatch in another column, that the Government, as was expected here, have carried their Railroad Resolutions by a large majority. We presume that in a few days they will bring in their promised Bill, and should the Legislative Council give their sanction to it, the inhabitants of this section of the Province, we have no doubt, will petition Her gracious Majesty to withhold Her assent to a measure so directly opposed to the spirit and wishes of Her Government, so plainly portrayed in Mr Hawes's celebrated letter, and so unjust to a large portion of her subjects in this Province.

We have written so much on this subject during the last twelve months, that we think it unnecessary here to make any further comments. There has been a good deal of feeling evinced here respecting the conduct of the *Leader of the Government* in this matter; but whether his constituents will take any steps to call him to account for his desertion of their interests in the hour of need, we are not prepared to say, but we shall be somewhat surprised if they do not resort to such a measure.

As soon as the debates on this exciting subject reach us, we shall put our readers in possession of such extracts from the speeches of our Northern members, as will enable them to form a correct idea of what they said, and what they did, to oppose the measure.

We refer our readers to our Correspondent's letter, in another page—to extracts from the Journals—to telegraphic despatches, and to paragraphs annexed, for a summary of the Legislative news.

The Road Committee have reported, and recommend that £13,765 be appropriated to Great Roads, and £5,000 for Special Grants. They also recommend for Bye Roads £15,129, to be expended as follows: County of York, £1350; Queen's, £1258; Gloucester, £958; Charlotte, £1486; King's, £1486; St. John, £1075; Sunbury, £760; Northumberland, £1419; Restigouche, £760; Westmorland, £1237; Kent, £922; Albert, 761; Victoria, £712; Carleton, £978.

COUNTY OF KENT.—An Inquest was held before James Long, Esq., one of the Coroners for the County of Kent, at Co-caine, on view of the body of MANSFIELD JERWAR, who was found dead on the ice, in the Buccouche River, on the 18th ult. Verdict—died from intoxication and the inclemency of the weather.

W. END, ESQ.—The following paragraph we copy from a late number of the Boston Post, as it may gratify some of the numerous friends of that gentleman in Gloucester:

"*Benevolence of an Attorney.*—An Irish lad in Cambridge having been convicted of taking fifty pieces of copper coin from a boy in the street, was sentenced to three years in the state prison. Wm. End, Esq., having heard the story from the boy's mother, prepared a petition to the Governor and Council, which he presented, and urged the case with such address, that on the afternoon of the 24th December he received full pardon for him. He went immediately to Charlestown, received the boy, and took him to his mother the night before Christmas. He has since obtained for him a situation as a stone-cutter, where he will be able to earn his own living, and assist in maintaining his poor mother. Such an act as this should not pass unnoticed. Mr End had no pecuniary reward. For twenty consecutive years he was a Member of the Parliament of New Brunswick. He was of the Liberal party there. He is a profound lawyer, a very gentlemanly pleader at the bar, and is now a partner with J. P. Bishop, Massachusetts Block, Boston."

LOSS OF THE STEAMER AMAZON.—A late English paper thus comments on the loss of this steamer. It appears that this was her first voyage:—

Among the passengers who perished, was Mr Eliot Warburton, the well known author, who was deputed by the Atlantic and Pacific Junction Company to come to a friendly understanding with the tribes of Indians who inhabit the Isthmus of Darien.

The wives, families, friends, and connexions of most of the crew of the Amazon reside at Southampton, and the melancholy event has caused a deep gloom in the town.

The value of the Amazon when ready for sea, was about £100,000. She was not insured, as the company did not insure any of their vessels. The value of the specie, quicksilver, cargo, &c., when added to the value of the ship, will give a total loss of property by this melancholy occurrence of little less than £200,000 sterling.

The West India Mail Company has been the most unfortunate of all the great steam-packet associations in the loss of their steamships. Since the establishment of the company in 1841, no less than eight of their fleet of steamers have been destroyed by casualties on the sea. The wrecks of the Tweed and Solway were attended with peculiarly distressing circumstances, involving the loss of nearly 120 lives; and, in the case of the survivors of the Tweed, with an extent of hardship and suffering which has rarely found a parallel in the records of disasters at sea.