

to delegate this arbitrary power to the Government, or worse yet to the Government nominee.

Kerr has introduced a Bill relating to the support of Poor in the Province, and Johnson one to restrain the provisions of the fifth section of the Civil List Act, and to make provisions for the sale and disposal of timber bettas; both are much required, the former provides a mode for the removal of paupers to their proper parishes, and the latter that timber licences shall issue to the first applicant, and only to the actual operators. The Newcastle Parish Officer Bill, and the amended Lock up House Bill as also the North West Bridge Charter have passed both branches.

Kerr is going to be a valuable member in his own peculiar way; his services on the Committee on public accounts alone will cause him to be appreciated. These accounts are in a fearful state, not so much owing to any present fault in the officers, as to the miserably defective system. Kerr's knowledge of accounts, and his systematic mode of investigating them, together with the circumstance that the majority of the committee are men who will speak out and screen no person, will probably lead to disclosures which must benefit, if not astonish the country—it would not be prudent to anticipate their report, and it is to be regretted that the time and opportunities for investigation will preclude its approach to perfection. Kerr's politics will, I think be of the right caste, though perhaps less boldly prominent in expression than the times require. A Bill to continue the act to suspend the militia law passed by the House, was amended in the Legislative Council, and a suspension clause added till the Royal sanction be given—a debate arose, on the amendment being read in the House, and the question of the Colonial Secretary dictation came up. Johnson argued that the Bill did not affect the Imperial Government, as power was reserved to the Lieutenant Governor, to call out the Militia, in case of need—and the absurdity of Militia training, the display of motley coats, the loss of time, dissipation, and disturbance, caused by the useless display, was a matter solely for the consideration of the Provincial Legislature—if this Bill were rejected, the old Law would not expire till next September, but were this otherwise, he should not feel disposed to yield the principle of self Government, we must take our stand at one time or another, and if a sacrifice must be made to maintain our rights the sooner it was done the better—Smith, Botsford, and others took the same side. The Attorney General clung to some old Royal instructions which he could not find, thought it probable they did not apply to this case, but asked time to examine. How absurd it is, that when the right has been conceded, and the extent of that right so clearly laid down by Lord John Russell in his celebrated Speech—we should be called upon to respect Royal instructions given long previous to the concession—and how tenaciously must the Attorney General cling to old ways, when with one breath he conceives our right to exist in this instance, and with the next, asks time to refer to dusty records—thereby consenting to have those rights abridged against his reason, and by the mere dictation of the Colonial Secretary in this or any former time. Williston introduced a Bill to commute the Judges fees. 1st Section abolishes the fees, and 2nd provides for an addition to their salaries in lieu. This is nonsense—because after the stand taken by the Imperial Government any commutation would acknowledge the right of its interference in a matter merely local. The fees are a tax upon our people for a local purpose they are not secured by the civil list and consequently as much under the control of the Provincial Legislature as any other fee established by the same ordinance—all the fees of Judges—Sheriffs, Attorneys, &c., were established at the same time, and by the same power the others have all been dealt with by the Legislature as they thought necessary—the British Government never sought to interfere, and it is worse than nonsense to admit their right in this instance more than others. I think, however, Williston will be caught in his own trap, the first section will pass, abolishing the fees; the second be rejected, and no commutation made, and then by striking out one line in the preamble, the Bill will pass as it should.

The new Speaker is getting on with the work, while the House sits, and the old one getting better, though very feeble, and not able to attend the House. Every day adds to my conviction that a general election should take place every two years—the old system of working to serve themselves the two first years, and to please the public and prepare for another election during the two last, will otherwise be adhered to by some members—if they went back every two years, the public would neither forget the good nor the bad in their conduct. The public money not be so lavishly squandered—and if a member, whose conduct was generally consistent and praiseworthy, would not be more thought of at the end of two than four years—the effect would be that the opposition of vacillating time or self serving members would not have an equal chance of success, and the canvass against the former be less powerful. The good would be equally contradistinguished from the bad, by the increase of its own lustre, or by the closer inspection of its opponents' impurities—like light and darkness they differ widely, but this difference is still comparative.

FIDES.

FREDERICKTON, March 31.

Dear Pierce,
Since I last wrote, the Committee on pub-

lic accounts have been investigating the Auditor General's report in connection with the removal of leaves, and the substitution of others, subsequent to its being laid before the House. On this subject erroneous reports have been in circulation throughout the Province. It has been reported that some errors existed in the Treasurer's accounts. It would not be proper that any report of the Committee should be anticipated; there is no doubt but an improved system of keeping and auditing public accounts is necessary, and that a strong representation will be made by the committee. What took place before the House is as follows—Mr Kerr having discovered that some leaves had been removed, and others inserted in the Book, which contains the Audit of the Treasurer's accounts, and knowing that one of those leaves had been inserted since the time when the book had been examined by him, represented the circumstances to some members of the Committee, among whom was Mr Johnson, they agreed that the House should be informed of the matter. Mr Kerr, in his place, stated the facts, but delicately declined fixing the blame on any party. Mr Johnson agreed with Mr Kerr in all that he stated, but affirmed that although it might not be possible to say who had removed the leaves, it was not difficult to discover who introduced the others, as the hand writing was the same as the rest of the Book: the other members who spoke were of a similar opinion, and it was understood that the Committee would investigate the matter: this they have been doing, and have had the Auditor General and his Clerks before them, but it would not be fair to the parties concerned, to say anything further just now.

The Government yesterday recommitted the Baptism and Burial Bill; the Attorney General had added some sections suggested by the former debate, and in order to please as many of the members as possible; there was a warm debate, and a majority spoke against the Bill. Johnson contended that the Bill would but create fees for Officers, and impose a tax upon the people without any commensurate benefits. One of the new sections proposed to compel all persons to register births and deaths occurring in their families, by informing the nearest clergyman, who should certify to the Clerk of the Peace, and his certificate should be evidence in any Court of Law. Now this was a dangerous provision; the Attorney General knew that Hearsay evidence would not be admitted, though the party who first received it, was on oath: but here A tells B that C's wife died on such a day, B certifies to the Clerk of the Peace, and though he may have got up the story for fraudulent purposes, C calls upon the Clerk, gets the certificate, upon the strength of which he pays his addresses to a young lady and marries her. So also may frauds of all kinds be practised to the injury of morals and endangering of property.

The Attorney General was willing to amend the Bill in anyway the House chose, by striking out the Baptism, Burial, or any other section, in which case there would be nothing left but a provision for registering Marriages. This was already provided for by a better law passed in the Reign of George the Third.

There the parties signed a Certificate in the presence of witnesses, when the marriage was solemnized, this contract was registered and filed in the clerk's office, but the present Bill only required the certificate of the Clergyman, without any signatures of the parties or witnesses. Johnson moved that the further consideration of the Bill should be postponed for three months. Attorney General asked to report progress—a division was taken on the motion to postpone—the members were 16 to 19—McPherson, Cutler and Earle, who spoke against the bill, voted against postponing and for reporting progress, so that the government were let down easy, and we shall not again hear of the Bill in all probability. A grant passed to day in aid of the North West Bridge £700. There has been two petitions presented against this from Inhabitants of the North West—are they really serious—if so, the grant will do no harm—the Bill had passed before the petitions came to hand. Kerr presented one and Johnson the other. I think £1000 would have been granted but for these petitions.

April 1—The late Speaker died at 12 o'clock last night.

FIDES.

QUICK WORK.

UNDER this head we clip the following paragraph which was communicated to the Halifax Sun. This is not the first favourable notice which has appeared respecting this vessel.

"The Schooner Coral, Capt. Purdy, left St. John, at 2 p. m., Friday, arrived at Halifax on Saturday, at 12 p. m., stopping at Yarmouth two hours. The Coral is owned by W. J. Fraser, Esq., Miramichi."

THE SEASON.

If we are to judge from present appearances, there is every likelihood that we shall have an early Spring.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS were received from the following Agents, with remittances during the week.

Bathurst, Campbellton and Shediac.—The matter which our Agent in the Lower District of Gloucester wrote to us about, has been satisfactorily arranged, and we thank him for his trouble and attention.

AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY REPORTS.

THE following complimentary notice of the Northumberland Agricultural and Fishery Reports, appears in the St John Times.

We have been favored (by some person unknown) with a copy of the Report of the Northumberland Agricultural Society for 1852-3; it contains much valuable information, and many excellent suggestions, the award of prizes at the Northumberland Ploughing Match and Cattle Show, admirable remarks on Annual Exhibition, &c. The address to Farmers is well written, and the comparison drawn between a painter ignorant of colors and a Farmer ignorant as how to best produce luxuriant crops is a parallel well drawn.

We have been favored with a copy of the Annual Report of the Miramichi Fishery Society for the year 1853. From a hasty glance through its pages we perceive it is a elaborate and well written document, treating upon various important subjects connected with the Fisheries of the Province, more particularly that portion which is intimately connected with the operation of this Society. The different kinds of fish—the best mode of curing—their value as a source of wealth to New Brunswick—and many other subjects of equal moment are ably handled by the worthy Secretary (James Cate, Esq.) in the Report before us.

NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAYS.

THE Sun of March 26, furnishes us with the following notice of the proceedings in the Assembly of the sister Province, in reference to the Railway Bills. The members certainly made a knotty question of it, and time alone will tell, whether they have acted wisely or otherwise. We are glad to find, that the question has been settled, and that they have decided on rendering facilities for building the main trunk line. As to the branches, there is no reason to fear that they will not be built so soon as the benefits resulting from the main line are known and felt.

Well, the Railway Bills have passed the Lower Branch of the Legislature. Not without an attempt on the part of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to extend the time within which the Company must be formed.

The Hon. Gentleman moved that the time be six months from the date of the Bill going into operation.

Mr Wier would move a call of the House, he understood the Hon. Member for Annapolis perfectly; and could permit no such Amendment to pass without taking the sense of the House.

The meaning of the Hon. Gentleman's proposition was this:—The Company shall be formed six months after the bill has received the Royal assent.

The Honorable Provincial Secretary objected.

The Speaker shook his head. On a division the Hon. gentleman's amendment was negatived by a considerable majority.

The Recorder has the following paragraphs which furnish something new on this important subject.

IMPORTANT IS TRUE.—From something that has recently transpired, we believe there are good grounds for apprehensions that the Railroad Company to be organized under the provisions of the Bill now before the Legislature is to be identified with the Mining Association holding an outstanding lease of thirty one years of all the Mines and Minerals of this Province, and with the *Cunard Steamboat Company.*

Here is an explanation why the Bill is to have no compulsory clause in it for constructing the Western Branch. There are no profitable coal fields West, while the whole Eastern side of the Province abounds in rich mineral deposits.

The Agent of the Mining Association, Hon Mr Cunard, has been absent in England for the last six months, and no man in the Colonies has so deep an interest, as he, in giving direction to the great steam of trans-atlantic travel and commerce.

SHERIFFS.

The Gazette of Wednesday contains the appointments of Sheriffs for the year.

The only alteration we notice is—Thomas H. Carman, Esq, for Gloucester.

Marriages.

On Thursday the 31st day of March, at St. Pauls Church, Chatham, by the Rev. Samuel Bacon, Rector, Rural Dean, and Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, Mr CHARLES L. HAWBOLT, to Miss ELIZABETH, daughter of Mr Thomas Vondy, all of the Parish of Chatham.

[We have to acknowledge a large slice of the Cake.]

Deaths.

At Chatham, on the 29th March, Mrs SARAH MILLS, aged 21 years, daughter of Mr Shepherd J. Frost.

At Fredericton, Wednesday morning last, JOSEPH DEAN, second son of William Carman, Esq., Clerk of the Pleas, aged 18 years.

The deceased was a native of Miramichi, where he resided until about 18 months

ago. His amiable disposition endeared him to his schoolmates, and a large number of relatives and friends, and his early death will be deeply regretted by them.

SUNDAY'S MAIL.

EUROPE.

The Emperor of Austria has completely recovered his health. The exasperation against England and the English still rages at Vienna, and some of the journals threaten us with fire and sword to chastise us for all our political iniquities in harboring Kossuth and Mazzini. This feeling seems studiously kept up.

The Great Britain was to sail from Port Philip on 3d January, for Liverpool, with from 150 to 200,000 ounces of gold. The total of the yield of gold from Australia was estimated at from 14 to 16 millions sterling.

Paris, Friday, March 18. The affairs of Turkey are looking very gloomy; no sooner has Austria succeeded in enforcing humiliating conditions than Russia makes a similar attempt, as will be seen from the following despatch, dated Marsillies Thursday:—

The steamer Carodoc has arrived from Constantinople; Menzikoff lays down the ultimatum demanded by Russia, which is repelled by the Divan. The Sultan invokes the assistance of France and England. The Sebastopol Fleet is ready to sail from the Dardanelles.

It is announced that in the late arrangements between Austria and Turkey the latter has conceded to the former a right of sovereignty over the Christians of Bosnia and Herzovina.

The accounts from Switzerland represent the blockade as becoming every day more severe. The convocation of the militia for the protection of the Helvetic territory is contemplated.

The Mirror of Suabia positively states that letters have been received from England by influential persons at Vienna, urging them to use their best endeavours to avoid the question of the refugees being brought to extremities, as otherwise the Aberdeen Cabinet would be seriously embarrassed.

The Africa Mail Steamship, the Forerunner arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday evening the 8th inst., from Fernando Po January 30th; Cape Cost Castle 7th; and Seirra Leone 14th Feb. on her outward passage.

The Admiral in command of the British squadron had destroyed several slave settlements and barracoons.

Commodore Bouden, commanding the French squadron, was on the eve of sailing with the flag ship El Dorado, five steamers, and a land force of six hundred men, to punish the Bijoogo tribe, who had plundered a French vessel and butchered her crew.

Ibrahim Pacha is dead.

Hungary.—It is stated that Noslopy and three of his accomplices, one of whom was tutor to Kossuth's children, were to be executed on the 3d. Accounts to the 5th say that the executions took place at Pesth on the day specified.

Italy.—Lombardy.—At Milan there is no relaxation of Austrias oppression. Citizens are forbidden to approach the sentry, and M. Bernardi, having failed to observe the regulation, was bayoneted. The number of arrests made in Milan between the 6th and 25th February was over six hundred.

Switzerland.—The daily news correspondent from Berne and Genoa represents the political condition of Switzerland to be one of great excitement.

Switzerland is much excited respecting Austrian insolvency towards Ticino.

An explosion occurred at Colliery, in Monmouth, on the 12th, killing twelve persons.

It is denied that Mazzini escaped on board an English Frigate. He is supposed to be secreted in Piedmont.

Advice from China states that the rebellion was making rapid progress. Trade was inactive; large operations however, had been made in teas, at an advance in Greens and Congous.

The Overland Mail from India had arrived in London, with dates from Calcutts to February 5th, Bombay 12th, and China January 13th.

The news of the revolution in Ava had been confirmed. The king of Burmah had been disposed by his brother. An English ambassador had set out for the capital.

Australia.—Advice from Australia are to the 10th of Jan. The yield at the diggings was reported greater than ever. 100,000 men were at the diggings, averaging ten ounces per week. Trade was brisk, and prices sustained, except in flour.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr Hincks, (so says the Quebec Chronicle.) has received a letter from the Hon. Mr Ross, at present in England, intimating that the contracts for building the Grand Trunk and Trois Pistoles Railways had been signed by Messrs Peto and Brassey, the partners of Mr Jackson.

The Railway Bills, passed the Legislative Council on Tuesday afternoon, and will receive the assent of the Lieut. Governor.

A Row in the House.—By our Parliamentary Summary it will be seen that the Legislative Council have voted the pay of the House of Assembly. What is to be the upshot of this? Paying the Council must come, we should think as a matter of course; and then, of course it must become elective.—British North American.