

PROVINCIAL TREASURY.

It appears that the Provincial Treasurer, seeing that a number of other Public Functionaries had obtained an increase of wages or salary, simply because they had the presumption or hardihood to ask for such augmentation, thought he might as well follow so worthy an example, with a view of adding to his already handsome income. His Petition was very properly rejected. This called forth a Letter from the Treasurer which appears in the Saint John Courier, in which he strives to make it appear that he is a very ill-used man, because he receives a Salary of only £500, while former incumbents obtained a much larger one.

On this subject the Morning Times contains the following Editorial:—

We notice in the columns of the Courier a communication from Beverly Robinson, Esq., the Provincial Treasurer, complaining of the House of Assembly for having rejected his petition for the increase of his salary to six hundred pounds from the sum of five hundred, to which he was reduced in 1851. His chief arguments consisted in showing that the previous incumbent in that office received six hundred pounds per annum until May 1836, from whence he dates his appointment; and that he has up to the period of reduction received the same amount, although the duties of office were not so great as at present. This is certainly a singular data upon which to base his claim, and we have yet to learn that if a man has received too large a sum for his service during some fifteen years he is entitled to a continuance of the same favor, although the country has been aroused to the impropriety and the necessity for retrenchment. We are not aware that Mr. Robinson is tied to the office, or the only man in the place capable of efficiently performing the duties. If his time is more valuable, and five hundred pounds will not remunerate him for his services, he certainly possesses the power of declining the office; and we fancy many talented and energetic men would in that event gladly solicit the situation, and cheerfully perform the duties without insinuating that the members of the House of Assembly acted dishonorably in refusing to repeal acts and legislate for his special or individual benefit. It has been too much the case in times past, that while thinking of the few the interests of the many have been disregarded by those who are elected to protect them; but times are changed in this as well as in many other respects, and we trust that it will be long ere the old and pernicious system of offering large salaries and light labors will be rewarded or countenanced.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

LAST week we stated on the authority of the St. John Morning News, that the Government had paid, without any authority from the Legislature, in 1851, £94 12 2, and in 1852 the large sum of £5,162 7 4. Since then we have obtained a copy of the Report of the Committee of Accounts, which notices this transaction. The comments of the Committee are spirited and to the point. Such unconstitutional acts on the part of the Government cannot be too highly censured, and it behoves the Assembly to check such recklessness before it ripens into a precedent, for it appears all innovations, and all mal-practices now become legal, provided a similar case can be cited from the Journals or acts of the Government:

The Committee on Public Accounts have examined a return of warrants drawn without authority of law, laid before the House in answer to an address of date 18th March last, and find that in 1851 several sums were paid by the Government, amounting to £94 12s 2d.; and in 1852 the gross amount so paid is £5,165 7s 4d. The Committee must object in the strongest terms against the Government paying out or disbursing any monies from the Provincial Revenues without the sanction of the Assembly; and in none but cases of extreme urgency and necessity should any monies be so paid until the accounts have been submitted to and sanctioned by the House, or a grant of the amount made in Supply; and when such extreme necessity does occur that money should be drawn without application to the Assembly, the Committee consider the Government called upon to make a report to the House, with a detailed statement and account of the manner in which such sums have been expended, the objects to which they have been applied, and the necessity for their being so paid without provision having been first made by the Assembly.

The Committee cannot too severely censure the payment of so large a sum as £5,165 7s 4d. for the purposes mentioned in their return, upon the sole authority and responsibility of the Provincial Government; and should some of those payments be in themselves correct, your Committee cannot admit the necessity for these disbursements before the accounts had been submitted to and investigated by the House, nor can they feel satisfied with the course pursued in not furnishing any detailed account or statement of these disbursements at the present Session.

Your Committee must also remark upon the extraordinary fact that no application was made at the last Session for any grant in supply to reimburse the amounts drawn for without authority in 1851—nor is there now any made for the very large amount so

paid in 1852—and your Committee dep recate as unconstitutional, and dangerous to the rights of this House and the interests of the country, that any Government should consider themselves authorised to pay monies, and withhold from the Assembly all information until expressly called for by address.

Your Committee find it quite impossible to make any particular report on this return, wanting the necessary detailed accounts, and can only refer the return back to the consideration of the House, recommending that it be published in the daily journals, as a part of their report.

In reference to the surplus Civil List accounts, your Committee have to express their surprise that the sum of £200 should be paid therefrom for his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's contingencies, without any authority therefor.

Respectfully submitted.

Committee Room, 26th April, 1853.

CLOSING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE labours of the Legislative Session was brought to a close on Tuesday last.—At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Lieutenant Governor proceeded to the Council Chamber, and prorogued the Legislature with the following

SPEECH:

Mr President and Hon Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I acknowledge with thanks, the attention which you have given to the business of the Session. There is reason to hope that the blessings of Providence may again reward our husbandman our fishermen and our merchants. The success of all these interests depends on the skill and industry of the individuals engaged in them far more than on any aid from positive legislation. I conceive, therefore, that the postponement of several important measures to another Session, will not necessarily impede the general prosperity of the country. You have passed acts, however, of some importance to Commerce, by amending the Law relating to Merchant Seamen; by regulating our Weights and Measures; by facilitating the issue of patents and the improvement of our postal communication with Great Britain. The Address on the subject of the Fisheries and Trade with the United States, has been submitted by me to His Grace, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I doubt not that the Loyal sentiments of Her Majesty's subjects here will be fully appreciated by our Gracious Queen.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for the Supplies which you have given for the public service. It shall be my duty to see that the sums thus granted are expended in conformity with your wishes, so far at least as the imperfect organization of certain public departments will allow. I regret very deeply that there is no one political officer whose attention is especially given to finances. I regret too, the total want of Executive machinery for properly controlling the expenditure on the roads.

The creation of such offices, involves arrangements which require your sanction as representatives of the people; and as that sanction has not been given, the administration of these matters must remain in its present state.

Mr President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I cannot allow the Session to terminate without expressing some fear that inconvenience will arise hereafter in this Colony, from the increasing tendency to private Legislation, any such inconvenience will be more felt in proportion as we look forward to the investment within our limits of foreign capital. The season is fast approaching when money and labor will be expended on our projected Railways, and when fresh surveys will probably be pushed through our forest. I hope at the next meeting of the Legislature to congratulate the people of New Brunswick on the progress actually made in these undertakings.

I now release you from public labors with my hearty good wishes for the success of your own pursuits and with an earnest prayer for the general welfare of the Province.

FISHING AND TRADING.

THE following article we clip from the New York Tribune of April 27. The Editor is a Whig, and consequently a strong advocate for protective duties. Its perusal will enable our readers to form some idea of the feeling that actuates a large body of our neighbours on the subject of "unrestricted trade" with the Colonies. They have now the best of the bargain, and if they can only succeed in inducing the British Government to concede to them the right of fishing in our waters, the matter of reciprocal trade will never be broached, much less advocated by them. Our policy is plain—to hold on to what we have an undoubted right to: and if we concede to strangers any privileges in our waters, either to trade or to fish, let it be for what we may conceive an equivalent:

The Colonial Legislature of New Brunswick have put forth an address to the Home Government in opposition to any settlement of the Fishery Question which shall not guarantee to the Colonies what they call reciprocal commerce with the United States and free

access to the coasting trade of this country. It has been rumored that the fisheries were to be disposed of first on a separate treaty, leaving the other point for subsequent negotiation. Against such a course the Legislature earnestly protest. It is not what the Colonies have been after, not the bargain they have so industriously prepared to drive. And so they implore the Queen not to do any such thing, but to compel the Yankees to settle the whole at once.

And yet nothing can be more proper than that the two questions should be taken independently. We want access to the colonial fisheries, and it is no more than right to give an equivalent for that privilege. But what shall we give? Shall we reverse our entire commercial policy, and bestow on the Colonies the advantages of untaxed access to all our markets? By no means. The bargain would be unequal and absurd. Cod fishing is not of such importance as to outweigh, and swallow up the interests of every other branch of enterprise among us. But let us offer a fair bargain and take care to let nothing but Cod-fish into it. If the colonies will let us fish in their waters, we on the other hand will let them bring fish of their taking into our markets, free of the 20 per cent. duty they now have to pay. More than this should not be conceded.

So of reciprocity. A fair arrangement of that kind would not be objectionable, but our neighbors across the line propose a very unfair one. They want reciprocal free trade in the products of the sea, the soil, the forest and the mine. Why these limitations? If they are genuine free traders, as they profess to be they ought to be ashamed of such a half-way proposition. Why not say reciprocal free trade in all the products of the two countries, including manufactures? That would be something tolerable, but their reciprocity is unworthy of the name.

As for our coasting trade, there is just one way in which they can obtain speedy admission thereto. That way is Annexation. Will they try it?

Since the above was put in type, we have obtained a telegraphic despatch—containing late British news, in which we perceive that Lord Clarendon stated in the House of Lords, that the squadron would cruise on the fishing grounds the present season as it did last year.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

THE following is an extract from a Letter received from a Correspondent in this County on Wednesday last:

Since I last wrote you, a change has come over our Country. The ice has cleared out of our streams and harbour, with the mildness of a Lamb, and not as in many former years, with the roaring of a Lion. The merry sound of Bells along our river, has given place to the ring of the socket pole, whilst our River rolls along with majestic pride, bearing on its surface, and tossing it from swell to swell in the sun's glittering rays, like a thing of life, the production of the Lunherer. The Kine are beginning to imitate a large portion of mankind, forgetting the stall, and showing a strong inclination to kick up their heels at the hand that fed them through the dreary months of winter. The Lambs are seen sporting from coll to coll, like thoughtless youth, whilst the prudent mother is foraging for food, and taking advantage of the first fruit of the season. The Farmer is preparing to turn over his rich and mellow cloas of the field, to receive seed, with the fond expectation of a bountiful harvest, while the Fishermen is mending, trimming, and fixing his nets. So moves the world in our quarter.

THE SEASON.

THE weather still continues dry and cold; scarce a day passes without some indications of rain, but none comes down. The freshets in consequence, have been very low, and considerable timber and logs remain in the brooks from the want of water to bring them to market.

Extensive supplies, we understand, are hourly expected from Britain and the United States, and a large majority of the inhabitants are confidently looking forward to an active and profitable season. We sincerely trust their anticipations may be fully realised. Last evening it commenced raining, and has continued so up to the time we went to press.

STEAM FERRY BOAT.

THERE is a good deal of grumbling, and very naturally so, that this boat is not plying on the ferry, and we are frequently asked the reason. We are unacquainted with the "whys and wherefores," and should feel obliged if her proprietor, or some other individual would put the public in possession of all the particulars.

MR D. P. HOWE'S SCHOOL,

CHATHAM.

A correspondent has sent us the following notice respecting the Annual Examination of this School.

The Annual Examination of this deservedly popular Institution, took place on Thursday last, in the presence of a large and respectable assemblage of Spectators.

The contrast between the old and new methods of imparting instruction to youth, was most strikingly apparent on this occasion. Here pleasure seemed to be happily substituted

for punishment; assiduity on the part of the Pupil, for the dread of his Master's Lash. The exercises are so conducted by Mr Howe, that from the moment a Class has been called up till it retires, a breathless excitement is kept up. The Competitors anxious to climb the short but slippery Ladder that leads to the top of the Class—greedily snatch instruction each from the other as the exercises proceed.

In this way, it is found, that the most indolent and stupid frequently become the most industrious and intellectual. Terror of the Rod was the 'Suavitor in Modo,' esteemed as the best by which to bring an Uchin from his play, and keep him at his task; but by the new method emulation is made to do this in a way which sweetly harmonizes with the juvenile disposition.

The discipline of this School is admirable. Every movement is made systematically. Eighty to one hundred Scholars—whether forming into classes or retiring to their seats—performed, in a necessarily limited space, evolutions in a style, and with such precision, as would put the Military 'tactics' of our late Local Militia to the blush.

The tasks of the most juvenile classes, consisted chiefly of instruction, blended with, or engrafted on, physical exercises and amusement. For instance—they sang an appropriate ditty, beginning, thus—

'This is the way we wash our hands,

To come to School in the morning.'

This ditty embraced the varied duties, which 'good children' perform, before coming to school, and while there; and as they sang this, they 'suited the action to the word,' by simultaneously raising, or lowering their little hands, to symbolize each sentiment of the song, as they sang it.

Every part of the exercises, seemed to give very great satisfaction to all present; but there was one part which appeared to me more excellent than the rest. It was that by which a knowledge of the correct meaning and application of words is imparted—The Teacher furnishes each pupil of the class, with a slip of paper, on which he (the pupil) at once put down seven words; by the following day, every boy has to write on his paper seven sentences, in which the seven words are to be respectively and correctly introduced, and it was surprising with what aptness this was done. Owing to the diversified application of each word, it was hardly possible that its precise meaning could be misunderstood.

It being past 2 o'clock when the examination commenced, a part of the exercises had to be omitted—such as Grammar, &c.

A choir consisting of the choicest Singers, having sung some appropriate pieces, the Rev. Mr Stewart, one of the Trustees, who has always evinced a lively interest in the education of the rising generation, closed the proceedings with an affectionate and complimentary speech, addressed to the Teacher and his Scholars.

Mr Pierce,

Dear Sir,—Your willingness to give publicity to matters connected with education, induces me to request a small space in your columns for the following:

At the examination of my School on Thursday last, the prizes offered to the pupils for an essay on 'Industry' were, (after a careful investigation of the merits of the several pieces, by the Rev. Mr Stewart) awarded in the following order:

- 1st prize, to Miss Isabella K. Ritchie.
- 2nd do. to Miss Margaret A. Miller.
- 3rd do. to Master Edwin Peters.
- 4th do. to Miss Elizabeth Burdick.
- 5th do. to Miss Isabel Peters.
- 6th do. to Miss Sarah Snowball.
- 7th do. to Miss Margaret K. Cormack.
- 8th do. to Miss Amanda M. Johnston.

In conclusion, Sir, allow me to say that it was both gratifying and encouraging to witness the large number of Ladies and Gentlemen, who came forward at this busy season of the year, and by their presence on that occasion, evinced their desires of countenancing and promoting the cause of education.

Anxiously desirous that the School may continue to keep pace in usefulness with the increasing support which it receives from the public.

I remain, dear Sir, truly yours,
DAVID P. HOWE.

LAUNCH.

ON the morning of the 7th instant, from the building yard of R. Johnston, in Chatham, a splendid ship called the *Stamboul*, of the burthen of 836 tons, O. M., and 959 tons N. M. This vessel is carefully built with a view to class 7 years, and for material and workmanship will challenge the Province.

Deaths.

At Flat Lands, on the 28th April Mr. PATRICK RYAN, a native of Ireland.

At Chatham, on Thursday morning last, after a painful illness, Mrs. ISABEL, wife of Charles J. Peters, Esq., leaving a husband and young family to mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate wife and mother.

R. CARMAN,
Barrister, Notary Public,
&c. &c.

OFFICE—At his residence, opposite Dr. THOMPSONS, Wellington road.