

The shells thrown by the ships were most destructive and had the fortress resisted till the following day, when all was ready on shore they would have been irresistible.

There is also a letter inclosed from Captain Pelham, in which particular mention of Francis A. Close, lieutenant; Leveson Wildman, acting mate; John Farrell chief boats mate and captain of gun.

Rear-Admiral Plumridge, in a letter to the Admiral (which is enclosed), describes the performance of the Leopold, Hecla, and French steamer Cocyte, which from a sequestered position screened by trees, poured incessantly shot and shell into the great Bomarsund fort. Admiral Plumridge says, "I had the satisfaction of seeing (at times from aloft) the steadiness and precision with which the shot and shell were delivered from each vessel; and it is my most gratifying duty to state, on behalf of the whole of the officers and ships companies, that I entertain the most lively admiration of their exertions as well as of the exemplary animation exhibited by Captains Hall and Giffard, and Lieutenant de Vaisseau A. Georgette du Buisson, of his Imperial Majesty's steam-vessel Cocyte."

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

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THE FISHERY TREATY.

If the majority of the Press of Canada, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, and New Brunswick is to be taken as an exponent of the feelings and wishes of the inhabitants of these Provinces, we conclude that the Treaty recently entered into by Lord Elgin and Mr. Marcy, falsely styled, "The Reciprocity Treaty," will be finally adopted, so soon as the different Legislatures meet. These bodies, it appears, have but little power left in their hands. Any of them can reject "the boon," but they will have to protect their Fisheries at their own expense, which cannot be done.

On this side of the Province, where the fisheries are the most valuable, the feeling is decidedly opposed to accepting the treaty; but our voice will be lost in the halls of the Legislature—so also will that of the people of Gaspé and Bonaventure, in Canada; we should therefore make up our minds, to lose our valuable Fisheries without a consideration, but while we do so, let us endeavour to look to the bright side of the picture, and hope that the great and important advantages that have been predicted will result from this measure, will be fully realised.

On this subject the New Brunswick has the following leader:

"The formal ratification of this treaty by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, has this week been officially delivered at Washington; and a like ratification, signed by the President of the United States, has, in return, been delivered to Her Majesty's Minister there. The treaty provided that these formal ratifications should be exchanged within six months; they amount merely to a recognition, that the negotiators on either side, Lord Elgin and Mr. Marcy, have not transcended the powers delegated to them, and that the treaty signed by them is adopted as the solemn act of the two governments respectively. The treaty was officially published at Washington the day before yesterday.

"So far as those Governments are concerned every official form has been complied with; but further than this, Congress has passed an Act providing that whenever the President of the United States shall receive satisfactory evidence that the Legislatures of Canada, New Brunswick Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have on their part passed laws to give effect to the treaty, he may issue his proclamation for carrying it into immediate effect in the United States. The same Act provides that whenever Newfoundland shall give its consent to the application of the stipulations and provisions of the treaty, and the Imperial Parliament shall pass the necessary laws for that purpose, that Colony shall always be included in the operation of the treaty.

"It now only remains for Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, to pass the enactments requisite to give effect to the terms of the treaty. It is necessary that these four Colonies should all agree; but if Canada should accept, as is in every way probable, any or all of the other three Provinces might reject, and then no doubt other arrangements would be made for carrying out the treaty as regards Canada, either alone or with any one or more of the others. In such case, the dissenting Colony would retain its fisheries, and its present position as regards trade and intercourse with the United States. It would be quite at liberty to maintain its fishery rights under the convention of 1818; but would be required to do so at its own expense, Great Britain having withdrawn from the further protection of these fishery rights on the ratification of the treaty, but having by no means conceded them to the Americans until the Colonies have agreed to such concession. A request has merely been made that American fishermen may not be molested pending the consideration of the treaty.

"As the first step towards the consummation of the treaty, it is necessary that Canada should accept it by legislative enactment. That Colony has to yield the free navigation of the St. Lawrence; and in the determination of that important question, the lower Provinces have no voice whatever. If Canada decides in the affirmative, as is most likely, then and not till then, the other Colonies will be free to act; no doubt they will do so, speedily and simultaneously. In anticipation of Canadian action, the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, which is known to be highly favorable to the treaty, has been summoned to meet on the 26th instant, for the purpose of taking it into consideration.

"Newfoundland is the only Colony which has a separate option; its acceptance or rejection of the treaty will not in anywise affect the other Colonies. With respect to this Island Colony, it is necessary also, that Imperial Legislation should take place, on account of the conventions with France with reference to the fisheries on its coasts.

"We have reason to believe, now that a new ministry have been formed in Canada, that the necessary legislative action to carry out the treaty will take place in a few days; and then no doubt the legislatures of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be summoned to give the matter their best consideration."

The Newburyport Herald thus discourses about the Fisheries, and gives his neighbours some good wholesome advice, which, if taken, we have no doubt will prove beneficial to all concerned:

"The Fisheries, this season, have proved exceedingly unprofitable. This report comes from all directions, and especially relates to the mackerel catch. It is surprising how tenaciously men adhere to this business, when the history of every town engaged in it, proves how uncertain, and in the end, how destructive to the pecuniary interests of such places it is. The same capital and labor engaged in the fisheries, if devoted to mechanical pursuits, would have given double the wealth to Marblehead, Gloucester or Newburyport they now possess. It is a most fortunate thing for Lynn, situated on the sea coast as she is, that she has no harbor. If there had been no obstruction of this kind, she would have been in the same condition now that the other towns are between Boston and Portland; but now none can compare with her. We hope the present generation will end the fishing business of this place.

"Let it go down to Nova Scotia, where the grounds are handy and the people fit for it, and there no doubt it will go, under the influence of the Reciprocity Treaty. It would be fortunate if all our young men would abandon it to-day and turn to mechanical pursuits."

CANADA.

WE perceive by our Canadian papers, that Sir Allan McNab has succeeded in forming a Ministry. The papers of the 9th inst., make the following announcement:

"Sir Allan McNab, who was charged with the formation of a new Ministry, has made overtures to the larger party of the French Canadians, who insist upon the secularization of the clergy reserves being made the basis of negotiations, and it is thought Sir Allan will yield the point. Ministerial negotiations are still continued. It is rumored that Sir Allan McNab will consent to the secularization of the clergy reserves being made a government measure, which will give him the support of Upper Canada. The Liberal party have made John Wilson their leader in the House of Assembly. Mr. Hincks will not, under any circumstances, return to power at present. Postmaster General Cameron retires from public life."

On the 13th, the Quebec Journals state:

"The new Ministry have been formed and sworn in for Upper Canada.

"Lower Canada remains same as before.

"For Upper Canada—Sir Allan McNab, President of Executive Council; John Ross, President of Legislative Council; McDonald, of Kingston, Attorney General; Smith, of Frontenac, Solicitor General; Spence, Postmaster; Crayley, Inspector General.

"McNab, McDonald, and Crayley, Conservatives. Ross and Spence, Reformers."

The Quebec Chronicle of the 12th instant, thus notices the Ministerial changes in Canada, and what took place in the Assembly on the appointments being announced:

"The Lower Canada section of the late Administration remains intact, with the Hon. Mr. Morin as its recognized head.

"The announcement of this extraordinary coalition in the Legislative Assembly, last night, created a desultory and exciting discussion. It seems to have taken the House by surprise; the arrangement evidently had few admirers among either parties.

"Mr Morin explained the formation of this Cabinet, and announced distinctly that it was determined to settle the Clergy Reserves and the Seigneurial Tenure questions conformable to the popular wishes. Mutual pledges had been exchanged between himself and Sir Allan to "adjust" both of those vexed questions in the former respect being paid to the provisions of the Imperial Act, and in the latter case due regard being had to "the rights of all parties" to such adjustment. Very ambiguous.—After Mr Morin had concluded his explanatory remarks, the late Inspector General rose, made a most virtuous speech apparently for the purpose of cementing the new-born coalition. He admitted that he was at the bottom of this curious reconstruction; and notwithstanding that he talked a deal of the veriest hyperbole about "honor," "varacity," "the word of a gentleman," and such like strange things, his attempts and explanation, mixed up with falsehoods, served only to impress the House with a strong idea of his treachery and double dealing. He was denounced on all sides as a base betrayer of his party. Dr. Rolph, to whose faithfulness this crisis is principally owing, could not repress his "deep abhorrence" of the unnatural alliance that had brought Messrs. Morin, Drummond and Hincks on to their feet as eulogists and defenders of Sir Allan McNab. It did seem curious.—Nothing could be plainer than that Francis, the Emperor of Renfrew, has sold his party as he has sold his South Oxford constituents, and just as he once sold his colleague, the Hon. Robert Baldwin.

"It is desirable to hear further explanations from the chief parties to this novel arrangement before canvassing it fully. A greater revulsion of feeling than we dare to contemplate will be pronounced by it. And we may state it is our deliberate opinion that the country will not homologate such a deceptive coalition. The idea of only one-half of a corrupt Ministry, in whom the country declares that it has no confidence, retiring, while the other rotten half remains, is preposterous. Let those honorable gentlemen whom Mr Hincks has handed over to subserve a dark and deep scheme, beware how they act at this conjuncture."

The Steamer Cleopatra, one of the Canadian line, arrived at Quebec on the 10th instant, in 15½ days, after a stormy passage.

All the papers agree in stating that the crops will be most abundant.

COUNTY RENT.

WE understand that Mr. Grant, of the Crown Land Office, has been for some time past making a survey of Richibucto Harbour, and it appears by the following paragraph copied from the New Brunswick, that Mr. Keefer, Civil Engineer, well known in Canada, has also visited that place for a like purpose. Scarcely a year has passed without much valuable property being lost there, and we learn, the bark Ann Smith, Turnbull, Master, of Shields, was cast away on the bar during the recent heavy weather. Mr Keefer, it appears, has also visited several other ports on the Gulf, all of which have bar harbours. The water on Bathurst bar also requires to be deepened. Now that the attention of the Government has been directed to the state of the harbours on the Gulf-shore, we hope something will be speedily done to improve them:

"RICHIBUCTO HARBOR.—The Legislature last Session appropriated a very large sum for the improvement of Richibucto harbor, and for deepening the channel at its entrance, which of late years has filled up so much as to render it impossible for large vessels to pass in or out when loaded. The Executive Government has engaged the services of that distinguished Civil Engineer, Thomas C. Keefer, Esq., of Montreal, with reference to this matter, and that gentleman has just visited Richibucto to make the necessary surveys and examinations. Mr. Keefer has also visited this harbor of Buctouche, with reference to some operations needed there, and also examined the harbors of Cocagne and Shediac. He arrived here yesterday and leaves for Fredericton this morning, to communicate the result of his examination to the Government."

THE FLOUR MARKET.

Now that the price of Flour has obtained such a price in Canada, that the merchants here have not considered it prudent to import, and

we are left with scarcely a barrel in our town, our readers will be glad to learn that the recent accounts of the fruitful harvest in Europe has caused a sudden and considerable fall in the article in the United States, which must be followed by a similar one in Canada. The speculators have overdone this business, and if they persist in their nefarious trade, it must considerably curtail our lumbering operations the approaching season; for, with the high price of the staff of life, and all the other necessities of life, as well as fodder for cattle, it will be impossible to do any business with advantage. We annex a few paragraphs from late papers.

"Prices have at length receded a little in the United States markets, though it is said great efforts were made to keep them up. The wheat and corn crops out west are not quite ruined after all it seems, and it is even said that in many places there will be more than an average crop, on the whole quite an average crop. In Europe it is now acknowledged on all hands that the crops are abundant. Prices have been declining in England for some weeks, and now the American market shows symptoms of a decided change for the better. Provisions for some months past have been at famine prices."—*St. John Freeman*.

"The news from Europe of the favourable condition of the crop, together with the late large receipts of flour at this port, has had a tendency to reduce the price of flour, and we learn that there was a falling off in prices yesterday, of from seventy-five cents to a dollar on a barrel. In these times of dearth, poor men will be glad to learn that there is a prospect of at least one of the necessities of life becoming cheaper."—*Boston Atlas*.

CUSTOMS AND COURT OF CHANCERY.

It appears by the annexed article copied from the New Brunswick, that both these long existing institutions are to be done away with in this Province. We are inclined to think there will be but little grief manifested on the occasion.

We have the satisfaction of announcing to-day that the last mail from England brought despatches which give the finishing blow to the Court of Chancery, and the Imperial Custom House in this Province. Both these "time worn," but not "time honored" institutions, are forever abolished!

At the last session of the General Assembly of this Province, an Act was passed for abolishing the Court of Chancery, and transferring its equity jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, as also the Master of the Rolls to the bench of that Court, to sit as an additional Judge. The Royal assent has been given to this Act; and the Hon. Neville Parker, late Master of the Rolls, has been Gazetted a Puisne Judge, to take rank next after the Chief Justice. The Court of Chancery is no more—who will mourn it?—None but those who profited by its interminable prolixity, endless delays and monstrous expenses.

The Lords of the Treasury have for some time past had under consideration the propriety of remodelling and reducing the Imperial Customs establishment in this Province. Finally, they have arrived at the sensible conclusion that it was best to abolish the establishment altogether; and by last mail an order was received for closing it immediately. The Imperial Government takes care of the officers of Customs that will be dismissed; and the whole duties hitherto performed by them will hereafter be executed at the Provincial Treasury.—This will be a great relief to the trade of the country, and effect a material saving to all who are extensively engaged in business, as hereafter the entries and other documents required by the Imperial Customs will be dispensed with entirely.

We congratulate the people of New Brunswick on these important ameliorations in their affairs—both calculated to have important and beneficial effects on the welfare and prosperity of the country.

HEALTH OF ST. JOHN.

WE are glad to perceive that the health of this city has been restored. The Courier reports:—

"CHOLERA HOSPITAL.—During the last few days there has been no patients in this building, and the Committee expect to be able to close the institution in a few days—a number of the nurses have been discharged this week."

POPULARITY OF NEWSPAPERS.

THE London Leader thus briefly and amusingly explains the secret of the popularity of newspapers.

"It may be very wise to see both sides of a question, and to be more anxious about what can be said for you; but the fact is, that the object of most men in buying a newspaper is to enjoy the statement of their own inarticulate notions in the shape of artistic development and expression. A reader never so thoroughly