

even the Indians have accomplished in Agriculture, the country seems to hold out great hopes to the farmer. The Indians there are mostly supported by Agriculture, and according to returns before me, four Tribes of Christian Indians on the northern and southern banks of the Kansas, cultivate four thousand acres. From these, they raised in a late year, 80,000 bushels of corn, 2690 bushels of wheat, and 12,000 bushels of oats, 4,000 hogs, and 200,000 melons of different kinds. The annual value of their products is put down at \$31,000. The number of these Indians is placed 2,702.

The Territory is capable of supporting a large population. The people are impatient to have an organized Territory that they may make State after State of it. No wonder that the question, if that is indeed the question, whether these shall be free or slave States, should greatly excite the various sections of our land. That the Bill will meet with much opposition both in the Senate, and House of Representatives, is very apparent, notwithstanding it has the whole weight of the Administration in its favour.

The Collins, Law and Aspinwall, Steam Mail Contracts are threatened in Congress by a Bill from the House Committee on the Post Office, the propositions of which are to annul the contracts on proper notice, to purchase the steamers employed in the service, at an agreed valuation for the Government, and then to relet the Liverpool, Panama, Sanfrancisco, and Oregon lines to the lowest bidder, by public advertisement. The six months notice to the Collins Company is to terminate in September next. That the service which the Collins line performs may be done cheaper does not admit of a doubt, but that it could be done with more punctuality is extremely doubtful, as their ships are the swiftest afloat, not so however with the Law and Aspinwall lines to California, their vessels are generally anticipated by one or more days by the Nicaragua Line.

Coming down to our own State Legislature, the Temperance Bill draws its slow length along—I have my doubts that a Law will be passed to meet the evil; either a Law too stringent to be carried into effect will be enacted, and be as a dead letter on the Statute Book, or a rider will be placed upon the Bill before its final passage, which will strangle it—the opponents of the measure are calculating on the latter course, and the wiles are all laid, to be put in use when the proper time arrives.

The question of the Enlargement of the Canals is to be submitted to the people of the Empire State, to-morrow—that earnest and insidious designs are making to induce Electors to vote against the measure is certain, but the people I fear not will vote in its favour, and the works will soon be prosecuted so as to meet the wants of our growing commerce.

A Court of Inquiry, called by the President of the United States for the investigation of the circumstances attending the loss of the Steamship *San Francisco*, is convened in this City, and has now reached its eighth day. The facts concerning the disaster are being elicited in a complete and authentic manner, and the conduct of the Army Officers on that trying occasion, is being submitted to a searching investigation. It is generally admitted, and evidence to the fact has been given, that had the machinery been properly tested before the vessel sailed, it would have been found defective, and notwithstanding she was built with guards such as are on river steamers, she would have weathered the gale had her machinery been of sufficient strength for her tonnage.

The recent passage of the "Clipper Ship Red Jacket" from this port to Liverpool in twelve and a half days, is the shortest on record.

Yours, &c.,

UNO.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

SIR,—In the Freeman of the 11th and 18th instant, there are some well written articles on Emigration, which is all very well, but Sir, you know that all Agricultural Emigrants on arriving in America are anxious to settle on land as soon as possible. Now, if any were to arrive here next summer, where could they procure Government Lands to settle on. It is disheartening even to old settlers to see that tract of Country lying from here to St. John shut up, without a Great Road being in progress through it, the utility of which was shown, both in the Freeman and in the Gleaner of last winter (I forget the date) to induce any Government to move in the matter.

I hope that some one of our Members will try and get a special grant this Session, to get this Road in progress, where Emigrants if they come, can settle and get employment, and old Settlers could settle their sons there, instead of subdividing their farms or seeing them leave the Country. You could see bales of goods at different times this winter, and many winters back in Chatham, brought from St. John by the circuitous route of Fredericton or Richibucto, which, if this Road was opened up through this tract of country to the Grand Lake, people could go to St. John from here in less than half the time they do at present, in a few years thousands of tons of hay would be brought down from the intervals and wild meadows at the head waters of the Bay du Vin and Barnaby's Rivers, in place of it being

hauled up there to the camps as at present, impoverishing the old farms of the surrounding country.

I remain, dear Sir, your obedient servant.

AN OLD FARMER.

Chatham, February 27, 1854.

Legislative News.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER.

FREDERICTON, 25th February, 1854.

Dear Pierce,

I did not find it necessary to add anything to my letter of last week, nor have I much now to say in reference to Legislative Proceedings; the Journals and Debates are, or will be pretty generally circulated in Northumberland, and nothing of importance to you has transpired this week. The House have been in Committee on the Consolidation, or as it is called, Codification, of the Laws. From day to day little progress made and much confusion. I fear this work will not deserve the high encomiums bestowed so hastily in the house. Codification of the Laws it is not, much being added which was not previous by the law; acts made perpetual which before were limited to time; acts introduced which have been repealed or become obsolete, and consolidation it will not prove, in as much as the work of the Commission will be taken to pieces, as well in spirit as in letter, the book will be sundered in sheets, and interlined with manuscript alterations and additions. This is unfortunate, to say the least. The power of the Commission extended to codifying, simplifying and suggesting alterations; but it would have been wise in them first to codify and abridge in verbiage, those laws which should remain in spirit the same; next to take those laws which required alteration, and suggest the improvements, and lastly, to provide for the amalgamation of courts and more rational, simpler, and cheaper modes of procedure in those Courts. I fear much time will be spent by the Legislature on this work and many imperfections remain. Omissions will occur, and errors creep in; it must be evident that if a Commission containing the two first law officers of the Crown, and two other Lawyers of high standing, have left the work so very incomplete and imperfect, after two years quiet labor, the hurried consideration—of varied minds, amid the bustle of general legislation, will not produce more than an approach to perfection. The lawyers in the House manifested an anxious desire to co-operate in perfecting the work, and where no alteration in principle was sought, would have joined in making the language sufficiently explicit to prevent those difficulties which are constantly arising in Courts of Law, from this cause alone. But the prejudice which some of the *patriotic* and *liberal* minded non-professional men in the House, entertain against lawyers, and are so anxious to display in proof of their own skill and disinterested patriotism, would not suffer this; it was really laughable to hear some of these solons disputing with the Attorney General and other lawyers, as to the legal significance of words. The effect of this will be to make trouble hereafter, and the endeavours will be to convince the world that all the blunders have arisen from ignorance or intention on the part of the lawyers; indeed the effect has already been to disgust the professional men, and create a disposition to abandon the work and protest against all responsibility.

The Bill to relieve Chatham Engine men, have been amended in the Council—the clause making 14 years continued service a perpetual exemption from Parish Offices struck out, also the clause exempting from Militia duty. Today there was quite a discussion in the House on the general principles of Provincial Government and Legislation, it was quite out of order and only rendered necessary by the Attorney General imprudently going into a long argument, and advancing what he termed, reasons why the Government had not acted on the resolutions and opinions expressed by the House last session. He rose to answer questions put by Cutler on a former day:—1st whether the Government had taken any steps to recover £519 surcharged against the Deputy Treasurer at Miramichi, 2nd whether any steps had been taken to carry out the opinions of the Committee on Public Accounts in reference to a change in the offices of Auditor and Receiver General. Instead of replying simply that no steps had been taken, and there leaving the matter to be dealt with, in case any resolution should be brought forward, he, as usual, determined to meet trouble half way and court a battle, where he had much to suffer and nothing to gain. As to the Deputy Treasurer, he said, the Resolution of the House had not been followed up by any address to the Government, and they were not bound to take notice of it, 3rd that there might be great doubts as to the Government being able to sustain the claim, and 4th that the Deputy Treasurer left the Province on leave, last July, and had not since returned. On the other question, he said, the House had refused to pass an amendment proposed by him, or to authorize the Government making provisions for

the present incumbents. He then went into the question of Initiation of Money Votes, and showed every anxiety to obtain all the patronage and full charge of the cash for the Government; all which had nothing to do with the question, yet made it necessary for Cutler to reply. This he did, by stating that he would at an early day, move the House into Committee on the subject, and in the meantime briefly answer the Attorney General.—He contended that the Government should have called upon the Deputy Treasurer to pay over the money, and if he refused, remove him from office. The money had been long held, and part of the claim might now be barred by the statute of limitation; as for the other question, the Government admitted the present state of things to be imperfect, and the necessity for a better system of regulating the Financial Department, and it was their duty to prepare and bring forward a scheme for its improvement. The Initiation question had nothing to do with the matter, but the Attorney General referring to them, amounted to saying, that unless the people would yield up their right to the Initiation, the Government would not seek to protect the public chest, or provide for the satisfactory management of the Financial Department. Smith followed on the same side, adding that he feared that some sympathy for the Deputy Treasurer had protected him, and that had he been a poor man the same technical objections would not be required to excuse the Government, as the same lenity might not have been exercised. The first reason given by the Attorney General was at best special pleading, and inconsistent with the other two, neither were satisfactory to his mind, and if the Deputy Treasurer was called upon by the Legislature or the Government, whose servant he was, and claimed to hold the money by right under the law, he should be removed from office. On the other point he agreed with Cutler, and thought the Government deficient in duty. Johnson followed, taking the position, that if the Deputy Treasurer had retained money to which he was not entitled, it was the duty of Government to have known it, and when surcharged in the Auditor's Report, they were bound to call upon him to pay over. No address would be required, as the resolution of the House was simply to jog their memory. He did not agree with the opinion expressed by Cutler and Smith that the Deputy Treasurer's tenure of office had any thing to do with the question, if he had retained money fraudulently, it might be otherwise, but if he rested upon his legal right to it, or contended that the Government and House had authorized him to retain it.—This question should be settled by legal proceedings; if wrong, he would have to pay, and if right he should not be removed from office. He had the same right to trial by Jury and the laws of the Country, as any other subject, and in case he was right in law, it would be a double injury—first, to accuse him unjustly of retaining public money, and next, to remove from office without trial or investigation. He knew there were circumstances connected with this matter, which independently of the legal question, might have considerable bearing, and while we did not admit that any private or tacit acknowledgement of previous Committees, without a report in writing, acted upon by the House, should have any bearing on the question, yet his experience convinced him that such circumstances might materially influence a Jury as to the equitable right. The other question should be considered without reference to the initiation of money votes, but if that had anything at all to do with the matter, it only made it more imperative on the Government to perfect the system of finance, and provide for the more satisfactory accounting for all public expenditures, before the Government could expect to be entrusted with this right, or be ready to resume an increased responsibility they must show that they had properly conducted those affairs within their control, and had properly discharged the duties at present incumbent on them. It was a new doctrine advanced by the Attorney General, that when the House deemed a change necessary in these offices, they should point out the particular mode and means of that change in detail, thus in the same breath, claiming an increased responsibility because it increased their political power and strength, yet denying all responsibility in those matters equally important and less onerous. It was the duty of Government during the recess, to perfect measures and provide for the mode and detail of those changes demanded by the House and Country, and they should either say we don't deem any change necessary or admit the necessity with the House, and propound and bring forward a specific measure on the subject, and thus take the constitutional responsibility. The course urged by the Attorney General amounted to an admission, that the Government could not or dare not, bring forward this measure, and sought to make the Assembly the working administration while the Government retained offices and patronage. The originating should be with Government and the sanctioning with the House, but if the House had to originate, what was the use, or where the responsibility of the administration. He considered a change in the offices of Auditor and Receiver General

absolutely necessary for the public safety, and that a single officer in the nature of Financial Secretary, should be appointed in their stead, and while he was ready to give any assistance and that free from party politics, in carrying out a beneficial and prudent scheme for their purpose, and even to forgo to some extent his objections to any provisions for the retiring officers, as a saving to the country, he could not consent to offer, nor ought the Government expect or receive from a political opponent any direct aid in preparing, or any absolute pledge to support the details of the measure, which they might consider necessary to strengthen their own position.

Kerr intended also to state his views but as there was no resolution before the House, some member put a stop to the discussion by moving to bring in a Bill. This matter will again be mooted during the Session, and it is to be hoped since beneficial change will be made in these offices, and some officer made responsible for warrants drawn, and the public accounts be kept in such as to give correct information to the Country, in reference to matters of finance.

FIDES.

From the St. John Morning Times.

Thursday, February 23.

Mr Gilbert presented a petition from the inhabitants of Chipman, Q. C., praying that a law may pass to abolish the traffic in intoxication Liquors.

Mr Needham presented a petition from the Postmaster General and the other officers of that department praying for an increase of salary for reasons set forth in the petition.

Mr Boisford presented a petition from the Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy, praying that the usual grant may be continued to that institution; and also a petition from the same parties, praying for aid towards a Female Academy in Sackville. The petitions, after a short discussion, were referred to a Select Committee.

Mr Cutler moved that an address be presented to his Excellency, praying that all returns made by the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Kent having reference to awards made by Jurors respecting roads in the Parish of Dundas, be laid before the Legislature.

Hon Mr Gray brought in a bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church, adhering to the Westminster Standards, but not in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

Mr Connell presented a petition from the Rev. Messrs Knight, Temple, and Churchill, praying that an act may pass granting the same privileges to the ministers of the Wesleyan Church, as are enjoyed by the Clergy of the Church of England and Scotland; and that every regularly ordained minister have the privilege of granting Marriage Licences, the same as in the neighboring Provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia; and that the Marriage Licence Fee be reduced to seven shillings and sixpence.

The House went into a Committee on a Bill to extend the Jail Limits in the County of Northumberland, Mr Jordan in the Chair.

Hon. Attorney General said that notwithstanding the Bill had been read in session, he was opposed to it, but as it had been sent to him, he felt it his duty to present it. If the principle of imprisonment for debt was wrong, a Bill ought to be brought in for the whole Province, and have a general application, and not legislate for particular localities on so important a subject.

Mr Williston did not approve of the Bill, but thought the time was not far distant, when a general measure would be brought before the Legislature, and probably would become the law of the land.

Mr Johnson would have no objection to abolish imprisonment for debts contracted after such law came into operation.

Mr Needham approved of the principles of the Bill, and had said so to the Law Commission, but their not agreeing with him was the reason why Provision had not been made in the Codified Laws; but as a bill was before the Committee which had been read in session to extend the Jail Limits in Northumberland all over the County, which was virtually abolishing Imprisonment for Debt in that County, he would support it, and would like to introduce a clause to extend it all over the world, except in cases of fraud. Then he would treat the party as a felon.

Mr Smith disapproved of the principles of the Bill, and thought it would not answer in a new country like this. If a man was in debt, and able to pay, he should be made so; but if a man got into difficulty, and acted honestly he would not be oppressed in one instance in twenty. In such a case the present laws made ample provision for him. What surprised him was that the members for Northumberland knew nothing about the bill until it found its way into the House. He would therefore move that it be postponed for three months.

Dr. Thomson would oppose the bill, and he considered the present laws the best protection for all parties.

Mr Kerr never heard of the bill until he came to the House, and did not think there was any great call for it in Northumberland. It was true it had been read in session, but belie-