

lungs on this occasion, all which I hope originate in the hearts of members.

FIDES.

From the New Brunswick.

April 22.

The House next went into Committee on the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts. Mr Cutler opened the debate in a brief speech, recounting what was done last year in reference to the Auditor's accounts, and censuring the Government for not having interfered, or closed an office which every one admitted was entirely useless. He moved the Report be adopted.

Hon. Mr Gray said it was very wrong for the Auditor, or any one of his Clerks, to take it upon him to alter any documents on the files of the House, so as to show a different face on the Journals, or the appendix. So far as the Report went to denounce the acts agreed with it, but when the Report went to say the Government had been consulted, he would not give his assent, for it was not the case; and if Mr Robinson (the Auditor) had stated so in his letter, he had stated what was false. No such application had ever been laid before the Governor in Council. The inference to be drawn from the Report was that the Government had authorized the altering of the accounts in the appendix to the Journals, and that he utterly repudiated, and had no doubt but the other members would do the same.

Mr Johnson spoke to considerable length in behalf of the select Committee. He contended that the report of the Committee did not reflect on the Government any further than this,—that Mr Robinson having applied to the Government for leave to alter the accounts for publication, and the Government knowing the intention, should have peremptorily forbidden it. As to Mr Gray's denial, it might go for what it was worth, for Mr Robinson stated that he applied to the Government for leave through the proper channel—the Secretary; and the Secretary did not deny it. Mr Gray might not have seen the letter, but it was sent. But the Committee went further; they discovered that the Auditor first applied to the Clerk of the House for the Book, and was refused, and that he afterward came again with the Secretary's order, and got it. To refuse adopting the Report would place the select Committee in a wrong position, as they would then stand charged of placing on the Journals what was not true.

Hon. Mr Partelow acknowledged that he gave the Auditor the order on the Clerk for the book, but had not the slightest idea that it was for the purpose of altering the accounts. When Mr Robinson applied to the Government through him for leave to publish the altered copy of the accounts, he told him it was too absurd to be thought of, and for that reason he would not lay the original letter before the Governor in Council, but got Mr Fulton to copy it, leaving out that part. He knew nothing about the alterations having been made until he heard of it in the House this session, when he looked in the appendix and found twenty three new sheets were substituted. He was extremely surprised thereat, &c.

Hon. Mr Street denied having ever seen that part of Mr Robinson's letter asking for leave to alter the accounts. It might be inferred from the report that the Government was blameable, and he moved an addition to the Report, that the explanations given by members of the Government in the House were not taken from all blame in the members.

Messrs Connell, Kerr, Harding and Smith all spoke to considerable length, condemning the alterations of the accounts in very strong terms, and calling for the abolition of the Audit office.

Mr Needham was the only member who defended the conduct of the Auditor and his Clerks.

Hon. Mr Wilmot said the Offices of Auditor General and Receiver General ought to be abolished, and a Financial Secretary appointed, with a seat in the House; but that could not be done without pensioning the present officers, because they were on the Civil List. The discussion was continued until after six o'clock, when the Committee rose and reported progress.

April 25.

The House then went in Committee on the Report of the Select Committee on Public Accounts, and a day of speechifying followed,—members spoke of their constituents through the press, for it was announced in the morning that all opposition to the adoption of the Report was withdrawn. Speeches were delivered in the following order; viz: by Mr Johnson, Speaker, English, Williston, Thomson, Ptohard, Partelow, Hatheway, Botsford, Street, Smith, Gray, and Johnson again, and although every one agreed to accept the Report, the pros and cons were thoroughly argued until it was past six o'clock, when the Committee rose and reported progress.

This morning the House went in Committee again on the same subject, and after a few words in debate they adopted the Report of the select Committee, without division. Immediately after the House resumed, Dr Thomson moved the following resolution:—

Resolved, That although no imputation was intended by the select Committee in the Report just adopted by this House to be cast upon the Executive Government, still as a portion of such Report might probably bear such construction, this House deems it but justice to declare that the explanations given by the Members of Government in their places on the floor of this House, fully satisfy this House that the substitution of what is called the amended Report of the Auditor General for his original Report in 1843, then laid before the House, and to the publication of it in the revised Journal of that year, for such original Report—were not only unauthorized by, but unknown to the Government.

Mr Johnson then moved the following amendment:—

Resolved, That while this House entirely exonerates the Provincial Government from any participation in the publication of the (so called) amended sheets referred to in the report of the Committee of Public Accounts, this House must express surprise and regret that the Government did not think it necessary to reply to the Communication of the Auditor General on this subject of date 29th of June last, by expressly forbidding any alteration of the Public Records on this House.

After about four hours discussion the question was taken on the amendment, when the House divided, yeas 6; nays 28.—Messrs Kerr, Johnson, English, Botsford, Connell, and McPhelim, constituting the minority.

The original resolution was then put, and sustained by the following division:—

Yeas—Hon Messrs Partelow, Street, Wilmot, Gray, Montgomery, and Hayward, and Messrs Eyan Read, Lewis, Landry, Williston, Gordon, Rice, Stiles, Taylor, Macpherson, Jordan, McLeod, Parady, Hatheway, Robinson, Earle, Thompson, Boyd, Porter, Smith, Harding—27.

Nays—Messrs Kerr, Johnson, English, Botsford, Connell, McPhelim—6

It being one o'clock, and the House having been sitting since nine, they adjourned an hour for lunch. On resuming at two o'clock the House went in Committee on Supply, and got through with several important grants, among them the following:

To the adjutant General—£260  
Wharf at Campbellton—£200  
Hospital at the Penitentiary—£750.

Dredging machine for the entrance to the Bay of Fundy \$5,000.

Commissioners of Light Houses for contingent expenses £1,000.

Tracadie Leper's Hospital £1,000.

Breakwater at Irishtown, Lancaster, St. John £100.

The Committee then rose, and when the House resumed Mr Kerr moved a series of resolutions, calling upon the Government to abolish the Audit office, and come down to the House with some scheme to supply its place; also calling upon the Government to submit to the House estimates of expenditure annually at the opening of the session. The former passed without a dissentient voice, but some members fancied the saw *Initiation* in the clause about the estimates, and off they went in another long debate, which was still going on when the moment arrived for closing my letter for the mail. I will advise you of the result by telegraph.

April 27.

Yesterday Mr Williston moved that the House go in Committee of the whole on a bill to authorize the Deputy Surveyors to sell Timber berths at auction in their respective Counties, instead of the sales taking place at the Crown Land Office, as at present. The Hon. Provincial Secretary said it was too late in the session, and they had already too much important business to get through with, to allow them to go into Committee and discuss the merits of this bill; he therefore moved the previous question.—This prevented all discussion, and when the Speaker put the question in the manner prescribed, "That this question be now put?" the House divided—Yeas 11; Nays, 18

The House then went in Committee on Supply, and disposed of a large number of grants. Dr Gordon moved for a grant of £200 to aid the construction of a Telegraph line from Miramichi to Bathurst (a grant of £200 having previously passed in aid of that part of the line lying between Bathurst and Dalhousie), which was lost. Dr Gordon afterwards moved a re-consideration, which was carried, and the resolution passed, and after several attempts to fill up the blank it was filled up with £110. Hon. Provincial Secretary moved for a grant of £3,000 to be placed in the hands of the Government for the erection of buildings for the Deputy Treasurers, and other public officers, at the out-ports. The elicited considerable discussion, and was finally sustained.—Captain Robinson moved for a grant of £2,000 for the improvement of Dark Harbour, Grand Manan, which was discussed and lost, by a division of 16 to 14

Mr Kerr moved a resolution that no warrants should issue to commissioners or supervisors of Public works (roads, bridges, &c) until the work be complete and vouchers to that effect and that the contractors had been paid were produced, and that all warrants before they were issued should be countersigned by the Auditor General, or the officer in charge of the Accounts, and numbered and entered. A discussion followed, and as most of the members who spoke opposed the first part of the resolution, Mr Kerr consented to strike it out; the latter part of the resolution was then passed without division.

Mr Kerr then moved another resolution to the effect that the Treasurer can perform the duties now performed by the Receiver General, and that the offices of Auditor General and Receiver General should be abolished, and further that if the Government finds it necessary to compensate the officers the House will bear them out in it. Mr Cutler moved an amendment to the effect that the Auditor General's office should be abolished, and that the Government should abolish it at once. He also read another resolution he announced his intention of moving, to the effect that the Receiver General's office should be abolished. The amendment was sustained.—Yeas, 21; Nays, 14.

Mr Cutler then moved his second resolution, that the Receiver General's office be abolished, to which the Attorney General moved "on a fair and equitable compensation being made him." Mr Needham rose and commenced speaking in favor of the addition; when Mr Cutler, by consent of the House, withdrew his resolution. The House then, at half-past five o'clock, went in Committee on Supply.

News of the Week.

UNITED STATES.

THE WRECK OF THE POWHATAN.—The Powhatan sailed from Havre on the 1st of March last, destined from New-York, having on board 250 passengers. She is an old ship of about 600 tons burden, and could not easily be managed in such a storm as that in which she was lost. She had been running before the gale under bare poles for hours, on Saturday, and towards evening of that day was discovered about ten miles below Barreget inlet, among the shoals, where she remained until Sunday evening at 5 o'clock, when she went to pieces. Those on board were seen, during Saturday and Sunday, holding on to the bulwarks.

No aid could be rendered to them, and they could not leave the ship without meeting with certain death. The sea washed over them constantly; and on Sunday, at 4 P. M., toward 100 of them were washed off from the ship—a portion of them being thrown lifeless and mangled upon the beach by the fury of the waves. These ran fearfully high, and a boat could not have lived in it five minutes.

Capt. Jennings, the wreck master, kept watch of her from Sunday morning. He despatched four men to the Government House, a distance of six miles, for a life car and other apparatus for wrecking purposes, and he remained alone to watch the wreck. The storm was raging during that time fearfully. Capt. Jennings' men started from the Government House on Sunday with a life car and mortar, but some of them becoming completely exhausted, they

were compelled to return. On Monday morning they succeeded in reaching the scene of desolation with the apparatus, but it was too late to render any assistance.

At the time the waves swept the one hundred persons overboard, Capt. Meyers on board of the Powhatan, spoke with a loud voice from the deck, through his speaking trumpet, beseeching Capt. Jennings to save some of those who might be landed on the beach; but those were dead who came ashore, which fact Capt. Jennings communicated to Capt. Meyers.—Not a survivor could be found among them. The violence of the waves, the blows which they had received by being thrown against the ship, and the force with which they were tossed upon the beach, had killed all of them and shockingly mangled many of the bodies.

At 7 o'clock an immense wave—not less than 100 feet high—struck the wreck. The masts fell and the ship crumbled before it. Cries of despair were distinctly heard above the roaring winds and dashing waters, and all was over.—Not one person was saved alive from the wreck, and scarcely a vestige of the ship remained. The waves bore on their surface bodies, bales, boxes, and fragments of the ship. During the night, the storm increased, and in the morning the beach was found to be strewn with the bodies of the lost fragments of the ill-fated ship, casks and boxes, and other baggage of the passengers. On Monday morning Capt. Jennings and those who had arrived from the Government House with the wrecking apparatus, employed themselves in collecting the bodies baggage, &c.

The search for bodies was continued during Monday. In an hour's time the bodies of about twenty women and children had been found. Only one man was found during the day. He was discovered upon the sand hills nearly fifty yards from the beach. It is supposed he reached the shore alive, and succeeded in getting out of the reach of the waves, but perished during the night. He was about 30 years of age, and well dressed. He held in his arms an infant, which had evidently perished after reaching the shore.

Twenty-two bodies were on Tuesday taken from the beach to the village of Manahawkin for interment. They were evidently Germans. There was one man and twenty-one children in the number. On Wednesday morning six other bodies arrived at the village from the beach. In the south-west corner of the Baptist burying ground graves were dug for the burial of the dead, and at the head of each grave a board, giving a description of the lost one interred there, was planted. These bodies lie close by where those lost years ago in the ship Auburn were interred.

THE LATE STORM.—The storm which has visited different portions of this country during the past week, prevailed in the City for several days with uncommon severity. All Friday night the snow came steadily down; but the warm earth swallowed it up as fast as it fell, and on Saturday morning scarcely a vestige of the prodigality of the clouds could be seen.—The wind, in the meantime, had settled in the northeast, and the snow—mingled occasionally with rain—continued almost without cessation through the day. The evening was tolerably calm; but about midnight the north-easter came again with great fury, bringing more and heavier clouds of rain, hail and snow. When the metropolis awoke, at a late hour on Sunday, it was only to gaze upon a boundless prospect of snow; on the ground; on the trees, all down their windward sides fringes of ermine; on the house-tops overhanging the eaves like fallen clouds; in the air, thicker than autumnal leaves, and falling with a steady persistence worthy the best days of January—all was snow.—Winter reincarnated and shaking his "frosty pow" in wrath at his brief expatriation, overwhelming the frigidities of timid Spring, with whirlwinds and snow tornadoes, and frost and ice. The holy Easter was such as the oldest inhabitant never saw before; it seemed to have changed places with Christmas, putting the Crucifixion before the Advent. The utter cheerlessness of the day truly typified its historically solemn character.—N. Y. Tribune.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

RAILWAY DEBENTURES.—The Provincial Treasurer has received from Messrs. Baring Brothers, London, the unsigned Railway Debentures and Coupons which will be required for the loan on the European and North American Railway. There are three thousand Debentures of £100 sterling, each Debenture having attached forty half yearly Coupons for the payment of the interest at the office of Messrs. Baring Brothers. The plates have been sent out by the direction of Mr Jackson, under whose superintendence, we believe, they have been got up; and are finished in the most beautiful manner. When they have been all properly signed and filled up by the respective parties they will represent the amount of £300,000 sterling, which sum becomes payable by the Province at the end of twenty years. We are happy to see that the arrangements are in active progress for carrying on the undertaking.—Courier.

THE COMMON STRUGGLE.—Great preparations are being made for the coming election.

We have already announced that J. P. Taylor, Esq., will be a candidate for Sunbury; Hon. Mr Fisher, a candidate for York; and Hon. Mr Brown for Charlotte; the Religious Intelligencer announces that Mr Burpee will be a candidate for the County of Sunbury; and the St. Andrews Standard announces Mr McAdam of St. Andrews; J. G. Stevens, Esq., of St. Stephen; and J. S. Wetmore, Esq., of St. George as candidates to represent Charlotte.—Several other new candidates will be in the field for Charlotte County, but their names are not given.—Morning Times.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

UNITED STATES.—The Fire in New York. By the fire in Broadway, on Tuesday night, it is now ascertained that thirteen lives were lost, and twenty one persons were wounded, many of the them seriously.

The disaster is attributed in part to the fall of a heavy safe from the upper story, crushing through the floors and burying the firemen in the ruins. Considerable agitation exists in the fire department in regard to the accident, and it is understood the members generally will pledge themselves to enter no building on fire where a safe is known to be higher up than the first story.—Boston Journal.

Resolves against the repeal of the fishing bounty, against the repeal of the duty on lumber, and against throwing open the coasting trade, admitting foreign built vessels to American register, &c., have passed both houses of the Maine Legislature.—Boston Transcript.

And yet we are asked to give up our fisheries. We wonder if there is an American in Maine who would give away his private property to his needy neighbour. Let us hold on to the fisheries until our neighbours come to their senses. We say this as a Free Trader—but not as a Free Trader with only one side to it. We refer particularly to the Fisheries. Russia wants Turkey, Jonathan wants our Fisheries.—Morning News.

Rumor Concerning Steamer "City of Glasgow."—The New York Journal of Commerce has received a communication from Messrs E. T. Richardson & Co, No. 7 Old Slip, that they are informed by a passenger on board the schooner Canton, from Jamaica, that on the 12th inst., near Castle Island, Bahamas, he saw a large three masted screw steamer, painted black outside, and bulwarks inside painted apparently yellow. Her yards were square, and she had no appearance of being in a disabled condition.

The schooner passed within two or three miles of the steamer, but no person could be seen on board of her. She appeared to be at anchor or aground. No person on board of the schooner was aware of the apprehended loss of the City of Glasgow; therefore she kept on her way. The steamer's sails were clewed up, and she was in a very unusual position. The above description corresponds with the City of Glasgow, and leads to a hope that it may prove to be her.—Boston Post.

The Daily Advertiser thinks there is not the slightest probability that the City of Glasgow would have deviated so widely from her course.

An American paper states that India rubber sleepers have been laid down on part of the New Jersey Central railroad, and that the result is that the carriages pass along with a springy elastic motion, without noise or jolting.

A second ship, the Eagle, has cleared at San Francisco for New York, loaded with a full cargo of goods, wares and merchandise, including over 1000 barrels of flour.

More than half a million of dollars, says the Journal of Commerce, was paid last year by the Life Insurance Companies doing business in the city of New York to the families or representatives of deceased members.

The average of deaths will call for an equal amount, every year so great is the number of insurances of this class. Of the above sum a very large proportion was paid to families who would have had little or no property without it.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—EMIGRATION.—We are happy to state that the Cholera has entirely disappeared among the passengers by the Blanche, and that 121 of them have come up to the city. There are 217 still at Partridge Island, who will come up to-day and tomorrow. The ship came into Port yesterday.—New Brunswick.

CANADA.—Mr Hinck's brother, we can now state with almost entire confidence, is to be, if he is not already, the new Bishop of Kingston; Lord Elgin asked his appointment of the British Ministry as a special favor to him.—Toronto Globe.

The Waterloo Tavern, lately occupied by Murphy, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night, supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

The Lieut. Governor has appointed Wednesday, the 17th of May next, to be set apart for general observance throughout the Province as a day for humiliation and prayer to God for the success of Great Britain in the coming contest with Russia.—B. N. American.