

True, the costume is an odd one, but of the greatest possible value at such a season as this.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1855

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 it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

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COUNTY BONAVENTURE.

To our Correspondent in this County, we are indebted for the following Local intelligence.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Secretary's Office, Quebec, Decr. 30, 1854.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor General to transmit to you an extra Gazette containing a copy of a Royal Proclamation with reference to the Patriotic Fund, and I request that you will give it all the publicity in your power within your jurisdiction, and take such steps as you may think fit for carrying out the object proposed therein. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant.

T. P. O. CHAUVEAU.

To the Mayor, 1st Division, Bonaventure.

The receipt of the above Circular, caused the following Public Notice to be issued by our Mayor.

Whereas Her most Gracious Majesty has, by Royal Proclamation, named a Commission for the purpose of collecting funds for the relief of the Widows and Orphans of those brave men who have fallen, and may hereafter fall, in the glorious struggle for liberty undertaken by England and France. And whereas by Circular of the Governor General of these Provinces, dated Quebec the 30th December last, I am directed to give the same due publicity, and take steps to carry out the objects proposed therein within my jurisdiction, I do hereby in compliance therewith, convene a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Municipality, to be held in the Court Hall, New Carlisle, on Thursday, the 18th January, instant, at noon, to take such action in the premises, as shall truly indicate the loyal and patriotic feelings which actuate Her Majesty's subjects, of either origin, in this Division of Bonaventure. And as the loyal and hearty benevolence of the public towards the fulfilment of the objects set forth in the said Royal Proclamation, cannot be too earnestly desired, a goodly attendance is requested at the said meeting.

WM. MACDONALD,

Mayor, 1st Division, Bonaventure.

12th January, 1855.

The Meeting accordingly took place on Thursday last, but the sitting of the Circuit Court at Carleton and other circumstances, caused it to be but thinly attended.

The Mayor having taken the chair, briefly alluded to the purport of the meeting, stating that he should not go into any details relative to the cause of Her Majesty's Proclamation, but leave other Gentlemen to expatiate thereupon more at length.

The Sheriff then moved the following resolution, which was seconded by councillor Secord Bebee.

"That this meeting consider it to be the duty of every loyal subject, to respond to the appeal made by Her Most Gracious Majesty, on behalf of the Widows and Orphans of all those who have fallen or may fall during the present war with Russia."

The Rev. Geo. Milne, M. A., then rose and addressed the meeting to the following effect.

Mr Mayor and Gentlemen,—I feel much pleasure in rising to propose the second Resolution. For, deeply as I deplore the cause which calls us together this day—averse as I am, and as every christian must be, to war, still I am aware that in this case the British Government has done all that could possibly be done to avert this worst of all scourges, but in vain.—This war you will observe, so far as we are concerned, is not one of conquest. England has but one end in view, the defence of Turkey against the arbitrary and tyrannical power of Russia. A nation which during the last two centuries, has been gradually extending her territory by the spoliation of her weaker neighbours, and unless we had interfered, conjointly with France, this colossal Power would ultimately trample under foot the civil as well as the religious liberties of all Europe. A more just or a more popular war was never undertaken by the Home Government—I say home Government—because we who have come out from the old Country, as it is called, still consider it our home, being the land of our birth—and though many of those whom I now address are not natives of any part of the United Kingdom, still we are all Englishmen, and are all alike interested in the result of this great and important contest. If

then our fellow countrymen are gallantly fighting our Battles. If thousands have already fallen, and numbers may yet fall in the defence of our common liberties—surely their Widows and Orphans have a just claim to our sympathy and commiseration. For you must bear in mind that, although such as are wounded in the service of their country are entitled to a pension, no such provision is made for the Widows and Orphans of the common soldiers, whose pay is not sufficient to admit of their economising any portion thereof. In contributing then to the Patriotic Fund, we not only prove our patriotism and our loyalty to our most Gracious Queen, but we are assisting a noble and christian cause—that of charity. Such appeals have ever been cheerfully and liberally responded to in this District, and I feel assured that in this instance, our Sovereign's Proclamation will not be a dead letter. I beg leave therefore to move the following Resolution.

"That this Meeting being duly sensible of the importance of the War undertaken by England and France, as regards the liberties, not only of Europe, but likewise of the whole civilized World—and duly appreciating the gallant and heroic conduct of their fellow countrymen, as well as of their valiant Allies, the French, in the Crimea—do most cordially and feelingly sympathise with the families of those whose lives are being sacrificed in this noble cause, and consider them entitled to the warm hearted and loyal benevolence of all true friends of Civil and Religious liberty."

This resolution was seconded by Philip Vibert who spoke as follows:

In rising to second the Resolution proposed by the Revd. Mr Milne, permit me Mr Mayor to make a few observations.

"England expects every man to do his duty," was the thrilling appeal of our immortal Nelson—and at this critical period we are called upon one and all to do likewise. This, Mr Mayor and Gentlemen, is no party or sectional meeting, convened for no local or private purposes, we form but a unit of a mighty gathering. Of millions who have, or will assemble to prove to the world that whatever may be our local differences they are all buried in oblivion, when our rights or our liberties are assailed by an enemy from without. This meeting, Gentlemen, has been convened by the Mayor of this Municipality, in obedience to a Circular he has received from His Excellency, the Governor General, in order to enable all loyal subjects of our Gracious Queen—all friends of civil and religious liberty—all christians and philanthropists, to contribute their mite to the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of the Widows and Orphans of those of our brave countrymen who have fallen, or may yet fall, in the defence of, or to avenge what Gentlemen?—Some imaginary grievance—some trifling dispute or national insult?—Nay!—but in the defence of, and to vindicate and uphold the liberties, not only of Europe but of the whole civilized world. For the real question at issue gentlemen, is not whether Turkey is to become a Russian Province—but, which shall prevail—universal freedom or universal slavery. This then, is a question in which we are all deeply interested. For I feel assured that neither you nor I are disposed to become Russian Serfs—to be subject to the arbitrary will of one man, who may without previous notice of any kind—without a trial—without you having the most distant idea of the crime for which you are accused, cause you at the dark hour of midnight, to be torn from the bosom of your family and sent to Siberia, there to end your days in abject slavery and misery.

But Mr Mayor, some may say why should we be called upon to contribute. The House of Assembly has voted £25,000 for that purpose, all of which comes out of our pockets. True and a princely gift it is, worthy of that Colony which is aptly designated as the brightest jewel in the British Diadem. But what, let me ask, has this to do with you or I. No portion of that amount was ever likely to have found its way to our pockets, and unless we give directly of our substance, we cannot be said to have contributed to this great National Fund. But Mr Mayor and Gentlemen, I would ask all those who would seek to excuse themselves on that plea, what is our position when compared to our countrymen throughout the United Kingdom—they have to bear the enormous expenses of the war: the Income Tax has been doubled, some of their noblest and best blood is being spilt, and still rich and poor, old and young—women—aye even children, vie with each other in this great, this noble work of charity! Shall we then, who are free from all the evils consequent upon this awful scourge War. Shall we I say, refuse to contribute our mite towards the maintenance of the Widows and Orphans of such of our brave fellow countrymen as have, or may yet spill their life's blood in so glorious, so noble a cause!—God forbid. Let all give freely according to their means—the widow's mite will be as acceptable as the rich man's gold!

To use the words of Sir John Pakington, in the House of Commons. "No language can express the debt of gratitude we owe to the British Army"—and I beg leave to add, the British Navy—for both branches of the Service, it must be remembered, are actually engaged in the siege of Sebastopol, and the former could do nothing without the hearty co-operation of the latter. In a word, Mr Mayor and Gentle-

men, the Englishmen of the present day have not degenerated—that term embraces all alike, English, Scotch, and Irish—the fields of Alma and Inkerman will compare with the noblest deeds of heroism that British History can boast. From my infancy, I have ever felt proud of the name of Englishman—but, I feel proud this day, at fifty years of age, that I am a Briton—because the chivalrous deeds of my fellow countrymen cast a bright halo around me, and proclaim to the world, that if the British Lion slumbered for a time, he has lost none of his former prowess, and when fairly roused can make the welkin ring, and stout hearts to quail before his awful roar.

But ere I conclude, Mr Mayor, permit me to pay my humble tribute of praise to our brave Allies, the French—a long and murderous war, in fact a series of wars, had caused a bad feeling to exist between the people of our two great Nations—now they are as one man, and sailors and soldiers, alike vie with each other not only in deeds of chivalry but also in brotherly kindness. Long may they continue so. United we can defy the world—and our neighbours across the border look with a very jealous eye on our union, for they well know that an insurmountable barrier thereby exists to their plans of aggrandisement and spoliation. The Americans may even league themselves with the Russian Bear—we fear not the result. For in such a case the serfs of the one, and the coloured slaves of the other, will ultimately rise in their might, and aid us to commutate the downfall and total extinction of slavery throughout the world.

It was then moved by Councillor McRae, and seconded by Councillor Bebee.

That in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, a committee be forthwith appointed to solicit contributions from all the inhabitants of this Municipality, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, now being raised throughout Her Majesty's Dominions, for the benefit of such Widows and Orphans.

Councillor Secord Bebee, moved. Seconded by Mr Mathew Caldwell:

That the Mayor, the Revds. Messrs. Geo. Milne, J. L. Allain, E. P. LaPointe, and Messrs. J. Gillies, S. Webee, Wm. Carter, Wm. McPherson, Wm. Phelan, John McRae, B. McGie, Danl. Ross, John Hardy, Michael Sullivan, Martin Sheppard, John Wilkie, Richard Smith, H. Thornton, Wm. Astettes, D. LeBoutillier, — Gibant, J. Arbour, J. Gillies, N. Cavanagh, and A. Povrier, with power to add to their number, do compose the said Committee, and that they be requested to use their utmost energy in endeavouring to collect such a sum as shall demonstrate the loyal and patriotic sentiments of all classes and denominations of Her Majesty's subjects in this Division of Bonaventure, and that a subscription list be opened forthwith, headed as follows:

We, the Inhabitants of the First Municipal Division of Bonaventure, in the District of Gaspé, C. E., being desirous of testifying our devoted Loyalty to our most Gracious Queen, and our warm and patriotic sympathy on behalf of the Widows and Orphans of those brave men who have fallen, or may hereafter fall, in the noble struggle for civil and religious liberty, undertaken by England and France, and being desirous of contributing our mite to the Patriotic Fund of Great Britain, now being raised for the benefit of such Widows and Orphans, do hereby agree to pay to Messrs. C. Robin & Co. or LeBoutillier Brothers, appointed by this Meeting as joint Treasurers, the sums set opposite our respective names, as a contribution to such Patriotic Fund.

Councillor Bebee also moved, "That the Municipal Corporation of this Division, be requested to head the subscription list to the Patriotic Fund." Which was seconded by Councillor McRae.

The Sheriff having been requested to take the Chair which had been vacated by Mr Macdonald: The Revd. Geo. Milne, M. A., moved—"That the thanks of this Meeting are due to the Mayor for his conduct in the Chair."

Which being duly seconded by Philip Vibert, was carried by acclamation.

Three cheers, and one cheer more, were then given for the Queen.

Three cheers for His Majesty Louis Napoleon. And three cheers for our united Naval and Military Forces engaged in the Crimea and Black Sea.

New Carlisle, January 24, 1855.

LEGISLATURE PROCEEDINGS.

THE Agricultural Reports, Grand Jury Presentments, proceedings of public meetings, &c., have occupied so large a portion of our columns of late, that we have had but little time and space to devote to Legislature matters.

As we have nearly got through our pile of manuscripts, we shall hereafter be enabled to pay more attention to the proceedings of our Legislature, which is daily becoming more interesting.

By the mail on Wednesday, we received a copy of "A Bill to regulate the Election of members to serve in the General Assembly," introduced by the Attorney General we presume, as a government measure. We have given it a hasty perusal, and are pleased with its details. Our correspondent gives a synopsis of this important bill, which should it become law as we

anticipate it will, must give great satisfaction to the public.

We refer our readers to our correspondent's letter for a general summary of the Legislature news. By it they will perceive the members of the new government have not been idle during the short period they have held office.—They have already introduced several important measures, and merely wait the sanction of the House, to take upon themselves the responsibility of introducing others.

Fredericton, 10th February, 1855.

Dear Pierce.—During the past week besides the ordinary routine business, the Provincial Secretary laid before the House his financial statement and estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, thus fulfilling the requirements of a Resolution of the last House. This is the first instance of such a thing being done by our Government, and while its importance is diminished by the absence of the responsible system, which gives Government the controul of expenditure, it is a move in the right direction, and one which will do more to secure that result than violent agitation or angry debating. He stated that although not required by the resolution, the Government were yet prepared to submit a Revenue Bill, if the House desired it. Having moved a resolution that the Government submit this Bill, all approved of the course taken by the Government as calculated to inform the House, diminish its labor, and save time, while all admitted that the Government could not be held responsible under the present system, and the resolutions passed unanimously. A motion was made to publish debates in French—committee appointed, who report in favor of a synopsis as the full debates would cost a large sum, and could not be published in any reasonable time. The report was not adopted. Grant of £5,000 currency to the Patriotic Fund, after debate, passed unanimously by both branches, and the cash is now on its way to the Colonial Office. Report on the College laid before the House, 1600 copies ordered to be printed. This report goes beyond the letter of the commission, and takes up the whole educational system, proposing to make the system one from parish schools up to college. Whether the scheme will be approved of or can be carried out, is uncertain, but the report will be circulated and the country determine upon it. It has come from good hands—Mr Ryeison, of Canada, and Mr Dawson, of Nova Scotia being on the commission, yet it may not suit New Brunswick: of course I offer no opinion until I have time and opportunity to examine. The Election Bill was brought in yesterday, and I suppose you will get a copy by mail. The principles are—extension of franchise to rate payers on personal property or income of (I believe) £100, registration by the assessment list, revised by three revisers unanimously, elected for each parish, who are bound to post up lists, give notice, meet and bear evidence if any names are sought to be added or struck off, return lists to Clerk of the Peace; Sheriff to make lists from those striking off names of those assessed in more than one parish from all but the parish where they reside, and nonresidents, to be put on the shire town list, except when they give notice to the Sheriff that they desire to vote in a particular parish. The Sheriff to send annually to each Town Clerk the copy of his parish list, and in case of election to furnish the officer appointed to take the polls with a copy for such purpose. There will thus be two copies in the parish, when an election takes place, either to be used in case of the other being lost, a provision to be also made, to meet a case like that of Gloucester, where no officer attends to take the poll. The other great principle of ballot is made as simple as possible, and the whole bill will meet the approbation of those who wish these changes—yet three may be those who profess to be in favor of a popular measure who would seek to kill it by kindness; many who desire universal suffrage may aid in preventing this progressive measure by over zeal, and thus a combination of the non-progressive and over-zealous be found voting together for an extreme liberality.—There are, however, a sufficient number of reasonable men who will support the bill and the country it is hoped, will have an opportunity of exercising their franchise without fear of offending friend or creditor. Should this bill pass, the term "free and independent electors" will be no fiction, and who ever may suffer in the first instance, the honest politician will ultimately prevail, and the real opinion of the country on general politics be fairly reflected in the assembly.

When the Revenue Bill comes forward, it will probably cause some difference of opinion, as it has frequently taken weeks to discuss it on former occasions. The expected decrease in imports, the remission of duties under the late treaty, and abolition of duty on flour, pork and molasses, will greatly diminish next year's Revenue, and while the latter calls for a reduction of duty on Agricultural Implements, &c. (if it could be effected) there should be no duty on articles of this nature; yet a revenue must be raised to meet the requirements of the country, and it is expected that the Legislature will seek to raise this in the best manner to relieve the Agriculturalist and operatives, the country will not unreasonably call for the same reduction in Tariff as if the commercial prosperity of last year had continued. The necessity of Revenue will be admitted—that it must be raised chiefly by import duties is evident, and that small importations require a higher tariff to produce the amount is arithmetically true but a smaller revenue than last year's must be made to suit our expenditure, as this is necessary for the relief of trade and that this should be raised by levying the duties in a different manner, experience has clearly shown.—It is reported that the 20 and 30 per cent duty will be reduced to 15 per cent, and some other changes made, but whether the absurd scheme of false protection to the mechanics of St. John will be perpetuated, and the whole country made to suffer, is yet to be seen: I incline to think it will not.

A bill may perhaps be brought in to repeal the export duty on lumber by some member, but while the general opinion is that under ordinary circumstances this would pass, the necessities of the case at present forbids its adoption—there is much to be said on both sides. As an export duty in fact it is commercially unsound in principle, yet as another name for stumpage, it might be defended. The relief given by its repeal would be rather to the exporter than the manufacturer in the first instance, and perhaps if the amount required to be made up by extra mileage, it would be no relief to trade, because it would cost more to collect and expose the refuse lumber and that consumed in the country, to a tax which it is relieved from by the duty being confined to lumber exported; then again the large supplies of logs, &c. now on hand if relieved from the export duty, would of course be a great boon to the holder, from which the manufacturer who had sold would receive no benefit, while the country would lose a revenue not at present to be easily