

made up or spared. There are also arguments on the other side, such as the impropriety of taxing the man who has bought and paid for his land by imposing an export duty on what it produces thereby diminishing at once his market and his profits.—Were this case to stand alone, it could not be defended on any sound commercial principle. Another argument is—that the American lumber coming down the St. John and shipped to the States, goes on duty free under the Treaty, while that cut on our territory pays export duty, but this is met by the fact, that the American stumpage is 2 or 3 dollars per ton while ours is merely nominal. I do not admit the latter argument to be correct, because if we get the article cheaper, there can be no reason why we should not encourage the manufacture and export to a market where we can so advantageously compete. The real state of the case appears to be that admitting the policy of repealing the duty when we are in a position to afford it, it cannot now be done without embarrassing trade, by large increase in the import duties or greatly diminishing that revenue which is absolutely required for the ordinary services, roads, education, &c. of the Province.—Our last year's revenue was more than we should require, but the same tariff would not produce more than half that sum during the next year.

FIDES.

We are indebted to the St. John Courier for the following important information relative to the Financial state of the Province, which is anything but satisfactory. Bad as it is, however, it is but right that we should know exactly how we stand in this matter, which we have never known before, correctly, that we may be prepared to meet the difficulty, and provide for our liabilities. If these figures prove correct, it is plainly manifest that there has been gross neglect on the part of the late Government, and unwarrantable extravagance in the Legislature, to leave us in such a position, after possessing for a number of years, an overflowing treasury.

We hope soon to see the House yield into the hands of the Government, the initiatory privilege, when this is done, a more wholesome system of disposing of the public revenues may be anticipated, but while the present method is pursued, we may continue to expect a repetition of the old story of extravagance so long pursued by our rulers.

The Editor of the Courier says:

"On Wednesday the Provincial Secretary laid on the table a statement of the Financial condition of the Province, and also the Estimates for the coming year. The former document fully confirms the intimation we gave a few weeks since respecting the unsatisfactory state of our public finances. The gross liabilities of the Province are £242,227, and the gross amount of the assets of all kinds are but £201,836, leaving a balance in figures, of £40,391 against the Province. But a large amount of these assets were stated to be almost valueless, and the real debt, therefore, exceeds £100,000! This is a startling fact, and one for which the people of this Province were in no respect prepared after the statement made last year by the Government, that they were 'virtually out of debt.'"

This, however, is not all. The Province is bound by law to issue debentures for £20,000 sterling, to the Quebec and St. Andrews Railroad Company, and also £236,000 sterling to the European and North American Railway Company, as the works of these Companies progress.

The estimates submitted by the Government for the coming year, amount to £171,258; and the estimated income, based on the present tariff, is set down at £161,600—leaving an increasing deficiency of £10,098.

Here then is our position, and it will require all the care, and judgment, and knowledge of the Government and Legislature, for several years, to place the province in easy circumstances. It is well however, that we know the worst, and one benefit which will arise out of so great an evil, will be a new financial system.—The Government not only lead the way to this, by bringing down estimates, but they offered to take the responsibility of a Tariff, if the Assembly would consent. This offer was received with the best feeling by all parties; some objected only because they thought the government should not needlessly embarrass themselves; but all concurred at last, and a Resolution, expressing this as the opinion of the House, was moved by Mr Harding, and passed.

We do trust, after these decided movements in the right direction, that the friends of the Government, and the public generally, will be satisfied that they are sincerely desirous and determined to go on in the path of improvement, and will extend to them merited support.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

THE efforts in this good cause still progresses.

A meeting was held at Truro, Nova Scotia, on the 27th January, when the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved,—That while the best blood of England flows in torrents on the hill sides of the Crimea, in defence of liberty and civilization, we would be unjust to ourselves, if we failed to assure our brethren beyond the Atlantic, that in their fearful struggle they have our sincerest sympathy. That in every act of heroic endurance performed by their Soldiers and Sailors, our hearts beat like theirs, with emotions of generous pride, that the flag of old England is still borne by a race no degenerate sons of a brave ancestry.

"Resolved,—that the power and glory of the parent State, so dearly purchased by the lives and treasures of its people, are our guaran-

tee against injury or oppression, and while the whole burden of sustaining the honor of the British name, is thrown upon the inhabitants of the Mother Country, we safe under the imperial flag, enjoy in peace all the blessings which a plentiful harvest and thriving commerce can bestow on an industrious and contented people.

"Resolved,—That under these circumstances, we feel it a duty, and a privilege, to contribute towards a fund for alleviating the distress of those who, made widows or orphans by the war, are, in the loss of their relations, more than common sharers in the public suffering.

"A subscription list was opened by liberal contributions from parties present, and a committee appointed to take charge of the same. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and three hearty cheers for the Queen, the meeting adjourned."

Union Fire Engine Company at Halifax have subscribed the handsome sum of £112.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

At a Public Meeting, held at the Court House, Bathurst, on Wednesday the 14th inst., pursuant to Requisition, for the purpose of raising contributions throughout this County to the Patriotic Fund. Thomas H. Carman, Esq., High Sheriff, in the chair, and Mr Christopher McManus being appointed to act as Secretary, the following resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously.

Proposed by Theophilus DesBrisay, Esq. Seconded by Joseph Read, Esq.

Resolved—That this meeting views with unmixed feelings of pride, the noble and disinterested exertions of our mother country, as displayed in the present war, in which, in conjunction with her powerful Ally, she is engaged in the defence of the weak against the strong, and in the support of civilization, liberty, and justice, against barbarism, tyranny and oppression.

Proposed by William Napier, Esq. Seconded by Samuel L. Bishop, Esq.

Resolved—That it is the duty of every loyal British subject in these Provinces, to sympathize with those whom the fortune of war has deprived of their natural protectors, and to assist the generous efforts made by all classes in the British Empire, and recommended by loyalty itself, towards the support of those who have been thus bereaved and left destitute.

Proposed by Hugh A. Caie, Esq. Seconded by John Chambers, Esq.

Resolved—That to afford the inhabitants in the various localities of the County an opportunity of contributing to the Patriotic Fund, the following committees be appointed, with power to add to their number, with authority to receive and transmit donations to the Treasurer of the meeting.—For Bathurst—Messrs Read, DesBrisay, Bishop, McKenna, McAlister, McManus, Sention, and John Waterson. For Buresford—Messrs Chambers, Wilson, and Molloy. For New Bandon—Messrs Osis, Southwood, Ritchie, Poley, and Terrie. For Shipigan—Messrs Wooler, Dunares, Doran, and Alexander. For Saumarez—Messrs Young, Walsh, Davidson, Sewell, Rivers and Harding. For Caraqueet—Messrs Blackhall, Taylor, McIntosh, Robert Young, and Aschier.

Proposed by Mr John M'Alister, and seconded by Mr William Waterson.

Resolved—That William Napier, Esq., act as Secretary and Treasurer, to receive the several contributions and transmit the same to the Hon. Provincial Secretary, with the names of all subscribers to the extent of five shillings and upwards.

Proposed by William Molloy, Esq. Seconded by John M'Kenna, Esq.

Resolved—That this meeting rejoices that other means are being taken by the inhabitants of Bathurst, to promote the same good cause, and hope that their efforts to-morrow evening, will be supported by the public, and crowned with success.

Proposed by William Napier, Esq. Seconded by Mr John M'Alister.

Resolved—That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Miramichi Gleaner*.

T. H. CARMAN, Chairman.

On motion of John M'Kenna, Esq., that the Sheriff do leave the chair and Joseph Read, Esq., be called thereto. The thanks of the Meeting were then voted to the Sheriff for the efficient and courteous manner in which he performed his duties as chairman of the meeting.

A Subscription List was then opened, and in a short time the handsome sum of Forty-one Pounds Ten Shillings was subscribed. During the course of the proceedings, the meeting was eloquently addressed by Messrs DesBrisay, Read, Napier, Rev. Mr Murray, Mr Molloy and others.

Previous to separating, the Meeting gave three hearty cheers for the Queen; three for the Army and Navy and three for the Governor of the Province.

CHR. M'MANUS, Secretary.
Dalhousie, 14th February, 1855.

PUBLIC MEETING.

At an influential and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of the County of Northumberland, held at the Court House, in Newcastle, in the said County, on Tuesday, the 13th instant, called in pursuance of a Requisition addressed to the High Sheriff of the said County, for the purpose of taking into consideration the most effectual method of raising contributions to the Patriotic Fund.

WM. A. BLACK, Esq. High Sheriff, was called to the Chair, and EDWARD WILLISTON, Esq. requested to act as Secretary.

Resolved—That Allan A. Davidson, Peter

Mitchell, and William Wilkinson, Esqrs. be appointed a committee to prepare Resolutions on the subject, to be submitted to this meeting.

The Committee having submitted a series of Resolutions—on motion of John Macdougall, Esq. seconded by Peter Mitchell, Esq.

Resolved, unanimously, That this meeting share with their fellow subjects in the feelings of gratification and pride which the names of the glorious victories of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann, achieved in combination with our distinguished ally, cannot fail to inspire every son of Britain, and in the feelings of sympathy so universally expressed throughout the empire, for the widows and orphans of the brave men who fell on those renowned fields.

On motion of John T. Williston, Esq. seconded by Allan A. Davidson, Esq.

Resolved, unanimously, That while the parent state is putting forth her great energies in the prosecution of an extensive war, to promote the liberties of the world, we, living in this part of the empire, enjoying the blessings of the most profound peace, while we tender our sympathies, consider it our bounden duty, to render by material aid, all the assistance our limited resources permit, towards relieving the necessities of the widows and orphans of the gallant soldiers and sailors who have fallen in so glorious a cause.

On motion of John M. Johnson, Esq. seconded by Mr. Daniel Witherall:

Resolved, unanimously, That Committees be appointed throughout the different districts of the County, for the purpose of raising contributions to the Patriotic Fund; which committees make return to the Sheriff on or before the 15th day of March next, of such amounts as they collect, to be by him immediately forwarded, together with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Her Majesty's Commissioner for this purpose.

On motion of Mr. Robinson Crocker, seconded by Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.

Resolved, unanimously, That the following Gentlemen act as the Committee to carry out the foregoing Resolutions.

For Newcastle—William A. Black, Edward Williston, Richard Hutchison, Alexander Morrison, William Russell.

For Chatham—John M. Johnson, J. E. C. Carmichael, Martin Cranney, Robinson Crocker, Alexander Fraser, (Black Brook.)

For Nelson—George Burchill, Wm. Parker, Robert Jardine.

For Northesk—Michael McKendrick, Edward Whitney, Edward Rogers, Jun.

For Blackville—Wm. O'Brien, Alex. McLaggan, Thomas W. Underhill.

For Blissfield—John DeCantillon, Hiram Freeze.

For Ludlow—Wm. McKay, Abel Pond.

For Alnwick—Alexander Davidson, George E. Letson, Roderick McLeod.

For Hardwicke—Robert Noble, Benjamin Williston, Thomas Ullock.

For Glenelg—George Johnston, Murdoch Cameron, Wm. Dickens.

Resolved, that the Secretary have the foregoing proceedings published in the next *Gleaner* and that he cause a sufficient number of copies of the same to be struck off as a heading of a subscription paper, and forward one to each member of the Committee, with a request that they would circulate the same, and do all in their power to carry out the object, and forward the contributions to the Sheriff, by or before the time named in the above Resolution.

W. A. BLACK, Chairman.

The Sheriff having left the Chair, and John M. Johnson, Esq., having been called thereto. Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Sheriff for his able, dignified, and impartial conduct in the Chair.

EDWARD WILLISTON, Chairman.

THE TEA PARTY.

THE Tea Meeting given by the Ladies of the Temperance and Benevolent Union, took place in the Hall of the Sons of Temperance, which was kindly placed at their disposal, free of charge, on the evening of Tuesday last: the day was extremely fine, and the party, as we anticipated, was numerous attended. The amount realised, we understand, was £30, which will be forwarded to the Provincial Secretary on behalf of the Patriotic Fund.

During the day the tricolour of France, the Turkish flag, and the Union Jack of Britain floated from the roof of the building, and the interior was tastefully decorated with boughs, flags and banners, on the latter were inscribed the thrilling words Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann. The Tables were bountifully stored with all things necessary for a sumptuous repast. When we contemplated the provision made for satisfying the palates of the anticipated company, and the admirable arrangements entered into to meet all emergencies, a thought struck us, although we do not go the "whole figure" for *Womans' Rights*—that if the British Commissariat was managed by Ladies, we should not hear so many doleful stories as we do, of the short comings and want of arrangements, in the victualling department of the army at the seat of war.

Too much credit cannot be given to the Ladies of the society for conceiving and carrying out to so successful an issue, this praiseworthy object; and we are pleased, for their sakes, to hear that the evening's entertainment gave universal satisfaction. Thanks are also due the gentlemen who so kindly assisted them in fitting up the hall and performing other useful offices, indispensable on such occasions.

We had written thus far when a Correspondent kindly handed us the following article, as we were not present to take notes.

"The Ladies' of the Temperance and Benevolent Union, gave a splendid *Soiree*, in the Hall of the Sons of Temperance, Chatham, on the evening of Tuesday last, for the purpose of enabling the Society, to contribute to the Patriotic Fund.

"The Entertainment was decidedly one of the best we had ever witnessed! Every thing that taste could devise or skill accomplish, was done to render the occasion one of the most charming of its kind.

"The spacious Hall was brilliantly lighted and beautifully decorated. Thirteen Tables—presided over by two ladies each—were loaded with the choicest dainties, and ornamented with the gayest appendages.

"Soon as the physical part of the feast had terminated, the feast of reason and the flow of soul commenced. Speeches replete with eloquence and breathing loyalty throughout, were delivered by the Rev. John McCurdy, the Rev. Mr. Snowball, the Rev. William Stewart, Peter Mitchell, Esq., and others and during the intervals between the speeches the Brass Band discoursed its charming music.

"Three cheers for our beloved Queen, three cheers for the British, and three for the French forces in the Crimea, three cheers and one more for the Ladies of the Temperance and Benevolent Union, and three for the Band, having been given with hearty good will, the happy throng began reluctantly to retire from the Hall. The sum realized for the Patriotic Fund is no less than *Thirty Pounds*. Well done Ladies!

"The Ladies Temperance and Benevolent Union, numbering now we believe from 39 to 43 members, has been in existence some four or five years; during these years it has been gradually increasing in numbers, and successfully—though silently—prosecuting the benevolent objects for which it was formed.

"Their's is emphatically a labor of love, for many a widow's heart have they made to rejoice, and many an orphan, has been clothed by their bounty, unknown to any save the Parties benefited. Nor perhaps has the influence of these ladies, in the way of checking *Intemperance* been less successful, than their efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the widows and the orphans. Yet owing to its unostentatious mode of operation, little has been heard of this Benevolent and Temperance Society, altho' prosecuting its good work in our very midst.

"The custom among our brave countrymen in the Crimea they say, is this—each camp chooses nightly one of its inmates, who reads aloud while all the others listen attentively, and it is asserted by many who have witnessed this, that it is no unusual sight when the reader happens to come across the story of some effort having been made, to alleviate the sufferings of the bereaved, to find the heart giving expression to its fullness by tears of joy and gratitude which trickle down the cheeks of these brave men,

Ah! do not deem them weak;
For dauntless is the Soldier's heart,
Though tears are on his cheek.

Now it has occurred to us, that if a person could be found qualified to prepare a correct sketch of the *Soiree* of Tuesday last, it would prove an excellent idea to forward this sketch, accompanied by a short narrative of the leading circumstances connected with it, for publication in the *London Illustrated News*.

"It is well known that the *Illustrated News* is seen and read in almost every British camp in the Crimea; and surely nothing could have a more powerful tendency to gladden the hearts, and nerve the arms of our heroes there, than to afford them an opportunity to realize a scene, whose object was purely that of procuring means to ameliorate the condition of the widows and orphans of their late companions in arms—thus proving to them, that in the remotest corners of the British dominion—not only their fellow men, but even women, warm-hearted as she ever is—leaply sympathize with them, and eagerly strive to ameliorate their sufferings.

Ladies think on this.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

We have been forwarded the following Notice of a Public Meeting to be held at Dalhousie, on behalf of the Patriotic Fund.

PATRIOTIC MEETING.

To John L. Barbarie, Esq. Sheriff of the County of Restigouche,

Sir—The undersigned request that you will call a Public Meeting to be held in the Court House, Dalhousie, for the purpose of adopting measures whereby the inhabitants of this County may contribute to the Patriotic Fund in aid of the Widows and Orphans of the British Soldiers who have fallen, or may yet fall, in the present war in the Crimea, against Russian despotism.

[Signed by 40 inhabitants of Dalhousie and Campbellton.]

In compliance with the above request, the High Sheriff has called a meeting, to be held in the Court House, on THURSDAY, 22nd February, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Dalhousie, February 15, 1855.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Our Correspondents must have a little patience with us. Their favours will meet with attention as soon as possible. If the writers would take a little more pains with their manuscripts, and endeavour to make them plain, it would save us a great deal of unnecessary labour, and prevent the compositors from making the blunders they do. If a large portion of the words are to be guessed at, errors must of necessity occur.

DEATHS.

At Chatham on Tuesday the 6th inst., after a long and trying illness, which he bore with Christian patience, and resignation, WILLIAM CHISHOLM; Merchant, in the 42nd year of his age. He leaves a wife and child, with a large circle of relatives and friends, to mourn their loss.