

At once the fire ceases, and a vast number of heads are seen to pop up from under the earth to the open air. The Russians held up to the French bottles and glasses, as if they invited them to drink each others' health.—The French reply by flourishing their tin cans; and then they pledge each other's health. The bearer of the flag of truce advances on horseback, stops at about 100 paces from our trenches, while the nearest French officer goes forward to receive the despatches. I yesterday witnessed a meeting of the kind. The parlementaire courteously took his glove from his right hand, and shook that of a captain of Chasseurs who had come out to meet him. So you see all the Russians are not the Cossacks they were taken for. The parlementaire retires, the white flag is pulled down, and the murderous din recommences as before.

During the night sharpshooters are thrown out in front of the trenches. They are generally selected from among the Voltigeurs, and as I have the honor to form part of the corps d'elite, I have had the pleasure of passing 12 hours of the night in a hole, having to struggle against cold, sleep, and projectiles. The labour of the trenches is nearly as painful as the guards, with this difference, that you have to pass 12 instead of 24 hours at it. At the entrance to the camp our men, instead of reposing themselves, are obliged to go 2½ leagues in search of a faggot of wood to cook their soup. In spite of all these fatigues I am very well in health, and enjoy all the comforts which the solicitude of the Emperor has provided us with. Owing to him our table is furnished abundantly, nay, sumptuously. What think you of Bordeaux wine, salmon, herrings, cigars, sugar, coffee, together with the haricots de rigueur, and potatoes at 1 f the kilo.

From the Special Correspondent of the Daily News.

Balaklava, Jan. 10.

After three days of incessant rain Christmas set in with as hard a frost as any admirer of the good merrie season could have desired. A blue sky and a dazzling sun, the mountains silvered over with frost, frozen puddles and the mud as hard as the casement batteries of Sebastopol, and as dry as the style of a Russian bulletin, such was our share of Christmas, 1854, and that share we fully enjoyed. It is true that the ice broke, and the mud returned to its primitive state of nastiness the moment the sun rose high enough, and when the feet of the multitudes that daily move between the camps aided the effects produced by its rays. Still it was a great luxury. For many weeks we saw Balaklava dry, and the road to Kadikoi somewhat less like a cross between a river and a quagmire. If the troops were but housed, how fervent would our payers be for a month of hard, dry cold.

The frost benefited us in so far as the troops, even those in the Sebastopol front, could manage to cook their Christmas dinners, and rejoice in the rough comfort of a warm meal, which in honour of the day, consisted of fresh meat rations. Some cattle transports came in on the 23rd December, in the nick of time for distribution and slaughter on Christmas Eve. True the cattle were no great shakes, and Somersetshire farmers and London butchers, fresh from the glories of the living tallow show, next to Madame Tussaud's wax-works, would have looked with ineffable contempt on beastesses, weighing from 120 to 150 lbs. each. I am woefully ignorant of the art and mystery of carcass butchery, but I believe the weight I have quoted is about that of a middling calf in happy old England. Contemptible as the new arrivals might appear to Londoners, to our eyes they were lovely, and their hungry bellowing was extremely grateful to our hungry ears. The arrivals of various droves in the camps of their respective divisions was the signal for marked demonstrations of public joy.

For some time past our men have had to come down to Balaklava for their rations and it is a long time since ration-meat walked up to camp. So, thanks to the dryness of the weather, and the fineness of the day, the men in front had the luxury of dry clothes, and a warm fresh-meat dinner, with biscuit, soaked by the heavy rains of the preceding days. There is no denying that the paupers in the London workhouses fared better; and many a young officer on picket would gladly have exchanged his fare for that of the poorest cottager on his father's estate. But what of that? "War will have its way!" as I heard a heavy dragoon say to a wailing woman whose husband fell in the battle of Inkermann. War will have its way; if our troops had never fared worse than they did on Christmas-day, small would be the cause of our complaints. Of course I mean the troops generally. It is whispered that, owing to some unaccountable accident, some detachments had to fast, or feed only on the thoughts of "Home, sweet home," and "Auld lang syne."

Far better off than the troops in camp were the Sybarites of Balaklava. Mighty were the preparations they made for their Christmas dinners, and eager and hungry were the

crowds that rushed from shop to ship and from ship to shop, in search of turkeys and pork sausages. Cooks and stewards were bribed, and plumpuddings bespoken with devotedness of patriotism which will ever stand unparalleled in the annals of the nation's history. The masters of transports had brought up large quantities of poultry, and with that amiable disinterestedness which distinguishes the navy in this war, the fowls, ducks, geese, and turkeys, were sold to particular friends only, and at very low prices, such as £1 for a couple of turkeys—neither fair nor at, though they might be forty. In most cases the price of one lean bird was from £1 upwards. The Balaclavians furnished their larders as stuck up people do their houses, regardless of expense; and on the eve and day of Christmas such fires were blazing in the kitchens; such volumes of smoke from the chimneys; so active and eager were the crowds of brown Maltese, sallow Ionians, and purly filthy Bulgarians, who groaned over, spit at, and blasphemed over camp kettles that had a Russian, even the Grand Duke Michael himself, beheld the scene, his heart must have spurned the cruel idea that a nation so devoted to the observance of ancient customs could ever be regarded as a set of heretics, whom to slash, cut and maim, perforate, and generally make mincemeat of is the duty of every orthodox Christian of the orthodox Greek church!

Throughout the camps and all along the front pickets were reinforced, if not doubled, and the divisions were under arms all night, because it was supposed that our friends the Russians in Sebastopol or the army in Sebastopol or the army in the plain would take advantage of the supposed merry-makings in our camps, and by their presence in overpowering numbers enliven the festivities due to the season. Strange to say, although no report of our increased watchfulness could have reached Baktaki-Seria via the Daily News and St. Petersburg, the Russians did not come on, and as the morning was very cold, the troops turned in, very hungry, very sleepy, and generally wretched, to be woken by a sortie against the French camp, which sortie was, as usual, vigorously repulsed with loss to the Russians, but with no territorial advantages to our brave allies.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 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 as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pill and Ointment Establishment, 24, Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

### COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

MEETING AT DALHOUSIE.

According to notice, a Meeting was held to-day in the Court House, for the purpose of arranging measures for collecting contributions in aid of the *Patriotic Fund*.

The Meeting was opened by the High Sheriff in the Chair, and Mr John Bennet appointed to act as Secretary.

It was moved by Charles Simonds, Esq., and seconded by Mr John Phillips, that a committee of five persons be named to draw up Resolutions to be submitted to the meeting. In accordance therewith, Dugald Stewart, Esq., W. S. Smith, Esq., Charles Sinonds, Esq., Hon. Wm. Hamilton and Mr Geo. B. Cowper, were selected to compose the Committee.

The following Resolutions were brought forward by the Committee, read, and carried unanimously.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the inhabitants of this County, that the present war waged by the armies of Britain and her allies, against Russia on the Crimea, is a just and necessary war against aggressive despotism. Just in the object of defending the weak from the attack of the unscrupulous and powerful, and necessary as a stay to the encroachments of an Empire which seeks to obliterate the land marks of Nations, and to destroy the balance of power essential to the tranquility of Europe.

Resolved, That the Inhabitants of the County of Restigouche, deeply regretting the loss of the brave soldiers who have fallen on the Crimea, and sympathizing with the wives and children they have left, are desirous of contributing to the Fund in aid of the *Widows and Orphans of British Soldiers*, who have fallen or may hereafter fall in the present war against Russia.

Resolved, That a Subscription List be now opened, and that the following persons act as a committee for receiving further contributions in their several Parishes. For the Parish of Dalhousie, Mr Donald Stewart; Mr John Phillips; and Mr David Sadler. For the Parish of Coleborne, Mr Alex. Cook; Mr John McLaughlin, (Mountain Brook); and Mr John

Murphy, (New Mills.) For the Parish of Durham, John Ulican, Esq.; John McNair, Esq.; and Mr Paul Devereux. For the Parishes of Addington and Eldon, John McMillan, Esq.; Mr Arch. McKenzie; Mr George Moffat; Mr Charles Murray; John Duncan, Senr., Esq.; and Mr David Duncan, Junr.

Dugald Stewart, Esq., having been appointed Treasurer, to receive the contributions and transmit the same to the proper quarter; and thanks given to the Sheriff for his conduct in the chair, the meeting separated, with three cheers for the success of the Allied Armies.

JOHN BENNET, Secretary.

February 22, 1855.

### MEETING AT CAMPBELLTON.

Pursuant to Public Notice, a Meeting was held in the School House, at Campbellton, in the County of Restigouche, on Monday, the 12th February, to take into consideration the necessity of adopting measures for the purpose of contributing to the Patriotic Fund, and the Meeting being called to order, ADAM FERGUSON, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Mr DAVID DUNCAN, Jr., requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman having addressed the Meeting, explaining the object thereof, followed by several gentlemen in able addresses on the subject of the present war, the following resolutions were adopted:

Moved by Mr Allan Andrew, and seconded by Mr John Duncan:

Resolved, unanimously, That this Meeting desires to record its heartfelt sympathy for the Widows and Orphans of those brave Men who have fallen, nobly fighting in the cause of their Country, and the Liberties of Europe, against the ambitious and despotic power of the Czar of Russia.

Moved by Dr. Taylor, and seconded by John McMillan, Esq.:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to open subscription lists, and obtain contributions in aid of the Patriotic Fund, and when collected, to transmit the same to the Provincial Secretary.

Moved by Charles Murray, and seconded by Mr William Duncan:

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen be requested to act as said Committee, viz: John McMillan, Esq., and Messrs. Charles Murray, George Moffat, John Duncan, Senr., David Duncan, Junr., and Archibald McKenzie.

ADAM FERGUSON, Chairman.

The Chairman having vacated the Chair, and John McMillan, Esq., being called thereto, the thanks of the Meeting were unanimously given to Mr Ferguson for his conduct while presiding.

DAVID DUNCAN, Jr., Secretary.

Campbellton, 12th February, 1855.

### LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

We have devoted considerable space to the proceedings of the Legislature. The business of the Session is being rapidly disposed of, and we should not be surprised if it proves to be a very short one.

We have received a copy of the "Accounts of Public Revenue and Expenditure, with Estimates," brought in by the Provincial Secretary, from which we intended to take some extracts; but as we publish the speech of that Hon. Gentleman on introducing the Revenue Bill, who goes very fully into the Financial state of the Province, we have laid it aside for the present. Much credit is due to the present Government for giving us such an able and lucid exposé of our affairs.

On the 21st ult., the Hon. Provincial Secretary brought in the Revenue Bill, which we publish in another place. We are indebted to the New Brunswicker for the following summary of the speech of that gentleman on the occasion.

The House resolved itself into Committee of Ways and Means to raise a Revenue, Mr Taylor in the Chair.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary said, he was placed in a novel position, as this was the first time that the Executive Government of the Province had brought down the estimates of the year, by the consent of the House. Early in the Session the Government offered to do so if the House desired it, whereupon his hon. colleague (Mr Harding) had moved a resolution, calling upon them to do so, which was carried. Acting upon that resolution, he was now prepared to show what revenue would be required for the several services during the current year, and would submit a schedule of duties by which the Government proposed to raise that amount. He had no desire to say anything against the late Government, but unfortunately they had not set the whole facts connected with the financial state of the Province before the people, but had led them to believe the Province was out of debt, except the Savings Bank debt, when such was not the case. (The hon. member quoted from the Governor's speech of last year, where it is stated "the Province is virtually out of debt.") The late Government had fallen into this error by counting all the assets good, whereas it was well known that many of them would never be paid. The finances of the Province were in a state very like what they were a year ago, with the exception of the Savings Bank debt, which had been much increased, and now amounted to £24,000. It has been said that the sum of £40,000 lay in the Bank of New Brunswick, to the credit of the Province, when the present Government came into power.—The real amount then in that Bank was £38,000, but it must not be forgotten that many of the appropriations of last year remained unpaid, and since

that period there had been drawn from the Treasury by warrants in payment of last year's appropriations £52,000. Some argued that the Savings Bank debt ought not to be reckoned as one of the liabilities of the Province, because they could not pay it off even if they wanted to do so; but he considered it a debt of the worst description, as the money might all be demanded during a commercial crisis, when the Government had no funds in their hands to meet these demands, and could not fall seriously to embarrass the Government of the day. For instance, during the month of January last, there was drawn from the Savings Bank funds £1000 more than there was deposited during the same period. (The hon. Secretary then went through his financial statement, showing the debit and credit account of the Province.) The Government had issued for the St. Andrews and Woodstock Railway, debentures to the amount of £30,000 sterling; £24,000 of this sum was now paid, and the other £6,000 had been taken up by the Government, and were now in the Secretary's office. Among the assets placed to the credit of the Province, and carried forward year after year, was the St. John Bridge Company's Bonds, and a sum due by the hon. Joseph Cunard and B. Wolhaupter, Esq., although in each of those cases a resolution had passed the House instructing the Government not to call upon the parties for the respective amounts. Then there were the several sums due the Crown Land Office; they could not be all collected. During the past year, with all the vigilance of the late Surveyor General, out of £27,000 and over, only £1150 was collected. He did not think the prospect for the future much better. It had become a practice for five or six persons to join together and apply for parts of Mill Reserves for settlements. They purchased the lots, paid the first instalment, out of all the lumber, and then abandoned the purchase, perfectly satisfied with the operation. Next came the Provincial Railway Stock.—It was a delicate subject for him to touch upon; but probably he did not place so high a value upon the St. Andrews Railway Stock as did the hon. members from Charlotte, nor estimated the European and North American Railway Stock so highly as it was estimated by some hon. members from the eastern counties. He had made up the accounts as careful as possible and the result was, that if the Savings Bank debt was paid off, the Province would be nearly out of debt, or say, in round numbers, the Provincial debt is £95,000. The interest the Province would be called upon to pay during the current year, including the interest on Railway Debentures, would not exceed £13,000. (The hon. Secretary then went through the list of estimates, complimented Mr Partelow highly for his knowledge of figures, and apologized for his own inexperience.) According to these estimates, with the same scale of duties as exists under the old revenue law, there would be a deficiency during the year of £10,000. He had carefully examined the annual loss to the revenue by the Reciprocity Law, and by the repeal of certain duties at the short season. Supposing the imports the same as last year, and the exportations of lumber to the United States the same, the loss to the Revenue would amount to about £20,000 a year. The payment of the funded debt was a loss to the Province, and not a gain, as the Province was still in debt, and had to pay higher interests than was paid on the loans. According to the schedule of duties he was about to submit, even in the event of the importations of 1855 equalling those of 1854, the revenue would only exceed that of last year by about £5000; but this state of things was highly improbable, and in the estimate he was about to offer, he had made allowance for great reductions in the quantity of goods imported. In submitting these estimates, and this schedule, he knew it would not effect the standing of the Government, as the House, in Committee, could alter the scale item by item; but he begged leave to assure the House, that any departure from the proposed tariff that would seriously lower the proposed amount of revenue, must prove exceedingly embarrassing both to the country and the Government.—(The hon. member then read the estimates, and the Revenue Bill, which I send you herewith in print. I only received the latter just in time to mail them.—It is possible that the printed documents do not contain some explanations made by the Secretary.—Should I find that the case, I will give you some explanations by my notes.)

A desultory talk followed the hon. Secretary's exposé. Mr Boyd objected to the duty on brandy being raised, and the wine duties to remain as at present, also to the rise in duties on gin, which he said, could be got pretty good from the United States, and the additional duty would increase smuggling. It would be the same with tobacco.

Then he objected to the duties on brown sugar and coffee,—articles of common consumption, and considered it exceedingly foolish to impose a duty upon lemon syrup and cider, the revenue arising from both articles being only £43 15s. The talk (for it was nothing more) was carried on by Messrs. Ritchie, Harding, Tibbitts, Partelow, Cutler, Speaker, Hathway, Wilmot, McPhelim, and Steadman. Mr Wilmot defended the present (old) revenue bill from an attack by Mr Hathway, said it had worked well, and that he would be surprised if, at the end of four years, the proposed revenue would leave the country in equally prosperous circumstances. Mr Partelow, agreed with the main principles of the Bill, but asked for time, and the further consideration of the subject was postponed until Monday.

The following is an Abstract of Dutiable Goods imported into New Brunswick from 1st Dec. 1853 to 30th Nov. 1854.

St. John,	£122,408	3	2
Dalhousie,	3,274	16	5
Bathurst,	1,805	1	9
Caraquet,	281	7	0
Shippegan,	298	4	7
Miramicibi,	12,575	3	11½
Richibucto,	2,944	2	8
Buctouche. (not received),	0	0	0
Shediac,	405	14	8
Bay Verte,	50	19	1
Sackville,	743	7	2
Dorchester,	83	16	11
Monkton,	1,417	19	8
Hillsborough,	165	13	4
Harvey,	93	18	8
Fredericton,	5,303	16	6
Woodstock,	912	0	1½
Grand Falls,	204	0	5
Saint Andrews,	2,227	15	5
Saint Stephen,	2,384	10	4½
Saint George,	976	13	10
Campo Bello,	101	7	3½
Total,	£158,458	13	0