

HIGHLAND BALL.

This splendid affair came off on the evening of Wednesday last, in the large hall of Bowser's Hotel, and was the grandest entertainment which even the Highland Society of Miramichi ever patronised. Bowser seemed to outdo himself in catering for the appetites of the assembled, and the Committee to vie with each other in ministering to the comfort and enjoyment of the members and their numerous guests; these gentlemen seemed only to enjoy in causing others to do so, and judging from appearances their efforts were successful. The room was tastefully and beautifully decorated, the music was rich, grand, and melodious, the dancing exquisitely fascinating—to see the daughters and mothers too, of Miramichi, arrayed in splendid attire, moving through the merry mazes of the most intricate dance, would cause the imaginative mind to picture to itself that it had been transported to some of the classic places of which the poets love to sing, and to cause it to enquire if the sylph-like figures before it, were really those with whom it was familiar, and among whom the eye could recognise, a wife, mother, or ladie love. The different figures and dances had each their particular admirers, while the individual who pens these lines (perhaps as imperfectly as he dances) indulged in

"That which cheers the heart sae weel
The canny, canty Highland Reel"

to the particular destruction of a certain amount of music which encompassed a figure not to be surpassed even at the Highland Ball.

The utmost harmony and kind feeling prevailed throughout, and it was not till after the eastern horizon began to be gladdened by the dawn of morn, that the dancing stopped, the music ceased, and that the Highland Ball of '57 was numbered with the past.

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Weekly Dispatch.

PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

It is becoming thoroughly plain that Great Britain must, single-handed as she may be, enter the lists of war once more with Russia; and we do not fear to give it as our thorough conviction, the sooner it is done the better. We have a treaty with Persia which forbids the conquest of Herat by that Power. The treaty is made clumsy, it is alleged, and very probably the terms are as wretchedly defined as is the habit with our diplomatists; but still it is plainly for the purpose of keeping the Shah, the creature of the Czar, away from our Indian frontier. The presumption which would treat the occupation of Herat by a Russian force, Muscovite or vassal, as a matter of no consequence, involves an entire ignorance of all that our highest Indian authorities have long considered and openly declared. "Were Russia established at Herat," says Sir John McNeill, "rebellions would become more frequent and more formidable. The revenue would, in many places, be collected with difficulty, and in some the full amount would not be paid." An immensely increased expenditure for European troops would become the permanent bane of the dominion. Good-bye to the course of improvement which will consolidate our possession by making so many, many millions happy! We must coerce, fight and waste. At present we enjoy in India the same benefit that the United States so abundantly profit by the absence of any chance of hostility on the immediate frontier. It must be kept at all hazards.

Russia has a treaty with Persia, by which she has bound herself to lend the Shah help if he is attacked. In defending the right, Russia would be justified in keeping the treaty, a practice she is prone to only for her own convenience. But here she makes the treaty a lying pretext for denying rights to us. Under pretence of conscience and faith, she fights to extend her own power and cripple ours. Herat has fallen; Persia has accepted war with us by proclamation; the Russian troops are on the Araxes, and it is said that Prince Bariatsinski will move them against us as soon as our troops disembark at Bushire.

In that case England need not declare war.—The first Russian that points his musket against one of our men, the first secret help given to Persia that we can discover, is war. We are glad to believe that our fleet is ready. A few years ago and we might have reconstituted Poland. Is it utterly too late? Certainly we have made peace too soon; but we are, at least, as ready as Russia for another encounter. We can sweep the seas yet, and—but let despotism and ambition think of that!

We have said that we should welcome this struggle now. Yes, for we see that it must come, and that our faithless, unworthy, unscrupulous antagonist, can be resisted only by war. In peace, he is always fighting us and with constant success. Our statesmanship is no match for his incessant, conscienceless intrigue. We have a better chance hand to hand. "God defend the right!"

We perceive that the Belgian organ of Russia *Le Nord*, insists that it is necessary for the Czar to maintain peace with England. This we fully believe. But when we are told that he has endeavoured to prevent aggression by Per-

sia, we affirm, unhesitatingly, the opposite conviction. Russia fears consequences—nothing else.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

The contention between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Republic would appear to be drawing towards actual warfare, if we were not well aware of the immense amount of bravado used as a diplomatic trick and literally amounting to no more than what is most expressively if vulgarly called "trying it on." Sometimes, indeed, the only language on both sides goes too far. The "lie direct" is not provided even with the salvo of an "if;" and the parties must fight, not for any particular satisfaction of their own, but because they have gone too far to get off with the bystanders. In this difficulty the King of Prussia may find himself placed; for it is he whom honour will compel to strike the first blow should he pledge his word to carry out his cause in the face of too determined an opponent.

Frederick William, armed with that London protocol which evilly acknowledges his rights to the principality of the canton of Neuchatel, according to the treaty of Vienna, to a sovereignty which has never brought him or his father any help or revenue except a gold watch worth about £40, and which sovereignty, was, at its best, so bare a name that, if the Swiss cantons should declare war against him, Neuchatel must send its contingent, or its last man if needed, to oppose him, appealed to the Emperor Napoleon to bring the Swiss to an understanding. If they try and condemn his partisans for rebellion, they assert their own sovereignty and deny his, even should they pardon the offenders the next minute. Besides this, the Morning Post, which ought to be silent if not well informed on the subject, asserts that certain documents, written or signed by the King in moments of generous relaxation after dinner, and addressed to his followers, would be produced on the trial, thereby proving his own rash complicity in the disturbance. The Swiss take high ground. They will try the prisoners, and if they are found guilty sentence them. And they justify this upon the axiom that whatever claim of sovereignty the King of Prussia might of had, the people of Neuchatel in the year 1848 determined that he should enjoy it no longer; that every people has the inherent right to choose its own government, that the Neuchatelois have exercised the inalienable function, and that the Swiss republic at large will maintain the decision. We must bear this fully in mind, for the English government organs as well as the French are trying to let down the Swiss cause as a mere quarrel of etiquette, when it is really putting in issue, with the determination to live or die for it, of the most sacred political principle that ever man had to maintain. We need only say that it is the basis of the war of opinion now waging underhand, throughout Europe, and which, if it be not determined speedily on behalf of the peoples, and in their sense, will and ought to be openly fought out till the old idolatry of divine right is put down, entirely and for ever. If England is the England of 1688; if all the precedents and principles of our liberties are not to be revoked and betrayed, there can be no doubt about our course in this dispute. If we dare invoke the past, or look to the future, we cannot hesitate. Cobden and Bright, Gladstone or Palmerston, cannot trifle with the constitutional law laid down at our glorious Revolution.

The King of Prussia, if we may judge by the Emperor Napoleon's hints in the *Moniteur*, had privately declared to him that he (the King) would cede the sovereignty if the Swiss would first own that he had a right to it, by releasing the rebels. If it were merely an account between two traders—"I will pay you the £2 3s. 2 1-2d. you claim, but you shall first pay me the 5s. 7 3-4d. which I insist upon if you owe me," and the other side knows it could do no better than get the balance, it would be utter madness to go to law. If the Swiss Republic consulted nothing but its own ease and safety; it would let the revolvers go and take a receipt in full for all claims of inconvenient title. The Emperor Napoleon wishes this, and his organ is very angry that it is not done. He would have taken care of the Swiss; now they must take care of themselves. And they can do it. His, no doubt, is just the mind that fixes sorely on the immediate practical result. "It will come to the same thing," will fit remarkably well into his policy. The citizens of the world's oldest extant Republic have another notion of things. They know that a surrender of honor and of right never comes to the same thing as the effectual defence of them. They will not surrender the dignity of the peoples. It is their cause, the vitality of their political existence. On their own part they may be so daring as to make the sordid and timorous set them down as rash; but these Spartans are the defenders of the liberties of all freemen, and they stand at the pass of Thermopylae, if it be to die there. It is for us to honor them, pray for them, help them. It is only by being too far beneath their standard of right that we can fail to comprehend it. In a world in which the sense of justice is perishing, they revive it, and that on the part of the millions. The millions can hardly be cajoled to desert them. In these days, the unexpected is the thing most to be expected in politics, and this question may be disposed of precisely as no one can foresee or guess at. At present, the Swiss are doing their duty heroically; at the very least, let us be a worthy and applauding audience at so grand a spectacle. It is, if the Swiss persist

the beginning of the end. It involves a practical decision which all the palaver of Parasian Conferences is mere contemptible gossip. It really involves the fate of Italy—and of how many realms besides?

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1857.

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. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited 5th January, 1857, £559 5 5
Withdrawn 6th January, 1857 £111 1 7

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Moon First Qr. 1st, 3h 58m P.M.—HIGH WATER.			
1 S.	4th Sunday aft. Epiphany	10h 30	10h 52
2 M.	Purification of B. V. M.	11 30	—
3 Tu.		0 8 0 59	
4 W.		1 36 2 22	
5 Th.	Sir Robert Peel born, 1788	3 7 3 41	
6 F.		4 15 4 41	
7 S.		5 6 5 24	

The above Tides having been calculated with regard to the moon's horizontal parallax and angular distance from the sun, will be found to be correct, due allowance being made at times for high winds and freshets. For Richibucto, subtract, 2h 30m.—Bathurst, 2h 45m.—Dalhousie, 2h 50m from the above.

LOCAL BANK.

We have, as well as a Correspondent, aluded several times of late to this all-important subject, and it gives us much satisfaction to hear the matter talked over with much warmth by men in the various walks of life.

That the establishment of such an institution among us will be of incalculable advantage to all classes, there appears not to be a difference of opinion. One thing is evident—we have not sufficient CAPITAL to prosecute the business of the country with any comfort or satisfaction. The want of money hampers our merchants and mechanics, curbs enterprise, and militates against the development of our natural resources, many of which only require means to turn them into sources of wealth.

We hope another season will not be allowed to pass over without some action being taken to put this desired institution into successful operation. To the man of means it presents a first-rate field for the investment of his money, and he will also have the satisfaction of conferring a lasting benefit on the community, the fruits of which, we predict, will speedily manifest themselves.

Entertaining these sentiments, we were pleased to hear one of the members say that he was preparing an Act of Incorporation, which he purposed bringing under the consideration of the Legislature at its approaching session. That it will meet with the sanction of that body we entertain no fears.

In any remarks we may have made on this subject, we wish it to be understood that we do not find fault with the Banks located here. The gentlemen to whose management they are intrusted, have won the confidence and respect of the public; and their desire to meet the requirements of their customers is universally admitted. But these establishments are merely BRANCHES, their Parent Institutions are located on the other side of the Province, consequently their means are limited. When a crisis arrives—when commercial men require to be sustained, or suffer loss—the Branches are the first that re-

ceive instructions to curtail accommodation, as the interests of the customers in St. John and Fredericton (where the Parent Banks are located, and the Directors reside) are first to be considered. This is a very natural feeling, and it is to avoid this preference, as well as to put a larger amount of Capital afloat, which has induced us to advocate a Local Bank; not to find fault with those already established.

CANADA.

It is confidentially reported that the Legislature of Canada will meet for the despatch of business on the 26th February.

The Hamilton Speculator of the 9th inst., contains the particulars of a fearful accident which occurred on the Great Western Railway the previous morning. We condense the information below:

"A freight train left Hamilton for the West at this time, and a telegraph message was sent to Dundas, the receipt of which was acknowledged) to stop the Mail train there and switch it off the track. From some cause this was not done, and the two trains came into collision on the embankment crossing the old entrance to the Dresden Canal, just beyond Burlington Heights. The trains fortunately going round the curve were in slow motion, and therefore not a car was thrown off the track, so that the catastrophe which would have occurred by the rolling of the trains down the steep embankment was avoided. Serious consequences have, however, resulted.

"The mail train was composed of the engine and tender, the baggage-car, the mail and express car, one second class, and three or four other passenger cars, and to this train the most serious damage was done. The baggage-car was thrown by the shock on the top of the mail car, into which the second class car ran as a knife into its sheath. These three were thus heaped together and completely crushed. In the express car were, among cases of game, &c., &c., three safes containing money to the amount of \$600,000. Fortunately it happened that a Mr G. B. Sanford, one of the messengers of the American Express Company, was a passenger on the train. He assisted in extricating the injured agent (who delivered up his keys), and then he instantly crept among the ruins, and proceeded to extinguish the fire, which commencing from the stoves, had begun its ravages. With the assistance of a few of the passengers, who handed snow to Mr Sanford, this was accomplished and the safes were rescued with no further damage than indentations or their exterior."

The London Times has taken this Colony under its special protection, and several Leaders pointing out its suitability for Emigration, its great natural resources, its agricultural capabilities and growing trade, have recently appeared in its columns. It will be remembered that this leading Journal sent out to the Colony a special correspondent, who no doubt is the writer of these articles.

The Traders of Quebec are about to establish a Bank for their own accommodation, under the new Bank Law, with a capital of \$100,000, in shares of \$50 each.

ADVICE TO LEGISLATORS.

A late number of the Halifax Morning Journal gives the following admirable hints to the Members of the Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, who are to meet shortly to discharge their Legislative functions. It would be a good thing not only for our sister Province but also for New Brunswick, if the advice was strictly acted upon. There is too much valuable time consumed in the unmeaning and profitless strife of parties, and too little attention paid to the real business of the country, in all the Provincial Legislatures.

"Occasions on which men of conscientious principle, and of unwavering consistency, may be constrained by duty, to do battle on the field they have so often trodden before. Whether such an occasion is looming in the distance, or whether it is only some harmless rumbling that people fancy they hear inside the body politic. We shall soon know. But at all events we hope each member of Parliament will come up, fully resolved to apply himself to what the executive call him here for—the despatch of business.—He will find plenty of it waiting for him, enough to tax his energies and try his patriotic principles to the uttermost.—Let him come, not for a ten weeks' lounge, not for champagne dinners, not for the pound per diem, not for a stand up fight for nothing but revenge, not to be delivered of windy speeches practised before the glass.—But let him come to work hard, and think deeply, and weigh carefully, and act conscientiously in all the weighty matters which on behalf of his country he may be called upon to consider."