

scheme—that the Heads of Departments should be in the Legislature; but that it works badly, and will do so until the British Colonies are united in a Legislative Union, is an opinion that is daily forcing itself on the minds of all persons who have closely watched its working in the Colonies.

Our Legislators are too few in number to have among them so many office-holders, with such an amount of patronage as they at present possess. But the number of Representatives are quite numerous enough to represent our small Province, and the expense of Legislation as much as we can well afford to pay. Were the Colonies united there would be no need of a greater number of Heads of Departments than at present exist in our Province, and their presence and influence among so many representatives, would not be felt.

There is another evil resulting from the present system. It induces a great many individuals who consider themselves CLEVER, and who depend a good deal on their SCHEMING propensities to make a livelihood, to turn politicians. These, by constantly agitating, make themselves popular, with a view of offering themselves as candidates for seats in the House of Assembly. When this is accomplished, the great object then is to obtain the Head of a Department—the INNS must be turned OUT, and to secure this—the leaders promise those patriots, who they know quite well, certain offices for their support. To swell the number as much as possible, two or three are secretly promised the Postmaster Generalship; two or three the Surveyor Generalship; &c. &c.; by these means a formidable opposition is raised, and the first thing we now find on the meeting of the Legislature, is a Want of Confidence motion. If the opposition succeed in this, a good many are disappointed in not obtaining the offices promised them, and of course go over to the other side on the first pretext. The party, therefore, on obtaining office, find themselves so weak that they are afraid to bring in any measure of consequence, for fear of a defeat. Thus little or nothing is done; the people are dissatisfied; the Representatives obtain their pay, and stop the mouths of grumblers by bestowing on them offices of honor or emolument, making one a Magistrate, another a Road Commissioner, &c., &c.

This is a brief history of our Legislature for years, and we see no prospect of a change for the better until the Constituency of the Province resolve on a different course of action in appointing their members than they have heretofore pursued. While they continue to confine their choice of members to self-delegated Candidates, they cannot expect to be wisely or properly represented.

The question has been frequently put to us—what is the real action of the Assembly in reference to the Election Law. We have not heard from any of our Representatives, but from what we can gather, we believe it is as follows. The Law of 1855, introduced by Mr Fisher, which extends the franchise to certain rate-payers, and embraces the principle of the Ballot, is to be allowed to all the Counties in which that Law has been carried out. Those Counties are York, Carleton, Sunbury, and Albert. All the other Counties will have to fall back on the old law should an Election take place within the year. We trust this will induce the people to make the Revisors and other officers do their duty. There is much truth in the following remarks of the St John Leader.

“As to the four hundred disfranchised freemen of St. John, all we can say is, that if the Government papers had not so industriously asserted that the Election Law could never be carried out, and thereby impressed these disfranchised freemen with the idea that it was of no use to go before the Revisors, the probability is they would now be on the Register. If the Government papers had inculcated obedience to the Law, and taught the freemen of their party that the battle of the constitution was to be fought in registration courts, as Sir Robert Peel did when a similar Bill became the law of England and appeared to menace the conservative party, the people would have gone before the Revisors, and few old electors would have been omitted from the Register, while many thousands of new voters would have been added to the constituencies. But instead of this, because these papers thought the present Government was firmly seated in office and would have power to alter the law, they did all they could to misrepresent and to dissuade people from taking advantage of it, by deluding them with fears of increased taxation.”

AMERICAN CABINET.

THE American papers furnish us with a List of the new President's Cabinet, which was confirmed by the Senate on the 6th March.

Secretary of State—General Cass.
Secretary of the Treasury—Hon. Howell Cobb.
Secretary of War—Hon. John B. Floyd.
Secretary of the Navy—Hon. Isaac Toucey.
Secretary of the Interior—Hon. Jacob Thompson.
Atty. General—Judge Black, of Pennsylvania.
Postmaster General—Hon. A. V. Brown.

UNITED STATES.

LORD Napier, (the new British Minister to the United States), and family, came out to New York by the Mail Steamer Persia, which vessel arrived at New York on the 6th instant. A New York paper draws the following portrait of His Lordship:

“His personal appearance is far different from what would be expected in a ‘live lord.’ He is about five feet nine inches in height, and dresses with democratic plainness. His hair is black, strongly intermixed with grey, though he does not appear to be over thirty-five years of age. His large, searching dark eyes form a very conspicuous portion of his features. The expression of his face is somewhat that of a thorough business man, and his manner, though slightly tinged with hauteur, is, nevertheless, quite cordial. He is, in fact, a very democratic lord. He dines at the table d’hôte as a matter of preference, remarking that he wishes to become acquainted with the people of this country. In conversation he is peculiar. Like a good diplomatist, as he has the reputation of being, he listens more than he speaks, and always has questions to ask. He has a sort of hesitancy in speech, seemingly caused by a desire to make a careful selection of language.”

TRADE OF THE PROVINCE.

THE Journals of the Legislature contain a lengthy report of the Trade of the Province, drawn up by the Treasurer of the Province. We have below given the return from the Northern Section of the Province, as well as the total amount of the imports and exports:

Account of Imports during the year 1856.

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Saint John, | £1,214,223 |
| Campbellton, | 5,302 |
| Dalhousie, | 21,378 |
| Bathurst, | 19,136 |
| Cararquet, | 5,474 |
| Shippegan, | 5,171 |
| Newcastle, | 48,661 |
| Chatham, | 61,756 |
| Richibucto, | 49,129 |
| Buctouche, | 3,624 |
| Shediac, | 14,546 |

Total value Stg. for Province, £1,521,178

Account of Exports during the year 1856.

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Saint John, | £713,262 |
| Campbellton, | 1,398 |
| Dalhousie, | 23,488 |
| Bathurst, | 21,368 |
| Cararquet, | 6,197 |
| Shippegan, | 7,774 |
| Newcastle, | 59,869 |
| Chatham, | 36,903 |
| Richibucto, | 34,026 |
| Buctouche, | 8,192 |
| Shediac, | 28,076 |

Total value Stg. for Province, £1,073,351

By the above statement our readers will perceive that there is a large balance against the Province. The Treasurer in referring to this remarks—the value of the new ships does not appear in the report. He further says:

“In 1856 there were 79,907 tons N. M. registered in the Province; this amount of tonnage would represent, probably, about 94,000 O. M. (by which tonnage vessels are generally sold,) and estimating them (with reference to the fact that nearly all the large ships are built for the seven years' grade) at £8 Stg. per ton, including the first freight home, these new vessels would represent the sum of £752,000 Stg.”

The account by his showing would stand thus:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Imports during the year, | £1,521,178 |
| Exports, | £1,073,351 |
| New Ships, | 752,000 |
| | 1,825,351 |

Balance in favor of the Province, £304,183

We hope this is a correct statement, but we are fearful the balance is the other way, owing to the injudicious manner in which the timber trade is conducted.

CANADA.

WE perceive by our Canadian papers that the Government have declared their intention to propose that the Seat of Government be fixed at some permanent place, and not as at present—three years in Toronto, and three years in Quebec—and that they will refer to the Queen, by Address, to settle the question of locality. They intend to propose an appropriation of £225,000 for the necessary public buildings,

The Government, it is stated, intend also to propose a Grant of £50,000 for a Weekly Line of Steamers to Britain, and that the contract shall last six years.

The Quebec Chronicle of the 12th inst., the latest paper in our possession, thus speaks of the question of the Seat of Government:

“To-day the Hon. Mr Vankoughnet's Resolution, to the effect that the interests of Canada require that the seat of Government be at once fixed, will be moved in the Legislative Council, unless a further postponement take place. It is said that, in the Assembly, a majority already stands pledged to support the motion of Mr Attorney General Macdonald.—At the caucus; however, it appears, some of the members from this district, who support the Administration, contended that they had at present a vote in favor of Quebec; and there was no reason why they should surrender such an advantage. Messrs. Simard, Thibandau, Chapais, Fortier of Bellechasse, and Beltingham, it is said, are the five members who have not engaged to give their support to the Administration, in referring the decision to Her Majesty. The Upper Canada supporters of the Government, we learn, were less indisposed to submit the matter to the chances of Imperial volition; though it is probable that, when the vote comes to be taken, the numbers supporting the reference of the question to the Queen from each section of the Province, will be about the same.”

The same paper thus notices the proceedings of the Government and the Legislature:

“Since the commencement of the Session Ministers have been making great efforts to lay their proposed measures and Bills promptly before Parliament, and to shew that they are prepared before hand with a full plan of the campaign. The unusual shortness of the debate in answer to the Speech from the throne was well adapted to take them by surprise, if they had not been quite up to the mark. They have, however, already introduced a large number of important measures, and may expect to encounter in the passage of particular Bills some of the talk which they avoided en masse at the onset.”

What a contrast this presents to the proceedings of the Government and Assembly of this Province. With them business appears to be the main, the principal object; in our Assembly, talk, and a struggle for the mastery absorb all other questions.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE British Mail Steamer America, after a fine passage, arrived at Halifax on Thursday week, and the portion of the mail for this quarter, came to hand on Sunday last. Our files are to the first March, from which we have gleaned a good many extracts. They will be found in another page.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

WE have obtained from the Publishers, Leonard Scott, & Company, of New York, the reprints of the following Works:

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE for January. Contents—Scenes of Clerical Life, No. 1. Mrs. Barrett Browning—Aurora Leigh. The Athelings, or the Three Gifts. New Facts and Old Fancies about Sea Anemones. A Christmas Tale. Routine. John Decastro, a Quaint Recchauffe. Maid Barbara. European Politics.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW for January. Contents—Worldliness and other Worldliness: the Poet World. Capabilities and Disabilities of Women. English Law: its Oppression and Confession. State of Parties in Italy since 1848. Revision of the English Bible. Herat and the Persian War. Boiling Water. Mysteries of Cefalonia. Contemporary Literature.

These Works can be seen at our Stationery Store adjoining the Gleaner Office, where Subscriptions will be received. For terms, &c., see Publishers Notice in first page.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

THE following are extracts from Circulars received by the last mail steamer.

Yellow Pine Timber.—Miramichi, 18 inches average, 1s 3d to 1s 6d. Bay Chaleur, 18 inches average, 1s 4d to 1s 6d. Richibucto, 18 inches average, 1s 3d to 1s 5d.

Deals, Spruce, per standard hundred.—St. John &c. N. B., £8 to £8 5s. Nova Scotia, £7 10s to £8.

Since the date of our last, consumption has continued large, although, as yet, not to such an extent as to increase prices in sales from stock. Should the present demand continue and the import remain moderate, a diminution in the amount of stocks will take place, resulting in a state of the market more favorable to importers. This anticipation is further warranted by the better feeling infused through commercial circles, by the financial statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he has announced his intention of modifying several of the imposts which were seri-

ously augmented to meet the exigencies of the late war. In particular the proposed reduction of the Income Tax, and the reduced Tea and Sugar duties, appear to have given considerable animation to several branches of trade.

N. B. & N. S. Pine and Spruce Deals have been imported within the month to the extent of 153,455, against 29,278 for the corresponding period of last year, notwithstanding which prices have not fallen off, but, on the contrary, whatever change of feeling has been evinced has been rather towards improvement; this has induced firmness on the part of holders to a degree scarcely warranted by the actual state of the market. St. John may be quoted as in quality at from £8 to £8 5s. per standard from the quay, and other kinds according to quality.—A. F. & D. Mackay's Timber Circular, Feb. 27.

Since we published our Annual Circular on the 31st ultimo, we have had an importation from British America, amounting in the aggregate to 3614 tons, it will be observed from our table, is in excess of the supply in the same period of 1856, but short of that of 1855. There is a large consumption going on, but prices are below the cost of import.

Pine Timber.—Quebec Pine.—The chief portion of the stock is held by the trade, consequently there are no sales in cargo to be reported.

Saint John Pine.—Several cargoes of middling quality have been sold during the month at about 21d per foot for 18 inches average.

Spruce and Pine Deals.—The supply for the month has been 110,568 pieces, against 29,278 pieces to same date last year. Several cargoes from St. John have sold ex ship at about £8 per standard, and by auction the cargo ex “Grace” at £8 6s 6d per standard. The consumption has been large, but with a continued import very little impression is made on the stock.

Lathwood is more abundant. The best Hemlock is saleable at £5 to £5 10s, and middling quality at £2 to £3 10s per fathom.—Farnworth and Jardine's Timber Circular.

LOCAL.

THE SEASON.—The heaviest snow storm of the season came off yesterday. Our roads to-day are a good deal blocked up with drifts. This retarded yesterday's mail which had not come to hand at 3 o'clock, the time we went to press.

BALL.—The Newcastle Quadrille Ball came off as per announcement, on the evening of Wednesday last, at Witherall's Hotel. The Room was tastefully decorated, and the Music excellent. Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit until a late hour. The arrangements reflected great credit on the Committee, Messrs. Niven, Fraser, Mitchell, and Sargeant. Supper was served up in Witherall's best style, and the whole affair passed off in the most pleasant manner.

LLOYD'S REGULATIONS.—Among the advertisements in another page, will be found a Regulation from Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, dispensing for another year, with the Iron Knees and Riders, as ordered. This will be a great saving and accommodation to our Shipbuilders, who were not at present prepared to conform with that regulation.

We have received a copy of the Bill relating to King's College, printed by order of the House of Assembly. We have not yet had time to peruse it.

Passengers in the steamer America, W. S. Caie, Esq., of Kouchibouguac; Mr David Ritchie and Lady; Robinson Crocker, Esq.; and Mr Hugh Bain, of Miramichi.

The Telegraph Line is down; we are therefore unable to give yesterday's report of the proceedings of the Legislature.

Mr END'S Letter shall receive attention next week.

Miramichi, 18th March, 1857.

Mr Pierce.—Will you be kind enough in your valuable Journal, to ask Mr CAIR to advertise his post office hours for the Sabbath day, for the convenience of the public.—Yours &c., A SUBSCRIBER.

BOWSER'S HOTEL.

ARRIVALS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Hon. William Hamilton, Dalhousie; John U. Campbell, do.; L. P. DesBrisay, M.P. P., Richibucto, G. Le Boutillier, Quebec; Duncan Bell, Esq., Toronto; O. Ford, Richibucto; Mr Oulton, do.; W. Mills, do.; W. Robinson, do.

DEATHS.

At the residence of Allan A. Davidson, Esq., New-astle, on the 17th inst., in the fifty fourth year of her age, JANE FOSTER, wife of John Travis, Esq., of Gagetown, St. John.

At Ludlow, near Boies Town, on the 14th inst., in the 44th year of her age, GRACE, wife of James L. Price, Esq. On the following Monday her remains were committed to the grave in “the parcel of ground” consecrated a few years ago by the Lord Bishop of the diocese; the office for “the burial of the Dead” having been said by the Reverend the Visiting Missionary of the District, in the presence of a numerous and respectable assembly.

At Halifax, on Thursday morning, ANDREW KING, aged 2 years, infant son of Mr J. Thompson, of Halifax, formerly of Miramichi.