

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

We have to-day, devoted considerable space in the paper to Legislative matters. The extracts we have given, and the highly interesting Letter of a Correspondent at Fredericton, renders any lengthy comments from us unnecessary. We hope that a too anxious desire to make a short Session, will not induce members to postpone or lay aside any work that is necessary to be performed.

A most important matter has come up before the House and disposed of in a way which manifested much sound sense. We allude to the Resolution introduced by Mr McLeod for the removal of the Seat of Government to St. John. After some considerable discussion, Mr Gillmor proposed the following reasonable and sensible resolution, which was to the effect that a committee should be appointed, whose duty should be to report at the next meeting of the Legislature the expense of such change. For the original resolution there were 16 to 23. Gillmor's resolution passed 19 to 20. At some future day we shall give our views on this important subject.

DEAR SIR,—Since I last wrote to you there have been several matters of interest to your readers under the consideration of the assembled wisdom. Amongst these, the most prominent is the School Bill, which after some five days discussion on the first four sections, the rest of the Bill, comprising 28 sections, passed within the period of an hour. The discussion on this question chiefly arose on the amendments of Messrs. Gray and Gilmour, as to whether the Bible should be read at the opening of the school by the Teacher, and the principles of Christianity to be expounded upon by him to the pupils as required by Mr Gray's amendment, or whether legal recognition of the use of the Bible in schools, and use of it secured to the children whose parents desired them to read it there. Mr Gilmour's amendment was sustained by a large majority, only six persons voting against it. Gray's was previously lost, only nine persons voting for it. Mr Phelim then moved an amendment permitting the use of the Douay Bible to Catholic children, which also passed by a large majority, only eight voting against it. The discussion therefore was characterised by a moderation and a desire to do justice, which does credit to the good sense of our people and their representatives—while on the other hand there was a determination on the part of the protestant portion of the House, to resist any attempt at bartering the right of parents to require that their children should be taught from the Bible in our schools—on the other hand there was an equal desire to resist a small minority who wished to force the reading of the Bible on catholic children, and have the power of expounding it placed in the hands of any Teacher in the country. The temper and disposition of a large majority of the House was evidently to do justice to both parties, and to do nothing that would offend the prejudices of either, or lead to that strife and hostility which the discussion of similar questions has engendered in some of the neighbouring Colonies.—Mr Gray made a great mistake on the introduction of his amendment, evincing a spirit of intolerance and a desire of asserting which might scarcely have been expected from one who was personally indebted not only for his position, but for the maintenance of the Government of which he was the leader, to one of the sects whose religious prejudices and feelings, he by his resolution desired to coerce—that gentleman forgot himself when he refused the sacred rights of private judgment in the Books their children should use to any particular Body, and the peace and happiness of the people of this Province to be overbalanced by a rabid desire for place, and a wish to embarrass the supporters of the Government of the day. I said he was mistaken, and the debate convinced that gentleman that those who had tamely followed him through many a measure of doubtful policy, might be pressed too far, and he and many of his party desired to withdraw the amendment, but the House would not permit it; they feel, and properly so, that a point had been raised on the Bill by that gentleman which might—with people of less discretion to deal with it—have aroused the feelings of fanaticism from one end of our Province to the other, and it was due to the country, after the time of their Representatives had been occupied for three days on the discussion of that gentleman's amendment, that the people should know how little sympathy there was with the spirit it evinced, and but few there were in the House who sympathised with the mover in his desire to raise a religious war. Had that resolution been sustained, the Catholics would have sought for separate schools, and with much greater reason to support them than they now have, and from what I could observe in the course of this important debate, the House felt that while almost the whole of that Body was opposed to denominational schools as likely to be detrimental to the interests of a sparsely settled and mixed community, unable when united to support efficient schools, but in justice to the community, they should not be forced nor coerced on the method or matter on which their children should be instructed, and in justice to that minority separate schools would have to be conceded. I trust, however, that this question is now settled, I feel assured, at the ma-

jority of the House has taken a wise course.—All your members voted against Gray's, and in favor of Gilmour's and Mr Phelim's amendments in reference to the Bill, and against Mr Phelim's amendment for separate schools.

The House has been on a Committee discussing a Resolution of Des Brisay's in reference to correspondence between our Government and Nova Scotia about connecting the Railway from Shediac with the leading line of Nova Scotia, and which resolution censures the Government for not assenting to the proposal made by that colony; this matter has not yet been decided, but the motion will not be carried so far as I can judge of the feelings of members on the subject. The explanation given by the Government is this:—that Nova Scotia some years since by the arrangement in reference to the inter-colonial line then made, agreed to build as her share of the line, a distance of 28 miles into our Province; that although the inter-colonial line then fell through it has been again resumed, that the proposals to the Colonial Secretary made by the Canadian and Nova-Scotian delegation last fall was not acceded to, yet the refusal was based altogether upon the then pressing financial difficulties and heavy charges upon the Imperial Treasury, no doubt arising out of the India, China, and other difficulties, that the time for such proposal was not a favourable one, but that now with the low rate of money, and the evident necessity for the measure in promoting Imperial interests on this continent, the wish of all the three Colonies, and the liberal view that Canadian statesmen are taking of this question the probability is that ere long measures will be matured for building that great line. I may name that some of the leading statesmen of Canada propose to raise the funds for that purpose as follows, and an able semi-official article has recently appeared in the Canadian press on the subject. During the Sydenham administration in Canada, the British Government, in order to effect the Union of the two Canadas, advanced them 1½ millions of pounds, to be repaid nominally at a distant period, but intentionally it is never intended to be paid, as the advance was made now with a desire to heal local and sectional objections, and for the purpose of carrying out Imperial views.

The proposition then, on the part of the Canadians, is this—Canada has already built 40 miles down from Quebec, and has 40 miles now under contract, and proposes to build the balance of 40 miles more to Riviere du Loup at her own cost at once—that the Imperial Government shall permit her, at the Imperial contribution, to devote the 1½ million above named, and which they may or may not have to pay at some future day, towards building the line from Riviere du Loup into our territory, and it is contemplated that it would build about 130 miles, which would bring it a considerable distance within our borders, and that then the 3 Colonies, Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, unite on their own responsibility to make up the connection; and as this asks the British Government for no new liability, it is believed that they will not hesitate at once to assent to the arrangement for an object so desirable to them as well as to the Colonies. It is therefore generally conceded that pending such a question it would be unwise in our Government to have built to the Nova Scotia line, and particularly as there was but little prospect of being met there for some considerable period, as that Province, like our own, has just as many local Railways in progress now as she can complete; in addition to which the present expenditure for Railways now going on is over £200,000 per annum, and it is not wise in our Statesmen to incur heavier burdens than we can meet, nor to divert from the legitimate operations of the country a greater portion of the labor now engaged therein.

Yesterday an important Bill for your section of the country passed the House, it provides for placing upon the Great Road service a line to be opened up from Salmon River, on the Grand Lake to Miramichi near the south west bridge, and out of upwards of twenty Great Road bills before the House this session it is the only one that has passed or will pass. It places the people of Miramichi within 28 miles of steamboat navigation on the St. John waters, it was warmly supported by the Queen's, Sunbury, Gloucester, Restigouche, and your own members, and in fact there was only some three or four who voted against it. There are many bills yet before the House, but they are unimportant in their nature, or else not likely to be passed, and the feeling is to dispose of them in a very summary manner, this course will have the effect of teaching members that if they really desire their Bills to pass, they should press them in the earlier part of the Session, when there is plenty of time, and not protract the Session by delays, early adjournments; the probability is that the House will rise about the 6th of April, and perhaps sooner.

I am glad to learn that letters have been received from a member of the Canadian Parliament, stating that there is no doubt but that the Canadian Government will give from 4000 to £5,000 for the line of steamers from Quebec via Gaspé to connect with Restigouche, Miramichi, and Shediac. A letter has also been received from Halifax, communicating the fact, that the Committee to whom the matter was referred, had expressed a favourable opinion, and the probability that £500 would be granted towards the same line, to connect Shediac with Pictou. If necessary, our Government will increase the grant of £1,500, to £2,000 for the same purpose.

The Railway Committee have reported, and

show a good deal of carelessness in the system, yet the belief is that the management is now good, and that the line, from this time, will be judiciously managed. The report shows that we will, by the fall of 1859, when the line will be completed, have expended a million of money on the line from St. John to Shediac. I feel that I have already written more than you care about having, and shall therefore close.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

A Correspondent writing to us from Dalhousie, under date of March 27, furnishes the following item of news.

"I must not omit informing you that on the night of the 25th inst., we were again favoured with a Lecture on 'Female Education,' by Mr Crockett, and although the lecturer treated his subject with eloquence and perspicuity, still from the now-known abilities of the lecturer, some thought he scarce done the subject justice. This might have arisen from many causes, the want of time, the magnitude of the subject in all its bearings; for it should be understood that female education is the foundation of all education, and on it principally rests the happiness and welfare of mankind; and not in one, two, or three Lectures could justice be done to it. It is therefore to be hoped, that Mr Crockett will again take the subject up at some future time, and favor the community in this quarter with a course of Lectures on 'Female Education,' as I think it would have a tendency to do good, and might perhaps be the means of arousing our leading characters to a sense of the vast and vital importance attending to such education, by showing them the mighty bearing, and overwhelming influence it has on Society from the domestic hearth, to the habitations of the blest. And as Mr Crockett is becoming a popular Lecturer, and at all times commands a full house, it would be well to again revert to the same subject, that is, FEMALE EDUCATION."

UNITED STATES.

OUR American exchanges are filled with detailed accounts of the Religious Revivals throughout the Union. We copy the following paragraph, giving an account of a revival in a Printing Office, from the New York Tribune, whose Editor, Horace Greeley, a free thinker, is said to be among the converts:—

"Prayer meetings have been held daily at one of the larger printing offices in this city since the 6th of March, with increasing interest. At the commencement of the meetings there were but four or five converts with but very few participants, and now the number ranges as high as twelve or fourteen. The interest manifested at these meetings is very great. One of the recent converts says:—'What are we to expect when printing offices are converted into religious chapels? It is, as far as my knowledge extends, unprecedented in the history of any country, and will, no doubt, astonish many a reader.' As the meetings are held between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock, some of the men go without their dinner for the sake of attending them."

From our Boston Agent, John S. Farlow, Esq., we received a Circular, bearing date March 27, from which we take the following extracts relating to business prospect in that city.

"The money market remains precisely as last noticed. There is an abundant supply, and first class paper is scarce, and in demand at 6 to 7 per cent., and on call the rates range from 4 to 6.

"The bank statements continue to be very favorable. The loans and discounts of the Boston banks amount to \$51,999,341, a decrease from last week of \$70,402; specie, \$7,735,535, an increase of \$175,837; deposits, \$19,079,257, an increase of \$169,629; and circulation, \$5,163,492, a decrease of \$128,067. The loans and discounts of the New York banks amount to \$107,440,350, an increase from last week of \$2,146,719; specie \$31,902,656, a decrease of \$1,953,420; deposits, \$31,233,505, an increase of \$1,175,073; and circulation \$6,853,852, an increase of \$97,894.

"The committee on State Finance made their final report to the House of Representatives on Wednesday last, accompanied by a bill to apportion and assess a State tax of \$359,988. The State tax last year was \$899,973, so that the reduction is 539,985. The appropriations for the current expenses of the year amount to \$1,003,217; and the revenue belonging to the year, including the tax above mentioned, will be \$1,082,780, showing a surplus of \$79,563.

"Business generally is gradually improving, and for many of the leading articles the market is firm. St. Domingo coffee continues in active demand, and a shade higher prices have been realized. Flour and corn remain without material change. Provisions are firm and in steady demand. Sugar is very firm at late advance, and for Molasses prices are higher. Calcutta goods are generally held firm, but the prices asked has a tendency to check operations. In the Boot and Shoe and Cotton Goods departments there is a better feeling, with increased demand.

"Exchange on London continues to rule very low, and has been in moderate demand. We quote sixty day Bills on London at 7 per cent premium, and 8 to 8½ short sight.

On Paris the rates are £.s 15 to £.s 17½ for 60 day Bills.

"The receipts of Flour for the week have been 4,673 bbls by railroad, and 6,819 bbls. by water. The receipts of Corn for the same time have been 26,233 bushels."

NEW WORKS.

To Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., of Fulton Street, New York, through their St. John Agents, Messrs A. & J. McMillan, we are indebted for the February number of BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE. The following is a list of its contents:—

The Condition of Women: What will he do with it; People I have never Met; Lord St. Leonards' Handy Book on Property Law; Zanzibar, and two Months in East Africa; Thorndale, or the Conflict of Opinions; The Poorbeah Mutiny—The Punjab; A Familiar Epistle from Mr John Company to Mr John Bull.

To the same Establishment we are indebted for the February number of the NORTH BRITISH REVIEW. It contains the following articles:—

Stanhope's History—Walpole and Pulteney; Naples—1848—1858; Scottish Natural Science! Logic of Induction—Mill; Arnold and His School; Proverbs Secular and Sacred; Rambles of a Naturalist, &c.; Capital and Currency; Poetry—The Spasmodists; Recent Publications.

To Chas. L. Beverly, of the Olive Branch Book Store, Fredericton, we are indebted for HARPER'S MAGAZINE for April. Its contents are:—

Tropical Journeys; Pictures from Siberia and Tartary; An American at Sinai; The Lady of Belisle; Civilization and Health; The Mist over the Valley; Bianca Milesi Mojon; The Way of the World; Hasheesh and Hasheesh Eaters; Number 101; Lost; The Virginians; Monthly Record of Current Events; Literary Notices; Editor's Table; Editor's Easy Chair; Editor's Drawer; Private Galleries; Fashions for April.

LOCAL.

THE SEASON.—The weather during the past week has been remarkably mild, and there is every appearance we shall have an early Spring. The snow is rapidly disappearing from off our streets, which are in many places completely bare, and the ice in our river looks as if it would not favor us with its presence much longer.

To parties wishing to form an Agency at Quebec, we would call their attention to Messrs. Michand's Advertisement in another page.

The following vessels have sailed from Liverpool for this Port:—Annie Laurie; Belle of the Ocean; Reformer, Freemud.

We shall endeavour next week to comply with the request of a Subscriber and publish the speeches of our Members on the School Bill.

We are requested to state that Mr James Allan will Lecture at the Mechanics' Institute, on the evening of Thursday next.—Subject, the Works of Nature.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday, the 1st of April, by the Rev. William Henderson, Mr DAVID DUNNETT, of the Parish of Northesk, to Miss MARY ISABELLA SUTHERLAND, of the same Parish.

At the Manse, on the 1st inst., by the Rev. John MacCurdy, Mr JAMES GILLIS, of the Parish of Chatham, to Miss SARAH M'KAY, of the Parish of Nelson.

DEATHS.

At Napan, on the 25th March, Mr MATTHEW MITCHELL, a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in the 57th year of his age, leaving a widow and numerous family to mourn their loss. He was always attentive to the calls of usefulness, and most obliging in his endeavours to benefit others. Though suddenly subjected to severe suffering and death, he manifested entire resignation to the Divine will.

At Newcastle, on Thursday morning last, JOHN NEWMITH, Esq., in the 66th year of his age. His funeral will take place to-morrow from his late residence, at 3 o'clock, where friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

FREDERICTON MAIL.

FALL AND WINTER

ARRANGEMENT.

The Subscribers STAGE will leave Chatham on the Mornings of

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS,

at the hour of 8 o'clock A. M., and Fredericton on the mornings of

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS,

at the same hours. Books will be kept at Kelly's Office, Chatham and at the Park House, Fredericton. It must be distinctly understood that no person will be considered entitled to a seat without registering their names and paying their Fare.

ORR & CARVELL.

Chatham, January 5, 1858.