

of Cumberland, by command of His Excellency the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, requiring the Librarian to make every exertion in furtherance of the object. As the safe conveyance of the Mails is of the greatest consequence to the Public, it is to be hoped that the Villain will be detected and punished.
R. Gar.

FREDERICTON, (N. B.)

TUESDAY, 24th January, 1826.

Alms-House and Work-House.

COMMISSIONER FOR THE WEEK,
G. F. STREET, Esquire.

SAVINGS BANK

TRUSTEES NEXT WEEK,

HENRY C. CLOPPER, ESQ.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.

MR. PETER FISHER.

Amount deposited Yesterday, £1 6 8

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

19TH JANUARY, 1826.

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Legislature, His Excellency came to the Council Chamber, and opened the Session by the following Speech to both Houses:—

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I HAVE called you together at this early period, to bring, as soon as possible, under your humane, wise, and liberal consideration, the calamitous effects which the Province has suffered from a late awful visitation.

It hath pleased Almighty God to permit extensive and direful ravages to be committed by fire, in several parts of the Province. Here, in the Seat of Government, the loss, though great, has, mercifully been confined to that of Property; but in other quarters, the conflagrations raged with more fatal fury. A very flourishing County Town has been consumed; extensive and thriving settlements have been destroyed; and great numbers of our fellow creatures have perished in the flames. Of those who escaped from the fury of this element, many suffered in another. Hundreds of the survivors were driven, destitute, upon the hospitality and charity of their fellow subjects: Numerous Persons have been reduced from prosperous circumstances, to difficulty or poverty; and from the great quantity of provision consumed, the most serious apprehensions were entertained, that famine might ensue in the fast approaching rigours of a long winter.

Such were the Public feeling, charity and benevolence, manifested by the people of New-Brunswick, of all ranks and conditions, and such the exertions used in our opulent city, to send supplies to the afflicted places, that had the calamity been limited to any ordinary extent, it had not been necessary to look to the exterior for aid. But a visitation so extensive, demanded succour far beyond the means which the private bounty of the Province so promptly and generously contributed, I therefore assembled His Majesty's Council, to consider what public measures it would be expedient to adopt; and by advice which I well knew would be dictated by wisdom, benevolence, and an ardent desire to relieve, as effectually as possible, the distresses of the People, I dispatched an agent to purchase supplies on the Public account in an adjoining Province, and communicated to the Governor General, and the Lieutenant Governors of our Sister Colonies, the calamitous situation of New-Brunswick.

But there needed not such appeals for relief;—for Public measures the most prompt and liberal, private benevolence the most bountiful, had spontaneously provided extensive supplies for our destitute sufferers at Miramichi, ere my reports were received; and those humane and liberal sentiments which so immediately and effectually actuated the Government, Public Professions, and People of all ranks, in the adjoining Provinces, have been generously manifested by other Colonial Governments and People, in a manner to show the lively sympathy, and union of sentiment which reign throughout British North America.

Nor have the contributions of Christian Charity, to this dreadful calamity, been confined to the People of our own Possessions. For a deep and charitable sense of these sufferings, and a desire to relieve them, have

been evinced, very generally and liberally, by citizens and British Residents, in the United States; and considerable sums have been already remitted for this benevolent purpose. I am sure you will participate in the sentiments with which I have greeted these generous Acts, and in the assurance I feel that they cannot fail to produce the good effect of drawing still closer those friendly relations which happily subsist between the Countries.

Contemplating, painfully, in the conflagration, whose awful traces you perceive, and amidst ruin and desolation elsewhere, how seriously the advancement of the Country, in its interior circumstances, would be retarded, unless public measures should be taken, yielding abundant means of restoration, I instituted a fund which I hoped might become such as to afford assistance to sufferers, in restoring their habitations, re-establishing their industrious occupations, and relieving their affairs; at the same time that I met the feelings and necessities of the country, by promoting provision for the more immediate means of relief. A detailed statement of the total losses sustained is in preparation, to form the basis upon which an equitable distribution will be made, of those funds which have been, or may yet be contributed to the prospective purposes. I shall cause a copy of this statement to be laid before you, and in recommending it to your humane and liberal consideration, I submit whether it may not be expedient to endeavour to provide against the recurrence of like dangers, by prohibiting the erecting of habitations in certain situations, and beyond certain dimensions, in the combustible and perishable material of the country.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I shall direct the Treasurer's accounts to be laid before you, and I rely on your making provision for the ordinary service of the Province. So soon as I receive the accounts of the expense incurred in the purchase of supplies for Miramichi, I shall cause them to be laid before you; and I have no doubt, that, in consideration of the calamitous circumstances, and urgent necessities, under which the order was given, you will make provision for the same. I am happy to acquaint you, that the state of the Treasury is such as to enable you to make provision for all these and other objects of Public interest and utility to which your bounty has already been extended.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that the general affairs of the Province, though chequered in their well being by the late awful vicissitudes, are proceeding in a very prosperous condition; and that if we continue to pursue steadily, that solid course which I have already recommended, and which you have so cordially and liberally supported, this Province is in sure progress towards a very high degree of prosperity and importance. That it may be so, it will ever afford me the greatest satisfaction to concur with you in all measures that may tend to maintain an undeviating path in that course.

His Majesty's Government, actuated by the most liberal and enlightened views for placing the affairs of the Colonies on a beneficial and permanent basis, have lately brought under the consideration of the British Parliament, the expediency of removing those restrictions to which the Colonial Trade has heretofore been subjected. The measures contemplated by the Government, have been enacted by the British Legislature; and the Colonies, adopted fully and freely into the Commercial System of the Mother Country, may now enjoy, under the protection of His Majesty, the same freedom of trade with the Parent State and with Foreign Countries, as if the Colonies constituted, in fact, integral parts of the United Kingdom. These measures cannot fail ultimately to produce great increase of prosperity to the Colonies generally, and I am well persuaded that for advantages thus conferred, the Legislature and People of New-Brunswick will ever manifest the most lively sense of gratitude; and loyal attachment.

It affords me great satisfaction to be able to acquaint you that the Revenue continues to increase; and that the Trade of the Province has been very active and productive; and enterprising in fresh channels which

it may be hoped, will extend, beneficially, its transactions; and I congratulate you on the confident expectation which may be entertained that the emancipation of the Colonial Trade from all restrictions, will ultimately, prove greatly beneficial to the Revenue and Commerce of the Province.

Ship building appears to have been carried on to much greater extent within the last, than in any preceding year; and as this increase appears to have been effected without proportionate augmentation of foreign labor, we may reasonably expect that this important branch of our industry is becoming more advantageous to the Province.

The Fisheries appear to have been advantageously excited by your Bounties; and the beneficial effects of your measures will soon be further experienced, if we continue to cultivate with industry and energy, this rich source of wealth.

The internal affairs and circumstances of the Province have lately been under my observation, and I am deeply impressed with the great capacities for improvement which I every where witnessed.

I was particularly gratified to observe that very considerable effect upon Agriculture has already been produced by a spirit of emulation, and a desire of improvement, excited by those measures which I have already recommended, and which you have so liberally supported.

The sums so liberally voted for the Great Roads, have been managed, with due circumspection, to engage in no great undertaking, until by carefully exploring in every practicable direction, the preferable route should be ascertained, and distinct conviction of public advantage entertained. Acting with this caution, I suspended proceedings upon the important line which may establish a safe and permanent communication between the Seat of Government and the city of St. John, until further examination of the Country should be reported to me. But assured now of the practicability of this undertaking, though perhaps at a greater cost than may have been imagined, and confirmed in the opinion I have already stated as to the advantage and exigent necessity of such a route, I recommend a spirited and substantial prosecution of this great work. The sums which have been expended upon the other Great Roads have, in general, been applied more substantially than heretofore, and I recommend provision for continuing them gradually in a similar manner.

I earnestly recommend to your continued Patronage the several Institutions for the education of youth, and particularly the College of New-Brunswick, which I have the satisfaction to acquaint you there is now every reason to expect will soon be established, under very auspicious circumstances.

In the course of my extensive Tour, I had the pleasure to see a large portion of the active male population of the Province, in the several fire Corps of Militia which I inspected. I was highly satisfied with their appearance, military performances, and the zeal, public feeling and loyalty evinced by officers and men. The duties of Inspection being too extensive to be performed by one Person, I recommend continued provision for the two distinguished Officers who hold the important situations of Inspecting Field Officers.

The Institutions which you have patronized for providing safe custody and increase of the Savings of the Industrious Classes of Society, are in satisfactory operation; and have already been the means of accumulating considerable sums, the earnings of persons contemplated by your enactment.

I have had under particular consideration measures for improving the natural facilities which the Country possesses for internal communication, and likewise for promoting intercourse with our Sister Colonies. To these important purposes I have applied part of the grant lately placed at my disposal; and I shall cause to be laid before you, the opinion and estimates of an experienced Engineer, who reports very favorably as to the practicability of connecting the waters of the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence by a navigable Canal. I shall further apply those means to procure a competent opinion and report upon the circumstances of this vast River, in contemplation of a great work, for the convenient transit of Timber, uninjured, from the upper parts of the Province; and likewise to consider the means of improving the navigation

throughout its course, by removing or opening those natural impediments (some of which appear to be increasing) which obstruct so seriously the navigation of the River, and impede or prevent the transit of the more bulky productions of our industry, from the interior of the Country.

Although the external transactions of the Province are proceeding in a very flourishing condition, and the interior circumstances improving, yet the very great demand for, and consequent high price of labour, continues to lay the operations of our industry under serious difficulty. This is particularly felt in Agricultural pursuits; which, under such charges and disadvantages, cannot be carried on, profitably, in that degree, which is necessary to augment sufficiently the production of subsistence, at present so inadequate to our supply, and procured at so serious a cost from the foreign grower. The increasing demand for labor, (an indication of an improving country,) is operating to procure an increased supply of hands, which, if applied to Agriculture, would lower the cost of production, and cause the high price of Agricultural produce to act with increasing effect, as a premium upon Agricultural industry. But these tendencies, operating, at present, slowly, from obvious causes, in favour of Agricultural improvement, require encouragement, facilities, and excitements to quicken its progress. These should consist in measures to develop more perfectly, and make more generally known, the vast capacities which this fine country presents for cultivation; to improve all its internal communications, and particularly to provide funds for surveying, laying out and opening Roads to young settlements; and thus favoring and attracting, by every means, investments of labor and capital, in greater abundance, to the cultivation of the soil, endeavour to raise the real circumstances and condition of the country to that state of improvement and productiveness which is necessary to place the affairs of the Province on a safe and solid basis. Much in these respects will depend upon the Societies which have been organized for encouraging industrious Emigrants and Settlers; for acquiring and circulating a knowledge of the various capacities of the country; for improving the breed of Cattle; and for exciting and directing a spirit of improvement in Agriculture. It gave me the greatest satisfaction to see in all parts of the Province, Institutions formed for the purposes, composed of influential and intelligent persons; and I earnestly recommend a continuation of the Grant made in the last Session, to enable those Societies to proceed in the accomplishment of objects so highly beneficial, and which I shall support with my utmost favor.

In the calamities which the Province has suffered, and under the painful difficulties in which the Government was placed, it is a great consolation and relief to me to meet the Legislature of the Country. With entire confidence in your wisdom, liberality and loyalty, I have called you together, in continuation of your Legislative duties; and I am well persuaded that these will be exercised, for the solid advantage of the Province, in a manner which will claim my cordial concurrence, to give effect to such purposes, and so tend to accomplish the ardent wishes I entertain for the welfare and permanent prosperity of New-Brunswick.

HARRY PETERS, Esq. has been chosen for Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, in the room of the Honorable Ward Chipman, Esquire, who was lately appointed to a Seat in His Majesty's Council.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 12.

FIRE AT MIRAMICHI.

Yesterday a public meeting took place at the London Tavern, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of raising a subscription for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers by the recent fire at Miramichi, in the Province of New-Brunswick.

Mr. JOHN BAINBRIDGE (the agent for the colony) took the chair. He informed the meeting that they were assembled for the purpose of providing means for alleviating the sufferings of a large number of their fellow beings, who had been subjected to one of the most dreadful visitations of Providence. He then read the accounts of the calamity which have already appeared in our journals, and also a letter which he had that day received, in which the writer expressed his hopes that a subscription would be raised in England to purchase seeds and farming implements to be used next spring in the colony. He (the Chairman) was happy to find that a subscription to the extent of £2,000 had already been raised in Halifax, for the purpose of affording temporary relief to the sufferers, and he trusted that this example would be imi-