

donations to the Museum were from Jasper Curtis, Esq. of Saint Alban's, eight valuable minerals; from Mrs. C. Bancroft, a large shell; from Mr. G. W. Hoyle of Argenteuil, the prepared skin of a Milk Snake from Lake Huron; from Mrs. Thomas Gibb, of Argenteuil, a branch of a poplar tree, struck by lightning, shewing the effects of the fluid upon wood; from Dr. W. Belin, specimens of iron ore, and building stone from Malone, N. Y.; from Joseph Cartier, Esq. of St. Antoine, the horns of a Moose Deer, weighing about 60 lbs. and measuring 6 feet from tip to tip; from Mr. James B. Johnston, the skeleton of a violet Crab; and from Lieutenant-Colonel Figg, R. E. a specimen of Amianthus from Corsica; The donations to the Library were Beza's Latin Bible, printed in 1651, from Mr. Stephenson Leith, and Woodforde's Phenogamous Plants of Edinburgh, from a gentleman.

The Council were directed to report at the next meeting the most proper way of disposing of the funds voted by the Legislature. The Corresponding Secretary was directed to address the British Consul at New York requesting, in the name of this Society, that he will act as their agent there and transmit at early opportunities all packages arriving in that city from abroad. Two corresponding members were proposed.

The Members then engaged in the discussion of the question, "What are the most effectual means by which the Society can contribute to the accomplishment of the general object of its institution." The discussion of the question continued to a late hour, and after fixing for the subject of next meeting's debate "What is the cause of the difference of color between the waters of the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa?" the meeting adjourned. — *Montreal Gazette.*

HALIFAX, APRIL 15.

THE ASSEMBLY.

We did not intend to have touched upon the proceedings of the Assembly, until sufficient time had elapsed, after the close of the session, to allow the heat and ardor of men's minds in some degree to subside. It is not while they are under the influence of feeling, by whatever cause excited, that the public should be invited to correct reasoning or cool and dispassionate enquiry. So many act from impulse, so few from conviction, that he who has no other motive than the establishment of sound principles, and the diffusion of correct opinions, should choose a time when those he is to address are under the influence of the least excitement. Impressed with the value of this rule, we did not intend to offer any observations of our own, on the business of the session, at so early a period after its close; but the occurrences of the past week have been of such a nature—so novel and so engrossing, and are calculated to produce so much excitement throughout the Province, that we are led to break through our determination, and to go into the discussion of a topic, which, for many reasons, we would rather have deferred. We do this for the satisfaction of the great body of our supporters, who, scattered throughout the Province, and far removed from the excitement of the metropolis, look to us for impartial and correct impressions; and also that we may not seem to neglect a duty which we owe to our readers in Town, of giving such aid as our feeble powers will afford, to the elucidation of a subject in which many have become so deeply interested. As the views we may give, and the opinions we may feel ourselves bound to express, may be at variance with those of very many of our readers, we request them to turn to our past conduct—to review impartially the course we have hitherto pursued, and if they find that we have perverted our high trust, or lent ourselves, from interest or fear, to the designs of any man or body of men, either in the Government or among the mass of the people, then let them follow us no further. But if we have faithfully and fearlessly served them; if we have been diligent in research and candid in expression, then we ask their indulgence while we endeavour to develop the causes which have brought on, and some of the incidents which have distinguished, the struggle between the Assembly and the late Representative for the Township of Shelburne. We have no interest in this question, other than that which every man has in topics which involve the rights of the subject, or the powers and prerogatives of those who compose the Government of the country. With Mr. Barry, though we have never been on intimate, we have always been on friendly terms, and some of those who are our best friends are his most enthusiastic supporters; so that we have no desire to do him injustice—no wish that the performance of our duty should unnecessarily be offensive to his feelings. As respects the Assembly, we have nothing to fear from its frowns or hope from its favors; we are bound to it by no peculiar tie ei-

ther of interest or affection; and therefore in forming our decisions we are only influenced by our sense of justice.

If men could look into the womb of futurity and discern the results that were to flow from every action, many errors and difficulties would be avoided, both in private and in public life. The Traveller, whose eye rests on the trifling source of some mighty stream, can form no idea of the depth and velocity it acquires, when in its onward course it becomes swelled by a thousand tributaries; and the heedless woodsman who kindles his evening fire, has no prescience of the coming conflagration of which he is the unintentional cause. Thus in public concerns, events of interest and importance arise out of the most trifling causes—circumstances the most trivial in themselves, are followed by startling and often mischievous and dangerous results. The subject before us furnishes an apt and instructive illustration; and we think we may venture to assert, that had the scenes of the past week been seen in the distance, the Province would have been saved the annoyance of one of the most disgraceful occurrences that have ever stained its annals.

When we conceived that the Assembly were about to interfere with the rights of the Press our voice was raised in a tone of warning and defiance. With the same fearlessness we now think it our duty to vindicate that Body from the charges that have been so liberally cast upon it, from a variety of sources.

It has been said that the suspension of Mr. Barry arose either from personal dislike or party views. We saw the whole of the Militia Petitions, and from some knowledge of the materials of which the House is composed, have no hesitation in saying, to those who expect from us an opinion, that however either or all of these causes may have operated on the minds of a very few individuals, they have not produced the acts of the House. We are not willing to believe that any man, in the course of two short sessions, could contrive to render himself so obnoxious that 96 out of 41 men would combine to treat him unkindly, merely from personal feeling. We would not believe this of a man who had fewer claims to the good opinion of society than we know Mr. Barry to possess. On the contrary, we have good reason to believe that by a large majority his exertions were duly appreciated. As far as we could discover, from a daily attendance in the gallery, he was listened to with as much attention as any other member, and the general impression appeared to be, that when a few years of experience had subdued the ardour, which all new members bring to the business of legislation, he would make a very efficient and useful representative. On the score of party views we think the public are also in error. The whole affair is by many laid at the door of the unfortunate Pictou Academy; but if Mr. Barry's vote against that institution were the cause, how did it happen that Messrs. Young, Poole, Harris, O'Ly, Stewart, Uniacke, Heckman, Shey, and Homer, who have generally opposed the Academy, voted for the Resolution under which Mr. Barry was called to apologise? If the Friends of the Academy in the House have the power to exclude from its deliberations those who, from their opposition to that institution, have rendered themselves obnoxious, or if they would dare to exercise such a power, would not either Mr. Stewart, Mr. Uniacke, or Mr. Hartsborne, who have spoken and voted against almost every measure for its assistance, have been singled out, rather than Mr. Barry, who has been less violent in his opposition? Or would they, with so large a majority in their favor, have thought it a matter of any importance to cut off one man from a minority which was too small to give rise to any apprehensions? These are our reasons for not falling in with the popular enthusiasm, and for our conviction that the suspension of Mr. B. must be attributable to some other cause. Our readers will expect us to assign one and without pretending to impute motives to Mr. Barry which he has repeatedly disclaimed, we have no hesitation in declaring that the original act of the house arose from the general impression that pervaded it, that he did intend to insult Colonel Freeman. We are willing to admit that Mr. Barry's motive in reading the letter was no other than he states it to have been, but the impression made on our own mind at the moment was different, and the general titter throughout the gallery shewed the sense in which it was taken by the audience. Receiving the words in this sense, and being appealed to by Mr. Freeman, who had taken no part in the discussion, and whatever he may have been out of the house, had given no ground of offence within it, the house felt itself called on to interfere.

We do not intend to go into the disputed points between Mr. Barry and the Committee of Privileges, for to argue on the legality or the illegality of the steps taken by the

House; it is not necessary at the present moment, yet we cannot but express our regret that the House did not think proper to reprimand Mr. Barry, rather than frame an apology. We have no doubt of their power to do either, but it would have been better to have resorted to a course which a chain of successive precedents had rendered the most familiar. That in requiring an apology the House acted with a view to Mr. Barry's exclusion, we cannot for a moment believe. We think this course was adopted to save Mr. B. from the position which an honorable mind would naturally feel, being brought to the bar of any tribunal. But it would have been better if such ample time had been allowed for explanation, as would have given rise to no controversy on that topic—half an hour spent in preventing an evil is better employed than a week spent in repairing it. It is also to be regretted that when the resolution was tendered to Mr. B., frank and candid objections to the wording of it were not submitted, either by himself, or if denied a hearing, by his friends. Had these been made, and had the friends of both parties forced them to act in the spirit of conciliation which should ever be the distinguished characteristic of gentlemanly intercourse, the whole affair might have been settled in half an hour. Men should weigh well the consequences of their petty squabbles—and leave no measure untried for the honorable adjustment of those differences which will arise among members of a public body, before they throw a quiet Province like this into a state of uproar and confusion.—When a Bill is brought into the Assembly, objections to its language or principles are almost invariably urged, until, by a series of changes and modifications, it conforms to the general sense of the House: had such a course been adopted with regard to this Resolution—had a disposition to accommodate been shown, and had reasonable objections been urged in a cordial manner, to the House, we know that there would have been sufficient good sense in the Assembly to have brought the affair to a quiet and reputable termination. There is not a session passes that some misunderstanding does not arise—but explanations and arrangements take place, at once creditable and satisfactory to all parties. In this case, we regret that the usual emollients were either not applied or had not their accustomed effects.

It has been urged that the house ought to have either committed or expelled Mr. B. immediately on his refusal to apologise; had they done so, we should certainly have condemned them severely. To subject a man to imprisonment, or to send him back to his constituents to endure the risk and expenses of another election, are measures to be resorted to only in the last extremity, and had either been adopted towards Mr. Barry, we should have thought an undue measure of severity had been dealt out to him. The resolution of the house may have amounted to a virtual exclusion, but while no more decisive or violent step was taken by the house, and no new aggression was committed by Mr. B., there was a door of reconciliation left open, of which the friends of both parties ought to have taken advantage—a door which, on the one side, would have been closed by arrest or expulsion, and which on the other, was closed by the public appeals of the excluded Member.

On those appeals, or on the reports of the Committee of Privileges, by which they were answered, we repeat we have at present no wish to comment; it would perhaps have been better if the former had been written with a more courteous deference towards that Body, of which the author was still a Member; and if the latter had been entirely free from insinuations, which, whether true or false, add nothing to the weight of a public document. The house, having almost unanimously taken a stand which they believed to be right, and finding their conduct and motives publicly arraigned in the Newspapers, and their authority defied by Mr. B's assuming his seat, and refusing to withdraw, could not then without rendering themselves contemptible, have yielded to violence what they had refused to conviction. If they had been driven by uproar from the ground they felt it their duty to take, their dignity and usefulness would have been forever destroyed. The punishment awarded to Mr. B. for his disregard of the orders of the house, was an instance of leniency and forbearance on the part of the Assembly—for whether the course originally adopted was the most expedient or the best sustained, it must be confessed that in this subsequent act, there was none of the harshness which we might expect to spring from irritated party spirit, or personal dislike.

The Committee of Privileges having, on Thursday, made a second Report, to which we referred last week, and which will be found in our present number, Mr. B., in a communication in the Recorder of Saturday, denied in strong language the statements it contained, and followed up his