

their help to their allies, and give the word of command in an exquisite tongue which none of us understand. It is hardly fair play, especially as I dare say these delightful foes of ours are well informed first by their allies which of us are to fall before them. We will try what mortal steel and lead will do to battle against their prophecies.

'At this instant,' said the stranger, 'the demons know well which of you will fall in battle with the Afghans; and it is granted to mortal eye to share in this knowledge, the powers of nature invisible in their origin are so subject to this visible world, and each of you may read his doom of death or life for himself, and with the eye of flesh.'

'Are we to see our apparitions pass before us?' asked two or three officers at once.

The stranger, without replying, led the way out of the tent into the open air. All the officers followed, curious to see the end of this kind of eastern fortune-telling as they esteemed it. Words of admiration broke from some of them at the remarkable beauty of the night. Nothing could be more resplendent than the sky, every star was visible, not the slightest cloud dimmed the full effulgence of light. The stranger pointed to the northern quarter of the heavens.

'There is a star there,' said he, 'the ray of light and light from which does not reach the eye that will not long be quickened by the universal principle of life. The first falling in the powers of life here, the eye that can see this star, may sparkle long and brightly, but for him who sees it not, the shadow of the Angel of Death lies black upon the snow of Afghanistan.'

It was the Star of Destiny, of which he spoke, the same which Clara Courtenay had vainly endeavoured to render visible to Walter's eye.

'Show us the star!' was the universal cry from the listeners.

'You see that great bright star to which I point?'

'Yes, distinctly; is that the Star of Destiny? we all see it.'

A little to the left of that star, just above it, is a smaller star—who also sees that?'

Silence ensued; many, after a long and anxious gaze, declared finally that they did not see it, and believed it was all a hoax; several said they had a long sight, as was well known to their friends around them, they saw all the stars they were accustomed to as brilliantly as possible, more clearly than usual; it was impossible there should be a star in the place indicated to them; one or two, on the contrary, declared they saw the star repeatedly and clearly; there was no opposition on the part of the stranger, the star was certainly shining brightly, exactly in the spot he described, but the seers were much in the minority, and at the great proportion of those who professed themselves unable to see it. Finally, it was agreed that the names of each party, those who did not see, and those who saw the star should be written down, and delivered to the keeping of a civilian in Bombay, that the results of the Afghan expedition might decide the question of the truth of the 'Star of Destiny.'

Of the party, of twenty-two, there were found eighteen of the former and only four of the latter. The name of William Howard was in the first list. The spirits of those of the party who had a slight tincture of superstition were much raised by finding that the proportion of nonseers was so much the larger. It far exceeded any proportion of British officers who had hitherto fallen in open warfare in India, and they were too confident in British power, to believe it could be realized. The faith of the whole party in the prophecy was much damped by this great disproportion, which seemed to deprive the question to be resolved of its probability and of its zeal, the whole party returned to the tent. Just at the door William Howard looked back at the place where he had endeavoured in vain to see the 'Star of Destiny.'

'It is strange,' said he, 'but I see the star now, though I could not before, yet there was no cloud, I see it clearly and steadily.'

'Write down what the young man says on the sheet you leave in Bombay,' said the stranger. 'Your thread of life will be bruised, but not broken; I rejoice in it.'

But four months had passed from the time I have spoken of, from the departure of this portion of the British troops for Cabul, when a wretched, solitary figure crawled in the utmost exhaustion into Jellalabad. His limbs, torn by the hardships of the road, bleeding from many wounds, his clothes rent, burned by the sun, and blinded by the snow he had passed through, William Howard, the sole survivor of the gallant band who were cut to pieces at Juggdulluk, rushed into the arms of his fellow soldiers, which were eagerly opened to receive him. The first bearer of the dreadful tidings of the fate of our arms in Afghanistan, he was eagerly questioned, but he could only assure them of the safety of four officers of his detachment, who had been given up as hostages before leaving Cabul, when the surgeon enjoining silence commenced the examination of his wounds.

'I think none are very deep,' said poor Howard; 'the last ball I received from an Afghan would have shot me through my heart, but something hard in my breast pocket here deadened it.'

'How providential!' cried the surgeon, as he drew out the Afghan's ball from

the singed and blackened leaves of a little red morocco book next Howard's heart. It was the Bible his mother had given him. He sank on his knees in prayer as he kissed its pages.

Reader, more than double four months had elapsed, when in a stately drawing room, looking on to such a landscape as only England can offer to the gratified eye, of wood, of water, and that quiet sky, which is luxury in itself after the glare of India, increased as it is by the use of every gaudy color by the natives, a woman, tall and beautiful, still in the prime of life, and scarcely past that of her beauty, folded on her maternal bosom, with inexpressible fondness the sinking and fragile form of her lovely daughter, who lay half in her mother's arms, half on a stool of Indian ivory at her feet. Her black, soft hair covered her features, and fell around on her mourning robe, in the same luxuriance in the halls of Rosingham, as Walter Courtenay had so often twined into a thousand graceful oriental forms in her lost home in India.

The shades of evening began to fall, Lady Clifford bore her child into an oriel window, to sooth her with the beauty of the Landscape of the park for a few instances, as the last glow of the sun disappeared and the stars began to glow brightly in the summer sky. As they moved Clara's copy of Walter's miniature fell from her bosom.

As they stood in the lorie, Lady Clifford said, 'Look over the north avenue, dearest, how exquisitely bright the stars are.'

Clara glanced her languid eye; she saw the 'Star of Destiny,' and an instant afterward she fainted upon her mother's neck.

Reader, for the truth of the tale I appeal related with disguised names I appeal confidently to the recollection of many officers who have served in India in the Afghan war, and elsewhere before it commenced. The tradition of the origin of the Afghan race and language is from their own lips; and the Indian belief in the 'Star of Destiny,' is known from the natives by many Europeans, though I purposely forbear giving any further clue to it. The party of twenty-two officers who agreed to test the truth of the tale they heard in their own persons, eighteen of whom failed to see it, just before being called upon active service and four distinctly saw it, the writing down of their names, the death of those eighteen, ten by the sword, and eight by illness, the survival of their four companions—all these are true.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, April 7.

The House went into a Committee of the whole on appropriations for Roads and Bridges, went into consideration of His Excellency's Message relative to the petition of — Pannam, Captain of the Dredging Machine, when it was agreed that an Address should be presented to His Excellency, praying him to employ the said machine in the coming season, and that the House would make provision for the same at the next session in a sum not exceeding 3000.

Hon. C. Simonds offered a Resolution to the effect that the Auditing the accounts of the Penitentiary should be paid out of the grant made for that establishment.

In consequence of petitions having been received from the Mill Owners and others, complaining of the duty put on Grain in the Revenue Bill. On motion the House went into a reconsideration of the Flour and grain question. This discussion lasted three hours, until every argument pro and con were exhausted. Messrs. Wilnot and Gilbert contended that either the duty should be taken off the Grain, or an equivalent should be laid on American flour. Mr. Wilnot contending that to foster domestic manufacturers was the wisest policy of any Country, and that in order to do that the raw material must come in free of duty. In this opinion he was joined by the Hon. C. Simonds, which hon. member moved a Resolution to the effect that the section laying a duty of four per cent on Wheat should be repealed.

Mr. Wark differed from the hon. members who had just spoken, he thought that if any protection at all was required the two shillings sterling on the Barrel of American Flour was quite sufficient.

Mr. Brown was astonished at the course the question was likely to take; there was he said nothing new before the House—the question had been fully debated before when the Revenue Bill was committed, and now because a few individuals from Saint John had sent up Petitions all was afire again. It had been said that of that House that they were mere automata—that they worked by the pull of a wire. If the House responded to the dictation now set up, why the observation would apply. [It was stated in the course of the debate that the British Government contemplated admitting duty free, Flour ground in the Colonies, provided the Colonies put a duty of 3s. a quarter on American Grain.]

Mr. Hill said he would oppose the alteration, but he knew it was no use, the City of St. John carried all before it, the House must Legislate to suit them.

Mr. End said they could not repeal the Act, and he was sorry for it, it must stand over until the next meeting of the Legislature.

Mr. Fisher would reduce all duties on grain and flour, it was a tax on every interest in the Province.

Hon. Speaker said it was unparliamentary

to repeal any part of the Revenue Bill the same Session. The debate continued for nearly three hours, most of the speaking members having risen two or three times each, when the question for postponing for three months was put and carried.

The House went into a Committee of the whole, on a Bill to appropriate a part of the Revenue for purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Hill brought before the House the question of addressing His Excellency, on taking steps for the recovery of the money lent the Water Company and the Corporation of St. John. He contended that the interest at least should be regularly paid, and that with respect to the money lent to the Corporation, His Excellency had no authority whatever for the transaction; some of the Members for the City and County had called it a gift, but this was the first time he had heard that position assumed, with respect to that transaction. The money was to have been returned from the first monies collected for the Corporate Body. Last year it was allowed to stand over and no interest was paid, and now the House was told it was a gift. [In this opinion the Hon. Member was strongly seconded by Mr. Boyd.]

Mr. Fisher said the loan was uncalled for, and unjustifiable, whatever view was taken of the case; and now a new doctrine was set up, it was called a gift. When this ground was assumed, it was necessary that something definite was done, relative to it; he should therefore offer a Resolution, he did not wish to press the payment at that time when they were in such difficulties; but he could not consent to its standing over any longer, without a proper understanding. He would allow it to remain until next year, provided the interest was paid, and even if the interest of it was an object he would not insist upon that, if the thing was only fairly understood.

Mr. Hazen said that it certainly was understood generally in Saint John at the time, that it was a gift of the Government, he among others was under that impression. The people at the time were in a state of starvation, and it was not to be expected that St. John should bear the whole burden, the money had been expended and the poor had been kept from starving, but he would defy any member of that House to point out any benefit the City had derived from their labour. The stones were lying in heaps in the city, and such was the state of the funds of the Corporation, that they could not afford to spread them on the streets. It was both unfair and cruel to think of exacting it at that time; he did not know until he came to the House, that any security whatever had been given for the money.

Mr. Wilnot said the hon. gentleman certainly never could have read the Journals of the House, or he would have seen that he had an idea but it would be repaid; that was fairly understood, but he did not wish to press the payment of it at that time.

Mr. Partelow said the security was nominal, and merely given because His Excellency was not authorised fully to make the grant without the consent of the Legislature. The Corporation in its then embarrassed circumstances, never would have thought of adding to its debt by borrowing the money, it was fully understood by them and the people in the city, that it was a gift.

Mr. Brown was quite astonished that the Hon. Members of the County of St. John, should entertain such an idea, when they had given security for the payment.

Mr. Hazen insisted that it was so understood in St. John, (and referring to the Bond) he stated that the bond itself was imperfect, in as much as no time was named for its payment, nor was it stated that interest should be paid. This of itself he said went to show that the bond was merely nominal. Several other hon. Members spoke as to the money being considered a loan when Mr. Fisher offered his resolution to the effect that his Excellency should take such action as to secure both interest and principal, but to give them such time to do so as may seem to him necessary. Which Resolution was carried.

Mr. Fisher from the Committee to address Her Majesty on the composition of the Legislative Council brought the address before the House.

Mr. Partelow suggested to the House that an address be presented to His Excellency, praying that the clothing imported for the equipment of the Militia, be disposed of, when after some discussion it was decided to recommend that the suits be sold at the rate of 10s. a suit to Volunteer Rifle Companies throughout the Province.

SATURDAY, April 8.
Immediately after the Journals were read on Saturday morning, Mr. End addressed the Speaker, and said that although it might in some degree be deemed an interference with the liberty of the Press, yet as he conceived the disabusing the public mind of erroneous impressions however made, to be the duty of the members of the House of Assembly, he would call the attention of the House to an Editorial which appeared in the *Sentinel* of Friday the 7th instant. Here the Hon. member read the Editorial as follows:—

'There is a misconception in the minds of several of the members of the Assembly as to the amount received by the late Surveyor General; the mistake may have arisen from the circumstance of the £200, not having been paid in its regular course. That gentleman was three years in office with the exception of a short portion of the last quarter; and as he was removed without notice he would appear entitled,

either on the usual principle of law or justice, to three years' salary; which at £600 per annum amount to £1800. That gentleman however, has received only £1791, including the £200 alluded to.'

He (Mr. E.) regretted to see this gross mistake in the shape of an Editorial, pleading, in fact, the character of the Newspaper, for the truth of the allegations therein contained. Had this mistake been sent to the *Sentinel* for publication, as he (Mr. E.) had no doubt it was, it should have been given to the public as an advertisement or a communication. When very strong indignation was justly expressed on finding that the late Government had presented the late Surveyor General with the sum of £200 on the 5th Nov. last, over and above the large salary of £600 per annum, enjoyed by that gentleman; it will be recollected that an attempt was made to induce the House to believe that this sum of £200 was given to make up the salary of £800 per annum, which the House was then, for the first time informed, that officer was to have. The House would recollect how soon and how easily that attempt was blown to atoms. It now appears that a new ground is taken—that the salary is admitted to be £600, and it is pretended that the late Surveyor General was long enough in office to absorb the sum of £1791, which it is admitted he has received. He (Mr. E.) would call the attention of the House to the important fact that the late Surveyor General was never more than "acting" Surveyor General, appointed provisionally, carrying with him therefore a perpetual notice to quit, and consequently not entitled to be paid for a longer time than he might remain in office, and such principle he (Mr. E.) said would be found to have governed the payment of the officer in question, because it would be seen by the Civil List returns that the sum of 417 0s. 10d. was paid to him in October 1842, the time he left office, being the exact balance due to him at that time at the rate of £600 per annum. He (Mr. E.) had that morning ascertained from the Secretary's office, that the date of the late Surveyor General's commission was 7th February 1840, and that he remained in office till the 5th October, 1842. He was thus entitled to the sum of £1631 0s. 10d. He (Mr. E.) would now tell the House that instead of £1631 0s. 10d. the gentleman had actually received £1991 0s. 10d. He (Mr. E.) requested hon. members to turn to the Journals of 1841, page 37 of the appendix, there would be found recorded a payment 'to J. S. Saunders of £500, on account of salary paid on the 28th August, 1840, by Warrant No. 14. Hon. members will then take up the Journals of 1842, and in the appendix page 20, they would find that £150 for the first quarter—£150 for the second—£150 for the third, and £150 for the fourth quarter of 1842, were paid to the same officer, and in addition a slice of the surplus distribution of £200, paid 4th August, 1841. Hon. members will now take up the accounts of the Civil List expenditure of 1842, communicated, at the present session, where it would be seen that the same gentleman for the first quarter of 1842, received 1500—for the second, 1500—for the third, 1500—together with 417 0s. 10d., his balance due on the 28th October—and in addition to the surplus another slice of £200 on the 5th Nov. 1842. If he (Mr. E.) could add up pounds, shillings and pence, these sums amounted to £1991 0s. 10d. He (Mr. E.) would make no further comment on the Editorial in question, than that it was a flagrant mistake—and he hoped that if there were any Printers or Reporters in hearing they would undeceive the public on that head.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, on the address to Her Majesty on the composition of the Legislative Council, the address was read section by section and agreed to.

The House went into a Committee of the Whole on the Election Bill, which had been previously sent to the Council, and was returned with amendments. The amendments were then agreed to, and the Bill passed as amended.

Mr. Simonds then offered a Resolution to the effect that all duties collected on imported wheat under the Revenue Bill, should be returned at the next sitting of the Legislature. This question which had undergone so much discussion previously was again taken up by all the speaking members, and a very sharp contest ensued. In the course of the debate, Mr. Brown, who appeared to feel that the dignity of the House was involved in their adverse decisions, took occasion to say, that he was a poor man and came from the poorest class of the people to that House, yet he felt his dignity as a member, as well as the dignity of the House, involved in such vacillating conduct. He said he should be in a much more dignified situation, both in his own eyes and in the eyes of the public, if he was in his Barn with his Jacket off, and his flag in his hand, than in that House as a Legislator.

Mr. End also deprecated the conduct of the House on its being so shy; he said he was decidedly favourable to the taking off the duty on wheat, but he really thought it would be futile in the extreme, to shift again after so many conflicting decisions, already come to by the House, he thought it best to stand over until they made the Revenue Law next year, and then alter it.

The Resolution was then put and carried.

Monday, April 10.

On motion of the Hon. C. Simonds that part of the Journals of Saturday, that

related to the debate on the duty on grain was expunged.

The House then went into a Committee of the whole, on a message from His Excellency, during the consideration of which, Mr. End called the attention of the House to the Law sent home for the concurrence of Her Majesty, relative to Members vacating their seats, in certain cases. He (Mr. End) said he wished to offer a Resolution expressive of the feelings of that House relative thereto. He was afraid [he said] that some undertow was at work for the purpose of getting Her Majesty to disallow it. Such rumours were afloat, and certainly from a source which appeared to be in the confidence of the Government. He therefore thought it necessary, that the Act as it then was before the House Government should be strengthened by a vote of the House. He said he thought Executive influence in that House would be subversive of that independence and freedom of debate, and action, which should exist. He found that those who had been elected to the Council, had become entangled in their nature, in short that it was impossible for them to serve two masters—the people and the Government, and that in order that that balance of power should be preserved, which had so mainly contributed to the preservation and glory of the British Constitution; it was necessary that a Constitutional jealousy should exist between the three branches of the Legislature, this could not be when hon. members acted in the double capacity of advisers of the Governor, and the preservers of the people's rights. (It appeared that the Bill alluded to, had been formerly brought in, and sustained by Messrs. Wilnot, and Fisher; the hon. Member (Mr. End) referred to the Journals to prove that fact.)

Mr. Wilnot replied at great length, and in an eloquent manner endeavoured to show that the two offices were not incompatible with each other; but that in a Government like the British which was essentially a mixed Government the introduction of Executive Councilors was of advantage to the interest of the people.

Mr. Fisher followed, and after subscribing to what had fallen from his hon. Colleague; he went to show that although he was the introducer of the Bill, yet if on further consideration he found his former opinions defective, he had a right to change them.

Mr. Hazen said he knew of no such undertow as spoke of by Mr. End, nor did he believe any such existed; he was willing to go back to his Constituents, and if they took from him the confidence with which they had entrusted him; he should be perfectly satisfied; he said when in the Council he would endorse no measure that he did not think was for the benefit of the Country at large.

and forceable way in opposition to Messrs. Wilnot and Fisher, setting forth what he said was the fallacy of their position.—(This debate lasted nearly all the day, and we regret from the lateness of its introduction we are unable to give it at full length.) The Resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. End then moved that a copy of the same be sent to His Excellency.

From the Royal Gazette, April 12.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Yesterday afternoon, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite, came down to the Council Chamber, and, with the usual formalities, closed the Session with the following Speech:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

The business of the Session having been brought to a termination, I am enabled to release you from your further attendance.

Although several important matters which have engaged your attention have necessarily been postponed, some measures of considerable interest to the Province, have, by your joint exertions, been accomplished.

At the opening of the Session I recommended to your especial attention the state of the Public Credit, and it will afford me much satisfaction if the measures which you have taken to facilitate its revival should prove effectual to that end.

The alterations you have made in the Laws relating to Insolvency, will facilitate the administration of them, and operate favourably upon Commercial Credit. You have been judiciously guided by the principles of the English Statutes in amending the Criminal Law, and also in the amendments made in the Election Laws, which will have a material effect in protecting the Public Peace at Elections.

The revival, for a short time, of the Act for supporting Parish Schools, will afford time for devising a comprehensive plan for improving these important institutions,—in the efficiency of which, the interests of the rising generation are so deeply concerned.

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

I thank you for the Supplies you have granted for the Public Service, and for the means you have provided in aid of the ordinary Revenue to meet the liabilities of the Province,—in the due application of which, I feel every assurance that the Government will be entitled to confidence.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

The situation of the Province manifestly

the severe trial to which it has been exposed during the last two years, and which I regret to think are not yet surmounted, will continue to require the fostering care and attention of the Government. Looking to the calamities which have fallen on other countries, we have abundant cause for thankfulness; and I rely on receiving that support from you in your several relations, which will enable me to give effect to the exertions of a loyal people, in regaining their prosperity.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP BRITANNIA.

The Steamship Britannia, Capt. Hewitt, arrived at Halifax on Monday morning last, at 10 o'clock, in 13 days from Liverpool. At the time of our going to Press, the Halifax mail had not arrived; yet by the arrival of the steamer Herald, from Windsor, by the passengers by the Britannia for this City, we have received Halifax papers containing London dates to the 3d and Liverpool to the 4th inst. The following are the most important articles of news which we find in them:—

From Wilmer & Smith's European Times April 4.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

The last two or three weeks presented nothing strikingly interesting to Americans, with the exception of the debate in the House of Commons on the Ashburton treaty. The debate notwithstanding the ability with which it was marked on the part of mover, Lord Palmerston, and the brilliant rejoinder of Sir Robert Peel, fell lifeless on the house and on the country. Regarded as a mere personal display—analyzing the points in dispute from their origin to their final settlement, sprinkled with bitterly sarcastic sneers at the nobleman who carried the negotiations to a successful termination, and showed where he erred by the departure from the usual tortuous windings of diplomacy—the speech of Lord Palmerston was extremely happy. But the practical style in which Peel met the question, pointed out its difficulties, and the paramount necessity that existed for destroying a moral volcano, which threatened at any moment to explode, and involve two powerful nations more immediately connected with each other by language and consanguinity than any two nations in the world, in the horrors of war, told irresistibly.—Beside, he clearly demonstrated that the terms were more advantageous than the Dutchman's award gave his predecessors. The truth is, that the settlement of this vexed question has been a source of real satisfaction to the nation, with the exception of a few trading politicians. This will account for the feebleness of the support which Lord Palmerston received from those in the House and out of it who usually support his policy. The British possessions in North America are, in the judgment of many, sufficiently extensive, and all that was a legitimate and defined highway to them which, in the opinion of the first military authorities, has been effectively secured by the treaty.

Since our last there has been an extraordinary influx of vessels from almost every part of the world, as a glance at our voluminous shipping list will at once make apparent. No less than five New York packet ships, and two steamers have arrived. The President's *Morgo* at the close of the session has come to hand, relative to the right of vis and embodying his view of the eight *role* of the Ashburton treaty. The subject has already formed a prominent *pi* on the newspapers. After the strong decided tone which Sir Robert *pi* on the first night of the sessions *pi* he will question, it is hardly likely *pi* he will recede. But his views *pi* or two, known in the course of *pi* him an opportunity for explanation, will ask him whether he has received *pi* to speculate. It is hardly *pi* his answer.—Every one believes *pi* will maintain whatever be the consequence, the position he first assumed.

Business during the last fortnight has sensibly improved, the cotton market has been extremely *oyant*, with improving prices. *Ty* were 56,000 bags—nearly 10,000. On Saturday, however the accounts brought by the Grey *pi* of the last crop. On that day, and *pi* bags collectively, the sales were about *pi* nearly an eighth of a farthing *pi* ad. A better feeling, however, *pi* classes than has been apparent a long time. An opinion is prevalent that our dark night will be succeeded by a fine dawn and a brilliant no.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

French are extending their possessions in Polynesia, without much care for the rights of the aboriginal population, which, as may be imagined, is not without distrust by England. In consequence of the power of M. Guizot seems to be now perfectly consolidated, and a better feeling exists between that country and our own than has of late years been manifested.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

The situation of the Province manifestly

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THE AERIAL STEAM CAR.
We beg our readers to accept of which accompanies our publication of the new Aerial Steam Car. The details respecting it, as a new mode of locomotion, are of great interest to every one who has any personal interest in the progress of human industry. The invention is now in full progress, and the first trial is expected to take place in the near future. The car is of a simple and elegant design, and is capable of carrying a large number of passengers with great speed and safety. It is also capable of being used for the transport of goods, and is a most valuable addition to the means of communication. The inventor, Mr. G. A. B., has been successful in obtaining a patent for his invention, and is now preparing to put it into practical operation. The car is a most interesting and useful invention, and we trust that it will soon be in general use.