

slavery without affording those men any compensation for their loss would have been to rob them of the property in which they had legally invested their capital. Great Britain could not permit a blot of this nature to stain her escutcheon, and magnanimously granted £20,000,000 sterling to meet the exigency—equal to £50 for every slave on the Islands! In the case before us no doubt much injury will be done to certain parties, but not to all who own blocks of timber-lands. Many extensive blocks of land in this Province were granted a long time ago, and they not only retard the settlement of the country, settlers or Government having to open roads through them, but by these improvements—effected without any expense to the proprietors—they have increased tenfold in value. Now we deny that these persons have any right to complain. They are not compelled to denude their forests of the timber they have been hoarding for so many years. Nay, we will go farther, we expect it will ere long become a question whether they shall not be compelled to throw open those vast blocks to actual settlers, or else pay their full proportion of district taxes for the purpose of bye-roads, education, &c.—But there are cases in which the law will bear hard, such for instance as on those who have purchased and paid for a single lot, whereon they have settled and earn their living chiefly by agricultural pursuits. It will be hard for those, when they cut down the spruce logs and haul them to the river's bank—as a means of procuring some of the necessities of life which their farms will not produce—to be obliged to submit to the deduction of the export duty. The law will also be severely felt by land companies who quite recently purchased extensive blocks from Government expressly for the timber growing upon them. But to have made exemptions in their favour, distinct from the proprietors of blocks which really ought to be taxed, would have created an interminable demand for surveyors—in fact would have made the Bill worse than its predecessor. The question then comes up whether or not the Bill should pass with its acknowledged imperfections? We are decidedly of opinion that it should—that the advantages to be derived from it far out-weigh every other consideration; but while we thus cut ourselves, never shall our pen advocate an act of oppression or injustice: let those whom we have already classed as being sufferers by the Bill carefully preserve every necessary document and proof connected with their lumbering operations, in order that they may be able to prove to the satisfaction of the Legislature the quantity they have shipped, and the injustice done them, and we hope sufficient honour will still be found within the walls of the Provincial Building to allow them a drawback.

No. 2. THE REVENUE BILL.

During the passage of this Bill it was observed by an honourable member that it was "impossible to please all parties," which is a truism we will not dispute; but if our Legislators were governed a little more by their own deliberate judgment—unbiased by self-interest—and cared a little less about "pleasing the people," we think they would concoct better Revenue Bills than is their wont.

Two entirely new features appeared in the discussions upon the "Ways and Means" of raising a revenue, and upon the Revenue Bill itself, viz: the despatch from the Colonial Secretary prohibiting differential duties, and the influence of the Provincial Association. The first was preemptory, and, we must confess, added to the difficulties attending the patriotic member's efforts to "please every body." The latter involves the doctrines of domestic economy, and any essay on the subject would swell our "review" to too great a length; we shall therefore reserve its consideration for separate articles which will shortly appear in our pages. The discussion on the advantages or disadvantages of protective duties, however, called forth conflicting expressions of opinion, Messrs. Brown, Hill, Boyd and others contending for the principles of free-trade, while another party, led by Messrs. Wilmot and End (who, strange as it may appear, pulled together in this instance,) contended for high protective duties—that the colonists ought not import any article they could manufacture—that protective duties must tend to lower the price of articles—that refusing to receive the produce of other countries in exchange for the natural produce of our own would not lessen our commerce—that in order to become at once prosperous and wealthy nothing more is wanting than to "keep all the money in the country," and a thousand other things equally absurd. Fortunately there was a third party not quite out of their senses, who, although not strong enough to prevent much mischief from being done, did prevent the "exclusives" from running into the ruinous extreme they expressed themselves ready to adopt.

"Extremes do sometimes meet," and the cause which led Mr. Wilmot, a professed Radical, and Mr. End, a professed Tory, into the old exploded ultra-tory principle of levying high protective duties was very simple. Both are ever willing to sacrifice every thing in the shape of principle to a vile contemptible truckling to public opinion—hence their unanimity on this subject. Two Societies have lately sprung up in this Province, which at present are the lions of the day, viz: the Temperance Association, and the Provincial Association. To further their ends is at once to become popular, and we find the rival pair taking an active part in the affairs of both these Societies. What their hobby will be next year God only

knows; but, did they imagine they could increase their popularity by so doing, we should find one ready harnessed like a Knight Templar to wage war in behalf of "Mother Church," and the other ready to become a *Salemite* and revive the persecution against witches! So devoted are these gentlemen to the welfare of the "people," that it might have been difficult to detect the "wolf in sheep's clothing," had not the evil spirits which presided at their birth given to each an over-sufficient quantity of bile, and to this circumstance are the public indebted for the occasional expression of their real sentiments; otherwise they might have been duped by their seeming patriotism and disinterestedness.

The mania being, as we before observed, in favour of high protective duties, our Solons have imposed the following duties, which must fall mostly—some of them entirely—on British goods, viz:—Candles 1d. per lb.; Coats 7s. 6d. each; Pantaloon 2s. each; Silk, Satin and Velvet Vests 5s. each; Malt Liquors 3d. per gallon; Agricultural Implements (except scythes, sickles and reap hooks,) 10 per cent ad valorem duty; Boots, Shoes, &c. 10 per cent; Hats 7½ per cent; Iron Castings 10 per cent; Looking Glasses, and Looking Glass Plates silvered 15 per cent; Looking Glass Plates unsilvered 5 per cent; and all other goods, not included in the list of exemptions, among which are all kinds of woolen, linen and cotton manufactures, and all kinds of hardware, cutlery, haberdashery, hosiery, &c. are taxed four per cent, in addition to one per cent imposed by the provisions of the Loan Bill!!! With this list of duties on British Goods need we wonder that but few vessels have arrived at St. John this spring, notwithstanding that the market was never better supplied with timber and deals of a superior quality? Can it be possible that the reckless individuals who, for the sake of a fluctuating evanescent popularity pandered to the clamours of the ignorant, could have been so inflated as to imagine British ship-owners would charter their vessels for the river St. John and pay Cash for timber, when with equal facilities they can obtain that commodity from other ports, in exchange for goods, which affords them both freight and profits? If they were thus led away by the popular voice a terrible lesson is before them: By a reference to Willmer's News Letter of the 4th instant, we find that the total number of vessels which had sailed from European Ports during the fortnight previous for Quebec were 88, for other Canadian ports 29; in port loading for Quebec and other places in Canada 21; total, one hundred and thirty-eight. Vessels sailed for St. John, N. B., 27, for other ports in this Province 10; in port loading for New Brunswick 2; total, thirty-nine; being a majority of ninety-nine in favour of Canada!

In their eagerness to protect domestic manufactures, our "wise men" suffered some laughable incongruities to creep into the Bill. Thus we find that while raw hides are admitted duty-free, manufactured leather is taxed at the following rates, viz:—Harness, per lb, 2d; Sole, per lb, 1½d; Upper, per lb, 3d; Calf and Morocco Skins, tanned or dressed, per dozen, 10s; Sheep Skins, tanned or dressed, per dozen, 4s. This is to protect the Tanners; while a duty of 10 per cent is levied on boots and shoes to protect the Shoemakers. Now when leather is risen in price the amount of the duties imposed—which it undoubtedly will—we should like to know how much Shoemakers will be protected? Among the sheep and morocco skins are also included linings, &c., which are not manufactured in this Province, and for which our Cordwainers are now obliged to pay import duties; this is protection with a vengeance!

In the article of flour it will be in the recollection of our readers that two or three years since the House of Assembly addressed Her Majesty's Government praying them to lower the Imperial duty, which then stood at 5s., to 2s. 6d. per barrel. This was complied with, when at their very next sittings our Legislature imposed a Colonial duty of 2s. 6d. per barrel, almost the amount they had prayed Her Majesty's Government to deduct! But their excuse was this:—That they had just discovered the necessity of protecting domestic manufacture, and while they raised the duties on a barrel of flour to 5s. they admitted wheat duty-free. Our water privileges were then put in requisition, steam mills were erected, capital invested, labourers and mechanics employed, and no doubt much good effected, which must always be the case in any country where capital is profitably invested, affording employment to the inhabitants, and fair remuneration to the enterprising proprietors. But what is the result in this instance? Why, a duty of 5 per cent is again levied upon wheat, with the exception of such as is manufactured into flour for exportation! What capitalist, after he has witnessed this vacillating conduct—this annual change—will place sufficient confidence in the acts of our Legislature as to be induced to make an investment? It would only be to expose himself to ruin.

It was amusing—although provoking—to hear the reasons alleged in the House of Assembly for imposing high protective duties. One man had commenced the manufacture of rakes, and could probably supply the farmers of one parish with that article, the whole Province must therefore be taxed for the protection of one rake manufacturer! Another man has made half a dozen ploughs, and for this reason every farmer who purchases an imported plough must pay 10 per cent! There are two looking glass manufactories in the Province, therefore our belles cannot have the pleasure of viewing their

own fair proportions without paying an extra price of 15 per cent for their mirrors! There are some 20 or 30 hatters in the Province, hence a duty of 7½ per cent on hats. And because there is a man in Fredericton who has put two or three Piano Fortes together, after importing the parts, the "Tall One" managed to procure a duty of 10 per cent to be levied on Piano Fortes!!! But unfortunately never was a worse season for mechanics known in St. John than the present. However good high protective duties may be in theory, they do not seem to work well in practice. The mechanics of St. John—the material of the Provincial Association—do not seem inclined to stop and be partakers of that blessed state of things the Association was to have brought about. The Association petitioned the House; the House legislated in accordance with the prayer of their petition; but instead of reaping the reward of their works, the petitioners—who have braved every hardship for years past—are now compelled to leave the Province! We are informed that upwards of four thousand inhabitants have left St. John during the present spring, and still they go—every steamboat that leaves the harbour for the United States is crowded with mechanics and labourers, leaving their homes to seek employment in another nation! This needs no comment.

The House were occupied in "Ways and Means" and in concocting the Revenue Bill, the greater part of thirteen days. But suppose we take two-thirds of this time, when we consider that the expenses of the Legislature during the late session amounted on an average to upwards of £134 per diem, (this we are prepared to prove, and shall do so before we conclude the "Review,") it will be seen that the precious morceau has cost the Province one thousand one hundred and sixty one pounds! And after all a second Bill had to be passed to render the first intelligible! Truly the Province has "paid dearly for its whistle"

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LOYALIST.

Sir,—We have such strange reports here about the working of the Responsible Government system, that it almost turns our brains up side down, and may I ask the favour of you to inform me whether there be any truth in a report which is current here, that in consequence of the manifold acts of base corruption which are said to have been enacted within the walls of our Legislative Halls, of which the late Contingent Bill served for a "cap-sheaf," a certain defunct Editor is likely soon to be followed by his advocates in that immaculate body; and that Her Majesty is about being petitioned for her signal mark of Royal disapprobation by dissolving the House. In which case I'm told the advocates of Responsible Government at present occupying seats in the House of Assembly, in order to insure their re-election, intend most respectfully to notify such of their constituents as may be ambitious of an equitable share of the "loaves and fishes," that tenders will be received for any of the offices which may have formerly been considered under patronage of the Executive. In connection with the foregoing, we have just heard that a smart canvas has already begun in the County of Carleton, by the present Responsible Members, (in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people,) for the offices which are held by certain distinguished personages. And we further hear that the only pledge required from the Candidates is a strict adherence to the upright and honest principles which governed them on a recent occasion, in superseding a certain popular and deserving individual,

Dumfries, May 10.

AN OLD LOYALIST.

MONTREAL, May 4.—MORE TROUBLES ON THE CANALS.—We learn from Beauharnois that the whole of the men employed on the canal struck for wages on the first instant. It appears that at the time of the strike the men were working at 2s. 6d. a day—the hours from half-past 5 o'clock to seven. Their demand was for 2s. 9d. a day, which the contractors, on deliberation agreed to give them, and it was then supposed that all would go on well. Instead of this being the case, they immediately afterwards demanded 3s. which the contractors refused to give, and the consequence is that the works have been suspended till the 1st of June.—*Transcript.*

FORTIFICATIONS AT SPRINGWELLS.—The United States Government have commenced new fortifications on the high grounds of Springwells, on the Detroit river, opposite Sandwich. The Detroit Advertiser says, "the contracts are now given out and to be completed in six months."

A propeller steamboat upon an improved plan, is shortly expected from England, having been purchased by Mr. Mittleberger of this city. She is intended for canal navigation; and if she arrives in safety, will be the smallest steamer that ever crossed the Atlantic.—*Montreal Times.*

EMIGRATION TO NEW-BRUNSWICK.—In pursuance of public notice, Major Evanson, J. P. Sussex Vale, King's County, New-Brunswick, delivered an interesting Lecture on the subject of emigration to that Colony, on the evening of Wednesday last, (April 8th,) in the Corporation Hall, during which he detailed much useful and practical information that will be found of great service to intending emigrants.—*London-derry Journal.*