

being obliged to expend the enormous sums which he now did when shipping his crew. He would save by the operation of this bill, two or three hundred pounds in wages on the first voyage. It was a well known fact, that when sailors arrived at St. John, which had been shipped at Liverpool or London, at £3 a month, the moment they landed they were seized upon by crimps, who kept them drunk until such time as they had run up a bill to the amount which they expected to get for their wages for the run home, and then took them to the shipping agent and sold them like so many beasts. The ship owner in St. John was now almost at the mercy of these crimps, and low tavern-keepers, who demanded large sums for the poor sailors whom they had seduced to leave their employers. There was also another point of view in which he thought this bill would be of benefit to St. John. It was a well known fact that disbursements in that port had become so high, that British ship owners would often hesitate before they sent their vessels to St. John. These disbursements were principally incurred by the desertion of seamen, who had shipped for the voyage, and as the whole supply of seamen was in the hands of crimps the ship master who came out with only a little money, to purchase fresh meat and other little necessities for his ship, was sometimes obliged to give a bottomry on his vessel to raise money enough to enable him to leave the port. He had known instances where this had happened, and these things were a great injury to the trade of the country. He believed in no place in North America did the practice of desertion prevail to such an extent as in St. John, nor were the disbursement bills so high in Quebec or elsewhere. He would appeal to the hon. member from Northumberland if it was not a fact that these unlooked for disbursements were not anything like so frequent in Quebec as in St. John. ("Not a tithe of the amount," from hon. Mr. Rankin. The hon. member said there was not a tithe of the amount of such charges in Quebec; besides, in St. John they had been subjected to another great hardship in seamen suing for wages and getting a discharge from their ship for some frivolous neglect in the articles. There was another benefit which this bill would confer on the Province—it would place at the command of the ship owner a sufficient supply of seamen to man his ships at moderate wages whenever they are wanted, and this would induce strangers to come into the market and purchase, instead of being obliged, as they now were, to send home their vessels to agents, and have a great proportion of the proceeds eat up in commissions and other charges. He was in favor of everything which had a tendency to induce purchasers to come and buy at home. The merchant then knew exactly what he was doing, and what he received for his property. While the rate of seamen's wages was so high, no one would think of coming to St. John to purchase vessels, knowing as they did that it would cost them three or four hundred pounds more to man their ship in St. John than elsewhere. It was for the benefit of every interest in the Province that the shipping interest should be encouraged. The present practice in St. John was felt to be a grievous evil, and he did hope that agriculturists, protectionists and free-traders would agree on one thing—that it was for the interests of the Province that ship building should be encouraged, and a home market created if possible.

Mr. End supported the views which he had formerly expressed in a speech of some length, and full of forcible argument.

Mr. Partelow opposed the bill on the ground that it conflicted with the Navigation Laws, and advised members who supported the measure to compare the provisions of this bill with the reasons for disallowing the former act, and they would find that it conflicted with these laws as much as the former act did. He also repudiated the idea that disbursements were higher in St. John than in Quebec, and concluded by arguing that no great harm could arise from postponing the bill until another session of the Legislature, as there would not be much ship building next year.

After some further debate, in which nothing new was elicited, the question was taken and the bill lost by a small majority.

The House then went into committee on the Portland Police Bill, which having been read over, progress was reported without any remarks on its merits.

Mr. Jordan then offered a resolution having for its object to refer the Petition of Dr. Boyd for an increased allowance for his services as Surgeon to the Marine Hospital, to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Ritchie said it was as well to meet this matter at once, and not trouble the Committee of Supply with the matter. Dr. Boyd was the best paid Medical officer connected with any public institution in St. John. Hitherto his office had been almost a sinecure. Last year there was no doubt his services had been much greater than formerly in consequence of sailors having caught the emigrant fever, but he, Mr. R. thought he could well afford to give additional services last year for the handsome salary which he had received for so long a period with so little to do for it. There was not a medical man in St. John but would be glad to take the office at the same salary, and if it were vacant to-morrow there was not one out of these gentlemen but would jump at the appointment were it offered to them. When compared with the Lunatic Asylum or the Poor House, the salary of the Medical officer for the Marine Hospital was much larger in proportion to the duty than either. He would therefore resist the petition going to Supply.

Mr. Woodward thought the petition might as well be disposed of at once as allow it to go to supply. There was no doubt that the salary of Dr. Boyd was amply sufficient to remunerate him for the services which he performed, but if it were not, he ought first to have applied to the Commissioners before he came to that House; he would resist the petition going to Supply.

Mr. Partelow would go against the petition being

referred to Supply, on the ground of irregularity alone. There could not be a doubt that if Dr. Boyd had claims, he ought to have presented them through the Commissioners.

Mr. Jordan made quite a speech in support of Dr. Boyd's claims, but his resolution was rejected. For its reception—himself, Mr. L. A. Wilmot, and another, against it, the rest of the House.

Hon. Mr. Baillie, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House a number of Reports among which were the Post Office returns. The House then adjourned. Yours, &c. SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, 22d Feb., 1847.

DEAR SIRS.—A large proportion of the members of the House were engaged during the morning on the Railway Committee. It appears that this Committee met to consider the propositions of the Electric Telegraph Company sent down by a Mr. F. N. Gisbourn, from Quebec, who wishes the Legislature of this Province to take stock for the £2500 already granted by this province to that company on the completion of the line, and for which this Province gets no interest in the profits of the concern, on condition that £2,500 more be taken by this Province, making £5000 in all, to be advanced, on which it is presumed this province would get an annual dividend of ten per cent. There has nothing been said of this proposition in the House as yet, but I presume before Mr. Gisbourn leaves for Halifax, some action will be had on the subject. It is thought here the offer of the Company will be recommended by the Committee to be accepted. Should this be the case, this noble public convenience will be completed in August next.

The rule of the House was suspended this morning on the motion of Mr. End, to enable him to bring in a petition from Bathurst, relating to bounties on the Fisheries, which was numerously signed. The petition was presented and referred to the Committee on Fisheries. Several other members had petitions, none of which were allowed to be presented.

At half-past one o'clock, the members on Committees took their places, and the House proceeded to business. Mr. Boyd's Bill relating to tavern keeping was committed, and a short debate ensued, in which it was quite clear that the subject of temperance begins to attract attention in high places as well as in temperance societies. The feeling of the House is decidedly favorable to the cause, and there is every prospect of its continuing so. Mr. Boyd's bill was to abolish granting licences, prohibit the sale of strong drink of any description, in less quantities than thirty gallons, and impose penalties on those having strong liquor in their possession which had not been legally imported. Mr. Boyd made a good opening speech, but his bill was lost. For postponing it until the next session of the Legislature there appeared, yeas 22; nays 14; majority against the bill, 8. It is right to mention that two of the members of Parliament, who are Sons of Temperance, voted against the Bill. The other three, Mr. Wilmot, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Smith, voted in its favor. By this you will perceive that the Sons already have five of their number among the members of Assembly.

The next Bill which was committed was Mr. Carman's bill providing punishment for offences against the person. This bill underwent some sharp discussion on the propriety of abolishing Capital Punishment in cases other than for murder. A discussion arose on the section providing for the punishment of an abominable and unnatural offence, now punishable with death. The sense of the house was taken on the punishment for this crime, and the penalty of death carried by a considerable majority. A discussion also arose on the punishment which should be rewarded for the crime of Rape, by the bill, it was made punishable by 14 years imprisonment with hard labor, but an amendment, proposed by Mr. Partelow, was also carried, making this crime punishable with death. The punishment of death is also continued for offences against children under a certain age, and I believe in no case has the punishment been altered from what was formerly the criminal law. These bills are not expected to become law this year, and the discussions are important only as showing the general feeling of the House, which appears to be against any relaxation of the Criminal Code as it now stands.

These criminal law bills, will, in all probability, be allowed to pass, and sent to the Legislative Council, but it will be quite impossible for the Council to dispose of them during the present session.

Mr. Ritchie again made an able appeal on the subject of Legislating on these measures, recapitulating his arguments of a former day, and begging the House to be careful how they meddled with the Criminal Laws of the Province.

There was a great deal of discussion on the different sections of the Bill, but such discussion I do not think would interest your readers. The bill was finally agreed to and reported.

Yours, &c. SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 23rd 1848.

DEAR SIRS.—The debate on the despatch of Lord Gray on responsible Government having been adjourned until this morning, the door of the gallery and lobby of the Assembly were besieged by a number of persons of all ranks, who were anxious to hear the continuation of this debate, and when the doors were opened a rush was made for seats, and in a few minutes the gallery was filled to overflowing. The lobby of

the House and the Committee rooms commanding a view of the interior of the House, were also occupied with strangers and gentlemen belonging to the city, and during the day a number of members belonging to the other branch of the Legislature were present as spectators.

Mr. Woodward opened the debate in a very neat speech, during which he avowed himself in favor of the despatch, and of his readiness to concede the initiation of money grants to the Executive, should such a step be found necessary to carry out the principles of the despatch. He was followed by Mr. Brown, who delivered one of those sensible and closely reasoned addresses, for which he has always been distinguished, and in which he supported the resolution, affirming the principles contained in the despatch, declared his continued hostility to the surrender of the initiation of money grants; and closed an able speech by advocating moderation.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot delivered an address in support of the resolution and of the despatch which occupied upwards of an hour, during which time he was listened to with profound attention. The hon. member was exceedingly moderate in his views and not a word escaped him calculated to engender party strife. It is hardly necessary to add that this speech was excellent and, as usual, received with demonstrations of applause from all sides of the House.

Dr. Earle then delivered a sort of phillippic against Reform and departmental government. I did not know well what to make of the learned doctor's speech, it appeared to me to be a studied rhodomontade amounting to nothing more than an expression of dislike to the despatch and the resolution.

His honor, the Speaker followed the learned doctor in a speech of quite a different character, it was confined strictly to the despatch which he approved of, and the resolution which he supported and opposed the amendment.

Mr. Taylor spoke several times during the day, no one could tell exactly where to find him, but in the end he was found fairly fixed among the minority, although he declared himself in favor of departmental Government.

Mr. Hannington came next in order, supporting both the resolution and the despatch with his usual ability, and declaring his hostility to the surrender of the initiation of money grants with his usual determination.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot spoke shortly in support of the resolution and the principles of the despatch, advancing however, some droll theories, one of which was that the Reform Bill in England had produced evil, not good.

Mr. McLeod was in favour of the resolution with the exception that he did not like that part of it which expressed that this country was prepared for the immediate adoption of the principles in the despatch.

Mr. Gilbert gave a long harangue against almost every thing that the despatch and the resolution included.

Mr. Wark made a very shrewd speech in support of the resolution and in favour of the surrender of the money grants when it became necessary.

Mr. Carman opposed the resolution and disapproved of the principles contained in the despatch—because he was against the removal of the Seal of Government.

Hon. Mr. Baillie made an excellent speech in favor of the resolution.

Mr. End made a long, and in its way, an able speech against the resolution, and in favor of the amendment which he had previously offered.

Col. Miles expressed his determination to vote both against the resolution and the amendment.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot and Mr. Street again briefly addressed the chair, and Mr. Fisher closed this most interesting and admirably conducted debate with a speech which does him credit and honor. I never heard this gentleman make any thing like so good a speech on any previous occasion, nor do I think there was a single individual who listened to it, but was pleased with the spirit, the tact, and in some passages, the sterling eloquence with which he maintained his ground and plucked the props from under the arguments of his opponents.

The question was first taken on the amendment when there appeared in its favour, Mr. End, Dr. Earle, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Barbaree, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Carman; against it all the rest of the House, 28.

On the original resolution there appeared against it, Mr. Carman, Dr. Thompson, Taylor, Mr. Miles, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. McLeod, Dr. Earle, Mr. Vail, Mr. End, in its favor, 23. Thus has terminated the struggle for responsible Government, after a fight of twelve years. The victory of liberal principles has been peaceably won by the moderation and good sense of the people of this Province; and this the last and final triumph was achieved without unseemly exultation on the one side; and with only one single exception, without any unbecoming and unnecessary attempts at irritation on the other. There never has a debate of the same length occurred on the floor of the House, when so little was said, which hon. members need wish to recall, nor when so much was said to raise the House as a whole, in the estimation of the right thinking portion of the inhabitants of this Province. I regret that I cannot furnish you with a few sketches of some of the speeches by this mail; some of them are well worthy of careful perusal. The final establishment of Responsible and Departmental Government appears to

give almost unmingled satisfaction to the people of Fredericton. I am yours, &c. SYZIGIA.

P. S.—The debate commenced at 11 o'clock, and continued until 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 24th, 1842.

DEAR SIRS.—Pursuant to the order of the day, the House went into Committee on the whole on the Revenue Bill. Mr. Taylor in the chair of the Committee. As this is a most interesting subject I intend to give you the speeches of the leading members on each side as the debate progresses, and in accordance with this plan I give you what I believe will be found nearly verbatim a report of the speech with which the debate was opened.

Mr. Brown rose and said, that they had a very important debate yesterday upon a very important subject, but it was a subject over which they had not the same control as they had over the important bill now in the hands of the chairman. They called him, he believed, a free trader, and a theorist, but in the remarks he was then about to make, he would not go into the theory of free trade at all, he would confine himself entirely to history, and to facts, and endeavor to shew what was their real principles which formed the true theory of political economy. He would not occupy the ground taken by his hon. and learned friend, from the County of York, the other day, when the House was in Committee of the Ways and Means, that ground had been far more ably occupied than it could be by him; and the hon. and learned member (Mr. Wilmot) had delivered, on that occasion, a speech the brilliancy of which was never surpassed since he had the honor of a seat in that House. He was a plain practical man, and would deal with this matter in plain practical, common-sense way, and if the hon. member from Saint John, then in his eye, could find any thing theoretical in what he was about to advance, he would feel obliged to him to point it out. He would premise in the outset that labor was the source of all wealth; he believed that would not be disputed by any one. The next proposition was equally undeniable; political economy and domestic economy were in principle the same, and the foundation of all wealth was productive labor. Mankind require food, clothing, and other necessities of life, and from the use of them arises the constant consumption of the wealth so produced. If the income of a single family be greater than the expenditure for any given time, the balance will be wealth gained. If the expenditure exceed the income, the balance will be debt contracted or wealth consumed which had been previously accumulated. These practical facts held good in their application to individuals, families, provinces, and nations. It so happened, from the circumstances in which mankind are placed, that some produce more and some less than others of that wealth which they require to consume, and hence arises the whole process of buying and selling; and this was the true cause of all commercial transactions. Different regions of the earth are favorable to the production of different commodities, and a currency is used as a medium of exchange. The natural and practical laws which govern commerce were as universal in their operation as the laws of gravitation; for just as sure as water, of its own accord will run down hill, so sure will men endeavor to buy where they can buy the cheapest and sell where they can sell the dearest. It is for their interest to do this and every theory unveiled to prevent them has proved either injurious or impracticable, their fore-fathers had been remarkable for inventions of this kind. So convinced were they that money was real wealth, that they punished with death every man who was convicted of carrying or sending it out of the Kingdom. They confined commerce to a few towns on the sea coast, called staple towns, and compelled the merchants to sell for money under the inspection of public officers, which foreign money was exchanged by the kings exchanger and coined over at the mint, acting a long time under this most absurd policy they afterwards adopted what they called the balance of bargain system. This system allowed foreigners to bring goods into the kingdom and sell them for money, but the money had to be laid out for other goods under the inspection of public officers and carefully kept in the country—even this was an improvement and commerce increased, this policy was in its turn abandoned for the adoption of the famous balance of trade system. The penal laws were repealed, the kings exchangers inspecting and money watchers were disbanded and that money upon which the very existence of the nation for centuries before, was supposed to depend, was allowed to pass freely away in the sure and certain hope that it would all return and much more by watching and taking care of the balance of trade. Many and deep were the lamentations of our ancestors of that day over the departed wisdom of their ancestors in the adoption of the new system, and sad were the productions of the nation's decline and fall; commerce however increased—a commercial measure sprung up, and the balance of trade was hailed as the true commercial principle, the real source of national wealth. This system was founded on the theory, that when the whole amount of the nation's exports exceeded the amount of the imports in any given time, the balance would necessarily be paid in money, and that consequently the nation would be gaining in wealth—whereas if the amount of the imports exceeded that of the exports, the nation would just lose the amount of the balance in money.