

for it was clear that they must have a police force in St. John, and that in a very short time, different from that which they now had. Scarcely a day passed that they did not have accounts of some petty thefts, and often more serious depredations. These things would certainly lead to the establishment of a proper police, before they could be effectually checked. For his own part, late as it was in the Session, he was perfectly willing, as one of the representatives of the county, to set to work now and prepare a bill establishing a Police for the City, and extending its provisions to Portland; and, for one, take the responsibility of passing that bill into a law during this present session, provided his colleagues would agree. He had strong fixed opinions on this subject, which would not be easily shaken; and with respect to the present bill, he wished it to be distinctly understood that he supported it only because he was obliged to do so, or leave the inhabitants of Portland unprotected. He wished it to go to the inhabitants of Portland, and to the country, that he considered the present bill involving an expense which the inhabitants could not bear, and he wished to have it in his power to say to that portion of his constituents, when the time came, and come it must, when they would complain that these burthens were too grievous to be borne, that they were not imposed upon them by him, but that he was obliged to consent that they should have this bill or none. The plan which he would adopt, and the plan which he had no doubt would ultimately be adopted, would be to establish a general Police force for the City of St. John and Portland. He would have a Stipendiary Police Magistrate, at say £400 a year, a Clerk of Police, at £200 a year, two Sergeants, at £100 a year each, and 30 regular Policemen, at 4s a day, making £73 each a year, or two Thousand one Hundred and Ninety Pounds in all. He would also have twenty additional special police men, who should be regularly sworn in, and ready to act when called upon, as they were not to be constantly employed he would give each of them 6s a day when on duty. For this service they might allow say £50 a year, or in all £3,200; for this sum they could have a disposable force of 50 men, whenever the slightest necessity arose for its employment. Thirty of these on regular pay, and the other 20 ready to turn out at a moment's warning; with such a regular force as this he was satisfied that both the city and Portland could be protected, and all that he would propose to ask of the Legislature in aid of this establishment, would be to give up the duties collected on auction sales, which were principally confined to the city, and from which about £250 a year was derived. This he was satisfied would be a much cheaper and also a much more efficient provision than was now made either for the city or for Portland; but as it was impossible to carry it into effect this year, he should not offer captious opposition to the present bill; he hoped, however, the farmers down about Sand Point and other places in that neighborhood, would be exempted from the operation of the bill, as they had no more to do with these riots and outbreaks, than had the people of Quaco.

Mr. Partelow admitted the Bill was an expensive one, but said it would not be nearly as expensive as had been supposed by some persons; at the outside, he did not think it would exceed £12,000 a year, instead of the £2000 spoke of by some hon. members. He was willing to try it for three or five years, and perhaps by that time the views of the parties interested might be changed, and there might be less necessity for so large a force.

Mr. Jordan spoke in favour of the Bill.

Mr. Woodward supported the measure. The people in Portland said very justly, that their property was worth nothing, unless their lives could be protected in its enjoyment. He was, however, in favour of the plan proposed by his hon. colleague, to include Portland with the city of St. John, under the same police regulations; he was satisfied that opinion would gain ground, and have eventually to be adopted; in the meantime he would not object to the present Bill, but thought its operation should be limited to certain bounds, in the neighbourhood of the town, for there were parts of the Parish of Portland which had no more to do with the Police, than the Parish of Simonds had.

Hon. Mr. Hazen explained that to limit the bill exactly, as the hon. member who had just sat down wished it, would be to allow several large land owners to escape the tax altogether.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot was for preserving life, protecting property and maintaining the supremacy of the law, let it cost what it will. He was aware they were imposing heavy burthens, but these burthens must be borne however unpopular they might make themselves by enforcing them.

After some few remarks from other hon. members, the bill was read section by section, and the salary of the Police Magistrate fixed at a sum not exceeding £300 per annum. The bill contains sixty odd sections, and but little discussion arose on any of them. Mr. Ritchie however pressed the exception of Sand Point and its neighbourhood, but was overruled, and the bill passed the Committee and was reported as agreed to with amendments.

The House pursuant to the order of the day went into a Committee of the whole, in further consideration of supplies to be granted for the public service.

A number of grants passed without debate. There was a slight skirmish on a grant proposed by Col. Miles, to place at the disposal of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor £250 for Missionary purposes, without reference to any denomination. The proposition was negatived without a division.

When the Committee rose Mr. Ritchie moved

his Resolution for an address to his Excellency for the appointment of a Commissioner to enquire into the expense of removing the seat of Government to Saint John. He made a few introductory remarks, and sat down by expressing his belief that it would not meet with much opposition.

Mr. J. A. Wilmot complained of the lateness of the time in the Session, and of the hour in the evening, (4 o'clock,) when this motion had been brought forward; and went into the matter in a speech of about half an hour's length, in which Mr. Ritchie was not by any means spared. I have not however room for further remarks in this letter, than to say, that at the end of two or three short speeches against the removal, and one in its favor from Mr. Barbarte, the house on motion of Mr. Partelow adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Mr. L. A. Wilmot previous to the adjournment moved an amendment to Mr. Ritchie's Resolution, but as the question was brought up when the Speaker was in the chair, and the amendment offered without any action being had on either motion, or any motion being made to adjourn the debate, I believe they now both stand as if they had never been moved; both being dead in a parliamentary sense of the word. There is little doubt they will be resuscitated on Monday, and I expect a capital debate. There is not, in my opinion, over seven members of the present house who will vote for the removal of the seat of government, if the question be fairly taken on all its merits.

Yours, &c. SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, 20th March, 1848.

DEAR SIRS,—After the routine business had been concluded, the bill to incorporate the city of Fredericton was read a third time, and passed. Mr. Taylor having tried to introduce a motion which would have defeated one of the most important objects of the bill, viz., the power to establish proper markets; the very power which this same hon. member sought to place in the hands of the magistracy, a body to which he himself belongs! This was done for the ostensible purpose of preventing the Incorporation from levying taxes on countrymen coming to sell their produce in Fredericton, as if the people here were such fools as levy unnecessary taxes on what they themselves consumed and must pay for. This hon. member seems to have a high opinion of the magistracy, and rather a low estimate of his fellow townsmen; time will show how far he is borne out in his anticipations of the immaculate wisdom of the one, and the imbecility of the other.

Immediately after this bill, important as it is, to Fredericton, was disposed of—your representative, Mr. Ritchie, again brought forward a measure, which is also of some importance to the good people here, and which has been held up as of great importance to the City of Saint John, I mean the removal of the seat of government from the former to the latter place. Mr. Ritchie again offered the resolution which he had introduced on Saturday, the substance of which, I have already informed you, was to address His Excellency, praying that two or more commissioners be appointed to inquire into the expense which would be incurred in effecting this change, and report the same to His Excellency, to be laid before the Legislature at its next sitting. Mr. Ritchie, in offering this resolution a second time, went fully into the subject, bringing forward every argument he could think of, not so much to support the resolution, as to show his reasons for wishing to effect this change. As it would be out of the question to attempt to follow this speaker in the compass of a letter, I shall glance at the proposed plan, that your readers may have some idea of the line of argument pursued by the principal mover in this matter. The principal ground which he took against Fredericton was its inland position. Its absence of sufficient auditory in the gallery; the paucity of the information of the doings of the Legislature which reached his constituents in Saint John, and the people in the county generally. The bad state of Government house, and the expense which would be required to keep it in repair. The expense which it required to keep it warm during the winter, which, according to Mr. Ritchie, amounted to a large sum. He stated that they consumed in that building 365 cords of wood, and 150 chaldrons of coals, per annum, and still could not keep the house warm. The indifferent state of the Province buildings, which also wanted repair—as the rain came down through upon them even in the hall which they occupied. The high rate which was charged for repairs here, and a variety of other etceteras, which I cannot now enumerate. In favor of Saint John, he contended that they had already a house which would answer for a Province Hall, capable of containing all the offices for the public departments, and accommodating the Legislature besides, which could be had of the parties owning the property for thirty thousand pounds, payable by debenture at long dates, say twenty or thirty years. That the storage and wharf attached to the Custom House building, which was the building alluded to, would bring enough rent to pay the interest of this sum, after adding the £400 which the Province now paid for the Treasury and Custom House departments.—That the money now expended in Fredericton for repairs and office rent would be more than sufficient to pay the interest of the money which would be required to build a suitable Government House in St. John. That in Saint John, the constituencies of a number of

Counties, which he enumerated, would come to the Legislature and hear the debates. That the intelligence and activity of the people in Saint John, would have a good effect on the heads of public departments; that the means of diffusing information by printing, and otherwise, would be facilitated in St. John in a much greater degree than in Fredericton, and that, in short, St. John was the place for the seat of Government, and Fredericton was not. Mr. Ritchie, also, contended that the contemplated Rail roads would, when completed, render St. John still more eligible as the seat of Government, and enforced his doctrines in a speech of upwards of an hour and a half.

Mr. J. A. Street broke up all the arguments one by one, and disposed of them very gently, ending by moving an amendment, which affirmed that no evil had arisen from the seat of Government being established in Fredericton, and that its removal would lead to expense, for which no corresponding benefit would be derived by the people of this Province from the change.

Mr. Fisher followed in a capital speech on the same side, which occupied upwards of half an hour.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot came next, and took great liberties with Mr. Ritchie's speech, turning and twisting it to suit his own views, when he could—and into ridicule, when he could not make it fit the other side.

Mr. Partelow delivered a short but pithy address, in which he candidly and honourably admitted that his learned colleague had not made out a case; said he would vote for the amendment, but would much rather have negatived the original resolution.

When Mr. Partelow sat down, there was some applause in the gallery, which was repressed by the Speaker's "order."

Mr. Barbarte took his Saturday's ground, about the despatch of Lord Grey rendering the removal of the Seat of Government necessary.

Mr. Vail said something which I understood was in favour of the resolution of Mr. Ritchie, but I could not hear him distinctly.

Mr. Brown, as usual, gave an excellent short speech in favour of letting the Seat of Government remain where it was.

Mr. Tibbitts went strongly in favour of Fredericton, and

Mr. Gilbert followed in a speech of some length against change.

Mr. End made a capital speech in favour of Fredericton, defending it from the accusations brought against the want of public spirit among its inhabitants.

Mr. Jordan gave a short sketch of St. John, fifty years ago, and ended by saying, that altho' he would not wish to remove the Seat of Government, he would not vote against the petition of his constituents who had petitioned that House in 1844, for the removal to St. John.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot intimated his intention of voting against both the resolution and the amendment.

Mr. Hannington supported Mr. Ritchie at great length, as he was desirous of information.

Mr. Smith thought it was better to have two cities than one, therefore he was in favour of not destroying Fredericton to raise St. John. That would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. He would let things stand as they were, in case a change should not benefit them, and it must cost a great deal of money.

Hon. Mr. Baillie went in favour of the amendment, and against the resolution, in a speech in which he elucidated the value of the Upper County, by reference to documents and returns.

It appeared from Mr. Baillie's statement that there are fourteen hundred and fifty miles of navigable waters connected with the river and its branches, above the Falls at St. John.

Mr. Botsford asked for information respecting Mr. Ritchie's motion.

Dr. Thompson made a speech full of humor against the resolution, and against new fangled doctrines of any kind, quoting a passage from a book which he happened to be reading, descriptive of reform, which elicited roars of laughter.

Mr. Wark, from Kent, made the best speech, on this occasion, which I ever heard him deliver, and I believe the general opinion is, that it was the most conclusive speech made during the day. He went strongly for allowing the Seat of Government to remain where it was, and gave his reasons at length.

The question was then put on the amendment, when there appeared, Yeas, 24: Nays, 10.—Among the nays was Mr. Woodward, who on Saturday spoke against the removal of the Seat of Government to St. John, or the agitation of the question, as he looked forward to a union of the Colonies; and also Mr. R. D. Wilmot, who declared his determination to vote against both resolution and amendment, for similar reasons, and others which he gave, so that you will perceive, my calculation of Saturday was pretty near the mark. This question is now set at rest, as far as this House is concerned, and altho' you do not think so, I am satisfied that it is set at rest, practically, for ever, while this Province remains a separate British Colony. It can never go to St. John, for the more the motion is talked about and agitated, the more certainly will the reasons which induced the first settlers to place it here, operate to keep it in the interior of the country. I know this is not your doctrine, and it may not be the doctrine of a great many in St. John, but it is the doctrine of this House of Assembly. The doctrine of rea-

son, strengthened by experience, both here and elsewhere, and will, the more it is examined, better bear discussion, and force its truth on the minds of reasonable men.

I am yours, &c. SYZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, March 21, 1848.

DEAR SIRS—Immediately after the Journals were read this morning, Mr. John Earle moved that his name be added as a yeas to the names of those recorded in the division on the question of the removal of the Seat of Government.

Mr. Ritchie objected, as there were other hon. members absent whose views were perfectly well known, and who would have been with the minority.

His honor the Speaker said, that the object of taking the names was for the protection of the minority and of the public. He thought it would be establishing a bad precedent, and might lead to inconvenience hereafter.

Mr. J. Earle then consented not to press his motion, and it was withdrawn.

The House then went into a Committee of the whole on a bill relating to the Copy Right of Books, and the protection of British Authors, which was passed with amendments.

The House were also in Committee of the whole in consideration of a bill which provides for the collection of goods warehoused in the Queen's warehouse, under the Custom House regulations, and which may remain there on and after the first day of April, when the Act repealing the Imperial duties comes into operation. This bill was intended to provide for the collection of the duties on such goods, and had been prepared by the law officers of the crown. A short discussion took place on the first section, but after some debate, the bill finally passed the Committee without amendment.

The House then went into committee of supply, and a rather warm discussion arose on a grant moved by Mr. Street, for £300 to pay the balance due the Corporation for building the Bridge over Bathurst Basin, which had been recommended to be paid by a select committee in 1846. During this discussion Mr. Tibbitts brought charges against this contractor for having mismanaged the Bridge over the Restook River, and went so far as to impeach his character for honesty in the fulfilment of his contract. This brought Mr. End to his defence in the first place, and I have seldom heard a better speech than he made on this occasion, taking the ground that if this kind of impeachment and condemnation was to be persisted in, Courts of Justice, Trials by Jury, sworn witnesses, and all the paraphernalia of Courts of Justice, was mere humbug. Mr. Street took the same side, as the accused was one of his constituents, and called on the hon. member from Carleton to move an address to His Excellency, to order legal proceedings to be instituted against him for fraud. The Hon. Mr. Rankin followed, vindicating the contractor's character with great warmth, and challenging Mr. Tibbitts to adopt the course indicated by his hon. colleague, Mr. Street. The grant under discussion was finally carried.

Another discussion arose on Mr. Brown's moving a grant to the Messrs. Porter, of St. Stephen, for losses sustained by them in the erection of dams and sluices for the conveyance of lumber from Crown Lands held by the under lease, and which was sold by the Govt. to Col. Marks, thereby rendering these erections valueless to them. The debate on this grant was at the suggestion of the Surveyor General postponed until to-morrow, that he might have an opportunity of getting the necessary information, as the circumstances of the case had escaped his memory. There was no other debate of consequence occurred during the time the House were in committee of supply, and the committee having sat until a late hour in the afternoon, (nearly 6 o'clock) the House adjourned.

In my last I enumerated the speakers on the important question of the Removal of the Seat of Government. I now send you a sketch of the Speech of Mr. L. A. Wilmot on Saturday afternoon on this subject, and will follow it up by another of Mr. Ritchie's opening speech yesterday morning.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot had some fault to find with his hon. and learned friend who had been the mover in this matter, first, for not having brought forward his measure at an earlier period of the Session, as he had promised by his notice last year; and secondly, for having brought it forward at 4 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, when he knew some of his hon. friends, who were against the resolution, were not then in their places. His hon. colleague (Mr. Fisher) was in attendance all day, expecting that this matter would be brought up early in the morning, and had now gone home; but if the hon. and learned member supposed that a resolution, like the present was to pass without opposition, he had reckoned without his host. This was not a matter which was to be decided in a hurry, nor could be carried by promises made to the ear, but broken to the understanding. Here they had been in Session 60 days, and this important measure heralded by a notice standing on the Journals for a whole year, was brought in at this late hour of the day and this late period of the Session, and how was it now before the House? The hon. and learned mover in this matter had brought it forward, backed by a few petitions from the Counties of Kent, Westmorland, and Albert, and some of those by no means numerous signed. He had come to that House resting for support from other communities which he could not find in his own, for he would tell the hon. and learned member that the sense of the intelligent members of his own constituency was against him in this matter.—But apart from this questionable support, the hon. mover had not brought the question fairly and broadly before the country. He now sought