

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

FRIDAY, April 2.

A Bill to appropriate £2500 for cutting Grimross Canal was lost. An address to appropriate this amount out of money voted for the improvement of the River was proposed—consideration postponed.

House in supply, much time was spent in consideration of grants to the Fish Wardens in Charlotte.—£100 was voted for the erection of a Marine Hospital in Richibucto—no other appropriation of consequence.

The Scrutiny (Charlotte County) was adjourned till next session.

In reply to Mr. Montgomery relative to reciprocity and the bill before the Congress, the Attorney General replied, that the Government of this Province had not lost sight of this important subject—correspondence between His Excellency and the Governor General upon the subject had been going on during the Winter, and the moment the rumour of a bill to effect reciprocal trade with Canada being before Congress reached this place, a communication with the Governor General had been made urging the interest of this Province. Honourable members must however bear in mind that the Government of this Province had no power of holding official communication with the Authorities at Washington, this could only be done through the Governor General or the British Government, and also these negotiations for reciprocal trade by the lower Provinces, would have to be based upon very different principles from those of Canada. As the concessions from Lower Provinces to the Americans, to effect this object, were widely different from those offered by Canada, and must not only be consented to by these Provinces, but by the British Government, which alone might make distinct Bills necessary in Congress. The Government, however, have no official information of any bill upon the subject being yet introduced into Congress.

An address passed to inquire into the conduct of the Westmoreland County Registrar.—It is announced that the House will be prorogued on Wednesday next.

SATURDAY, April 3.

A suspending clause was added, on motion of Mr. Hanington, to the bill incorporating the Hillsboro Mining Company, when the amendments of the Council were read.—House now in supply.—On motion of Hon. Mr. Partelow, £500 granted for Provincial Exhibition at Fredericton—17 to 9. £5000 were granted for the enlargement of the Ignatic Asylum, (to this there was but little opposition)—£2000 for the enlargement of the Penitentiary—£21 to Sheriff Johnston for extra election expenses.

£537 to the Queen's Printer, being amounts struck off from former account. £50 to each of the Reporters not employed by the House, and many other grants.

An abstract of the Census was ordered to be printed.

MONDAY, April 5.

Supply closed.—£547 to Mr. Simpson for Printing the Reports, £150 for the enlargement of the Emigrant Hospital, St. John; £1,100 the accounts of the Commissioner of Public Buildings—this includes the expense of the addition to the House, the fittings, Government-house repairs, &c. Grant to a wharf at Canning, Queen's county, and one in King's. Some to teachers passed. An application for £100 for the promotion of Temperance was rejected, also applications for Temperance Halls, &c. A Resolution passed to give the use of the Province Buildings for the Exhibition.

The bill to amend the Fishery bill passed—it is different from the original bill. Mr. Fitzgerald opposed it as making an assessment to pay the Fish-wardens compulsory.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Wednesday, 7th April, 1852.

This day, at 3 o'clock, His Excellency the Lieut. Governor came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, when His Excellency was pleased to close the Session with the following

SPEECH:

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

I congratulate you on having brought to a close a session of considerable length and considerable importance. A session marked by the enactment of some measures which may in all probability exercise great influence on the future destinies of this Province, and of British North America generally.

I allude more particularly to the Acts for the construction of a Railway from Halifax to Quebec. The moment your deliberations on these Bills had closed, I despatched a member of my Executive Council to England, in order that, co-operating with Delegates from Canada and Nova Scotia, he might obtain the means for carrying out our wishes. I trust heartily that he may succeed in the object of his mission.

The legislation of this session has seemed for the moment to bring into conflict the interests of different portions of the Province. I venture however to hope that the time will come when all Her Majesty's subjects in New Brunswick, wherever they may reside, will look back with satisfaction on the measures which you have passed,

and enjoy the prosperity which we earnestly pray may spring from them.

I conceive it to be of great moment that, as the interests of British North America are in reality one and the same, so the legislative action of the several Provinces should, so far as possible, correspond.

I think therefore, that besides the Railway, another step has been taken in the right direction by the passing of the Act for regulating the Currency of New Brunswick, and I trust that Canada and Nova Scotia may pursue a similar course.

The School Bill which you have passed, after full deliberation and discussion, contains an element of success hitherto wanting in previous measures of the same kind. I mean the provision for Inspection and Superintendence. I anticipate much benefit from this change.

The Bill authorizing a Commission to be appointed for reporting on the Amendment and Consolidation of the Laws, offers the best means for securing due care and deliberation in so important a matter.

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

In addition to my thanks for the ordinary Supplies which you have voted for the Public Service, I feel that you especially are entitled to our acknowledgements for the confidence in the Executive Government, and the liberality shewn in the Railway Acts, to which I have already alluded. So far as I am concerned, you shall not find your confidence misplaced, or your liberality abused.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

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

Again thanking you for the considerations which you have given to all matters submitted to you, and the diligence with which you have laboured, I release you from your attendance here, and bid you heartily farewell.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN NEW YORK.—A most destructive fire occurred in New York on Friday night 26th ult., about 12 o'clock, commencing at the south-west corner of Broadway and Dey streets, which buildings were consumed, together with Nos. 5, 7 and 9 Dey street, with their contents. Messrs. Merritt, Bliss & Co., dry goods importers, are supposed to have lost \$150,000, covered by insurance. The loss of Messrs. Latimer & Large, importers of embroidery and lace goods, is over \$200,000; they are insured \$230,000. The loss of Messrs. Mott, Weaver & Richardson is from \$60,000 to \$70,000; insured for \$90,000. Messrs. Cranes & Thompson lose \$2,000; insured for \$21,500. Messrs. White, Bramhall & Lockwood, importers of woolen goods, were damaged to the amount of \$20,000 to \$30,000; fully insured. Messrs. H. Robinson & Co. are also covered by insurance. The buildings destroyed were erected the past season, were very valuable, and were stowed full of the richest goods sold in the American market—the occupant having just prepared themselves for the spring trade, now about commencing.

GREAT FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.—At a very early hour on Sunday morning, shortly after midnight, a fire broke out in Bank Alley, a compactly built part of the city, between Second and Third streets, leading from Chesnut to Market street, which resulted in the destruction of four large ware-houses, filled with costly goods, to the value of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, including a large quantity of silks, laces, and fancy goods. The stores destroyed are those of Stewart & Bro., Nos. 13 Bank alley and 14 Strawberry street, estimated at \$300,000; of Lewis & Bro., Nos. 11 Bank and 12 Strawberry, put at \$350,000; Gihon & Co., Nos. 9 Bank and 14 Strawberry street, \$200,000; Wyeth, Rogers & Co., who occupied the upper story of Messrs. Gihon's store, \$75,000.

TERRIBLE FIRE AT ST. BARTHOLOMEWS, WEST INDIES.—On the 2nd ult., at about two o'clock in the morning, the people of St. Bartholomew's were awakened by the thunder of cannons, and by the tocsin ringing the alarm, to learn that their little town was the prey of flames, the wind blowing at the time with much violence, that notwithstanding all endeavours, 120 houses or stores were in the space of four hours laid into ashes, by which a great number of people are now without shelter, and deprived of the means of support. It is impossible to give an exact account of the losses, but an idea may easily be formed, considering the number of houses and stores destroyed, and the fact that most of the unfortunates saved themselves with nothing but the dress they had on, some only half clad. St. Bartholomew's is one of the Caribbean Isles, belonging to Sweden. It is fifteen miles in circumference, and fertile in sugar and tobacco. Its population is about two thousand. It is sometimes called St. Barts.

FLAX COTTON.—By late advices from Europe, we learn that the Chevalier Clausen has succeeded in disposing of his patent for preparing flax cotton, as follows—
In France for - - - £50,000 Sterling.
" England, - - - 50,000 "
" Ireland, - - - 40,000 "
" Scotland, - - - 25,000 "
" Belgium, - - - 20,000 "
" Holland, - - - 20,000 "
Total, £205,000

Equal to about 1,000,000 dollars, besides a royalty on all manufactured.

FAMINE IN EUROPE.—By late foreign papers, it appears that famine is threatening Germany in earnest. The accounts from Poland are most disheartening. In Prussia the Government has directed the opening of the Kingdom to the importation of corn free of duty until the next harvests have been got in. In the Carpathian Mountains people are literally starving. There is no bread at all.

The inhabitants are said to be living on soup of some kind, which they call 'reitkam-uaka,' a compound of fat and milk; or they cook a sort of a thick oatmeal pap, something in appearance like the Italian polenta—this they call 'kulasha,' and eat in the place of bread. As in all times of great want crime and dissipation of all kinds come to swell the list of horrors, it is not surprising to learn that something very like anarchy is raging in the districts most affected by the famine.—The men, callous and desperate, get at the fiery Brantwein of the country, and murders and robberies of the weak and defenceless naturally succeed. In consideration of the high price of potatoes, concurrently with the general dearth of provisions, the government of the Grand Duchy of Hesse has forbidden the consumption of potatoes in the distillation of spirits.

Troubles and bad government have superinduced these afflictions. 'The humble classes being deprived of all heart and energy,' says a correspondent, 'have left their fields uncultivated for miles, lest the rude hands of some hateful soldiery should seize or destroy the fruits of their labor. The consequence of this is something very like a famine in many parts of Europe.'

Yet in the face of the preceding facts, the prices of corn on the continent are either stationary, or have received a check. Speculators, however, do not regard a fall as lasting. They are looking with interest to Germany, whose wants, they think will regulate the future demand and consequent rates.

THE LEAGUE FUND.—One of the latest contributions to the League Fund is £2,000 from the Ebbow-vale Iron Company, South Wales. This is the largest subscription given yet, but it may be mentioned that one gentleman who has given £1,000 to the fund offered to make it £5,000, and has stated that he should still hold himself open to the demand should the emergency require such a sacrifice. The total subscriptions up to Monday were upwards of £57,000, a very large amount when it is considered that scarcely any of the means have yet been put in requisition to which the League had recourse in getting up its large funds to fight the monopolists with in past times.

A great change.—Punch says:—A great change has taken place in the romantic literature of France. The productions of such writers as Mr. Eugene Sue have given place to an entirely new class of compositions. The only works of fiction in the French language that are now published are the Government newspapers.

THE CHINESE AND THE ENGLISH.—The Chinese pay the British merchants fifteen million of dollars for cotton manufactures, and forty-five million of dollars for opium grown in the British East Indies, every year.

We learn from Athens, Feb. 17th, that all the Poles of distinction, resident there, had been ordered to leave the country. The motive assigned for these severe measures is a plot which the Poles are alleged to have formed against the State. The true motive, in the opinion of everybody, is the wish to conciliate in certain quarters, where it is desired that these unhappy outcasts should wander over the whole earth without being able to find an asylum.

"KIRWAN" AGAIN IN THE FIELD.—We are happy to learn, says the Evangelist, that a new series of letters are about to be published by the celebrated Kirwan, on some aspects of the Roman Catholic question, different from those which were so ably discussed in his former series. As the former related to the doctrinal and theological absurdities of Popery, this series will set forth its practical character, the results of its influence in the lands where it has uninterrupted sway. As the author has just returned from a lengthy visit to Ireland, Italy, and other Roman Catholic countries, we may expect some developments of Popery, on the principle of judging a tree by its fruits, which will be worth studying.

Commerce of the United States.

A complete bird's-eye view, if we may so call it, of the commerce of the United States, showing what we buy and what we sell, together with the amount of business set in motion by the various commercial operations of the country would not only be interesting but highly instructive. The annual report of the United States Treasurer concerning our exports and imports comes the nearest to this of any thing we know of, but after all it is but a mere catalogue of items with amounts carried out in tabular form. They are valuable as statistics, but are not instructive in regard to industrial operations, or as accounts of the varieties of business in detail.

In looking over this catalogue of imports and exports, it is not a little singular that by far the greatest bulk of the three greatest kinds of fabrics, for instance, that we import, viz., cotton, woollen and silk fabrics, are purchased, not in the countries where the raw materials of each of these are produced, but from a country where two of them are not produced at all, and but comparatively a little of the third. This country is England. She produces no cotton, no silk, and but little wool; and yet we bought of her, during 1850, of woollen goods, (\$17,151,509,) seventeen millions one hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and nine dollars' worth.—Of cotton goods, (\$20,008,719,) twenty millions eight thousand seven hundred and nineteen dollars' worth. Of silk fabrics, (\$19,694,818,) nineteen millions six hundred ninety-four thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars' worth—which makes an aggregate of \$56,855,046.

This is patronising the workshops of our nation pretty liberally. Now we of the United States could not only raise cotton enough, wool enough and silk enough to supply the whole world, but could manufacture them when we have raised them. Why don't we do it? Aye, sure enough, why don't we?—N. E. Farmer.

COMPARATIVE COMMERCE OF THE ATLANTIC CITIES.—Of the four principal ports, New-York takes the lead, and her imports are considerably more than all the rest of the country. Next comes Boston, with about one fifth of the commerce of New-York, then Philadelphia with considerably less than one-half, and Baltimore with about one-fourth of that of Boston. New-York imports about \$150,000,000 of goods, Boston \$30,000,000 to \$35,000,000, Philadelphia \$14,000,000, and Baltimore \$8,000,000.

GOODS FOR CANADA.—We see by the Traveller, that the British barque Harbinger, Capt. Davidson, arrived at Boston on Saturday last, from London, with a full cargo of goods for Canada, consigned to Hill, Sears & Co. This is the first entire cargo that has arrived at that port destined for Canada.

SILVER CURRENCY.—The bill engrossed in the U. S. Senate on Monday, from the committee on finance, provides for a new silver coinage, in pieces of the denomination of half a dollar and less, to contain a greater portion of alloy than the silver coins now in use. The measure is viewed as one of importance, in order to retain in the country a currency which is so essential in all business transaction. The bill, if it shall pass the House of Representatives, is to go into effect the first of May next.

LEWISBURG UNIVERSITY.—We are gratified to learn that the endowment of the two professorships has opened auspiciously. One of the earnest friends of the University, who has already done liberally in reference to the hundred thousand dollars fund hitherto subscribed, has put his name down for five thousand dollars towards forty thousand dollars, the sum required for the endowment, provided the other thirty-five thousand dollars are raised by the first of January, 1853. We have no doubt that other deeply interested and wealthy individuals, who have never been behind in their benefactions to such noble objects, will come forward and make sure the generous offer thus made, and place the institution on a firm and independent basis.—Philadelphia Chronicle.

The fortieth anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Sharp's pastorate over the Charles street Baptist church, Boston, will be celebrated by that church on the 29th of April, by appropriate religious services.

The Maine Liquor Law has passed the Minnesota House of Representatives, with a provision that it shall, before becoming a law, be adopted by a majority of the people of Minnesota.