GREAT BRITAIN, &C.

LONDON, DECEMBER 1.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—In one of your late numbers you express your doubts as to the existence of any real advantage gained lately by the Russian troops in Persia, and hold it even questionable whether they have obtained any solid success, or advanced their objects with regard to that country at all, during the present campaign. Nay, you appear to think it probable that if the Persian edition of the story could be heard, the situation of their invaders would appear still more hazardous and perplexing than is even to be gathered from their own accounts. The following extract from the letter of a gentleman residing near the scene of action, and in every way well qualified to judge upon the subject, may serve to show how just are the doubts you entertained, and to point out the true condition of the contending parties:—

September 7.

"You will be astonished to find thas the Russians have absolutely done nothing as yet, and I have little doubt this campaign will end to their loss and disgrace—that is, if it be possible to found any judgment from the present state of affairs. Their operations seem to be conducted without any settled plan or object; trusting solely to the weakness of their enemy, they have neglected all precautions to ensure success, and hitherto have decidedly had the worst of the war. In fact had not the fortress of Abbasabad been delivered up by the Surhungs of the Nuckshiwan, and 2d Tabreez regiments (Eshu Khan and Mahomed Reza Khan,) they would by this time have been oblidged to retire with loss and disgrace. General Benkendorff invested Erivan late in April, with 5,000 or 6,000 men, and after some unimportant skirmishes, in one of which he defeated Hassan Khan, the Sirdar and in another lost the flower of his cavalry, and had above 250 men killed, the command was assumed on the 12th of June by Gen. Paskewitch, who only then was able to get the principal part of the army in motion. Every one now expected that he would have brought a battering train, and commenced the siege of Erivan in earnest, as from its well-furnished magazine and strong garrison, he could entertain no reasonable hope of getting possession of it in any other way; and the unhealthiness of the climate would occasion greater loss to an army before it, in the months of July and August, than the most bloody seige; while, on the other hand, if his intention had been to leave the place behind, and advance to the attack of Tabreez, he should have made his approaches from Karabaug. He came however, quite unprovided for any such proceeding; and as his army was rapidly suffering from sickness, he raised the seige with more precipitation than was necessary, which occasioned him a heavy loss in stores &c.

"It appears that he had entered into a secret correspondence with the Surhungs of the Nuckshiwan and 1st Tabreez regiments, both in garrison at Abbasabad, which important fortress was commanded by Mahomed Amine Khan, brother-in-law to Abbas Mirza, with a garrison composed of the two above-named battalions, 3,000 Buckliaree toffunches, 28 guns, and one company of artillery. It is, in all respects, a much stronger fortress than Eriman, so that the Russian army could have made no impression on it by force. Abbas Mirza having advanced with his cavalry and 12 guns, as well to attack some posts which had been pushed across the river, as to ascertain the intentions of the Russians, was defeated, and narrowly escaped being taken; and two days after this, the place was surrendered, and the Russians, either by neglect or design, permitting the greater part of the garrison to make their escape. This took place on the 26th of July, and we naturally expected that the Russians would advance towards Kahoe, where the King and Prince with nearly the whole force of Persia were encamped, and a successful action would have terminated the war. In fact the King was just ready to take to his heels, and the people were waiting impatiently for an opportunity of revenging themselves for all the injuries they had suffered from the Royal troops. But we were mistaken: some unsuccessful attempts at negociation were made, but were broken off from the extravagance of the Russian General's demands, who insisted upon the cession of Erivan, Nuckshiwan, and of surrendering all claim to Talish and Mogaum, besides the payment of 700,000 tomauns, for the expenses of the war. These overtures having failed, the General retired with his army, in consequence, it is said, of sickness, to a place called Kara Baba, five furlongs higher up the Nuckshiwan river, on the road to Karabaug.

"The Prince, in order to retrieve his character, determined to march into Erivan; and the King fell back to the plains of Sirab, 60 miles east of Tabreez. On the 23d of August, the Prince invested Eutch-Kilissia, (or Etch-Miazen, the residence of the Arminian Pontiff, near Erivan), where the Russians had left their sick, with ten thousand men; and on the 29th, four thousand Russian troops, who formed part of a force of six thousand men stationed at Abaran, made their appearance on the hills fourteen miles from the convent of Eutch-Kilissia. They maintained an action with the Persian army till near evening, when the —Regt. and the Prince's Regiment of Guards charged the Russians with the bayonet, who broke, with the loss of twelve hundred men killed and prisoners. It is said, too, that they lost seven guns; but this is not yet certain. The remainder, with the loss of their baggage, convoy, &c. got into Eutch-Kilissia, where they are now surrounded.—A force has marched to attack the rest at Abaran, who are said to be guarding the batteries designed for the attack of Erivan. What General Paskewitch will now do I cannot conjecture: unless some fortunate chance shall deliver him from the scrape in which he now is, (a thing not at all unlikely to happen when his opponents are Persian troops, and commanded by such a one as Abbas Mirza,) this campaign will be a disastrous one for Russia. She has, it is true, taken Abbasabad, but I do not think her army has the means or the power to take Erivan. The Country is entirely exhausted of provisions, and they have not the means to move extensive magazines. This is all the news we have at present. All the difficulties of the Russian army may be attributed to General Yermoloff's not advancing to repulse the attack of Persia last year, and having neglected during the peace to establish some fortified posts on the frontier, where stores and magazines might have been collected.

"P. S. The heads and prisoners came here on the 9th. The Persians, as usual, savagely murdered all the wounded."

AFRICA.

FREETOWN, Augnst 1.

From the Serra Leone Gazette Extraordinary of August 14.

This morning at five minutes past nine o'clock, departed this life after a short but severe illness, His Excellency Major-General Sir NIEL CAMPBELL, C. B. Captain-General, and Governor-in-Chief.

Immediately after this sad event, His Honor Lieutenant-Colonel LUMLEY, the Lieutenant-Governor, assembled the Members of His Majesty's Council, to communicate to them the afflicting intelligence, and take such steps as are usual on occasions of the like melancholy nature.

His Honor in communicating to the public the severe loss the Colony has sustained by this very melancholy event, feels that he cannot adequately express his opinion on the death of so distinguished and valuable an officer, of whom it may be truly said, that he has sacrificed his life to his never ceasing zeal and exertions.

The following is a statement of the disease of His late Excellency, together with its alarming rapid progress, signed by the medical gentlemen who attended him:

"After a febrile indisposition of several days against which he endeavoured to contend, His Excellency Major-General Sir Neil Campbell reluctantly submitted to medical treatment on monday the 5th instant, after which period he laboured under the usual symptoms of remitted fever. On the morning of the 9th a remission took place, when His Excellency contrary to the repeated and urgent solicitations of his medical attendants, entered deeply into public business of rather an agitated nature. On the same evening the complaint returned, and was shortly followed by an alarming loss of mental power, which continued and was accompanied by gradual sinking of the bodily powers, until the morning of the 14th when His Excellency expired at 9 o'clock.

(Signed) "WM. BARRY, Dep. Insp. Hosptls.
"JAS. BOYLE, Colonial Surgeon.
"W. FURGUSSON, Surg. R. A. C. C."

Notice:—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor directs that the civil officers put on deep mourning for six weeks, as a mark of dutiful respect to the memory of their late lamented Governor-in-Chief, Major-General Sir Neil Campbell, K. C. B. deceased.

By His Honor's Command,
WALTER W. LEWIS, *Colonial Secretary.*

From the Freetown Royal Gazette, of August 18.

The funeral of His Excellency the late Major General Sir Neil Campbell, our lamented Governor-in-Chief, left the Government House at a little after two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, the 15th, preceded by a detachment of the Royal African colonial corps, and the band of that regiment. It was followed by His Honour Lieutenant Colonel Lumley, the Lieutenant Governor, the Members of Council, the Civil and Military Officers, and nearly the whole of the respectable part of the population; and although the weather was exceedingly unfavorable, there was a large concourse of spectators. During the movement of this mournful procession towards the burial ground there was fifty minute guns fired from fort Thornton, the African, a steam vessel, and the Prince Regent, East Indiaman. The remains of His Excellency were deposited in a vault prepared for its reception, about half-past three, with the honors due to officers of his rank.

We have also the melancholy duty of stating that Mr. John Lewis, the agent to the victualling board at Sierra Leone, has also fallen a victim to that dreadful climate. He died of the remittent fever on the 9th, after an illness of only a few days duration. Mr. L. had filled the situation of agent victualler at Sierra Leone for four years, during which he had enjoyed very good health.

COLONIAL.

LEGISLATURE OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
Monday, February 4.

FISHERIES.

After Messrs Fairbanks, Shey, Stewart, Smith, Young and Haliburton, were appointed a Committee of Priveligis—Mr. Lawson rose to move that Wednesday, the 13th be appointed to take into consideration the subject of the Fisheries. He did not intend to bring the subject formally before the House at present—but would merely read the outlines of some propositions it was his intention to submit, which were—

1st, That a Bounty, be granted on vessels of 70 tons and upwards, engaged in the catch of Fish, from the first day of April to the 31st day of October, say 30s. per Ton; and further, that the vessel who takes the largest quantity of Fish over 1200 quintals shall be entitled to receive an additional sum of £50, and the next largest quantity, £30. 2d, That a Bounty be granted of so much per Quintal on Fish exported to South America or Europe, provided the proceeds, or as much thereof, as is necessary be expended, in Flour, Grain or Bread, and imported into the province in vessels belonging to the province. 3d, That a sum of £ be granted for the purchase and importation of Salt, to be stored and sold to the fishermen at prime cost say cost and freight. 4th That so much per quintal be granted on all Fish shipped to South America or to Europe. 5th That a Bounty of so much per ton be granted on all vessels over 40 tons that shall be employed in the Fisheries four months in the season.

Mr. Haliburton objected to the course pursued by the Hon. Gentleman—it was irregular for him, when no question was before it, to be taking up the time of the House.

Mr. Young thought, that the Honourable Gentleman was acting judiciously in throwing out his suggestions for the consideration of members.

Mr. Smith was anxious that Mr. Lawson should be allowed to go on in his own way, because by expressing his ideas Members might turn the subject in their minds. Mr. Haliburton said that last year he had been interrupted in saying a few words on the Shelburne Election, and he now only wanted to save time.

Mr. Hartshorne was desirous that a committee should be appointed to request His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to direct the Collector and Comptroller of the Customs to lay before the House a statement of the quantity of Fish imported into the Province from New-Brunswick, Canada and Newfoundland; and complimented Mr. Lawson on his zeal, and the change in his sentiments with regard to the Fisheries.

Mr. Homer could not believe that the Honourable Member for Halifax had changed his sentiments—for he thought the proposals he had just submitted were intended to injure rather than serve the question.

Mr. Fairbanks wished that a statement of the quantity of Salt, annually imported and exported, might also be requested.

Mr Smith thought that, as our Custom-House Officers were very well paid, it would be better to make it a standing order of the House to require an annual statement of the Imports and Exports of the Province. A resolution was then passed embracing the foregoing suggestions.

QUIT RENTS.

On the first day of the Session Mr. Stewart moved that the House should, on Monday the 11th inst. take into consideration the quit rents. On this day he moved that a Committee be appointed to request His Excellency the Governor to furnish an Account of the amount and disposal of the Quit Rents—and to give such other information on the subject as might be necssary to the House. Mr. Dimock thought it would be adviseable also to desire an account of all such Grants as were exempted from Quit Rent. Mr. Haliburton thought it hardly necessary, as he believed only a few small tracts, principally town property, were exempted. Mr. Young wished to have every information. Mr. Haliburton said that, as in order to discover what lands were exempted, it would be necessary to read all the Grants from 1710 to 1828—it would throw so much labour on the Secretary's Office that the necessary information could not be procured during the Session. He did not believe that there were more than 2000 acres free from Quit Rent. In Governor Armstrong's Instructions to Gen. Amslio in 1722, he particularly ordered that a Quit Rent from 1d. to 1s. per acre, should be exacted on all Grants, and he believed it had rarely been omitted. Mr. Dimock believed that a considerable part of the County of Hants was exempt. Mr. Haliburton had never seen any Grant that would lead him to think so.

Mr. Uniacke thought that the new regulations for granting lands ought likewise to be taken up, at present settlers experienced the greatest difficulties in making purchases, and he considered it a mighty evil that persons who held land by Tickets of Location should be turned off of them because they were unable to pay for Grants. He knew the intentions of the mother country were beneficent. He thought, however, that it would be better to petition His Majesty to waive his claim—but was fearful if, from the information they were about to request, the amount of the Quit Rents was known at home, Ministers would be less willing to give them up.

Mr. Stewart wished no concealment; in fact he considered it impossible that there could be any—their Debates were public—they would be taken down and published through the province. The Officers of Government would of course be in possession of the facts, and would have to furnish them to the Colonial Office; because before the claim was abandoned, the amount would have to be ascertained. He was satisfied, however, that the Quit Rents never could and never would be paid by the people of the province.

Mr. Hartshorne was fearful that the day would be too short a one—but was of opinion that, as the policy of Mr. Huskisson was far more liberal and conciliatory than that of Earl Bathurst, under whose auspices these instructions were prepared, that on a proper representation being made they would be immediately abrogated.

Mr. Murdock regretted that His Majesty's Ministers had been advised to a measure which was calculated to spread so much disaffection in this loyal and happy Colony, and whoever had given such advice, whatever his name or station might be—he had no hesitation saying he was an enemy to the welfare of the province. It was a question of difficulty and delicacy, he would not deny that the Crown had a right to these Quit Rents—but thought with Fox that all the rights and prerogatives of the King are given to him for the benifits of the people and should be exercised accordingly. Ministers have a right to forbid the further settlement of Crown Lands—but no one could say that it would not be highly improper to give an order to that effect. It was the duty of the House to supply correct information to His Majesty's Government, on every important subject—because if the channel through which information was derived was impure, it must partake of the impurity. He should therefore move that a Committee be appointed to wait on His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to request His Excellency to inform the House whether or not he possessed any discretionary power as to the collection of the Quit Rents.

Mr. Murdoek's resolution was, after some further conversation withdrawn, on the belief that His Excellency posessed no discretionary power otherwise he would not enforce so injurious a measure, without giving the Assembly an opportunity to remonstrate.

Mr Fairbanks was in favor of the original resolution; he thought that every information should be obtained in order to ascertain the extent of the evil.—The Quit Rent system, after having produced much bad feeling and distress in Prince Edward Island, and having subjected Government to large expences in order to enforce these claims, had been finally abandoned, and he was confident that if persisted in here, the same evils would be followed by the same result.

Mr Barry opposed the resolution, because if obtained, he did not think it could be complete, as much land in the Province was held by length of possesison without any regular title. He thought it would be sufficient, if they attacked the principle without reference to the details; when poor men applied at the Secretary's Office for Grants they never dreamed of any other expenses than the Fees of Office, and it would almost amount to an injustice to subject them to any other charge. The Law of the Province confirmed a man's title to land after twenty years possession, and it would be highly improper to subject him to a subsequent payment of Quit Rent. He thought as respected the main question there could be but one opinion.

Mr. Smith thought they could not proceed without information, although he was convince the Rents never could be collected. He was anxious, however, that the House should be unanimous on the subject.

Mr. Young thought that, as the opposition were continually urging upon the ministry the propriety of making the colonies pay their own expenses, the agitation of this question would perhaps hasten the time when the House would be called on to meet these charges.—If information was sent home, by which it appeared that the Government were asked to give up a claim to 8 or £10,000, they would in all probability expect that the House should come forward with a corresponding readiness to meet the Civil Expenses.

Mr. Stewart thought that these objections all went upon the ground that the House were debating with closed doors, and that the Government could not get the information elsewhere. Mr. Dimock agreed in the opinion, and after some further remark Mr. Stewart's resolution was agreed to and Messrs. Stewart, Fairbanks, Young, Halliburton and George Smith, appointed to present it.

LEGISLATURE OF UPPER CANADA.

YORK, January 15.

This day, at one o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded in the usual state, from the Government House to the Chamber of the Honourable the Legislative Council, where being arrived and seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent with a Message from His Excellency to the House of Assembly, commanding their attendance. The Members present being come up accordingly, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session of the Legislature with the following Speech:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly;

UNDER the excellent Constitution derived from the wisdom and liberality of our Parent State, you are again convened for the purpose of promoting by your counsels the prosperity of this Province. I shall have great satisfaction in witnessing your exertions for that end, as it must always be most gratifying to me, to concur with you in any measures tending to advance the general welfare.

The works in progress for improving the internal navigation, will, doubtless be regarded by you with undiminished interest, I confidently trust, that the advantages derived from their successful accomplishment, will, at no distant period, afford the most gratifying proof, that you have been guided by good policy, in advancing them by great and extraordinary exertions.

I have much pleasure in announcing to you, that His Majesty has very graciously provided for the establishment of an University in this Province, and has bestowed means which will ensure the early accomplishment of an object, long regarded by me as among those most to be desired for the welfare of the Colony.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I have ordered the Accounts and Estimates to be laid before you: I rely with confidence upon your making the necessary provision for the Public Service.

Although the past year has not been particularly favorable to the Commerce of Canada, I have reason to believe, that no diminution of our Revenue is to be apprehended.

I have again solicited the attention of His Majesty's Government to an address of both Houses of the Legislature, presented in a former Session; convinced that some of the measures prayed for, would very materially tend to the increase of our resources.

Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen;

You will, of course, direct your attention to such Provincial Acts as are about to expire.

The enactments authorising the sale of Lands for the payment of Assessments which have been suffered to fall into arrear, will, in a few months, begin to take effect. My own opinion of their expediency, and even of their necessity, remains unchanged. I believe they will be found to afford a certain, though gradual remedy for very great evils, and that their beneficial consequences will soon be too evident to admit of question.

These benefits, however, it cannot be your wish to attain by any unnecessary rigor, and still less by any degree of injustice: and if, upon an attentive consideration of the details of the system, and their probable effects when reduced to practice, you find that any apprehended inconvenience can be prevented, or remedied, I shall be happy to unite with you in any measure for that purpose.

The improvement of the different Highways throughout the Province, cannot but be ensured and hastened by the means which the collection of the Assessments will inevitably furnish; but I am unwilling to think that you will find it necessary to wait for the gradual application of these means.

There are other subjects affecting the happiness and welfare of the people, upon some of which I shall have occasion to communicate with you by message; and it is with much satisfaction I reflect upon the harmony and good understanding which has prevailed between the different branches of this Legislature, as affording the best assurance that public measures will receive deliberate and effectual attention.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 4.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The annual meeting of the Commercial Society was held this day, at 12 o'clock, at the Exchange Coffee-House, when the President, Joseph Allison, Esq. having taken the Chair, the Report of the Chamber of Commerce for the past year, was read by the Secretary. The following resolutions were then severally moved and unanimously adopted:

Resolved—That the report now read be received, and that the same be printed.

The Treasurer having exhibited his account, it was

Resolved—That the Treasurer's account be approved.

Resolved—That the Commercial Society be continued another year.

Resolved—That the thanks of the Society be given to the Chamber of Commerce for their unremitting attention, during the past year, to the duties of their office.

Resolved—That the establishment of a Commercial Exchange would prove highly beneficial and convenient to the mercantile community, and that the subject be referred to the coming Chamber, for the purpose of carrying it into effect during the present year.

Resolved—That it be recommended to the following Chamber of Commerce to take it into consideration the many evils sustained by this community from the arrival of vessels with pauper passengers, and to take measures to bring the subject before the proper authorities.

The Society then proceeded to the election of a Chamber for the present year, and the following were the gentlemen chosen.

Messrs. Joseph Allison, L. Hartshorne, J. A. Barry, J. Bain, S. Cunard, J. Clark, L. E. Piers, S. W. Deblois, M. B. Almon, M. G. Black, J. Tobin, R. Tremain, J. H. Tidmarsh, J. G. A. Creighton, and G. P. Lawson.

REPORT.

The period fixed by the Rules of the Commercial Society, for its General Annual Meeting having arrived, the Chamber of Commerce proceed to the performance of their last act of official duty: that of submitting to this meeting their Annual Report.

The Chamber very much regret that the last session of the Legislature should have passed away without any encouragement having been afforded to our Cod Fishery by bounty or otherwise, as the season proved very unfavorable to the catch of Fish:—particularly to those vessels employed on the Labrador coast, the most of which were obliged to return with only partial cargoes, and bring back a great proportion of their salt. They do, however, trust that the experience of the past year will rivet a conviction of the necessity of extending Provincial aid to this fishery of the Province through some advantageous mode. This necessity the Chamber imagine they perceive, in the impossibility of our fisheries competing with those of Newfoundland, whilst the latter enjoy exclusively the very great advantage of consuming all foreign articles free of duty; besides that of receiving their salt on much lower terms;—and, in the policy of counteracting the effects of that encouragement which is held out by the Legislature of New-Brunswick to the fishing vessels of Nova-Scotia, to fit out and obtain their supplies from that Province. The Chamber are not igaorant that articles *here* free of duty, yet as the inhabitants of this Province are not considered one entire population of Fishermen and their dependants, as is the case of Newfoundland, they are satisfied, that, by so doing, a wide field would be opened for fraud and imposition, to the very great injury of the Provincial Revenue:—they therefore are inclined to hope that some other arrangement will be adopted, by which the fisherman may be equally benefitted, and the inducement to fraud removed.

The importance of the Fisheries of the Province being a subject of paramount attention, a meeting of the Chamber was convened early in June last, when amongst other matters connected with the subject, the Convention between Great-Britain and the United States of America, dated 20th Oct. 1818, was referred to;—and although from the wording of the treaty it is evident that a privilege most injurious to our fishermen, viz. that of allowing Americans to take fish on the coasts of Labrador, the Gulph of St. Lawrence, and Nova-Scotia, has been granted to the latter, the Chamber of Commerce are well satisfied that it was never the intention of either His Majesty's Government, or that of the United States, to countenance the illegal traffic of the many usurpations of power and authority frequently indulged in by the Americans who resort thither, to the very great annoyance and detriment of our own fishermen.

Early in the last Spring, a vessel was fitted out by Messrs. Thomas & Michael Tobin of this place, and dispatched on a Sealing voyage, from which she safely returned, though but partially successful. This being a branch of trade entirely new to our community, the Chamber are of opinion, that if it should be fostered by Legislative encouragement, it would prove highly beneficial, by providing a very valuable export, and employing a great number of persons, who, at the season of the year for conducting it, would otherwise be unoccupied.

The Chamber are highly gratified in learning that intelligence has been received from the Whaling Company's ship Pacific of this port, by which it appears she was successfully prosecuting her voyage, in August last, on the coast of Peru. Another ship of 330 tons burthen has been chartered for a voyage to the Brazil Bank, which will be undertaken in the month of May next;—the casks and other materials necessary for the outfit being at present in a state of preparation.—To the extensive advantages resulting to this Province from the *complete establishment* of the Whale Fishery, the Chamber of Commerce look forward with the strongest confidence; and as it is evident that without the Bounty, the present voyages would not have been undertaken, the Chamber feel well assured that a continuance of it will much facilitate the attainment of this important object.

The consideration of the many and important advantages derivable from the erection in this Harbour of a Patent Slip or Marine Railway, for the repair of ships, being early brought before the Chamber, they appointed three gentlemen of their number to obtain the necessary information relative to the expense thereof, who after lengthy and detailed correspondence with an experienced individual at Boston, (copies of which are recorded in the books of this Institution) reported to the Chamber "That from the smallness of the tide in the Harbor of Halifax, the erection of a Marine Railway would be attended with an expense such as the trade of the Port would not at present admit."

On the subject of the tonnage duty levied upon vessels arriving within the ports of the island of Jamaica, recommended by the last Chamber to the consideration of their successors, the present Chamber conceived it unnecessary for them to adopt any measures, as it had been submitted to His Excellency by the Legislature of the Province.

It is with feelings of much pleasure and satisfaction that the Chamber have to communicate the gratifying fact, that during the past year a considerable extension of our trade has taken place, and the consequence has been a large increase in the Tonnage of our Shipping:—and whilst the coast of Halifax can now boast a class of vessels generally much improved, there are many of the most superior description. These were some of the effects anticipated from an application of the Trade Acts now in force, and the Chamber are happy to have it in their power to give their testimony to such solid advantages having been realized to this community under their operation, and they also indulge the firm belief that industry and enterprise will receive a powerful excitement, as their beneficial influence upon our trade continues to be developed, while branching itself into new and untried channels. The refusal of the Government of the United States to reciprocate the liberal policy and enactments of the Imperial Parliament of our Mother Country, has proved by no means disadvantageous to the Mercantile and other interests of this Psovince, and the Chamber of Commerce entertain no doubt that abundant supplies of provisions, &c. may be profitably imported from many places in the North of Europe, in return for the productions of our Fisheries: affording at the same time to our own shipping, the important advantages of the carrying trade, in lengthy snd circuitous voyages.

During the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, the Act 7th and 8th, Geo. 4, c. 56, was passed, which makes some material alterations in the privileges granted by those of 1825 and 1826, extendfng them in some instances, and in others defining them. An abstract of this act has been recently received by the Chamber, and the same will be published for the information of those concerned.

From this subject, so intimately connected with the welfare of this community, and that of the Province generally, the Chamber conceive that they are very naturally led to express their regret at the non-appointment of a Provincial Agent in England. Whilst Nova-Scotia, by the increase of its population, the extension of its domestic and foreign trade, and improving revenue, is daily advancing in importance; whilst circumstances of extreme consequence to us, from time to time, growing out of the altered policy of His Majesty's Government towards the Colonies, may render it highly needful for applications to be made at the Fountain Head: and whilst every other of our Sister Provinces has its public and accredited Agent resident in London, it does appear to this Chamber, to be a *desideratum* that some individual of extensive influence and mercantile ability there, should be appointed as the Agent of *this* Province, through whose medium such representations as circumstances may render necessary, may be made *at any time* to His Majesty's Government, and whose exertions may *always* be called upon in furtherance of the public and general interests of this Colony.

Amongst the changes that have taken place during the year, the alteration of the route of His Majesty's Packets is one of importance to the interests of the province; and as every facility is now restored to commercial communication with the Parent State, it is confidently expected that no future departure from the present convenient and beneficial arrangements will occur.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Commercial community continues to be indebted, for his ready aud polite attention to every representation the Chamber of Commerce have deemed it needful to submit to him, and they are fully satisfied, that His Excellency does not cease to feel a deep and warm concern in the advancement of every measure, having a tendency to promote the well being of this Province.

For the kind attention of Sir Charles Ogle to the mercantile interests of this community, in making known to the Chamber of Commerce from time to time the intended departure of His Majesty's ships for various places, and for the prompt and efficient assistance afforded by him to vessels in distress, whenever accidents have occurred within his knowledge, the Chamber, on behalf of the Society, feel it their duty to express their deepest acknowledgements: and they feel well assured that the Rear Admiral will rejoice at every favourable opportunity which may be afforded him for carrying into effect the intentions of His Royal Highness the Lord High Admiral, who is known *ever to have indulged a peculiar solicitude towards the welfare of this Colony*, and whose precise words in his instructions to the Rear Admiral, as he has condescendingly stated to this Chamber, are "TO GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE COUNTENANCE, FACILITY, AND PROTECTION, TO THE TRADE AND FISHERIES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HIS COMMAND."

From the nature of the purposes for which the Chamber of Commerce have been appointed, many applications have of course, during the passage of the year, necessarially been made to, and communications held with, the honourable the Collector and the Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs, which have been, in every instance readily received, and considered with due attention.

A representation having been made to these gentlemen by the Chamber, stating the great convenience that would be experienced by increasing the number of places of deposit for Lumber, Staves, &c. in Bond, the wharves of Messrs. Pryor, Brown, Tobin, and Cunard, were accordingly added to the number of those previous appointed for that purpose, until they should receive the orders of the Honourable Board of Customs for their future guidance.

In the month of July last, the copy of a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of Saint John, N. B. to the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council for Trade, on the subject of the carrying trade for the supply of the British, through the FOREIGN Islands, was received from their President by this Chamber, who after a deliberate discussion of the subject, came to the decision that it would not be expedient to petition His Majesty's Government for any enactments which would have a tendency to limit the privileges of British subjects in their trade with foreign countries, or be at variance with the spirit of those laws so recently made for the purposes of establishing and regulating such trade: and an answer to this effect was accordingly returned by this Chamber to that of St. John, New-Brunswick.

The Chamber have not been insensible to the very serious inconvenience resulting to every species of trade, and to every individual throughout the community, from the very great difficiency of the currency of the Province in the article of *Change*, or small coin. This has now, however, become an inconvenience of such magnitude, that the Chamber feel satisfied nothing less than the interference of the Legislature can possibly remedy the evil; and they do hope that the subject will be brought before it during its present session when it will doubtless receive that serious consideration, demanded by its importance to the Province generally.

By a sudden dispensation of Providence, the Chamber have been very lately deprived of the services of one of their numbers (the late John Starr, Esq.) and although from the proximity of the General Annual Meeting, they did not summon a special meeting of the society for the election of another person to supply his place, yet they did not the less estimate their loss; and they entertain the conviction, that there is not a subscriber to this institution who does not, in common with themselves, sincerely deplore his very unexpected removal.

In thus concluding their Annual Report, the Chamber of Commerce are not aware of any other matter to which it is their duty to advert; but in surrendering their trust, they cannot resist the opportunity afforded them of reiterating the recommendation of their predecessors, that this Institution be continued, and they sincerely trust that from an experience of the numerous advantages already derived from it, and the smallness of the subscription necessary for the support, it will not be suffered to become extinct through any want of patronage on the part of the mercantile community. JOSEPH ALLISON,

Halifax, Feb. 7, 1828. *President.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

Ingratitude, Mr. Editor, is surely an infernal emanation,—a ray of the mighty Halo which encircles the head of Lucifer,—The chief of the myriads of engines which he employs in the great work of human destruction.—*The* [illegible] *man* is obnoxious to universal detestation; but alas, Sir, the evil, like the censure, is also universal,—we are all afflicted with this satanic malady.—Yet, though we all agree respecting its influence on the conduct of our neighbours, none of us will readily admit the possibility of its existence in himself.—Public and private ingratitude is the splendid theme of scholastic reprobation—yet are the learned Professors ungrateful. The moralist exclaims against its prevalence, but gratitude is not found in the catalogue of *his* virtues. Parents inveigh against the ingratitude of their children, but they themselves were once the Juvenile objects of similar invective. In short, all mankind unite in condemning each other, on account of the real or imaginary existence of this vice. Now, Sir, as you and I, could not hope to escape a share of the general censure, let us revenge ourselves, by exclaiming, in our turn, against the whole *genus hominum*, for their unparalleled ingratitude to our omnipotent Patroness—FASHION, whose power has influenced the actions of man, from his creation in Eden, down to the present moment. In no age nor nation were temples erected, or divine honors paid to *her*. The idolatrous heathen, whose creed was the very essence of fiction, had his particular deity for every science and every art; but Fashion, who presided over the whole circle of arts and sciences, was not enrolled among the objects of his worship. Modern civilized nations make no better acknowledgements for h protection. Under her mighty spell, absurdity becomes wisdom; deformity is beauty; vulgarity is elegance, and obscurity is but pleasantry. The magnificient Persian, arrayed in all the pomp of oriental splendour—the savage American, with his filthy blanket and tomahawk—the thin withered Gaul, (that shade of a Phantom,) with his cocked hat and formidable queue—the ferocious Protegee of Saint Patrick, with his brogues and shillelah—and the rude obstinate Caledonian, with his plilibeg and claymore, are equally the devotees of fashion. John Bull extols his roast beef and plum puddings; the Frenchman, his fricasees and soup maigre; Sawney, his haggis and brose; and Paddy maintains the pre-eminence of potatoes and whiskey; while Jonathan guesses, that pork and 'lasses are preferable to all the others.—These are national fashions. Our warlike ancestors stained their faces to create terror in their adversaries; modern fair ones do the same from a far different motive. Adam stitched fig leaves, and Vestiarius cuts garments by the mathematical proportions of the human frame. The world is somewhat improved since aprons of "verdant hue" were in request. Cicero delivered orations, which were the models of *true* eloquence. Galerus stuns us with pompous bombast.—Fashions are strangely altered since the days of Tully; yet both are useful in their way. Johnson, that prodigy of literature, compiled a dictionary—at that time a stupendous task. H. (no less remarkable in our days) undertakes to revise and correct it; not because the terms are improper, or have become obsolete, but they do not exactly coincide with his opinion of the present fashions. Demosthenes, in his ascent to glory, surmounted difficulties, which were apparently insuperable; by like slow, but sure degrees, Pedanticus is climbing to the summit of Rhetorical Fame. Our celebrated warriors, weary of inglorious repose, strike out a new path to fame, and in the mazes of a game at chess, exert those powers of combination and resolution, which decided the fate of W——oo. In one game the stakes are guineas, in the other they were *Crowns* that is the only difference. Cards are, and will be the fashion, until we can invent some more rational amusement for our leisure hours. I datest innovations, but would most strenuously recommend that Cards be confined to Republics, where Royalty is but a name—a bugbear to frighten children; where the chief Magistrate is an Emperor incog. The frequent and irreverent use of Royal Titles, and their invariable combination with the *name* of the other Court Cards, has a very sensible tendency to diminish our admiration of regal dignity. Volumes might be written upon the demoralizing effect of Cards, but they are hallowed by the potent voice of fashion. I am no enemy to fashion. I love to contemplate its ever varying features, and admire it equally, whether it appears in the form of a sceptre or a cigar; a Lord Chief Justice, or an Attorney's Clerk; a Commander-in-Chief of the imperial army, or a serjeant Major of Militia; a ribbon or a rope. The fashion of Physic, when judiciously restricted, is beneficial to mankind. Its spurious offspring—*Quackery*, is in the same degree injurious; but it is the greater favorite. The multitude spurn their benefactor, but adore their ruthless destroyer. The Physician adheres to certain rules, founded upon accurate observation of causes and effects. The quack, who is fettered by no such rules, boldly launches out into the ocean of experiment:—his prescriptions are new; novelty has inexpressible charms, especially in medicine—nine-tenths of his infatuated Patients are consigned to a premature tomb; but *one* recovers, and the reputation of the *Doctor* is established.—Doctor Solomon renders his name immortal by his glorious invention of a convenient mixture of rum and water. Whitwell has his Opodeldoc, and Chambers his Powders, for the cure of Intemperance—all are bubbles—but they are the fashion. The blessings of Quackery are specially reserved for a new Country like New-Brunswick: every village is favored with the presence of at least a dozen female quacks: their medical formulary, however, is not dangerous—they cure by *charms*, but not of beauty. Would that the practice of the male Quacks were equally inoffensive—The ruined Gamester, the bankrupt Pedlar, the superannuated Rake, enervated by debaucheries, the half reformed sot; and the knavish Clerk, who has been dismissed from his employment for nefarious practices, are continually recruiting the mighty corps of swaddling preachers, country schoolmasters, and itinerant quacks.—The crafty smuggler assumes the sacred garb, and with his Bible in one hand, and illicit wares in the other, cheats his audience at once of their money and faith.—Illiterate Legislatures enact Laws for the protection of the subject, light cannot proceed from darkness—the confusion of their minds characterises their enactments.—Commentators must be employed to discover the latent wisdom of the statutes—Incongruous expositions are given, these incongruities must be reconciled, hence the necessity of Lawyers. The Law is a genteel profession—every wealthy clown aspires to gentility; but finding that he himself cannot well attain to any degree of eminence among gentlemen, he is content to resign his pretentions in favor of his son; hence, in every family of muck-worms, a Lawyer may be found,—even the very tan vats contribute their mite to the hetrogene-