

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT OF LOWER CANADA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Nov. 23. Mr. Speaker delivered the following Message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, viz: JAMES KEMPT; His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, avails himself of the earliest opportunity of conveying to the Assembly the following communication, which he has received the King's commands to make to the Provincial Parliament.

In laying the same before the Assembly, His Excellency is commanded by His Majesty to state, that His Majesty has received too many proofs of the loyalty and attachment of His Canadian subjects, to doubt their cheerful acquiescence in every effort which His Majesty's Government shall make to reconcile past differences, and he looks forward, with hope, to a period, when, by the return of harmony, all branches of the Legislature will be able to bestow their undivided attention, on the best method of advancing the prosperity, and developing the resources, of the extensive and valuable territories comprised within His Majesty's Canadian Provinces.

With a view to the adjustment of the questions in controversy, His Majesty's Government has communicated to His Excellency its views on different branches of this important subject, but, as the complete settlement of the affairs of the Province cannot be effected but with the aid of the Imperial Parliament, the instructions of His Excellency are at present confined to the discussion of those points alone, which can no longer be left undecided, without extreme disadvantage to the interests of the Province.

Among the most material of those points, the first to be adverted to, is the proper disposal of the financial resources of the country, and with the view of obviating all future misunderstanding in this matter, His Majesty's Government have prescribed to His Excellency, the limits within which, his communications to the Legislature, on this matter, are to be confined; His Excellency is commanded by His Majesty to acquaint the Assembly, that the discussions which have occurred for some years past between the different branches of the Legislature of this Province, respecting the appropriation of the revenue, have engaged His Majesty's serious attention, and that he has directed careful enquiry to be made, in what manner these questions may be finally adjusted, with a due regard to the prerogative of the Crown, as well as to their constitutional privileges, and to the general welfare of His faithful subjects in Lower Canada.

His Excellency is further commanded to state, that the Statutes passed in the 14th and 51st years of the Reign of His late Majesty, have imposed upon the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the duty of appropriating the produce of the revenue granted to His Majesty by the first of these statutes, and that, whilst the Law shall continue unaltered by the same authority by which it was framed, His Majesty is not authorized to place the revenue under the control of the Legislature of this Province.

The proceeds of the revenue arising from the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 14 Geo. III, together with the sum appropriated by the Provincial statute 39 Geo. III, and the duties levied under the Provincial statute 41 Geo. III, cap. 13 and 14, may be estimated, for the current year, at the sum of £34,700. (a) The produce of the casual and territorial revenue of the Crown, and of fines and forfeitures, may be estimated for the same period, at the sum of £3,400. (b) These several sums making together the sum of £38,100, constitute the whole estimated revenue, arising in this Province, which the law has placed at the disposal of the Crown.

His Majesty has been pleased to direct that, from this collective revenue of £38,100, the salary of the officer administering the Government of the Province, and the salaries of the Judges should be defrayed. But His Majesty being graciously disposed to mark, in the strongest manner, the confidence which he reposes in the liberality and affection of His faithful Commons of this Province, has been pleased to command His Excellency to announce to the Assembly, that no further appropriation of any part of this Revenue will be made, until His Excellency shall have been enabled to become acquainted with their sentiments, as to the most advantageous mode in which it can be applied to the Public service; and it will be gratifying to His Majesty, if the recommendation made to the Executive Government of the Province, on this subject, shall be such as may be able with propriety, and with due attention to the interests, and efficiency of His Majesty's Government, to adopt.

His Majesty fully relies upon the liberality of His faithful Commons of Lower Canada, to make such further provision as the exigencies of the Public Service of the Province (for which the amount of the Crown Revenues above mentioned may prove inadequate) may require. The balance of money in the hands of the Receiver-General, which is not placed, by law, at the disposal of the Crown, must await the appropriation which it may be the pleasure of the Provincial Legislature to make.

His Excellency is further commanded by His Majesty to recommend to the Assembly the enactment of a law for the indemnity of any persons who have heretofore, without legal authority, signed, or acted in obedience to, the warrants for the appropriation to the Public service of any unappropriated monies of this Province; and His Majesty anticipates that they will, by an acquiescence in this recommendation, show that they cheerfully concur with him in the efforts which he is now making for the establishment of a permanent good understanding between the different Branches of the Executive and Legislative Government.

The proposals which His Excellency has been thus instructed to make for the adjustment of the following accounts: (a) 14 Geo. III. £25,000 25 Geo. III. 5,000 41 Geo. III. 4,700 (b) Casual Revenue, £34,700 Fines, &c. 400 £4,300

ment of the pecuniary affairs of the Province, are intended to meet the difficulties of the ensuing year, and he trusts they may be found effectual for that purpose. His Majesty, has, however further commanded His Excellency to acquaint the Assembly, that a scheme for the permanent settlement of the financial concerns of Lower Canada, is in contemplation; and His Majesty entertains no doubt of such a result being attainable, as will prove conducive to the general welfare of the Province, and satisfactory to his faithful Canadian subjects.

The complaints which have reached His Majesty's Government respecting the inadequate security heretofore given by the Receiver General and by the Sheriff for the due application of the Public monies in their hands, have not escaped the very serious attention of the ministers of the Crown. It has appeared to His Majesty's Government, that the most effectual security against abuses in these departments would be found in enforcing in this Province a strict adherence to a system, established under His Majesty's instructions in other Colonies, for preventing the accumulation of balances in the hands of public accountants, by obliging them to exhibit their accounts to a competent authority at short intervals, and immediately to pay over the ascertained balance into a safe place of deposit; and in order to obviate the difficulty arising from the want of such place of Deposit Lower Canada, His Excellency is authorized to state, that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury will hold themselves responsible to the Province for any sums which the Receiver General or Sheriff may pay over to the Commissary General; and His Excellency is instructed to propose to the Assembly the enactment of a law, binding these officers to pay over to the Commissary General such balances, as upon rendering their accounts to the competent authority, shall appear to be remaining in their hands, over and above what may be required for the current demands upon their respective offices; such payments being made on condition that the Commissary General shall be bound, on demand, to deliver bills on His Majesty's Treasury for the amount of his receipts.

His Excellency is further instructed to acquaint the Assembly that although it was found necessary by an Act passed in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, 9 Geo. 4, cap. 76, Sec. 26, to set at rest doubts which had arisen whether the statute for regulating the distribution between the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada of the Duties of Customs collected at Quebec, had not been inadvertently repealed by the general terms of an Act of a late date. His Majesty's Government have no desire that the interference of Parliament in this matter, should be perpetuated, if the Provincial Legislatures can themselves agree upon any plan for a division of these duties which may appear to them more convenient and more equitable; and on the whole of the subject, His Majesty's Government will be happy to receive such information and assistance, as the Assembly of this Province may be able to supply.

The appointment of an Agent in England to indicate the wishes of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, appearing to be an object of great solicitude with the Assembly, His Majesty's Government will cheerfully accede to the desire expressed by the Assembly upon this head, provided that, such agent be appointed, as in other British Colonies by name, in an Act to be passed by the Council and Assembly approved of by the Executive Government of the Province, and His Majesty's Government are persuaded that the Legislature will not make such a selection as to impose on the Government the painful and invidious duty of rejecting the bill on the ground of any personal objection to the proposed Agent.

His Majesty's Government is further willing to consent to the abolition of the office of Agent, as it is at present constituted, but it is trusted that the liberality of the Assembly will indemnify the present holder of this office, to whose conduct in that capacity no objection appears ever to have been made; indeed, with out some adequate indemnity being provided for him, it would not be compatible with justice to consent to the immediate abolition of his office.

His Majesty's Government being very sensible of the great inconvenience which has been sustained, owing to the large tracts of land which have been suffered to remain in a waste and unimproved condition, in consequence of the neglect or the poverty of the grantees, it has appeared to His Majesty's Government to be desirable that the laws in force in Upper Canada for levying a tax upon wild land, on which the settlement duties had not been performed, should be adopted in this Province, and His Excellency is instructed to press this subject on the attention of the Assembly with that view.

The attention of His Majesty's Government has also been drawn to several other important topics; among which may be enumerated, the mischiefs which are said to result from the system of tacit mortgages, effected by a general acknowledgment of a debt before a Notary; the objectionable and expensive forms of conveyancing said to be in use in the Townships;—The necessity of a registration of deeds, and the want of proper Courts for the decision of causes arising in the Townships;—regulations, affecting matters of this nature, can obviously be most effectually made by the Provincial Legislature, and His Excellency is commanded to draw the attention of the Assembly to these subjects as matters requiring their early and most serious attention.

In conclusion, His Excellency has been commanded to state, that His Majesty relies for an amicable adjustment of the various questions which have been so long in dispute, upon the loyalty and attachment hitherto evinced by His Majesty's Canadian subjects, and that His Majesty entertains no doubt of the cordial concurrence of the Assembly in all measures calculated to promote the common good, in whatever quarter such measure may happen to originate.

On motion of Mr. Vallieres, an address of thanks for the Message was agreed to. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. The House formed itself into a Committee of the whole, on the Message of His Excellency of the 29th ult. when Mr. Neilson

read the following Resolutions, of which the first passed unanimously, and the consideration of the others was, on the motion of Mr. Ogden, postponed till this evening.

RESOLUTIONS. 1. That this House has derived the greatest satisfaction from the gracious expression of His Majesty's beneficent views towards this Province, and from the earnest desire of His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, to promote the peace, welfare, and good government of the Province, as evinced in His Excellency's Message of Friday last.

2. That this House has, nevertheless, observed with great concern, that it may be inferred from the expression of that part of the said Message which relates to the appropriation of the Revenue, that the pre-emption put forth at the commencement of the late administration, to the disposal of a large portion of the Revenue of this Province, may be persisted in.

3. That under no circumstances, and upon no considerations whatsoever, ought this House to abandon, or in any way compromise, its inherent and constitutional right as a branch of the Provincial Parliament representing His Majesty's subjects in this Colony, to superintend and controul the receipt and expenditure of the whole Public Revenue arising within this Province.

4. That any Legislative enactment in this matter by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, in which His Majesty's subjects in this Province are not and cannot be represented, unless it were for the repeal of such British statutes or any part of British statutes, as may be held by His Majesty's government to militate against the constitutional right of the subject in this Colony, could in no way tend to a settlement of the affairs of the Province.

5. That no interference of the British Legislature with the established Constitution and Laws of this Province, excepting on such points as from the relation between the Mother Country and the Colonies can only be disposed of by the paramount authority of the British Parliament, can in any way tend to the final adjustment of any difficulties or misunderstandings which may exist in this Province, but rather to aggravate and perpetuate them.

6. That in order to meet the difficulties of the ensuing year, and to second the gracious intentions of His Majesty for the permanent settlement of the Financial concerns of the Province with due regard to the interests and efficiency of his Government, this House will most respectfully consider any estimate for the necessary expenses of the Civil Government for the ensuing year, which may be laid before it, confidently trusting, that in any such estimate a due regard will be had to that economy, which the present circumstances of the country and its other wants require.

7. That on the permanent settlement before mentioned being effected with the consent of this House, it will be expedient to render the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or any person administering the Government, for the time being, the Judges and Executive Councillors independent of the annual vote of this House, to the extent of their present Salaries.

8. That although this House feels most grateful for the increased security against the illegal application of the public money which must result from His Majesty's Government referring all persons who may have been concerned in such application to an Act of indemnity to be consented to by this House, it will be inexpedient to consent to any such enactment, till the full extent and character of such illegal application may have been fully enquired into and considered.

9. That this House feels the most sincere gratitude for His Majesty's solicitude to effect the most perfect security against the recurrence of abuses on the part of persons entrusted with public monies in this Province.

10. That this House has not complained, nor has any complaints been made known to it, respecting the arbitration for the distribution between the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada of the duties collected in Lower Canada; but that in this, as in every other respect, this House will most cheerfully co-operate in every equitable and constitutional measure which may be submitted to it as desirable by the inhabitants of Upper Canada.

11. That this House has seen with sentiments of the highest satisfaction and gratitude, the declaration of the willingness of His Majesty's Government cheerfully to accede to the desires which the Assembly has so frequently expressed during the last twenty years, of having an agent in England to indicate the wishes of the inhabitants of Lower Canada; and that it is expedient to provide for such an appointment without delay.

12. That so soon as the scheme in contemplation of His Majesty's Government for the permanent settlement of the financial concerns of this Province shall have been made known and considered, it may be expedient to provide some adequate indemnity to such persons as were placed on the civil establishment of the Province with salaries prior to the year 1813, and whose offices may have been found to be unnecessary, or require to be abolished.

13. That this House will cheerfully concur in any measure which may appear most likely to be successful in effectually removing the great inconvenience which has been sustained from the non-performance of the duties of settlement by grantees or holders of Land obtained from the Crown, and otherwise remove the obstructions to the settlement of the country which may have resulted or may hereafter result from the manner in which the powers and superintendance of the Crown in this most essential particular as effecting the general prosperity of the Province, may have been exercised.

14. That so soon as the Inhabitants of the Townships, upon a sub-division of the counties in which they are situated by an act of the Provincial Parliament, shall have a full and equitable representation in this House of persons of their own free choice, the House will cheerfully concur in every measure particularly interesting to the Townships which may appear to be the most desirable to the inhabitants and the most conducive to the general welfare. [AMENDED.]

15. That this House is fully sensible of the distinguished mark of confidence reposed in the loyalty and attachment hitherto evinced by His Majesty's Canadian subjects, and their Representatives in the Provincial Parliament, by His Majesty's declaration

that he relies on them, for an amicable adjustment of the various questions which have been so long in dispute.

16. That amongst these questions not particularly mentioned on the present occasion, this House holds as most desirable to be adjusted, and most essential to the future peace, welfare, and good government of the Province, viz.— The Independence of the Judges and their removal from the political business of the Province.

The responsibility and accountability of public officers. A greater independence of support from the Public Revenue, and more intimate connection with the interests of the Colony, in the composition of the Legislative Council.

The application of the late property of the Jesuits to the purpose of general education. The removal of all obstructions to the settlement of the country, particularly by the Crown and Clergy Reserves remaining unoccupied in the neighbourhood of Roads and Settlements and exempt from the common burthens;

And a diligent enquiry into and a ready redress of all grievances and abuses which may be found to exist or which may have been petitioned against by the subject in this Province, thereby assuring to all the invaluable benefit of an impartial, conciliatory and Constitutional Government, and restoring a well-founded and reciprocal confidence between the Governors and the governed.

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, with a copy of the foregoing Resolutions, humbly praying that he would be pleased to submit the same to His Majesty's Government in England.

[In the evening, the House took the Resolutions into consideration—amended the 14th, passed the whole by large Majorities—and appointed a Committee to draw up an Address to His Excellency.]

LEGISLATURE OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, SATURDAY, 20th December. On motion of Mr. Ward—The House went into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to regulate the ungranted Fisheries in the Harbour of Saint John.

Mr. Gilbert, from the Committee, reported, that having gone into consideration of the said Bill, they had passed the following resolution, which he was directed to report:— "Resolved, that in the opinion of this Committee, the further consideration of this Bill should be postponed until the next Session of the General Assembly, and in the mean time a copy of the said Bill be delivered to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of St. John."

Ordered, that the Report be accepted. Mr. Speaker laid before the House, a list of the several persons licensed as Auctioneers from the year 1784 to the present period.

Mr. Parker, from the Committee appointed to examine into the Treasurer's accounts, for ascertaining the amount of Auction Duties paid into the Treasury for the last ten years, having attended to that duty, submitted the following report, which he read:

That on a careful examination of the Treasurer's Accounts for the last ten years, they find that the following Auction duties have been collected, viz: AT SAINT JOHN

Table with 3 columns: Year, Amount, and another column. Rows include 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827.

Amounting to £1813 0 0 The only sums which appear to have been paid into the Treasury from other parts of the Province, during the foregoing period, are:— From St. Andrews, 1821: £21 0 0 Fredericton, 1822: 6 8 7 Miramichi, 1823: 15 10 10 1824: 44 15 8

"Thus it will appear to the House, that no Auction Duties have been collected in any part of the province, but St. John, for the last 3 years; and only on payment each from the Counties of York and Charlotte, and two from Northumberland, in ten years, notwithstanding there have been several persons Licensed as Auctioneers in most of the Counties, a list of whom has been laid before the House.

Your committee find that it has been the custom to require Persons Licensed, to enter into bond to the King, with sureties, conditioned for their due accounting and faithful observance of the provisions of the Act of Assembly.

"It will be seen by reference to the Act of Assembly, 26 Geo. 3, c. 44, that in order more effectually to secure the duty, Auctioneers are expressly enjoined not to sell until they have entered into recognizance with securities, before some Judge of the Supreme Court or the Common Pleas, duly to account, &c. Your Committee are fully informed whether this recognizance has been required in addition to the Bond before mentioned, but they are led to suppose that the Bond to the King has been taken in lieu of the recognizance, being considered, probably, as equally effectual, and more convenient for the person Licensed to enter into.

"The said Act also directs that all Auctioneers shall render accounts to the Province Treasurer, on oath, every three months, and within twenty-one days thereafter pay the Duty, under the penalty of £50 for each and every offence.

"Your Committee feeling quite satisfied from the information they had obtained, that there have been many sales by Auction, of Goods, liable to the duty, of which no account has been rendered, that in many parts of the Province the salutary provisions of the Act have been almost entirely defeated, as at a loss to account for this, except from the circumstances of the Act not extending to the payment to be made to the Deputy Treasurer's in their respective districts, as well as the Province Treasurer.

"They respectfully suggest that the Deputy Treasurer should be authorized and required to carry into effect the said Law; and that some prompt measures should be adopted to oblige the several Auctioneers to render accounts and make payments of the arrears which may now be due from them.

ROBERT PARKER, JOHN WARD, Junr. ALEX. RANKIN. The report being again read at the Clerk's Table, was ordered to be accepted.

On motion of Mr. Parker—Resolved that the Petition of Henry Gilbert, Esquire, and others, Inhabitants of the City of Saint John, praying for a revision of the Laws regulating Sales by Auction, be referred to the Committee of Trade, to report thereon by bill or otherwise, and that the said committee be also instructed to take into consideration the report made by the select committee respecting the amount of duties paid into the Treasury during the last ten years.

Several counties in this Province." Leave granted. And the said bill being brought in, was read a first time.

Mr. Clinch moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the erection of Oak Mills throughout the Province.—Leave granted.

Read a third time, as engrossed. A bill of more speedy and effectual punishment of Persons keeping disorderly Houses.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass. Ordered, that Mr. Parker and Mr. Gilbert carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their concurrence thereto.

Read a third time, as engrossed. A bill to authorize the extension of the Gaol Limits in the city of Saint John.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass. Ordered, that Mr. Ward and Mr. Welton carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their concurrence thereto.

Read a third time as engrossed. A Bill to continue and amend an Act intitled "An Act to provide for the surrender of the Principal in discharge of Bail, in actions pending in the Supreme Court of Judicature, in this Province."

Resolved, that the Bill do pass. Ordered, that Mr. Chandler and Mr. Dow carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their concurrence thereto.

Tuesday, December 22. On motion of Ketchum,—The House went into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to Encourage the raising of Bread Corn on New Land.

Mr. Dow, from the Committee, reported, that they had gone into consideration of the Bill and agreed to the same, under the title of a Bill to continue an act for granting Bounties on Grain raised on new land.

On motion of Mr. Parker.—The House went into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to amend the Statute Law relative to offences against the Person and to provide for the more effectual punishment of such offences.

Mr. Chandler, from the Committee, reported, that having gone into consideration of the Bill referred to them, had agreed to the same with amendments.

The House, according to the order of the day, went into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to repeal all Laws now in force, for regulating, laying out and repairing Highways and Roads, and for appointing Commissioners and Surveyors of Highways in the several Towns and Parishes in this Province, and to make more effectual provision for the same.

Mr. Partlow, from the Committee, reported, that having gone into consideration of the Bill referred to them, they had agreed to the same, and he was directed to ask for leave to sit again.

Ordered, that the report be accepted and leave granted. A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. "NEW BRUNSWICK. MESSAGE to the House of Assembly. 24th December, 1823. HOWARD DOUGLAS.

The Lieutenant-Governor informs the House of Assembly, that he has received a letter from Sir George Murray, dated 25th August 1823, stating, that in consequence of representations on the subject of the Militia of New-Brunswick, and the almost total deficiency of Arms and Accoutrements, His Majesty's Government have determined to forward 5,000 Stand of Arms and Accoutrements, and a further supply in the Spring, on receiving returns of the precise number required, but that it is desirable that the Legislature should engage to keep them in repair, and provide for their safe custody at the Head-Quarters of the Militia Regiments, or at such places as the Lieut.-Governor may appoint for receiving them into store, when they are no longer required for the annual Training of the Militia; and the Lieut.-Governor depends upon the Legislature making provision for the whole of this establishment. "H. D."

Friday, December 26th. On motion of Mr. Crane.—The House went into Committee of the whole, on the Message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, of the 24th inst. upon the subject of the Arms and Accoutrements forwarded from England for the use of the Militia.

Mr. Humbert took the Chair of the Committee. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair. Mr. Humbert from the committee, reported, that having gone into consideration of the said Message, the following Resolution was passed:— "Resolved, that the recommendation from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, contained in his Message to this House, be referred to the Committee appointed to take into consideration that part of His Excellency's speech which relates to the Militia System."

Ordered, that the report be accepted. Mr. Clinch, by leave, presented a Petition from Stephen Humbert, praying permission to withdraw a former Petition, presented at the last Session of the Legislature, complaining of the undue Election and return of Robert Parker, Esquire, for the City of St. John. Which he read.

Ordered, that the said Petition be received and lie on the table. Saturday, December 27th. Mr. Welton, Chairman of the Committee appointed under the resolution of the House of the 15th instant, for examining into the matter of the Petition of Stephen Humbert, complaining of an undue return of Robert Parker, Esquire, for the County of Saint John, reported that they had proceeded in the business referred to them, and submitted a report, which he read, and being handed in at the Clerk's Table, was there again read and is as follows:—

"That on the 22d instant, the Committee met in the Speaker's Room, and adjourned until the next day, when they again met and notified the parties that they were ready to attend to the duty required of them, and the said Stephen Humbert, the Petitioning Candidate attended, but the said Robert Parker, the sitting member, not being 24th inst. on which day the House being occupied by very important business, the Committee were under the necessity of adjourning until the 26th inst. on which day the House being still occupied with business of importance, and several members absent, the Committee were under the necessity of again adjourning until this morning, and the sitting Member, Robert Parker, Esquire, not having attended before your Committee, they are desirous of being instructed as to the course of proceeding to be adopted by them.

NEW GOODS. The Subscriber has received per the late arrival, his FALL SUPPLY OF BRITISH GOODS—Suits together with his former stock will be sold at reduced prices for Cash payments. October 4, 1823. JOHN SMYTH.

THE SUBSCRIBERS Have received by the William Pitt, from Liverpool— Their Fall Supply, among which are: PATENT Lever and Plain WATCHES; Eight Day CLOCKS; fine Gold Watch Seals, Keys, Branches and Breast Pins; fine Gold Top and Drop Ear-Rings; Jewellers' do.; Black and Gilt Bracelet Clasps; Silver mounted Cruet and Liqueur Stands; ditto Candlesticks, Snuffers and Trays; Britannia Metal Tea Pots, and Tea Spoons; Plated soup and salad Ladles; ditto Tea, Tables, Salt, and Mustard Spoons; do.; Sugar Tongs; Pen Knives and Scissors; Guard Chains; Pencil Cases; Sugar Tubes; and Brass and Japanned Lamps, &c. &c. W. & G. HUTCHINSON. St. John, 27th December, 1823.

NEW GOODS. Just received from Manchester, a new supply of— PRINTS, SUITABLE FOR THE SEASON; ALSO—Superior Steam Loom SHIRTINGS, —Likewise from New-York:— Best Mould, Tallow and Spermaceti CANDLES. P. DUFF. 27th December, 1823. Prince William-street

The Courier.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1820.

Bank of New-Brunswick. Director next week, . . . Hon. W. BLAIR. DISCOUNT DAY, . . . THURSDAY. Hours of business, from 10 to 3. Bills for Discount, must be lodged with the Cashier before 3 o'clock on TUESDAY.

Savings' Bank. Managers for the ensuing week— JAMES CUDDELL, GEORGE D. ROBINSON. Bank Hours—Every TUESDAY, from 10 to 12.

Marine Insurance Office. Committee of Directors for the ensuing week: CRAVEN CALVERLEY, R. W. CROSSHANK, Sen., THOMAS MERRITT. Office Hours.—From Twelve to Three.

STATE OF THE THERMOMETER IN THE SHIELD, From December 27 to Jan. 2.

Table with 4 columns: Days of Observation, Hours of Observation, Temperature, and The Weather. Rows include 27 Saturday, 28 Sunday, 29 Monday, 30 Tuesday, 31 Wednesday, 1 Thursday, 2 Friday.

NEW-YEAR'S ADDRESS. Job's reflections on his once flourishing estate, did at the same time afflict and encourage him. The east and west, the north and south, have the same anticipation concerning one supreme disposer of things.

It is, we believe, a prevailing practice among the inhabitants of these nations who have enjoyed the blessings of civilization, and even among those who are in the state of nature, to be prevented from obtaining the means of mental cultivation which are considered necessary to the attainment of human happiness; to set apart some particular time or season of the year for REFLECTION.—Our opinion is, that it is at all times necessary; but if there be any one season, at which, from custom, or from other causes, it may be rendered more profitable than at another, it is at the commencement of a NEW-YEAR.

Our thoughts at this season are not to be confined to those of a retrospective nature alone;—no, we are beings destined for the future;—and many of us still expect, that at least some portion of the pages of his History will be occupied with the narration of our actions and doings, before the curtain of the scene of our transactions in this world's drama be dropped.

But, in order that our reflections upon the past, or our anticipations of the future, may prove useful or satisfactory it is necessary to keep our minds to the latter, the superintendance of "one Supreme disposer of things" in the first belief, that no one thing which has happened to us in the course of our past lives (of how much soever a disagreeable nature, it may have at the time been)—and that no dispensation of his future Providence will occur, but such as is finally intended for our good.—Being, however, reasonable and accountable beings; it becomes our duty, so far as it lays in our power to regulate our own conduct; to reflect, how far our experience last year had its proper effect on our present condition.—It we weigh ourselves in the balance of eternity, we are wanting; let us, with a firm resolution, commence the NEW-YEAR; determine, that if it please the Almighty to spare us to its termination, that the course we shall have pursued during its flight, will insure to us happier reflections than those which we have it now in our power to enjoy.—This class of reflections and anticipations, however, are more of an individual than of a general nature.—It is principally in reference to the latter, that we would wish, on this occasion, to engage the attention of our readers, as being citizens of the world, and more particularly as being subjects of the British Empire.

It is a universally received maxim, that he who enjoys true happiness himself, is desirous that all other men should be put in possession of it also.—Civil and religious freedom are the essential ingredients which sweeten the bitter draught of human life;—as subjects therefore of a free government, living in the full possession of these blessings;—how can we look back to the records of the world's History for the last Year, without being excited by emotions of gratitude to the Supreme Providence, who has made the very "wreath of man to praise him"—or, without entertaining feelings of congratulation, at the reflection, that our PARENT COUNTRY, stands the first on the list of those Nations whose institutions and example have in any degree been instrumental, in diffusing the principles of freedom,—in promoting the extension of knowledge,—in softening the asperities of the condition of the human species in a state of nature,—and in a national point of view, in maintaining the cause of a free and happy earth.

There is scarcely a corner of the earth which we can direct our attention, where the furies of ignorance and superstition, and the demons of anarchy and despotism have not received wounds, fatal to their remaining much longer in the possession of that almost universal control, which they have for ages past maintained, almost undisturbed, over a vast majority of mankind.—As citizens of the world these are our reflections;—and we cannot help being pleased, as we survey the anticipations of a corresponding gloaming nature, which they excite and foster.—The progress of light and information has proceeded so far, that it is impossible now to stop it.

It is not for man to say whether the principles of civil and religious liberty will obtain an ascendancy over those of Tyranny and Bigotry, by silent steps; or by the sufferings of external and internal warfare and bloodshed.—That it is in the womb of futurity, and cannot be ascertained, until the day of the occurrence of the event itself.—For the present we must rest contented, fully relying for the best, on the wisdom of Him who "doth all things well."

In casting our reflections on the events of the past year, as being subjects of, and particularly interested in, the welfare of the British Empire, they will not be of less pleasing and consolatory description.—To go over the ground again, and rehearse the changes which have taken place in the Cabinet, and the alterations which have occurred in the appointments of Secretaries to the various Government offices would be almost a libel on the recollections of our readers,—we gave our opinions upon them as they took place.—We cannot, however, take leave of this subject, without adverting to two points which afford to us all matter of great congratulation; namely, the resignation of the late Secretary of State for the British Administration; and the positive improvement, which within the last year has taken place in every department of our commerce;—the former secures to our Country that rank which she deservedly holds in the scale of nations, the latter will promote and advance her own prosperity, and that of her colonies.—Through the wisdom of her measures her foreign trade is daily increasing, while that of her own dominions is becoming more and more best secured to the same benefit.—Our anticipations therefore of a pleasing nature also with regard to the affairs of the PARLAMENT; we trust that through her means and influence, the blessings of Civilization will rapidly be extended over the now "dark places of the earth" which are full of the habitations of cruelty;—and being the means of preserving peace, and not far distant, when we shall see her flag waving on the ocean, in more successful competition with the colours of other nations, and her merchants able to compete in distant markets, with those of other countries.