GREAT-BRITAIN, &C.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MARCH 24.

Several petitions in favour of parliamentary reform were presented.

Earl Grey presented one to the same effect from Down, in Ireland.

The Marquis of Londonderry thought that the petition had not been signed by one respectable person. The Noble Lord at the head of His Majesty's government had stated that he intended to produce a moderate and an efficient measure—it certainly was efficient enough—but where the moderation was he was at a loss to discover; in short, it was but a stepping-stone to universal suffrage and vote by ballot. He then complained of the undue influence which had been used, and that people had signed the petitition because they had been told the measure was supported by His Majesty. He thought the whole proceedings of the present Administration were calculated to place this country in the lowest state.

Earl Grey stated that the petition had been sent to him as of the greatest respectability; at the head of the signatures was that of the High Sheriff. Another was a gentleman who had formerly represented the county. With regard to the petitions, and in the manner in which they had been got up, he could assert no subject had ever been so generally supported by the people. [Hear.] He would not allow himself to be seduced into a discussion of the principle of the bill; but he would say, that the principle of the Bill was reform. He defied any person to stand up and say, that that principle was not unanimously supported by nearly every man in this country. [Cheers.] The noble Earl stated, that when the proposition was made to him, which placed him in the situation in which he then stood, which had been done in a manner to call for his gratitude, service, and affection. He then said, that he could neither accept the situation, nor could he be useful in it unless he could be allowed to bring forward such a measure as the one of which the noble Lord complained. But as to his having used the sacred name of His Majesty, it was not the fact, altho' it was impossible for the Ministers to bring forward a measure of that magnitude without its being shown whether it had the approbation of His Majesty or not. [Cries of hear, hear, hear.] With respect to the undue influence of which the noble Lord complained, he would only say that it had not been used by him. As to the threat of a dissolution to influence the votes of Members in the other House, he would only say for himself that he rested on the fate of this measure, and by that fate he would stand or fall. (Cheers.) The noble Lord had said it would destroy the aristocracy, and gradually impair the dignity of the Crown. He was one of the aristocracy by station and disposition. He considered it a necessary and useful ornament to the country, and tended greatly to its advantage; and while it did so he should be proud to consider himself as one of that body, and no longer. He thought the measure would prove highly beneficial to the country. It would relieve the voice of discontent—give power and purity to the aristocracy, and stability and honour to the Crown—and, he repeated, by the fate of the principle of that measure he would stand or fall.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 17.

A petition of rather a curious nature against the truck system, from certain labourers employed by Mr. Cobbett, was presented by Mr. Hunt. It stated that previous to the winter of 1827, and the spring of 1828, the petitioners could get for garden and other labour, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day; but that they were compelled by necessity "to accept of employ under one William Cobbett, a nurseryman and seedsman, residing at Kensington, in the county of Middlesex, and also occupying what he calls an "Indian corn farm," at Barn Elms, in the county of Surrey, upon the following terms—viz. 2lb meat, 1½lb of bread, and 1½lb cheese per day for each man! That the said William Cobbett assigned to your petitioners, as a reason for this sort of payment of wages, "his great desire to keep your petitioners from the cursed chandler's shop and the big brewer; and also that every man who worked for him should have in his belly some bread, meat, and cheese."—The petition then goes on to state that "the meat consisting of the worst part of bad mutton, or cheap pickled pork, might have been bought by your humble petitioners, at 5d. a pound retail; the bread, composed of coarse black filthy Indian corn meal and rye flour, at a 1d a lb.; and stinking cheese at 4d. a lb. Thus paying your humble petitioners, in lieu of 3s. or 2s. 6d. a day in money, in such disgusting food, to the utmost not worth more than thirteen pence half penny (hangman's wages,) while the prime cost of it to the said Wm. Cobbett, could not possibly exceed sixpence three farthings."—The petitioners therefore prayed that the house would pass such a law "as would in future protect them from becoming the dupes of such low cunning." The petition, after some show of opposition, was ordered to be printed.

MARCH 18.

After the defeat of Ministers on the Timber Duties Bill,

Sir Charles Forbes asked why the hon. member for Westminster did not, after the decision of that night, put his usual question—"When do ministers mean to resign?"

Mr. Hobhouse said, if the present ministry were at all like the last, he should not hesitate to put the question.—The country would not be gulled by the trickery of the vote of that evening. The question for them was, whether they were to have reform or not? and whether those who had been laboring for 50 years to obtain reform were now to be tricked out of their object? He was convinced that the day when the ministers resigned would be a bad day for the country; but he was satisfied that the country would not be baulked in their wishes by the vote of that night.

MARCH 22.

Sir Charles Wetherell and Mr. O'Connell.—A conversation of an angry and personal nature took place between Sir Charles Wetherell and Mr. O'Connell. The hon. member for Waterford denied having entered into any compromise with Government. His approbation of the plan of reform did did not arise from any understanding with Mr. Stanley. If he had entered into the discussion with angry feelings, and had looked to details, especially with a view to distort them—if, instead of arguingt he great principles of the measure, he had dealt with them in a course of petifogging chicanery—then he might have been favoured with some of those cheers which might be echoed from that House to Boroughbridge. If he were the advocate of every thing that was corrupt—if he were to say to the title of amelioration, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther"—if he had partaken of corruption, while he allowed the spoliation of the rights, of the property, of the country—then he might be cheered by those who nominated, and those who were nominated to vote against the people's rights, and to enjoy their spoliations. Let Government do its duty: he had no compromise with them, nor they with him.

Sir Charles Wetherell thought comparisons of this kind extremely odious. The hon. gentleman had spoken of spoliation, and, if he had time and opportunity, he might mention a man who had spoliated the people by carrying a begging-box around. (Cheers, and cries of various descriptions.) What! had the word spoliation dropped from the hon. and learned member for Waterford, and in a tone like that which he complained of being uttered too loudly by him who had taken a poor-box throughout Ireland, taking their pence from the poor—taking twopence from the poor man, and a penny from the ragged man? Under these circumstances the word "spoliation" he thought any thing but well chosen, and one of the last he should have expected to hear from the hon. and learned gentleman.

Mr. O'Connell denied having been a party to any contribution made for him by the people of Ireland. On the other hand, he had sacrificed to his country more than the hon. member for Boroughbridge had made by his profession; he had sacrificed £7000 a year, and during the Catholic Association his expenses were £1000 a year.

Liverpool Election Committee.—Saturday, March 26.—At half past six o'clock the Committee came to the following resolutions, which were read from the Chair.

That Mr. William Ewart was not duly elected for the borough of Liverpool, and that the last election was void: that the petition was neither frivolous nor vexatious, nor the opposition to it.

Special resolution.—That it is the opinion of the Committee that gross bribery and corruption prevailed at the last election for Liverpool.

Mr. Maurice O'Connell has been returned for Clare, in the room of Mr. O'Gorman Mahon, whose seat was vacated in consequence of bribery having been proved.

CHURCH REFORM.—A meeting of the clergy officiating in Warrington and the neighbouring places, was held at Warrington on the 7th inst. to take into consideration the subject of Church Reform. The meeting was attended by the clergy of the several parishes of Warrington, Winwick, Prescot, Leigh and Wigan, to the number of thirty. An address to the King was agreed upon, as was also a petition to the two houses of parliament, praying that such alterations may be made in the liturgy, canons, and rubrics of the Established Church, as the necessity of the case may require.

COMMUNICATIONS.

DISSENTERS' MARRIAGE BILL.

To the Editor of the Courier.

The right of the Dissenting Clergy in this Province to Solemnize Marriage stands on the same footing with that of others both in the establishment and out of it who are at present authorised to do so in Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. For many years past this subject has been brought before the Legislature of the Province, and the House of Assembly has in every instance passed a Bill extending this right to dissenting Ministers. But the Legislative Council has invariably and with an unheard of recklessness rejected those Bills. That the Council has the Constitutional power to pass a Bill of this kind, none can deny: had the Bill which was sent to that body by the Assembly at the last Session received its concurrence, as prayed for by some respectable petitioners, the Council would not have infringed on the rights or prerogatives of any party either in church or state. If this had been done the Bill according to the "*Royal Instructions*" would have been sent to England for his Majesty to dispose of; in this case the Legislative Council, would have had the commendations of many thousands of estimable persons; and the confidence of all parties in their Legislative doings would have been pleasingly established. Of the very *summary and apparently contemptuous* manner in which this hapless Bill was got rid of by the second reading being put off for "*three months*," and by which its destiny was fixed for the time being, I shall offer no further complaint at present. But only think of these two words "*on motion*," here is something that looks like cruelty, or unkindness, or illiberality, or bigotry, or something else, that it cannot be lost sight of; the dissenters will think of it and remember it and the effect of it may be easily guessed at. Nothing is known as to who was the honorable mover, or whether the "motion" was carried unanimously or not. How forcibly are we reminded of the Spanish inquisition! It is a maxim with all writers of English Law, that the legislative, judicial, and executive functions can never be united, but it appears they are united in New-Brunswick; and this may account perhaps for that dead and fearful silence which is found in a certain quarter. The Judges are there. Their influence arising from their learning and office, may, by possibility, be very great in that and another quarter, and if things were otherwise perhaps the people might take umbrage, and not have sufficient confidence in the Judges when in Court.

Of late years it has been published in some of the Canada papers that the people there have lost all confidence in the judicial proceedings of the Judges, and one reason assigned for it is "the ubiquity of the Judges. Go where you will (it is said) and you meet them. Go to the Court-House there are the Judges, call at the Executive Council, there are the Judges, go and see what is doing in the Legislative Council, there are the Judges." The administration of justice by these men has been lately declared in the Assembly of Lower Canada to be "*a perfect political Cerberus, and requires a Hercules to destroy it.*" Who can tell but this may be the cause why the dissenters here cannot get what is undoubtedly their right from our Legislative Council? If it be so, then to me it appears, a monstrous abuse of power. No wise Legislature ought to permit it. It is inconsistent with every thing decent and proper, while so many valuable, humble, and modest men, who are sincere lovers of their country, and second to none, for the ardour of their attachment to the King and his Government, are, degraded and insulted, by a few individuals, whose usefulness and importance to mankind are very limited. I know well that reflections of this kind are calculated to disoblige those who are interested; but without the least dislike to any man living, and actuated only with the love of what is really right, I for one, do protest in the face of the Sun, against all such abuses.

The dissenters in this country are disposed to respect the Legislature most sincerely, and to revere the Judges in their proper office, it is highly proper for all the purposes of good government, that this disposition should be regarded, and cherished, by our governors and legislators.

Persecution of any kind, or to any extent, is inconsistent with sound policy and constitutional freedom. The Dissenters will not long submit to it. They have the right side of the question. They will seek redress in a Constitutional way, and where it is sure to be found. The King both respects and loves his dissenting subjects, and HE will certainly do them justice whenever it may become necessary to appeal to him. Since William the Fourth came to the throne of his ancestors, he has proved himself the sincere friend of Dissenters. One of his first regal acts, was that of rejecting the Jamaica Slave Bill, which went to abridge materially the rights and privileges of the Wesleyan Methodists, and the Baptists in that Island. Subsequently his Majesty gave his royal sanction to the Lower Canada Wesleyan Methodist Marriage Act. And next and by no means the least, our good and gracious King has given his assent to the Upper Canada Marriage Bill, which extends the right of Solemnizing Marriage to "*Clergymen of the Church of Scotland, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Independents, Baptists, Methodists, and Tunkards or Moravians,*" who may "*marry any persons whether of their sect or not.*" This is good news, and will do more service in uniting the affections of the people of these Colonies to His Majesty's person and government than is possible to be conceived. Dr. Strachan and his partisans have been foiled in their dark designs, as well as the late Protestant Bishop of Quebec and his partners in Co. and who assume their principles, and follow similar plans will ere long share the same unwelcome fate. Intolerance cannot exist in British North America: all attempts to effect it will miscarry.

The Assembly have again lost their Marriage Bill, and their address to the King on the subject, was passed too late to be presented to the President. Let it be hoped, that all this is for the best. Let the Dissenters come forward to a man and properly contend for what is their right. Let them petition the General Assembly the next Session. This will give the Legislative Council an opportunity of showing their good will to the Dissenters if they have any thing of the kind to show. The Assembly have the means in their possession of speedily settling this matter. Should these means be resorted to, the College charter will be modified, and lose its exclusive character. The Dissenters will obtain their Marriage Bill without further trouble.

Most men like good places and good salaries, with some indeed this is their life, and all that a man hath will he give for his life.

PARATUS.

New-Brunswick, April 20, 1831.

To the Editor of the Courier.

SIR,—I have no inclination to detract from the popular affection and honor which your Correspondent, under the assumed name of "FAIR-PLAY," awards (if I understand him aright) to himself and eight other Members of our House of Assembly, for their unsuccessful attempt to withhold an Appropriation, most unfortunately pledged by Law; nor will I undertake to shield from popular odium and disgrace the great majority of our Representatives, to whom the Province owes the expersive maintenance of public faith. To say nothing of the confidence to which those Gentlemen (*I mean the Nine*) must consider themselves entitled in all the transactions of private business—so obvious that no man could ever think of receiving their bond or promissory note; to say nothing of the comfortable reflections of their own consciences—so undauhtedly may they appeal to Heaven for the integrity of their motives and the unswerving rectitude of their conduct; is it not perfectly clear that these alone, and such as these (if a sufficient number of such uncompromising assertors of the paramount claims of *economical justice* can be found within the boundaries of our Province) could expect the Electors on any future occasion to listen to their promises, or even think for a moment of entrusting them with the legislative disposal of their properties and lives?—It is idle to enlarge on what every one must acknowledge. The NINE WORTHIES of New-Brunswick shall be placed beside the SEVEN BISHOPS of Old England. The difference between them is *but a shade*: the Bishops exposed themselves to the ruin of their whole fortunes, because they would not obey the King, when he required them to connive at an indirect repeal of the Law; our Worthies would by their own act have broken the Law; because it required them to pay a small portion of the revenue to others than themselves! The very Soldiers on Hounslow Heath are said to have shouted for joy when the Supreme Court of English justice pronounced the Seven Bishops guiltless;—will not the Military in our Barracks, the Judges on the Bench, and all who feel an interest in the maintenance of public honor, with one voice address their petition to the Throne, that the reward of their services may henceforth be left to *a Committee of the loyal and faithful Nine*?

The question however is unhappily decided. The extravaganco and profligacy of the unworthy Members composing the majority (with the tacit acquiescence, I suspect, of some even of the Nine) have triumphed; and the betrayed and insulted people must submit to the grinding oppression, which exacts about *Two Pence Half-penny a head* in the shape of an annual tax towards the support of our University!!

But your Correspondent is admirable in expedients. Although defeated, he knows not how to be conquered, when such a matter is at stake; although crushed and trodden under foot, he will still lift up his head, and maintain the public cause. The money indeed must be paid; the College which His Majesty was so ill-advised as to found, and the Legislature so improvident as to endow, must receive its legal appropriation. But "FAIR-PLAY" entitles himself to our unbounded gratitude, by showing us how this abused and misapplied portion of our Revenue *may be diverted from its avowed and intended object.* Let the Charter only be amended, let the present Officers and Members of the College be turned out to starve in the woods, and a totally different set of men be snugly housed in their place;—and all would yet be right. The College might then have a President, who for a very moderate Salary would be Professor of Legislation and Jurisprudence; teaching Legislators how to make, and Judges how to interpret, Laws which may be violated with impunity. It might have a Professor of Divinity and Metaphysics, who would instruct his pupils in the stability of a house divided against itself; and prove the utter absurdity, as well as the utter ungodliness, of even wishing the disciples of the same Master to be joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. Finally it might have a Professor of Moral Philosophy, who would undeniably establish the truth, that promises and engagements cease to be obligatory whenever men become disinclined to fulfil them. These Professorships, I think, would be quite sufficient; and in order to secure the due discharge of their duties, it would be highly adviseable that they should be given in the first place to your Correspondent himself and his two chief supporters. The rising generation would then be thoroughly instructed in THOSE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN CONDUCT, which would soon be found to render all other Sciences and Arts of little value. Neither the College, nor the Province, nor any private house, would require (or perhaps even endure) any farther government; bars and bolts would cease to be useful; a glorious intercommunity (too complete, alas, to be long enjoyed on earth!) of all things and persons would leave nothing to be desired—nothing to be hoped.

One doubt only occurs to me; but your Correspondent's fertility in resources can leave him at no loss for a solution.—If the Constitution of the College be actually so exclusive as he represents it, how does it happen that there are now among the Students (for I have had occasion to know the fact) those whose parents professedly dissent from the Established Church? How happens it that these Dissenters are at liberty (for the offer has been freely made them) to attend such places of Worship as their Parents may wish, or their own consciences require? And how is it, that the very same number of your Journal, in which the letter of "FAIR-PLAY" appears, contains an announcement from the College Council, proposing a Scholarship as an object of Competition to candidates "WITHOUT RESTRICTION?" If the Charter really allows these things—and as the new principles above-mentioned have certainly not been taught by the Professors hitherto, I should suppose the College has not considered itself at liberty to disregard its fundamental Law—if therefore, I say, the Charter does allow such things, I cannot but apprehend that the illiberality and absurdity, which your Correspondent attributes to it, may be found to exist only *in his own brain*; and that the unpopularity, with which "FAIR PLAY" would endow the College, will not be granted by the iniquity of the times.

ONE OF THE NEW-SCHOOL.

King's County, April 15, 1831.

To the Editor of the Courier.

SIR,—The wanton and unmanly attack published in the Courier of the 2d instant, under the signature of Y. on the character of two worthy and exemplary Clergymen of this County, for presiding and being present at the anniversary dinner of the St. Patrick Society, has excited indignation and disgust in the breast of every man of sensibility and sound judgment, in this section of the Province. Under the garb of religion and a pretended zeal for morality, he endeavours to screen the worst passions of the human mind, and displays a malignity of diposition not only contrary to the spirit of Christianity, but repugnant to every sense of honour and manly feeling. His seeming concern for the cause of religion, might, thirty or forty years ago, have imposed upon superstitious and weak minds; but at the present period, the public mind is too much enlightened, to be duped by counterfeited sanctity; and I am happy to find such disgraceful attempts to injure the sacred characters of respectable Clergymen, treated with that contempt which they so justly deserve.

His slur upon College-bred persons from older countries, is truly mean and ridiculous, and exhibits a vulgarity of mind worthy of the writer of such a paragraph. It strongly reminds me of the speech of one of our candidates at the last election, who, by vulgar taunts on colleges and college-bred men, ingratiated himself into the favour of the rabble, and notwithstanding his stupidity and ignorance, enticed numbers of them to vote for him. Y. must doubtless have been acquainted with the success of this scheme in gaining popularity, and unquestionably copied it. He will find, however, that he is more mistaken in the calculation of his powers of directing the public mind in this Colony, than the two Reverend Gentlemen referred to in his communication. The inhabitants of this county are *indeed* a discerning people, and have been too often gulled by impostors, to put any confidence in the whining cant of *hypocrisy*. They know that immediate inspiration has ceased, that education and politeness are necessary requisites in a modern Clergyman,—that in order to be useful to those over whom he is placed, he must have the breeding as well as the knowledge, of a polite gentleman—and that, at the present day, none but deluded enthusiasts, or hypocritical reformers, would pretend to copy the lives, and imitate the manners of the primitive teachers of our holy religion. When Christianity was first propagated—and had to make its way in the face of persecution, and to contend with every religion then upon earth, it was necessary that the Ministers of the Gospel, strengthened and supported by the immediate influence of the Divine Being, should suffer privations, be exposed to persecutions, and even ready to meet death, in testimony of the truth of the glorious cause in which they were engaged. But in these days, the case is very different; and the present state of religion and society requires a different order of things—suppose that a Clergyman of the Established Church, or of any other sober denomination of Christians, should, at the present day, undertake to imitate St. Paul, (or any of the other Apostles,) would he not be considered by every man of common sense, a fanatical madman. Were he to leave his family, his friends, and the Church over which he was appointed to preside, and go through the world in quest of religious adventures, undergoing all the dangers, hardships and sufferings, necessarily attendant on such a course of life; would he not appear more ridiculous than Don Quixotte, and be justly considered by all rational men a fit subject for Bedlam? * * *

The charge brought by Y. against the two Reverend Gentlemen alluded to—of patronizing intemperance and revelling, is as scandalous and false, as it is impudent and insulting. The character of these gentlemen, in point of sobriety, gentlemanly conduct, and clerical deportment, will bear the test of the strictest examination; and so far from encouraging revellings or intemperance, one great object of their becoming members of the St. Patrick Society, was to prevent such practices, and that their presence, "though it would check no decent joy, might have its effect in restraining the sometimes exuberant flowings of the Irish heart, within their hallowed bounds." At the public meeting alluded to by Y. their presence certainly contributed to produce this effect. There was no *quarrelling* or *revelling*—no *symptoms* of *dissatisfaction* manifest—but the greatest order, good humour, and harmony, prevailed throughout the evening, and every thing served to shew (notwithstanding the assertions of the Editors of the Herald to the contrary) the propriety of the custom of Clergymen presiding at such meetings.

The Saint Patrick Society was formed for the most noble purposes, and from the best of motives, viz—to assist the poor and indigent stranger,—to promote loyalty and patriotism, to instruct the hapless emigrant on his arrival in this country, how he may be useful to himself and profitable to the community. And to whom would he look for aid and information in the land of strangers, but to his own countrymen? I would not recommend him to apply to such men as Y. and his associates, from whom were he to ask *bread*, I am positive, he would receive *scorpions*.

The Society is well aware of the anti-Irish feelings of certain gentlemen from certain *older countries*, and that the growing prosperity of Irishmen here, is viewed by them with the greatest jealousy and envy. Their motives in attacking the character of the worthy President, and that of his Reverend friend, are likewise no secret. But they will find themselves disappointed in their expectations. The Reverend gentlemen will not withdraw themselves from the society, nor abandon a charitable and laudable institution, to which their support and countenance are absolutely necessary, on account of the ill-natured remarks of a newspaper scribbler. They are conscious of the purity of their motives, and feel confident that their conduct will receive the approbation of every generous-hearted lover of mankind, in the Province of New-Brunswick. Some fanatical sectarians may relish and approve those illiberal insinuations of Y. against the character of Ministers of the Established Church; but all rational christians will despise such ribaldry, and look upon the author with detestation and contempt. I therefore advise him to be silent for the future; as in case he should obtrude another specimen of his impertinent arrogance on the public, I shall be necessitated to unmask him, and expose his principles naked to the world. Z.

St. Andrews, April 19th.

Mr. EDITOR,—

Sir—When a man has unfortunately offended the *Public*, by advocating a measure to which a peculiar, though unmerited, odium may for the instant be attached; it is scarcely generous to condemn him without a trial, or to denounce him as a traitor to his Country, only because he has opposed the desires of the multitude,—yet such, I clearly perceive, is the design of your Correspondent *Fair Play*, he tells us, with a triumphant sneer, that a certain Honorable Member of Assembly, with *his usual good sense, and good manners*, prevented the names from being taken upon the division on the College question.—Permit me to ask Mr. Fair Play where he obtained such accurate information with respect to the names on that division? Was he within the walls of the House at that instant, because if he were, he has knowingly asserted a base falsehood. Mr. W. did not bring forward his motion until the matter was finally decided, and he certainly was fully justified in proceeding with his business when there was nothing else before the House. Your Correspondent endeavors to throw all the blame upon Mr. W. because his *motion* was the first that was agitated, subsequently to the decision of the College question, but he has not been so candid as to inform us that more than ten minutes elapsed after that question was settled before Mr. W. submitted his motion to the House,—he also tells us that it was some *trifling* motion,—this, Sir, is really trifling with the Public: Did your Correspondent possess one spark of honour, he would acknowledge that Mr. W. never submits any other than the most interesting, and important subjects to the House: he would at once declare that there is not in the Assembly a more public spirited gentleman,—who is no less remarkable for his penetration in discovering Public abuses, than for his firmness in exposing them. Will your Correspondent dare to insinuate that Mr. W. has at any time endeavored to *blink the question*, or that he is always prepared with some ridiculous motion, to divert the attention of the House from any question relative to the conduct of his *particular friends*, if this could be proved, he would indeed be deserving of the severest censure, but I may safely challenge Fair Play to point out a single instance when this has happened;—Fair Play also hints that the late Session was an uniform scene of riot and confusion: I trust that such a gross falsehood will not be suffered to pass with impunity; for if the author of such calumnies be not severely punished, I shall not be surprised if some malicious scribbler will attempt to persuade us that *one* gentleman had been thrice censured for misconduct in debate during the Session, that the Chairman of a Committee was declared guilty of a Breach of Privilege; and that your the Honorable Speaker made a most violent, cowardly, and disgraceful attack upon the character of an absent member. VERITAS.

April 15.

NEW GOODS.

The subscriber has received per brig *Ann*, from Liverpool,—part of his SPRING SUPPLY of

BRITISH MERCHANDIZE;

COMPRISING

A SELECT and fashionable assortment, well adapted for the Season, which he offers for sale Cheap, for Cash only.

The remainder, he expects per first arrivals from *London* and *Liverpool*.

King-street, N. M'GLINCHEY.

St. John, 23d April, 1831.

LANDING,

Ex brig LA PLATA, *from Savannah la Mar:*

RUM; SANTA; HIDES, and HORNS.—For Sale by

April 23. CROOKSHANK & WALKER.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1831.

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

Director next week, . . *C. Simonds, Esq.*

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.*

A DIVIDEND of 5 per Cent. on the Capital Stock, for the Half Year ending 31st March, 1831, will be paid to the Stockholders on or after the 15th instant. Z. WHEELER,

April 2*d*, 1831. *Cashier.*

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK,
2d April, 1831.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the STOCKHOLDERS, for the choice of DIRECTORS for the ensuing year, will be held at the Bank, on Monday, the 2d May next, between 12 and 1 o'clock.

H. GILBERT, *President.*

MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Committee for April:

JOHN WARD, Jun. President.

THOMAS BARLOW, STEPHEN WIGGINS,
THOS. MERRITT, R. W. CROOKSHANK.

THE Election of DIRECTORS of the MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, for the present year, having taken place at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders, on the 5th instant, agreeably to the Act of Incorporation;—Notice is hereby given, that the Business of the Company is continued, and RISKS taken upon the most eligible terms.

By order of the President and Directors,

THOMAS HEAVISIDE.

St. John, 24th July, 1830. *Sec'y.*

The ship *Augusta*, from Liverpool, which has been off this Harbour since Thursday last, is supposed to have sailed about the 1st of April, but her letters and papers have not yet reached town.—Our latest advices are therefore those furnished by the barque *Mary*, on Monday last, and are to the 28th March, inclusive, from London.—Reform was still progressing in many of the public departments, and even the Church is now intended to be made the subject of it: a meeting of several of the clergy in and near Warrington, had accordingly taken place, to petition the King and Parliament for a reform in the liturgy, canons, &c. of the Established Church.—A report existed in Paris that a general treaty of Peace would soon be made public, the principle feature of which, it was expected, would be, the disarming of all the powers of Europe, and the placing of all the troops on the peace establishment. Little credit, however, seems to be attached to the report.

The Gaspereaux fishery in our harbour has, thus far, been unusually productive.—On Tuesday and Wednesday last, the numbers caught, it is said, exceeded any thing of the kind ever known here. On the former day so plentiful were they that it was impossible for the fishermen to take care of those caught in the wears, and immense numbers were permitted to escape from the want of boats to receive them. In some places at each dip the scoop nets were actually filled with fish. The great run is attributed to the high freshets in the river, caused by the heavy rains in the early part of the present month.

Messrs. John Ward, Ezekiel Barlow, Nehemiah Merritt, William Leavitt, Thomas Rawleigh, and Isaac Woodward, Jun. have been appointed Wardens at this port, for the ensuing year.

The steam-boat *Saint John* started this morning for Fredericton, being her first trip this season. This boat which has heretofore been principally employed in carrying the Mails between this City and Digby, &c. was recently sold to give place to a more powerful one now in an advanced state of building. Messrs. Ross & Co. the present owners, having caused the engine to undergo a thorough repair, and the boat to be otherwise put in good order, contemplate running her between this City and Fredericton, and are well deserving of encouragement in the undertaking, from the reduction they have made in the rates of passage which have hitherto been charged,—the price in the after cabin being 10*s.*; forward cabin, 5*s.*

The reported loss of the brig BILLOW, from Bermuda for Halifax, proves not to have been attended with so great a sacrifice of lives, as was stated in our last. It is, however, dreadfully afflicting, and is stated to be the most distressing event, as regards the number of persons drowned, that has occurred on our coasts since the loss of His Majesty's Ship Tribune, about the year 1797. The Billow sailed from Bermuda on the 3d April, with discharged soldiers, in charge of Lieutenant LISTEN, 81st Regt. and is supposed to have been wrecked on the Ragged Islands, (N. S.) during the gale of the 9th and 10th inst.—The whole number of person on board at the time, has been variously estimated, but as not one has escaped to tell the dreadful tale, all is conjecture. The following detail of the number on board the Billow, furnished to the Editor of the *City Gazette*, by a gentleman lately arrived from Yarmouth, from a document that has been found, is most probably correct:—namely, 1 commissioned officer, 1 non-commissioned ditto, 38 privates, 20 women, 68 children, 8 crew, 1 passenger, in all 137. The number of bodies found drifted on shore, were, 3 privates, 6 women, 16 children, in all 25. It has also been ascertained that the destruction was not so instantaneous as had been supposed, as it appears that preparations and arrangements had been made for forming a raft. The passenger is supposed to be Mr. BOND, son of the late Doctor Bond, of Yarmouth, who had gone to Bermuda in the Billow tor the benefit of his health. Several of the crew were persons whose relations reside in Yarmouth and the vicinity.

The Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, was held at the Exchange Coffee-House on Wednesday the 27th instant, at noon, when the following Gentlemen were elected Members of Committee for the ensuing year:

L. DONALDSON, Esq. *Chairman,*
Mr. WILLIAM WALKER, } *Deputy Chair-*
JAMES KIRK, } *men,*
ISAAC WOODWARD, *Secretary,*
WILLIAM LEAVITT,
JOHN KINNEAR,
JAMES T. HANFORD,
THOMAS L. NICHOLSON,
S. L. LUGRIN.

The above Gentlemen, together with the Members of Assembly for this City and County (being the non-elective part) compose the Committee for the ensuing year.

A Report of the proceedings of the Committee for the past year, as prepared by the Secretary, was read, accepted, and ordered to be printed, and is as follows:

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE period having now arrived, which is appointed by the Rules and Regulations of the Chamber of Commerce for its Annual General Meeting, and for the election of Office-Bearers for the ensuing year,—The Committee beg to offer the following general review of their proceedings during the past year.

The attention of your Committee was early called to a subject which had come under the notice of their predecessors, and which your Committee considered of vast importance to the trade of the Province generally, and of this Port in particular, viz. the erection of a Lighthouse in the Bay of Fundy, either on the Gannet Rock, or on, or near, the Old Proprietor;—they are now happy to state, that the application made by their predecessors to the Naval Officer commanding on the Halifax station, requesting that a vessel might be sent, with competent officers, to survey the Old Proprietor, met with that prompt attention from Admiral Colpoys, which has uniformly been bestowed by His Majesty's Naval Officers upon every object calculated to benefit the mercantile interest, and promote the safety of navigation; this survey has accordingly decided the impracticability of erecting such a Light, either on or near the Old Proprietor, and the establishment of one upon the Gannet Rock is now in progress.

They also note with much satisfaction the very liberal appropriations made by the Legislature of this Province for the erection and support of such establishments—viz. one on Point Lepreaux—tenders for which are now advertized by the Commissioners; one to be erected on the Machias Seal Islands; and the attention bestowed upon those desirable objects proposed to be erected on St. Paul's Island. They likewise have pleasure in noticing the fostering care which has been given to the same service by the Legislature of Nova-Scotia, in making provision for the Lights on Briar Island and Cape Sable Seal Islands. The safe navigation of our shores being an object of much importance to the vital interests of these Provinces, it must be highly gratifying to every member of the community, to see this interest so liberally protected by the Representatives of the people.

In connection with this subject, your Committee beg to state, that they recommended to the attention of the Members of Assembly, the erection of a *Fog Bell* on Partridge Island; and are now happy to state that an appropriation has been made for that purpose, and the same will in a short time be put in operation.

At an early period last season, His Honor the President was pleased to request from your Committee, their opinion as to what outfits, &c. are necessary for fishing vessels intending, to avail themselves of the bounty granted by the Legislature; after due consideration, a report was prepared and forwarded to His Honor, containing the desired information.

Application having been made in England by the Province Agents, on behalf of the Merchants of Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, to have the number of Bonding Warehouses increased, and the hours of attendance of the Waterside Officers extended, a copy of said application was handed to your Committee by the Collector and Controller of His Majesty's Customs, together with a letter from the Board of Customs, London, to these Gentlemen, on the subject, requesting a plan and description of the usual places of landing and shipping goods, upon which, your Committee prepared a report, and communicated to these Gentlemen their hearty concurrence in the prayer of the petition, and expressed a desire that the privilege of Warehousing may be extended to every business establishment within the harbour, and they have every confidence that this arrangement will be carried into effect.

The former Committee had forwarded a petition to His Honor the President, requesting information as to how far the Officers of His Majesty's Customs were bound to comply with and enforce the enactments of the Provincial Legislature, regulating the import and export trade, when such enactments had received the Royal sanction; and no answer having been received to their application, your Committee, conceiving the question to be one of infinite importance, were induced to forward another petition on the same subject, the result of which they do not yet know.—The whole Custom-House system having come under the consideration of the House of Assembly during the last session, and a liberal enquiry having been instituted into the state and management of the department, the result will undoubtedly be the correction and removal of whatever abuses may be found to exist in this very important Government establishment. The House of Assembly have prepared and forwarded an humble address to His Majesty on the subject.

A petition was forwarded by this Body to the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, praying that the Merchants of this Province might be allowed to contract with the Commissariat for the supply of the Rum, required for the use of His Majesty's Troops in this Province; an answer was promptly received by your Committee from their Lordships, informing them that no farther supply of that article would be required, as it was in the contemplation of His Majesty's Government, to substitute a money payment to the Troops in lieu of Rum.

The benefits which have resulted to the Provinces of Canada and Nova-Scotia, from having ships annually sent by the East-India Company with Tea, from China direct, being very apparent, and your Committee being of opinion that the demand for that article in this Province, both for consumption and exportation, is sufficiently great to require one cargo annually, and seeing that the vessels sent to Halifax have been obliged to come to this port for homeward cargoes, after discharging their Teas—your Committee, from these considerations, were induced to prepare and forward a petition to the Honorable Company, requesting that one ship might be annually sent to this Port direct; which petition they forwarded under cover to His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas, requesting him to use his influence in this behalf, being well convinced, from His Excellency's uniform attention to the interests of this mercantile community, that in forwarding their petition to him, they were adopting the best and most effectual mode of insuring a compliance with their wishes in this respect.

An alarm has lately spread throughout these Provinces which induced the belief that His Majesty's Ministers were about to alter the duty at present existing on Baltic and other Foreign Timber, which measure, had it been carried into operation, must have proved extremely ruinous to the commercial and indeed to all the vital interests of these Colonies; your Committee, in common with all similar institutions in the sister Provinces, forwarded a petition to the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, praying that no alteration might take place, which petition was forwarded to John Bainbridge and Henry Bliss, Esquires, London, to be by them laid before His Majesty's Government; and your Committee have great satisfaction in being now enabled to state, from late intelligence, that the proposed alteration has totally failed, insomuch that the Bill was not brought into Parliament, and the measure must now be abandoned. Thus the fears lately entertained, and for which there was but too much reason, have completely subsided, and the ruinous consequences which would inevitably have followed the alteration proposed, have been averted. Although the numerous and strong remonstrances which were sent from this side of the Atlantic, nor the representations of merchants and others in Great-Britain, did not prevent His Majesty's Ministers from attempting the measure, yet it is peculiarly gratifying to notice, that the good sense of the great body of the House of Commons, was sufficiently alive to the best interests of these Colonies, as well as those of the Mother Country, to induce them to crush this dangerous measure in the very outset.—Copies of this petition were also forwarded to the Chambers of Commerce of Quebec and Halifax, for their information, from which bodies similar documents were received.

From the fact that much injury and distress result to the inhabitants of this Province generally in consequence of the numerous Law Suits at all times existing in it, but particularly from the circumstance, of the greater part of such Suits being carried on in the Supreme Court, where the Costs are so heavy and oppressive. Your Committee were induced to forward a petition to all the three branches of the Legislature on the subject, setting forth the hardships most commonly and severely felt by the present operation of the Law, suggesting several alterations in the system, and particularly requesting that the Fee Table Ordinance might be regulated and published, in order that persons who may at any time have occasion to employ a Lawyer, may be able to ascertain whether the Costs he may charge are correct, and such as the Law allows, without being under the necessity of sending the Bill to Fredericton to be taxed, and thus increase the expense and delay,