Debates and Proceedings in Congress on the AFFAIRS OF OREGON.

Mr. Douglass said he hoped that his honorable friend from South Carolina (Mr. Holmes,) would display the same vigor and resolution, and would show himself as brave and as fearless on this Oregon question, as he had done on the subject of Texas. He trusted the gentleman was as willing to look Great Britain in the face as he had Mexico.—It would be remembered that great apprehensions had been entertained last year about our getting into war—but then it was a war with Mexico; and who could forget how brave—yes, how furious that honorable gentleman had then been, how ready he was to defy Mexico, ay, and Britain and France both, but now he shrank appalled. For Mr. D.'s own part, he felt just the same now as he had done then. He was not for making any of these differences in our feelings towards foreign powers.—But if gentlemen did feel apprehension, he would take the liberty to tell them that if they wanted to avoid war with England, the very best way was to prepare to give her the very best fight we have on hand. First, let us give her notice that the joint occupancy must cease; then let us go on to build our forts and stockades, to increase our army and navy, and to prepare a Territorial bill, ready to go into operation as soon as the twelve months' notice should have expired. His word for it, Great Britain was awake to the fact that if she got into a fight about Oregon, away would go the Canadas. For one, he felt well assured that if the House would act without talking [A voice: What are you doing? A laugh] or would talk only to act, we should have no war.

Mr. Holmes said he would frankly confess, that whatever might have been his bravery on a former occasion, he did feel on this Oregon question greatly and deeply alarmed. He was not afraid to acknowledge that he did feel apprehension at the thought of seeing the interest which he represented in that House plunged into a conflict with Great Britain. He would put it to the gentlemen who advocated the bill reported by the honorable gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Douglass) whether it would not be better first to pass, if they could pass, the bill giving notice of the joint occupancy before they took measures to prepare for war. One thing, however, he could tell gentlemen—that if the Oregon bill did pass, they would not find him backing out. He was well convinced that there was a part of that House which earnestly desired war, and hoped to render it inevitable; but when we are brought to that point, said Mr. H., instead of voting to raise two or five regiments—two regiments of riflemen or five regiments of infantry—*he would at once introduce a resolution crediting the Executive with twenty millions of dollars to provide for the defence of the country.* If the House should pass the bill, they need not expect to avoid the issue.—But, before we went on to arrange our forces, he would say to the gentleman, (Mr. Douglass) who, as a lawyer, *knew perfectly well that the notice proposed would produce war,* why terminate the joint occupancy? And, if we did, must we not at the end of twelve months enforce our alleged rights in that territory? And must we not drive Great Britain beyond the latitude of forty-nine? And had not the gentleman watched the perseverance and tenacity with which Great Britain had insisted upon her supposed rights not to be driven beyond forty-nine?

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll here called Mr. Holmes to order. He did it with reluctance, but these remarks were certainly out of order, and the honorable gentleman from S. C. must excuse him if he added, that they were injuriously out of order.

Mr. Holmes said he did not wish to be out of order, and would abstain from further remark.

Mr. Ingersoll said—He was neither for a war of aggression nor a peace of submission. He was not friendly to that 'wise and masterly inactivity' which had been announced by a highly distinguished gentleman, (Mr. Calhoun) in another branch of this Capitol: nor had he (Mr. I) any idea that we were to wait one minute longer than until our faith should be cleared by the joint occupancy. He was not of opinion that war was then to ensue. He scarcely thought it possible. Certainly, we should make no war, except by our women and children; and if Great Britain made war upon us under such circumstances, God and man would alike cry out against her. It was, impossible, in his judgment, that war, under such circumstances, could ensue without some strange spirit of rapacity on the one side, or some still stranger spirit of mismanagement on the other. For, as the gentleman from Massachusetts had said, there was no right of joint occupancy there. He (Mr. I) was aware that his occidental friend, the Chairman of the Committee on the Territories, (Mr. Douglas) had, in the very front of his bill, used the words, 'termination of the joint occupation,' and in the very last section and line of the bill, the same unfortunate confession had been made. Why was this? For, (Mr. I. repeated) as the gentleman from Massachusetts, who was the father of this twin—for he begat it himself when Secretary of State—had said, there is no such thing as joint occupation.

During the negotiations in the year 1818—negotiations on the part of Mr. Adams as Secretary of State, and Mr. Rush as Minister to England—the terms joint occupation were never used. But, in the year 1826, in the protocol to the sixth conference between Mr. Gallatin and the British plenipotentiaries, these words, 'joint occupation,' for the first time, stole into the negotiation.

But, in his opinion, there was no occasion for any fear of war. There were already seven thousand settlers there with American sympathies, American arms, and American hearts. He had conversed with one of those, now here, who accompanied them, and who had put into his, (Mr. I.'s) hands, the memorials he had recently presented.—That memorial had been criticized, because, like Charlemagne, and most of the barons of Runnymede, two of the vice-presidents had signed with a *cross.* But this amounted to nothing. It was no great cause of disrespect that a man could not sign his name. These seven thousand settlers had built a village which contained seventy good houses, and five or six mills. They raised grain, potatoes, and other means of subsistence. They were living there in peace and quietness; and, what was more, speaking of this matter of war, they had more than a thousand good rifles with them. They had a greater military force, ten times told, than England had, or could have in the Oregon territory; for, though she could go to Oregon by sea, yet to take troops by land, she must traverse a distance of many thousand miles, at an expence, and under such difficulties, too great to be endured. It was a question of power; and, as to that, the whole pacific argument was with us. We had the power now to hold the country, and Great Britain knew it. He disclaimed all idea of war, unless it was forced upon us.

Let us compromise while we can; our government had its foundation in compromise. Men's very existence rested on it. Whilst, therefore, he was a compromiser, and willing to make great sacrifices to avoid war, yet he believed that if he were to surrender the north of the 49th parallel, we should lose by far the best half of that magnificent territory. We should give up a country having the latitude, the soil, and the climate of England, with a million times more and better timber, and possessing advantages vastly greater. He flattered himself that two years would not elapse before the Chinese and the Japanese—sober, industrious and excellent people—would be attracted there to settle. It was only a short voyage across the Pacific ocean. Millions of those starving workmen, who, in point of sobriety, industry, and capacity, were among the best in the world—workmen from every isle of the Pacific—men able to outwork the English—would flock there. They were the labourers everywhere, on the soil and in the ship. He said again, therefore, that, whilst he was a compromiser, and whilst nothing on his part should be done to precipitate the result, yet he had no idea that a war could probably grow out of this matter. We should not make a war, and it was not possible that England should.

Mr. Winthrop, of Boston, said,—He had no hesitation in saying, and saying here openly, under all the responsibilities which might result from such a declaration, that he held this country would be bound to accept to-morrow as good an offer as themselves had proposed at three different times; and he held that it was an impeachment of his honourable colleague, that it was an impeachment of Mr. Monroe, of Mr. Gallatin, and of all those great and good men who had examined the question, who knew the history of our title, and who felt as much patriotism as any gentleman on this floor, who had offered this 49th degree of latitude, including the navigation of the Columbia river—it was an impeachment of all of them to say that no line which the United States can accept can be offered, until that very line has been offered again. And with reference to this navigation of the Columbia river, which was made so much of by all the friends of Oregon, as to which the President says he cannot for a moment tolerate the idea that any other nation should be allowed to penetrate our territory, why, it was a fact not doubted, and to bring out which he wished to offer a resolution of inquiry, that the Columbia river is not navigable at the point where the line of 49 degrees strikes it, so that no navigation whatever is to be ceded in such a case. He held that our government, under all the circumstances which would attend a breach of our pacific relations with Great Britain, was bound to accept a line as favourable from Great Britain as we ourselves had three times offered.

Lest he should be misunderstood, he wished to say that he considered our title to the whole of Oregon to be the best title of the two. He acquiesced in all that might be said on the subject. He believed our title even to the whole of Oregon, if it were an original question, would almost stand the test of a court of justice; certainly it would stand the test of any impartial umpirage to which it might be submitted. But he held, after all, that the title was of such a character, and such were the circumstances connected with this question, from the first moment we heard of Oregon, that there had been so many concessions, so many compromises and contentions on both sides, that at this moment we could not, with any face—or with any faith, he had almost said—assume this extreme position; and that we were bound, by the principles of good faith, of civilization, and of Christianity, to make it a matter of negotiation, of compromise, and of amicable adjustment—and of arbitration, if necessary. There might be objection to arbitration by crowned heads. Mr. W. expressed his opinion that he should not be opposed to that; but, independent of this, there were intelligent, learned, impartial men, profound historians, throughout the world, to whom it might be submitted for arbitration. Among these he referred especially to the venerable Gallatin, to whose document at this moment our secretaries were indebted for the best proofs of our title, and whom he would trust on our side with as much confidence that equal justice would be done by him as would be done in any other way for the country.

Mr. Owen said—I come to the main point at once. The gentleman asks: Why should we now give notice of the termination of what is popularly called the joint occupancy? We desire, at this time to terminate this convention? Or, in fact, where the necessity ever to terminate it? Why not let things remain as they are, and proceed to settle the country?

I will answer why; and, in so doing, shall give the reasons that induced me, two years ago, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. J. C. Ingersoll] has reminded the House, to introduce, and seek to have passed, the notice in question.

I wished, by the notice, to terminate this convention, because the convention is doing us, day by day, much harm. The convention is enabling Great Britain gradually to obtain all that, by diplomacy, she has sought of us. We offered her the latitude of 49 as a boundary. She, in return, proposed to run that parallel to the Columbia and then down the centre of that river to the Pacific, in latitude about 46. This last proposal would give her the country north of that river; and that very country she is, from day to day, now gradually obtaining, by means of this convention. Is there an American settler now living north of the Columbia? So far as I know or believe, not one. I have recently conversed with an intelligent gentleman who has spent some years in that country; and he informs me, that the moment a citizen of the United States attempts to settle north of the river,—on the *British* side, as they persist in calling it,—the Hudson Bay Company—the East India Company of that region—sees to it that they are removed and caused to emigrate south of the stream. How is this done? By forcible ejectment? Oh no. this agent of the British Government has far too much worldly wisdom for that; but by gold; by the offer, if it be necessary, of large sums as an inducement to remove.

Mr. Douglass. In one case they pulled down the cabins of a settler, north of the Columbia.

Mr. Owen.—On that point I cannot speak; but this I know, that one American citizen who had attempted to settle near Vancouver, received eight hundred dollars, to induce him to move into the Wallamette valley. What is to be the end of all this? Why, it must be apparent to every one.—Unless, indeed, quarrels breed war, settlement and public opinion in that country will alike determine the Columbia as the line, and Great Britain will finally become the possessor of every foot North of the river.

Are we prepared for this? Is that strip of country, as the gentleman from Massachusetts would intimate, worthless and not worth contending for? Sir, I would as soon abandon to Great Britain every foot of Oregon, as to give her up the harbours of Puget Sound, lying as they do North of the Columbia, but South of 59 deg. Have you remarked, sir—you must have done so, if you have followed the course of this question—that every proposal made by Great Britain, officially or unofficially, is a proposal *which divests us of Puget Sound.* When hard pressed in 1826, they offered to concede a rocky peninsula lying South-east to Cape Flattery, but wholly West of Puget Sound, which was to be England's.

And recently, the Albion made what may perhaps be deemed a sort of semi-official British proposal; namely, to run down the Columbia to a point some ten or fifteen miles South of the Southernmost extremity of Puget Sound, and thence due West to the Pacific; still leaving Puget Sound to Great Britain. Let the offers be varied as they will, the harbours of Puget Sound are not to be ours. Sir, the British Government contends not for the useless and the unprofitable. When they adhere to unreasonable demands, it is always for something valuable, and of which they know the value. They know well, that there is not, from the Straits of Fuca clear down to 42 deg., a single harbour where a vessel of two hundred tons burden can ride in safety. They know, that whoever owns the harbours, has the key to the commerce of the whole country. They know, that, if things are suffered to run on as at present, they will have the maritime control of Oregon.

(The following is only a small part of an excellent speech by Mr. Rhett of South Carolina.)

Give this notice, and go on and fight was the inevitable consequence. The fight would begin for Oregon, but gentlemen might be very sure that those who were not in that region would soon see the absurdity of such a contest; they could soon contrive to patch up their local difficulties, and leave the two Governments to fight it out. In such a fight, who did not know that the handful of Americans now in Oregon must quickly be overpowered by a nation which had entrenched themselves in forts, and had the absolute control of all the innumerable Indians in that country? Gentlemen say they are ready to fight. No doubt.—But whom were they to fight to get Oregon?—Why, the people in Canada, and the people in Nova-Scotia, and the people in New-Brunswick. But how could that get Oregon? There was but one way in which we could even get it by force, and that was to crush the power of Great Britain, and beat her into the dust. We must first tear down her magnificent and mighty empire, and put her whole vast power under our foot; then we might take it, but not before.

Did any man doubt what was the spirit of that people? Could we not tell it from the spirit that beat in the bosom of us, their children? The spirit of both nations was the same, and when they went to war, it would be no little war. As the Duke of Wellington had once well said in Parliament, "No war with the United States can be a little war." It must be a mighty struggle.—The commerce of both nations covered the world, and they possessed more power than any of the nations in the world. Some gentlemen, however, seemed to look upon a general war, involving all the civilized nations of the earth, as a matter highly expedient and desirable, because it would soon become a war between opposing systems of government—which meant, as he understood it, that republicanism and the principles of American liberty would be arrayed on one side, and the tyrannies of the old world on the other.

Mr. R. did not doubt that Great Britain would at once, and gladly, seize on that view of the matter, and use it against us with all the Governments of Europe. She would press the warning on every throne, that we were fighting for a republican system, and meant to carry out our form of government over all others, and establish it in triumph upon their ruins.—Whether such an attempt was our policy under the existing state of things, was a question that there was hardly a child in the country who could not answer. If such a contest was ever to come, time was at least as important to us as it could be to Great Britain. We could gain Oregon on time; nay, we might subdue the world on time; but what could be more rash and unwise than to precipitate ourselves into such a contest, until we first secured a station, and a standing, and a power, which should fit us to control the world? If war was inevitable,—if it must come—let us at least wait upon time. Our population was multiplying every hour—our strength was consolidating with every passing moment—our vast and wide spread commerce was binding us in links of friendship with all the nations of the world.—Give us twenty, or thirty, or fifty years, and we might defy the whole world; but not now. Our country, by the blessing of God was rising fast into an example to the free and the admiration of the brave. Why not let us continue as we were, making such a progress as the world had never seen—accumulating people and wealth, and knowledge, and military skill, till we might dare the boldest, and if the boldest came might meet them without fear. It might be that such a contest was in reserve for us. History had shown that nations, with the same character and pursuits, came to view each other first as rivals, and then as enemies. Great Britain had long had France in that relation to her as Rome had had Carthage—She might come to view us as her rival, and strive with us as her enemy, but it would not be for Oregon. When the contest should come, it would be a contest of the whole nation. Every man, and woman, and child, from the mountain to the sea, would feel its impulse and be carried on in the storm.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.—Our readers will remember the blood and thunder speech of Mr. Adams, a few days since, and the sensation it produced in Congress, and elsewhere. On Wednesday last, 7th instant, the same gentleman said,—

"In the sentiments I have expressed in this House, in relation to the great question now before it—namely, the giving the twelve months' notice to the British Government, of the termination of the convention by which our hands and feet are manacled and fettered from the assertion of our unquestionable right—I abstained purposely from any reference whatever to Northern or Southern interests on this question. I abstained from inquiry into any of the consequences which a war with Great Britain would bring on the North and the South. I know very well that calamitous consequences will be the result, both to the North and the South, if that war should take place. I declared that I did not believe it would take place. I repeat, I do not believe it will occur under any circumstances. I do not believe that it would occur, if, the very day after the notice shall have been given, we should send a body of troops to take possession of the whole territory. I do not believe that the Government of Great Britain, or the people of Great Britain, will ever make a war, or support a ministry that would make a war, for Oregon, as part of the territory of Great Britain.

But, Sir, there are other circumstances which I apprehend will prevent the occurrence of war; and my greatest apprehension is, that it will be by the ultimate backing out of the present administration and its supporters from the ground it has taken.

(Great confusion in the hall.)

In the House, on the 6th, the bill for raising two *Companies* of Riflemen was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The House was engaged in an animated debate the remainder of the day on the Oregon question; during which, Mr. McConnell, of Ala., asked leave, (whether seriously or not our readers can judge) to introduce four resolutions, which the House allowed to be read for information; they were in substance "to uphold our title to Oregon, to incorporate Mexico, Yucatan, California, &c. into the United States, *and that Ireland is fully entitled to share in the blessings of our free Institutions*"

In the Senate, on the 7th, the bill for raising two regiments of mounted riflemen, and appropriating $75,000 for equipments, was read a third time and passed. Mr. Benton declared the bill essentially a peace measure.

In the Senate, on the 8th, Mr. Allen gave notice of an amendment to his bill for terminating the Joint Occupancy, making the action of Congress final without the action of the President.

From the New-York Albion, Jan. 10.

The Oregon question, which carries with it the chances of peace or war, is still the theme which fills every mind and occupies every tongue. The debates in Congress acquire a new, and an intensity of interest daily, and daily the subject seems to become more complex and embarrassing. It is certain that the lull which took place last week, in consequence of the pacific course of Mr. Calhoun, has been disturbed by the warlike speeches of Mr. Adams and others.

On the 5th, Mr. Ingersoll, in the House of Representatives, from the Committee of Foreign Relations, brought forward the long expected resolution, for giving the year's notice to Great Britain to terminate the treaty of joint occupancy. It was to the following effect:—

"Resolved, (the Senate concurring,) That the President of the United States forthwith cause notice to be given to the Government of Great Britain that the convention between the United States and Great Britain concerning the territory of Oregon, of the 6th August, 1827, signed at London, shall be annulled and abrogated twelve months after the expiration of the said term of notice, conformably to the 2d article of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827."

It appears that, in the committee from which this emanated, there was a difference of opinion as to the propriety of its adoption; and, in consequence, Mr Gilbert Davies, one of the dissentients appeared with a counter resolution, which he was authorised to make on behalf of the minority. This counter resolution was to the following purport:

"Resolved, That the question whether a notice to terminate the convention between the United States of America and Great Britain, of October, 1818, and continued in force by the convention of August, 1827, ought to be given, is not a matter for the decision of Congress; and upon it this House at present refrains from the expression of any opinion."

Mr. Ingersoll then moved, which he was directed to do by the Committee of Foreign Relations, that the Resolution be taken up for consideration on the first Monday in February. On this motion a very interesting debate arose, and continued throughout the day, when an adjournment took place. In the course of this day's debate a very remarkable speech was made by Mr. Geddings, of Ohio, in which he announced his change of opinion. On a former occasion, he said, he had been opposed to giving the notice to Great Britain, but since then, the Union had been changed in its essential elements, [by the admission of Texas] and a slave-holding oligarchy now holds the entire direction of the government. The southern portion of the Union, he averred, now hold the balance of power in the United States. Under these circumstances, he continued—

"I am led to the conclusion, to the irresistible conclusion, that war, with all its horrors and its devastation of public morals, is infinitely preferable to a supine inactive submission to the slave-holding power, that is to controul this nation, if left in its present situation. I wish to be distinctly understood that I have seen enough of war to form an opinion of its effects, its miseries, and the extent of its curse. Yes, sir, *I greatly prefer them,* for a few years, to the quiet apathy which has already subjected us to a change of the Government formed by our fathers."

"Let no one say I desire a slave insurrection: but, sir, I doubt not that hundreds of thousands of honest and patriotic hearts will 'laugh at your calamity, and mock when your fear cometh.' No, sir; should a servile insurrection take place—should massacre and blood mark the footsteps of those who have for ages been oppressed, my prayer to God shall be that *justice—stern, unyielding, and unalterable justice, may be awarded to the master and to the slave.* Then, sir, we shall have the scenes of 1789 acted over, when South Carolina sent to the Continental Congress a delegation to inform that body that it required all her troops to protect her people against their slaves, and that that chivalric State must depend on her Northern sisters for troops to defend her against the common enemy. Then, sir, the people of Ohio will be compelled to go to the South, to Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas, to protect them from the emancipated slaves of the West Indies, and the desperation to which their own servile population will be driven. Sir, our sons must go there and bare their breasts in defence of the slave institutions of those States. Then, sir, the people of the North will be compelled to look this institution in the face; they will see the degradation to which they have become subjected by this new slave-holding confederacy.

"And, sir, no twelve hundred thousand dollars will be likely to be paid to Southern slave-holders by the British Government for the purpose of obtaining peace. But, sir, there is one vast and important consideration that ought not to escape my notice. A war with England in the present state of the two nations, must inevitably place in our possession the Canadas, Nova-Scotia, and New Brunswick. Six States will be added to the Northern part of the Union, to restore the balance of power, surrendered by the annexation of Texas. This, Mr. Speaker, is the policy declared by the party now controlling this nation. I say to them, carry out that policy! I demand of them not to leave the nation in its present state of subjection to the slave-holding oligarchy of the South. I will vote to give them the means of doing so."

Other parts of this speech were even more emphatic and startling. Mr. Geddings is one of the party called Abolitionists, who sees in the admission of Texas into the Union, an additional permanency given to the slave system of this country; and he considers this so great an evil that he prefers war to the continuance of peace—as war would break up this slave system or neutralize it, either by a slave insurrection promoted by British invasion, or by the conquest and annexation to the northern portion of the Union of some of the British Provinces. Such is the purport of his speech as we understand it. In addition to this, it is affirmed by a portion of the press, that the moving cause of Mr. Adams' warlike oration was this same Abolition sentiment, and that he and Mr. Geddings acted with a perfect understanding of each other's views. We know not how far this may be true, but if the supposition be well founded, it follows that the war party has received an accession of strength by the adhesion of the Anti-slavery portion of the country. Under such circumstances it is difficult to say how matters will terminate.

Among many extraordinary things said in Congress, Mr. Owen stated that when American settlers went over to Oregon, and settled north of the Columbia, they were immediately bought off by the Hudson's Bay Company. One poor man, he averred, was cruelly bought off with $800!!! If this could be proved, how many would flock thither to endure the like persecution!

We again repeat, that we see no mode by which this controversy can be brought to a pacific conclusion, but by making a fair, honest, and equitable division of the territory; and if the two Governments cannot agree as to what does constitute a fair and equitable division, let them refer the matter to a third power.

Increased testimony is turning up, confirmatory of the British rights in the Oregon territory. We have just received a communication from a source which commands entire confidence, in which we find the following passage:—

"There is an error in stating that Thompson was not on any of the branches of the Columbia until after Astoria was founded (1811.) Such is not the fact—he was most unquestionably in the Kootonais country on the M'Gillivray river in 1806, while the country was visited and hunted from the Saskatchewan by British traders and trappers, for two or three years previous to that date—*certainly before Lewis and Clarke crossed the Mountains.*"

A document establishing some, or all, of these facts, we are further told, is deposited at the Hudson's Bay House in London, and for which search will doubtless be immediately made.

The President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, has appointed Gansevoort Melville, of New York, to be Secretary of Legation of the United States in London, in the place of Francis B. Rivers, resigned.

Lieutenant Colonel Elliot, K. H. commanding the Royal Canadian Regiment, died suddenly at Niagara, in Canada, a few days since. He was much respected, and his interment was attended by the population of the town of Niagara, while the American fort opposite hoisted its colours at half mast.—*New-York Albion.*

We notice by the Royal Gazette, that the bill introduced by Mr. Boyd last session of the Assembly, entitled "A bill to return duties in certain cases," had received the Royal assent on the 20th November last Vessels arriving at or departing from *this County,* are now relieved from paying export duty, and light and Beacon money. —*St. Andrews Standard.*

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The Ann Louisa, from Vera Cruz, at New York, brings an overland mail from the Pacific, with advices from Honolulu to the 16th Sept. No news of importance. Mr. Pritchard, the English Missionary, whom the French expelled from Tahiti, has been appointed British Consul for Navigator's Island, and has entered upon the duties of his new office.

SOUTH AMERICA.—*Indefinite News.*—A letter from Philadelphia says, brig Putnam, from Rio de Janeiro, at that port on Thursday, brought intelligence that news had arrived there from the river of Plate, on the day of her sailing, November 19, that created a great excitement; but the captain had not time to ascertain its nature.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1846.

Our latest dates from England are to the 5th December, brought by the barque Corsair, which arrived at Halifax, last Monday, in 34 days from Liverpool.—The news by the *Hibernia* steamer, expected on Monday, will be twenty-nine days later, and we doubt not very interesting.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor arrived in town from the Seat of Government, last Saturday evening, and left again on Thursday morning. The object of His Excellency's visit is said to have been to arrange preliminaries for the formation of a new Cabinet, prior to the opening of the Legislature. Several rumours are abroad as to what has really been effected, the most probable of which is that the four Councillors who retired from the Government last Session will again take their places, the course having previously been made clear for them by the retirement of the present leaders of the Administration.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The award of the Arbitrators in the case of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John against John R. Partelow, late Chamberlain of the City, was made this day at one o'clock, after an arduous investigation of upwards of a month. We have only time to insert the substance of the award, and congratulate the late Chamberlain and the Public upon the termination of this long-pending subject of controversy. Our readers can now form their own opinions of the righteousness of the claim set up on the part of the Corporation, amounting to about £17,000, and of the justice of the persecution with which Mr. Partelow has been assailed by his enemies for some time past, both in public and private. We heartily congratulate him on the signal triumph which he has at length achieved over their base machinations.

"We do award, arbitrate, and determine that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, or their Successors, shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said John R. Partelow, his Executors or Administrators, on the 1st day of July now next ensuing, the sum of £360 3s. 6d. of lawful money. And we do further award and declare that the said sum of £360 3s. 6d. is due and owing to the said John R. Partelow by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, exclusively and independently of the Bonds of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, made to the said John R. Partelow, and mentioned in the trust assignment of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John."

The Arbitrators of the case were Asa Coy, Esquire, of Fredericton, chosen by the Corporation, James Taylor, Esquire, of Fredericton, chosen by Mr. Partelow, and Daniel Hanington, Esquire, of Shediac, selected as a third party.

UNITED STATES.—The news from Washington this week bears the ungrateful aspect of a complication of the difficulties which beset the vexed question of the Oregon. A continued discussion of the subject on the floors of Congress has followed the war speech of Mr. Adams, and the sentiments of Senators and Representatives are daily sent forth to agitate and excite the people.—In our columns, to-day, will be found extracts of several of the speeches.

THE OREGON QUESTION.—It was our intention to have published to-day an abstract of Mr. Perley's lectures on the Oregon, but on learning that some very able articles on the subject would appear in the Royal Gazette of this week, drawn from the same sources as the lectures, we did not deem it necessary to publish the abstract. The articles in the Gazette are too long for our columns, but we refer to them as well worthy a careful perusal.

INTER-COLONIAL FREE TRADE.—We have great pleasure in noticing that the old and staunch friend of the North American Colonies, Sir Howard Douglas, to whose wise and paternal administration of the Government of New-Brunswick this Province owes many of its present advantages, and to whose foresight we are indebted for the important suggestion of connecting the waters of the Bay of Fundy with the St. Lawrence, has called for a series of statistics in relation to the great Colonial Empire of England, with a view, as we are informed, of introducing into Parliament a measure, having for its end the union of all the Colonies with the Mother Country in one great family, trading and having intercourse, the one with the other, without any restriction or taxation whatever, each supplying the other's wants; the one securing a trade for the other, independently of Foreign countries, and the production of each rendered most available in the markets of the Mother Country. A scheme so magnificent is one peculiarly of the present age, and in the hands of Sir Howard Douglas, we doubt not its accomplishment will receive all the energy which the devoted patriotism, extensive commercial knowledge, and political sagacity of that able statesman can inspire. Looking at the project generally, we view it as one of the utmost importance. More than any other means it would strengthen and unite Great Britain and her Colonies; it would draw closely and indissolubly the bonds of affection and mutual reliance between the respective members of the Colonial family and the Mother Country, and unite their powerful and increasing energies *with* the world or *against* the world, as the great plan of their destiny shall hereafter be evolved from the depths of the future. "The area of freedom" might, in such case, hopelessly sigh for extension,—no rampant democracy would then dare to trouble, with its sympathetic spirit, the fair possessions of the British Crown; and the Lion of England, in the majesty of his power, might quietly recline under the extension of commerce, the spread of civilization, and the rapidly increasing splendour and glory of the empire. In its relation to New-Brunswick, such a project would prove highly beneficial, both as regards the Province and the Mother Country. The partial closing of the West India Ports to foreign countries by the imposition of a small differential duty on foreign goods, would at once throw into New Brunswick additional life and energy, and by affording a larger market for our fish and lumber, would shortly build her up to an extent, important as a possession of the Crown, and valuable as a customer for British manufactures. By the operation of Act of Victoria for regulating the Trade of the British Provinces abroad, much of the trade of New Brunswick has been transferred from England to the United States, arising from the proximity of that country, and the low scale of differential duties imposed by the Act, and a large quantity of goods of foreign manufacture is now consumed in this as well as other British Provinces. This would be obviated under the policy it would be necessary to pursue, in the new state of affairs which this project contemplates. It would be, we imagine, "*the Colonies for England, and England for the Colonies.*" As we are not familiar with the details of the movement, the method of providing for the purposes of Government does not occur to us. This will probably be the greatest difficulty to overcome in the completion of the measure. We refer our readers to the following extract from the "Proceedings of the House of Commons," of 5th August, 1845, for information as to the papers and documents which have been called for, and hope, ere long, to present them with a more complete outline of the contemplated project.

"COLONIES,—Address for "Returns of Duties imposed in each Colony in British America and the West Indies on the principal articles the growth or production of, or imported from, any or all of the British Colonies:"

"Of Duties imposed in each Colony in British America, and in the West Indies, on Goods the production or manufacture of the United Kingdom:"

"Similar Returns for the Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Ceylon, and the Australian Colonies:"

"Returns of Duties imposed in each of the Indian Presidencies, and in Prince of Wales Island, on the productions and manufactures of the United Kingdom:"

"Of Duties imposed in each of the Indian Presidencies, and in the Prince of Wales Island, on the products of each other, and on those of any British Colony:"

"Of Duties imposed in any British Colony on the importation of the products of the Indian Presidencies or of Prince of Wales Island:"

"Of Duties imposed in the several British Colonies and Possessions, British India inclusive, on the Exports of their several productions:"

"Of Ships and Tonnage belonging to each and every British Colony and to British India:"

"Stating the number and tonnage of Vessels arriving at, and departing from, each and every British Colony, and to and from British India; the countries to which such Vessels belong, and the places or ports from which they come, and to which they depart, for the last ten years:"

"Of the description and value, or quantity, of Imports to, and Exports from, each and every British Colony, and to and from British India, specifying the Countries whence imported, and to which exported, for the last ten years."—(*Sir Howard Douglas.*)

The Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, was opened in this City on Tuesday last. This being the first occasion on which Judge Street has presided since his elevation to the Bench, his Honor was waited upon at his temporary residence, the St. John Hotel, before the opening of the Court, by the Members of the Bar in this City, in their robes, headed by His Honor the Recorder, and having received this mark of respect from the Gentlemen of the Profession, and returned a suitable acknowledgment, was escorted to the Court House by the whole body. His Honor, in charging the Grand Jury, alluded to his immediate predecessor, the Honorable Mr. Justice Botsford, whose retirement from the Bench, after a service of upwards of twenty years, during which time he had performed the high and important duties of his office with faithfulness and integrity had occasioned a sacrifice on his part, which he hoped the people and the legislature would not permit to pass unrequited. His Honor next explained the duty of a Grand Juror, and adverting to the accumulation of cases on the Criminal Calendar, since the last Circuit, urged the necessity of an efficient Police establishment, for the better security of property and the protection of lives. The number of civil causes entered for trial on the Docket is 63, thirteen of which have already been disposed of. The criminal trials, we understand, will come on on Monday next.

MR. JUSTICE STREET.—The Magistracy of the City and County, on Monday last, presented Judge Street with a congratulatory address on his elevation to the Bench of the Province, and the Grand Inquest of the City and County met at the Court House on Thursday morning last for the like purpose. To both these addresses his Honor made suitable replies.

To His Honor GEORGE F. STREET, *Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Supreme Court in the Province of New-Brunswick.*

We, the undersigned Magistrates for the City and County of Saint John, respectfully offer our sincere congratulations upon your Honor's elevation to a seat on the Bench of the Supreme Court of this Province; and we avail ourselves of this, your Honor's first occasion in presiding as Judge of the Circuit Court in this City and County, to express the high sense we entertain of the talents, legal acquirements, and honorable principles which your Honor's experience will happily bring to the important trust of aiding in the Jurisprudence of this Province. It has at all times been a matter of gratifying consideration, to know that the administration of Justice has always been conducted by Gentlemen who were eminently qualified by great legal acquirements, sound judgment, and unsullied integrity: and it is not less gratifying in the present instance;—and we feel proud that Her Majesty has been pleased to bestow this favour upon a Gentleman born and brought up in this Province, and who for so many years has discharged with integrity, equally creditable to himself and advantageous to the country, various and highly important Offices of trust under the Government; thereby affording the most gratifying assurance of the most faithful administration of Justice, in the important situation to which your Honor is now elevated.

With our best wishes for your Honor's long-continued health and happiness, we have the pleasure to subscribe ourselves,

Your Honor's most obedient servants,

W. B. Kinnear, *Recorder,*	William Scovil,
James Peters,	Charles Simonds,
Hugh Johnston,	Noah Disbrow,
B. L. Peters,	Charles Ward,
William Leavitt,	L. H. DeVeber,
Jacob Allan,	John Wishart,
James Moran,	James Gallagher,
Robert Payne,	Walker Tisdale,
W. H. Street,	John Kerr.
James Kirk,	

MR. RECORDER AND GENTLEMEN,—

I sincerely thank you for this gratifying and complimentary Address of congratulation upon my promotion to the Bench of the Supreme Court of this Province, springing as I am sure it does, from the kindly personal feelings I have always experienced from you.

I can assure you it is a matter of deep satisfaction to me to find that my public conduct, in the different Offices I have heretofore filled, has been so highly approved of and appreciated by so respectable and influential a Body, as those Magistrates of the City and County of Saint John, who have so kindly presented me with this flattering expression of their feelings.

I cordially participate in the sentiments you express of the advantages this Province has heretofore derived, from having had the administration of justice conducted by gentlemen so eminently qualified in legal acquirements, sound judgment, and unblemished integrity, as those with whom I am now associated, together with the highly respected and esteemed individual whose advanced and unusual long period of service have induced him voluntarily to retire, at a great personal sacrifice to himself,—and it shall be my first object in future, to exert all the best energies of my mind to prevent the public sustaining any serious loss, by my accession to the Bench in lieu of him, trusting, as I do, to receive from you and all other Magistrates in the Province such aid and assistance as your official situations may from time to time call on you to afford, in maintaining the supremacy of the laws and preserving good order in the different communities to which you and they belong.

In conclusion, allow me also to return you my best thanks for the good wishes you have expressed for my continued health and happiness, and the hope that we may meet here as often as my Judicial duties may call me to this place, with the same mutual good feeling now expressed.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
GEO. FRED. STREET.

To His Honor Mr. Justice Street.

May it please your Honor—

We, the Grand Jury for the City and County of Saint John, congratulate your Honor upon your elevation to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Judicature for this Province.

While we deeply regret that bodily infirmity should have caused the resignation of your Honor's venerable predecessor, Mr. Justice Botsford, (for whom we all entertain the highest respect, and whose long and faithful public services we trust will not be allowed to remain unrequited,) we are much gratified that our gracious Sovereign should have selected, in the person of your Honor, to fill the vacancy thus created, a gentleman from the Bar of New-Brunswick, whose professional talents and attainments, honourable feelings, and independent conduct,—long known and highly esteemed in this community,—give us an earnest that your judicial career will be alike creditable to your Honor and to the Bench of this Province, and will tend more and more to strengthen our attachment to our Sovereign, and to the Laws and Constitution of our Country.

That your Honor may long be permitted in this life so to dispense justice tempered with mercy as finally yourself to receive from the Great Judge of the Universe that sentence which will convey with it life everlasting, is our sincere wish.

(On behalf of the Jurors)
EDWARD L. JARVIS, Foreman.
St. John, N. B., 15th January, 1846.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of the Subscribers to the funds of the Society, resident in this Parish, was held last Thursday evening. The sum of £355 11s. 3d. was reported as the amount collected in the Parish for the purposes of the Society, and Robert F. Hazen and William Wright, Esquires, were elected Lay Deputies to represent this Parish at the Anniversary Meeting, to be held at Fredericton in February next.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—William Watts, Esq. of Fredericton, delivered three lectures, this week, on *the Colonial Empire of Great Britain.* The audience, on each occasion, was large and respectable. In his first lecture, Mr. Watts gave an account of the African Possessions of the Cape, St. Helena, Ascension and Mauritius, Australia, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand; in his second he treated of the East Indies, and especially the Four Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Agra; in his third and concluding one, he directed the attention of his audience to the British West Indies, and especially to the islands of Jamaica, Trinidad and St. Lucia, British Guiana in South America, and these Northern Colonies. With the manner and matter of these lectures, we believe, the audience had occasion to be very much gratified. The style was easy, elegant and full. They breathed the spirit of British constitutional freedom; and they held forth many motives, by which British Colonists should not only adhere to the Parent from whom they sprung, but by industry and persevering exertion in every thing great and good, render themselves worthy of being called the children of so great a Parent.

On Monday next, Mr. Stubs will deliver his first lecture on *Railways,* which will be illustrated by a model of a railway with the action of a model locomotive upon it.

It gives us pleasure to announce to the public, that in addition to the Lectures published in the Programme, we will be favoured with one from the Rev. Mr. Lawson, on *Decision of Character,* on the 30th instant, one from Mr. Owen, on *Music, with illustrations,* on the 13th of February, and one from Mr. Deuchar, on *Etiquette,* on the 20th of February.

DEATH IN THE WOODS.—We learn from the Woodstock Telegraph of the 10th inst. that Messrs. Dennis Downey and Daniel McEacharn, natives of Charlotte Town, P. E. I., who were employed by Mr. Amos Dickenson in the lumber woods, went astray, and after two days search Downey was found dead, and McEacharn so badly frozen that it was thought he could not live.

We learn from the St. Andrews' *Standard,* that the crew of the schooner William Walker, from Boston for St. Andrews, supposed to have been wrecked near Moosepecca Light House, State of Maine, consisted of S. T. Cook, master; Wm. Johnson, son of Mrs W. Cox, late of St. Andrews; Isaiah Hewitt, and James Cronan, son of Michael Cronan, of St. Andrews. There were also some passengers on board,—the only names known are Martin Healy and Ann Hynds, both of St. Andrews. Captain Cook was a native of Yarmouth, N. S., and was only 22 years of age—he was an experienced Ship-master, and an exemplary man, and has left a wife and two children.

Neilson's *Quebec Gazette* of the 7th inst. has a long and well-timed article on the settlement of the Lower Shores of the St. Lawrence, called forth by the recent shipwrecks in that river, and the loss of life and extreme suffering consequent upon the absence of settlements, where assistance could be obtained, when required, for the preservation of life and property. The evil is spoken of as discreditable to the country and the government, and injurious to the general interests of the Province.—For the purpose of encouraging settlements, a proposition is made of free grants of land, to the amount of 90 arpents, to actual settlers, with provisions and seed for the first year, and gratuitous passage to the new settlements, the whole of which to be placed and continued under the superintendence of a competent surveyor.

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RICHIBUCTO. Mrs. George Platt, in the name of the ladies of the above congregation, lately waited on the Rev. James Law, A. M., and presented him with a splendid Pulpit Gown, made of the richest Satin, and beautifully ornamented,—and with the Gown an excellent Saddle; being a New-Year's Gift. These presents are a substantial proof of the estimation in which their young Pastor is held by the aforesaid congregation. The gifts were accompanied by a very flattering address, to which Mr. Law made a suitable reply.

FREE CHURCH ORDINATION AT BOCABECK.—On Thursday the 8th inst. the Presbytery of New-Brunswick adhering to the Standards of the Free Church, assembled at Bocabeck, Parish of St. Patrick, Charlotte County, for the purpose of ordaining the Rev. William Millen to the Pastoral charge of the aforesaid Parish. Although the day was stormy, yet the Church was crowded at an early hour with hearers impatient to witness an Ordination, as such a thing had never been seen in that part of the Province. At eleven o'clock the solemn services of the day were commenced by the usual devotions, and a very appropriate Sermon from 2d Corinthians, 2d chap. 15th and 16th verses, preached by the Rev. A. Donald, of Norton. He was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Irvine, of St. John, who gave a clear and distinct explanation of the constitution of Presbytery, shewing it to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and closed his defence by proving that the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Ulster exhibited the best specimens of Apostolic Presbyterianism now extant. The young Pastor was then set apart to the work of the Holy Ministry and the charge of the aforesaid Parish, by prayer and the "laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." After which the Rev. John Turnbull gave an admirable address to Pastor and people, pointing out, in a most Scriptural and masterly manner, their reciprocal duties.

The Presbytery and some other friends were entertained at the close of the day by a very comfortable Dinner, and Mr. Millen's Parishioners marked the appreciation of his talents and worth by presenting him with an excellent Horse and Sleigh and a beautiful Cloak.—*Communicated.*

ONE DAY LATER FROM ENGLAND.—English dates one day later have been received at Halifax, by the Barque Corsair, which left Liverpool on the 5th Dec. We have Liverpool papers by her of that date. The most important item which a day has brought forth, is the announcement in the London Times of the 4th, that Her Majesty's Government have resolved upon a repeal of the Corn Laws—"that by the end of January next, at the latest, the produce of all countries will enter the British market on an absolute equality with our own." "The decision of the Cabinet," says The Times, "is no longer a secret. Parliament, it is confidently reported, is to be summoned for the first week in January; and the Royal Speech will, it is added, recommend an immediate consideration of the Corn Laws, preparatory to their total repeal. Sir Robert Peel in one house, and the Duke of Wellington in the other, will, we are told, be prepared to give immediate effect to the recommendation thus conveyed." There is a drawback, however, to this intelligence. The *Standard,* more the organ of the Government than *The Times,* questions its authenticity, and attributes the *Times* statement to a guess—founded upon the loosest helps to conjecture. The *Standard* says "We do not dispute that the *Times* has many such helps; its influence over inferior clerks and door porters in the public offices is, we are aware, very considerable; nay, we have a notion that it possesses the ear of *one* private Secretary, though we believe *but one.* In this way the *Times* may worm out probabilities. For example, a clerk reports at Printing-house-square (of course for a consideration) that certain papers not usually required until February are ordered to be ready in January. The inference is reasonably enough drawn that Parliament is to meet in January, and then it is added that these papers concern, *inter alia,* the corn returns." We incline to believe that the Times statement, however obtained, is not made without good foundation But the next arrival will probably determine.—*Halifax Times.*

NOVA-SCOTIA.—*Meeting of the Legislature.*—The Provincial Parliament of Nova-Scotia was opened on Saturday last, by His Excellency Lord Falkland, in the customary manner.—His Excellency, in his speech from the throne, speaks of the "almost general failure" of the potato crop and the necessity of providing against apprehended distress and privation in consequence, and the convenience of members as inducements for calling the Legislature together at an earlier period than usual. With the above exception, the harvest had been "rather more than usually abundant." The fisheries are represented to have been less productive than on former years. The public revenue still continues in a prosperous state. His Excellency adds the following paragraphs, and concludes with an intimation of the necessity of providing for the liquidation of a part of the funded debt, and his reliance on the Legislature for their grave consideration of that and other important matters of the session.

"The Queen has been graciously pleased to instruct me to signify to the Provincial Parliament Her Majesty's willingness to relinquish the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown in the Colony in exchange for a Civil List on certain conditions, of which I will hereafter apprize you.

"I have the pleasure to announce to you that a correspondence, in which I have been recently engaged with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has terminated happily for the interests of this Country, which are so deeply involved in the protection of the fisheries on its Coasts—further privileges sought by the American Government, the concession of which would have affected the prosperity of Nova Scotia, having been withheld by Her Majesty.

"I strongly recommend to your favourable and deliberate consideration a project for the construction of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec and Montreal, which has lately much engaged the public attention, and the execution of which, should it turn out to be practicable under present circumstances, cannot be otherwise than beneficial in its consequences to the British North American Colonies, by facilitating their intercourse with each other, and affording at all seasons an outlet through British Ports for the productions of the British Canadian dominions. I have thought it necessary to address Her Majesty's Government on the subject of this great enterprize; and I have endeavoured to obtain such statistical and other information as may assist your deliberations, both as to the feasibility of the contemplated work, and the extent to which pecuniary aid should be afforded to promote the undertaking, should you deem it expedient to apply to that purpose any part of the public income. The information thus collected shall be imparted to you at the first convenient opportunity.

The members of the Assembly having returned to the Assembly room, and some routine business having been disposed of, Mr. Holmes observed that formerly it was the custom to refer the opening speech to a committee; but it was found much more convenient to move an answer, as he was about doing now. He then briefly referred to the several topics embraced in the speech, all of which he spoke of in terms of high approbation, particularly of that part respecting the railroad. After which he moved the address in answer to the opening speech—which he read in his place.

Mr. Fulton, in rising to second the address, observed that the potatoe crop, in many parts of the province was not so generally injured as might be inferred from the speech—he was happy to say that in his part of the country, (Cumberland,) the deficiency of the potatoes, although considerable, was far from being general.

The Honorable Solicitor General observed that it was usual to allow the answer to lie on the table, in order that those gentlemen who are unacquainted with it, might have time to examine it at leisure.

Mr. James B. Uniacke approved of the measure, and seconded Mr. Dodd's motion, which on being put, was agreed to.

The Address was taken up on Monday, and passed,—Mr. A McLellan objecting to the wording of some of the clauses and the principles contained in them, and Mr J. B. Uniacke suggesting some modification in the part relating to the Quebec sufferers, so as not to pledge the House to agree to the expenditure.—The clause, however, passed.

The Hon. Norman Fitzgerald Uniacke, William Lawson, and James Bond, having signified their desire to retire from the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia—the recent appointments of Messrs. James D. Harris, Alexander Keith, and Wm. A. Black, have been made to fill up the vacancies. Messrs. Harris and Keith have taken their seats at the Council Board, and Mr. Black's mandamus is expected by the next steamer from England.

The Sheriffs for the several Counties in Nova-Scotia have been re-appointed to office for the present year, with the exception of the County of Cape Breton, where Alfred Haliburton, Esq. supplies the place of Joshua W. Weeks, Esq.

BISHOP DOLLARD'S INCORPORATION ACT.

Messrs. Chubb & Co.:—Many of the provisions of the above Act, contained in my former letter must, I think, be pronounced by every candid reader, as very objectionable. It will be observed that the soil and freehold, as well as the fee simple of all Lands, Burial-grounds, Churches and Chapels throughout the Province, are to be exclusively vested in the Bishop and his successors, with full power to sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of the same, entirely irrespective of the concurrence of Wardens and Parishioners, and not even guaranteeing the benefits from such sales to the particular Parish in which Lands and Churches, so sold, may be situate. No provision appears for preserving the regular appointment of Wardens—thus leaving the future existence of these really necessary officers quite dependent upon the will of our clergy; the rights of Pew-holders in the different churches are unnoticed—this omission, should the Bill become a Law, must of itself occasion much trouble. Pew-holders, who have been punctual in paying their rents, will not willingly resign their favourite sittings, and, as, under the *new regime,* all church regulations will be presented by the Bishop and clergy, a wide door will be opened for collisions of the most unpleasant nature.

The information gratuitously offered to the Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. Cunard, at the discussion of this measure, last session, viz.,—"that Church Wardens were unknown to the Roman Catholic Church, and at variance with its constitution," calls for correction. The zeal of the Hon. Member for the success of the Bill, led him into the assertion of puerile nonsense; I will not impute to the Hon. Gentleman a desire wilfully to mislead the Council, but his remarks certainly did not betoken much observation of our Church policy, even in this Province. In this City, Wardens have been regularly chosen by the Pew-holders, since the first erection of our Churches; also, in Fredericton, Saint Andrews, Saint Stephens, and other Parishes in the Diocese, Wardens have been recognized and modes prescribed for their election, by three several Bishops who preceded our present Bishop, and never have objections been raised to the *canonical* propriety of the office until now, when our present Bishop and his clergy, for reasons unknown to the Parish, deem it necessary, or expedient to abolish it.—Wardens are well known in Catholic Churches in Nova Scotia, and in many parts of Canada, while, almost universally throughout the United States, laymen, under the names of Committee men or Trustees, exercise, in connexion with the Bishops, a joint control over the temporal affairs of the various Churches. This usage, so long and firmly established in many parts of this Province, and generally throughout North America, must, I think, sufficiently refute the idle assertion of Mr. Cunard, that the office of Wardens is inimical to the constitution of our Church.

My objections to the proposed Bill are these: I decidedly disapprove of our Bishop obtaining any Act of Incorporation, unless in connexion with a certain number of Church Wardens, and under no circumstances would I consent that Church Lands should be sold or disposed of by either Clergy or Wardens; and, indeed, as regards this Parish, where the title of our Church Lands is in Trustees for the use of the Parish, I very much doubt the right of the Legislature to transfer, much more to alter or destroy these Trusts, without the express consent of all persons interested, which consent has already, in a variety of instances, been refused. The tendency of this Bill is too plain to be misunderstood; it sweeps away, at once and for ever, every semblance of right which laymen have hitherto exercised over the Church revenues and expenditure; the privilege of inquiry may be retained, but the right of investigation is abolished, and Rules, Bye-laws, and Church Wardens, will be made to appear and vanish, by the operation of this Act, as the policy or expediency of the times may require. I would ask, therefore, where is the propriety—what is the necessity for demanding a measure so injurious to the general interests of the Diocese? A spirit of inquiry, however, has been happily aroused, and already the voices of numbers in the Diocese have decryed any Act of Incorporation in which Wardens shall not be included, and while the Clergy are actively canvassing the Parish, and are themselves personally engaged soliciting petitioners for their Bill, a crowd of names, comprising the majority of the intelligence and stability of the Catholics of this place, have promptly refused to give it their concurrence, and a Petition is already numerously signed, praying the Legislature, either to modify very materially, the present Bill, or to except Saint John from its operation.

These remarks which I have thought proper to offer, have not been made in any unfriendly spirit toward our Rev. Bishop, for whose private worth I entertain the highest respect. My objections are entirely confined to the principles of his Bill.—It may be argued that Bishops are bound by the solemnity of their position strictly to guard the temporal as well as spiritual affairs of our Church. To this I reply, that Bishops are necessarily inexperienced in the management of worldly matters; and from my knowledge of our Clergy, I fear they would prove rather inapt assistants in such business—their habits and education are little calculated to fit them for the *exclusive* management of either the financial or educational departments of our Parishes, and I therefore deem it our duty to be timely cautious, and guard in season against the possibility of trouble.

Before concluding, I will, Messrs. Editors, briefly state the nature of a Bill which I view as most beneficial for general adoption.

1. Let the Bishop for the time being, and say nine Wardens, to be annually chosen by each Parish on a specified day, be a Body Corporate, to hold Church Property in trust for the particular Parish. I am aware that a few persons here would consent that the Bishop should be alone incorporated for this purpose, but this is opposed to the almost universal voice.

2. Let no absolute disposition of Church Property be allowed, unless by special act of the Legislature.

3. Let proper clauses be introduced for regulating the internal management of the temporalities, such as selling or leasing Pews, auditing accounts annually, &c.

A Bill containing such provisions recommends itself by its fairness, and would, I should hope, be met by our Bishop and his Clergy with a spirit of liberality. Any measure deficient in such provisions must, if established into a Law, generate against itself a spirit of hostility, and, in my opinion, would greatly retard the growing influence as well as improvement of the Catholics in every Parish in the Province. I remain, Messrs. Editors,

Your's, A CATHOLIC.

Commercial Exchange, St. John.

SATURDAY, January 17.

Flour.—The market has been a little excited by the news from England *via* Halifax. Several large lots of Mill Flour have been sold at 35s.—American Superfine is held at 37s. 6d.; Rye Flour, 28s. 9d. and Corn Meal, 23s. 9d.—with few sales.

Wheat.—Several cargoes have arrived, and one or two parcels changed hands at about 7s. per 60 lbs.

Molasses—selling by retail at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. and *Sugar* at 40s. to 41s. 3d.

Pork.—A parcel of Clear realized at auction 65s., duty paid; private sales since by retail at 70s.

Oil.—A parcel of raw Linseed offered at auction—one hhd. sold at 2s. 5½d; the remainder of the lot since realized 2s. 6d.

Timber.—W. P. 20 inch, 30s. sterling, shipped.

Deals.—£6 15s.

Freights.—Deals to London, £6 5s.; to Ireland, £6; Lumber to Berbice, $11½ per M.

Exchange—on London, 9 per cent. premium; on New-York, 1 do.

BIRTH—At Government House, Fredericton, on Monday last, the Lady of Alfred Reade, Esquire, of a Son.

MARRIED.

This Morning, by the Rev. the Rector of this Parish, Charles MacPherson, Esq., of Fredericton, to Eliza, eldest daughter of Henry Porter, Esq., of this City.

On the 12th instant, by the Rev. the Rector of this Parish, Mr. James M. Pearce, of the Parish of St. John, to Miss Eliza Burns, of the same place.

On the 8th instant, at Greenwich, King's County, by the Hon. William McLeod, J. P. and Commissioner for Solemnizing Marriage, Mr. Richard Graves, to Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Henry Bulyea.

At Trinity Church, Yarmouth, Nova-Scotia, on the 1st instant, by the Rev. H. L. Owen, Mr. John Edgar, to Miss Isabel Mary, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Purdie, Esq.

DIED.

On Thursday evening, Ann Elizabeth, infant daughter of Mr. Samuel Cooper, aged seven months and a half. Funeral To-morrow, (Sunday,) at half past one o'clock, from his residence in Dock-street.

At Hampton, King's County, on the 12th instant, in the 78th year of her age, Hannah, relict of the late David Micheau, Esq. leaving a large circle of friends to lament their loss.

At Fredericton, on Tuesday morning last, after a protracted illness, which she bore with resignation to the Divine Will, Jane, wife of Mr. George Hartt, of that City, in the 47th year of her age.

In Fredericton, on Tuesday evening last, at the residence of her father, Mr. Donald McLeod, Mrs. Ann, wife of Sergeant Major Dwen, of the 43d Regiment, in the 30th year of her age.

At Queensbury, on the 12th inst., Mr. Charles Hazelton, Sen., aged 93 years. He was a native of England, and came to this Province, about the time of the American Revolution. He was much esteemed for honesty and uprightness, and his example was extremely useful in the neighbourhood where he resided.

At Northampton, County of Carleton, on the 29th ult. Mrs. Hetty Campbell, at the advanced age of 102 years. Mrs. C. removed to New-Brunswick from Windsor, Nova-Scotia, immediately after the Revolutionary war, and at her death left the following descendants, viz.:—ten children, sixty grand-children, two hundred and eighty-three great-grand-children, and fifty-seven great-great-grand-children—making a total of 410 descendants.

At No. 11, Range 5, on the Arestook, on the 31st Dec. of brain fever, Mr. John Armstrong, of Woodstock, aged 22 years—much respected by all his friends and acquaintances, and leaving aged parents to deplore their loss.

At Montagon, Nova-Scotia, on the 1st instant, Charles McCarthy, Esquire, aged 83 years.

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PORT OF SAINT JOHN—ARRIVED.

Sunday—Schooner Redwing, Hinks, Baltimore, 9 days—J. & R. Reed, wheat.

Hannah & Jane, Crowley, Machias, 2—Jas. Robertson, wrecked materials.

Monday—Barque Caroline, Lovett, Yarmouth, N. S. 5—Chas. McLauchlan, molasses.

Schooner John Edward, Raymond, Boston, 28—T. Hatford & Co. assorted cargo.

Velocity, Montgomery, New York, 20—J. M. Hamilton, flour, wheat, &c.

Tuesday—Brigantine James Clark, Jones, Philadelphia, 5 days from the Breakwater—T. & J. Clark, flour, wheat, &c.

Planet, Clarke, Philadelphia, 7—Master, flour, &c.

Wednesday—Schooner Juno, Shannon, Eastport—Master, rum.

Meridian, Scott, Boston, 6—Master, assorted cargo.

Olive Branch, Price, Boston, 3—Master, assorted cargo.

Thursday—Brig Siroc, Bailey, New York, 4—Master, flour, wheat, &c.

Brigantine Topaz, Spates, Alexandria, 6—Estabrooks & Ring, wheat.