COLONIAL.

MESSAGE

Of His Excellency C. Poulett Thomson, Governor General of British North America, to the Legislature of Upper Canada, recommending the new plan for the union of the two Canadas, delivered at Toronto on Saturday, 7th Dec. 1839.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

In pursuance of the intention expressed in his speech from the throne, the Governor General desires now to bring under the consideration of the House of Assembly, the subject of the re-union of this Province with Lower Canada, recommended by Her Majesty in her gracious message to both Houses of Parliament, of the 3d of May last.

For several years the condition of the Canadas has occupied a large portion of the attention of Parliament. That they should be contented and prosperous, that the ties which bind them to the parent State should be strengthened, that their administration should be conducted in accordance with the wishes of the people, is the ardent desire of every British statesman; and the experience of the last few years, amply testifies that the Imperial Parliament has been sparing neither of the time it has devoted to the investigation of their affairs, nor of the expenditure it has sanctioned for their protection.

The events which have marked the recent history of Lower Canada are so familiar to the House of Assembly, that it is unnecessary for the Governor General farther to allude to them. There the constitution is suspended; but the powers of the government are inadequate to permit of the enactment of such permanent laws as are required for the benefit of the people.

Within this Province the finances are deranged, public improvements are suspended, private enterprise is checked, the tide of emigration, so essential to the prosperity of the country, and to British connexion, has ceased to flow—while by many, the general system of government is declared to be unsatisfactory.

After the most attentive and anxious consideration of the state of these Provinces, and of the difficulties under which they respectively labor, Her Majesty's advisers came to the conclusion, that by their re-union alone could those difficulties be removed. During the last session of the Legislature, they indeed refrained from pressing immediate legislation, but their hesitation proceeded from no doubt as to the principle of the measure or its necessity. It arose solely from their desire to ascertain more fully the opinions of the Legislature of Upper Canada, and to collect information from which the details might be rendered more satisfactory to the people of both Provinces.

The time, then, is now arrived, beyond which a settlement cannot be postponed. In Lower Canada it is indispensable to afford a safe and practicable return to a constitutional government. And so far as the feelings of the inhabitants can be there ascertained, the measure of the re-union meets with their approbation.

In Upper Canada it is no less necessary, to enable the Province to meet her financial embarrassments, and to proceed in the development of her natural resources. There is evidently no means in this Province of fulfilling the pecuniary obligations which have been contracted, but by a great increase in the local revenues. But, so long as Lower Canada remains under her present form of government, neither Province possesses any power over the only source from which that increase can be drawn; nor, even were it possible to restore a representative constitution to Lower Canada, unaccompanied by the re-union, would the position of this Province be much improved, since past experience has shown the difficulty of procuring assent to any alteration of the customs laws suggested from home.

This Province has been engaged in undertakings which reflect the higest honour on the enterprise and industry of her inhabitants. The public works which she has completed or commenced, have been conceived in a spirit worthy of a successful result, but additional means are indispensable to avert the ruin of some, and secure the completion of others. Nor will that alone suffice.—Lower Canada holds the key to all those improvements; without her co-operation the navigation for which nature has done so much, for which this Province has so deeply burthened itself, must remain incomplete, and a barrier be opposed to the development of those great natural resources which the hand of Providence has so lavishly bestowed on this country.

With a view to remove all these difficulties, to relieve the financial embarrassments of Upper Canada, to enable her to complete her public works, and develope her agricultural capabilities, to restore constitutional government in Lower Canada, to establish a firm, impartial and vigorous government for both, and to unite the people within them, in one common feeling of attachment to British institutions and British connexion, the union is decreed by Her Majesty's Government; and that measure alone, if based on just principles, appears adequate to the occasion.

Those principles, in the opinion of Her Majesty's advisers, are a just regard to the claims of either Province, in adjusting the terms of the Union, the maintenance of the three estates of the Provincial Legislature, the settlement of a permanent civil list, for securing the independence of the judges—and to the Executive Government, that freedom of action which is necessary for the public good; and the establishment of a system of local government, adapted to the wants of the people.

It was with great satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government learned that upon the question of Union itself, the House of Assembly had pronounced their decided judgment during the last session; and it only remains for the Governor General now to invite their assent to the terms upon which it is sought to be effected.

That decision was, however, accompanied with recommendations to which the government could not agree—but the Governor General entertains no doubt that, under the altered circumstances, they will no more be renewed. It will be for the Imperial Parliament, guided by their intimate knowledge of constitutional law, and free from the bias of local feelings and interests, to arrange the details of the measure.

The first of the terms of re-union to which the Governor General desires the assent of the House of Assembly is the equal representation of each Province in the united Legislature. Considering the amount of the population of Lower Canada, this proposition might seem to place that Province in a less favourable position than Upper Canada. But under the circumstances in which this Province is placed, with the increasing population to be expected from emigration, and having regard to the commercial and agricultural enterprise of its inhabitants, an equal apportionment of representation appears desirable.

The second stipulation to be made is the grant of a sufficient civil list. The propriety of rendering the judicial bench independent alike of the executive and of the Legislature, and of furnishing the means of carrying on the indispensable services of the government, admits of no question, and has been affirmed by the Parliament of Upper Canada, in the acts passed by them for effecting those objects. In determining the amount of the civil list, the House of Assembly may be assured that the salaries and expences to be paid from it will be calculated by Her Majesty's Government, with a strict regard to economy, and the provincial finances.

Thirdly, the Governor General is prepared to recommend to Parliament that so much of the existing debt of Upper Canada as has been contracted for public works of a general nature, should, after the union, be charged on the joint revenue of the united Province. Adverting to the nature of the works for which this debt was contracted, and the advantages which must result to them from Lower Canada, it is not unjust that that Province should bear a proportion of their expense.

On these principles, the Governor General is of opinion that a re-union of the two Provinces may be effected, equitable and satisfactory in its terms, and beneficial in its results to all classes. He submits them to the consideration of the House of Assembly, in the full conviction of their importance, and in the hope that they will receive the assent of that House. Fortified by the expression of their opinion, Her Majesty's Government and Parliament will be able at once to apply themselves to the full development of the scheme, and to the consideration of the provisions by which it may be carried into effect with the greatest advantage to the people of both Provinces.

If, in the course of their proceedings, the House of Assembly should desire any information which it is in the power of the Governor General to afford, they will find him ready and anxious to communicate with them frankly and fully, and to aid, by all means in his power, that settlement on which he firmly believes that the future prosperity and advancement of these Colonies mainly depend.

(From the New-York Commercial Advertiser.)

UPPER CANADA PARLIAMENT.—On Wednesday, the 4th instant, the House went into Committee on the Governor-General's speech. The reply—a mere echo of the speech—was moved by Mr. McKay.

Mr. Gowan could not help saying there were some topics mentioned in the speech which he could not support; he referred to the legislative union and the commission to examine the state of the public departments. He had suspicion also that direct taxation was hinted at in what was said about the provincial revenue.

A somewhat desultory debate ensued, several members declaring that they would not vote for the reply, if it was intended to approve the commission appointed by Governor Arthur, consisting as it does of heads of departments, appointed to investigate their own doings.

In allusion to that part of the speech which says there is no reason to fear farther aggressions, many remarks were made by different members.

Mr. MERRITT deprecated the idea of farther troubles, and expressed his belief that there were ever 25 men of property members of a hunter's lodge.

Mr. Gamble thought that aggressions were to be traced to the trifling policy of her Majesty's government; if they had said at once, the next aggression will be considered a declaration of war; but no, the territory of the United States must not be violated. A bill ought to have been introduced for the payment of expences and losses to the people on the borders.

Mr. Boulton asserted that there were many who held lands from the Crown, members of the hunters' lodges; he knows also that there are those who visit Mackenzie every few weeks. He had given notice of a bill disqualifying persons from voting who had been guilty of treason, and he hoped it would become a law.

Mr. Gamble then proposed his amendment that this part of the reply should contain a declaration that it was by the paltry policy of the British government that we were exposed to the aggressions of the United States.

Mr. Robinson seconded the amendment.

Mr. Kearns said it was monstrous that the hon. member should thus impeach the British Government. If they were to remove mountains it would not satisfy some people; he hoped every man who had a spark of loyalty in his bosom, would vote against the amendment.

The Attorney General believed that reparation had been demanded and thought it highly improper that a vote of censure should be passed on the Government.

For the amendment, 7; against it, 38—majority, 31.—The House then adjourned.

On Thursday the address in answer was agreed to, and Friday appointed for its presentation.

On Friday the 6th the address was presented, and an answer of thanks given. In answer to an inquiry when the appendix to the journal would be ready, Mr. Morris stated that the cause of delay was the great length of Sir Francis Head's Narrative, which had been ordered to be printed entire in the appendix.

Mr. Macintosh wished to know who had ordered it, and Sir Allan MacNab replied that the Narrative had been addressed to him, as Speaker of the House, and he had therefore ordered it to be printed, as part of the records.

This explanation gave rise to some rather sharp remarks. Several members strongly objected to the printing of the Narrative, and one said that he hoped the gentleman who ordered it would be made to pay for it. [The Narrative is a huge octavo, of some 500 pages.]

On Monday, the 9th, Mr. Thorburn moved that the House go into committee on an address to his excellency the Governor General, praying for a copy of the despatch of Lord John Russell. Some members considered that there had been a want of courtesy manifested on the part of his Excellency toward the House, in laying this despatch before the public through the official gazette, before submitting the same to them.

Mr. Merritt considered the despatch as perfectly plain, and that a change must soon take place, and on being asked by Mr. Macintosh, whether it was his opinion that it was intended that crown officers should be discharged when they ceased to carry a majority of the house, he replied—certainly. The Hon. member assured Mr. Merritt, that he had good authority for stating that there was no such intention on the part of the government.

Mr. Gowan moved that Sir Francis Head's Narrative be expunged from the journal, and that the printing of it be stopped. A long discussion followed, in which the attorney general and several other members opposed the motion, on the ground that the printing was now completed, and finally the motion was lost—16 to 31. In the course of the debate Mr. Thomson said he should vote against the motion—he wanted to see the book—honorable members had apparently derived much amusement from it, and he too wanted to enjoy a hearty laugh.

A series of resolutions in reference to the union of the provinces, were submitted to the House of Assembly on Tuesday by the solicitor general, *as the organ of the government*, (a new feature,) and were discussed for some time, but without result. Indeed the discussion was not very important, there being a general understanding that the resolutions should be taken up in earnest on Thursday.

Mr. Manahan has given notice of the following bill which he intends to introduce.

To repeal the act endowing the King's College with lands, which ought to be applied to the establishment of grammar schools.

To extend to the colonies the benefit of the penny postage law.

To appoint a commission of five honorable and disinterested gentlemen, entirely disconnected with any party now or formerly in office, to inquire how the public affairs of the province have been managed, whether defalcation of public monies have been committed, &c.

There were a number of striking points in the debates of the Provincial Parliament, which we could not touch upon in our brief sketch yesterday, the Northern mail having come in at so late an hour as to leave us but little time for scanning the papers. Among these the most prominent, perhaps, was a discussion in the Legislative Council, upon a motion brought forward by Mr. Fergusson, for a Committee of Privilege to investigate the circumstances attending the preparation of the noted Report, denouncing Lord Durham's report, which was printed at the close of the last session as the act of a select committee. The motion was rejected—only six members voting in its favour. The circumstances which they wished to investigate are sufficiently explained in the protest which they offered, and which we copy.

DISSENTIENT—

1st.—Because it appears by the statement of the Hon. Adam Fergusson, that, although he was appointed one of a Committee on the 23d day of April last, to report on the Earl of Durham's report on the affairs of the Canadas; no meeting of that committee ever took place to his knowledge, and that he is not aware of ever having seen the report which, by an entry on the journals within the last hour of the late session, would seem to have been made by the Hon. Mr. Crooks, from the said Committee.

2d.—Because Mr. Crooks, in his place, has stated to the House that he never attended a meeting of the committee; that he does not remember having made the report in question, although he was informed that he was a member, and the report was put into his hands by the Hon. J. S. Macauley, within an hour of the prorogation; that he (Mr. C.) refused to sign it because he had no opportunity of considering its contents, assenting at the same time, however, to its introduction and printing, upon the express understanding that the sense of the House should not be taken upon it.

3d.—Because it appears by the journals that the Hon. J. Crooks was not a member of the Committee, and therefore had no power to sanction the introduction of the report.

4th.—Because it would seem from these circumstances that the report was made with the knowledge of one member only of the committee.

5th.—Because it was admitted in discussion on Saturday, that the report was "read" "short" by the clerk, consequently the members of the Legislative Council had no opportunity of knowing its contents.

6th.—Because it is not desirable that reports from committees, or any other documents which have not been read at length by the clerk, should be placed on the journals at the close of the session and printed for circulation, as if their contents were approved of, and had been duly considered by the Legislative Council.

7th.—Because, by refusing to submit this irregular and unparliamentary proceeding to the investigation of a Committee of Privilege, this House would seem to mark its displeasure of an investigation calculated to prevent in future a violation of its rules and practice, and to secure the privileges of its members.

8th.—Because we consider the principle adopted by a majority of this House, on this question, as derogatory to the dignity of this House, being a recorded opinion that in all committees upon questions, however grave and important, the convenient and proper proceeding is, for the mover of that committee to constitute himself chairman—to draw up a report entirely consonant to his own views, and to procure its publication, without an opportunity having been afforded to any other member of the committee to form an opinion upon the report or to offer a single remark thereon.

(Signed) Adam Fergusson, James Crooks,
W. Morris, P. Adamson,
J. M'Donald, Alexander Fraser.

The importance of this disclosure may readily be estimated by those who have observed the zeal and effect with which the report of the select committee, as it was called, has been used, both in England and the Provinces, as a counter argument to the report of Lord Durham.

SCHOOL RESERVES.—The address from Glengarry has brought under the notice of His Excellency one fact of great importance, and we are happy to observe, that it has elicited a special reply. That fact is, that twelve townships of land, granted for the furtherance of general education in the province, "*have not been the means of affording any individual in Glengarry, and very few elsewhere, the knowledge of a single alphabet.*" To which His Excellency replies, that it will afford him sincere satisfaction, if he should be able to devise measures for promoting education. "*and for rendering available the lands set apart for that object in former years.* This is a subject of great and permanent interest, and it shall receive my best attention." From this there is just ground for hope, that the school lands, and the funds arising from them, will, under His Excellency's administration, be secured to their legitimate purpose; that it may no longer be said, that a large endowment exists for the advancement of education, without any public benefit being derived from it.

It also encourages the expectation, that a thorough investigation will be made into the past management of the proceeds of these lands, and that any misapplication of them will not only be visited with merited chastisement, but that the funds themselves may be recovered, and applied to their proper purpose. It is high time that this subject was properly enquired into, and the enquiry once made, —fearless of the taunts of the guilty parties,—the principles which governed them can easily be discovered, and a proper estimate formed, of the sort of service rendered by them to the public, during the long and dreary space of time which they have enjoyed the exclusive power within their own circle, by ruling the province as they pleased, and for their own exclusive benefit. The abuse of the school endowment, is one of the greatest grievances ever experienced in the province, and an end once put to this abuse, it is to be hoped, that under the observation of a watchful public, and a liberal administration of the government, no repetition of it will take place.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 7.

I understand that Government have determined to keep this country as long as they can. They have expended large sums within the last year—£30,000 for barracks at Saint John's—£15,000 or £20,000 for barracks at Chambly, and also at Laprairie—and this winter Lord John Russell will introduce a bill in the House of Commons to encourage the emigration of military settlers, who are to have farms given them along the whole line of frontier. They will be formed into battalions, and will have officers, and be called out to drill once or twice a week, and receive some pay and rations, I believe. By this arrangement a small body of troops only will be required in the country.

The Quebec Official Gazette advertises for sale, by order of the Government, the lands of nineteen individuals, who have been convicted of high treason, and some of them executed. Among these individuals we perceive the names of Andre Papineau, Joseph N. Cardinal, and Joseph and Louis Dumouchelle. The lands are sold as forfeit.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1839.

SIX DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.—By the Packet ship South America, which arrived at New York on Friday evening, Liverpool papers of Nov. 22 and London of the evening of the 21st, with later dates from Paris, the East, and from China have been received. For the following news we are indebted to New-York papers of Saturday last.

Money matters in England, appear to be getting better. The Exchanges in London upon Paris were turned in favor of England, but upon Hamburg they were yet against London. The London Stock market is decidedly better. American matters were much talked of,—but there appeared to be no panic, and the nature of our difficulties appeared to be generally understood.

The Duke of Wellington had been seriously ill and there was great alarm and anxiety respecting his life, but the latest accounts represented him to be out of danger.

The Pique frigate has arrived at Plymouth, after a passage of 22 days from Quebec, with the late Governor General Sir John Colborne and suite on board, all well.

There was no doubt of the Queen's intention to marry Prince Albert, and the marriage was to take place soon. A ministerial Paper has the following paragraph upon the subject:—

"The whole of the Privy Council has been summoned to attend Her Majesty on Saturday next. The communication which will be laid before the Council relates to an event in which the whole of Her Majesty's subjects feel the deepest interest, not only because it affects the personal happiness of the Queen, but materially relates to the future destinies of the empire. We need not more distinctly allude to the important subject. A few days will enable us to speak more plainly on it, and its bearing on the interests of this great nation.

The *Western Luminary*, a paper frequently quoted in the London journals as the announcer of political changes, foretells quite an extensive series of shiftings as soon about to take place. According to this authority, Lord Fortescue is to give up the Vice Royalty of Ireland in favour of Lord Duncannon, who, in turn, vacates the Woods and Forests, in favour of Lord Normanby, who is to be succeeded in the Home Department by Lord John Russell,—Lord Fortescue taking the Colonial.—Lord Clarendon, it is said, has refused the Privy Seal, which is to go with the Woods and Forests to Lord Normanby. The *Standard* says, moreover, that Lord Melbourne has declared his purpose to resign before the re-assembling of Parliament.

There is reason to apprehend that some hostile measures are on foot in relation to China, and that an attempt will be made at Canton to force that nation into some better commercial relations with Great Britain; perhaps the new fashion of blockade, without a declaration of war, will be a prominent measure, excluding all nations from trading there until her affairs are adjusted.

The prices of grain and flour were declining, with a very languid demand.—American flour was quoted on the 19th at 40s. 6d. to 42s.; sour, 36s. to 37s. duty paid.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 22.—The duty on wheat has advanced to-day to 20s. 8d. per quarter, and on flour to 12s. 5d. per brl. Yesterday about 3000 barrels Western Canal flour sold at 29s. per brl. in bond; the quotation for free flour is 39s. to 41s. dull.

The Bank of England has increased her stock of specie to upwards, it is said, of £3,000,000, and may now pay France the sum borrowed. Money is rather more plenty, though interest at 6 per cent. is paid by the Bank herself.

The London papers announce the death of John Lander, brother and companion of Richard Lander, in his African travels. He was only in his 33d year. Richard died some years ago in Africa.

The death of Professor Hamilton, of the University of Edinburgh, is also announced.

Examinations of the persons concerned in the late disturbance at Newport, (Wales,) were going forward in that town. Many arrests had been made. A letter of the 20th states that on the previous day Samuel Etheridge, formerly a printer in London, was fully committed for treason and sedition. Dr. Taylor had been arrested and admitted to bail on a charge of having delivered a seditious speech in Carlisle, on the 24th August last.

In Italy there had been fearful floods. From Turin to Florence the country resembled a Lake.

From Spain there is nothing remarkable. The ministerial crisis is not yet over.

LONDON, November 21.—We regret to learn that three commercial failures have taken place to-day; one of the parties connected with Lloyds as brokers, and one in the East India trade.

The Gazette of the 15th contained the quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, for the three months from the 20th August to the 12th instant. It appears from this document that, compared with the three months from the 23d July to the 15th October, the circulation is now £17,235,000 against £17,612,000, being a diminution of £37,000; the deposits are £6,132,000 against £6,734,000, being also a decrease of £602,000, and making the aggregate of the liabilities £23,367,000. The securities are now £23,873,000 against £24,939,000, being a decrease of £1,066,000. The bullion is by the present return £2,545,000 against £2,525,000, being an increase of £20,000, and making the total of the assets £26,418,000.—The surplus or rest, as technically denominated, is £3,051,000 against £3,118,000, which is a diminution of £51,000 during the past month.

STATE OF TRADE.—The continued activity in the Liverpool Cotton Market, and the advance which has taken place there, amounting on the middle and inferior qualities of American cotton to fully three farthings per lb. have at length made some impression on our maket, and there was yesterday a more active demand for yarns; in manufactured goods also there was some improvement.—*Manchester, November 19.*

EUROPE AND THE EAST.—The Eastern question continues to find occupation for the politicians, but is not yet settled. There are rumors in Paris that an arrangement has been completed between the Porte and Mehemet, under French mediation, by which the Egyptian Pacha is to be secured in the hereditary dominion of Syria and Egypt, with the Government of Candia for one of his sons; but this is not very probable, nor is it altogether consistent with other accounts, which represent England and Russia united, exercising paramount influence at Constantinople, to the discomfiture of France. Lord Ponsonby, it is said, received the new French Ambassador to the Porte, M. Pontois, with extreme coldness. Again, another report is to the effect, that another *rapprochement* has taken place between France and Russia in respect to the Eastern question, and that Lord Palmerston and Lord Ponsonby have been completely outwitted.

CHINA.—The news from China brought by the overland mail from India, is to the 18th July. The trade continued stopped, and a numerous fleet of merchant vessels were assembling at Hong Kong Bay, awaiting regulations about discharging their cargoes. There was not a single British ship of war there to protect them; a fact which reflects no credit on the Lords of the Admiralty. Capt. Elliot had converted the Cambridge merchant-vessel into a guard ship, and the merchant crews had formed themselves into battalions, ready to repel any attack upon them by the Chinese.

We regret to state, that a disgraceful outrage was committed by some drunken sailors, on the inhabitants of a Chinese village, near Hong Kong Bay, in which one Chinaman lost his life. His countrymen took a curious mode to revenge his death. They carried the dead body to the shore, in view of the shipping, and there exposed it naked. Capt. Elliot, hearing of the circumstance, came down from Macao, and paid 2000 dollars to the friends of the deceased, to have the matter hushed up. Some Mandarins, however, heard of it, seized the money, and reported the affair to the Imperial Commissioner. It was feared that this affair would lead to serious consequences, as Lin would lay the matter before the Emperor.

UPPER CANADA.—The proceedings of the Legislature of this Province being matter of much importance at the present moment, we have copied as much of the details as our limits would permit. The Governor General's Message relative to the union of the Canadas—a document which has been looked for with much anxiety—will be found among our extracts.

The annexed paragraphs on the subject of Lord John Russell's Responsible Government Despatch, are from Upper Canada papers of widely different politics—the *Patriot* being high tory, and the *Herald* in favor of moderate reform:

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.—In another column will be found the copy of a Despatch from Lord J. Russell to His Excellency Sir G. Arthur, but received by His Excellency the Governor General, and published by his command. We are particularly gratified by the tender to this people, of so wholesome, just and proper a form of Responsible Government. It is to all intents and purposes the measure exactly calculated to insure fidelity in the discharge of places of trust, and is the more just inasmuch as it contemplates pecuniary recompence, when an official is self evidently made the mere victim of political expediency.—*Toronto Patriot.*

We have received a copy of Lord John Russell's despatch on "the tenure of Public Offices," which we have published under the Parliamentary head. It will be seen by this document, that the system of government in the colonies is to be rendered conformable to that in England—that is, *responsible government* is to be established in fact, though without the name. Hitherto, a change of Governor was no change of government,—because the real governors of the colony, the *official compacts*, remained in office, and governed the new governor as they had done his predecessor. But henceforth, when the nominal governor is changed, the real governors are to be changed also; and this involves a change of policy—of measures as well as men. For governors are changed because their policy is not supported by the representative body, and by changing all the chief officers of the government, as well as the governor, a change of policy is secured, because they originate and direct the policy of the government. And therefore both the governor and all his chief officers must henceforth make their policy acceptable to the representatives of the people, or otherwise he and they will be dismissed, and men appointed to their places whose policy will be acceptable to the Assembly. Now this is responsible government as it exists in England; and we congratulate the people of Upper Canada that they are henceforth to be governed in accordance with the principles of the British Constitution, instead of an irresponsible oligarchy. They have only now to be true to themselves in choosing proper representatives, and they will find that just influence in the government which is their inherent and constitutional right. Thus responsible government will be established here as it was in England, without any formal enactment, but in full vigour and efficiency, by removing the real governors along with their nominal head, and thus rendering the policy of the whole agreeable to the people speaking through their representatives. It will be seen that the removals are to include the Sheriffs, (if judged necessary,) and but few officers of government have more power than they, as the whole administration of justice can be influenced by them in the selection of juries.—*Kingston Herald.*

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.—Although the House of Representatives have succeeded in electing Mr. R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, as Speaker the question of admitting the members from New Jersey, whose seats are disputed, was still under discussion at the latest dates, and prevented the complete organization of the House and the delivery of the President's Message. Twenty days had been spent in useless bickerings.

The Washington National Intelligencer says—"We have the unfeigned satisfaction of announcing to our readers and the public, that the representative branch of Congress has at length effected the election of a Speaker, and may thus be considered as relieved from all further obstacles to an immediate and complete organization. The member on whom the honor has fallen is Mr. Robert M. T. Hunter, a representative from Virginia, who was elected yesterday on the eleventh trial, he having received 119 votes out of 232. In the personal and political character of the gentleman on whom the choice has fallen, the house has every guarantee for a dignified, just, and faithful discharge of his high duties; and therefore—we hope we may say without disrespect to the many distinguished gentlemen previously voted for—the choice may be esteemed not less fortunate for the House and for the country than it is honourable to himself, especially when we consider the difficulty which so long prevented an election, and which rendered the issue of the contest so uncertain. To those who desire to examine the election as a political result, it will be sufficient for us to say, that Mr. Hunter received, on the last and successful trial, *every Whig vote* in the House, which, united with the votes of nearly all the State rights gentlemen of the South, effected his election."

THE WEATHER.—After experiencing a continuance of most delightful weather, and enjoying the rare treat of a *Green Christmas*, we are to-day being visited by a Snow Storm, accompanied by a heavy gale from the Eastward. The atmosphere, however, is only moderately cold.

We would take the opportunity of wishing our numerous Friends and Patrons many returns of the happiness and enjoyment which the present festive season affords.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.—The following amounts were collected on Christmas Day for the benefit of the Poor:—

Trinity and St. John Churches,			
	(total,)	£59	1 9
St. Luke's Church, (Portland),		16	0 3
Saint Malachy's Church, St. John,		49	13 2
Wesleyan Chapel, Germain-street,		5	10 0
Ditto,	St. George's-street,	9	11 8
Ditto,	(Portland),	4	5 0

We are pleased to learn that the Prisoners confined in the Jail of this City were regaled with a hearty Dinner of Roast Beef, &c. on Christmas Day, at the expense of His Honor Judge PARKER.

Dr. GESNER delivered his concluding Lecture on Electricity, last Monday evening, before a very crowded audience. Many of the experiments were new, and all highly pleasing. The Lecture, as usual, abounded with useful and interesting information. Dr. G. Lectures again on Monday evening—subject, *Ponderable Matter, &c.*

WILD FLOWERS OF NOVA-SCOTIA.—This is the title of an elegant work containing beautiful colored engravings of the flowers of our sister Province, (which are also our own,) by Miss MARIA MORRIS, a young lady of Halifax, whose talents as a florist, and skill in this branch of a delightful art, are seldom rivalled. Each flower has been drawn from nature by the delicate hand of this accomplished person, and both in tint and form are *fac similes* of their living prototypes. The work will be published in numbers, each number to contain three plates, under the patronage of Sir Colin Campbell.—We wish this fair artist every success. The subscription list is in the hands of Dr. Gesner.

The Examination of Mr. E. FITZGERALD'S School took place on Monday the 23d, and in continuation on Tuesday the 24th inst. in the presence of many visitors. Premiums were awarded as follows, viz. In *Lucian*, to Gilbert; in *Sallust*, to Merritt, sen.; in *Virgil*, to *DeVeber, jun. and to Johnston, sen.; in *Cæsar*, to Simonds; in *Euclid*, to Gilbert; in the *Use of the Globes*, to Gilbert; in *Modern History*, to Gilbert; in *Roman History*, to Kinnear; in *Geography*, 1st to Robinson, 2d to Johnston, jun.; in *Arithmetic*, 1st, *Crookshank, Street, 2d, DeMill, sen. 3d, Demill, jun. 4th, Burns, sen.; in *Writing*, 1st, Roberts, 2d, Kinnear, 3d, Hastings, jun.; in *Orthography*, to Kirby; in *Reading* and *Recitation*, to Smith; for general progress, Woodward; for conduct during the last six months, Watters.—Examiners, the Rev. I. W. D. GRAY, and the Rev. JOHN CAREY, who signified their approval of Mr. Fitzgerald's new system of instruction.

Marked thus (*) obtained certificates.

NEW VESSELS.—Launched on Monday from the ship-yard of Messrs. H. Irvine & Brothers, at the Aboideau, a fine copper-fastened Ship called the "*Ramsay*", of 674 tons, O. M.—She was built for Messrs. Alexanders, Barry & Co. of this city,—is a most beautiful vessel, and reflects great credit on her builders.

Launched on Tuesday from the ship-yard of Mr. George Thomson, a splendid new Ship called the "*Ellen Thomson*",—owned by John Walker, Esq.

On Saturday night last, two men named Michael Power and William Campbell, left St. John in a keel boat, for the purpose of conveying several individuals across to Carleton, where they arrived safe, and started again on their return; since which time nothing has been heard of them, and the expectation is that they have drifted to sea, and in all probability have met a watery grave.—They were both men of families, residing in this city.

Sailed on Wednesday morning last, from Halifax, H. M. Packet Hope, for Falmouth.—Passengers, Hon. Samuel Cunard, Wm. Murdoch, Esq. and Master Campbell.

QUEBEC, December 11.—The weather still continues quite *unseasonable*, the wind came round to the South-west yesterday morning; the thermometer to-day is between 40 and 45 degrees. The fields are mostly bare. All, we believe, are displeased with this *reform* of the Canada winter.

We understand that Capt. C. W. Douglas of the *Canada* steamer, has been appointed to the command of a boat in Mr. Cunard's line of Steamboats, and proceeds home without delay.—*Neilson's Gaz.*

DECEMBER 17.—An acre of ground on the Saint Lewis Road was ploughed yesterday the 12th December. Ploughing was also resumed in the adjoining parishes: but yesterday afternoon and in the evening there was a fall of snow which, if it freezes soon, will make good winter roads, the snow being too moist to drift. The temperature to-day is 35 degrees.

The present mild weather is not without example at Quebec, although its duration has been greater than usual. It has happened that wheeled carriages were used on Christmas day, and there have been instances of ploughing being done on the first days of January. In 1801, the travelling from Montreal to Quebec was performed on wheels about the 20th of March.

Occupation of the Disputed Territory.—We learn, through a gentleman from Quebec, that it is understood there that the present occupation by the British Troops of the Disputed Territory, is not only *virtually assented to by Mr. Van Buren, but that he knew, previous to its taking place, that such a movement was to be made.* Coming as this assurance does from a respectable source, we are inclined to the opinion that there is too much truth in it. We hope, therefore, that our members in Congress will take the earliest opportunity to enquire into the matter.—*Portland Advertiser.*

The income derived by the City of Philadelphia from the Fairmount Water Works this year, will amount to upwards of $115,000.

New-York, December 18.—THE GREAT STORM.—The storm which was felt here on Saturday night, was much more severe to the North and East of us, as may be seen by the annexed extracts. It will also be observed that the storm commenced sooner here than at the Eastward; the entire fall of rain and snow, with us, having taken place during the night of Saturday. On Sunday morning the ground was covered with snow about an inch deep. Neither rain nor snow, to any amount, fell during the day. The weather however was cloudy, and there was considerable wind. Thirty miles north of us, snow fell to the depth of 18 or 20 inches. At Poughkeepsie, according to the Telegraph, about 2 feet; and at Albany, by some accounts, 3 feet. At New Haven, according to a letter we have seen, about 14 inches.

Here, and along the Sound, as well as to the North of us, very little damage was done by the wind; but on the coast of Massachusetts and New Hampshire (beyond which we have not heard) it was awful, occasioning the loss of many lives, and a large amount of property. The storm continued there the whole of Sunday and the greater part of Monday.

From the Boston Merc. Journal of Monday.

The Storm.—A northeast snow storm commenced yesterday morning about 3 o'clock—which continued throughout the day, occasionally relapsing into rain. In the course of yesterday, the wind blew with great fury from the Eastward—and last evening, for several hours, it increased to a hurricane, blowing with more violence than it had done for years. The gale continued through the night, —but abated after midnight. It is feared that this long and violent gale has caused many disasters on the coast. Most of the vessels in the stream dragged their anchors—and much damage was done to the shipping, lying at the wharves.

It was fortunately neap tides—nevertheless the water rose above some of the wharves, and a considerable quantity of lumber was washed away and large quantities of boards were blown from the piles in the lumber yards. Haverhill street was this morning covered with the boards which were blown from the adjoining lumber wharf. Several chimnies were blown down—and out buildings demolished—but we have heard of no loss of life.

The damage done to trees, fences, barns and other buildings, in this vicinity, is very great.—Many noble elms have been prostrated, or stripped of their wide-spreading branches.

DISASTERS AT CAPE ANN.—We have conversed with a gentleman who left Gloucester this morning, from whom we learn that the destruction of life and property in that vicinity has been very great. At the commencement of the storm, a great many coasters entered the harbor, and were, the most of them, compelled to anchor at the entrance. About twenty of these coasting vessels were driven ashore, of which 16 went to pieces, and many of the individuals on board, probably a fourth part, were drowned. Our informant saw 17 dead bodies lying on the beach. Among them was the body of a woman, found lashed to the windlass bitts of a Castine schooner—two of the crew of this vessel were also lost. The scenes which occurred during the violent gale yesterday were truly heart-rending. The vessels which drifted ashore lay within 30 yards of terra firma, between which and them dashed the formidable waves, breaking with great fury, insomuch that assistance by means of boats could not be rendered. Some were washed ashore and escaped with life—and others on rafts, or by ropes, reached the shore much exhausted. Eighteen or 20 sail of vessels, by cutting away their masts, rode out the gale.

Schooner Deposite, of Belfast, laden with lumber, went ashore on Lakeman's Beach, Ipswich, and four persons were drowned. Two men and one woman were saved.

Several vessels were injured at Marblehead, but we hear of no lives lost.

The Newburyport Herald states that 15 or 20 fishing schooners, lying at the wharves at that place, were more or less damaged, and considerable damage was done by the overflowing of the wharves, and floating away of wood and lumber. At Plum Island the height of the tide and violence of the sea had caused great depredations on the eastern side of the Island, in washing away the bank and sand hills, and covering many acres of meadow with sand.

At Portsmouth, N. H. the gale was violent, but no great damage was done there.

THE STORM.—*Further Particulars.*—Twenty lives are ascertained to have been lost at Gloucester, Mass., during the late storm,—22 total wrecks —and 32 vessels dismasted. A subscription of $500 has been raised at Gloucester in behalf of the sufferers.

GREAT FIRE AT NEW-YORK.—A fire broke out at New-York, on Saturday evening, in the five story store of Wm. B. Bend, importer of dry goods, No. 45, Cedar-street, and Davison & Van Pelt, jobbers, which was entirely destroyed, with the goods of Mr. Bend, valued at $200,000, and the store at $25,000. No. 47, also a five story store, valued at $25,000, was destroyed, with its contents, belonging to Paton & Stewart, valued at $100,000. Several other stores in the vicinity were materially damaged. It rained violently during the fire, and this aided in preventing the spread of it. The Journal of Commerce says:

"On Mr. Bend's goods alone, there was insurance to the amount of $225,000. The greater part of the Wall-street offices have lost more or less by this fire, as have also three offices in Boston and two in Hartford.

"The whole loss of property is estimated at near half a million, a large part of which was covered by insurance effected in this city or elsewhere."

NEW-YORK, December 16.—*Departure of the Liverpool.*—The steam packet Liverpool departs this day, on her fourteenth passage across the Atlantic. She has thirty-one passengers, and carries out remittances to a very large amount, in bills and specie.

The intelligence brought by the Liverpool was favourable, and in return she carries back with her an account of a meliorated condition of the affairs of this country. Since her arrival the prices of stocks have advanced, the rates of domestic exchanges have improved, and a part, at least, of the suspended banks have resumed the redemption of their liabilities in specie or its equivalent.

NEW-YORK, December 21.—Flour is rather more heavy—common Genesee, $5,88; Corn Meal is dull at $3,88; and Rye Flour at $3,88 to $4.

Specie.—The Oxford for Liverpool, yesterday, took $65,000, and the Westminster for London, $26,000.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

It is a fact which cannot be denied, that the natural advantages of New-Brunswick are almost daily becoming of greater importance, and the resources of the country are beginning to call forth the attention of its inhabitants generally, and also of foreigners. The County of Westmorland, however, at the present time seems to attract more than ordinary attention. Since the explorations of our Provincial Geologist were commenced, and by which it is well known in this quarter some important discoveries have been made in regard to coal, several petitions have been laid before the Executive for mining leases in this County. Among these I have occasion to know that a Mr. Alexander, and other gentlemen from Boston, are urging their claim strenuously in order to reap, if possible, where others have ploughed. The persons who followed Dr. Gesner so closely during his survey of Hopewell and Hillsboro', and who failed not to make daily enquiry of those who assisted in the exploration, of the success and movements of the Geologist, have, no doubt, gained some information and are now about to profit by it.

Not satisfied with a lease of the whole Parish of Saint Martins, where the flaming predictions of a Boston paper are yet unfulfilled, they would grasp the whole County of Westmorland. I would by no means prevent aliens from possessing any of our mines, provided they