PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Wednesday, January 16.

REPORTING THE DEBATES.

[From the Fredericton Sentinel.]

The speaker read a letter from Mr. BLATCH, Professor of Stenography, stating that having reported the Debates of the House during seven years, the two last of which he had been employed by the House, again offering his services, and wishing to know the determination of the Assembly.

Mr. WELDON called the attention of the House to the Resolution passed at the close of the last session, by which the House determined not to hold out any inducement in future.—There is at present he said, a newspaper at Fredericton, in which the Debates are published; and if the public are not willing to encourage the practice of reporting, it would be wrong to expend the public money in that way.

Mr. WOODWARD said he moved the Resolution of last session, and would briefly call attention to the situation in which the House was then placed. In consequence of a vote of the former House, expectations were held out; and his object was to prevent a similar occurrence during a subsequent session. It was unnecessary to move any other resolution upon the subject.

Mr. BARBARIE was a young member; he felt that it was very desirable the Debates should be reported, and that the service should be performed by a person who would be responsible to the House. It was the wish of the people he said, that the Debates should be published; and after the passing of the Resolution of last session, persons might or might not take the Reports: there might be an individual then engaged in that way. He felt satisfied that his constituents would be willing to remunerate a Reporter.—Mr. Blatch had given satisfaction hitherto, and unless something had gone wrong, he did not see why he should not be continued. He would take the sense of the House upon the subject.—The Reporter, whoever he might be, he said would expect remuneration; and if that were the case, he did not see why Mr. Blatch should not obtain it. He would therefore move to rescind the Resolution of last session, and thus ascertain the sense of the House.

Mr. J. R. PARTELOW did not deem it necessary to pass any Resolution upon the subject. That of last session was passed after due deliberation, and without a dissenting voice. He supposed at that time the question was settled. He was opposed to making provision, when the subject was first introduced into a former House, by a member from the County of Charlotte. If the constituents of that gentleman were desirous that a Reporter should be employed, let them subscribe; St. John had shown the example, and with a small exception had formerly paid Mr. Blatch. The House having come to a determination upon the subject, he should be sorry to see such a Resolution introduced as that which had been proposed. There could be no doubt as to the sense of the House, and as the learned and hon. gentleman from Restigouche was a new member, he should regret were the first Resolution which he should move, one which to a certainty would be lost.

Mr. BARBARIE would be sorry to press a motion against the feelings of the Assembly. He had already explained the diffidence he felt as a young member; but he considered the subject of importance, and was desirous that a responsible person should be employed. He should decline pressing the Resolution, and hoped it was understood there was to be no remuneration—no after-claps.

Mr. BROWN was sorry to see the Resolution withdrawn; he should like to see the question taken; members might have changed their minds. He was desirous of seeing the Reports published; it was a subject in which the constituency of the country felt a deep interest; the only means by which they could learn the proceedings of the House was in that way. The difficulty last year was caused by two persons offering themselves as Reporters. At the commencement of the last session, he had given it as his opinion, that it was impossible for any one person to Report the Debates in the House, and at the same time conduct a Public Journal. At the close of the session, however, he thought differently.—Mr. Ward did give a very fair outline of the proceedings of the Assembly. At the same time the Queen's Printer had made provision, and Mr. Blatch was prepared to report, and a handsome volume had been produced. —He did not know of a more valuable acquisition to the Library, than a Report of the Debates, published in a form that might be preserved. The hon. gentlemen concluded by saying he had no doubt Mr. Ward would give a fair report of the Debates, but he thought it a pity to abandon the course which had been pursued; he would rather curtail some other expense, and hoped the Resolution would again be brought up.

Mr. Weldon would like to know how many copies of the Reports had been disposed of by Mr. Simpson. —He believed that not more than thirty copies had been disposed of altogether. That fact shows that the constituency did not care for the Debates.—If they did, they would subscribe for their publication. The employment of a responsible Reporter he said was a new feature in Legislation, and owing to the decision of Lord Brougham was calculated to produce difficulty. The House had therefore better leave the subject open, and not authorize the reporting of debates.

Mr. Brown, in order that a decision should be made, moved that the Resolution of last Session, not to make provision for a Reporter, should be rescinded.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot wished to mention one circumstance: he held in his hand a copy of the Debates which had been published by Messrs. Blatch and Simpson: and perceived on its title page the following quotation:

"Si in multitudine verberum,
Consistit sapientia,
Certe hic inveniatur."

Which went to say "If in multitude of words there is wisdom,—here it is." To say the least of it, after the liberal sum which had been granted, this was ill-judged and in bad taste,—in fact it was downright impudence, thus to hold up gentlemen to ridicule in this way. It was surprising they had not gone further, and added "vox et preterea nihil," by way of further insult. He thought the House had gone far enough: last year a appliction was made because provision had been promised: and he was informed that no application had been made for subscription in the populous city of St. John. At present the House is differently situated, Mr. Ward was here reporting, and would probably continue to do so during the session; and he considered the other party as applying with a very bad grace, after the unpardonable insult that had been offered.

After a few explanatory remarks from Mr. Brown, the question was taken, and lost by a majority of 20 to 3.

The Speaker then read a note which had been handed in from Mr. Blatch, disclaiming any intention of reflecting upon the house in the manner stated, when inserting the Latin quotation to which allusion had been made.

MR. CHUBB.—A second discussion on the subject of "*Reporting*," occurred in the House of Assembly on Tuesday last: of which, being so much personally interested in the matter, I took ample notes. Mr. Ward, in the *Sentinel extra* of Wednesday, politely says, that he shall publish his report of the discussion, on Saturday, (this day,) "*to prevent misrepresentation elsewhere.*" Now, "*fas est ab hoste doceri*";* and therefore, thanking Mr. W. as well for the *compliment* as the *hint*, I must publish too, *for the same reason*; and as my manner of reporting has been for so many years well known to the public, I leave the matter with confidence to their estimation: and accordingly send you herewith for publication my transcribed report of the debate in question.

Yours, &c. G. BLATCH, *Stenographer.*

St. John, Saturday, Jan. 26th, 1839.

* "To prevent mistakes," I would observe, that the familiar sense of *this* Latin proverb is, "*It is good to take a lesson from the enemy.*"

House of Assembly, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 1839.

REPORTING.

Mr. END rose, and observed, that he understood that previously to his arrival this session, there had been some little discussion on the subject of reporting the debates, and he was sorry that he had unfortunately not been present at that discussion. He held in his hand the volume of Debates published last year by Messrs. Blatch & Simpson; they were thus preserved in a tangible shape, for future use and reference, and he really thought the house could not wish to have them in any better shape. He meant to cast no reflections on Mr. Ward, who was now reporting, but his reports being only for his own newspaper, could only be "condensed" reports; which, indeed, was all that Mr. W. professed to give. His (Mr. E's) opinion of the importance of correct reports was long since made up; but, had any thing been wanting on that head, his experience during the present session, short though it was, would well supply it. On his arrival in town, he found that the house had done him the honor to appoint him on several committees; wishing to perform his duty on those committees, his first care was, to ascertain what Members' minds might have been on former discussions of the subjects; without those reports he would have been quite in the dark; aided by them, his duty was by no means arduous, rather, indeed, agreeable; for how easy was it now to mark the current of legislative feeling and opinion, and to act accordingly. He (Mr. E.) had frequently heard it stated by other hon. members, in former discussions on this subject, that there was only one individual in the Province who could do full justice to the Reporting, and that was Mr. Blatch; he (Mr. E.) believed that to be the case, and he would do him the justice to say, that even in the hottest times of political excitement, when he had reason to believe that they were not on the same side in politics, yet he (Mr. E.) always considered that the manner in which Mr. Blatch executed the reporting was a public benefit, and that the debates were faithfully reported by him. The publication of the debates was certainly beneficial; the public required them, and they wished to have them in a fuller degree and a more durable shape than merely in the columns of a newspaper. As a committee-man, he (Mr. E.) had found very great benefit from that volume of the Reports. He knew the country well; he knew the feelings and wishes of the people; he knew that the country wished the reporting to be continued in that shape; and he thought that in all fairness, (without intending any invidious remarks on the "*Sentinel*" or its Editor,) although the house should be far from countenancing any injury to it, yet they ought not to throw any preponderating weight into the scale, in favour of the *Sentinel*. He thought that the reporting ought to be continued as usual, that is, in the same way as last session; the shape and character of that volume were admirable; and to continue the series would be good for the house, good for the country, and good for all parties. He wished, therefore, that the house would reconsider the subject, and see whether they were doing their duty to their constituents, in depriving them of what had for so many years given them such satisfaction. Mr. Blatch's labours had not only been highly satisfactory in this house; but it must be well recollected by hon. members, when, on a memorable occasion, he consented to perform a laborious extra duty in the upper house, and he (Mr. E.) had always heard it said, that the public were highly gratified with his reports on that occasion. That the public, then, should be deprived of this boon which they had so long enjoyed, (for it was a boon, and a very desirable one,) was not right; and he could not justify himself to his constituents if he did not do all in his power, to continue it on a footing which had proved so agreeable to them, and which tended so much to the satisfaction of the country by making known the opinions and sayings of its Representatives. Many hon. members now present were not here at the former discussion; some of them wished for an opportunity of expressing their convictions, that they were satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Blatch; and as his (Mr. B's) feelings had been wounded, by what he positively declared to be a mistaken application of the "*Motto*" which had been alluded to, and a total misinterpretation of his meaning and intentions in using it, he (Mr. E.) hoped the matter would, in some way or other, be brought up again. It certainly was rather an ambiguous motto, but it was neither fair nor just to construe it in its worst sense; and where that construction was positively and solemnly disclaimed, the party had a right to a better interpretation of his intentions. The question, then, in his (Mr. E's,) mind, simply was, "has good been done by the work in question?" It certainly had; the public were satisfied with it; and therefore he hoped that hon. members would express their opinions on it, now that the house was fuller than on the former discussion; and as to the *Motto*, what was it? Why this:—"*that if in the multitude of words wisdom was to be found, here is wisdom.*" As if one should say, on entering Westminster Hall, and beholding the wigs, tails and gowns, "*Well, if in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, certainly we are safe here.*" It was captious and contemptible to take offence at such a trifle.

Mr. BEARDSLEY said that he also was not in the House when this matter was first brought up; but if he had been, he would certainly have been in favor of it; and he should therefore support the proposition just made by the hon. and learned member for Glocester. He (Mr. B.) well knew that it was very desirable, that the country should have a full knowledge of the reasons as well as the doings of their representatives. The journals did not circulate very generally through the country; but even if they did, they did not give the reasons or opinions of members. Hon. members sometimes expressed opinions one way, and voted another, and the journals did not shew that. (Laughter.) Now as to this *Motto* that had been alluded to. It appeared that the great objection had been to that motto, but not against the reporting itself. Mr. Blatch's reports had given great satisfaction, they were copious and faithful, not condensed like those of newspapers; and, tho' they did not always perhaps express exactly the very words spoken, yet they fully conveyed the ideas and arguments of the speakers. He (Mr. Beardsley,) was particularly urgent on this occasion, to gratify the wishes of the country; he knew the country generally desired it; the expense of it ought not to be taken into consideration at all; what were a few hundreds of £'s, in comparison with the benefit of conveying to their constituents a perfect knowledge of the conduct of their representatives? They threw away many hundreds annually on much more objectionable objects; and the country would be much more satisfied if some other expenses were retrenched, and the reporting liberally provided for. As to this "*motto*:"—it certainly was susceptible of two meanings; he had looked it over, and really it was not such a horrible libel as some wished to make it appear; and he did not believe the author of it ever had any intention to libel the house, or to throw out any insinuation against it, in any way whatever; he was convinced that the author's meaning and intentions had been misrepresented. But even if the contrary was the case, why then it was a breach of privilege, and this suspension of the reporting was not the way to punish it; if the reporter had wilfully penned a libel, he ought to be brought to the bar of the house, and made to answer for it. That was the proper mode of proceeding, and if hon. members really thought Mr. Blatch had intended an insult to the house, why did they not move for his being brought up? But there was no reason why they should throw aside an individual who had been so useful to the public, merely because one or two took some little offence at what was never intended to give offence. That was not a fair way to act; it was not a constitutional mode of proceeding. He (Mr. Beardsley,) had no personal interest in the matter; the reporting would not redound much to his credit, because he took so very little share in the debates; but he was desirous to see it continued, for the public good; it would gratify their constituents, who wished it to be supported, and therefore he hoped the house would re-consider the subject.

Upon Mr. Beardsley's sitting down, a momentary silence prevailed; nobody seeming inclined to continue the subject, when

Mr. END observed, that if there was a strong majority against it, it would not be worth while for him to move any resolution: he certainly wished the reporting to be restored to its former position; but if silence was to be construed into objection, there appeared but little probability of it.

Mr. BROWN said that the hon. and learned member for Gloucester was not perhaps aware of the proceedings that had already taken place. Last week, he (Mr. B.) moved a resolution to rescind the one passed at the close of last session; which, however, was negatived. Perhaps it would be better now to move for the reconsideration of that resolution. As to the house not being at liberty to make any provision for the reporting; if the resolution of last session was taken away, they could get along very well without putting any resolution on the journals at all; the reporters could go on, with a confidence of being compensated, and thus the house would preserve its privileges. He (Mr. B.) thought there would be no difficulty whatever, if the resolution of last year was done away with.

Mr. L. A. WILMOT said that there was a decided majority the other day against rescinding that resolution, *before his observations on the subject were offered at all;* the question did not turn on what he had said about the motto; *it was not decided on that account;* but he had felt it to be his duty to call the attention of the house to that very good joke; it was no doubt a very good piece of wit for a wag to put in practice; but he still thought it a highly improper act; such a motto ought never to have been prefixed to that title-page. Certainly no one could object to the form in which those reports were published last year; it was a very creditable volume, and looked well; but there was no necessity now for continuing them at such an expense. There was competition now; another person was taking condensed reports, for publication in his own newspaper; the public would not be deprived of the reports; otherwise the house might again be induced to grant a small sum for continuing them. But that ground of argument was gone, as Mr. Ward was here, reporting at his own risk, and therefore the services of the person who had formerly been engaged were not required; and he must say, that he was *really surprised to see that person remaining here so long*, after the decision the house had come to the other day!!! *He had better have taken his departure*, than remained here needlessly!!! Surely he could not expect the house to reverse its decision; nobody could expect that; nothing had been changed since that decision was made; there were no new facts to throw a light on the subject, and therefore no ground for any alteration of opinion. He repeated, that the last year's volume of reports was a very creditable volume, it was well got up and deserved commendation; but there was now no necessity for the expense of continuing that publication, and therefore he was against it.

Mr. ALLEN thought that after the decision made by the house the other day, the late Reporter appeared to be rather pertinacious in the matter, in bringing it up a second time; it looked something like coercion,* and he thought the house would not consult its own dignity if they now rescinded the former resolution. *It was not the motto that was the material objection;* but there was another reporter, doing the duty without expense to the house, and therefore no further provision for the service was necessary. He (Mr. A.) never had been very favourable to employing a Reporter, but if provision was made by the House at all, he should have had no objection to both being engaged, as they were last year. But it would now be very improper and inconsistent to rescind the resolution already established, and therefore he should be against doing so. It was said that the "*motto*" was capable of different meanings; it might be so, and at all events there were very few who could understand it, especially among the country farmers, and therefore it could do no harm.

Mr. END, in reply, observed that it was quite unnecessary to talk about coercion; there was no such thing in the matter; surely it would require greater power than Mr. Blatch or any other individual could exercise, to coerce the House in anything. The hon. member for York (Mr. Wilmot.) had expressed his surprise at Mr. Blatch's staying in Fredericton, and had said that he ought not to remain here at all! Why surely Mr. Blatch was a free subject, and had a right to use his own pleasure in that respect; he was as much entitled to breathe the fresh air of Fredericton as the hon. member for York, or any other man. He (Mr. E.) was not speaking here in favour of any personal interest; Mr. Blatch's personal interest in this matter was very little in his (Mr. E's) estimation, because it was not a personal question that was the subject of debate; but it was a public matter, and therefore he looked to the public good, and not to Mr. Blatch's peculiar interests. As to the subject of consistency: consistency was all very well in its place; but they should not break their heads against the rock of consistency. If the House had come to a decision on any subject; and afterwards on more mature deliberation, should think they had done wrongly, it would be wise in them to retract. If, on weighing this matter maturely, and on having reference to the Volume of Debates before them, they should think they had been hasty in refusing to provide for their continuance, they should not suffer themselves to be coerced by senseless pride, but should candidly acknowledge their error, and remedy it. There were scores of instances on the Journals, where such apparent inconsistencies had been committed; year after year, grants of money for particular services had been made, and resolutions passed, declaring that no future provision should be made for such services; and yet year after year such resolutions had been disregarded, and the usual grants made in spite of them. Then why not do so now? There was no greater inconsistency in the present case, than in any of them. With regard to Mr. Blatch, he had a right to remain here as long as he pleased, whether employed as Reporter or not; and he (Mr. E.) had brought up this subject now, because there were many hon. members now present, who were absent at the former discussion.—The hon. member concluded by moving a *Resolution*, to the effect that it was expedient to rescind the resolution of last session, declaring that the House would make no further provision for the Reporting.

Mr. Weldon said, that even if that resolution were passed, yet that the other resolution of the present session would still stare them in the face.

Mr. Wilson thought that other reasons influenced hon. members, in the decision made the other day, besides those that had been principally alluded to; the fact was, the House were anxious to get rid of such an unnecessary expense to the country; and as he was of that opinion, he would oppose the present resolution.

Hon. Mr. CRANE agreed with the hon. and learned member for Kent, (Mr. Weldon,) that it would be impossible to pass such a resolution; and therefore he hoped that if it was pressed to a division, it would afterwards be expunged from the journals, because it was calculated to lessen the influence the house ought to have in the country. Last year they resolved to make no further provision for reporting; early this session a motion had been made to rescind that resolution; the hon. and learned member for Glocester should have been in his place then; but he was not present; and a majority of 20 to 3 decided against the motion; and yet in the face of that decision, the hon. and learned member told them so much about the feelings and wishes of their constituents. Such inconsistencies were calculated to lessen the influence of the house; he (Mr. C.) therefore hoped this resolution would not appear on the journals at all. He was against providing for the reporting last year, because he thought it was infringing upon the privileges of the house to do so, and he was therefore glad that nothing of the kind was to be done this year. He was against this resolution.

Mr. HILL concurred with the hon. and learned member for Glocester (Mr. End,) and supported the resolution, but in so low a tone, that we could not catch many of the hon. and learned member's observations. Mr. H. observed, that he had always been an advocate for the reporting being effected at the public expense; it was a matter of public interest; it was greatly desired by the constituents of the country, and they were willing that it should be paid for in that way; which, indeed, was the most fair and just way. With respect to the person to be employed; he (Mr. H.) considered that Mr. Blatch was peculiarly entitled to some consideration; he had performed the service for many years, and had executed the reporting very satisfactorily. It had been said on former occasions, that there was no other person in the Province so capable of discharging the duty as Mr. Blatch; he (Mr. H.) could not say whether that was the case or not; but at all events he had always done it with great ability, and the public were satisfied with his labours. He had had his expectations excited by promises of continuance; [*Mr. Weldon.* "What promises? by whom?"] by promises and assurances of being continued in the engagement as Reporter; such promises as were often heard of in that house, as amounting to a tacit pledge, although nothing appeared publicly on the subject; and quite sufficient to induce him to believe that his services would again be quietly provided for; he had been a servant of the public for many years, and had satisfactorily done his duty, and therefore was entitled to consideration now. It was highly desirable that full reports of the debates should be taken, so that the public might know what were their representatives' words and opinions; and this could not be done effectually, in the present condition of the country, without assistance from the house. He (Mr. H.) thought the resolution passed last year was hasty and premature; it was said that Mr. Ward was settled in Fredericton, and therefore no other Reporter was now necessary; but suppose Mr. Ward had not remained, or should not remain in Fredericton, then they would be left with no reporter at all, and the public would be precluded by that resolution from the benefit of any publication of the debates at all. Nothing so much influenced hon. members in their legislative conduct as an ample and impartial publication of their debates; nothing so much tended to make them consistent in their sayings and doings. The journals gave no information whatever, about their sayings and their reasons; and therefore a competent Reporter ought to be employed. He was for the resolution.

Mr. STREET apprehended that the resolution would amount to a pledge to provide for the reporting. He had always been in favour of reporting, and he believed the public generally were not dissatisfied with the provision being made for it by the house. In former years the expense was defrayed by private subscriptions; but that being partial in its operation, a few paying for the good of the whole, it had latterly been satisfactorily compensated by the house; therefore there was nothing to shew that the public were either indifferent about the Reporting, or dissatisfied with the mode of its remuneration. It was sometimes urged that it was unconstitutional for the house to provide for it; but there were certainly precedents for it in other colonies, particularly in Upper Canada; and formerly, in the old country, though no public provision for reporting the debates in Parliament had ever been made, because the circumstances of the country did not require it, yet Reports of the cases decided in the courts of justice were for many years paid for at the public expense, and published under the title of "*Year Books*;" therefore he (Mr. S.) could not agree that there was any thing unconstitutional in the matter. At present, he thought the house had better pass no resolution on the subject; he was not present when the resolution of last year was passed, or he certainly would have opposed it; because there was no reason whatever for tying up the hands of the house in that way. On a former occasion, the house had appointed a committee to manage the matter, of which the hon. member for Queen's (Hon. Mr. Johnston,) and himself and others were members: they came to a private understanding with the Reporter, and the House did not think it worth while to pass any resolution on the subject, but left it open, to be settled as circumstances required. He (Mr. S.) thought they had better do so now: let them take no notice of the subject: then, if the reports were taken and published as before, and the House chose to make provision for the service, they could do so at pleasure, but they would be under no pledge. In former years some of the members were dissatisfied with the manner in which the reports were published in the newspapers: they were partially published, and therefore Members complained. In reply, it was always said, that that was not Mr. Blatch's fault, as he had no control over the newspapers, and the printers published or omitted what they thought proper: but at all events, partial debates were sent abroad. Last year the reports were printed in another and more satisfactory form: and if impartial debates were sent regularly through the country, they would do a great deal of good. He (Mr. S.) wished to have them so sent, but he did not wish the house to pledge itself to any thing: he would therefore move, as an amendment to the resolution, that it was inexpedient to pass any resolution on the subject. Indeed, resolutions of this kind were quite absurd: they were every day broken by the house, and were therefore quite useless: and notwithstanding the resolution of last year, if the House were now disposed to make provision again for the Reporting, that resolution would not stand in the way one moment. There were plenty of instances of such changes of opinion: the payment of Inspecting Field Officers was a remarkable instance: resolutions on that subject had often been passed by the House: year after year they had resolved to make no further provision for the service, and year after year they had disregarded such resolutions, and paid the money as usual. Such resolutions, then, were nothing: the House were never bound by them further than was found convenient: and therefore he (Mr. S.) wished the House now to pass such a resolution, as would shew that they would be bound by no resolution, but would be left free to do just as they might think proper.—The hon. and learned member then moved his amendment.

Hon. Mr. CRANE thought that the observations of the hon. and learned member for Northumberland, (Mr. Street,) required amendment: the whole argument of the hon. and learned member went to shew, that the House were not bound by any resolution at all, and that they never paid the slightest attention to their own resolutions. He (Hon. Mr. C.) was decidedly against the amendment.

Mr. HILL said, that the effect of the amendment would be to neutralise the original resolution; because a resolution already stood on the journals, which he wanted to get rid of. This resolution would amount to no pledge whatever; it was merely to rescind the former resolution, which declared that the House would make no further provision for the reporting; but such rescinding would not pledge them to any thing farther. He would now therefore move as an amendment to the amendment, and an addition to the original resolution, "that the Resolution passed on the 16th inst. should be expunged from the Journals."

After some few observations from Mr. Weldon, Hon. Mr. Johnston, Messrs. Partelow, End, and Street, relative to the conflicting nature of the various motions,

Mr. BROWN observed, that hon. members should understand well the position the matter was in. He thought it highly desirable, that whatever steps might be taken hereafter, *all* the resolutions on the subject should be expunged from the Journals; and that, he thought, would meet the views even of the hon. member for Westmoreland, (Hon. Mr. Crane,) because then the privileges or dignity of the House would not be compromised at all. He believed that the original resolution offered by the hon. and learned member for Gloucester would have that effect, while it would amount to no pledge whatever: and therefore he could not see what objection hon. members could have to the matter assuming such a position. Let the House be entirely at liberty: let their hands be untied, and then they could act as they might think fit hereafter. With respect to the manner in which the debates had been reported, he must say again, that he should feel extremely sorry if such a work as had been begun last year should be discontinued: it was an admirable and useful publication, and it was highly desirable that it should be continued regularly. There could be no inconsistency in voting for the original resolution now before the House, and therefore he should support it.

Mr. Wilson opposed the resolution, and explicitly stated his wish that Mr. Blatch should not report the debates any longer: though for what reason, the hon. member did not think proper to state.

The question was then taken on Mr. Hill's amendment: which was *negatived*; Yeas, 7: Nays, 22:—Mr. Street's amendment was then put, and lost, and finally, Mr. End's original resolution was put, and also *negatived*, by the same majority.

Wednesday, January 23.

On motion of Mr. the whole of the Resolutions and proceedings of yesterday, relative to the Reporting, were *expunged from the Journals.*

* "The late Reporter" did not bring up the matter a second time; this debate did not originate with him, nor had he over any expectation or desire of overturning the previous decision. His own justification demands this explanation. G. B.

DUTIES ON SALTED PROVISIONS AND FLOUR.

"Downing Street, 5th March, 1838.

"SIR—I have the honor to transmit for your information and guidance, the enclosed copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Board of Trade and my Department, respecting the proposed repeal of the duties, now levied under Acts of the Imperial Parliament, on Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour, on importation into New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

"I have the honor, &c. (Signed) GLENELG."

Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, &c. &c. &c.

"*Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,*
Whitehall, 11th January, 1838.

"SIR—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Petition from the Chamber of Commerce in New-Brunswick, relative to the Duties on Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour in that Colony; and I am to request that in drawing the attention of Lord Glenelg to this Petition, you will also place under his notice the new regulations of the Act of April, 1831, chap. 24, which was passed for the purpose of preparing for the re-admission of the ships of the United States to a trade with our Colonies.

"In the second section of the Act referred to, Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour, as well as Wood and Lumber, are rendered free of Duty in the two Canadas. But in the third section Wood and Lumber only are declared to be free in New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

"The desire of the Lords of this Committee was to have extended to the three last named Colonies the exemption granted to the Canadas, but they refrained from doing so, because it was stated by the Secretary of State that the finances of those three Colonies required the continuance of Duties on Flour and Provisions.

"The Lords of this Committee are aware of no Commercial grounds upon which they should avoid to place these five Northern Colonies upon the same footing; and therefore I am to request that you will move Lord Glenelg to take this subject into his consideration, and to acquaint their Lordships with his present opinion thereon. I am, &c. (Signed) "J. D. HUME."

JAMES STEPHEN, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Downing Street, 5th March, 1838.

"SIR—I have laid before Lord Glenelg your Letter of the 11th January, enclosing a copy of a representation from the Chamber of Commerce at St. John, New-Brunswick, to the Lords of the Treasury, on the subject of the Duties levied on Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour imported into that Province, and enquiring whether Lord Glenelg entertains any objection to the repeal of those duties in New-Brunswick, as well as in Nova-Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

"I am directed to remind you that so far back as the 6th April, 1835, the Secretary of State intimated to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, his acquiescence in their Lordships' proposal to repeal these Duties.—When, however, the local authorities became acquainted with the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova-Scotia pointed out two important objections to the measure, which were communicated to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade on the 12th August, 1835. The one was, that the extinction of these Taxes would be almost destructive to the farming interests in that Province, in whose favor they operated as a bounty—and the other, that it would deprive the Colonial Government of the fund from which the heavy expense of the Customs Department was defrayed. It would consequently have become necessary to resort to the Provincial Legislature for other means of meeting that charge, and would have exposed the Executive Government of the Province to a very embarrassing discussion with the House of Assembly, with whom the expense of the Customs Establishment was, and still is, a subject of frequent complaint and remonstrance.

"No objection has been made by the Governors of New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to the repeal of those Duties, and Lord Glenelg, therefore, sees no reason to prevent its execution in the case of those Colonies; but his Lordship is of opinion, that it would be proper to exempt Nova-Scotia from the arrangement until the Provincial Legislature shall have provided the requisite funds for the support of the Customs Establishment.

"Lord Glenelg has accordingly referred the subject to Sir Colin Campbell, with instructions to make the necessary application to the Legislature, if, in his opinion he can do so with a reasonable prospect of success.

"I am, &c. (Signed) JAMES STEPHEN."

J. D. HUME, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

"*Downing Street, 27th March,* 1838.

"SIR,—With reference to my Despatch, No. 74, of the 5th instant, I transmit herewith, for your information, an extract of a letter from the Secretary to the Treasury, on the subject of the proposed repeal of the duties levied on Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour, imported into the Province, under your Government; and I have to request, that you will furnish me with the report desired by that Board, as to the probable effect of that measure, and also that you will make, to the Chamber of Commerce at Saint John, the communication suggested at the conclusion of the extract. "I have the honor to be, &c. &c. "GLENELG."

Maj.-Gen. Sir John Harvey, K. C. B. &c.

"*Government House, Fredericton, May* 18, 1838.

"MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's Despatches, of the 5th and 27th March, Nos. 74 and 77, upon the subject of the proposed repeal of the Duties levied by an Act of the Imperial Parliament upon 'Salted Provisions,' and 'Wheat Flour,' imported into this Province, and having communicated with the Officers of Her Majesty's Customs at Saint John upon the subject, I beg to invite Your Lordship's attention to the statement they have addressed to me, in reference to this question, by which it will be seen that the effect of the duty upon the last named article, has been progressively and rapidly to diminish the importation of Flour into the Province from the United States, nearly in the ratio in which it has increased the importation of Wheat from England; than the former branch of trade, viz. the importation of Flour from the U. States, nothing can be more injurious to the Colony, in as much as it carries out of it a large amount of Specie, in exchange for an article, the whole benefit of manufacturing and importing, which is enjoyed by Foreigners, and further, that the duty proposed to be repealed has unquestionably operated as an indirect bounty to the Provincial Agriculturist. By the petitions against the proposed repeal, which I have the honor to enclose, Your Lordship will be informed that large investments of capital have been made in the erection of Mill Establishments in the immediate vicinity of Saint John, and extensive arrangements entered into for the importation of bonded wheat from England, with the object of entirely superseding the necessity of importing Flour; the great advantages which must necessarily attend the manufacture of bread stuffs to the country in which that manufacture is carried on, added to those derived by the shipping interests, from the importation of the unmanufactured material in *British Shipping*, and I will add, to the New-Brunswick Farmer, in respect to such of the Grain as may be raised in the Province, are too obvious to render it necessary for me to do more than advert to them, and to observe that from the enclosed documents, but still more from the communications which I have held with the members of Her Majesty's Council and others whom I believe to be well-informed upon the general and local interests of the Province, I am conducted to the conclusion, that it would be inexpedient to repeal the duty upon the importation of Flour into New-Brunswick before the sense of the various interests concerned can be ascertained and declared at the next meeting of the Provincial Legislature. I have therefore the honor to recommend, that no final determination be adopted by Her Majesty's Government upon the subject, as respects this Province, for *one year*, in order to afford time not only for the Legislature to express its opinion upon a subject of so much importance, but also for all those of Her Majesty's subjects of the Province, who may take views of it different from those which have as yet been presented to me, to be heard by *counter Petitions*, which I will take care shall be duly transmitted. I am aware that an objection may be urged upon the plea of a *monopoly* being raised upon the continuance of a prohibitory duty, upon the importation of Wheat Flour from Foreign Countries to the prejudice of *fair* competition, but I am inclined to the opinion that there can exist little ground for any well-founded apprehension upon this subject; the strongest objection which presents itself to my mind is the quality of the imported wheat which is represented as being generally old and stale, and therefore incapable of making sound, sweet, and wholesome bread.

"Upon this subject, I beg to invite your Lordship's attention to the answer to a series of queries which I sent down to Saint John, to be submitted to persons well acquainted with the facts and merits of the question, and at the same time believed to be free from any interested motives upon the subject.

"With regard to the Salted Provisions, the amount imported is so trifling as to render the continuance or removal a matter of indifference to the people or to the revenue of this Province. I therefore consider its removal *desirable.*

"I have not failed to convey to the Chamber of Commerce of St. John, the communication included in the extract enclosed in your Lordship's Despatch, No. 67.

"Doubts have been expressed to me as to how far this body represents the real commercial interests of the Province; to this point and if necessary to the re-construction of that body, which I apprehend possesses no legally recognized existence, my early attention shall be given—one of my first objects this summer being to visit and make myself better acquainted with the various interests of the rising City of Saint John. "I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY, *Lt. Governor.*"

The Right Hon. the Lord Glenelg, &c.

"*Downing Street, 10th October,* 1838.

"SIR,—I have received your Despatch, No. 34, of the 18th May, on the subject of the proposed repeal of the duties levied on Salted Provisions and Wheat Flour, imported into Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

"Having referred your Despatch for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, their Lordships have informed me, that in consequence of the objections felt by you, and by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova-Scotia, to the immediate repeal of the duty on Wheat Flour, and of the unimportant amount of the importation of Salt Provisions, it did not appear to their Lordships advisable to take any steps for effecting the repeal of those duties, until they were apprised of the result of the reference on the subject, proposed by you and Sir Colin Campbell, to be made to the Legislatures of Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick.

"I have therefore to desire that you will early in their next session submit the question to the Legislature of N. Brunswick, and that you will acquaint me with the opinion of the Council and Assembly, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury.

To Sir J. Harvey, &c. I have &c. (Signed) "GLENELG."

Fashionable Millinery.

MRS. MILLAR has just received per *British Queen*, from London, a large and fashionable assortment of MILLENERY, to which she respectfully solicits the attention of the LADIES of Saint John. *Also*,

A choice assortment of TOYS, a rich and new article. *October* 20.

Staffordshire and Yorkshire
China, Glass, and Earthenware
WAREHOUSE,
DOCK-STREET.

S. COOPER begs leave to acquaint his friends and the Public in general, that he has just received per ship "FRANCES," from Liverpool—62 PACKAGES, comprising a general assortment, which will be sold low Wholesale or Retail. *St. John, 3d Nov.* 1838.

Glassware.

Just received per the "British Queen", from London:—

33 CASKS GLASSWARE, comprising Tumblers, Wine Glasses, Decanters, Sets of Castors, Astral Lamp Shades, Chimnies, &c. for sale wholesale or retail, cheap for Cash, or Approved Notes.

HENRY BUXTON.

DOCK STREET, *Oct.* 20.

Ground and Calcined PLAISTER.

Just received ex Schr. Prospect, from Nova-Scotia, and for sale:—

32 CASKS GROUND and 26 casks CALCINED PLASTER.

☞ The Subscriber having made arrangements with the "Noel Associated Plaister and Mills Company" of Nova Scotia for the sale of the above article, will keep constantly on hand supplies of the same. A liberal discount will be made to wholesale purchasers.

ISAAC FAULKNER,
No. 1, *Donaldson's wharf.*

WANTED.—One or two VESSELS of from 100 to 200 tons to carry Freight to a port in the United States: apply as above. *Dec.* 22.

Regatta and Striped Shirts, &c.

3 BALES, consisting of—
24 dozen REGATTA SHIRTS,
96 ditto Scotch Striped do.
16 ditto Tartan VESTS,
9 ditto printed Velvet do.
6 ditto GLENGARRY CAPS.

The above have just been received, and will be sold on reasonable terms by

JOHN & JAMES ALEXANDER.

December 8, 1838.

☞ *REMOVAL.* ☜

PARKS & REGAN

HAVE Removed their Wholesale and Retail Business to the New Brick Building in Prince William-street, adjoining the properties of Richard Sands, Esq. and Mr. John Hastings.

September 15*th*, 1838.

NOW LANDING,

And for sale by the subscribers at their store in Water Street—by brig "Gambia," from New-York:

50 BARRELS and half-barrels new Genesee FLOUR;
5 dozen pair of Hickory OX BOWS;
8 ditto Hickory broad and narrow Axe handles;
5 ditto CORN BROOMS;
1 box Honey Dew Tobacco—32 hands;
3 kegs *Barclay's* Fig ditto—18 hands;
1 bale Superfine Lamp WICK;
2 bales Cotton Batting; 25 kegs Crackers;
25 boxes Muscatel RAISINS.

By schr. Splendid, from Philadelphia—

15 Barrels Navy Bread; 20 half do. Pilot ditto
70 half and third barrels Soda Biscuit;
20 third-barrels Bran Biscuit;
76 third and quarter barrels Sugar Biscuit;
50 kegs and third barrels Water Crackers.

From Liverpool and London, by late arrivals:

100 bags fine SALT; 15 barrels Whiting;
25 bags fresh Oatmeal; 1 cask Bath Bricks;
Boxes London Mould wax-wick Candles, and Rush Candles; bales blue and white WARP; red and white Flannels; Rose and Point Blankets, Cottons, &c. JARDINE & CO.

1*st December.*

JUST RECEIVED

By the subscriber, ex the Lord John Russell, his expected supply of London Goods—part of which consists of—

MUFFS