

GENERAL ABSTRACT.

1855.	
Jan. 5.—To amount of Treasury Notes in circulation	2,111,500 0 0
	2,111,500 0 0

1833		l. s. d.	
Jan. 5.—By Balance in the hands of the Treasurer	9268	8	2 4
By Balance due by the Sheroots of the late Treasurer.	390	19	2
	9,669	7	4 4
Balance	1840	12	7 3 4
	2,111,500	0	0

THE BRITISH AMERICAN.

FEBRUARY 9, 1833.

The arrival of His Majesty's Packet *Emulous*, at Halifax, furnish us with English dates up to the 9th December, four days later than those previously furnished by way of the United States. No very material difference in the aspect of affairs on the Continent had taken place since our last advices. To give publicity to the multiplicity of local matter which came in at a late hour in the past week prevented us from making such Foreign extracts as we might otherwise have done, under the impression that our little domestic affairs at this important season of the year would be swallowed with greater avidity. To make room for the articles which poured in from our correspondents, we have been obliged to throw out five columns that were prepared for this number, which delayed this publication until this day, (Monday.)

We are persuaded that much convenience would result from placing a Letter Box for the reception of communications for the *British American*, (as suggested by our new correspondent 'BARBER,' in this impression) and we beg leave to inform those who may hereafter favor us, that a box will be placed (after this day) at the Book Store door, North corner; where a legible inscription will be placed.

On the Evening of Thursday, the 7th instant, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Young entertained a distinguished party of fashionable at Government House, who seemed much pleased with the attention bestowed on them by their worthy host and hostess.

On the same day Mr. Davidson gave a grand opposition dinner to a select party of friends at his residence, Millar's Hotel.—The jovial crew did not separate until a late hour.

We have given this week the proceedings of the House of Assembly up to the time of their adjournment, Saturday, Feb. 9, 3 o'clock. P. M.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, Feb 2

The House went into Committee on the bill, introduced by Mr. Dalrymple to limit the duration of General Assembly, from seven to four years. Mr. Cady in the Chair. Mr. Speaker opposed the Bill. Though this was the first time he had an opportunity to

express his sentiments, he had not heard anything urged to justify the measure, it was not urged that the country were dissatisfied with the present House, and if it was, they might petition the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve it. Elections often created angry feelings and animosities, and he thought the present Bill would, if ever carried increase the evil, he moved "That the Committee do rise without reporting."

Mr. Pope seconded the resolution. Mr. Dalrymple said he was surprised at the arguments of the Hon. Speaker, he thought the present Bill cast no reflection on the present House, he thought the evils or expenses consequent on Elections no argument against the rights of the people, he instanced the case of Italy and Poland, as proceeding from want of proper freedom amongst the people. The people of Upper and Lower Canada, enjoyed Quadrennial parliaments, though their constitution was excited by a Tory administration, and was the excitement at Elections more?

Mr. Speaker said that was the cause of their present disturbed state.

Mr. Dalrymple continued for some time, and concluded by saying he heard nothing to make him alter his opinion of the Bill.

Mr. Compton spoke at some length; his arguments chiefly turned on the present happy state of the country, he said the people were perfectly satisfied with the present system, and with their representatives. Among the members themselves the most cordial feelings existed, though occasionally they to be sure had their jokes, he hoped they would allow them. He did not care whence they drew examples, the present system was all he required, they had enough of Yankeeism amongst them already, without copying their elections which would entail a heavy expense on the country, without any advantage, he was anxious to save the public purse; the more he heard in favor of the bill the more he was opposed to it. He was not afraid to have his constituents, yet he felt they were well satisfied with the present Members, and so convinced that they could not get better that he was sure seven out of ten of them should be re-elected. He would support the motion.

Mr. Owen spoke in favor of the Bill, which he said should have his decided support; the people sent them there to attend to their interests, he always endeavored to do his duty to the best of his abilities, he hoped every other Member did so likewise. But as their constituents did not perhaps, exactly agree with them, he thought they would have frequent opportunity to rectify their mistakes, and send others in their places if they were not satisfied with the manner in which they acted, this would have the very best effect in keeping Members to their duty, or conforming others in that line of conduct if they were

re-elected. He could not be surprised if the people were dissatisfied with the present House, many of whom had become placemen by taking office since they came here, of their own creation, and consequently had perhaps distinct interests to attend to, he insisted that of this their constituents should judge, he had heard nothing advanced to alter his opinion of the expediency of the Bill, and would therefore vote for the amendment.

Mr. Pope said he could see no necessity for the measure. If it passed he was sure it would not get the Royal allowance, he was tempted to seek a seat in that House through ambition, he succeeded, and did his duty to the best of his abilities. If however, the Hon. Member for King's County [Mr. Owen] had made a motion that those who held office should be sent back to their constituents perhaps he would vote for it, [Mr. Pope should then lose his seat] he was not afraid of being re-elected, but he would not put his love of a seat in comparison either with the expense of Elections or the rights of the people, but they were satisfied as it was. If this House professes to take England for its guide, let them wait to see what measure should be adopted there. As to the objection of Members becoming placemen under the present system, if this were carried, by the greater opportunity being afforded, there would be a batch of them; he would therefore oppose the Bill.

Mr. Dalrymple said, they by no means should take England for their guide, they were able to judge for themselves and would endeavour to act independently. He said they had ample proofs of the effects of the different lengths of Parliament, he instanced the long time annual parliaments had been the practice, Charles the first, and Cromwell's parliaments, the triennial Parliaments, and when the period was lengthened to seven years through fears of the adherents of the House of Stewart, he asked, was it not looked upon with regret by every lover of rational liberty? he hoped the measure would be calmly discussed.

Mr. John Small MacDonald said that there were many new Members in that House who could only have been chosen from the knowledge of their private character, and as it was by trial all things were improved, now that the experiment had been made, he could not help thinking that the people should have an opportunity of frequently expressing their opinions of how they discharge the trust they had confided to them. If they were satisfied with the conduct of their representatives they might return them again, and if not, it was but their rights to endeavour to get others, who would more faithfully attend to their interests. He knew they had plenty of room to choose among persons probably better qualified. He would therefore support the Bill.

Mr. Brennan felt proud to record his vote in favor of the measure, if it was left to him, perhaps he might wish to go further. As to the disturbance that might result on frequent elections, he thought the reverse the case. Elections had become rather frequent lately in Queen's County, and he would put the case of the last, when his Hon. friend (Mr. Nelson) was