THE NEW BRUNSWICK DISSOLUTION QUESTIONED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

We copy from the *Alliance Weekly News* of August 2, Lord Harrington's Questions on New Brunswick:—

"In our Wednesday's narrative of news, we have stated, that Lord Harrington, just before the prorogation of parliament, put to the government a series of five questions touching the extraordinary conduct of the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick, we are happy in being enabled to publish copies of these answers, and a full report of the remarks with which Lord Harrington prefaced the questions.

The noble Lord opened the enquiry by these very judicious remarks:

"My Lords, I beg your kind indulgence for addressing you at the eleventh hour; and on a subject, I fear, unpopular in this house The questions I am about to put to her Majesty's government concern two most important subjects.—1st—the Maine Law, 2nd—the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick by the Governor Mr. Manners Sutton, in opposition to his cabinet and the parliament. Your lordships must well know that the drinking habits of the people in this country fill our pauper-houses, lunatic assylums, penitentiaries, jails, hulks, and penal settlements with their miserable inmates.

"From this source, too, the famous Earl of Shaftsbury recruits for his ragged schools, But what has all this declamation to do with New Brunswick! *It has to do with it, because the same evils and crimes that exists in this, exists in that country.* The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick have, therefore, passed the Maine Law. And can her Majesty's government condemn it for that noble conduct? Do they not rather deserve your admiration? Let us next consider what the Maine Law is, which now agitates the world. The Maine Law is the prohibition of the sale of strong beverages. It prohibits the sale, of these liquors. Be it understood, then, that all men under this law may drink what they please, beer, spirits, wine, &c. This subject has been ably argued by the "Edinburgh Review," the great organ of Whig government; as also by the "Westminster Review" and the Alliance. Will your lordships discredit me when I say that a prohibitory liquor law prevails over a large portion of the world. In America, eleven states and two territories are under the Maine Law. More than eleven millions of persons, under a government of universal suffrage, obey the law, and not one of the eleven states has repealed it. Canada and Nova Scotia have carried it to a second reading, and next session it will be in force. Add to these millions all the Mahommedan and Hindoo States. And now, my lords, have I not proved to you that a large portion of the world is under a Prohibitory Liquor Law? Next let us consider the dissolution of the National Assembly of New Brunswick by the Governor, in opposition to the council and the parliament. The blame—if blame there be—is attributable to the government, for no subordinate officer would have dared to have taken so bold and so bad a course, except under the sanction of the government, for reasons yet to be made known. No Sovereign in this country since the revolution has ever dissolved a parliament in opposition to his cabinet. *Now the colonies have constitutions nearly similar to the parent state, consequently there is no precedent of a similar act of unconsitutional power having been exercised in her Majesty's North American Empire.* Here the Earl of Hrrrington was interrupted by the process for dissolving the parliament. After the propagation, the Earl of Harrowby gave Lord Harrington the answers intended to be given to his questions."

Question 1st.—Whether in New Brunswick in the year 1852, some 30,000 persons petitioned the Legislative Assembly in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law?

Reply—According to the journals of the Assembly of 1852, there appear to have been 20 petitions on this subject but the number of the signatures is not stated.

Question 2d.—Whether the representative body elected in 1854, carried that measure?

Reply,—The Assembly was elected in 1851, and passed in 1852, an "Act to prevent the traffic in intoxicating liquors." This law, which did not *prohibit* the importation of intoxicating liquors was repealed in 1854 by an "Act to regulate the sale of spirituous liquors." This latter act has been amended by a third act, of no importance. Finally, in the session of 1855, a fourth Act was passed to "prevent the importation, manufacture, and traffic in intoxicating liquors."

Question 3d.—Whether the Queen's sign manual had been obtained in 1856, to enforce the prohibition?

Reply.—This last act, 1855, was not reserved for the crown, but was assented to by the governor. It was "left to its operation" by the Queen in Council, in November, 1855.

Question 4th.—Whether the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Manners Sutton, has now dissolved the parliment in direct opposition to his Council, in order to appeal from the Legislative body to the appetites of the people concerning the Prohibitory Law,—an act intended to save the laboring classes from sickness, pauperism and crimes, and to secure to the State a sober and healthy race of men the great source of power and of wealth?

Reply.—Mr. Manners Sutton, contrary to the opinion of his then advisers, considered a dissolution of the Assembly to be requisite. On his insisting on this point; his executive council resigned and a new administration was formed, on whose responsibility the Assembly was dissolved. The motives which influenced Mr. Sutton in this proceeding are disclosed in a despatch of the 31st May. A new Assembly has been called and is now sitting.

Question 5th.—Whether in her Majesty's North American empire there exists any precedent for the exercise, on the part of a governor, of such an act of power in opposition to his council?

Reply.—I know not of such instance but responsible government has only been established ten years in Canada, and about five in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Where now is all the talk concerning Colonial precedents? The Imperial Government by the mouth of the Earl of Harrowby, declare *they know of no such precedent.* Nor any other live man or "live Lord." The fictitious cases of those who hate the Prohibitory Law, got up with fine spun theories, have received their solution. They were merely imaginary. Mr. Sutton may recline now behind the tinsel of his "great seal and his little seal,"—but we venture to affirm, that ere the question is finally settled in the House of Lords, he will find his anything but a couch of roses.

Then, independent and irrespective of all factions and clans, the rights of the people will have been vindicated—our benificent Law will have been honorably exonerated from the foul charges brought against it, and its principles will have become highly exalted—the public mind will be enlightened and ripe to re-assert its enactment and to ensure its enforcement—and the humble and the lowly, as well as the aristocratic and the rich, will surely and in reality find ample reason to believe, that their sacred rights will not soon be made again the foot ball of any man or any body of men. Then will the proteciton of our Laws be indeed a reality—not a fiction—and all men will enjoy the fullest happiness and freedom beneath the glorious safeguards of the British Constitution.—*Temp. Telegraph.*

Fees of Clergymen at Funerals.—Some of the religious newspapers are contending that clergymen should receive fees for their attendance upon funerals. When called upon to officiate out side of their own congregations, they are certainly entitled to some remuneration. A man, who, from indifference or unbelief, at all times refuses to contribute to the support of religious worship, ought not to expect the gratuitous performance of its most solemn rites when sorrow and bereavement enter his dwelling.—*Providence Journal.*

The Fashions: a Prose Ballad.—I saw her as she sailed along in elegant silk ballon, borne on by many a puff of praise, all sung to an *a la mode* tune. I saw her as she trailed along, like a racer sharp and thin; and many a voice in ectacy exclaimed she would "win." I saw a coal-scuttle bonnet, with a front of a foot or two, and rapturious prais, in a thousand ways, proclaimed that it would "do." I saw a cup and saucer stuck on the back of her head, and the very same crowd with its praises loud, declared that fashon led. Hurrah for ballons, and racers, coal-scuttles, cups saucers, too. To thunder with sense and reason—I'm bound to go crasy too!

MISCELLANEOUS.

An Important Decision.—The liability of telegraphic companies for damages on account of errors in the transmission of messages over the wires, appears to have been fully demonstrated in a case recently tried in a court of law in Ohio. The complaint was that a message directing the purchase of a large amount of wool at 40 cents per pound, reached its destination with the 40 changed to 45, and as this wool was purchased at this latter figure on the strength of the message, the plaintiff brought an action to recover the loss to which he was exposed, laying his damages at the difference between the price actually paid under the dispatch, and the market value of wool at the time and place of purchase, and judgment was given for the plaintiff for $750 without interest.

The Clouds Drop Down the Dew.—The following quotation from Dr. Wells on dew is highly instructive: "I had often smiled in the pride of half knowledge at the means frequently employed by gardeners to protect tender plants from cold, as it appeared to me impossible that a thin mat, or any such flimsy substance, could prevent them from attaining the temperature of the atmosphere, by which alone I thought them liable to be injured. But when I learned that bodies on the surface of the earth become, during a still and serene night, colder than the atmosphere, by radiating their heat to the heavens, I perceived immediately a just reason for the practice which I had before deemed useless. Being desirous, however, of acquiring some precise information on this subject, I fixed perpendiclarly in the earth of a grass plot four small sticks, and above their upper extremities, which were six inches above the grass, and formed the corners of a square, whose sides were two feet long, I drew tightly a very thin cambric handkerchief. In this disposition of things, therefor, nothing existed to prevent the free passage of air from the exposed grass to that which was sheltered except the four small sticks, and there was no substance to radiate downward to the latter grass except the cambric handkerchief. The sheltered grass, however, was found nearly of the same temperature as the air, while the unsheltered was five degrees or more colder. One night the fully-exposed grass was eleven degrees colder than the air, but the sheltered was only three degrees colder Hence we see the power of a very sligh awning to avert or lessen the injurious coldness of the ground.—*Hunt's Elementary Physics.*—

Rain, or No Rain—The little parish of Yellowdale farmers had long been without a minister. One day the Rev. Mr. Surely visited the village, and was asked to stay over Sunday and preach to them. The people were pleased with his sermons, and some were anxious to have him stop. A meeting was called to know the mind of the people. "I don't see any use in having a minister," said Sharp, a rich old farmer; "a parson can't learn me any thing: it we've any money to spare, we better lay it out in something that will bring a fairer return." The Sabbath-loving part of the people argued strongly against him. "Well," answered Sharp, not choosing to show himself convinced, "I've heard tell of ministers that could pray for rain, and bring it; if we could hit upon one of that sort, I'd go for hiring him."

Mr. Sharp was a man of consequence, and the younger and less knowing of his neighbours were quite taken with the idea. "*That* would be a minister worth having," they thought. And after much talk, it was agreed to hire Mr. Surely upon this condition—that he would give them rain, or fair weather when they wanted it; for their farms often suffered both from severe droughts and heavy rains. Mr. Surely was immediately waited upon by a committee of the parish, who soon came back, bringing the minister with them. "I will accept your terms upon one condition," said he, "that you must agree upon what sort of weather you want." This appeared reasonable, and matters were arranged for a year's stay at Yellowdale.

Weeks passed on, bringing midsummer heats. For three weeks it had not rained, and the young corn was beginning to curl with drought. Now for the minister's promise. "Come," said Sharp, with one or two others whose hilly farms were suffering, "we need rain; you remember your promise." "Certainly," answered the minister, "call a meeting." A meeting was called. "Now, my friends," said the pastor, "what is it you want?"

"Rain, rain," shouted half a dozen voices

"Very well; when will you have it?"

"This very night, all night long," said Sharp, to which several others assented.

"No, no; not to-night," cried Mr. Smith; "I've six or seven tons of well-made hay out; I would not have it wet for any thing."

"So have I," added Mr. Peck; "no rain to-night."

Will you have it to-morrow?" asked the minister. But it would take all to-morrow to get it in. So objections came up for the two or three next days. "In four days, then?" said Mr. Surely.

"Yes," cried Sharp; "all the hay will be in, and no more need be cut till"—

"Stop! stop!" cried Mrs. Sharp, pulling her husband smartly by the sleeve; "that day we have set to go to Snow-hill. It *mus' n't* rain then."

In short, the meeting resulted in just no conclusion at all, for it was found quite impossible to agree.

"Until you make up your minds," said the pastor on leaving, "we must all trust in the Lord."

Both Mr. Smith and M. Peck got their hay in, but on the day the Sharps were to go to Snow hill it began to rain in good earnest. Sharp lost his visit, but his crops gained.

And so it happened once or twice again. The year roled by, and the people could never all agree upon what kind of weather they wanted. Mr. Surely, of course, had no occasion to fulfil his part of the contract, and the result was, that they began to open their eyes to the fact, that this world would be a strange place, it its inhabitants should govern it. They saw that nature's laws could be safely trusted in the hands of nature's God.

At the close of the year, the minister spoke of leaving. This the people would not listen to. "But I cannot stay under the old contract," said he.

"Nor do we want you to," said Sharp much humbled; "only stay and teach us and our children how to know God and obey his laws."

"And all things above our proper sphere," added the pastor, "we will leave with God for 'He doeth all things well.'"

The Sultan's Treasures.—Marshal Pelissier, during his stay at Constantinopele, was conducted to the kiosk which contains the royal treasures of the Turkish Sultans. The visitor's attention is first attracted by the throne of Kei-Kaouis, Sultan of Koniah in 1245, which is of solid silver, covered with enamelled designs of the greatest beauty, representing the thrones and ornaments of the Kings of Persia in the olden time. It is surrounded on every side with cloth of gold, and the cushions are of crimson velvet, embroidered with pearls and precious stones. Close to it are to be seen the shield and sabre which Sultan Amurath wore, when he made his triumphal entry into Constantnople after his Expedition. These arms are dazzling with diamonds. By their side is the precious box which contained the Koran, and which the Sultan Suleyman carried with him during his campaigns. The lid is covered with jewels of price among which is a turquoise in the shape of an almond of immense size. To the end of the cord which served to suspend the box is fixed an emerald as large as a hen's egg. In another part of the room are arranged the aigrettes which the Sultans formerly wore in their turbans on days of ceremony. The emeralds, rubies and diamonds, collected together in these ornaments, are of a size and brilliancy to excite wonder, and it may safely be predicated that Western Europe can not boast of jewels to be compared to those handed down by the ancient Sultans.