

Government to his discretion, no difficulty remained to prevent or retard the satisfactory accomplishment of the subject of the negotiation. But there is another important fact which we desire to press on the attention of the public: the deputation did not strive to coerce the Lieut. Governor—as has been impudently asserted—or wish him to act in opposition to the instructions of the Colonial Minister; they did not insist on the establishment of Responsible—that is, departmental Government,—before the Assembly “complied with the preliminary conditions” alluded to by His Excellency in the eighth paragraph of his Speech: they did not urge the removal of any salaried officer, they being content to let the servants of Government remain in possession of their honours and emoluments till, at least, the Civil List Bill should have received the sanction of Parliament, and the necessary arrangements for the change of officers should have been finally and fully completed.

It is therefore unjust to charge the Assembly with seeking to coerce the Lieut. Governor, and bringing the business of the Session prematurely to a close. With the Lieut. Governor and not the Assembly, rests the responsibility of the “abandonment of the discharge of its legislative duties at a time when matters of high importance no only to this Island but to the British North American Provinces generally, are before it.”

In conclusion, we beg to remind His Excellency and the public, that when Responsible Government was conceded to Nova Scotia, Sir John Harvey was not so unreasonable as to require the settlement of the question of Pensions—which was pressed by Earl Grey as conditional to the concession of Responsibility—to precede the change in the character of his Administration. There the Council was at once reconstructed in compliance with the wishes of the Assembly, and the claims of retiring office-holders formed afterwards the subject of consideration. It is to be regretted that such constitutional Governors as Sir John Harvey are lamentably scarce in our day and generation.

Our royal brother—we beg pardon—our brother of the *Royal Gazette*—has favoured the public with an editorial in his last No. Fling up your caps, O ye readers of Newspapers, and rejoice! The Queen's most excellent Printer has permitted his great soul to find utterance in the columns of his Print—has thrown aside his “dignified neutrality,” and become an oracle unto the land! But he is more than an oracle: he is positively an advocate for Responsible Government: why should not he be, when every body is? The mischief of it is, that we shall be unable to find by and bye who are the opponents of that system. Silence! let us hear what the Queen's most excellent Printer hath to say:—“We have never expressed ourselves unfavourable to the introduction of Responsible or Self Government, if based upon justice to existing interests, and conducted with prudence, moderation and judgment. Our only apprehension has been the danger of entrusting the acquisition of power to the hands of men incapable of exercising the influence which is inseparable from its possession, to the advantage of the general interests of the people.” We shall be charitable enough to forget that previous to the late Election, the public were informed by the *Gazette*, on authority, we presume, that if the constituencies returned members determined on carrying out Responsible Government the Colony would, most undoubtedly, be annexed to Nova Scotia,—and we shall only bear in mind that Mr. Haszard is favourable to Responsible Government because annexation has lost its terror, and because there is no possible chance of changing the opinions of the country. His editorial remarks should read thus, (it has been blabbed that they were written by the Colonial Secretary, but we are willing to give Mr. Haszard credit for them):—“We have never expressed ourselves unfavourable to the introduction of Responsible Government, in the hearing of those who are anxious for its adoption; and we shall always speak in favour of it, if the present holders of office are not displaced. Our only apprehension has been the danger of losing the situation of Queen's Printer, and seeing that office conferred upon the publisher of the *Examiner*, whose party are now in the ascendant. It is our desire to be thought as liberal in politics as the publisher of the *Examiner*, so that we may retain the emoluments of office, and be the most obedient humble servant of—any party in power.”

### Colonial and United States Mails.

The Courier arrived with the Colonial and United States Mails at Charlottetown on Wednesday evening last.

**NOVA SCOTIA.**—The Legislature of Nova Scotia was prorogued on Thursday the 28th ult. The Speech of the Lieut. Governor, Sir John Harvey, which is unusually brief, compliments the Legislature on the assiduous discharge of their duties, and expresses high approval of the general results of their deliberations. His Excellency observes:—“The consolidation of the Laws—the wider diffusion of Education—the extension of Municipal privileges—the collection of statistics—and the munificent provision made for internal improvements, are gratifying features of the Session we are about to close.” After thanking the Assembly for the Supplies, Sir John Harvey concludes his Speech with the following remarks:—“I have marked with great satisfaction the enlightened principles of Commercial policy which you have adopted—the loyal sentiments you have expressed—and the steadiness with which you have guarded the Constitution established by the struggles and sacrifices of the past. The best guarantee that the Sovereign can have for the peaceful improvement of this fine Province, will be found in the assurance that they who so judiciously fulfil their public obligations, are no less competent, on returning to their homes, to form the sentiments and advance the prosperity of the districts in which they reside.” While so distinguished a politician as Sir John Harvey—so long the faithful and honoured Representative of the Crown—is found to bear testimony to the efficient working of a government, conducted upon Responsible principles, we may well laugh at the assertion which has been often made in the House of Assembly of this Island, and out of the House, to the effect, that Nova Scotia has been hastening to destruction ever since Responsible Government was established there.

The Halifax *Sun*—which, by the bye, is not as regular in its visits to this office as we would wish—applauds the House of Assembly of this Island for the course it has taken in withholding the Supplies till Responsible Government be put in practice. “We are satisfied,” the *Sun* observes, “that the Liberals of Nova Scotia look upon the cause of constitutional Government in P. E. Island as their own, and that, were it necessary, they would give an earnest of sympathy in a manner and tone not to be mistaken.”

**A TRIFLING ERROR.**—In the report of the debate which occurred in the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia during the late Session, on certain Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Mr. Almon, relating to reciprocity of Trade with the United States, we notice the following curious remarks (in a speech made by the Solicitor General):—“At one time it was supposed that coal was not to be found beyond the line of 45 degrees. But Prince Edward Island, which is beyond that line, may be called a bed of coal.” We confess the information contained in the above extract is quite new to us, and it shows that the Sister Province may boast of a Solicitor General as wise and well informed as the great Statesman who fills a similar office in this Colony. Though Dr. Gesner was unable to discover coal in Prince Edward Island when he made his geological survey a few years ago, yet, it must be acknowledged, that we have a fiery substance of the same name, and though it does not happen to be under ground, we are very sure there are many who would wish it to be there, for certain reasons.

**RAILROAD BETWEEN HALIFAX AND WINDSOR.**—The practicability of laying down a Railroad between Halifax and Windsor lately engaged the earnest attention of the House of Assembly. Mr. Howe, who has for many years made this project a hobby, has had the honor of bringing it before the Legislature,—and we are happy to learn that the House of Assembly has pledged the Province to pay one half the amount that may be required to construct the Railroad. Of course this will be regarded as another indication of the way in which Nova Scotia is to be ruined by the Responsible Government party there. What sad fellows they are to be attempting such innovations on the established order of things! Why not go on in the old jog-trot, slow-coach style, which their ancestors so prudently followed fifty years ago?

**NEW BRUNSWICK.—Postage Reform.**—By a Bill which has been introduced into the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, the office of Post Office Surveyor is abolished, and the salary of the Deputy Post Master General reduced to £400 a year, it being latterly £600. Reductions are also made in the salaries of the Clerks required in that department at St. John. The Bill provides for the establishment of a uniform rate of three pence for every letter under half an ounce. In the course of the debate which occurred on the Bill, Mr. End ably advocated the abolition of the half-penny postage on newspapers, describing it as an unjust and illiberal tax upon knowledge, and greatly calculated—as we well know—to impede the circulation of newspapers. We hope that, when the subject of the Post Office shall come under the consideration of our House of Assembly, similar views will find favour with the liberal party, and that the imposition of this tax—an imposition in mere than one sense—will be forever set aside.

**CANADA.**—There is very little news from any portion of Canada. The annexation scheme, which but a few months ago was the general topic, is now scarcely mentioned. At the recent Election in Sherbrooke district, the annexation Candidate was elected; but that is attributed to the fact, that the district joins Vermont and New Hampshire, and is mostly populated by Americans or those whose predilections are favorable to the United States Government.

The reciprocal navigation measure, which the Honorable Malcolm Cameron visited Washington a short time since to press upon the United States Government, is most ardently desired by the people of Canada. West, who look upon it as a measure of vital importance to their interests.

The winter has been unusually mild and already business operations have begun. The newspapers look forward to a brisk trade after the excitement attendant upon the political campaign shall have subsided. A Toronto business is dull, and no news of note comes from the government operations. Montreal is in a state of lethargy, and since the removal of Parliament, possesses less interest than ever.

The great antipathy towards Lord Elgin has in a great measure subsided and matters are assuming a more peaceful aspect; doubtless the effect of the Despatch of Lord Grey.

The Quebec *Chronicle* states, that a man named John Munro has been committed to the Gaol of that City for cutting the throat of a woman with whom he lived on terms of great intimacy. After perpetrating the murder, and before his arrest, he attempted to cut his own throat.

It is stated upon authority in one of the Canadian papers, that foreign vessels will be allowed, under licence, to come up from Quebec to Montreal with cargoes, as was the case during the temporary suspension of the navigation Laws, a few years ago.

**UNITED STATES.**—Boston papers are occupied with reports of the trial of Dr. Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman, which commenced on the 19th ult., and much excitement is said to have been occasioned by it in Boston and the neighbouring Towns. It was not known, when the mail left, what the result would be.

The Tremont House, in Boston, it is believed from a telegraphic report communicated to the Reading Room in St. John, N. B., has been destroyed by fire.

The party contests, at Washington, between the Representatives of the slave holding and non-slave holding States, continue with unabated violence; and it is asserted that there is not the least chance of a speedy adjustment of the differences about which the republican politicians are at loggerheads.

Trade with California is rapidly on the increase. Immense quantities of gold dust continue to be poured into the United States, and every steamer or sailing vessel which leaves any port of the Union for that land of promise, bears a goodly burthen of passengers, determined on being the “slaves” of the “dark and dirty mine.” Several shocks of an earthquake were felt at San Francisco on the 16th January; it is not stated, however, that any serious damage was sustained.

### A SHORT REPLY TO A LONG ACCUSATION.

We have purposely abstained from taking notice of the letters which appeared in the last three Nos. of the *Islander*, signed “Lex,” addressed to Messrs. Lord, Davies, Beaton and Flynn, as members of the Assembly, complaining of the votes given by those gentlemen, in connection with a large majority of the House, on the motion made by Mr. Palmer respecting the production of Mr. Le Lacheur's schedule of qualification, because we believe the House of Assembly, by its resolution, sufficiently answered the objections of “Lex,” and because this skulking fellow, who has not the courage to put his name to his long winded halderdash, is incapable of making the slightest impression on the minds of the public to the prejudice of the gentlemen addressed. We deem it even now an utter waste of time, and trespass on the patience of our readers, to follow Lex through his rambling and bungling invective. His object—and we state it for the information of those who have been fortunately spared the infliction of his nonsense—is to shew that Messrs. Lord, Davies, Beaton, Flynn, and the rest of the majority, have contravened the law in not sanctioning the production of Mr. Le Lacheur's schedule, or, in other words, in not gratifying the malice of the Solicitor General against the Member from Murray Harbour. A more unjust imputation than this could not be made against any party, and it shews the degree of degradation to which a cowardly scribbler, such as “Lex,” will descend, for the sake of gratifying his spite against a political adversary. The Section of the Act, under which Mr. Palmer sought to make Mr. Le Lacheur produce his qualification, contains the following words:—“And be it enacted, that every member before he assumes his seat, or shall presume to vote in the House of Assembly, if THEREBE REQUIRED BY THE ORDER OF THE HOUSE, shall deliver to the clerk of the House a schedule containing the particulars of his qualification conformably to this Act.” &c.—Now it ought to be remembered that Mr. Le Lacheur had assumed his seat and voted in the House, before Mr. Palmer made his motion; but even suppose he had not taken his seat, or voted, the House would not have deemed it necessary to make an order for the pro-