

Charlotte, February 24, 1862.

The very large amount of space we have given this week to the letters of correspondents, which from the subjects discussed, would not very well bear postponement—has entirely precluded us from offering any comments on the Speech of the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session. That Speech is not, however, suggestive of lengthy observations. It is only remarkable for the emptiness of its phrases, and the paucity of its information. The Government, knowing they stand convicted before the country of having mismanaged its affairs, had nothing to say in their own defence; and they considered it useless, no doubt, to make promises regarding good measures to be adopted in the future, since those which were given to the public eye in the days that are past have been so publicly broken to the hope. The Speech is melancholy in tone as well as brief in phrase. It is officially declared that the financial affairs of the Colony are very far from being in a healthy state. There is also an official recognition of the fact, that the public debt, which has been largely increasing ever since the present Government came into office, has so augmented during the past year as to call for special notice in the Speech. The addition to the debt must be large, indeed, since His Excellency has been advised to notice it; and yet the Government have not had the courage to propose any scheme for its reduction, lest the people should be alarmed by the prospect of further taxation.

The answer to the Speech will come up for consideration to-day. The debate, which we hope, will not be so protracted as it was last year, will elicit the views of the House on the affairs of the Colony generally, after which we trust we will have more space and leisure to comment upon them.

There has not yet been any business done in either branch of the Legislature beyond the usual routine of appointing Committees, and arranging for the printing of the Journals and Debates, reference to which will be found elsewhere.

In a short article in the 'Islander' of Friday last, Mr. Secretary Pope has repeated the old and often repeated slander about Mr. Coles getting a bribe of £1000 for the interest he took in the purchase of the Worrel Estate. It would be a waste of space to expose again, for about the fiftieth time, the absurdity of this accusation. Mr. Pope himself admits that there is no foundation for it, but he repeats it in such a way as to lead his readers to entertain strong suspicions against Mr. Coles in reference to the matter. There is no man in the Island who knows the falsity of the charge better than Mr. Secretary Pope. He was the principal vendor of the Worrel Estate, and without whose knowledge no bribe could be received or offered. Impudent as he is, he would not have the effrontery to offer a bribe to Mr. Coles, and Mr. Coles is not the man who could think of receiving such a thing from any one. If there is any reason to suspect that bribery or corruption has been practised in regard to the purchase of public lands, such suspicion might fairly attach to the Selkirk and Lot 54 transactions. The present Government have persistently refused to make known to the country the correspondence which led to the purchase of those properties; and we cannot see why they should be so desirous to keep the people in ignorance of that correspondence unless there was some unfair dealing connected with the job.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THURSDAY, February 20, 1862. At three o'clock this day, a Salute from St. George's Battery—fired by the Artillery and Rifle Corps—announced the departure of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite from Government House, for the purpose of opening the Legislature.

His Excellency was escorted to the Provincial Building by a Troop of Cavalry, under the command of Major Davies.

Notwithstanding the day was exceedingly stormy and cold, there was a large assemblage in the Council Chamber of the elite of the City. There was also quite a display of the Volunteer Companies present to testify their respect for His Excellency. Had the weather been fine, we understand there would have been many more. We observed the Prince of Wales Rifle Corps, Capt Hodgson; Dundas Company, Capt. Bore; Irish Volunteer Rifles, Capt. Hickey; and Thistle Company, Capt. Ross, were drawn up in front of the Colonial Building to receive His Excellency.

The following is the Speech with which His Excellency opened the Session.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I have summoned you for the despatch of your Legislative duties, and I beg to inform you that I am meeting you at the opening of another Session.

Since the Royal Highness the Prince Consort, in the death of His Majesty the Prince Consort, I feel sure that none of Her Majesty's subjects will be so deeply than you.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; The estimates for the service of the ensuing year will be laid before you—they have been framed with the greatest care and attention.

The Public Accounts for the past year will also be presented to you.

Notwithstanding the serious embarrassments which the unhappy and unfortunate late Queen Victoria has occasioned to our foreign trade, I am glad to find that there has been no remarkable decrease in the revenue of the past year. I regret, however, to say that the expenditure during the same period shows a considerable decrease compared with the expenditure of the preceding two months, has not been covered by the revenue.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; Thirty three of the Acts, passed during the last Session, have received the royal assent. I presume that the Act for taking the Census has also been sent to the Legislature.

The remaining three, viz: the Elective Company Act; the Act for the organization of the Volunteer Force; and that for the incorporation of the Roman Catholic Bishop, have not yet received the royal assent. Despatches from Her Majesty's Ministers, containing suggestions on the subject of the two last mentioned Acts, will be laid before you.

An Act passed in the Session of 1860, authorizing the issue of Fishery Licences to citizens of the United States, for vessels built in this Island, and owned by them, has lately been specially confirmed by Her Majesty. I trust that it will have a beneficial effect on the trade of this Country.

The Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Land Question have completed their laborious task, and have forwarded their Report to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I have not as yet received any communication from His Grace on this subject; but I am confident that he will not allow himself to be misled by the insinuations of the Opposition, and will not consent to pass any Act which would be a violation of the Constitution.

The remainder of the afternoon of Thursday was occupied in appointing Committees for various purposes. It is unnecessary for me to detail the names of the Committees, or the names of the members appointed to each of them.

The Session of the Legislature will be opened on Saturday, the 23rd inst.

Mr. Davies, from the Committee on printing, reports that the Journals, and the Debates, from the opening of the Session, have been printed, and are now ready for distribution.

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Mr. F. W. Hughes, for both services. On the reports being referred to a Committee of the whole House, a desultory conversation occurred, the principal object of which was the construction to be put upon the letters calling for tenders. Hon. Mr. Haswell was of opinion that the limitation contained in the letters, specifying that the journals should be printed in this Island, was not to be taken as a restriction on the style of printing, binding, &c. but also to the quality of the paper. This view was not adopted by the House, the reports of both Committees were adopted without discussion.

NEWS BY THE MAIL.

We have received by the Colonial and American Mails, which arrived here on Saturday night, and date to the 10th inst. The following telegrams furnish the latest intelligence from the seat of war in the States. They are taken from our latest Colonial papers. Our readers must judge whether such sources of information are worthy of much confidence. We confess we have but little faith in them.

Great Battle at Fort Donelson!

SIX GUNBOATS DESTROYED BY THE CONFEDERATES.

Capture of Fort Donelson by the Northern Troops.

Four Generals and 15,000 Prisoners Captured by Northern Forces.

NEW YORK, 15th. Special despatches to Chicago and St. Louis papers on the 14th, report a severe fighting going on for the capture of Fort Donelson, which commenced on the 13th.

The Confederates in the fort and entrenchments outside, number from fifteen to twenty thousand, with Generals Pillow, Floyd and Buckner.

The fort is completely invested, and the Federal force, which is concentrating from Fort Henry and Paducah, will number fully 50,000.

The Federals have driven the enemy from entrenchments on various points, and advanced to within the rebel lines.

Gunboats were arriving to co-operate, and it was designed to attack with the whole force of the Unionists and storm the fort if it is not surrendered.

By the capture of Roanoke Island the Confederates obtain possession of 6 forts, 40 guns, and 3,000 stand of arms, &c.

Missouri despatches of the 14th report that Gen. Fremont's division near Springfield. Prices were £1000 for the interest he took in the purchase of the Worrel Estate.

The first brigade of Hunter's division has left Lexington, and is marching towards the city.

Reports from Fort Donelson say Nashville claim advantage to Confederates so far; that Federals had been repulsed at every point, and gun boats driven off.

Reports from Chicago say that Confederates gave battle on Thursday outside of entrenchments, but were driven in after a severe fight.

Federals hold two Confederate batteries—fight to be renewed—more Federal troops and gunboats had arrived.

General Buell telegraphs that Mitchell's division by forced march reached Bowling Green to-day; making bridge to cross—Confederates having burnt bridge this morning, and were evacuating place.

Gen. Lander surprised and routed Confederate camp at Booney Gap, Upper Potomac—killing 13, capturing 17 officers, and 40 privates.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. The Asia has arrived.

It is said that the proposition of Mr. Gregory for the recognition of the Southern Confederacy will be discussed after the meeting of Parliament.

Earl Russell had written a letter to the Admiralty regarding the proposed vessels from entering British ports except from ports of weather, and to receive only supplies enough to convey them to the nearest home port.

It is presumed that this order will compel the Tascara and the Nashville to leave Southampton immediately.

The exportation of salt-petre from India, except to British ports, is prohibited.

Breakfasts and Provision market quiet and steady.

Privateer Sumpter remained at Gibraltar.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. Accounts from Fort Donelson represent the fighting on Friday and Saturday as very severe.

83 gunboats, loaded with shells, made a sortie, and captured a battery, but it was retaken by the Federal forces.

More gunboats are coming from Cairo.

Reports from Chicago say that Confederates reported taken, and "Stars and Stripes" floating over it. Loss on both sides very heavy.

Flag of truce from Confederates at Fortress Mound, Kentucky, says Fort Donelson is taken. Pillow, Johnson, and Floyd, with 15,000 other prisoners, taken.

The batteries of the fortifications situated one above another, delivered a plunging fire.

The Confederates loaded a black flag, made a sortie, and captured a battery, but it was retaken by the Federal forces.

For an answer to the misrepresentations in the last 'Islander' respecting the Montague Meeting, we refer our readers to the correspondence published in this day's paper, especially the letters of Mr. Stephen Swabey and Mr. W. D. Stewart, the Secretary of the Meeting.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.—The January Number of the Westminster Review, received from the publishers, Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., of New York, fully sustains the high literary character of its predecessors. We commend to the special notice of our readers the article on the dramatic poetry of Oehlenschlaeger, as introductory to an acquaintance with one of the aesthetic phases of the Danish mind. The late Admiral Sir Charles Napier forms the subject of an elegantly written sketch; and the memory of the late Prince Consort is recorded in terms of eloquent sympathy, worthy of the subject and its associations. The very ably written article on the Rights of Neutrality will amply repay perusal; and so, in fact, will the whole book.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a letter from W. A. Johnston, Esq., in answer to an advertisement which appeared in this day's paper from J. S. Carroll, Esq., respecting some misunderstanding between those gentlemen as regards Insurance Agencies. We have not space for Mr. Johnston's letter in this day's paper, owing partly to its length, and partly to the late hour at which we received it, but we will make room for it in our next No.

A frame building, of respectable dimensions, evidently intended for a place of worship, is now in course of completion, at the corner of Brunswick street, on the premises adjoining the delightful residence of Joseph Robinson, Esq. Rumor says that the Rev. Dr. John Knox, of the Baptist denomination, has been appointed pastor of a very high order, will commence laboring in the building in question, when it is completed. Dr. Knox has been most acceptably engaged in the ministry at Charlotte, P. E. Island, for several years, during which he has preached several times in this city.—Halifax paper.

THE NATIONAL TABLE OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN.—The interest on the National debt of England is now rather less than £4 per head. That of the Northern States bears fair to be about £3.50 to £3.75 per head, and if to that local State debts are added it will in the United States exceed the £4. The interest on the State debt of New York, for instance, will furnish at once the New York additional 50 cents per head.—New Brunswick.

UNION PRISONERS.—According to the Charleston Mercury of the 30th ult., there were in Richmond at that time one thousand and thirty-five prisoners. There have been sent to Raleigh thirty-two, to New Orleans four hundred and ninety-six, to Charleston one hundred and fifty, to Columbia, S. C., one hundred and fifty, Tusculum five hundred, Salisbury one hundred and seventy-six; released and sent home, fifty-six; in jail, forty-three; and in prison, besides those died in general hospital, one hundred; see, p. 2, night.

BRUTAL PUNISHMENT.—A correspondent of the Troy Times says that of Newport News he recently saw, on a cold bleak day, when the winds and waves were high, a small boat, in which were the U. S. frigate Cumberland, and in which were the only two men, a black man, who, as a punishment for intoxication, was in that condition compelled to walk from stem to stern of the boat for a half to three quarters of an hour, the boat tossing about, now on the summit of a great wave, and now in the trough of one, and in that moment in great peril of being pitched into the depths of the yawning deep. How he managed to preserve his balance, with his hands tied behind him, perfectly nude, and chilled through to the innermost recesses of vitality, as he must have been by the chill and raw winds that were raging round him, is more than can well be imagined. The extreme brutality of the punishment leads to the hope that it is a novelty in our fleet—no matter what crime may have provoked its use.

A NEW HORSE DISEASE IN BROAD ISLAND.—During the last two weeks, says the Bristol Phoenix, Mr. Henry B. Potter of this town has lost four valuable horses by a disease hitherto unknown in this city. The animals were first taken with a swelling of the throat, followed with a swelling of the throat, and in a very short time died. One horse died within ten hours after the first symptoms were discovered. An examination of the animals after death showed great inflammation of the throat, extending down the stomach.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Halloway's Pills.—Health reformers.—The variable temperature of the English climate during the winter months, has a deleterious influence on the skin, muscles, glands and joints; hence we find erysipelas, rheumatism, enlarged glands and bronchitis so very prevalent. These Halloway's remedies have proved themselves a perfect antidote for more than a quarter of a century. Thousands have cured themselves by rubbing in this invaluable Ointment, which, by continued friction penetrates the skin, and restores regularity to every organ, both as regards circulation, secretion and function. Halloway's pills are equally beneficial to aid the Ointment where the disease is constitutional, chronic, or dangerous, as they prevent the internal lodgment of any deleterious matters.

A Late Charlotte Town paper states that the revenue of P. E. Island for the past financial year, ending January 31, 1862, is likely to exhibit a deficit of at least ten thousand pounds. This sum, added to the existing public debt of the Colony, makes a total of about eighty thousand pounds. It is just possible that the "granary of the St. Lawrence" would shortly equal well if doubled. It is its present cumbersome machinery of Government, and annexed to either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.—Halifax Evening Express, Feb. 7.

The Express of last evening gives an account of a man named McLean, belonging to Piquet, who appeared before the Mayor on Saturday, and certified to brutal treatment received at Virginia since the breaking out of the rebellion. He was shot in the knee by a sergeant for being in the line in the Confederate army, and afterwards suffered a double amputation of his leg. The tale is a most distressing one, and we trust will receive attention.—Col.

At Pinette, on Thursday, the 14th inst., at the advanced age of 30 years, Margaret, relict of the late Mr. Donald Melville, died. She was a native of Scotland, and had a large number of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was kind and benevolent to all who made her acquaintance, and died in peace, trusting in the merits of her Saviour.

At Murray Harbour, Feb. 6, on the 8th inst., of consumption, after a long and painful illness, she here with patient resolve, to the end of her life, Ann MacCair, the beloved wife of Alexander Reid, in the 37th year of her age.

At Kenilworth, on the 18th inst., Elizabeth Ann, the beloved wife of John Myrie Hill, Esq., in the 35th year of her age.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

St. Dunstan's Cathedral Musical Concert.

A PUBLIC CHARITY CONCERT IN aid of the funds of the Benevolent Irish Society and the Catholic Ladies' Charitable Society, will be given as follows:

TEMPERANCE HALL, Monday Evening, March 3, 1862.

Under the Patronage of His Lordship the Bishop of Charlotte.

PROGRAMME.

1st PART.

1st. And Lang Syne. Band.

2nd. The Bigger Girl. Mezzo solo and Solo.

3rd. The Mary's Work. Chorus and Creation.

4th. When the Swallows Homeward Fly.

5th. Mark! the Carver's Solon Sound.

6th. "La Source." Piano-forte Solo.

7th. Awake the Sounds of Glory. Chorus.

8th. "The Last Rose of Summer." Soprano Solo.

9th. Garryone. Band.

2nd PART.

1st. March in Norma. Bellini. Band.

2nd. On the Banks of Sweet Garryone. Wabert from "Oberon." Weber.

3rd. Gloria in Excelsis, from the 12th Mass.

4th. The Cottage by the Sea. A. Mozart.

5th. Come, Fairies, Trip it on the Grass. Glee.

6th. Rule Britannia. Solo and Chorus.

7th. There's No Luck about the House, with variations. Clarinet Solo.

8th. Hunter's Chorus. from "Der Freischütz." Weber.

9th. God Save the Queen. Band.

Tickets 1s 6d; Front Seats 3s. To be had at the Stores of Hon. D. Brennan, Hon. P. Walker, W. R. Watson, D. McIsaac, and Owen Connolly, J. G. Eckstadt, Esquires, and at the Dock Wagon, 1 St. Harrison Street.

Those wishing to secure Reserved Seats, can do so by applying to W. R. Watson, where a plan of the seats can be seen. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Concert to commence at 8 o'clock.

By order of the Committee, ELIZ. D. GAUVREAU, Sec'y. Feb. 24, 1862. 1st & R W 2nd

Horses, Carriages, Household Furniture, &c.

TO be Sold by Auction, on SATURDAY, the 8th MARCH next, at 11 o'clock, at the residence of James McVie, next door to the Globe Hotel.

Stock and Furniture, 1 HORSE, 1 year old, 1 Horse 2 years old, 3 Horses, 2 years old, 1 Foal, 1 Supr Cow, lately calving, 1 single Waggon, 1 double Waggon, 2 pair Cattle, 1 pair Horses, 1 pair Cattle, 1 pair Sheep, 1 pair Pigs, 1 pair Chickens, 1 pair Ducks, 1 pair Geese, 1 pair Turkeys, 1 pair Rabbits, 1 pair Cats, 1 pair Dogs, 1 pair Fish, 1 pair Snails, 1 pair Mushrooms, 1 pair Apples, 1 pair Potatoes, 1 pair Onions, 1 pair Carrots, 1 pair Turnips, 1 pair Cabbages, 1 pair Lettuces, 1 pair Cucumbers, 1 pair Peas, 1 pair Beans, 1 pair Lentils, 1 pair Corn, 1 pair Hay, 1 pair Straw, 1 pair Manure, 1 pair Lime, 1 pair Salt, 1 pair Oil, 1 pair Vinegar, 1 pair Sugar, 1 pair Tea, 1 pair Coffee, 1 pair Spices, 1 pair Herbs, 1 pair Fruits, 1 pair Flowers, 1 pair Plants, 1 pair Seeds, 1 pair Tools, 1 pair Implements, 1 pair Machines, 1 pair Engines, 1 pair Boats, 1 pair Carriages, 1 pair Furniture, 1 pair Household Goods, 1 pair Miscellaneous.

Bank of P. E. Island.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the BANK OF P. E. ISLAND, will take place at the Bank, Queen Street, Charlotte, on TUESDAY, the 4th day of MARCH next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of choosing a new Board of Directors, and for the purpose of auditing the accounts, and for the purpose of transacting such other business as shall be deemed proper by the Board.

By B. G. B. the 6th Div. Law all persons owing to the Bank, or by proxy, must deposit their accounts with the Cashier at least one day previous to the day of meeting.

Wm. CUNDELL, Cashier. Feb. 21st, 1862.

NOTICE.