

Smaller sums were successively proposed, and finally sixpence; when—it being evident the majority had no intention to encourage the fisheries, although they had previously expressed their approval of the Bounty principle—a motion was made for the Speaker to take the chair (without reporting), which was carried on the casting vote of Mr. Hugh McDonald—he being chairman of the committee—and the Bill was, of course, lost. From this it appears there were many beside myself in favour of Bounties, which you have taken so much pains to ridicule. But ridicule and argument are two different things. Your wit\* is not quite so amusing as the stale jokes of Joe Miller; and as for your ratiocination, even Mr. Montgomery might blush to father the twaddle that fills your scientific scull.†

Now, when the House refused to entertain the Bounty question, there was little reason to believe that a Reserve Bill could be carried through, especially after hearing gentlemen on both sides express an opinion, that a majority could not be secured in its favour. I was nevertheless anxious to test the House upon the subject, and would have introduced a Bill had not my brother committee men overruled me in the matter. The committee were unanimous in recommending the postponement of the measure; and unless I chose to usurp the authority given them in conjunction with myself, I had no alternative from yielding to their decision.

On commencing this letter, I thought I would be able, at the close, to "bid a long good night to Marmion," but reading your last communication (No. 5), I find that

"Still there are follies e'en for me to chase,  
And yield at least amusement in the race."

EDWARD WHELAN.

September 22.

\* Possibly you have more wit than I give you credit for, and, like Hudibras, who,

"—Altho' he had much wit,  
Was very shy of using it,  
As being loth to wear it out,  
And therefore bore it not about"—

you reserve it for 'holy days or so,' when it may show off to better advantage than in relieving the dullness of the *Islander*.

† I head a friend of yours a short time ago observe, that "Mr. Maclean is, and ought to be, an acute reasoner, because, owing to his scientific studies, he has acquired the habit of investigating every proposition with great minuteness, and cannot fail readily to perceive and reject every weak point of an argument." If we were to judge of your scientific attainments by your literary labours, I fear the judgment would be rather unfavourable. Your friend, no doubt, thinks that your intellectual character bears a close resemblance, in some points, to that of the Knight-errant:

"He was in logic a great critic,  
Profoundly skilled in analytic;  
He could distinguish and divide  
A hair 'twixt south and south west side.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
And weave fine cobwebs fit for scull  
That's empty when the moon is full.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
In Mathematics he was greater  
Than Tycho Brahe or Erra Pater:  
For he by geometric scale  
Could take the size of pots of ale;  
Resolve, by signs and tangents, straight,  
If bread or butter wanted weight;  
And wisely tell what hour o' th' day  
The clock does strike by algebra.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
He knew what's what, and that's as high  
As metaphysic wit can fly."

If we could only prove that your other friend at the New London Ponds is "by birth a tailor," his likeness to Ralpho would be complete; for we are told of this worthy squire,

"His wit was sent him for a token,  
But in the carriage crack'd and broken;"  
and that he was like  
"Sir Agrippa, for profound  
And solid lying much renown'd."

**Colonial and United States News.**

On Thursday night the Packet arrived with the mails from Pictou, by which we have received our exchanges from the neighbouring Provinces, Newfoundland, Bermuda, and the United States. We glean the following items of news:

**DREADFUL MURDER.**—The St. John (N. B.) *Morning News* of the 13th inst. states that a most horrible murder was committed at Portland on the 12th inst. An intoxicated man named Andrews had been quarrelling with his wife throughout the day, and after violently assaulting and abusing her for several hours, finally satiated his diabolical feeling by beating her to death. The unfortunate woman exhibited after death, unmis-

takable evidence of having received the most brutal treatment from her unnatural assailant, being literally blackened and covered with bruises. The inhuman husband was taken into custody, and is now in jail.

**THE CROPS IN CANADA.**—Canadian papers describe the devastation amongst the potato crop, throughout many parts of Canada East, as very extensive, and add, that the potatoe, if attainable at all during the next season, will be attainable only as a luxury. The Grain crops throughout Canada West are represented as very abundant. —The number of emigrants who passed through Toronto, in the period of one year, is stated to be 39,000.

**NEWFOUNDLAND AFFAIRS.**—Newfoundland papers are to the 12th. The fishery is stated to have turned out very prosperously; but the failure in the potato crop appears to be very general. The Harbor Grace *Herald*, September 6, says 'that a recurrence of the evil which occasioned so much poverty and destitution last winter, is to all appearance, about to be realized again this season. Within the past four or five days the potato rot has developed itself here to an extent that cannot but awaken our most serious apprehensions, several very promising fields containing the produce of from six to eight barrels of seed each, having been completely destroyed. In Carbonear the complaint is now very general, and from the fact that the tubers are considerably behind what they were this time last year in point of maturity, it is much to be feared that the loss of food in the present instance will be much greater than before.'

A general Election is to take place in Newfoundland this Fall. Responsible Government has been denied by the British Minister to the people of the colony, and the old constitution is to be revived and given instead—that is, a Council, partly chosen by the Crown, and combining legislative and executive functions. This appears to give much dissatisfaction, as might indeed be expected.

**HURRICANE IN THE WEST INDIES.**—The *Bermudian* of the 13th Sept. copies from Antigua papers the particulars of a violent Hurricane which visited that and several other of the West India Islands on the 21st August. Towns and villages have been devastated—valuable Estates rendered almost useless—shipping to a frightful extent destroyed, and many human lives sacrificed. "It is supposed," says the Antigua Observer, 'that throughout the Island there have been two thousand buildings unroofed, and seven hundred totally destroyed. By far the larger portion of these are the cottages of the labouring classes.'—The number of persons killed is stated to exceed 30,—of cattle and live stock destroyed, the number is incalculable.

**GREAT FIRE IN BROOKLYN, N. YORK.**—U. States papers furnish the details of a very destructive conflagration, which lately occurred in Brooklyn, N. York. It originated in a building used for dressing feathers, and, in defiance of every effort made to stop its progress, spread through many streets, destroying beautiful edifices, and bringing bankruptcy and misery to thousands. Property to the value of a million and a half of dollars is reported to be consumed—300 houses having been burnt, the ruins of which cover a space of eight or ten acres.

**THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.**—The preliminaries for the Election of a President form the principal subject of discussion in the public journals of the United States. The Election will take place in November next, for which the candidates are Mr. Van Buren, General Cass, and General Taylor. Although the latter gentleman is put forth by the Whig Conventions, yet, in some parts of the Union, the democrats have joined issue in favor of the hero of Rio Grande and Palo Alto; but in Massachusetts, which is pretty generally influenced by Whig principles, we find that some of the leaders of the Whig party, and particularly that distinguished statesman and orator, Daniel Webster—question the propriety of raising General Taylor to the presidential chair, on the ground of it being contrary to the practice in the Union to go to the army for a president. Mr. Webster adverts to the fact of General Washington and General Harrison being called from the army to the chief Magistracy, but he explains, that they had for many

years served their country in civil stations, before their election, and had shown a capacity for administrative duties no less brilliant than were their exploits on the field; whereas, General Taylor has had no experience in civil life, and is known to his country only as a brave and successful military officer. At this distance from the scene of contention, and perplexed by the many conflicting opinions which come to us through American journals, we acknowledge our inability even to conjecture which of the candidates is most likely to succeed President Polk, or which is best fitted to fill the office. It is, nevertheless, a matter of importance even to British Colonists to know the result of an election that must controul the destinies of a powerful nation in our own neighbourhood, and which, mayhap, influence the course of events in countries beyond the boundaries of the American Republic; we shall, therefore, watch with anxiety the issue of the contest, and duly advertize our readers of every important fact it may develop.

**Late News from England in advance of the Mail.**

We are indebted to the politeness of the Hon. Mr. Young, (who arrived from Pictou via Georgetown on Saturday evening) for a London paper, "The News of the World," of the 10th inst. received by the Royal Mail Steamship, which got into Halifax on Friday last.

Parliament was prorogued on the 5th instant by the Queen in person. Her Majesty's Speech compliments Parliament on its long and laborious attendance—reviews some of the measures of the Session, and thanks and congratulates her people on the maintenance of peace in the Empire, while so many of the other states of Europe were in commotion. Nothing of importance characterised the last days of the Session. Mr. Hume gave notice that he would next Session introduce a measure for the extension of the franchise and the adoption of the ballot at elections.

Arrests of persons concerned in the late Chartist disturbances in England continued to be made. In Ireland some few arrests have taken place, but they are unimportant. Neither O'Gorman nor Doheny has yet been found.—The trial of Mr. Smith O'Brien and his companions is announced to commence at Clonmel on the 28th instant.

The Crops throughout the United Kingdom continued to look well. The produce of the wheat crop, it is said, will be larger than it was supposed it would be a week ago, and the oats will be very abundant.

Preparations were making in Limerick to give Lord George Bentinck a public dinner—the noble lord being expected shortly to visit that city.

There is but little foreign news of any importance. King Charles Albert, in a proclamation to his soldiers, dated 28th August, announced his intention to recommence the war against Austria immediately, on the expiration of the armistice, unless conditions compatible with the honour and independence of Italy be received from Austria.

On the 17th of August a fearful conflagration broke out in Constantinople, originating in a fruit bazaar, and before it ceased 500 houses, including many splendid palaces and mosques, besides 2,500 ships in port, were totally consumed. The loss by the fire is estimated at from two millions to four millions pounds Sterling.

**THE SPECIAL COMMISSION IN TIPPERARY.**—The Government have finally arranged that the Special Commission shall be opened in Clonmel, on Thursday, the 21st instant. On that day, the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench will charge the grand Jury; and the bills of indictment will be sent before them; but it is probable that the bills will not be found until the next day, as several witnesses will have to be examined. As soon as true bills are returned, the Court will adjourn, in order to afford an interval of five clear days between the delivery of copies of the indictment to the prisoners and their arraignment. It is likely that the trials will commence about the 28th or 29th instant.

Monday Evening, 7 o'clock.—Up to this hour there was no appearance of the Mail Packet "Peri."

**Fair at the Ten Mile House.**

A FAIR will be held at James Fitzpatrick's, Ten mile House, on the 12th day of October next, for the sale of Live Stock and Agricultural Produce. Sept. 25th, 1843.