

Gleanings from late Papers.

THE QUEEN'S PRESENT TO MISS NIGHTINGALE.—The design suggested by the Prince Consort...

THE HUSBAND OF FIFTEEN WIVES.—The Rajah of Tanjore has died without heir, either of his own body, collateral, or adopted...

ROMANCE WITHOUT FICTION.—The Chicago Times relates the following tale—

In a small town in the interior of Ohio lived a beautiful young woman, whose father dying, willed her the whole of a large fortune...

Years afterwards the abandoned bride received a letter from her husband, who had learned that she had become possessed of the property designed for her...

NEWSPAPER PROFITS IN NEW YORK.—We learn from good authority, and are glad to itemize the fact, that the net profits of the Tribune newspaper for the past year amount to \$95,000...

THE BALTIC FLEET FOR 1856.—The London Globe gives, as nearly as possible, an accurate list of the Baltic fleet for 1856. It is to consist of thirty-eight line-of-battle ships and heavily armed frigates...

The "American Almanac" gives the following as the aggregate population of the world:— Africa, 100,000,000; America, 57,706,882; Asia, 326,000,000; Australia, 1,445,000; Europe, 263,517,521; Polynesia, 1,500,000.

LONDON THE GREATEST CITY.—London is now the greatest city in the world, and far surpasses all the great cities of antiquity. According to Gibbon, the population of ancient Rome in the height of its magnificence, was 1,200,000; Nincveh is estimated to have had 600,000, and Dr. Medhurst supposes that the population of Pekin is about 2,000,000.

The story of Hogarth and his portrait of the nobleman which he was going to sell to a showman for a beast, reminds a friend of the following, for which he vouches: "A very clever artist in the Western part of the States, was called upon by a miserly old man to paint his portrait,

for which he agreed, after a great deal of hanting and jowling, to pay fifty dollars. The old man was no beauty, but when the picture was done, it was so ugly that he swore he would never have it in his house, and the artist might whistle for his money. He finally offered to give thirty dollars for it, but to this the painter would not consent.

It is said that Jenny Lind receives five hundred pounds sterling for each concert in which she sings in the series now in progress in London.

Travelling on the Sabbath, in the Sandwich Islands, except in the direction of a church, is strictly forbidden by law.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, FEBRUARY 18, 1856.

(From the Royal Gazette of Thursday last.)

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THIS day, Thursday, February 14, being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, His Excellency DOMINICK DALY, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, came down to the Colonial Building about two o'clock, in front of which he was received by a Guard of Honor...

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have called you together at the period which experience has shown to be most convenient for the ordinary course of public business.

Under the blessing of Divine Providence, the late harvest has proved abundant, and will, no doubt, stimulate those engaged in agricultural pursuits to perseverance in the habits of industry and order which have marked their course during the past year, and which cannot fail to produce the happiest results.

I am happy to be enabled to inform you that the decrease which I anticipated in the Revenue of the past year is unimportant, and that in this slight fluctuation, which may be easily accounted for, there is nothing to apprehend for the stability and soundness of the resources of the Island, the Revenue being more than equal to the ordinary expenditure.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The Public Accounts shall be submitted to you as speedily as practicable, and I rely upon your readiness to make provision for the efficient support of the public service.

The Laws for the collection of the Revenue, as well as for its protection from the baneful effects of illicit traffic, appear to me to be liable to serious objections; to remedy which their careful revision and consolidation has become necessary; and in directing your attention to this important branch of the public service, I cannot doubt that it will receive all the consideration which the extended commercial relations and increasing importance of the trade of this Island demand.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I feel assured that the interest you have manifested in the events of the War is undiminished, and that, although exempted from the great sacrifices which it entails, you are not the less solicitous for its early and satisfactory termination.

The Act of the last Session "to impose a rate or duty on the Rent Rolls of the Proprietors of certain rented Township Lands in this Island," and also the "Act to secure compensation to Tenants," have not received Her Majesty's confirmation.

The grounds upon which the decision of Her Majesty's Government regarding those measures is founded, shall be communicated to you. I am happy to inform you that the transactions respecting the sale of Public Lands, which will, in due course, be submitted to you, have, in their progress, fully justified the expectations formed of the effects to be derived from the Land Purchase Bill, in the desired conversion of Leaseholders into independent Freeholders, advantages which are only limited by the small amount placed by that measure at the disposal of the Government.

The great advantages, moral and social, which are derived from the constant extension of Free Education, are appreciated to a very gratifying extent, as the rapidly increasing number of schools, already amounting to 268, and attended by above 11,000 pupils, fully testifies.

The agricultural portion of the community continue to derive substantial benefits from the operations of the Royal Agricultural Society, whose judicious importations supply those necessary articles, which could not be rendered available by unassisted private enterprise.

Closely bound up with the success of Agriculture and Trade, is the state of the Island communication with the neighbouring Colonies; and no more judicious application of the public resources can be devised than such as may be required to render this communication more secure, as well as frequent and expeditious. Any expenditure with this very important object, cannot fail to be repaid by the increased benefits which it will confer on every class of the community.

These, and all other objects affecting the public interests, will, I doubt not, receive your fostering care and attention; and you may always rely upon my cordial co-operation, in every well directed effort, to promote the welfare of the people and the prosperity of Prince Edward Island.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

We have very little information to give our readers with regard to the proceedings of the House of Assembly since its re-assembling on Thursday last.—The first business transacted was the appointment of an Assistant Clerk, in the place of the late Mr. John Ross. Mr. F. W. Hughes was proposed by Hon. Mr. Warburton, and seconded by Mr. Clark. The names of other gentlemen were severally proposed in amendment, but

were lost by large majorities, and Mr. Hughes was finally elected.—Mr. Robert Laird was then proposed as Reporter, and his election was carried without opposition.—On a motion for the appointment of a Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journal and Debates of the House, a long discussion ensued, which was chiefly in reference to the manner in which the Debats were published last Session—several members contending that the system then pursued, viz., that of publishing the debates in a separate sheet, did not give satisfaction to the public; while others demonstrated that greater publicity had been given to the debates last Session than on any previous occasion, although it was admitted that they were not completed until late in the Fall, which was not the fault of the system. Several suggestions were thrown out as to a different mode of giving publicity to the proceedings of the House, but none of them were agreed to; and after about an hour's fruitless discussion, the motion for a Committee was carried; and the debates will, therefore, be published this Session in a manner similar to that of the last.—The rest of the time of the House, up to the hour of adjournment, was occupied with the usual routine of appointing Committees.

The House did not again meet until the afternoon of the following day, (Friday), when the report of the Committee on Printing was received and agreed to.—Mr. Ings's tender for printing the Debates and Journal, being the lowest, was accepted.—Several official documents, being Treasurer's Accounts principally, were presented to the House by the Hon. Mr. Warburton. We believe little or no other business was transacted this day.

On Saturday, Mr. Whelan, from the Committee appointed to prepare the draft of an Address in answer to the Governor's Speech, submitted the draft, which is to be taken into consideration in Committee of the whole House to-day, (Monday), when, we suppose, the first debate of the Session will take place.—Mr. Clark also presented the Report of the Committee on expiring laws, which was under consideration of the House in Committee on Saturday afternoon.

REPORTING.

As we could not expect to get the debates of the House of Assembly until after they had been furnished to Mr. Ings, and printed by him, agreeably to his contract, which would be entirely too late to be made use of by us, to the satisfaction of our readers, we have engaged the services of a competent gentleman to report for our own paper exclusively; and in addition to the Debates of the House we shall give a full account of the proceedings of the Legislative Council, hitherto not reported at all, or very sparingly. And in order that the two Houses of Legislature may be in possession of a printed account of their proceedings, without waiting for the issue of a weekly Newspaper, we shall issue a small sheet, to be styled THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER, whenever and as often as we can procure matter sufficient to fill it. By this arrangement, though it may involve considerable expense to us, we trust to be not only not behind, but sometimes in advance of the party contracting for printing the debates.

FIRE AT BRACKLEY POINT.—We regret to learn that on the morning of Thursday last, about half past three o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Ewen McMillan, Esq., at Brackley Point, and before it could be extinguished, the whole of his Dwelling House, with its contents, was consumed. There was a farmer's boiler in an outer kitchen, and it is supposed that the fire under that caught the floor, and thus led to the catastrophe. In addition to the loss of the dwelling house, and very nearly all the furniture, large quantities of potatoes, turnips and seed barley, were destroyed; and it was with much difficulty that some of the family were saved from the devastating element. We have not heard the amount of Mr. McMillan's loss, but we believe it was very considerable, there being no insurance whatever on any of the property destroyed.

The Colonial and United States mails arrived here twice during the past week, but the papers received furnish no news of any importance.

Abstract of the Revenue for the year 1855, compared with the Revenue for the year 1854.

Table with 4 columns: 1855, 1854, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Impost and Excise Duties, Light & Anchorage Duty, Head Money, Post Office, Land Assessment, Licenses, Registrar's Fees, Secretary's Fees, Surveyor General's Fees, Jew's Fees, Crown Lands, Public Lands, Redeemed Lands, Wharf and Bridge Dues, Interest on Bonds, Fines & Penalties, Salaries, Book Sales, Monies unexpended, Rent of Warren Farm, Ch. Town Market, Unclaimed Goods, Weighing Machine, Hog Leaves, Customs fees, Vice Admiralty sale, Surcharges, Coroner of King's County, Sale of Stove.

JAMES WARBURTON, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Office, February 5, 1856.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Tuesday evening last, Archibald McNeill, Esq., delivered a lecture upon "Scientific Knowledge." The lecturer enlarged upon the importance of scientific pursuits to practical men, and gave numerous instances of persons obtaining eminence through their discoveries in science, such as Newton, Franklin, Galvani, and (as one of the speakers in debate invariably says) "a host of others." He then urged upon our mechanics the necessity of their devoting a portion of their leisure time to the acquisition of knowledge, the more especially if they ever wished to elevate themselves in the standard of society, and pointed out to them how much more favourable their circumstances were in this Island than in the crowded and over-taxed cities of Europe. He then cited instances of the perseverance exhibited by individuals in the pursuit of science, until they had attained the summit of improvement, invention and skill; and he showed how much depended upon man himself, in improving his mind, and in being successful through life. He then concluded his very interesting and erudite lecture by deprecating upon the

pleasures and advantages of science, and recommending all young men especially, to read works on scientific subjects, so that they may become useful members of the community. A strong debate followed, during which it was satisfactorily proved that the inhabitants of this Island are deriving great benefit from the facilities afforded by the system of free education imparted by a wise government, and from the excellent books now being brought throughout every settlement. On to-morrow (Tuesday) evening, there will be a Musical Soiree, with a short lecture on "Music," and some addresses.—Advertiser.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE. Arrival of the Steamship Persia. ENCOURAGING PEACE PROSPECTS. NEW YORK, Jan. 9.

The Persia has arrived. Peace prospects are on the increase. The Czar has ordered his army in the Crimea to cease hostilities, without waiting for a formal armistice. It is reported that an armistice for three months has been agreed upon.

It is rumored that Plenipotentiaries from the several Powers, will meet either in London or Paris early in February, when negotiations will commence.

The London Daily News on undoubted authority asserts that preliminaries to a treaty will be signed forthwith.

There is no special news aside from the peace speculations. Consols 90 1/2.

Breadstuffs dull. Canada flour, 40s; Ohio, 42s; Wheat, slightly improved; Corn, sixpence; provisions quiet, little change.

COLONIAL NEWS.

MEETING OF THE NOVA-SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.—On Thursday the 31st ult., both branches of the Legislature were opened with the usual formalities. Stewart Campbell was elected speaker of the House without opposition, and Alex. James, Esq., Clerk by a majority of eight over H. C. D. Twining, Esq., the late incumbent. James G. Tobin, Esq., was elected Clerk-Assistant by the same majority; Geo. R. Grassie was elected Sergeant-at-arms without opposition; Mr. E. Joice was elected Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms; Dr. Twining was elected Chaplain, and John Fitzgerald re-elected messenger. The Lieutenant Governor, in his speech, congratulated the Legislature on the exemption of the Province from war and pestilence, and on the success which, in the last season, had attended the principal industrial pursuits of the Province. The revenue is stated to be somewhat diminished in productiveness, when compared with the preceding year, owing to reduction of duties; but is, nevertheless, amply sufficient to meet all demands upon it, and affords satisfactory evidence of the increased energies and growing prosperity of the people. His Excellency then directed the attention of the Legislature to the leading business which would be brought before it, during the ensuing session, as follows:

"A measure, having for its object the improvement of the general educational condition of the Country, will be submitted for your consideration.

"Our Railway system is progressing favorably, and I trust that, when the Accounts of the expenditure, and liabilities connected with it, are laid before you, the utmost prudence and economy will be found to have been observed by those to whom the Legislature has entrusted the conduct of this important branch of the public service.

"The Reports and Accounts respecting St. Peter's Canal and the Lunatic Asylum, when submitted to you, will show that those public works have advanced satisfactorily during the past season.

"On the subject of the Mines and Minerals in connection with the claims of the General Mining Association, an opinion of the Imperial Law Officers of the Crown, and a Correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, will be laid before you, which will doubtless engage your most earnest attention.

"A measure will be submitted to you, founded on the example of the Mother Country, and on our local experience, for facilitating the collection, and improving the administration, of the Revenue.

"The substitution of a simpler and more economical process for re-vesting forfeited lands in the Crown, in place of the existing system, will be proposed to you by my Government.

"The selection of Stock which I have made, in accordance with the desire, expressed in the closing Session of the last Parliament, will, I trust, commend themselves to your approval.

"I venture to indulge a confident expectation that the further promotion of Agriculture, in its various relations, will, in the present Session, command the interest of the Representatives of a people thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of that great object.

"Some modification of the existing Laws for protection of the River Fisheries appears to me imperatively called for, and I trust that your local experience will suggest such improvement of them as will ensure the attainment of the purpose for which they were enacted."

The address in answer to the speech was moved in the House by Mr. A. C. McDonald, of Pictou.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF NOVA SCOTIA.—The Attorney General, of the Sister Province, on presenting to the Assembly the Public Accounts on the 2nd instant, made the following satisfactory statement of its financial affairs:—Hon. Attorney General said.—Mr. Speaker, by command of the Lieut. Governor, I lay on the table of the House the most material portion of the public accounts—to a few of the leading items of which I beg leave to turn the attention of hon. gentlemen. The first is the cash account of the Receiver General with the province—showing a balance in the treasury on the 1st of January, 1856, of £23,730. The colonial and light duties collected during the year amounted to £118,000—£90,000 of which was collected in Halifax, and £28,000 in the outports—to which is to be added £7,000 realised from the distillery licenses, making in all £125,000.—The only reduction to which this sum is subject is £4,000 paid out for drawbacks—leaving £121,000, being the actual cash receipts for 1855. This sum is between £8,000 and £9,000 less than was collected in 1854—the decrease being attributable to the withdrawal of duties consequent upon the passage of the reciprocity bill. The casual revenue yielded about £18,000, which, added to the £121,000, makes a grand total of £139,000. On the credit side of this account is also a sum of £21,500 received from the Savings' Bank. There was an issue of provincial notes during the year which amounted to £34,000, making with other small sums the whole amount received into the treasury in 1855, independent of Railway funds, £208,000.—There was a balance on hand on the 1st of January, 1855, of £11,000, making in all £219,000. Turning now to the payments it will be found that they amounted to £196,000 in all. Taking the most material of these, I may observe that the accounts connected with the Board of Works show the expenditure in that department, including the Lunatic Asylum, Light House, Provincial building, Government House, and the Penitentiary, to amount to £23,250; of our various Educational institutions £17,700; Legislative expenses £7,000; Postal communication £5,600; the collection of the revenue £8,400; Official salaries, including the Lieut. Governor, all the Judges, Officers of Government, pensions, &c., £15,655; for interest £3,400; Saint Peter's Canal £3,150; Road service £45,000;—making the entire payments for the year ending 31st Dec., 1855, as already stated, £196,000. I do not know that there is any other material item in this paper to which I need refer.