

Opening of Parliament.

From the Montreal Herald.

Thursday Morning, July 3, 1847.

His Excellency the Governor General, attended by a numerous Staff and several of the Heads of Departments, Civil and Military, proceeded in State, yesterday afternoon, to open the third Session of the present Provincial Parliament. His Excellency was received by a Guard of Honor from the Rifle Regiment.

As is usual, the whole of the space within the Bar of the Legislative Council Chamber, appropriated to strangers, was given up for the exclusive accommodation of the ladies, of whom the dits of the beauty and fashion of Montreal were present.

At three o'clock, Lord Elgin entered the Chamber, surrounded by a brilliant Staff. His Excellency wore the uniform of Governor General, and having taken the oath of Allegiance to the Crown, the Black Rod, by command of His Excellency, summoned to his presence the Members of the Legislative Assembly, who, almost immediately entered the Chamber, and took their places before the Bar.

His Excellency then read the following Speech:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

It gives me sincere gratification to meet you, that we may deliberate on the important interests committed to our charge.

The representations which have proceeded from this and the neighboring Provinces, on the subject of the Post Office, have engaged the anxious consideration of the Imperial Government. I am enabled to inform you, that her Majesty's Ministers are prepared to sanction in their Provincial authorities, arrangements for the better management of the Post Office system, the advantages of a uniform Post Office system.

By a Statute passed during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, the Colonial Legislatures are empowered to repeal differential duties, heretofore imposed on the Colonies in favor of British produce. It is probable that by exercising this power you may be enabled to benefit the consumer without injury to the Revenue. I commend this subject to your consideration, and I shall lay before you certain communications in relation to it, which have been received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and from the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Measures will be submitted to you for extending more generally Warehousing facilities to Island Ports, and for effecting other improvements in our commercial system, all of which will, I am sure, engage your attention.

In pursuance of an Address presented by the House of Assembly during the course of last Session, inquiries have been instituted with the view of ascertaining the practicability and probable cost of the construction of a Railway between Quebec and Halifax. A survey of the proposed line has been undertaken by the Imperial Government and is still in progress.

I shall submit for your information a Despatch from the Secretary of State, describing the course which Her Majesty's Government propose to take in order to remedy the inconvenience which the Possession of British North America appears to have sustained from the operation of the Imperial Statute for the protection of Copy-right.

In view of the large immigration which may be expected to take place this year, measures have been ordered for providing additional accommodation and Medical attendance for the sick; and for increasing the means of forwarding the destitute to places where their labor may be required. An increased grant has been made by the Imperial Parliament in aid of this service. Although it is to be feared that there may be much suffering among certain classes of immigrants who arrive in this season, I have reason to believe that they will be accompanied by a considerable amount of persons possessed of capital who are likely to prove an acquisition to the Province.

Complaints of the Legislature Assembly, I have directed the Agents of the Revenue and Excise of the past year, with the exception of the current year, to be laid before you.

I observe with satisfaction that there is an increase in the Revenue derived from Public Works.

I rely on your making such provision for the maintenance of the establishments and credit of the Province as may be necessary to support the high character for probity and good faith which Canada has at all times maintained.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen, We have reason to bless Providence for our exemption from the calamity of famine with which so many parts of the Empire have been so severely afflicted, and congratulate you on the liberty which the inhabitants of this Colony of all classes and origins have enjoyed in contributing to the relief of their suffering fellow subjects.

I cannot refrain from advertising to the fact that among those whose generosity has been so conspicuous on this trying occasion, are our Indian brethren.

The occurrences of the past year, though in some measures exceptional, indicate that there is a growing demand in Europe for the produce of this continent, and render it highly important that the inhabitants of Canada should improve to the utmost their natural advantages, and those which attach to it, as an integral part of an Empire abounding in wealth and population.

I feel confident that you will duly appreciate the responsibility which rests on Parliament at this conjuncture, and that you will endeavor by wise legislation to afford all practicable extension and development to the trade and productive capabilities of the Province and to give its institutions that bold and the affections of the people, which is the foundation of public and private credit, and the best security for social progress.

In all measures calculated to effect these important objects, I am prepared heartily to co-operate with you and I am authorized to renew the assurance of the earnest desire of our Gracious Queen, to promote the prosperity of Canada and the happiness of its people.

His Excellency then rose and, escorted as before, retired, under a salute of nineteen guns. The weather was extremely propitious, and a large crowd of spectators, cordially cheered His Excellency on his arrival and departure from the Parliament House.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 21 June, 1847.

The members having returned from the Chamber of the Legislative Council, the Speaker took the Chair, when Mr. Conger, member for Prince Edward; Mr. Cameron, Solicitor General West; and Mr. Fournier, Lislet, were introduced and took their seats.

The SPEAKER informed the House that he had issued a warrant for the election of a member for the County of Simcoe, in the place of Mr. Robinson, who had accepted the office of First Commissioner of Public Works, which had been accepted upon; but another warrant had been issued by two members of the House, which had been accepted; he also informed the House, of his having issued various other warrants, to fill vacancies which had occurred during the recess.

Mr. DRAKER gave notice that it was his intention to resign his seat. Col. PRINCE wished to know when the honor of a seat was going to resign his seat, and if it was the intention of the gentleman who had accepted the vacant Judgeship, was correct? (Order, order.) He merely intended to put a question, and no lodging would prevent his ascertaining it. They knew that office was seldom resigned without a consideration. Mr. DRAKER said he had received a communication from the Government, and that he had obtained permission to delay a given answer, and when he (Mr. D.) had given that answer, the hon. member would obtain the information he sought for.

Mr. BALDWIN said that he was desirous of obtaining some information regarding the terms of the Writ for the County of Simcoe. Mr. Speaker had issued a warrant which had not acted upon, but there had been another warrant issued by two members which had been acted upon, and upon which the hon. member had returned; the reason why this had been done would require explanation, because the issuing of the second commission implied that there was no Speaker. He knew that it was unparliamentary to notice more rumors; but it had been rumored that the Speaker had vacated his seat; but the importance of the question was so great that he felt bound to ask the Speaker if these rumors were correct.

Mr. PRINCE moved that the warrants referred to, with reference to the Writ for Simcoe, be laid before the House.—Agreed to. Mr. BALDWIN thought the explanation should be given now, as it was a question concerning the right of the Speaker to occupy the chair he now sat on, as it might be found that he had no right to it for the late Attorney General East and the Provincial Secretary, had, by their issuing the second warrant for Simcoe, shown themselves to be of opinion that the Speaker had vacated his seat.

Mr. DRAKER said that the commission of Sir Allan McNab, Adjutant General of Militia, was forwarded to him on the 4th June, and was returned to him (Mr. D.) on the 10th June; the warrant bore date the 6th June.—He had taken it for granted that Sir Allan McNab would accept the commission, and therefore very reasonably supposed that his seat was vacated at the time they issued the warrant.

Mr. BALDWIN.—Was the office accepted by the Hon. Speaker? for it is the acceptance of the office that vacates the seat, and not the issuing of the commission. Mr. DRAKER.—I was expected when the commission was issued that it would be accepted. Col. PRINCE thought that the question whether the office had been accepted, ought to be referred to a select committee.

Mr. DE BUCHERELLE thought that it was not the hon. Speaker, but the Government, which should give the necessary explanations. He thought that it was the duty of the Ministers, before they issued the writ, to know whether the office had been accepted or not. The Government had committed a blunder in issuing the warrant before they knew whether the commission had been accepted or not. He approved of the suggestion of referring the commission to a committee, which he thought would dispose of the matter in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. PRINCE wished to know if the commission had been returned before the warrant was issued. Mr. CAVLEY.—It was not; the commission was issued on the 4th and received back on the 10th June. Mr. GOWAN said that either the seat of the member for Simcoe, or that of the Hon. Speaker, was vacated; they could not both be members of the House; the Speaker had not vacated his seat at the time the warrant was issued, then the warrant was illegal, and the member for Simcoe was not a member of the House; and if the Hon. Speaker had vacated his seat, he had vacated it before the commission was issued, and he had vacated his seat in the capacity of Adjutant General.

Mr. SPEAKER said Mr. Gowan had been misinformed. Mr. BALDWIN opposed it being referred to a committee,—the House could not know whether it was necessary to refer to a committee until some explanation had been given, and, besides, it ought to be decided by the House at once, for it would be improper for the House to proceed in any business which it was uncertain whether they had a Speaker or not.

Mr. AYLWORTH said that if the two members who had signed the warrant, had not been members of the Government, he might have been satisfied with the explanation. The learned gentleman then proceeded to accuse the Ministry of want of candor, and demanded that they should give a full explanation of the whole matter,—and said that if the Ministry did not do so, he would be obliged to move for an address to His Excellency praying for copies of all papers relative to the matter.

Mr. MORRIS.—The subject under consideration, might be considered first as to the Speaker, secondly as to the Executive Council, and thirdly as to the Ministers. The Speaker had done right, and that he had taken the proper course; nothing had transpired to make the House believe that the Speaker had vacated his seat;—it was not the issuing of a commission, which vacated a seat, but the acceptance of an office of profit. With regard to the members of the Executive, it was very extraordinary that the two members did not ascertain whether the commission had been accepted or not, before they issued the warrant for Simcoe, but they had explained to the House how it had happened.

Mr. AYLWORTH made some remarks, which did not reach the Reporter's box. After some further remarks from Mr. Aylw., Mr. CAVLEY said that he would be prepared on Friday to lay before the House, the information and documents required.

Mr. AYLWORTH, after expressing himself satisfied with the promise of the member for Huron, moved that the House be adjourned until Friday.

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, June 4, 1847.

Upon obtaining admission, we found the Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville just sitting down, after having moved that the Imperial Statute, empowering the repeal of differential duties, be read.

Hon. Mr. MORRIS objected to the motion, as being very unusual in one which he considered highly disrespectful to His Excellency, and one for which no precedent could be found. If the Speech was not satisfactory, the hon. member should wait until it was under the consideration of the House.

Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville said, he wanted the Imperial Act read, in order to comment upon it, and to show that further delay ought to be granted, before the House expressed any opinion upon it. He meant nothing disrespectful to His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. CONROG thought the House should proceed to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech, before doing anything else. The Speech stated that some communications from the Imperial authorities would shortly be laid before the House, which might remove the hon. member's objections.

Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville.—If a postponement be granted, it will show the Government that we are waiting for the communications. Hon. Mr. JAMIESON said that the communications could not be laid before the House until the Speech was answered.

Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville said it might be so in England, where they had no written

Constitution, and were governed by precedents; but here they had a Constitutional Act—An A. C.—a written law by which they were governed, and he saw nothing in it which forbade his motion. Hon. Mr. MORRIS thought that members would not commit themselves by taking the Speech into consideration; there was nothing in the answer which could do so—they were not going to pass a law—all that was stated in the reply was, that the House hoped that the measure would benefit the people without injuring the revenue; and that this House would give consideration to the measure when it received the communications spoken of.

Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville said, he wanted to show that the law was obvious to the country. Hon. Mr. FERRER said, that there would be plenty of opportunities after this, to consider the Bill, and that he considered there was no necessity for discussing the measure now. The motion was then withdrawn.

The Council then proceeded to the consideration of the first order of the day, for a reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General.

Hon. Mr. FERRER said, he had great pleasure in moving a resolution which he presented to His Excellency the Governor-General in answer to his Speech from the Throne. Hon. Mr. MATHIAS begged leave to say that he had great satisfaction in seconding the resolution. He was happy to see, that the Imperial authorities had expressed their willingness to deliver the control of the Post Office in this country to the Colonial Government.

The other resolutions to be embodied in the reply, were then read. Upon the first paragraph being put to the House, Hon. Mr. FERGUSON condemned the delay which had taken place in calling the Parliament together, it had caused great loss and inconvenience. Merchants had done nothing for months; they knew that the differential duties would be discussed, but they were not aware that the opinion of Parliament would be taken on the subject. He regretted that he could place no reliance upon them, for sessions had passed away without their carrying out any great important measure, although solemn pledges had been given that they would do so—that, from the hour the ex-Ministers were obliged to leave office, all had been corruption and scrambling for place—that there should have been an appeal to the country upon that occasion, as that would have been the only way to test the question between the Governor and the Ministry—that the numerous attempts to form a strong Ministry had proved unavailing. The hon. member then moved an amendment, expressing a disapproval of the delay which had taken place in calling Parliament together.

Mr. FERRER seconded the amendment, and, in doing so, he complained of the delay in calling Parliament. The hon. gentleman then went on to say that he did not like to oppose any Government, but that he felt bound to oppose the present one. He considered the speech to be a very ingeniously worked one, but one which contained little. Not a word was said in it about the University Bill, and he would ask if it was in accordance with British practice to allow such an important measure as it was, to be abandoned after its being mentioned from the Throne. The hon. gentleman then went into a review of the conduct of the Government with regard to the filling of offices, and of the means they had employed to retain office; citing the cases of the Middlesex, Third Riding of York Elections, the appointment to office of the late member for Prince Edward, the elevation to the Bench of a member of the Cabinet, and the appointment of his successor,—all of which the hon. member strongly reprobated. The hon. member concluded by expressing his determination to oppose a Ministry which had been sustained and carried on only by fraud and corruption.

Hon. Mr. MORRIS said that the speech of the hon. member was a most ridiculous and contemptible one. He had complained of the delay that had taken place in calling Parliament together;—the blame could be attached to the Ministry for the same, but he would know that, immediately after the arrival of Lord Elgin, negotiations had been commenced for the purpose of attempting to conciliate the French Canadians which had occupied a considerable time; and it was not until these negotiations had terminated, that Parliament could be called together. The papers relating to these negotiations he hoped would soon be laid before the House. The hon. member had held up the ex-Ministers as being paragons of virtue, and said that from that dark day when the late Ministry had left the office, there had been nothing but corruption, inefficiency, and fraud. Did the hon. member forget that last night when twelve members, including the hon. member himself, left that house when the Ministry, contrary to all Parliamentary practice, wished to re-consider the question about the removal of the seat of Government? Did the hon. gentleman remember a motion made in the other House, for the appropriation of £75,000 to meet the current expenses of the year, without bringing in a Bill for that purpose, so as to prevent this House from having a voice in the Government of the country; and that was done for two years. Did he also remember another dark night, the last night when twelve members, including the hon. member, were present at the Bill for the appropriation of £5,700, for the illegal purpose of paying the servants of the House, but which was found to contain a clause for the payment of the members of the Lower House, was sent up, and which very nearly passed this House without any member knowing any thing about that clause. The hon. member who had spoken, had complained of the want of any allusion in the Speech to Education, and had made a great outcry about it; in his (Mr. M.'s) opinion, the Ministry had done much more for Education than the men who were the hon. member had held up as paragons of perfection. After defending some of the appointments attacked by the last speaker, the hon. member concluded by saying that he was glad the hon. member had spoken, as they now seemed much easier in consequence. He had expected all he heard, and more; and now that the great crisis had been reached—the speaker, which had taken twelve months to prepare, had been taken twelve months to prepare, and without much fear—as he was not greatly afraid of their supporters.

Hon. Mr. NEAVE did not think the Ministry would be justified in carrying on the Government without having the French Canadian population represented to some extent in the Ministry; if the Ministry had failed in their previous attempts, they were not, therefore, to abandon all thoughts of a conciliation, there were thousands of persons capable of holding office, besides the very numerous, as a difficulty of obtaining the services of a few individuals, notwithstanding their want of military experience, I consider Dr. Taché quite eligible for the office of Deputy Adjutant General, more especially with a view to the Lower

The remaining paragraphs were then respectively read and passed without discussion. Hon. Mr. MORRIS moved that a select committee, consisting of the Hon. Messrs. Crooks, Neilson, and Ferrer be appointed to draw up an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his Speech from the Throne. Hon. Mr. CONROG presented a report from the Committee of Draft of Address. Hon. Mr. JAMIESON moved, that the Address be adopted.—Carried. Hon. Mr. CONROG moved, that the Address be engrossed; and that it be presented by the whole House. And that the members of the House belonging to the Executive Council wait upon His Excellency, to show when he will receive said Address.—Carried. The House then adjourned until Saturday, at 3 P. M.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Friday, June 4.

From the Montreal Herald. This day the House was occupied from its opening till twelve o'clock at night on the question of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General. Mr. Baldwin carried a motion to examine Mr. Daly, and that gentleman accordingly underwent a long examination—the amount of which was, that his impression that Sir Allan McNab would accept the commission, was founded on a conversation previously had with Sir Allan; he also admitted that Sir Allan had spoken of an appointment of Col. Cameron as a deputy in Upper Canada, but it could not be extracted from the wily Secretary that there was a stipulation at that point. When Mr. Daly was disposed of, Mr. Baldwin proposed to hear Sir Allan. This the Ministry resisted, and upon a division, were beaten by a majority of two—Mr. Gowan, Mr. Watts, and Mr. Woods voting against them.

Sir Allan's evidence was straightforward and clear; he said he accepted the office from Lord Cathcart upon the express condition that Col. Cameron should be his deputy; that he obtained His Excellency's permission to offer the place to the latter gentleman, and he did so accordingly.

After much discussion upon the various questions, a vote was come to declaring that Sir Allan had not accepted office and was accordingly still Speaker. After this, the Governor General's Speech was read; and the Speaker acted, upon motions put by Mr. Cawthon, to issue warrants for writs for the election of members for the County of Dorchester and the town of London. The House then adjourned till Monday at 3 o'clock.

Below we give the correspondence between the Government and Sir Allan McNab, respecting the office of Adjutant General, as it was read in the House:—

(Copy.) DUNDAS, 25th June, 1846. MY DEAR SIR, I have ascertained that Major Kenneth Cameron, late of the 79th Regiment, will accept the appointment of Deputy Adjutant General for Canada West, and that point being settled, the sooner we are gazetted the better. Perhaps His Excellency may consider the 1st of July a convenient day, being the end of the quarter. No time must be lost in sending up the writ for Hamilton. Yours, truly, ALLAN N. McNAB.

(Copy.) HAMILTON, 3rd July, 1847. MY DEAR SIR, I have not been able so far to answer your private letter of the 25th ultimo, as the appointment of Deputy Adjutant General for Upper Canada was not finally determined upon. After the fullest consideration with the members of his Council, the Governor General has come to the conclusion that it is most expedient to appoint Col. McDonald than any other person, and he has directed the immediate issue of his commission accordingly. Dr. Taché is appointed, and now here; and the appointment of yourself and Deputies will appear in the next Official Gazette.

His Excellency desires me to say that he will much regret if Col. Cameron, as circumstances beyond his control have occasioned the departure from his former intention, and nothing in any degree affecting Col. Cameron's high personal character. I will hope shall soon see you here. Yours, truly, D. DALY.

(Copy.) HAMILTON, 7th July, 1846. DEAR SIR, Your letter of the 3rd instant, in reply to mine of the 25th ult., I have this moment received (at the Post Office, from which I write), accompanied with a commission appointing me Adjutant General of Militia for Canada, and also informing me that Col. D. McDonald is appointed Deputy Adjutant General. I beg that you will convey to His Excellency my thanks for the same, but as His Excellency may think I am under the necessity of declining the appointment, and returning the commission, I will, by tomorrow's post, address to His Excellency more fully on the subject. Yours truly, ALLAN N. McNAB.

Hon. D. Daly. SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Montreal, 4th July, 1846. Sir, I have the honor, by command of the Governor General, to transmit to you herewith, a commission appointing you Adjutant General of Militia for Canada. The fee, £2, you will please retain. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, D. DALY, Secretary.

Sir Allan N. McNab, Secy., Hamilton. (Copy.) DUNDAS, 8th July, 1846. MY LORD, Your Lordship will undoubtedly have heard from Mr. Secretary Daly of my having returned the commission appointing me Adjutant General of the Militia; and I have now the honor to explain more fully to your Excellency what compelled me to take that step.

In the first place it is due to your Lordship that I should express my best thanks for the honor conferred on me, and for the kindness and courtesy which I have always experienced at your Excellency's hands, and I trust you will not attribute my present return of the commission in any degree to a wish to be relieved of it, as it is due to you, and which I entertain for your Excellency.

In the various communications which I have had the honor of holding with your Lordship upon the subject of the Militia and my appointment as the Adjutant, I express upon your Excellency's endeavors, and I was well supported in the subordinate offices of the department. It was because I look upon the task of re-organizing the militia, and of carrying out with effect the earnest desires and comprehensive views of your Lordship on this subject, and of permanently and usefully superintending the whole body of the militia throughout this extensive undertaking, and one to which I did not feel myself adequate without the aid of able and efficient assistants.

Notwithstanding my want of military experience, I consider Dr. Taché quite eligible for the office of Deputy Adjutant General, more especially with a view to the Lower

Canada population, and so expressed myself to your Excellency. But he being a civilian, and unacquainted with military matters, I deemed it the more desirable that the other Deputy should be conversant with military affairs, and familiar with their details; and I took the liberty of submitting Colonel Cameron's name, as in my estimation possessing the qualifications. Although Colonel McDonald was also proposed by some gentlemen of the Executive Council, I did not understand your Excellency to entertain his recommendation in opposition to Colonel Cameron, and left Montreal under the full impression that your Excellency had finally resolved in favor of the latter.

With your Excellency's sanction I have communicated with him on the subject, and have done so in the persuasion that he had been selected for the appointment. After leaving Montreal I heard nothing more on the subject until the receipt of Mr. Daly's letter of the 4th inst. On consulting the Commission for myself and intimating that after the fullest consideration with the Members of the Council, your Excellency had come to the conclusion that it was more expedient to appoint Col. McDonald Deputy Adjutant General than any other person, and that you had directed the immediate issue of his commission accordingly.

Your Excellency may readily believe my surprise when I found that he had been substituted for Col. Cameron. I felt at once that under such circumstances I could not satisfactorily accept the office of Chief of the Department, and to preclude the possibility of any question respecting my seat in the Legislative Assembly, and the Speaker's Chair, which would be vacated by my accepting office, I without a moment's delay addressed a few lines to Mr. Daly declining the appointment and returning the commission. (This I trust will satisfactorily account for what might otherwise have appeared an abrupt proceeding on my part.) I much regret that my name appeared in the Gazette before he could possibly have received my communication.

I, of course can have no personal objection to Col. McDonald. His claims to the favor of the government are well known to your Lordship, and I would in no degree wish to detract from them; so far therefore as respects him individually, I am very glad that he is to receive preferment, though I could have wished his interests had been promoted in some other way, for I must frankly confess that I do not consider him the most eligible selection that might have been made, or possessed of the qualifications which I deem, and distrusting my own ability to manage with advantage to the public, or to myself, so extensive and so important a department without the aid of those on whose ability and fitness I can confidently rely, I am unwilling to venture upon the arduous duty under existing circumstances.

Mr. Daly's letter informs me that it has been determined to appoint Col. McDonald in accordance with the advice of Council; still, I would respectfully remark, that the office is not a political one, and that I do not understand that the Council have, nor would I concede to that Honorable body, the privilege of controlling in appointments of this kind.

That principal was, I believe, settled with the approbation of the Home Government under the Administration of Lord Metcalfe; and his steadfast maintenance of the right of the Queen and Her Majesty's Representative to exercise a free discretion in militia appointments, I suppose, clearly established. But the present case is different, in that your Excellency, in the exercise of an undoubted prerogative right, had approved of Colonel Cameron for one of the Deputy Adjutants General, an appointment to which the Council, I am sure, could urge no objection on political or personal grounds; and while I would strenuously maintain your Excellency's constitutional right to make it irrespective of the Executive Council, I at the same time freely confess that it was equally in your Excellency's discretion to do so, and to relinquish the intention which had been formed, and to bestow the patronage of the Crown upon another, since it seemed to your Excellency more expedient to do so.

Assuring your Excellency that I have adopted the course which I feel best becomes me under the altered state of the arrangements, I will only trespass further to repeat my acknowledgments for the honorable and valuable office your Excellency has been graciously pleased to design for me, and my regret at being obliged to decline its acceptance.

I have the honor to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant, (Signed) ALLAN N. McNAB.

EMIGRANTS AT GRASSE ISLE. To the Editor of the Quebec Mercury. Grasse-Isle, June 24, 1847. Sir, As I understand most exaggerated reports are prevalent in your town respecting the state of distress and misery among emigrants at Grasse-Isle, I beg to request you would give publicity to the following facts.—I am here, no distress from want of food in any vessel now here, every person on board receives daily a pound of biscuit, flour, oatmeal or soft bread, the same being provided according to the Imperial Passenger Act. As a proof of this, I may submit that I have received (22 in number) that have been here eight days, were visited by Mr. Syme, with a small steamer, loaded with provisions, sent by the Chief Agent of Emigrants—these provisions were distributed gratuitously to the most destitute, and though Mr. Syme found no difficulty in getting them to accept the tea, sugar, pork, and soft bread, yet none of them would have oatmeal or biscuit, though both were fresh and excellent of their kind; these were brought back and remain now on board the steamer—this must be conclusive as to the non-existence of starvation.

Though there is, undoubtedly, much sickness and many deaths, yet the number is much exaggerated. Up to 12 o'clock, on Saturday, the total number of deaths in the hospitals, from the commencement of the season to that hour, was 116.—The names, ages and the vessels in which the persons came, will be ascertained on application to Dr. Parent. I am glad to hear that the Rev. Mr. McLean is making arrangements for their reception and care in town, and they will be sent up immediately.

In almost every case, the passengers embarked in ill health, and in some few instances recovered their health on the voyage, notwithstanding all their privations. One remarkable instance of extreme disease running through a vessel, and abating of its own accord, occurred in the brig Congress, from Sligo. This vessel left with 219 unwell-diseased passengers. The master was unacquainted with the passenger trade, and the disease ran its course, 40 deaths took place, being 18 per cent. of the crew, and 22 recovered as if that all with the exception of two or three, were on deck when I visited the vessel, and in good health, save emaciation and weakness.

The number now in hospital, sheds, churches and tents is under 1100. There are 500 medical men in attendance, and every requisite being made by the Board of Works to get up fever sheds. An intelligent active superintendent (Mr. Louchery) is here with contractors, and no expense is spared by Government to provide for the distressing state of things.

There are now many sick in hand, who receive medicine and assistance daily, and are attended by their friends.

Difficultly is experienced in getting water, as the nearest relatives abandon each other when once on ship.

I hope, with God's assistance, this terrible visitation will be made to be the occasion of well on a large scale; and that some steps will be taken similar to those adopted in the United States, by limiting the number allowed on board

the vessels to restrict the overwhelming influx of pauper, sent out from Irish landlords, in fear of poor law, and who will end their wretched lives do it as the late Earl of Ezzrington did seven years ago, and as his successor, Col. Wyndham does, and as done by the English poor law commissioners. These sent their emigrants on board, provided with every necessary, a liberal supply of animal food, rice, sugar, and other comforts, a medical man, an agent in charge, who sat in front of the deck until they were settled. I have never had any cases of fever from these people, who always arrive healthy.

In great haste, Yours, GEO. M. DOUGLAS, Med. Super. Ship Argo, 1st June, 1847.

Messrs Allan Gilmore & Co. Gentlemen.—I wrote you on the 26th May last, and now again write you to say that things here are daily getting worse, and if there is not some large and comprehensive plan of relief adopted and acted upon immediately, our situation will become so fearful, that there will be a great loss of life on the part of Dr. Douglas here, but the want of accommodation to put the sick in, on shore; there are many of the ships here in the same state—the only relief we get is in carrying to the grave which is a daily occurrence. There are 1000 men, boys and children on board, and have had more or less every day since I wrote you last, with the exception of yesterday. We have now some eight or nine cases of fever on board, and it will not doubt get worse. I have done all that can be done to prevent it, as regards ventilation and cleanliness; the ports are open fore and aft, the middle deck ventilated, and the air is fresh, and we must now resign ourselves to our fate whatever it may be.

You will be able to judge what prospect there is of us being relieved from here, when I tell you that there are about 35 sail of vessels here, with from 250 to 500 passengers on board, and more in a state of sickness, and only a few on shore. In a state of sickness, and only a few on shore. In a state of sickness, and only a few on shore. In a state of sickness, and only a few on shore.

Mr. BRYNE played Leonardo in "the Wife" very respectably. This gentleman has a good figure, pleasing delivery, and correct enunciation. The parts he fills are all played with care and attention, and he bids fair to rise in his profession, as is always the case with young actors who study.

Messrs. Mehen and Donovan are young men, always appearing to advantage, from the pains they take to play well the parts assigned to them. Mr. Mehen has a good deal of humor, which needs refinement only to tell amazingly. He will make a good actor in time. Messrs. Carr, Pemberton, Mitchell, Shaw &c., are also useful in their way; but from their number, which is Legion, and the greater excellence of those we have mentioned, there is but little room for them to exhibit their talents.

Mr. Mehen (late Mrs. Archer) is one of the best old women on the stage, of which fact the Kingston folks have long been persuaded. Her Miss Laura Durable was a convincing corroboration of this assertion. Although quite a young lady, she makes up capital.

Mademoiselle Albertine is the Dupage of the Company, without which none can be said to be complete. She dances lightly and gracefully, and all her dances are nightly enjoyed. Of Mr. Potter, the Manager, the last, though not least of the troupe, we ought to say something handsome, for he deserves it; yet, shall abstain from saying more, than that he ought to appear much oftener than he does.

The Orchestra is composed of four good Musicians, including a Double Bass player, led by Mr. W. Weigand, a very sweet toned violinist, and all four discourse most excellent music.

The above named individuals comprise the company now playing in Kingston. We have not exaggerated their merits; nay, they are, in some measure, to have underrated them.—They have not been patronized to the extent they deserve; but we hope, as they become better known, they will be better appreciated, and better rewarded for their exertions. Many of our readers look down upon American actors. These critics often throw their censure away, and term Yankee what often turns out to be true English. For instance very few of the present Company are Native Americans; being chiefly from the United Kingdom; which latter fact is no recommendation in itself, unless accompanied with superior excellence.

Since the above was written, we perceive from the Bills of the day, that Mr. A. A. Addams, a justly celebrated Tragedian, from the New York and Boston Theatres, will make his bow to-night at Virginius, in Sheridan Knowles' tragedy of that name. Mr. Addams has been brought over to Canada by Mr. Potter, at some considerable expense, for the purpose of testifying to the people of Kingston, his sincere desire to do all in his power to oblige and please them.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP HIBERNIA. ELEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. The financial difficulties in England have rather increased than diminished since our advice by the steamer preceding this. The newspapers are filled with judicious articles upon the subject. The Bank of England is besieged with applications for discounts, but it is chary of its accommodations.

Among the passengers by the Hibernia, is the Countess of Elgin and Kincardine. Willmer & Smith's European Times says: All public securities are depressed—the value of the best descriptions of railway stock has fallen enormously—trade is nearly brought to a stand still—credit receives a shock which shatters the whole social system—and the capitalist and the laborer, on the score of independence, may as well shake hands, as there is no connection between them! Terrible—but true. The Chancellor opens his mouth in Parliament, and what does the oracle declare? why that he will raise the interest on Exchequer bills, which are now a drug in the market, in order to ease the Bank, and prevent the necessity of his applying to it in advance of the national revenue—a strange remedy, not surpassed in originality by the more philosophic attempt to extract gold from cucumbers!

Lord Beshborough, late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, died early in May. The papers speak of his memory, and the score of circumstances in which Ireland is placed, it will be difficult to select as popular a successor.

The Lord Mayor of London gave a most sumptuous entertainment a fortnight since to the Cabinet Ministers, their ladies and chief supporters. Lord John Russell spoke in handsome terms of the aid the United States had generously offered to Ireland in her present miserable condition.

The weather in England has been favorable to a good crop, and the accounts from the Continent are encouraging; and yet the price of grain rises. But as the harvest approaches, a fall is confidently anticipated. A correspondent of one of the London papers writes in the following unqualified strain:—

"I have just traversed the whole of the central and upper districts of the Peninsula—I can affirm that for the last twenty years, never was the aspect of the country, or the operations of