

THE HAUHAU TRIAL.

The recent trials of Hauhaus Maoris for the murder of Mr. Fullon and three Europeans on board the Kate, at Whakatane, suggest some rather curious reflections upon the ordinary procedure of criminal justice in this Colony. We do not wish to impugn the propriety of the course adopted by the prosecution, although we presume to think that the same result might have been effected with much less pains and at far less risk of a miscarriage of justice. Four persons were murdered on board a cutter off Whakatane on the 22nd July last, and four indictments were presented to the Grand Jury against certain persons named. Four other indictments were laid before the Grand Jury, charging certain other persons with being accessory before the fact to the above murders. Then there were indictments for piracy against the then alleged—now convicted—murderers; also indictments charging arson against two of them, and an indictment preferred for stealing against, we believe the whole of these persons, which indictment remains to be investigated. Here surely is as nice a bundle of crimes and indictments as the most curious of jurists would like to examine.

It will be recollected that sixteen Hauhaus were convicted a few days since of having murdered Mr. Fullon, no one circumstance in mitigation having been deposed to from the beginning to the end of the enquiry. The next day the whole of these same men were put upon their trial for the murder of a seaman, the facts deposed and proven in the second case, being identical with those already established in the first. It is exactly here that the pinch of the case lies. Having established beyond all doubt that a man is a murderer under circumstances, which are shown on oath to establish the minor crimes, as a matter of consequential and inexorable necessity, what is the use of proving him a murderer a second time, unless you are prepared to hang him twice over? If the apparent incongruity we have indicated were the only result of such a double trial, no great harm would be done. But there was a very important risk run by the prosecution. It was competent for the second jury to have taken a different view of any one set of facts from that which had been entertained by the first. The consequence would have been that the whole of the witnesses would have been discredited. It would not perhaps have been said that they had perjured themselves, or that they were incautious; but there would have been plenty to tell us that the witnesses were blinded by the confusion of a sudden and bloody onslaught. That the identity of the prisoners was doubtful, and the clemency of the Crown would have been successfully invoked in favour of a set of fiends in comparison with whom the Thugs of India are highly respectable.

There is still more suggestive matter than even this contained in these Native trials. It is most true that it is desirable to impress those who are amenable to justice, for the infraction of public law, with the solemnity of judicial proceedings. If this lesson were effectively taught to the Maori population by the recent trials, one advantage, and certainly not a small one, would have been gained. But we are informed by very competent observers that this is not so. To the prisoners themselves the whole thing was incomprehensible, the only notion they had, being that their heads "might be cut off"; but that was one of the events of a condition of war. They more than once requested to be informed what was the cause of the delay as to the knowledge of their fate. They are of the opinion of Macbeth. "If it is to be done then it is well it were done quickly." Justice for them must be speedy as well as sharp. They have been accustomed to set life upon a "pin's fee." The leader of this band of fanatics could not see any sin in swallowing a man's eyes. There is no presumption here that clemency will bring penitence; on the contrary, clemency suggests to the savage mind pusillanimity. There seems to be set up a question as to the degree of guilt which belongs to these men respectively. We think such discussions are now most unseasonable. We have no wish for such a public scandal as would be involved by the hanging of thirty men simultaneously, although we believe there is not one of the thirty who does not deserve hanging equally with any cut-throat who has been hung for the past century. The prerogative of the Crown will, no doubt, be exercised in particular cases, but there was some reason to fear that the prerogative would have said, "We are to revise the proceedings in a Court of law." Here are two juries who decide differently upon the same facts in two distinct cases. "What, would you ask—are we to do more than the spirit of the Constitution requires, namely, give the prisoners the benefit of the doubt?" There would be at least the grim satisfaction in such a case that the whole machinery of British law had been in motion for nearly three weeks, and it was utterly impotent to deal with crime which originated in aggression upon its own existence.

There is another consideration too, which is not unimportant. The respect for British law by British subjects in British dominions, is derived from its universality, and the impartiality of its application. You arm the defenceless avenger with a motive for being his own avenger, when you allow his race to be slaughtered by a savage people, without inflicting the full penalty of the law upon established guilt. At the same time that we write thus, it is very possible that there may have been State motives for the course of procedure that has been adopted. If so, we think there is additional reason for regret that there should have been any multiplication of trials. We have never known an instance where indictments for high offences proceeded so lumberingly through a Court of justice. Of one thing we are certain, no State motives were brought into exercise to cause Stack to be put upon the second trial for the murder of one of Mrs. Finnigan's sons, after having been convicted of the murder of the mother. Stack, however, is only a European, and has no claim to the prerogative enjoyed by his darker-skinned fellow subjects of committing murder with impunity.—March 28.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX.

It is now some months ago since we last noticed the exertions of Mr. Brown to discover a process for turning the New Zealand flax into a marketable commodity for something more than the purposes of rope-making.

The session I am now about to close has been one of unusual importance. In no session have subjects of greater magnitude, and involving more momentous consequences to this Province, been submitted to the Provincial Legislature; and it affords me much pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the manner in which those subjects have been considered and disposed of. This session will bear a favorable comparison with any former one; in none other has more business been done in so short a time, or in a more satisfactory manner.

The acceptance of the transfer of the administration of the confiscated lands for the purposes of colonisation, has involved the province in a large undertaking, with serious responsibility. There is no doubt that the exertions of the Executive Government will be taxed to the utmost, and we must all feel that, under the circumstances, a moderately successful result is not more than a reasonable probability.

It has been with very great regret that I have had to say before you so very unsatisfactory a statement of the finances of the Province. It is quite clear that rigid economy is essential to enable us to extricate ourselves from our present predicament. For a time at least we shall be compelled to forego many desirable, and some absolutely necessary, public works and improvements; but I trust that prudent self-denial will enable us not only to extricate ourselves from the difficulties that surround us, but will give us a fresh start on the road to advancement and prosperity.

I have made arrangements for the payment of the instalment of one-third of the compensation to the persons who, under Mr. Beckham's awards, may be considered as *prima facie* entitled. But as further investigation has been considered requisite, I shall take the precaution of requiring a bond for repayment of any sum which may hereafter be found to have been paid, which will be fairly done. I trust the distribution of this money will realise the benefits that are expected to result from it.

I thank you for the supplies which I have so freely voted for the public service; I shall use my best endeavours to expend them as economically as possible. Amongst the more pressing duties which have demanded your attention, amendment of the Municipal Law of the Province has not been neglected, and I feel assured that the legislation of this session will materially assist those whose duty it is to carry the laws into execution, and will prove beneficial to the public at large.

Permit me, gentlemen of the Provincial Council, to add, that it will always be my aim to lay before the Council the most ample information on every subject which I may submit for your consideration, and I invite the fullest and freest discussion, conducted, I venture to hope, with moderation and candour, of all measures which I may propose for your acceptance. It is not to be expected that the two branches of the Provincial Legislature can always be of one mind; differences of opinion will inevitably arise, and it is often by the conflict of opinion that truth is made apparent. Each branch, possessing legislative functions and powers, co-operating with the other has a right to be responsible for, an independent opinion, and it is a duty to give expression to it. But argument, temperately urged, is always entitled to respectful attention, and I trust that I shall never fail to recognize the fact that it is the duty of one branch of the legislature, even when it cannot agree, to treat the opinions of the other with deference and respect.

I now declare that this Council stands prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly. FREDK. WHITAKER, Superintendent. As his Honor very justly remarks, the session has been noticeable for the very great deal of work, and important work got through by the Council. This in great measure is attributable to the very slight infusion of factious opposition to be found in the composition of the present Council. Two or three disappointed politicians of little or no weight, and a crochety member or two were not likely to form a nucleus of opposition. The Council in sober truth had little cause to oppose the Government measures, for they were the well prepared, well judged productions of statesman-like mind, and accompanied by a clear and concise business-like messages. For the first time in nearly twenty sessions the Provincial Council has been brought face to face with the real financial position of the Province, and that, too, at a time when of all others it was most necessary that that position should be clearly understood.

The business got through by the Council has not only been important in its character, but has been, considering the length of the session, highly creditable when the number of Acts passed and other business conducted are taken into account. Eighteen Acts were passed, namely, the Lunatics Act; the Appropriation Act; the Road Act No. 2; the Municipal Police Act; the Superintendent's Salary Act; the Howick Park Act; the Railway Act, 1866; the Highways Amendment Act; the Rural Police Act; the Fire Prevention Act; the Turpentine Act; the Distillation Prohibition Act; the Waikato Appropriation Act; the Land Act, 1866; the Tamaki Bridge Act; the Woods and Watercourses Act; the Slaughter-house Act; and the Empowering Act.

There have been eight bills which have either lapsed or have been thrown out:—The Vagrant Bill; the Onehunga Town Board Bill; the City Board Amendment Bill; the Thistle Bill; the Impounding Bill; the Cattle Branding Bill; the Fencing Bill; and the Building Amendment Bill.

The session having concluded, his Honor will, we believe, attend his Excellency tomorrow on a visit to Tauranga, for the purpose of settling with the natives the question in dispute respecting the lands at that place. His Honor will then, we understand, visit the Waikato for the purpose of seeing for himself the real state of those settlements, and possibly of forming an estimate of the most practicable method of carrying out the important work of colonisation, the duty of performing which was undertaken by the Province at an early period of the session.—March 22.

THE REV. NORMAN McLEOD.

We regret to observe in our obituary notice the decease of the Rev. Norman McLeod. He was a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and studied in the University of Edinburgh, under Dr. Blair, and in the University of Aberdeen, under McLeuchlin. A few years after leaving College, Mr. McLeod went to North America with a number of his countrymen. On the 28th October, 1851, Mr. McLeod sailed from St. John's, North America, in the barque Margaret, and arrived at Adelaide, South Australia, in the month of April following. He went to Melbourne in November 1852, where three of his sons—grown to manhood—died of typhus fever. Mr. McLeod and his family came to Auckland in the Gazelle, Captain McKenzie, in January 1854, and removed to Waipua in 1856, where his wife died in March 1857. During his residence at Waipua he visited Auckland once a year. He was an able and earnest preacher, and possessed extraordinary endowments of mind. He died, lamented by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.—March 20.

It is a great pleasure to me to be able to congratulate you on the manner in which those subjects have been considered and disposed of. This session will bear a favorable comparison with any former one; in none other has more business been done in so short a time, or in a more satisfactory manner.

The acceptance of the transfer of the administration of the confiscated lands for the purposes of colonisation, has involved the province in a large undertaking, with serious responsibility. There is no doubt that the exertions of the Executive Government will be taxed to the utmost, and we must all feel that, under the circumstances, a moderately successful result is not more than a reasonable probability.

It has been with very great regret that I have had to say before you so very unsatisfactory a statement of the finances of the Province. It is quite clear that rigid economy is essential to enable us to extricate ourselves from our present predicament. For a time at least we shall be compelled to forego many desirable, and some absolutely necessary, public works and improvements; but I trust that prudent self-denial will enable us not only to extricate ourselves from the difficulties that surround us, but will give us a fresh start on the road to advancement and prosperity.

I have made arrangements for the payment of the instalment of one-third of the compensation to the persons who, under Mr. Beckham's awards, may be considered as *prima facie* entitled. But as further investigation has been considered requisite, I shall take the precaution of requiring a bond for repayment of any sum which may hereafter be found to have been paid, which will be fairly done. I trust the distribution of this money will realise the benefits that are expected to result from it.

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TERRIFIC CONFLAGRATION.

FIVE HOUSES BURNED DOWN. At an early hour on Saturday morning last the different fire-bells in town rang out their usual tones of warning to the inhabitants of the city, and upon our proceeding to the spot it was found that a terrible conflagration was raging in Baker-street, Freeman's Bay. Shortly after the first notice was given large numbers of people had gathered round the spot, and the newly-formed Fire Brigade, under the command of Mr. A. Asher, were preparing to get the several engines out, ready for service. The Northern (No. 2) engine was quickly run up the hill, but upon their running up the foot of Wollsey-street, West, it was found to be impossible to proceed further with the engine, and therefore the men at once took to the buckets, made their way to the fire, and succeeded in rendering good service. We may here mention that it was in consequence of having to cross a creek, over which there was not only a plank-way, that the engine could not get to the scene of the fire. However, this being their first trial, under the new enrolment, the Fire Brigade turned out to a man, and acquitted themselves creditably; this corps, above all, ought to be well recognised and supported.

Very little is known of the origin of the fire, but there is not the slightest doubt that it was the act of an incendiary, the first person to discover having discovered the house on fire at both ends, and further than this it was occupied at the time. As to its origin, the furthest known as yet is through the statement of the constable on duty at the time, which we append—"About half-past four o'clock on Saturday morning Constable D. O'Sullivan was on duty in Drake-street, when his attention was drawn to a sudden illumination in a house in Baker-street, and owned by a person named Gilbert, a teacher of music. He was at the time challenging a man named Hugh Harkins for sauntering about at that hour in the morning. He took this man with him to the scene of the conflagration and found that fire had taken fast hold of the house, which was unoccupied, though unoccupied, it is stated, two days previous. He then went round to the front and there saw a man named John Fleming, a private in the Military Train, standing, apparently watching the fire, about two yards distant. He went up to him, questioned him as to where he lived and what he was doing there, to which the man replied that he lived in the Albert Barracks, and had been sleeping between the house that was on fire and the adjacent one, having been "well tight" the night before. Constable O'Sullivan then examined Fleming's clothes and found that the back of his coat and the seat of his trousers were covered with mud, and upon obtaining the assistance of Constable Hayes, brought him to the police station."

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TARANAKI.

By the Ahuriri we have received Taranaki papers to the 22nd, and Wanganui papers to the 20th inst. From the latter place there is no news whatever, and very little from the former. The success of the party sinking for oil at the Sugar Loaves is, however, a noticeable event. We were recently shown by Mr. Winstanley, of the Colonial Museum, Auckland, a specimen of the oil received from Taranaki, but since the same was obtained from a soft stratum at the depth of 50 feet, the well has been sunk another 10 feet, and another sub-stratum of soft greasy soil arrived at, when oil perceptibly welled up from the bottom, and several bottles of the oil, says the Taranaki News of the 22nd ult., were brought into town last Friday, and excited great interest. The shaft has since been sunk to about 60 feet, but little progress is at present being made, the workmen being greatly hindered by the water, which has been troublesome from the commencement of the undertaking. At present it comes in in such quantities that the sinking can only go on for about three hours a day. A rather remarkable circumstance is, that, although the shaft is so close to the sea, the water (which, by the bye, percolates through the sides of the shaft) is quite fresh, and appears to be impregnated with carbonic acid gas.

As is known to be the case with the so-called "Taranaki" iron-sand, so doubtless is it with the petroleum oil—that abundance of it will be found to exist in this Province. Millions of tons of the iron-sand lie along our coast, in the vicinity of good harbours too, and far more valuable than it can ever be on the rock-bound coast line of New Plymouth. In all probability scientific and practical research would lead to similar results in the case of petroleum oil. The Province of Auckland is richer in every valuable product than the whole of New Zealand put together, but unfortunately the native difficulty has stood in the way of the development of her resources.

Mr. Vernon, of this city, was a passenger by the Ahuriri, and brings specimens of the oil with him. He has kindly placed a small bottle of it at our disposal, which may be seen by those interested in the matter.—March 24.

NEW STEAMER FOR THE NORTH. We are glad to perceive that increased accommodation in the matter of steam accommodation is to be provided for the requirements of the Northern trade, and for opening up places not hitherto touched at. Yesterday we inspected the model of a twin screw steamer, designed by Mr. Bach, of the well known engineering office of this city, and to our idea is the very thing that would be most suitable for the coasting trade. In first designing this model, he intended it as an opposition boat to the ferry steamer Enterprise, and suitable for harbour and coasting traffic. He now proposes to make her a coasting boat, and guarantees that she can be built for the sum of £2,000 in four shares of £500 each; also to build her on the most economical, but yet substantial scale, and make her a profitable speculation, requiring no subsidy whatever. She will be turned out on the English scale, of the simplest and most economical kind, without sacrifice of principle, and her engines can be made here, as well as in Melbourne or Sydney, providing both manufacturers and material merchants will be satisfied with ordinary profits. Mr. Bach has also prepared drawings of her engines and machinery, by which it would be possible to fit her with twin screws, driven by two ten-horse high pressure engines, which will drive the boat ten miles an hour (and not a quarter above or below it), at a consumption of only 200 lbs. of coal per hour—also the coal to be used is that from the Wanganui mines.

The proposed draught of water of this boat is only two feet six inches when light, and three feet when loaded (with fifteen tons). There will be an extensive forehold for the purpose of carrying cargo or live stock, and ample deck-room for the conveyance of drays, &c. She can also carry from 150 to 200 people on the coast, and some 400 in the harbour; her cabin accommodation will also be roomy and comfortable below, whilst on deck ample provision is made for smoking saloon, closets, pantries, &c. We hope that now this spirited enterprise is once set on foot, it will not be left fall to the ground for the want of support. The main thing required by the settlers is a guarantee of speed, regularity, carrying capacity, and cost, all of which have been guaranteed by the projector, Mr. Bach, and we feel sure that from his great engineering experience, and business qualities, they can be relied upon as being fulfilled.

We may here mention that it is proposed to run her to the Kawau, Wade, Hot Springs, Mahurangi, Matahau, Wanganui, Coromandel, Waikato, Waikare, &c., making two trips a week round these places. The model and drawing of this proposed boat are now on view at Mr. Copland's, the Waikato Hotel, and are well worthy of inspection, more especially the model, which is very handsome and most complete in every detail, and reflects great credit on the workmanship of Mr. Bach's son, taking into consideration it being his first trial. We shall revert to this subject of Northern steamers in some future issue.—March 22.

TESTIMONIAL TO CAPTAIN CADDELL. The following address beautifully illuminated and engrossed by Mr. G. R. S. Anderson, has been presented to Captain Cadell by the officers and men of the Waikato Steam Transport Service on the occasion of that gentleman leaving the Colony:— To Captain Francis Cadell, Superintendent of Steam Transport, Waikato, New Zealand. We, the undersigned officers and men, who have been in the Waikato Steam Transport Service under your command, and others of your friends, desire to leave New Zealand, to present you with this address and the accompanying testimonial as a token of our esteem and regard, and also to show our appreciation of the energy and ability displayed by you during the most active period of the war in the Waikato country. We who have served under your command, part from you with feelings of personal regret, and all unite in wishing you success and prosperity in your future career. Auckland, New Zealand, 22nd March, 1866.

NAVAL VOLUNTEERS. A MEETING of the Naval Volunteers was held last evening at Mr. Colchester's Land Mark, Fort-street, when there was a very large attendance. The business was for the admission of new members, and the election of petty officers; Captain T. E. Gaiting occupied the chair. The chairman stated that it was his intention for receiving names of new members at a meeting, and that all persons intending to join must do so before the end of the month, or else go into the militia as the corps must be organized by that time. Several persons then came forward and joined the corps by signing the enrollment list. The chairman also notified to the meeting that the new members would have to attend at some place notified early next week for the purpose of being sworn in, and taking the oath of office, &c.; also, that the Government had accepted the services of the corps as a Naval Brigade, and that the Government would supply them with suitable boats and arms.

The following persons were then nominated as petty officers, to be balloted for on the next meeting:—George Cammel, Robert Wells, Jas. Mahoney, George Cooke, F. Coombs, E. Nobis, as 1st Class; and Chas. Strong, Thos. Constable, Joseph Popper, and J. Hooker, as 2nd class.—March 24.

GOLD DISCOVERY AT THE THAMES.

In our issue of yesterday we noticed the report which was prevalent in town on Monday that a party of prospectors had returned from the Thames with news of the discovery of payable gold. Rumour also connected the party with the name of a well-known individual, who spends much of his time, at the public expense, on the banks of the Thames district, and who occasionally enlightens the good people of Auckland, through the columns of our contemporary, with accounts of his wonderful discoveries and exertions. Hence we were disposed to receive the report of another discovery of gold in the Thames district as a repetition of the numerous hoaxes which have been played upon the public.

The party which arrived in town on Saturday night, however, had no counter-claim whatever, that of the "Thames" correspondent. They are men of well-known respectability, and of means also, prospecting at their own expense, and prepared, if allowed to do so, to purchase from the native owners the rights to work the land. Indeed, when we say that the party is that of Mr. W. Dugdale and Mr. Rawdon, their statement will be received with interest.

It appears that after a visit to the West Coast gold-fields the party returned to Auckland for the purpose of prospecting the Thames, and proceeded about eight weeks ago to the East Coast, from whence they struck westward but did not find payable gold until they had passed Kaitake, at the west side of the river, Kaitake, as a place called Kaitake. The party consisted of three, however, drove from the spot almost as soon as they had fully made the discovery of the payable nature of the ground. From what they say of it, however, they conclude that the field is sufficient in extent to afford work for something like 500 diggers, and they describe it as being essentially a poor man's or wages diggings, on which a man could earn from 20 to 25 per week. In the neighborhood and through many parts of the district quartz reefs are to be seen, but they had no means of testing their auriferous qualities. It is a great pity that some arrangement could not be made with these natives for the working of this and perhaps similar gold-fields. The natives, as it is, will neither work these mines themselves nor water them to be worked by others, and yet their land within the former part of the Thames district, from the Thames to the West Coast, and is in all probability owned by redskins who have assisted in murdering our settlers and in shooting down our troops.—March 25.

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL MOULD, B.E. As our readers are doubtless aware, this excellent and much respected gentleman will be leaving our shores for old England in the course of this week, by the good ship *Meteor*. We feel sure that the whole community will deeply regret his departure from the fact of his having won from them the highest esteem and regard by his studious care and attention for the public good. If anything were wanting, Col. Mould was always found in the field ready to give all assistance in his power, more especially to any charitable institution or the Church. In the latter he had been for nine years past a good working vestryman, and St. Paul's will lose a good parishioner in him. None will more regret the departure of this gentleman than ourselves.

It would seem that the vestry of St. Paul's parish are determined not to allow Colonel Mould to leave our shores without some slight recognition of his nine years' service. Yesterday evening a meeting of the vestry was held in St. Paul's Church, at which several were present, and the Venerable Archdeacon Lloyd presided. Mr. Lloyd, in a few remarks, stated to Col. Mould the deep regret the Vestry felt in his approaching departure, and as a private individual, heartily thanked him on behalf of the parishioners for his valuable services rendered. Mr. Lloyd then presented to Colonel Mould the following resolution, passed at a meeting held on Saturday last:—

Resolved.—That the Vestry being informed that Colonel Mould is about to leave the colony for England in a few days, desire before his departure to give expression to their respect and esteem for himself personally, and to their sense of the kind and co-operative spirit in which he has worked with them during the nine years that he has been a member of the Vestry, and to their appreciation of his many and valuable services; the parish being indebted to him for the plans and specifications of the extensive alterations made in the church in the year 1858, as well as for his careful superintendence of the work while under execution, and for many other services. Resolved further.—That many of the parishioners being desirous of uniting with the Vestry in some expression of their regard for Colonel Mould, but being pressed for time, owing to his speedy departure, an address and testimonial from the Vestry and parishioners be forwarded to him in England, in recognition of the esteem in which he has been held, and of the services which he has rendered to the parish.

Colonel MOULD, in a few words, made a suitable reply, but remarked that his feelings would not at the time allow of his saying what he meant, but he would write them a heartfelt reply before he left Auckland. He would often look back with pleasurable remembrance to St. Paul's Church, and to the many members of the Vestry, in connection with which he had been working so many years. ARCHDEACON LLOYD stated that they had been unable to procure a suitable testimonial here, and, at any rate, the time was almost too short to do so. The Hon. J. A. GIFFILLAN suggested that it would be better to transmit the money home, and let Colonel Mould choose the testimonial. It was then resolved that a subscription list should be opened, and the money collected, together with a suitable inscription, be forwarded home to Colonel Mould's agent in London, so that the Colonel might purchase a suitable souvenir with the sum. The proceedings then terminated.

Amongst those present at the meeting, we noticed the Hon. J. A. Giffilan, Mr. Halsey, Mr. J. H. Burnside, Mr. J. W. Lewis, Mr. F. Winstanley, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Rathbone, and several others. Colonel Mould sails with the 43rd on Saturday next, and we heartily wish him and his family a speedy passage home, and every prosperity hereafter.—March 27.

WANGAREI. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] March 29. LAST week our wharf had a most conspicuous appearance. We had no less than the Tasmanian Maid, the Kate Grant, the Smuggler, and the Annie Laurie, all in port at one time. They each delivered a good supply, and carried away more cattle and sundries than should have supported this district for a length of time. However, as they are all to be traders to this port, we must be glad to support each and all of them, and divide our exports amongst them, according to their deserts; they all appear anxious to whom shall carry the day. But I can assure you the most obliging of chattel property belonging to parties in this quarter, will be the chief one employed. Others may carry coal, which will soon be available, and may be had to any extent in the course of a few weeks, and I rest assured if the direct traffic had once begun, there will be a greater number of vessels in this port than ever was anticipated. One thing I have remarked is, that the river requires considerable improvement, and until that is done, no vessel of large tonnage can come close to the wharf.