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QUEBEC, FEBRUARY 24.

UPPER CANADA.

The Upper Canada papers from the 16th to the 19th inst. have been received. Those from Toronto being of the first date show that the Commons House, as it is named, is not very backward in its demands, though it will probably find it its profit to submit them to reason. The long address in which all kinds of things were noticed and claimed by the Commons, and agreed to by a majority of 30 to 18, has as it seems not been well received by Sir F. Head. In Upper Canada, like Lower Canada, the real aim is to get into office by the influence of the people in the Elections. It is indeed time for England to make some stand against the demands of persons who have very little interest in the Provinces, and play their own game in making as much noise as possible, to discredit the whole of the English Colonies of North America, and involve them in troubles from which, having nothing, they may pick something.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF LOWER CANADA.

We believe the present reign of conciliation is now nearly brought to a close.

The state of the Province, the instructions to the Royal Commissioners laid before the House, and the question of Supply, came on in the Assembly, (after repeated postponements since the 11th inst.) Monday evening, the 22d inst.

Mr. Morin proposed to vote a supply for six months only, from the 17th Jan. to the 17th July next.

Mr. Vanfelson proposed to vote the arrears due for the support of the Civil Government, the salaries of the Judges and the Administration of Justice, withheld during the last three years, and the Supplies for the current year, without imposing any conditions known to be contrary to the Royal Instructions.

Before this motion was made, an attempt to adjourn was negatived,—34 to 37,—and the supporters of Mr. Morin's motion being disposed to carry it that evening, the minority broke up the quorum.

Last evening the parties renewed the contest when Mr. Morin's motion was carried,—42, Nays 31.

The principal speakers in favor of Mr. Morin's motion were—Mr. Morin, Mr. Speaker PAPINEAU, (who occupied about three hours and a half of the time on Monday), Mr. Lafontaine, Mr. Rodier, Mr. Cote, Mr. J. A. Taschereau, Mr. C. Drolet, (the new member,) and Mr. Berthelot. On the other side—Mr. Vanfelson, Mr. Caron, and Mr. De Bluery.

Before proceeding to vote on the Estimate for the current year, Mr. Morin had a Resolution passed against the voting of any supply being considered as a precedent.

The House then voted half the Governor's usual salary, and adjourned to this forenoon.

Thus, about a hundred and twenty thousand pounds withheld from the Judges and the officers of Government for the last three years, must continue locked up in the public chest; and those who have made advances on the usual confidence in the British Government, must have patience for some time to come. Mr. Clay rose to propose the proper disposition of the Message, without being present circumstances, that the Executive Government will feel authorized to divest

itself of monies levied expressly for the support of the Civil Government, to any other purposes.

FEB. 26.

The Assembly has only passed the *six months' supplies* in Committee. The Address to Parliament on grievances and the question of supplies have been made one matter. A few items of the votes are still left open to discussion; but the whole is now zealously pushed, and the speaker complained last night that the members were going away.

The Upper Canada papers from the 13th to the 22d instant, were received yesterday. To-day nothing later has arrived. An extract from the Toronto Courier, of the 18th, shews that Sir F. B. Head is not altogether so great a radical as was imagined. His answer to the great grievance address has not reached us in the original words, but the notice taken of it shews that he has refused to listen to any *dismissals of public officers for conduct under preceding administrations*, saying that he would see that the officers did their duty under his own.

This is indeed a fair rule; it is the rule of the criminal law, that you cannot frivolously indict, much less condemn, after a certain lapse of time, Sir F. B. Head will not go back to 1822 nor 1835 to gratify hatred, avarice, and ambition, and to appoint men who are much worse qualified, as far as experience and ability go, and fully less to be trusted than those they wish to replace.

The Assembly of Upper Canada has passed an Address to the King, for the admission of English goods by the United States.

We observe by the Quebec Papers received here on Saturday last, that the House of Assembly of Lower Canada have considered the language of his Excellency Sir JOHN COLBORNE, in the Speech delivered by him at the opening of the Legislature of Upper Canada as insulting to that body, and made its consideration the order of the day for the 11th inst. From remarks of Dr. O'Callaghan, who made the motion, and of Mr. Speaker PAPINEAU who spoke upon the subject, and from the large majority who supported the motion, we are convinced that Sir John has little mercy to expect from the party who now unfortunately prevail in the House of Assembly of the Sister Province. We shall not be at all surprised to find that he is escorted from Montreal where, at the latest date, he was momentarily expected to arrive, by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and consigned to the Common Gaol at Quebec for the offence he has committed against the Omnipotent Body. Those parts of the Speech which have excited their ire will be found in a preceding column—we see nothing objectionable in them, and are sure no liberal-minded man will disapprove of them—the expression of his confidence, that, whatever may be the conduct of the Representatives of Lower Canada, the British Constitution will be upheld, as in unison with the hopes and desire of every Loyal British subject

(From the National Intelligencer.)

MR. CLAY'S SPEECH IN THE SENATE.

ON THE RECENT MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT. Mr. Clay rose to propose the proper disposition of the Message, without being present circumstances, that the Executive Government will feel authorized to divest

submitted any motion, he hoped he would be allowed to express the satisfaction shared, he was certain, by every member of the Senate, which the amicable termination of our unhappy controversy with France had produced. And he could not withhold his congratulations for the important agency which the Senate exercised in bringing about this auspicious result. If (said Mr. Clay) the Senate had not at the last session, by an unanimous vote, declared its conviction that no legislation whatever was necessary with respect to our French relations at that time; and if they had lent themselves to the purposes of the President to pass a law authorising reprisals upon French property, does, can any man doubt that War, with all its train of horrors, would now be raging between two enlightened countries? Or if the Senate had yielded to the unconstitutional appropriation of three millions of dollars, irresponsibly proposed at the very close of the last session, without any precautionary specification of its object, is there not cause to apprehend that, instead of now enjoying all the blessings of peace, we should be suffering all the calamity of a most unnecessary war.

I will not, (continued Mr. Clay) attempt to diminish the gratification which all must feel from the happy adjustment now announced. Great mistakes in the negotiations and correspondence between the two Governments, have been committed on both sides; but on all these I shall not detain the Senate. It may not, however, be without its future use to advert, for a moment, to the chief obstacle which has obstructed the settlement of the difference. That has been the assertion of the principle, that when the President of the United States, charged by the Constitution with maintaining our intercourse with all foreign nations, sends a public Message to Congress, publicly read in the presence of all the diplomatic corps assembled at Washington, and given to the whole world through the public press, no foreign power has a right to complain, to remonstrate, or to ask explanations of any language used towards itself, however offensive that language may be. I am not about to express my opinion upon that principle; but, if it be true, all should use the utmost caution and circumspection in the official language of such documents. All must also admit the rule of reciprocity; and consequently that although the King of France in addressing the Chambers, or the King of Great Britain in addressing Parliament should charge the United States with bad faith, and the violation of solemn pledges, and should, pending peaceful endeavours to settle a controversy, threaten an appeal to force, the United States would be bound to submit to the insult and indignantly, without complaint, without remonstrance, without the poor satisfaction of even asking an explanation.

But let us test the principle alluded to by what has transpired in our negotiations and correspondence with France alone. It was violated by Mr. Livingston, when in Jan. of last year, he undertook, without instructions, to explain the Message of December, 1834: and surely it cannot be contended that the case of an unauthorised explanation, which is subsequently approved, is less strong than when the authority precedes the explanation. In the former instance the dangerous precedent is set of a minister assuming to act without instructions. It was violated in June last, when

the Secretary of State, with the previous authority of the President, in a complimentary letter to Mr. Livingston, approved a second time of the explanation which he had given to France. It was again violated in the Message of December last, when the President, almost in the very language, certainly embracing every idea, made the explanations required by the Duc de Broglie, in his dispatch to Mr. Pigeot. It is manifest, that although the copy of that dispatch was twice refused, and although Mr. Forsyth, three days after it was first read by him, transmitted to Mr. Barton his final instructions without saying one word about it, that the explanatory language of the Message was made to conform exactly to the requirements of the dispatch. The message was prepared to obtain with France the merit of a satisfactory explanation, and with the people of the United States the merit of refusing, upon high national ground, all explanation. The President protested that he never would apologise, and made an apology! that he would not explain, and a satisfactory explanation! I rejoice that France, much as I think she has occasionally erred, had the wisdom to receive it as such. She has taken a false position in withholding payment of a just and uncontested debt until a supposed stain, inflicted upon her good faith and honor, was effaced. The best vindication of her good faith would have been the payment of the debt; and when paid, she would have been in a fair and disinterested attitude for demanding satisfaction to her insulted honor. Finally, the principle alluded to was violated in the terms in which the British mediation has been accepted. Whilst the President will not, he declares, make France directly any explanation, all the means are put by him in the hands of the common Mediator, to afford the most ample and satisfactory explanation.

But I will not long dwell upon the painful incidents of our late unfortunate controversy. Let them be absorbed in the general satisfaction which its happy termination will diffuse throughout the land, or be recollected only to guard against the repetition of similar errors.—We have escaped I thank God we have escaped—from all danger of war with France. It would have been a war, if it had broken out, the scandal of an enlightened age, and highly discredit to both parties—a war, in which neither civil liberty, nor maritime nor territorial rights, nor national independence, nor true national honor was involved—a war of which the immediate cause was an unfortunate Message, and the ultimate object an inconsiderable debt, cancelled by the very act declaring it—a Message which was regretted by the Senate, regretted by the House of Representatives, and regretted by the whole country; and which, whatever may have been the spirit of patriotism which dictated it, all view as harsh, intemperate, and dangerous to the peace of the country. To be delivered from all hazard of being involved in such war, affords just cause of general joy and congratulation.

Nor, sir, ought we ever to forget the noble part which Great Britain has acted in this unhappy dispute. If war had broken out between the United States and France, and had continued any length of time, her natural position would have enabled her greatly to have profited by it. She would have carried on the commerce, to a large extent, of both belligerents, and her marine must have been