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It appears from the 39th report of the committee on public petitions, delivered on Saturday, that the total number of petitions delivered this session, to the 2d of August inclusive, is 13,451. The greatest number upon any one subject are the petitions relative to the corn laws, of which 3,066 were in favour of those laws, and 409 against.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE IN A PARISH CHURCH.—On Sunday week the Chartists of Ashton-under-Line repaired to the parish Church, it being understood that the Rev. Mr. Handforth would preach from the five first verses of the fifth chapter of James. The place was crowded to excess, and with a few exceptions they behaved well. One fellow, however, sat in front of gallery with a long pipe in his mouth, but did not smoke. The Chartists were however disappointed, as Mr. Handforth was otherwise engaged. Another minister, however, preached, but from a different text, viz., 'My house is a house of prayer, and ye have made it a den of thieves." The Chartist immediately quitted church, venting oaths on the minister.

TURKEY.—We understand, that a most important preliminary step has been taken respecting the Turkish empire, by the five great European powers. It is said, and with truth, we believe, that these powers, in assuring the young Sultan of their perfect accord upon the subject of his empire, requested him not to conclude by himself any settlement of the differences between the sublime Porte and the Pacha of Egypt, but to leave that question to their consideration and decision To that proposition the Sultan has given his perfect acquiescence. Doubtless a similar communication has been addressed to Mehemet Ali, but we are yet without his answer.—*Observer.*

LONDON, August 31.

ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY.

Lord NORMANBY, unfit for the Colonial department, takes the Home Secretaryship—Lord RUSSELL taking the Colonies.

Mr. POULETT THOMSON goes out as Civil Governor to Canada, vice Sir JOHN COLBORNE, who retires. This arrangement, we observe, has attracted the notice of the Committee of the North American Colonial Association, the chairman of which has addressed something like a letter of remonstrance to Lord Melbourne upon the subject.

Mr. SPRING RICE is elevated to the Peerage under the style and title of Lord MONT EAGLE; and Mr. BARING takes his place as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. LALOR SHIEL is Vice-President of the Board of Taade; and Lord HOWICK is *Glenelged* out of the office altogether.

The following is from the *St. James's Chronicle*, of the 31st Aug.

The attempt to repair an unsound and unseaworthy vessel often ends in its total destruction; no sooner is one timber displaced than the decay it discloses renders other removals indispensable; and it is not until the ship is reduced to a mere skeleton of what she was, that the full extent of the disease is revealed. The beams that might have hung together a little longer fall to pieces the instant its supports, albeit as rotten as themselves, are removed; and the entire fabric is thus renuced to so deplorable a wreck as to defy renovation however skilfully attempted. Such appears to be the condition of the vessels of the state at the present moment.

The recent exertions of Lord Melbourne to repair his delapidated Cabinet have but confirmed the general opinion of its crazy and unserviceable condition, Like an unpractised tinker, who in mending one hole, contrives to make two, his lordship's several changes have only involved the necessity for more.

In addition to the movements in the Cabinet which we have already recorded, the Marquis of Normanby and Lord John Russell are to change places: Lord Normanby not having become sufficiently *au fait* in his capacity of Colonial Secretary to admit of his being entrusted with the direction of the affairs of Canada (which, if Mr. Poulette Thomson's appointment take effect, will give the Minister who may fill that post abundant employment), is to go to the Home Department. As, however, ignorance and incapacity have not unusually been considered by Lord Melbourne, as disqualifications for office, we very much doubt if this be the whole truth. Lord Howick has tendered his resignation as Secretary at War. The following cause is assigned for his Lordship's retirement by the *Globe*:

"We have heard, but without being able to ascertoin its struth—although from his Lordship's speech in the House of Commons on the Ballot question we think it probable— that *non-concurrence with the Cabinet in a more liberal policy than is consistent with his opinions*, has determined him to retire."

"On several questions," says the *Morning Chronicle* "his lordship has expressed himself with what has been thought imprudent liberality." However this may be, a difference of a somewhat acrimonious nature is said to have arisen between his lordship and Lord Melbourne, which abundantly accounts for his resignation. The *Morning Chronicle*, faithful to Lord Melbourne's principle of abusing his quondam friends the instant he has obtained all he can from them, describes Lord Howick as more dangerous te his friends than his enemies. The resignation of his lordship will, it is expected, lead to other changes, and when ministers are joined by Lord Clarendon and Mr. Macaulay, "we may be certain (says the *Chronicle*) that the expectations of the people will not be disappointed, and that her Majesty will be rescued from the dominion of the Tories."

All this appears to us to be not a little enigmatical. If it be Lord Melbourne's intention to get up his steam for the more rapid progress of the machine of the government, why rid himself of so able and skilful an engineer as the "imprudently liberal" Lord Howick? We should have thought that with, the views which are here described, "imprudent liberality" would have been the best title a man could have possessed to the confidence of Lord Melbourne.

It is impossible not to admire the agreeable candour which pervades the apology offered by the *Globe* for the retirement of Lord Normanby from the Colonial Office:

"These changes," says the *Globe*, "arise out of the self-evident necessity of having at the head of the Colonial Office a minister who, from his having been in the Cabinet during the period that Canada has been in its unsettled state, will be able to bring to the administration of the important duties of his office an intimate knowledge of the questions bearing on the important part of the empire, of the discussions which have taken place in the Cabinet on them, and also of the views of the government on them. In these the Marquis of Normanby must be *necessarily deficient*, although of his zeal, intelligence, and application to business, there can be no doubt while the ability he manifested in the administration of the Irish Government will have prepared him for the duties of the important office on which he now enters."

How ingenious the confession, that Lord Normanby has been placed in a situation for the performance of the duties of which he is *necessarily so deficient* in that most important of all qualifications, sufficient knowledge of the colonies over whose destinies he presides, that he is incapable of conducting a debate on the subject in parliament.—The treatment of Lord Howick, whose resignation has evidently been forced upon him, is a proper retribution for his meanness in accepting office under an administration the leading members of which had intrigued in so base a manner against his father.

The ground of Lord Howick's resignation is not to be looked for in his "imprudent liberality," a quality which would have stood him in great stead at the present juncture, had he established a fair title to it. He has been Glenelged for not being liberal enough—for having "imprudently" committed himself in his speech against the baliot; and for "non-concurrence" in the movement faction in "a more liberal policy than is consistent with his opinions." It is said that Mr. Ellice, notwithstanding his affected retirement from public, like, is both ready and willing to take Lord Howick's place.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, August 27.

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"The public business having been brought to a close, I have now to perform the satisfactory duty of releasing you from your long and laborious attendance in Parliament.

"I rejoice that a definite treaty between Holland and Belgium, negotiated, by the mediation of the Five Powers, has settled the differences between those two countries, and has secured the peace of Europe from dangers to which it had so long been exposed.

"The same concord which brought these intricate questions to a peaceful termination prevails with regard to the affairs of the Levant. The Five Powers, are alike determined to uphold the independence and integrity of the Ottoman empire, and I trust that this union will insure a satisfactory settlement of matters which are of the deepest importance to the whole of Europe.

"It has afforded me the sincerest pleasure to have been able to assist in effecting a reconciliation between France and Mexico. Intent upon preserving for my subjects the blessing of peace, I am highly gratified when I can avaid myself of on opportunity of removing misunderstandings between other Powers.

"I have recently concluded with the King of the French a convention, calculated to put an end to differences which have arisen of late years between the fishermen of Great Britain and of France. This convention, by removing causes of dispute, will cement that union between the two countries which is so advantageous to both, and so conducive to the general interests of Europe.

"I shall continue to pursue with perseverance to the negociations in which I am engaged, to persuade all the powers of Christendom to unite in a general league for the entire extinction of the Slave Trade, and I trust that, with the blessing of Providence, my efforts in so rieous a cause will be rewarded with success.

"I regret that the differences which led to the withdrawal of my Minister from the Court of Tehran have not yet been satisfactorily adjusted by the Government of Persia.

"In order to fulfil the engagements announced to you at the opening of the opening of the present Session, the Governor-General of India has moved an army across the Indus, and I have much satisfaction in being able to inform you that the advance of that expedition has been hitherto unopposed, and there is every reason to hope that the important objects, for which these military operations have been undertaken, will be finally obtained.

"I have observed with much approbation the attention which you have bestowed upon the internal state and condition of the country. I entirely concur in the measures which you have framed for the preservation of order, the repression of crime, and the better administration of justice in the metropolis, and I have given a cordial assent to the Bills which you have presented to me for the establishment of a more efficient constabulary force in those towns which peculiarly required it, and for effecting the important object of generally extending and invigorating the civil power throughout the country.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I thank you for the zeal and readiness with which you have voted the supplies for the service of the year.

"It has been with satisfaction that I have given my consent to a reduction of the Postage Duties. I trust that the Act which has passed on this subject will be a relief and encouragement to trade, and that, by facilitating intercourse and correspondence, it will be productive of much social advantage and improvement. I have given directions that the preliminary step should be taken to give effect to the intention of Parliament, as soon as the inquiries and arrangements required for this purpose shall have been completed.

"The advantageous terms upon which a considerable amount of the Unfunded Debt has been converted into Stock, afford a satisfactory proof of the reliance placed on the credit and resources of the country, as well as on your determination to preserve inviolate the National Faith.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"It is with great pain that I have found myself compelled to enforce the law against those who no longer concealed their design of resisting by force the lawful authorities, and of subverting the institutions of the country.

"The solemn proceedings of Courts of Justice, and the fearless administration of the laws by all who are engaged in that duty, have checked the first attempts at insubordination; and I rely securely upon the good sense of my people, and upon their attachment to the Contitution, for the maintenance of law and order, which are as necessary for the protection of the poor as for the welfare of the wealthies classes of the community."

The Lord Chancellor then declared it to be her Majesty's pleasure that Parliament be prorogued 'til the 24th of October next, after which the Queen retired, attended by the officers of the crown, &c.

SPAIN

The insurrection against Maroto is becoming so serious as to threaten the ruin Don Carlos. On the 11th nine battalions had revolted, and were joined by their officers. The next day their chief Don Juan Echevarria had a secret conference of two hours and a half duration with Don Carlos, which ended in his returning to head the insurgents, who were joined on the next and following day by the 3d 12th and 14th battalions. Elio sent a monk to the insurgents of the 5th division during the conference at Lesaca, offering them pardon if they would lay down their arms, and assuring them that Don Carlos was under no restraint; but they answered that they would only listen to such a proposition from the month of Carlos himself, apart from his ministers.

Madrid papers of the 13th instant have been received. The *Gazette* of that date contains a pompous despatch from Espartero, announcing his arrival at Vittoria, and his disappointment at not meeting the enemy, whom he resolves to