

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The communication of "J. M. D." has been received, and we confess not a little surprise at its contents, varying so materially, as they do, from the reason put forth by the other party to whom he alludes. We might have been prepared for some such reason as that assigned from any other quarter, but certainly never from our correspondent. We hope he will shortly prove to us that his present view of the subject has not been the fruit of any very serious consideration, but that he will be induced to change his mind. We can assure him that it is of importance to us that he should—and that very shortly.

Again we have to request that the accounts due to this office may be sent in without delay. It is really pitiful to hear the excuses that are made to our collector for non-payment, and this for a paltry two dollars. Our larger subscribers have, with one or two exceptions, never suffered themselves to be called upon twice. We have to pay weekly heavy sums to our printer, and our subscribers should consider this.

Our subscribers in Toronto and Kingston will soon be called upon by parties deputed to that office, when we trust they will be prepared to settle with them.

We shall be glad to hear from the POSTMASTER of Sherbrooke in compliance with his promise.

"CARRIAGE" next week. We regret our space will not at present week of any portion of this highly graphic sketch. It shall appear altogether in our next number.

"A MILITIAN" on Scrip, in our next.

THE

WEEKLY EXPOSITOR

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, OCT. 29, 1846.

FEDERAL UNION OF THE PROVINCES

We have recently understood, and from a source that leave us little room to doubt the correctness of the statement, that the Home Government are seriously projecting a Union of the British North American Provinces, as recommended by the Earl of Durham, whose policy has been detailed at some length in previous numbers of this journal. It will indeed be a great triumph to the memory of that distinguished but unfortunate nobleman, should his enlarged views, even after so long an interval from his decease, and after so repeated evidences of the failure to secure the advantages of good government to Canada of the partial union effected by Lord Sydenham, be at length confessed to be the only measure can effect the important objects proposed.

Experience has shown the utter impracticability of the French party who, linked with a set of Radicals from Western Canada, who have influence enough with them to induce them to refuse office, unless they themselves participate in that office, remain true to the unholy compact they have formed, and decline all connexion with the moderate party, unless the firebrands to whom we have alluded as being associated with them, are permitted to run their devastating course once more.

Much excitement exists, and much hope is entertained in the ranks of the opposition, by reason of the disunion that prevails in the Conservative party. It is by them assumed that such disunion must necessarily produce disorganization, and subsequent defeat and overthrow; but let the French Cana-

dians undeceive themselves. All parties are agreed that Mr. Draper's falsehood and want of tact unfit him to be the head of the government of any country, but, rather than that the Radical party shall triumph, the Conservatives will even tolerate the continuance a little longer of Mr. Draper, until an effective Conservative Government can be formed.

Whatever the manner in which this unpopular leader has executed his task, and however much he may have evinced that absence of tact and straightforwardness which mark the whole course of his political conduct, it cannot be denied that he has made every overture to the French party which they could have any right to expect; and, therefore, if they find themselves completely sunk as a political body in the General Union which is meditated, they will have only to attribute their position to that blindness and fatuity which, instead of their better sense suffering the lamentable events of past years to die away from memory, rather seems, if we are to judge from their continued hostility of attitude, to treasure them as evidences of a bygone grievance.

We shall recur to this subject again, and in a manner to show that not only the Federal Union in question is the only measure calculated to root out the evil here more immediately complained of, but that it is the surest guarantee of honesty and consistency in the government of these Colonies.

MORE GOVERNMENT ABUSES.

MINING JOBBING.

We have, from the outset of these mining enterprises, so readily countenanced by the Government, always suspected that they had a *sub rosa* interest in the matter which, in an Administration professing impartiality and equal justice, is assuredly the last thing to be tolerated.

We have heard, and we confess with astonishment it would be difficult to render, that the Perpetual Secretary himself has an interest in one if not more of the existing Companies, and what we do know is that his Assistant has openly offered his own shares for sale. Now, how is it possible, we ask, that such a perversion of all the obligations of an upright Government can exist, without bringing down contempt upon themselves and injury upon the public at large. It is well known that licences may be obtained at this moment by any one who is willing to comply with certain very easy conditions. Now, therefore, can any individual who goes to Mr. Hopkirk for information in regard to a locality or licence, expect to receive a correct statement when the interests of Mr. Hopkirk may render him unwilling to afford it?

So clearly was the infamy to which this system might lead seen through by the late Lord Metcalfe, that, although a licence had been given to Mr. Hopkirk while he was at the head of the Government, it no sooner became known to him that the party obtaining it was in the Government employ when his Excellency caused the licence to be rescinded. Yet—will it be believed?—the present Administrator of the Government, the Earl of

Cathcart, has thought proper to undo this upright act of Lord Metcalfe, by granting another licence to the man whom, in his sense of public duty, he had seen fit to deprive of it.

There was a time when Mr. Hopkirk—the Perpetual Assistant Secretary of the Perpetual Secretary—was not so particular as to obtaining licenses, and that was when he was a second-rate brewer of "shocking bad beer." Then he was so indifferent about the matter, as to compel repeated complaints to the Government from the proper quarter, that he would persist in brewing without a licence. We presume it was in a great degree in consequence of this very decided hostility to the enactments of the law that then Government rewarded Mr. Hopkirk, by elevating him to a position where he could brew official despatches as flat nearly as the beer he was thus solicited to abandon.

A change now seems to have come over Mr. Hopkirk. Though he could brew beer without a licence, he is not disposed to work mines without one. And why? Because, as he may never have been able to find sale for much of his quondam beverage, inasmuch as people might not have thought it quite legal to buy beer that had been brewed without a licence, he is now determined to adopt a surer and a safer course. His licence—that licence which was taken from him by Lord Metcalfe, as having been improperly bestowed—will enable him to put more money in his pocket than either his beer or his Assistant Secretaryship could, or does command. And in this manner are the public interests served. Call at the Provincial Secretary's office, on business of importance: Mr. Hopkirk is not in: He is out,—perhaps selling mining stock!

We repeat that it is in the highest degree improper that a person holding a situation under the Government, should be allowed to gamble in this manner in grants which it is not quite clear the Administration were authorized to make without the sanction of the Home Government, except indeed where the parties were of the highest respectability. The fact of an immediate servant of the Government being a barterer or trafficker in that from which all parties in it should keep themselves wholly aloof, cannot but excite distrust and disgust in the minds of those who have, in perfect good faith, embarked in an enterprise promising fair and honorable remuneration to the legitimate speculator. We shall recur to this subject again.

NEW ELECTION.

We are happy to hear that, in the event of a new election, it is the intention of Charles Richardson, Esq. of Niagara, to endeavor to take his seat once more in Parliament for the county of Kent, where he is well known, and where he has numerous friends to back his own strong personal influence. True, in doing this, he must give up the Clerkship of the Peace for Niagara, but reduced to a miserable pittance, as this office has been, by the patch-work Administration, the sacrifice cannot equal the advantage that will be derived from his position in the House. Mr. Richardson has pledged himself to se-