



# THE

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From Roby's Continental Tour.

### THE GOBELIN TAPESTRY.

In about an hour we got our passports *visé* for Calais; and immediately galloped off to see the royal manufacture of gobelin tapestry, Rue Mouffetard—only open to the public on Saturdays. It is the most curious and worth visiting of all the sights we saw in Paris.

I had no idea of the beauty of this fabric, from the tattered faded examples previously beheld.—Fresh from the loom, they have at a distance precisely the appearance of the originals whence they are taken. Some of the finest works of Raphael, Rubens, Le Brun, Vernet, are closely copied. I could scarcely believe some that were just finished to be tapestry, the imitation was so complete; the most delicate flesh tints, shades, blending of colour, demi-tints, reflections, made with surprising accuracy. the juicy softness, the undulating delicacy of the human form, represented by so hard and untractable a material as worsted!

Several years are required to finish one subject, and the cost of an ordinary copy is nearly one thousand pounds. These works are never sold, but presented to crown heads, churches, &c. by the King alone. The manufactory is supported entirely by Government, and owes its name to Jean Gobelin, a celebrated dyer of wool. The workmen have descended from father to son for many generations; none else are employed; and when old or disabled they retire on a comfortable pension.

At this time there were twenty or more pieces in progress. In the loom called the *hante lisse* the warp is vertical, and workmen sit behind, hidden from the spectator, a model or picture at their back. Every thread is put in by the hand, after carefully referring to the subject. A great variety of colour yarns are in a box below, from which the artist selects, and compares it with the part he is copying. The threads are so small that days may elapse and little progress appear to be made.

On every loom the name of the picture and painter is written.—The rough side of the tapestry is toward the workman, consequently spectators have a full view, and can examine the different stages of forwardness.

Some of Rubens' finest allegorical De Medici pictures are in hand at present: they are taken out of the frames, and the canvas mounted on rollers. Several, destined as ornaments for the churches, were ordered by Charles the Tenth.

There are four work-rooms, and

all the materials, colours, &c. are prepared on the premises.

The royal carpet manufactory, established by Maria de Medici in 1604, is under the same roof. The variety and richness of these costly ornaments are indescribable: every thread is worked in similar to embroidery. Several workmen were making curtains, carpets, and hangings for the royal palaces. I was much amused to see them cutting out the fleur de lis from several patterns that were in progress, commenced during the late reign of Charles the Tenth, Louis Philip having repudiated these insignia of the Bourbons.

Such is the length of time required to complete these expensive draperies, that another revolution may happen ere they are finished, and the discarded emblem be reinserted.

If I remember right, from five to six hundred people had gone through that day. Each party has to wait until the rooms are empty a certain number only being admitted at once.

Any foreigner is entitled to the *entree*, on showing his passport, and a trifling gratuity paid to the conductor.

THE STEAMER SIRIUS CORRESPONDENCE.—Letter from Lieut. Roberts, the former commander of the Br. Steamer, Sirius, to the consignees.

CORK, 31st May, 1838.

DEAR SIR,—It is with pleasure I have to inform you of our successful trip to England. We arrived at Falmouth in eighteen days, fifteen of which were foul winds and boisterous weather; the coals were very bad, or we should have been home three days sooner. I am much taking up with the British Queen, or should have sent lots of papers.

I expect to be out with you about September but not sooner. She is out of dock, and the most magnificent vessel ever built in Great Britain.

I have been received in the most handsome manner; in Cork they are to present me with a service of silver, value £200; in the town of Passage where I was born, a large silver salver, and the corporation of Cork present me the freedom of the city, in a silver box. The British and American Steam Navigation Company are going to present me with a piece of plait, and I am to be presented to her Majesty next court.

Since the arrival of the Sirius all is alive about Atlantic steam navigation.

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

We publish to-day, from the QUEBEC OFFICIAL GAZETTE Extraordinary, of the 1st inst., the Letters Patent of Her Majesty, appointing JOHN GEO. EARL OF DURHAM, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over each of the Provinces of Lower Canada, Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward.—The circumstances under which the Earl of Durham has assumed the high powers with which it has pleased Her Most Gracious Majesty to invest his Lordship, are so new and extraordinary, and the event itself likely to lead to such important consequences, that it may not be improper to take a cursory review of the document in question.

It appears, from these Letters Patent, that the titular appellation of the Earl of DURHAM, as Governor, is different from that which His Excellency assumed in the Proclamation, announcing his accession to the administration of the government. In the latter his Lordship is designated "Governor General, Vice Admiral and Captain General," whereas, in the former, which we should think to be the true authority upon this head, he is deno-

minated "Captain General and Commander in Chief," which is the ancient and unvariable style and title of the Governors in Chief of these Provinces. This, at first view, may be supposed to be a trivial and unimportant difference; but in the execution of the high functions of the Governor in Chief, several cases may occur which may render it a matter of infinite importance, that the title assumed by His Excellency should strictly and minutely correspond with that set down in his Commission, and in the Letters Patent to which we have alluded: such cases, for instance, as in the issuing of Proclamations which impose an obligation upon the subject—in the appointment of persons to offices of trust—in the nomination of Judges—in the constitution of Courts of Law—in the granting of pardons—and in the passing of Ordinances. It also appears, that His Excellency holds five several Commissions—one for each of the Governments we have mentioned. We presume that the object of this, is to authorize the Earl of DURHAM to assume the immediate administration of affairs in either of the NORTH AMERICAN Provinces, notwithstanding the presence of the Lieutenant Governor; a power which has not hitherto been vested in the Governors in Chief, who could exercise no administrative or legislative authority in any Province except LOWER CANADA. This is evident from the fact stated in the Letters Patent, that provision has been made in the several Commissions of Lord DURHAM "for the Administration of the Government of our said Provinces, and of the said Island respectively, in the event of your absence, by authorising the respective Lieutenant Governors or Administrators of the Governments of the said Provinces and of the said Island respectively, in that contingency, to exercise the powers of the said Commissions respectively granted to you." In as far as respects other Provinces, these are extensive powers, and such as have never before been conferred upon a BRITISH Governor on this Continent, which renders it the more necessary that they should be wisely and prudently exercised. But although "Governor General" is constituted and appointed "Governor General of all the said Provinces on the Continent of North America, and of the said Islands of Prince Edward and Newfoundland," we cannot discover that His Excellency can interfere with the Government of the latter Island. On the contrary, it is declared, that nothing contained in the Letters Patent shall be construed to revoke or abrogate the Commission of the Governor or Commander in Chief of NEWFOUNDLAND. From the terms in which this part of the Letters Patent are expressed, it may be laid down as the true style and title of the Earl of DURHAM, that while "Governor General of all the said Provinces," he is only entitled to act as "Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over each of our Provinces." Thus, for instance, while administering the Government of this Province, his title ought to be "Captain General and Governor in Chief," whereas, in any act having relation to the Provinces in general, it ought to be "Governor General." We do not find, however, that this material distinction has been observed in the several official documents which have been issued by order of his Excellency in relation to LOWER CANADA—the title of "Governor General" alone having been assumed.

Besides his power in these respects, the Earl of DURHAM is constituted and appointed "High Commissioner for the adjustment of certain important questions, depending in the said Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, respecting the form and future Government of the said Provinces." But it does not follow from this, that His Excellency is empowered and authorized finally to settle and decide upon all questions, with respect to which any doubt or difficulty may exist in either of these two Provinces; far less to prescribe and establish the form of our future Government. It appears to us, that his Lordship is only entitled to inquire into these matters, in such a manner as to enable the Imperial Parliament to decide upon the form of our future Government, and establish it upon such a basis, as will meet the views of those who are sincerely desirous that none but a free, though dependent, constitutional system of Monarchical Government, should prevail in this part of Her Majesty's dominions; deriving its moral form, and inspired by the example of the native institutions of the Mother Country. His Excellency may, indeed, in conjunction with his Special Council, pass such local laws and ordinances, as may prove to the advantage of this Province in particular, and we trust that no time may be lost in doing so. But he cannot establish a new form of government amongst us, nor even restore the old one, without the sanction of an Act of Parliament. That, alone, is the authority by which the loyal inhabitants of this Province can be restored to their place among the other constitutional Colonies of the Empire. Yet much—very much—almost every thing towards the speedy and effectual accomplishment of so auspicious an event, depends upon the impartial inquiries of his Excellency, and the digest which he will make of such inquiries, for the instruction of Government and the information of Parliament. We are far from saying that our fate is entirely in the hands of Lord DURHAM. We hope that the rights and liberties of BRITONS will never be consigned into the hands of any individual, however high in rank or virtuous in patriotism. There is an ultimate national authority to which all may appeal for justice and redress. But, as we have said, it is evident, that much of our future weal depends upon his Excellency the present Govern-

ner in Chief. Such being the case, it becomes us all to approach his Lordship with the words of soberness and truth. If the loyal Constitutionalists and Unionists of this Province expect success to their cause, they must be indefatigable in their duty to themselves and their posterity, as well as in urging upon the Earl of DURHAM every consideration tending to a redress of real grievances, and the speedy establishment in these Provinces of such a system of Government, as will ensure to us the rights, liberties and moral happiness of BRITISH subjects.

We (*Montreal Gazette*) make the following extract from the *Toronto British Colonist*, as indicative of the state of public feeling at that place; though we must candidly admit, that it appears to us, there exists throughout the whole of Upper Canada, on the present occasion, a greater degree of alarm and excitement than there is any occasion for. It is true that that Province has, on various occasions, been invaded and insulted by a barbarous horde of AMERICAN ruffians, who are a disgrace to civilized nations, but we trust that the time is not far distant, when proper amends will be both solicited and made. In the mean time, we would recommend a calm and temperate forbearance on the part of our brethren of Upper Canada, assuring themselves, that justice will ultimately be done to them. If not, their course, as well as ours, is clear:—

During the past week the various rumours that have spread abroad through the minds of the inhabitants, have caused considerable excitement. Authentic information can be procured relative to the reports. A considerable portion of the volunteers have already returned to their homes, and simultaneously with this partial disbanding of troops, we find the guards in the city increased, and picquets placed where none had been before. The wharves are guarded during the night, and the cry of "All's well!" proceeding at all hours of the night from the further extremity of the piers, and from the city guards in other places, reminds our citizens that they are protected. On Tuesday, the York Militia were called out, with the view of selecting from each regiment one hundred effective men for active service, and the volunteer corps or night guard, whose services has for some time been dispensed with, are again ordered to be in readiness. The "Queen's Own," commanded by Col. Kingsmill, have proceeded to the Niagara frontier, to be stationed at Drummondville. All these preparations and changes would seem to indicate that there is something stirring, and we feel persuaded that the Government must be possessed of some information to induce these precautions, not known to the public. But be that as it may, it is pleasing to know that the Government are on the alert, and when the hour of danger arrives they will find the people ready and willing to sustain them.

### FUNERAL OF MAJOR WARD.

Three o'clock yesterday afternoon was the hour fixed for the last solemn and sad ceremony whereby the friend and brother officers of Major Ward, of the Royals, could testify their esteem. He was buried with those Military honors to which his gallant services gave him so peculiar a claim, and the tearful eyes of brave soldiers bore silent, but eloquent testimony to the general sympathy excited by his untimely fate. It would have been impossible to know the man, to reflect upon his standing in society, his rank in the noble profession he had chosen, his brilliant prospects of weal, as well as honor—to witness the solemn procession which by its tardy movements implied the reluctance of his companions in arms to part, even now, with his remains—to hear the beautiful but soul searching music of the band—and to suppress that tide of feeling which, if any feared it was unmanly, found at all events for each, an apology in his neighbour's eyes.

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