

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The "MYSTERIES OF MONTREAL," have been received, and carefully read; but, without seeking to play the harsh and ungracious critic, we are compelled to say that it appears to us that a great deal of fine writing has been thrown away upon a very meagre subject. Montreal is too open—too matter-of-fact a place, and quite too inexperienced for mystery. Paris and Berlin, or even London, are old enough in iniquity to give interest to the delineation, but here we have not reached that acmé of hidden profligacy which can render its development, under the head of mystery, either piquant or interesting. We rather think the author of the *Montreal Mysteries* must have had a sniff of the "Cemetery" in view when the M^r TAVISH monument was described. But, pleasantry apart, we trust that we shall not be misunderstood. Although the style is inflated—a fault common to most young writers—the language proves a capability to do something better when not embarked in the "MONTREAL MYSTERY" line. The only hero, by the bye, to whom we have yet been introduced is a sad carrotty-headed fellow, and there is, therefore, no sympathy excited for him. As for CLARA, we know but one stern, fierce, dark looking woman like her, and that woman is a frequent attendant at the Evening Services at — Church.

The ELDERLY gentleman is informed that the "EXPOSITOR" can manage to get on without his promised support.

A "TEN PER CENT. TAX-PAYER" wishes to know why the various "shows" now, or recently, exhibiting in Montreal were left untaxed when so high contributions are levied upon the people themselves. Not being a Member of the Corporation, we cannot give him a good reason, but we are quite convinced he has only to bring the matter under the consideration of the active Mayor to have immediate action taken for the removal of the evil. As he justly says, it is rather a hardship to tax milk, water, beer, and bread carts, conveying the necessaries of life, when its luxuries are left untouched. The public have paid Mr. Winter, Mr. Templeton, and Monsieur Philippe, quite money enough to have admitted of the performances of these artists being very highly taxed indeed. They could well afford it.

After the present issue of the WEEKLY EXPOSITOR no single numbers will be sold. They who desire the paper must subscribe to it, in which case they will be supplied with a file from the beginning. None of those, however, who receive a copy of the present impression, and have not given their names as subscribers, will have it continued to them, unless they signify their desire. All letters must be sent free to the Office, the address of which is given at the foot of the paper.

THE
WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1846.

THE BOARD OF WORKS.

Several of the papers have taken up the subject of a defalcation, amounting to five hundred pounds, on the part of a paymaster on one of the Canals—and it is curious to observe how the subject is handled, according to the particular views of particular parties.—The *Courier* of Monday, with the frankness that usually characterizes that journal, has a rather long article which we extract below; while in reference to the same subject, the *Herald* gives in its number of Tuesday, the following from the *Gazette*:

"We have no direct information, but we believe the fact is something like this—that, a different mode of payment being adopted, a long account was closed, and the paymaster found his cash deficient some four or five hundred pounds, which, unless explained, he will have to make

good, or rather to lose. The securities are ample; there is no reason to presume fraud, and the detection of the error, from which possibly the party himself is the sufferer, was owing to the introduction of an improved system—so at least we have heard, it currently stated."

But why, after all, raise such a clamor about so paltry a deficiency as this, when the inquiry should have been instituted long ago, and at its fountain head? Why have Mr. Killaly's defalcations not been brought prominently before the public, and how is it that he has, notwithstanding the most serious charges of mismanagement of the Department while Chairman of the Board of Works, been allowed to retain eight hundred sterling a year? Of the opinion of the ministry themselves, in regard to Mr. Killaly's conduct, some opinion may be inferred from what we shall proceed to state.

Early in the course of the last session, and in the apartments of Col. Prince, the member for Essex, Col. Gowan, the member for Leeds stated, and with no injunction to secrecy, that he, as well as the Solicitor General, had been told that morning by Mr. Morris, that on investigation it had been found that the expenses of the Board of Works exceeded the estimates, by upwards of a hundred thousand pounds more than he, Col. Gowan, had calculated they would! We are positive as to the substance of the remark, although we may not be strictly correct in the details, for we write altogether from memory. We certainly had fully expected, after this declaration, to have heard the matter seriously taken up by the Administration, but instead of that, to our great surprise—no not to our surprise, for we are surprised at nothing that is done by Mr. Draper's Government—the eulogy of the Board of Works was afterwards later pronounced in the house, under the sanction of the Executive.

They are not the five hundred pounds now deficient, that have been the means of impeding the advancement, from want of funds, of the public works of the Province. But they are the larger items, compared with which this is but the veriest trifle; and for which Mr. Killaly should have been called to account, as well as his factotum, Mr. Power, the contractor on the Welland Canal, who, very wisely, when the subject became one of partial inquiry, if not of investigation, made the best of his way to England.

All the infamy that has been perpetrated in the Board of Works attaches to those who are now carefully removed by the Government from the responsibility; but the country is yet to learn why Mr. Morris, after making the admission he did, did not insist on Mr. Killaly's expulsion from all connection with the Board of Works.

Who, by the way, is the spy who gave the information in the first instance? We should like to know this "enemy in the camp." He may be useful to us.

The following is what appeared in the *Courier* of Monday:—

"RESOURCES DEFALCATION IN THE BOARD OF WORKS.—For several days there have been whispers in private circles that some important disclosures would soon be brought to light, involving individuals high in the confidence of the very important Department of Public Works. We have

been in daily expectation of hearing something from our ministerial contemporaries, but they either have no information or else they are determined to keep it to themselves. It is right that the public should know that a heavy defalcation has been discovered on the part of a paymaster on one of the principal canals. It is supposed that it has existed for some time. Mr. Thos. A. Begly has been the principal accountant of the Board, and it was his duty to have exercised a check over the paymaster. We have not heard whether he has been called on for explanations or whether he has given any, but most assuredly his friends ought to explain to the public how it happens, that the system of check which he has adopted, has proved so inefficacious. Mr. Thos. A. Begly, however, has been doing good service to Mr. Robinson and his colleagues, and his management will not, we suspect, be very rigidly enquired into. Public interest will now be excited as to the management of the financial affairs of the Board of Works. If the paymaster on one canal can manage to become a defaulter, why not all the paymasters? We shall, in all probability, have to return to this subject."

"We take the above from the *Pilot* of Saturday—and we regret to say that there is too much reason to believe that a considerable defalcation has been discovered in the accounts of the Paymaster of the Board of Works. We understand, however, that the amount does not exceed £500. We learnt some days ago, the office of Paymaster of the Board of Works was to be done away with, and before it was discovered that any defalcation existed. It is certainly unfortunate that the brother of the Paymaster should have been the Secretary of the Board, and the only check upon this department of the public works. At the same time we cannot help attaching blame to Mr. Killaly in relation to this matter; as chief officer of the Board of Works, it was his duty to have looked closely into every branch of the Department.

"As to the insinuation about Mr. T. A. Begly's 'doing good service to Mr. Robinson and his colleagues,' we do not exactly understand it—but we will venture to say that Mr. Robinson is independent enough not to allow any such motives to influence his conduct in the matter, and that he will do justice to all parties and at all hazards, having at the same time due regard for the public interests. It is well known that the Board of Works' department has been looked upon by the public with great suspicion for many months past, and a variety of charge brought against it, which—whether true or unfounded—required investigation. We have no doubt but that many of these are not founded on facts; nevertheless, the whole should undergo the severest scrutiny, and we rely upon Mr. Robinson, and his colleague, Mr. Casgrain, for the due performance of this duty, however onerous and disagreeable it may prove."

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A GOVERNOR.

After all, it would appear that Lord Elgin has not been chosen for any particular aptitude that has been discovered in him to supply the place of Lord Metcalfe, but simply because he has succeeded the best hitherto, as a Colonial Governor—not, be it understood, of any important dependency of Great Britain in India, but of a comparatively obscure Island in the West Indies.—We, by no means, offer these remarks with a view to detract in any way from Lord Elgin's merit as a statesman,—that will establish itself when his Lordship arrives amongst us,—but in order to point out either the difficulty the Home Government must have in providing competent Governors for