

world; but what is their knowledge? They have a dreamy recollection of a few Roman authors read at school, but are ignorant of science. The Georgics of Virgil which direct a bullock to be slain and left in the fields, that the bees may be generated in the putrescent body, would have been a poor substitute in Mr Young's mind for his acquaintance with the laws of agricultural chemistry, as laid down by Sir Humphry Davy. But for the accident of his possessing some knowledge of science, acquired not in early education, but in the course of an active mercantile life, the acceleration of the productiveness, wealth, and population of this important province, might have been retarded indefinitely. Yet, obvious as the benefits of science are, there is but a small and obscure fraction of the thinking minds of our country which maintain the propriety of making it a part of education. What with insane fears, rivoted prejudices, and opposing interests, it only enjoys at this moment a kind of clandestine existence even in the few seminaries to which it has been introduced.

## AFFAIRS OF CANADA.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 2.

Sir R. Inglis wished to ask a question on two subjects of considerable importance. The first related to the Caroline steamer, and he wished to know whether the government were in possession of any further accounts than had appeared in the American papers, respecting the Caroline steamer, and whether the noble lord would favor the house with a statement of the situation in which Mr Fox, her Majesty's minister at Washington, was now placed towards the government of the United States?

Lord Palmerston said that with regard to the Caroline, no official accounts had been received at the Colonial-office, and nothing on the subject was known, except what had appeared in the American newspapers. He could answer the question with relation to Mr Fox, as despatches had been received from him in the course of the day. These despatches were dated the 5th of January. Mr Fox on the 2d of January had received a letter from Sir Francis Head, stating what had taken place with regard to Navy Island, and the occupation of that place by a body of persons armed and equipped within the territory of the United States, and assisted by American citizens. Mr Fox, therefore communicated these facts to the Secretary of the United States, and received in reply a friendly communication; in the first instance verbally from Mr Forsyth, containing an expression of sentiments such as might be expected from the friendly spirit of the United States government towards this country, and the high sense of honour by which that country has been actuated in its doings with foreign countries. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the communications that had taken place between her Majesty's government and that of the United States.—He thought the house might confidently trust—although there might have been, on both sides, acts committed not consistent with the laws, and in violation of the treaties that existed between the two countries, that the house might trust that nothing had taken place to interrupt the friendly relations which existed between this country and the United States.

LONDON, Feb. 4.

The struggle in the Commons is over, and the Canada bill has passed through the committee, but it has been purchased at a price which no government ought to have paid for it. We pointed out the two courses which have been pursued. The course of concession was that which was adopted. All Sir R. Peel's amendments were acceded to; and, from this moment, it is demonstrated to the country that, let who will be nominally minister it is in his hands all real power is vested. He is as much Dictator in the House of Commons as Lord Durham will be in Canada, if he ever arrives there, which we confess we begin to

think very doubtful, for, without foreseeing the precise march of events, the distracted state of the liberal party, and the firm organisation of their opponents, indicate the probability of some change occurring between this and April, which will replace the conservatives upon the Treasury benches. Never was a government so cruelly damaged by its own errors, and the want of ordinary precautions, as Lord Melbourne's government has been during the last two nights. Their bill, clumsily drawn, and carelessly worded, was most remorselessly dissected, by Sir Edward Sugden and Sir William Follett. Their Instructions which never ought to have been printed—contain at least as much to be objected to as to be praised; and Lord John Russell, in lieu of availing himself on Thursday, of Mr Ellice's speech, to concede gracefully what it was impossible to resist, founded upon a declaration which he could not sustain, and completed the triumph of his opponents last night by its unqualified retraction. We say, therefore, again, that the Canada bill has been bought at a price which never ought to have been paid for it, and that we see not how a government is to be carried on which seeks its strength in the forbearance of its enemies.—*Weekly Chronicle, (ultra radical.)*

The minority who voted against the third reading of the Lower Canada government bill.—Thomas Attwood, Birmingham, Edward Baines; Raikes Currie, Northampton; John Temple Leader; Sir Wm. Molesworth; Thomas Wakely; Henry Warburton; Wm. Williams, Coventry. Tellers for the Noes, Mr Hume and Mr Grote.

In the *Eclectic Review* for Feb. 1, we find the following views of Canadian affairs, which are clearly the result of much reflection.

"No elected body, if liable to a re-election or rejection, can be an independent body. If the same electors have to choose two Houses, without any other difference than the money-qualification of those elected, both Houses, with that exception, will be counterparts of each other. The great object of having a second House, is to prevent the influences which govern the first House from leading to the enactment of rash and improper laws. If the same influences govern both Houses, that object can rarely be effected. To give independence, respectability, and public confidence to such second House, should be the great aim. Wealth will not give these—birth will not give these—all the nonsense that Papineau and the Canadian party talk about, of the necessity of wealth to form an aristocracy or second House, is sheer delusion. If the members of their Legislative Council really possessed such wealth, they would hate it ten times more—because it would become ten times more influential and mischievous." There might be a plan, however, for forming a Legislative Council, which would embrace all those objects and which would, we think, be popular, even with the French Canadians themselves. Our plan of future government would be as follows:—

"1. Let there be but one House of Assembly, or Commons, for the whole of the British dominions in North America, to which representatives may be sent, according to population, from Lower Canada, Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, &c.

"2. From such House of Assembly, let an upper House, or Legislative Council, be formed, to consist, besides the present Councillors, of all members who have been returned for say 14 years by the same constituency. These gentlemen, enjoying public confidence, may be supposed to be devoted to public interests, and, with the experience they will have gained, may be fairly trusted to correct the errors of the Lower House; and, being made inde-

pendant of both the popular and the monarchical influences, by holding their seats for life, will form the best and readiest court of appeal to which both may refer.

"3. The Executive Council, and all placemen, save the Governor-General and his Secretary, should, as the present holders die, or are dismissed, be North Americans by birth or adoption, and should sit in both Houses, or either House, as they might consider expedient from time to time, but must not be permitted to vote, and, of course, need not be returned by any constituency.

"4. The three estates so formed, to be enabled, by an act of the Imperial Legislature to unite the British tenure of Canadian lands, 'free and common socage,' or, which our readers will better understand, as freeholds in fee, with the French law of descents, in cases of intestacy; so that, in seeking to induce them to abolish and abandon their feudal tenures which promote fraud and prevent improvement, we may not deter them from so doing by the injustice and inhumanity of our law of primogeniture.

"5. To give to the House of Assembly so formed, the full and entire control and appropriation of all the Crown and other revenues, duties, &c., upon the distinct stipulation, that out of such revenues and duties, a permanent civil list should be forthwith passed.

"6. To leave to such three estates all questions regarding emigration, official responsibility, the wild lands, and the law of tenures for future settlers; but not to permit any existing tenure to be altered without the consent of all parties concerned.

"7. To have no state or dominant church whatever; but leave all matters affecting religion or education, and the disposal of all funds for the object of either, to the decision, appropriation, and apportionment of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council—the Executive Council and Governor not to be permitted to interfere in the matter.

"8. To give local charters to the different towns and districts creating municipal bodies by popular elections, and giving to such municipal bodies so created the sole right of declaring and maintaining that mode of tenure which each may deem the fittest for its own locality."

## BILL TO MAKE TEMPORARY PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LOWER CANADA.

The preamble sets forth the impossibility, in the present state of that province, to call together the House of Assembly; that it is expedient the province should be governed on constitutional principles that as, in order to the preparation of such measures as it may be desirable to propose to Parliament for improving the constitution of the provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, or either of them, and for regulating divers questions on which the said provinces are jointly interested, the Governor-General of her Majesty's provinces in North America has been authorized to summon a meeting, consisting of the Governor-General and of certain other persons respecting the interests, and opinions of her Majesty's subjects inhabiting the said provinces, it is in the mean time necessary that temporary provision should be made for the government of Lower Canada. The Acts constituting a Legislature for Lower Canada are suspended until the first day of November 1840, and her Majesty is authorised to appoint, or to authorize the Governor of Lower Canada to appoint, such a number of Legislative Councillors as to her Majesty shall seem meet, and to provide for the removal, suspension, or resignation of such Legislative Councillors. The ordinances made by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the majority