

libel upon all that is conservative in the country. What, are we then to understand that, if it be the pleasure of Mr. Draper to die or resign; or the pleasure of others to turn him out of office, the reins of Government must pass into the hands of a party opposed to British interests, and unwilling even to act with the British portion of the population, since there is no other man but himself who can hold them? We can fully enough believe that this is Mr. Draper's own impression, and that it is this self-confidence which has induced him to play a part—to assume a position which has nauseated every honest conservative in the country—now treating them in all the insolence of office, and now not deigning even to notice them, or their claims to his common courtesy and attention; but we certainly are at a loss to know why the party should thus seek to underrate itself. Yet even were it so—did Mr. Draper really unite in himself all the talent of the country, we would much rather see political honesty than political charlatanism and hypocrisy guiding the destinies of a people whose very newness as a nation forbids the moral taint of a corrupt Government, and surely, if one man—who has not the enviable advantage of being Mr. Draper—be not of himself sufficient to move the wheels of Government, the united address of the whole body of the Executive may “club” talent enough for the purpose. But this is idle. There are men in the country who, if not possessing all the experience of Mr. Draper, are quite as capable of honestly fulfilling their duty to the country; and honesty of purpose and consistency of action are what are principally required. When the proper time arrives, and that will be when Lord Elgin is in the country, and can lend his attention to the suggestions of the exponents of the wishes and opinions of the people, we shall name them.

Lord Elgin is, as must be known to many, the son of the nobleman whose antiquarian researches have so enriched the British Museum in London with a beautiful class of sculpture that has obtained for them an appellation that they will ever retain, that of the “Elgin Marbles.” His Lordship is a young man, not more than five or six and thirty—rather young we should say to have had much of the experience necessary to a Governor of a Colony like this. Time, however, the only true test in these matters, will determine what he is. It is said that His Lordship sent for the late Military Secretary of Lord Metcalfe,—Capt. Brownrigg. We trust it was with no view to bring him out on his Staff to this country. Much better that he have new people around him altogether, for there will always be a prejudice against, and a suspicion of, any one who has previously filled an office of the kind. Or, indeed, if we could make an exception to this rule, it would assuredly be in favor of the present Military Secretary, Captain Talbot, universally known and liked here for his amiable qualities, and whose departure from this country, should he accompany Lord Cathcart, will

be deeply regretted by the united population of this city.

Since writing the above, we understand that Lord Cathcart has ordered apartments for the winter at Donegana's Hotel. We can scarcely credit this, for it would imply his continuance here as Commander of the Forces; and it is scarcely possible that his Lordship would descend from a higher to a lower position in the country. Had he acted simply as Administrator of the Government of the province, this might have been; but having enjoyed in full the distinction of Governor-General of British North America, it is scarcely to be expected that he will remain in the same colony with one who has been made to supersede him in the administration of its affairs.

### CONCESSIONS TO CANADA.

In the House of Commons, the British Possessions Bill, establishing a right in the colonies to abolish discriminating duties in favor of British, and against foreign articles of consumption, has successfully passed through a third reading. This is one step towards relieving Canada, in particular, from the depressing effects of the Free-Trade principles which have been adopted. But it is only a step: Lord John Russell's good sense can no more resist the demand of this country for a repeal of the Navigation Laws, than the deepest rooted prejudice could resist the passing of the Reform and Catholic Bills at home. Unless this particular restriction be removed, Canada can never take that high ground which it must be as much the desire of the mother country as her own she should attain, but must ever continue to be a mere colony. Certain it is that Montreal can never become the emporium for which her position so eminently fits her, as long as the waters of the St. Lawrence are closed against other flags than those of the empire. What her present condition is, and what it is yet likely to be, may be inferred from the startling fact—perhaps not yet generally known to the commercial community—that there is a deficit in the last quarter's revenue of the Customs of Montreal of £19,000 compared with the former; while at Quebec and in the Western ports the increase has been in a proportionate ratio. Can a stronger argument be used to shew the ruinous effects of the Free-Trade system, while uncompensated for by some equivalent boon, upon the heart of the trade of the United Province?

### AFFRAY ON THE WELAND CANAL.

It will be recollected that, towards the close of the last session of Parliament, Mr. Draper took occasion to observe in the House that the Mounted Police Force in the neighbourhood of the Welland Canal had been discontinued, in consequence of the tranquillity which prevailed among the laborers. This, at the time, was thought a singular argument, inasmuch as the object of a police force was, by the mere fact of their presence, to prevent riot rather than to quell it; and because the same measure

had not been made to apply to the other canals, where even less of the spirit of turbulence prevailed. Nor was the incongruity at all explained away when, on Mr. Bigg, the Secretary of the Board of Works, being summoned before a committee of the House appointed to inquire into certain circumstances connected with the canal in question, he admitted, in answer to a question, that upwards of five hundred men were employed on the Welland Canal on the 1st of January, 1846, while only three hundred were employed on the Cornwall.

The expediency of the public service was, according to Mr. Draper, the reason why the force was disbanded on the canal where were employed the greater number of laborers, but no such “expediency” rendered it necessary that the Cornwall Police should share a similar fate. And why? Mr. Cayley had recently been nominated to a seat in the Executive, and as it was necessary he should have a seat in Parliament, Cornwall was a snug little birth which would answer as a *p's aller* in the event of the Member for Huron being true to his (once 89th) colors and proving priceless. To have offended a formidable party in Cornwall by reducing the Superintendent on that neighbourhood, would have been to have lost all hope of commanding the seat, and therefore, whatever the “expediency of the public service,” Colonel Macdonald and his force were to be kept up at all hazards. On the Welland Canal no such inducement prevailed, no such necessity existed. The Superintendent there had no borough to offer in exchange for the favor of being continued in his office. Of course no blame is imputed to Colonel Macdonald in all this. The Government alone deserve the odium.

But let us now mark the result of this “penny wise and pound foolish” “expediency.” A short time since, emboldened by the absence of the constabulary force, which had, while it lasted, kept them so completely in check, the canallers, running to the rescue of their priest, (the Rev. Mr. McDonough,) who had some fracas with a party of Americans, attacked the several vessels under that flag that were in the Welland Canal, and completed their work of mischief by setting fire to a dredge, which it was found necessary to sink to save from total destruction. Now we boldly maintain that this outrage never would have occurred had there been an efficient force of police kept up; but the absence of a proper constabulary, who could have acted with the promptitude the exigency of the case required, was, there can be no doubt, the chief incentive to violence, which could be committed before a requisition could be made out for, and acted upon by the black troops, to whom the canallers have a deadly antipathy.

We should like much to know what it will cost the country to raise the sunken and half-burnt dredge, which is so necessary to the completion of the works, and the loss of which cannot, without difficulty and inconvenience, be supplied. Nor is this the only