SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

TORONTO, Dec. 21, 1849.

Mackenzie and the Irish Patriots of New York.

SIR,—It is with pain that I observed certain statements made by W. L. Mackenzie, in the last number of the *Examiner*, respecting the conduct of the New York Irish Relief Committee. He insinuates that the money in Canada, friendly to the Annexation movement, are subscribed from the funds raised in New York last year to help the exiles of the Irish Patriots. He insinuates that he could state reasons for this assertion, but does not choose to do so. Now if Mr. Mackenzie is really opposed to Annexation, it would be well for him to take an open course, and give some good reasons for his objections. To make a statement of this kind merely on his private belief, without any title of evidence to prove it, is not only unjust, but is base and cowardly. There is not one iota of truth in the statement, and it is a fabrication of his—and of certain base tools of the Government. Let him, if he can, produce a shadow of any evidence of the truth of this statement. This slander affects not only the Annexation papers of Canada, but also the honor of the patriotic Irishmen of the United States, who (from love to their fellow-countrymen struggling to effect Repeal of Ireland) freely gave their contributions. I hope that the Nation newspaper in New York will not fail to contradict this mean fabrication of a man who has received many a favor from the generous Irishmen of the United States. There must be *some object* in uttering this untruth. The friends of this man in Canada, and elsewhere, deeply deplore the folly he exhibits in conduct like this. The best friends he has in Canada are Annexationists, and yet he comes amongst them (with some sinister object in view one would suppose) to disseminate untruths respecting its supporters and their institutions. A junction of Reformers and Conservatives in a good cause must in his opinion be for no good purpose, and the idea of obtaining independence by the consent of England is to his mind monstrous.

AN IRISHMAN.

—Toronto Independent.

We have it on the best *authority*, that Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie, having won upon the good nature of the Irish Repeal Association in New York, has generously been presented by it, on account of his great name and many virtues, with precisely fourteen times the amount which that confiding body is accredited with having flung into the impoverished Exchequers of the Annexation presses of Upper Canada, which latter sum may easily be discovered by an ingenious process. Think of a number—add 0 to it—take away the original number, and you have the balance. With this amount multiplied to the extent that we have stated, Mr. Mackenzie is to blaze away at the Government—set up an opposition to *Punch*—break up the Union of the Canadas—head an expedition to—where he likes,—bring back Mr. Mitchell, the Irish Priest—*if he can*—and as many others who will entrust themselves to him,—erect a government of his own, in the place of the present one, that belongs to nobody,—make himself dictator for the term of his natural life, and as many years after, whether living naturally or not,—pitch all parties to the d——l, but his own—reserving to himself the undoubted right, as the only member of it—of keeping from following himself as long as he can.

BETTER "AUTHORITY" STILL.

We are extremely sorry to undo the above—but the latest "authority" that we can write under, would lead us to say, that Mr. Mackenzie is so impressed with the Annexation, it would be well for him to take an open course, and give some good reasons for his objections. To make a statement of this kind merely on his private belief, without any title of evidence to prove it, is not only unjust, but is base and cowardly. There is not one iota of truth in the statement, and it is a fabrication of his—and of certain base tools of the Government. Let him, if he can, produce a shadow of any evidence of the truth of this statement. This slander affects not only the Annexation papers of Canada, but also the honor of the patriotic Irishmen of the United States, who (from love to their fellow-countrymen struggling to effect Repeal of Ireland) freely gave their contributions. I hope that the Nation newspaper in New York will not fail to contradict this mean fabrication of a man who has received many a favor from the generous Irishmen of the United States. There must be *some object* in uttering this untruth. The friends of this man in Canada, and elsewhere, deeply deplore the folly he exhibits in conduct like this. The best friends he has in Canada are Annexationists, and yet he comes amongst them (with some sinister object in view one would suppose) to disseminate untruths respecting its supporters and their institutions. A junction of Reformers and Conservatives in a good cause must in his opinion be for no good purpose, and the idea of obtaining independence by the consent of England is to his mind monstrous.

—Toronto Independent.

We have it on the *best authority*, that Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie, having won upon the good nature of the Irish Repeal Association in New York, has generously been presented by it, on account of his great name and many virtues, with precisely fourteen times the amount which that confiding body is accredited with having flung into the impoverished Exchequers of the Annexation presses of Upper Canada, which latter sum may easily be discovered by an ingenious process. Think of a number—add 0 to it—take away the original number, and you have the balance. With this amount multiplied to the extent that we have stated, Mr. Mackenzie is to blaze away at the Government—set up an opposition to *Punch*—break up the Union of the Canadas—head an expedition to—where he likes,—bring back Mr. Mitchell, the Irish Priest—*if he can*—and as many others who will entrust themselves to him,—erect a government of his own, in the place of the present one, that belongs to nobody,—make himself dictator for the term of his natural life, and as many years after, whether living naturally or not,—pitch all parties to the d——l, but his own—reserving to himself the undoubted right, as the only member of it—of keeping from following himself as long as he can.

BETTER "AUTHORITY" STILL.

We are extremely sorry to undo the above—but the latest "authority" that we can write under, would lead us to say, that Mr. Mackenzie is so impressed with the extent to which Annexation has progressed, that he has determined to leave the Province altogether! Whither, ah! whither is he bound! With eyes searchingly sunning every vessel leaving port, and with cheeks well soused in tears, we would anxiously inquire of the jolly, sympathizing, tar—

"Tell us, ye jovial sailors, tell us true,
Does our sweet William sail among your crew?"

Since writing the above, we saw the disconsolate gentleman, with our own eyes, take his departure, in the Lewiston steamer, for "the land of the free."—*Toronto Independent.*

ANNEXATION IN OXFORD.—A friend in Ingersoll gives the following gratifying account of Annexation prospects in that quarter. With regard to the matter of organization referred to us—it is a step we would urge upon all parties who are favorable to the cause, reminding them that "union is strength;" and that individual efforts can only be directed to individual objects. If the Annexationists of Upper Canada would only follow the example set them in Lower Canada, and take the Constitution of the "Annexation Association of Montreal" as their model, they would soon become powerful, both in numbers as well as in resources. Our last number had inclosed in it the proceedings of the meeting organizing the Association, and it may be of advantage at the present moment to give them a careful reading.

INGERSOLL, Dec. 15, 1849.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT:

The cause is steadily gaining strength, and extending its influence in this quarter. Organization, now, is all we want to become a powerful party, and I think you would do well to define, in your next issue, the best mode of procedure for us to adopt; whether to organize and raise funds, for the purpose of getting public speakers up from the central Society, at Montreal, or remain quiescent till such time as they appear among us. You will, I dare say, admit the necessity of some such movement, in order to divest the public mind of any supposed danger attending the free expression of opinion on the subject of Annexation.

The League—so far as this district is concerned—has been somewhat at fault, for lack of a principle to furnish a popular rallying cry. The formation of the League—our little village was latepon. The [illegible] a terrible commotion, by the appearance of hundreds of placards, put up in all the public places, notifying that the League would meet on a certain day, to form a Branch in Ingersoll. Tories, Reformers, and Annexationists, were on the qui vive, with speeches, motions, and amendments, cut and dried, all ready for the tug of war. The Tories were determined to form a Branch—possibly thinking, that some of their solons here would be more successful in holding the philosophers' stone, than the Annexationists in Kingston and Toronto were. The Reformers, true to their name, and with their usual quantum of contrariness, resolved to oppose their old enemies, even to the last; and the Annexationists, desirous of calming down old party animosities, and having the good of Canada only at heart, were quite cool, being prepared with a majority to carry an amendment to the motion of the Leaguers, to the effect that, "The people of Oxford have no confidence in the British American League, and that nothing short of Annexation can bring prosperity to us as a people." At length the day arrived, and sad to relate, the League had already passed its last struggles in attempting to form a Branch in Burford. *Requiescat in pace!* They did not come; and the Hincks-ites not having an enemy to contend with, joyfully joined in with the Annexationists, in resolving as above. John G. Vansittart, it is said, has come out on the Annexation ticket, and is canvassing the Country. Akin to talented, he is not at all the man for Oxford. Such a man a Dr. Reiph, now, would take well in this County. C. F.

—Toronto Independent.

ANNEXATION IN DUNDAS.—Extract of a letter from Dundas, dated, 20th December, addressed to the Editor: "I intend taking your paper as long as it continues in its present fearless manner, to advocate the true interests of my country. I am a native Canadian, descended on the one side from U. E. Loyalists, and on the other from English parents, but am a decided opponent of British Connexion—believing it to be inimical to the welfare of Canada—and am, consequently, an ardent Annexationist—that being, in my opinion, the only practicable means of relieving ourselves from our present difficulties. The cause is gaining ground daily in this neighbourhood, and I hope that it may soon become predominant."

The Dundas Literary Society, an association that has been kept up with much spirit, and comprises many of the ablest men in Dundas, have decided by a large majority in favour of Annexation, after a discussion of three weeks.

—Ib. [illegible]

Extract from a letter of W. L. Mackenzie, dated, Dundas, 7th December:—

"If he (Mr. Baldwin) really values British Connexion, as he says we know, he can surely have no idea of the extent to which Annexation doctrines are progressing in the country, through his obstinacy and Tory violence."—*Ib.*

CUBA AND SPAIN—CANADA AND ENGLAND.—We published, in the *Herald* of Saturday last, an extract from a Spanish journal of this city, *El Correo de los Estados Unidos*, stating that the Spanish Government had appointed six gentlemen to visit Cuba, with a view of ascertaining the real state of affairs and the real sentiments of the people of the Island; and that the commission is empowered with authority, if deemed necessary, to transfer the island to the possession of the United States, the Spanish Government retaining the right to approve or refuse the terms of sale. This is coming on quite as fast as we had any reason to expect.

From the tenor of the instructions to Sir Henry L. Bulwer, it appears that the British Government is as favorably disposed to Canadian annexation; and thus we have Spain and England on the right side. But our outside neighbors must be content to wait until we settle the little family misunderstanding with respect to Deseret, New Mexico, Texas, and California. Then we shall perhaps have the rooms ready for their reception. All the rooms are occupied at present.—*New York Herald.*

CANADIAN TRADE.—The shipments of Canadian produce through the port under the Warehousing law has largely increased during the season now closed.—Among the articles thus shipped through in bond for export to foreign ports, the present season, there have been 200,000 barrels of flour, including some two or three thousand barrels of flour, including some two or three thousand barrels to go forward by rail-road. Over and above this amount, some few hundred barrels of Canadian flour have been sold at this port and paid duties here—probably not over 500 barrels. There have also been imported into this port 225,000 bushels of Canadian wheat, of which 375,818 bushels have passed through in bond for the seaboard, and 153,097 have been sold, and paid duties here. The Canadian wheat crop of this year was uncommonly abundant, and of excellent quality, nearly or quite equal to the best samples of Genesee. By the purchase and mixing of the last limited quantity of Canadian wheat, our millers have been enabled to manufacture into superfine flour over a million of bushels of lower qualities of upper lake wheat, which would not make flour required by New York inspection of superfine. The process of mixing has tended to make a good market and to enhance the value of both kinds at this port.

To show how rapidly the commercial and agricultural interests of Canada are becoming identified with this country, the Evening Journal states that last year, only about 50,000 barrels of Canadian flour and meal reached New York. This year more than 120,000 barrels have been put in bond at the Atlantic Dock Stores at Brooklyn. There are, at this moment, over 30,000 barrels in store waiting shipment to England and elsewhere—every barrel of which, of course, passed through the Oswego and Erie canals.—But what will most surprise those who have not kept pace with the Canadian trade, is the fact that there are vessels at this moment at the Atlantic Docks taking in Canadian flour and meal for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland!

The flour and meal trade is but a single branch of our trade with Canada, only one of a multitude of commodities, brought from Canada here under the judicious transit law recently enacted. Canadian grain, seeds, live stock, timber, butter, cheese, &c., &c., seek this outlet constantly; and if the Canals were annexed to this country, (as the Journal says,) it would be but a few years, before they would equate our tolls, and the full stream of the great States which have lost their Southern border. By her geographical position, by every consideration of interest, and by the ties of kindred and the blood of a common origin, Canada ought to belong to the brotherhood of freedom, the great American Confederacy of States.—*Oswego* [illegible] *Times*, Dec. 13.

CANADA.

MR. CAMERON'S EXPLANATION.

TORONTO, Dec. 22, 1849.

To the Editor of the EXAMINER:

SIR,—I have to acknowledge yours of the 19th instant, with a paper containing a report of the speeches delivered at the dinner given to Mr. Price. In the first place, I must condemn the course you are reported to have taken on that occasion, in representing, in any way, that you had your information from me; at that period I had never seen you that I know of, nor had I ever written to you, but had refused to give information for your paper to a friend of mine who called upon me.

Nevertheless, the statements were generally *correct*; as I said to many; and that you may have had them from friends of mine, who knew my views and position before I left the Ministry, and since, I do not doubt.

Your report of the speeches, I believe, is correct, as I have spoken with many friends of the speakers. The different sets of speeches, and the leader of the *Globe* of Saturday in the reply to the Brantford *Herald*, are, perhaps, humiliating enough to the parties. The following extract from Mr. Hincks' speech appeared in the *Examiner* of the 19th instant:—

"He would appeal to the common sense of this audience, if it was likely Mr. Cameron had resigned because he wished to abolish the Assistant-Commissionership of Public Works. What was the time for Mr. Cameron to say that one Commissioner of Public Works was sufficient? Why did he not say so when he took office? Why did he not say so three months or six months afterwards? No, he leaves it till just now when he is going out. Why, if his honorable friend, Mr. Price, was paying £4000 recklessly, did Mr. Cameron not say to him, "Mr. Price, you are spending £4000 too much?" The fact was, there was no question of retrenchment involved in Mr. Cameron's resignation; it was a mere question of office; it was whether Mr. Price, your guest and representative, should be turned out and Mr. Cameron put in his place."

I feel myself bound by a sense of duty to the country, and in justice to myself, to give the above statement a *positive contradiction in every particular*, and to express my astonishment that Messrs. Baldwin and Price should have remained silent, when they well knew that this was as gross a misrepresentation as could possibly have been made. I never desired the resignation of Mr. Price; but, on the contrary, pressed him by every argument I could adduce to remain in office; and, furthermore, employed every means, which honest ingenuity could suggest, to bring influence to bear upon him for this purpose, as Mr. Price has admitted since Mr. Hincks' speech, and *the evidence of which I have, in Mr. Hincks' own hand-writing*, in a letter written to me since my resignation.

I thought the Editor of the *Globe* did know that there were causes existing for the last 12 months, which made me desire to leave the Government; that I tendered my resignation, and suggested that my office should be abolished, three, six, and nine months ago.

Mr. Hincks knows that I suggested a large reduction in his own department; still the first paragraph in the *Globe* of Saturday is correct—there was but one question connected with my immediate resignation, and that was the question of *having two* Commissioners. A vacancy having occurred, I could not, without compromising my pledge to the people, be a party to filling it up; and on this subject I shall give the following details:—

I came to Toronto fully prepared to remain in the Government till next Session, and with the understanding in my mind that a particular individual was to succeed Mr. Viger; which was to me perfectly satisfactory. I heard no other proposal; I was informed of no change in the arrangements till I met my colleagues here, and, in a conversation in Mr. Baldwin's library, I was informed that Mr. Tache was to be Receiver-General. A new programme was submitted, from which I dissented, for public reasons then clearly stated; and I positively refused to concur in the arrangement.

I stated distinctly that I thought the Presidency of the Council should be abolished, and likewise the office of Assistant-Commissioner of Public Works; and I thought Mr. Merritt should be in that Department. All this, however, was opposed. I also stated at this meeting, that, if Mr. Price was to resign, I would take the Crown Lands Department with several clerks less. This occurred when a party was named as his successor, against whom I protested. Mr. Hincks now asks if I thought so why did I not tell Mr. Price? I now appeal to Mr. Price if I have not always told him in every conversation we had, ever since he has been in office, that he had too many clerks in his Department, and urged him strongly to discharge them himself, and not let others have the credit of a reorganization which I was ready to effect. I put this to him as a conscientious man, as I have ever found him to be, and, while appealing to him, I would ask farther, if I did not urge him to retain his office, on the ground that if any political reason or question arose on which he would have to go out, *that he knew I would go with him, as he could not go further* on any of the questions alluded to than I would. If he be an honest man, he will answer this personally, and not indirectly, through a newspaper organ.

After the conversation in Mr. Baldwin's library, to which I previously alluded, I heard no more of the changes in the Cabinet for some time, and I, therefore, was under the impression that I was to manage the Department alone, as Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, according to my proposal. But on Thursday, the 28th day of November, I was sent for by Mr. Lafontaine, who intimated that he was authorised to offer me the office of Chief Commissioner of Public Works. I replied that I was sorry for that, as he was aware that I could not accept it, as I would not remain with another Commissioner, that I was very willing to manage the Department with my present salary, but objected either to accept the office of Chief Commissioner or remain if another was appointed. He replied that I had better think over it till to-morrow. I wrote to him immediately, that under the circumstances I could not accept.

We met in Council on Friday, when I was asked if I had thought of *the matter—there was only one matter*. I said I had no thinking to do, having thought it over months ago. I again repeated that I would not accept the Chief Commissionership, nor remain if another were appointed, but that I would cheerfully do the business alone. I was told *there must* be another Commissioner—that the law required it, and that another member must be added to the Cabinet. Mr. Hincks enquired how I could arrange it otherwise? I told him the difficulty was not of my making, and that if Mr. —— had been put in Mr. Viger's place, there would have been no difficulty, but that I had never been consulted on the appointment—never told who my colleagues were to be, and that I thought above all matters in which every member should be consulted was that of additions to the Cabinet; that I felt myself insulted, and would resign my position, as I felt I could not remain and at the same time retain my consistency and independence. Mr. Hincks laughed contemptuously, and said, "Mr. Lafontaine should take his own course, and let every one take theirs." I replied that Mr. Lafontaine might take his course, but *could not carry it out*, and I would not delay five minutes in taking mine. I immediately left the Council and sent in my resignation, as I felt there was a desire to have me out.

If the Government carry out their professed principles, except on the Tariff and local roads and harbors—if they meet the expectations of the country in Parliament, on vital questions, I will sustain them as energetically as ever. And I am glad to be in my present independent position to say, that as to *Annexation*, or any other change, that in my opinion would degrade my nationality as a Canadian, I have neither sympathy for, nor feelings in common with such a movement; and, moreover, while the United States recognize it as legal to traffic in human beings, and do nothing to get rid of this manifest inconsistency with their boasted freedom and liberal institutions, I never could but think, that to be a citizen of that Government, would become to give up real freedom, and to countenance the violation of man's dearest rights. I also rejoice in my present free and independent position, that I may offer my humble tribute of respect to the integrity, liberality, justice and ability of Lord Elgin, to whom we are indebted in Canada for the first honest working of Responsible Government—a system, which I believe to be as well adapted to secure to us social, civil, and religious freedom, as that of the United States, and which is calculated to enable us to effect any and every Reform, as well in the public expenditure and expenses of Government as in all matters affecting our religious liberty.

I repeat again that I have been forced to assume this position, and to make this long explanation of the circumstances connected with my resignation, from the injustice of some of my late colleagues, and I have determined now to remain silent until I have the opportunity of meeting them in Parliament, where alone these explanations should have been given.

M. CAMERON.

On Tuesday morning, about 4 o'clock, an attempt was made to set fire to the Railroad track, near its terminus in this Village. A quantity of combustible material and powder had been placed beneath the track and fired. The explosion was distinctly heard, but the attempt to destroy the track was ineffectual. We presume that a desire to open the usual winter road to the *river* (obstructed by the Railroad track) was what moved some inconsiderate persons to adopt the dangerous expedient of fire. We hope we shall not have to chronicle any more outrages of this nature. That the Railroad track is a nuisance we cheerfully admit, but we cannot countenance illegal and dangerous attempts to remove it.—*St. Johns News.*

We are informed that a fatal affray took place at Lake Aylmer, in the Eastern Townships, a few days ago, by which some four or five individuals lost their lives. It is said that the quarrel arose between Mr. Levallee, of this city, and his friends, and a number of the inhabitants located near the lake, on account of his going to fish trout there every winter, which they did not admit his right to do. It appears that he was informed, before leaving town, that he would be attacked, if he should go and fish there this season; but notwithstanding, he left with his party, and on arriving there a collision ensued, and rumor says that Mr. Levallee and three of his opponents were killed. We give the statement just as we heard it, without vouching for its truth. The next Sherbrooke papers will probably furnish us with full particulars.—*Quebec Gazette.*

Among the *on dits* of the day is the following,—the Hon. L. Massue to replace H. Jessopp, Esq., as Collector of the Customs at this port; the latter gentleman vacating office upon a retired allowance.—*Quebec Mercury.*

THE QUEBEC AND MELBOURNE RAILROAD.—Last evening the Town Council unanimously adopted the Report of the Committee on the application of the Railroad Company for Debentures to the amount of £100,000. We are happy to perceive that the Council and the Company seem to consider the fulfilment of the conditions attached to the loan as practicable—we mean, in particular, the construction of a Bridge over the St. Lawrence, in the vicinity of Quebec. It will certainly be a great undertaking, and a worthy accompaniment of the contemplated Railroad.

We confess we consider it rather a gigantic enterprise, and sincerely wish they may accomplish it.—*Ib.*

Messrs. Burroughs & Fiset have been appointed Prothonotaries of the Superior Court and Clerks of the Circuit Court. Mr. Andrews, who was Clerk of the Commissioners' Court, has, by this plural appointment, been deprived of a situation which he filled most credibly.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

UNITED STATES.

A White Girl Nearly Sold into Slavery.

The following curious illustration of the workings of the "peculiar" and "blessed" institution of the South, we extract from the *N. O. True Delta* of the 9th instant:

"One of the most revolting, and, at the same time, touching scenes, it has ever been our lot to witness, occurred yesterday at the auction store of Mr. N. Vignie, on St. Louis Street. The estate of Mr. Benvenuto Duran, lately deceased, consisting chiefly of slaves, was to be sold, for the benefit of a creditor. The negroes were brought up, as is usually the case, one by one, and exhibited to the bystanders, before being put to the hammer. On the presentation of the third, advertised as 'Madeline, an orphan quarteroon, aged about nine years,' every one present was horrified to behold paraded before them, a lovely girl, delicately formed, white as the purest of the Circassian race, her face buried in her hands, and her slender frame convulsed with sobs. There was a pause of some minutes. The crowd could not realize that one of their own race could be thus led up among negroes to be passed into a life-long bondage. Amazement was exceeded by indignation, as several gentlemen set about inquiring as to the manner in which the child had been thrust into such degrading associations.

"Mr. Duran, it appears, was a Spaniard by birth; was some years since in affluence, in this city; but lately, his circumstances declining, he moved from the First to the Third Municipality, where he kept a small grocery store, and struggled through comparative poverty. None of the negroes knew anything of the [illegible] girl, except one old man, who s[illegible] a white woman, who dying when her child was yet but an infant, Mr. Duran took the orphan in charge to rear as an adopted child. This was when he was in prosperity. For some years after the death of the mother, a lady was in the habit of visiting Mr. Duran's house regularly, to see the child, and continued her visits until about the time he moved into the Third Municipality, since when, four or five years ago, she has never been seen. Whether this lady was a relative or friend of the mother, interested in the fate of her offspring, the old man knew not; nor did he know who the lady was, or whence she came.

"Upon this information, the sale was stopped, and Madeline was taken possession of by Mr. Charles Lovenskiold, to whose humane exertions in her behalf, she is perhaps indebted for her liberty. Mr. L. has kindly installed her in his own family, and will bring her up as a member of it, if the law does not defeat his benevolent intentions. The girl, though of late years mingling almost exclusively with the negroes of Mr. Duran's household, is intelligent beyond her years, speaks both French and Spanish fluently, and understands English.

"The affair speedily obtained public notoriety in the lower part of the city, and created an intense excitement. Several free persons of colour interested themselves in the case, and in a few hours collected among their own class, nearly two hundred dollars, to buy the girl out of the estate, and bestow upon her, her freedom. This has not been permitted, however, and from present appearances, there is little probability of her subjection to the degradation of being included in the chattels of the succession. Mr. Duran has left no heirs, and dying intestate, his property escheats to the state, after satisfaction of the creditors. There is but one creditor, and his feelings were as deeply affected yesterday as those of any person present. Mr. Lovenskiold and others, who have taken the girl's cause in hand, however, have determined upon an entire purification of the girl, and, if it be practicable, will bring the case before the courts in such manner that a jury shall pass upon her blood."

Supposed Discovery in Rankin County, Mississippi.

We learn from the last number of the *Brandon Republican* that President Thornton and a party of friends have recently made a visit to what they denominate the "Platform." It is situated on the plantation of Mr. Morrison, and, whether it be regarded as a work of nature or art, it is calculated to excite considerable interest throughout the State. Mr. T. inclines to the latter belief, and says:—"It is a work of art of great antiquity, of curious workmanship, finished in the finest style, and more durable than could possibly be conceived by any observer. From the reservoir or well in the bottom of the creek there is a paved way, leading to a regular curve in front of the platform. It consists of stone, beautifully dressed on top and jointed at all the sides, about five inches in thickness, of various fignres, on a bed of cement about three inches in thickness, laid on white sand.

Its size is at least 120 feet square, and it is level almost without the variation of an inch. There was no perceptible change in the level of this floor, but an increased beauty, arising from the fact that it had not been exposed. I have no doubt that every stone, at least every square, is historical, and that, if we were sufficiently versed in the modes of ancient record, we might read the acts of a nation that has long since become extinct. A few years since, Mr. Layard saw in the hands of a Bedouin Arab some old pottery; he ascertained the place from which he procured it, dug down, and found the city of Nineveh, that had been lost for thousands of years, and now in 1849 is removing to the capital of the British Empire its ancient monuments. Who can tell what this platform may lead to?"

Professor Webster.

Hon. Franklin Dexter has ceased his visits upon Professor Webster. It is rumored that the Hon. Rufus Choate will be employed as senior counsel.—Mrs. Webster, with three of her daughters, visited her husband a few days since, for the first and only time since his imprisonment. The scene was a most interesting and affecting one. Yesterday, Judge Fay, of Cambridge, visited the Professor, and was for some time under lock and key in private consultation with him. The Professor has been making arrangements to have the series of lectures continued at the College, which he commenced before the unhappy circumstances occurred which resulted in his imprisonment. His cell is on the same floor with those prisoners who are committed for offences of a similar character. He is lively and free to chat, and seems very much interested in the perusal of books devoted to the science of which he is Professor. Many individuals have been admitted to see him and converse with him in private as well as public.—*Boston Times.*

The "Springfield Republican" says:—Within a few days a new fact has been brought to light, which, while it is another proof of the liberality of Boston Merchants, may, perhaps, also be of importance in the long chain of evidence against Dr. Webster. Messrs. Abbott and Amos Lawrence each had a mortage for $1,500 on Dr. Webster's cabinet of minerals, and when the former was about sailing for England, he found, on enquiry, that Dr. Webster was at present entirely unable to pay it. He therefore sent him the mortgage, with a request that he would accept it. A few days later Mr. Amos Lawrence heard of this, and he, too, forwarded his mortgage to Dr. Webster in like manner.

THE COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1850.

The impression that His Excellency Lord Elgin has been recalled from the Government of Canada, is not confined to Montreal. Various facts have come to our knowledge which would point to such a result; and these circumstances receive a color of probability from the restlessness of the minions of the Ministry, and the solicitude which their supporters evince to provide for the future, by quartering themselves on the public purse.

We cannot, however, overlook the fact that a relationship subsists between the Colonial Secretary and the Governor General, which forbids the idea, so long as Earl Grey continues to hold the post of Colonial Secretary, that His Excellency Lord Elgin should be exposed to the disgrace implied by a recall.

History furnishes us with abundant proofs that Statesmen seldom overlook the ties of relationship, even when the welfare of the Empire be at stake. The records of the last War multiply instances of blundering Diplomatists, and unskilful Generals placed in eminent positions through the force of family connections.

His Excellency Lord Elgin is one of that class of blundering Diplomatists, elevated to an office for which he is incompetent, and retained there in despite of reiterated political mistakes, because he happens to be the nephew, by marriage, of the Colonial Secretary.

When His Excellency Lord Elgin married Lady Lambton, it was stipulated that part of her dower should be comprised in the Governor Generalship of Canada, to be conferred upon her husband; and we may rest assured that the contract will not be impaired by any act of Lady Lambton's uncle, the Colonial Secretary.

We are aware that it is not customary to produce the names of the fair sex upon the political arena, but in this instance we are excusable, having the example set us by Lord Elgin.

Those who are familiar with the strong feelings of attachment to their own country, which signalizes the French Canadians, must have been puzzled to account for the facility with which Mr. Lafontaine assented to the transfer of the Seat of Government from Lower Canada to Upper Canada.

We can gratify the curiosity of such persons by informing them, that there was a Lady in the case.

Lord Elgin informed Mr. Lafontaine, that Lady Elgin objected so strongly to His Lordship's entering Montreal, that unless the Seat of Government were removed, he must relinquish the Governor-Generalship—and Mr. Lafontaine sacrificed his political honour with his countrymen to sustain French gallantry.

The Colonial Secretary invokes the name of *my nephew*, when urging a Canadian question in the Imperial Cabinet Lord Elgin invokes the name of *my wife*, when appealing to Colonial irritation.

We arrive then at the conclusion, that when Lord Elgin leaves Canada, it will be with all the parade of a man acting from his own impulse—and we know that he will not voluntarily leave Canada,—but when the day approaches that he must depart,—that departure will be styled a resignation, not a recall.

The predominant feature in His Excellency Lord Elgin's character is avarice,—it destroys every gentlemanly impulse, and exposes him, not unjustly, to the imputation of meanness. Of this truth the public may have proof before long, for which they are not prepared; but we confess that this odious characteristic favours the tendency of the public feeling.

His Excellency has set at rest a question previously disputed, whether or not the Governor-General's salary was excessive. In his person we have living evidence that a Governor-General can live upon five thousand dollars a-year—and, as his supporters affirm, that he is competent to the discharge of his duties—we presume that five thousand dollars is sufficient for a Governor-General.

The Superior Court,

Under the new Bill, commenced the first of its Weekly Sittings on Monday last. The Judges present were, Mr. Justice Day, Mr. Justice Smith, Mr. Justice Vanfelson, and Mr. Justice Mondelet. The two last are newly appointed to the Bench, having superior jurisdiction.

The Judges and Prothonotaries having been sworn, their Commissions were read in open Court.

Messrs. Monk, Coffin, & Papineau, the former Prothonotary of the Court of Queen's Bench, are Joint Prothonotary for the Superior Court, and are also Joint Clerk of the Circuit Court, for the Circuit of Montreal.

The Court was opened, *pro forma*. No business of any kind was brought under its notice. We understand that the first question which will be submitted to the sapient dispensers of justice at such Weekly Sittings is, whether they have, or have not, the legal right to hold such Sittings?

The same day being a day upon which also the Circuit Court for the Montreal Circuit should hold a Sitting, that Court was, in like manner, opened, *pro forma*.

This will now become one of the most, if not the most, important, of the Courts, inasmuch as heretofore at least three-fourths of the actions which were resumed into the Queen's Bench were actions under £50, which will now be brought before the Circuit Court, under the extended jurisdiction given to it by the new Bill; and besides this, other provisions of the new Bill will force actions into the Montreal Circuit Court, which, under the former Judicature Bill, would have gone into Country Circuit Courts.

We explained all this in our remarks upon the provisions of the Judicature Bill, when referring to the powers and jurisdictions given by that Bill to the Courts created by it, in actions, the cause of which may have arisen within this Circuit, or within this District, no matter where the domicile of the Defendant within this part of the Province may be. And we shall endeavour, from time to time, to give our readers such further remarks upon, and reports of trials, under this strange anomaly, *the new Judicature Bill*, as we may deem it requisite or beneficial for them to know.

The British League—Elective Institutions.

Our contemporary, the *Gazette*, gives a full report of the speeches and proceedings at a meeting of the Montreal Branch of the British American League, held on Saturday evening last. We have not space to publish the whole report; it is sufficient to say that the majority of the members of the League present, decided on supporting the principle of an ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, as broached by Mr. Thomson, Wilson, the delegate for Quebec, at the Toronto meeting of the Convention. We trust that members of the League are prepared for the exterior consequences of this resolution. If the elective principle is once conceded to the people, so far as to permit them to elect by their own voices a body of men, heretofore appointed by the Royal prerogative, that people will assuredly, at no distant day, demand to elect other parties who are now nominated by the exercise of the same prerogative, such as Judges, and so forth. Once concede the principle in the formation of an important body as the Legislative Council, and how long will it be ere the people demand to elect the Governor General? We do not say this in disapproval of the proceedings of the Montreal Branch. On the contrary, we are pleased to find that they have acted with such wisdom, and with so great a sense of the necessities of the country; we only mean to warn them that they, having once started in a certain track, must continue their course, and they may be sure that they will find themselves progressing with accelerated velocity, until they reach the same goal at which we have ourselves arrived—a conviction that there must be a total alteration in our system of Government, to be accomplished only in one way. We quote a portion of Mr. Moffatt's speech, as well worthy the attention of our readers:—

"They would then consider the subject of the principle of Elective Institutions, or more properly, of an Elective Legislative Council. He had lately seen in some of the Upper Canada papers a letter from his deceased friend Mr. Gamble, and that gentleman was of opinion that they should have had their views on that important subject before the country, and by that means elicited the popular opinion. He (Hon. Mr. M.) entertained a different view, and thought that they had pursued the right course. He thought if they had promulgated their views on this subject in the first instance, that they might have had no Convention at all. Upper Canada was not prepared for the principle of an Elective Council. It becoming so, now the Convention the subject was first mooted, And when in the that the idea is brought before the people, fear of the U. C. members would even listen to it, while they had since changed their opinions, regarding it. (Cheers.)—This great change had been effected during last summer, and as disunion was to be deprecated, he hoped that it would not divide.—With reference to the new Annexation movement, he deemed it premature; an opinion premature, but thought the Annexationists might have continued to act with them. He (Hon. Mr. M.) did not say that Annexation might not finally come, he did not come yet.—sideration and debate; but the time had not come yet.—When that question did come, he would consider it entirely as a Canadian question. But we ought first to ascertain what Great Britain could and would do for us. We willing to do for us. Should it be found that we could not prosper under the policy adopted by Great Britain, then we should consider an alliance course, and he (Hon Mr. M.) was persuaded that she would meet the question in a generous and proper manner. But he hoped that that time never would come."

Appointments under the Judicature Act.

At the sitting of the Court on Monday morning the Commissions of Mr. Justice Smith, Vanfelson, and Mondelet were read, as likewise the Commissions re-appointing the Prothonotaries and Clerks,—after which the Court adjourned.

We understand that Mr. Mondelet, one of the newly created Judges, which is indebted for his elevation more to the friendship of Mr. Lafontaine than to any claims he could urge upon the score of legal attainments, was sworn in as a Judge during the night of the 29th ultimo.

We are aware that Mr. Mondelet has taken, of late, an unusual interest in the Post-Office arrangements—that interest is of course cooling down since he received his Commission; but we suggest to the learned gentleman whether his fidgetty zeal to become a Judge, may not have hurried him into an informality, in thus having the oath of office administered towards the midnight of the 29th ultimo.

The opinion which we expressed, that the Judges would not be appointed until the close of the year, is thus confirmed, as even Mr. Mondelet would not pretend to ask for any salary for the few hours which intervene between the time of reading his Commission and the commencement of the quarter, which falls upon the first day of the new year.

The riddle is now before the public, and it must be solved in a few months.

The Legislative Assembly affirmed the principle last Session, that none of the Judges named under the Judicature Act should receive a higher salary than £750 per annum.

The Ministry have induced gentlemen to accept Commissions as Judges, promising them a salary of £1000 per annum.

Either the public or these gentlemen must be victimized.

Viewing the transaction in any light, it reflects more credit upon the skill than the honesty of the Ministry.

Banks.

"A Bill has recently been introduced into the Legislature of Tennessee, providing for the establishment of a free banking system, similar to that in operation in this State. It is proposed that bonds of the State of Tennessee, and of the United States, be received by the Comptroller as security for the redemption of circulating notes. A Bill of this kind will probably be introduced into the Legislatures of Pennsylvania and Alabama, and it is not impossible but that a Bill providing for the establishment of the free banking system will be carried through each. It is the only safe system ever adopted, and every State having a large public debt, should by all means make it the basis of security to the people, and protect them from the swindling operations of the existing race of speculators."

We clip the above extract from the city article of the *New York Herald* of the 17th ultimo, deeming it applicable to the indebtedness and monetary position of our own "*happy land.*"

From it Ministers may take a hint. Indeed, from the nature of the Hon. Receiver General's motion in the last Session of Parliament, relative to our financial affairs, we are much inclined to believe that he will propose some measure this ensuing Session for consolidating the public debt and Debentures into Provincial Bank Stock.

It is quite practicable to frame a measure that would have the effect of relieving the country from the burthen of both capital and interest of the cost of our Canals,—for example, suppose the stock in question to consist of two millions, and that notes of a legal tender were issuable for circulation to depositors of proper security in sums of not less than £——, at —— per cent. per annum. This interest would meet that due the public creditor, and leave a surplus convertable, with the net revenue of the Canals, into a sinking fund for the gradual extinction of the public debt.

It must here be borne in mind that the interest payable upon the Canal debt contracted in England, is considerably under the current rate in this Province.

It has been suggested to us, that in lieu of a Bank of Issue, Provincial stock should be created and sold to the extent of two millions, for the liquidation of the public debt, which would thus assume the character of a Provincial Funded Debt, the same as the "British Funds;" but we apprehend that the effects of this principle would not subserve so great a public good as the creation of a Bank of Issue, for the purposes designated.

The Annexation Press.

We are happy to see that the Editor of the *Sherbrooke Gazette* announces that his paper will be immediately enlarged. This looks well.

We regret to perceive that so respectable a paper as our contemporary the *Gazette*, should give currency to an offensive calumny, imputing to the *Montreal Courier* the reputation of being the paid agent of New York Annexationists. We thought the denial by the *Herald* of the imputation, which at its first appearance involved that journal in a