

important to their own interests, and those of this community generally. A couple of days yet remain for these persons to redeem themselves from the almost odium they have incurred among their fellow-citizens by the course they have pursued, suicidal as it is to the common weal.

We would advise the publication of the names of the subscribers, being citizens of Montreal, and the amounts subscribed by each, by which measure the public will be enabled to judge between those who have generously assisted this undertaking and those who have so illiberally determined to benefit by the activity and energy of their fellow-citizens, without any exertion on their own parts; for it is now clearly understood by all, that it is an undertaking the success of which involves the prosperity or ruin of Montreal, and to which duty impels every citizen to subscribe according to his means.

MORE GOVERNMENT ABUSES.

THE ASSISTANT-SECRETARYSHIP.

We believe there is no doubt that the situation of Assistant-Secretary for Canada West is to be vacated by the present incumbent, Mr. Hopkirk, who, like his chief, has served under every Administration, Radical and Conservative, since the first introduction of Responsible Government into the country. Few people will regret that Mr. Hopkirk should be ousted from an office which requires amenity of manner and a certain degree of courtesy; but there can also be no doubt that, if the report be true—and we have reason to believe it is—the office of Collector of Customs at Kingston, which he is to get, will be raised in value to that of the situation which he leaves, in order to make room for some pliant tool of the Executive, the country will visit this gross perversion of honesty and justice with the utmost indignation.

Can anything be more atrocious, we ask, than to increase the expenses of the province in order to meet an exigency of this kind? If it be necessary for the ends of Government, or if it suit the "expediency of the public service," that Mr. Hopkirk should be removed from his present situation to make room for another party, why should he not be displaced at once and with the same absence of ceremony that the Government have thought proper to evince in their removal of the Adjutant-Generals of Canada East and West? Let them answer to the Country, if in truth they have the hardihood to make such an appointment under the circumstances we have named. But they are capable of anything.

READY, THE EMBEZZLER.

It appears that, after all, the *exposé* involved in the trial of this young man, and which it was supposed would have been made on that occasion, has been wisely avoided by the non-appearance of the guilty party. The criminal law in Canada is, it must be confessed, singularly administered. The murderer may steep his hand in the blood of his victim, he may relentlessly tear from him the sweetest and the dearest

of God's gifts, and yet go forth after the mockery of a trial, with the brand of Cain upon his brow it is true, but yet in defiance of that first and just fiat of the Creator which pronounces that blood shall be atoned for by blood alone; and, in like manner, the forger and the thief find it no difficult matter to elude the punishment their crimes have entailed.

The manner in which the delinquency of Ready was hushed up from the commencement ever struck us with surprise, and we could not but believe that some very extraordinary influence had been brought to bear upon the matter. A high official personage has been openly accused by a portion of the press of having given indirect countenance to the play transactions of the young man, and it is well known that the fruit of these play transactions was robbery. Whether the individual to whom we refer won money from Ready or not we have no means of knowing, nor is it important that we should know. But we cannot refrain from remarking on the singularity of the fact that he whose name has thus been coupled with that of Ready, should have been one of a party who, not later than last year, won a considerable sum of money from the son of a distinguished public functionary of the province, whose name not long afterwards appeared in the *Gazette*, and who, we are credibly informed, attributed his bankruptcy which resulted, chiefly to his pecuniary losses on that occasion. Will the individual in question deny that he won money on the night to which he must well know we allude?

Ready should never have been admitted to bail. The security of the Banks, the interests of the whole commercial community require that he should not; and had justice been the sort of justice which heads this paper, blindfolded, the public would not have to complain of that maudlin sympathy for the guilty which throws its mantle around them at the expense of the public good.

NEW MINISTERIAL NEGOCIATION.—It seems to be now tolerably well known that Mr. Draper, well assured that a vote of want of confidence by the great majority of the house will displace him from office early in the opening of the next Session, unless he can in the mean while, form a coalition with the French party, has again been coquetting with Messrs. Caron and Morin—the former to be President of the Council—the latter Commissioner of Crown Lands. Whether the virtue of these gentlemen will long enable them to hold out against so brilliant a temptation, it is difficult to say, but should the negotiation, like the former, fall to the ground, the Conservative party may rely upon it the matter will not end there. Rather than meet the house, constituted as parties now are, Mr. Draper will throw himself into the arms of the Radical party. "*Aut Caesar, aut nullis*" is his motto; and unless he can continue to preside over the country,—for he is literally Governor General,—it matters little to him who else rules, provided the Conservatives of his own party who distrust and dislike him are made

to feel the effect of his revenge. The Conservatives should look to this, for these repeated negotiations with his opponents, while shewing how little he enjoys the confidence of his party, cannot but lead every reflecting mind to the conviction that his tampering has a much of a personal as a political object.

We are glad to find from the very fact of the offer being made to Mr. Morin of the Commissionership of Crown Lands, that the clever and sagacious Member for Kingston has declined associating himself with Government so generally unpopular as present. Better things are, we trust, in reserve for him, and the day cannot be far distant when we shall see him a member of the Administration, although not exactly under Mr. Draper. There are others associated with this latter who, we confess, we should rather have desired to have seen evincing less precipitation in attaching themselves to his tail.

SILK GOWNS AND ELECTION COMMITTEES.

—It is well known that the Member for Frontenac bore a very conspicuous share in the proceedings of the Oxford Committee, and it was supposed, by the party most interested and affected by the resignation of his seat by the late Member for Prince Edward, that place had been conferred upon him for the express purpose of dissolving the Committee. The assertion was even made by the opposition press, and stoutly denied by the Conservative. We ourselves never had a doubt on the subject, but if we had entertained such doubt it would have been utterly dispelled by the knowledge we have recently obtained that the Member for Prince Edward was provided for, solely with the object in view which was, at the time of the appointment, in duplicate or triplicate, we forget which, attributed to the Government.—Moreover, silk gowns are not manufactured every day by Mr. Draper, and what particular merit was there found in the Member for Frontenac, unless it was that of political subserviency, which should have entitled him to a silk gown more than several other men of his profession, who occupy seats in Parliament?

MONTREAL RACES.—These annual exhibitions have commenced, and not, we regret to state, without being marked by serious violence. Last evening, after the Police had left the ground, a gang of ruffians, armed with bludgeons, &c. attacked and beat a man of the name of Leonard so severely that he died of his wounds this morning. A coroner's inquest is sitting on the body.—As a place of resort for gentlemen, we can have no objection to a race-course in the abstract, but as the theatre of rendezvous of all the black-legs and ruffians from both sides of the line, we cordially wish that the turf was under some sort of censorship.

We have deferred the publication of this paper, from an expectation that we should be enabled to give our readers a summary of the latest intelligence from Europe. The English Mail has not, however, arrived, although it is confidently expected to-morrow. On all occasions the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR' will, in anticipation of some similar contingency, be issued after the arrival of the American mail.

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