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THE NEW COLONIAL MINISTER.

(From the Spectator.)

Why it happened so, is of little consequence now, but there can be no doubt that Lord Normanby was expected to cut a figure as Colonial Minister. Appointed to the office at a time when the politics of a colony seemed likely to affect very materially those of the mother-country, and succeeding one who had been removed for notorious incapacity, Lord Normanby appeared to have been selected as the fittest man of his party to deal with the colonial exigencies of the moment, and to provide permanent remedies for the evils which had grown out of a long course of neglect and mismanagement. It was imagined that those who appointed him knew him to possess the requisite qualities and therefore that he possessed them. Scarcely had a public expectation been more thoroughly disappointed. As Colonial Minister, Lord Normanby has done nothing, suggested nothing, projected nothing. He has reaped no harvest, though a rich one had been prepared for him by Lord Durham's mission, and has sown no seeds in the wide wilderness which he found open to improvement. He has exhibited neither genius, nor sagacity, nor resolution, nor readiness, nor even common diligence. The multitudinous business of the office was never more in arrears, never in a worse mess than as the present time. Lord Normanby "broke down" within about a week of his appointment. It is well known that he had intended to remove Mr. Stephen, the over-secretary of many nominal chiefs; but just as this popular purpose was on the point of execution, out came Sir Francis Head's narrative, in which Mr. Stephen was abused as a republican, and so forth; when Lord Normanby changed his mind, for fear of its being said that he had been influenced by Sir Francis Head; and therefore, Mr. Stephen remained. From that moment, none who were acquainted with the facts had any hope of Lord Normanby. The expectations which they expressed at the time, he has perfectly fulfilled. His brief career has been distinguished from that of the poorest of his predecessors by nothing but some theatrical flourishes, which now seem ridiculous to those who remember them. His first despatch a very silly, sentimental sort of letter to some West India governor, about the negroes, he published in the London newspapers, *apropos de bottles*, under the title of "Lord Normanby's First despatch." He struck up a notice in the office, to the effect that, during certain

hours of certain days every week, he would receive all comers without introduction. It was given out at the time, that Lord Normanby would show the office how to do business, that he was to be the most accessible of ministers, that he would learn and judge for himself, and many more fine things of the same sort. Now, what was the result of this *coup de theatre*? Why, that the ministers soon grew sick of thus showing off his accessibility, and ended by being as difficult of access as any of his predecessors, not to say more so. The old messengers used to hold up their hands and groan at the scene which grew out of his lordship's "public days," as others would have done had they known all that the *Court Circular* did not tell about "interviews with the Marquis of Normanby." He is gone, however, and we have only to write his epitaph. He left the Colonies as he found them, a prey to every evil resulting from misrule. He attempted, but happily failed, to destroy the most ancient of the colonial constitutions, by substituting a de potism for the representative government of Jamaica. He advertised his first despatch, and made a mere show of extraordinary accessibility. Any thing else?—Yes, he did what in him lay to prevent an important addition to the colonial empire of England, which he might easily have had the honour of founding.

What can have induced Lord John Russell to take the colonial seals, is a question that puzzles the best informed. The appointment is of inferior rank, relates to subjects of which the late Home Secretary knows little, and about which one so steeped in home politics as the leader of the House of Commons, must almost necessarily be careless. The duties of the office, if but decently performed, are exceedingly laborious; and it has never been held of late years without loss of reputation. The risk of damage from holding it is peculiarly great just now, when the gross incapacity of two or three colonial ministers in succession has produced something like a general rebellion in our colonial empire. We never heard that Lord John Russell had a taste for fishing in troubled waters. What then can have been his motive for changing places with Lord Normanby?

This question receives numerous answers, which, in the absence of reliable information, we shall repeat before we express our own opinion.

There are not wanting persons who say, that the arrangement is merely provisional; that Lord John will soon retire, having been in-

duced to keep the place warm for another, not yet persuaded to join the government; and that nothing important, therefore, will result from his appointment.

Others assert that the government has at length resolved upon settling the Canada question at last; and that the leader of the House of Commons takes the Colonial seals for that purpose only, under the idea that by uniting the character of Colonial Minister to that of the leader of the House of Commons, he will adopt the best means of carrying early next session a measure for the permanent government of Canada. This is a pleasant speculation, and so reasonable, in many respects that one might hope it to be well founded, if it were not contradicted by Mr. Thomson's appointment. Lord John is a person of no mean abilities; but if he settle the Canada question here while Mr. Thomson is revivifying there the embers of universal strife, he has a far greater capacity than his warmest admirers suppose.

A third set of speculators on Lord John's appointment, wary old hacks of the party now in power, smile at the notion of attributing this change of places to any very definite object. The government, say they, knew that it could not meet Parliament again without putting on the appearance at least of some novelty or freshness; so it made a move amongst its members, as one shuffles the cards for a change of luck; and the result is, that while Lord Normanby finds himself in Lord John Russell's place, Lord John Russell finds himself in Lord Normanby's. By the same sort of accident Mr. Thomson is despatched to Canada. But Lord Melbourne deliberately laughs in his sleeve. This version of the story will have many believers, until something happen to disprove it.

EARTHQUAKE AT MARTINIQUE.—The following letter from Mr. Philip A. de Greby, U. S. Consul at St. Pierre, Martinique, under date of the 2d instant, has been received at Baltimore, and contains the particulars of an earthquake, with which that island has again been visited. "I hasten to inform you that this morning at 25 minutes past two o'clock, the inhabitants of this town were awakened by two very severe shocks of an earthquake, each of which lasted about 40 seconds. A gentleman from Baltimore occupied the chamber with me;—we immediately rushed into the street, which we found already filled with men, women, and children, flying in all directions, others on their knees, calling on God to preserve them. It is impossible to describe the sensations caused by such an occurrence; houses rocking to and fro, tiles, small stones, and mortar falling all around, women and children screaming, and with the expectation of seeing the houses fall upon you, I assure you our situation is far from being envious.—Rumours have just reached us, of several houses having fallen down at Port Royal,

of the truth of which there can be no doubt, as many houses were in a very precarious position; and the shock was of such force as to have thrown down those of more solidity. We have not heard of any deaths, but several persons were much hurt, in jumping from the windows" &c.

The Dover Banquet.—The dinner service at the Duke's table was of the most magnificent description, the knives having handles of gold. The service was the same which was used at the civic banquet, when her present Majesty honoured the city of London with a visit.—The tables for the company were laid out in a very tasteful manner, and the following is the bill of fare:—26 tables, 25 each 26; ditto, 23 each; 1 ditto, 124; Duke's table, 172; 29 quarters of lamb, 56 dishes, roast veal, 46 ditto boiled beef 28 ditto roasted ditto, 120 couple chickens, 40 turkey poult, 28 hams, 56 tongues, 120 pigeon pie, 240 ventrals ditto, 180 fruit ditto, 160 custard puddings, 200 lobsters, 200 salads, cucumbers, pickles, &c. Dessert, &c. *Kentish Observer*.

DISTURBANCE AT BALTIMORE.

Our city is at this moment thrown into the greatest degree of excitement, in consequence of the escape of a Carmelite nun from the convent situated in Aisquith Street, at 12 and 1 o'clock, by the front door, and was instantly followed by several persons (one a priest) in pursuit. She endeavored to gain admittance in a house adjoining the nunnery, but its inmates refused to receive her; she then ran a few doors farther, gained admittance into the house of a very respectable citizen, and implored his protection. By this time several persons had collected, including the priest and one or two other of her pursuers, the latter of whom demanded the surrender of the fugitive. Their request was promptly refused—the nun calling aloud upon the citizens to shield her from the officers of the convent, as she had thrown herself upon their protection. A carriage was immediately procured, in order to convey her to the Maryland Hospital, in charge of the "Sisters of Charity," but every attempt on the part of the institution to recover her was overruled by the assembled citizens. The excitement now became intense—the mayor and the whole body of police were on the ground—and the carriage, by order of the mayor, proceeded with the fugitive nun to the Washington University, situated on College-hill adjoining Fair Mount, escorted by some two or three hundred citizens, where she will be safely and comfortably provided for. She is said to have complained bitterly of the treatment she has experienced in the convent—that she had been long watching a favorable opportunity to escape, and that several others were only waiting the chance to do likewise. As might have been expected, indignation, loud and deep, has been freely expressed against the institution, threatening an alarming riot. By three o'clock the entire police of the city were within the walls of the building, together with a large number of religious friends of the institution, including nearly all their dignitaries, from the archbishop down, and at the time of writing this note, not less than five thousand people are in front of the convent, many of them exhibiting signs of a menacing attitude, notwithstanding two or three hundred fixed bayonets, borne by the City Guard, are bristling in the crowd. The determined character of Gen. Leakin, mayor of our city, saves, I verily believe, our city from a most disgraceful and disastrous riot; and consequently I have no apprehension of a popular outbreak.—The young lady who has effected her escape is said to be a Miss Neal, of Charles County, Maryland, aged about 25, and has been for eleven years a member of

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