

In the Canadas and New Brunswick their respective Legislatures are now in session ; and we shall feel thankful in obtaining from our correspondents, details of their proceedings. Among the Laws passed by the Assembly of Lower Canada last year, there was one continuing the sittings of that Body, notwithstanding the demise of the King. We presume this example will be followed in the different colonies ; as nothing can be more absurd than the necessary dissolution of a Colonial Assembly, being consequent upon the occurrence of such an event. A novel attempt has however been made to renew commissions which had been granted during the late reign, but which has very properly been resisted ; it being a manœuvre to extort fees which should not for a moment have been countenanced by the authorities of the Province ; and which will doubtless meet with the reprehension of His Majesty's Government.

That there may be local causes of complaint in the colonies, there cannot be a doubt.—Those will exist every where. But it must be a source of congratulation and of gratitude to every well regulated mind, that while the nations of continental Europe are reeling and convulsed to their centre, —while the flame of revolution is rapidly and furiously extending : the people of these Provinces, secure in the protection of the Parent State, and admitted to the enjoyment of equal laws, are rapidly advancing in prosperity and improvement, and bid fair at no distant period, to become valuable appendages of the British empire.

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE HON. SIR ROBERT SPENCER.

On the 4th of November, died the Hon. Sir Robert Spencer, Captain of his Majesty's Ship Madagascar, in his fortieth year. He was the second son of George and Lavinia, Earl and Countess Spencer. They had taught him in his earliest years the fear of God, and the love of his country ; and his life was a beautiful picture of the discharge of those high duties. Having, from his earliest youth, devoted himself to the naval service which he entered in 1804, he pursued it to his last moments with an unabated and enthusiastic ardour.

All the energies of his active mind were unremittingly employed in the science of his profession, and in its discipline ; and these great acquirements, united with his native gallantry and tried spirit, made him an early and bright example to the British Navy, rich as it is in the display of nautical skill and bravery.

So happily did the firmness of his mind combine with the benevolence of his heart, that the attachment and devotion with which he inspired the officers and men with whom he sailed, can be understood only by those who witnessed the result ; for they saw the affectionate confidence which was reposed in his fatherly protection, and the instantaneous

obedience which was given to his masterly commands.

It is also difficult to describe the unequalled delight of his society. The playfulness and gaiety of his mind, the tenderness of his heart, the good sense, the deep feeling, and the entire absence of all selfishness, which peculiarly belonged to his conversation, gave to his social intercourse a charm, which no one who ever partook of it in his familiar hours can recollect without the deepest sorrow for his loss.

Without any personal knowledge previously existing, his present Majesty, when Lord High Admiral, selected Sir Robert Spencer to be his Private Secretary—an honour solely derived from the distinguished reputation he had deservedly obtained in the service, and the high estimation in which he was universally held by the naval profession.

He had been appointed Surveyor General of the Ordnance, and was actually recalled to fill this office when the final termination of his honourable career took place. A sudden malady, on board his Majesty's ship Madagascar, in a very few hours put a premature end to his valuable life, to the inexpressible grief of his ship's company.