SUMMARY.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.—By experiment made on board the British ship *Dryad*, on the Coast of Africa, the utility of lightning conductors, in general has been sufficiently proved. There has been a great deal of lightning on the coast, and, in one instance, the *Dryad* encountered the fury of a tornado. A heavy flash of lightning struck the foremast, and was seen distinctly to pass down the conductor; at the same time a whizzing noise was heard, resembling the boiling of water. In a short time after, a second flash was seen by the officers on the quarter deck, to strike the mizenmast, which passed off safely, but attended as before with a similar whizzing noise. It does not appear that the conductors sustained the slightest deterioration or marks from the passage of the electrical fluid. This account from the *Dryad* goes to prove, that the conductors do not draw down upon a ship any dangerous consequence, or attract as some persons imagine, more electric fluid than they transmit. Of course, in the tornado mentioned above, there must necessarily have been plenty of electric fluid present to be attract; so that either the conductors discharged the whole of it or otherwise only as much as they attracted; if they discharged the whole with so little effect, there surely can be nothing to apprehend. There can be no question but that the *Dryad's* masts were saved by the rapidly equalizing power of the conductors, by which the dense and otherwise overwhelming stroke was passed. We have only to reflect on the frightful electrical action of a tornado on the coast of Africa, to conclude that the ship, enveloped (as she must have been) in electric matter, was entirely protected from damage, by the influence of the lightning conductor.

EAST INDIA MONOPOLY.—An excellent address on the East India Monopoly has been issued by the Central Committee, in London, formed to oppose the renewal of the monopoly. The following is an extract:—"The Chinese, so far from being anti-commercial, have a peculiar avidity for foreign trade, affording to it greater facilities and despatch, than it receives in almost any other country. The government of China, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, is not insensible to the advantages of foreign trade; and, as the Company's supercargoes inform us, has been brought to terms by a temporary suspension of that commerce, about which it has been said to be so indifferent. But the disposition of the government, even if it were adverse, could be of little consequence in a country, which sets all regulations at defiance, and smuggles the most extensive article of its commerce in the open day. Driven from such flimsy pretexts for their monopoly, the Company next insisted, that the profits of the China trade were necessary to enable them to carry on the government of India. But what, we ask, has a monopoly of the trade with China to do with the government of India? Quite as little as our trade with America or Ireland, of which the East India Company might, with as much reason, ask for a monopoly. With accounts and estimates, and with amended accounts and estimates, they have so contrived to mystify their statements, that it is impossible to ascertain what profit they make by their trade, or whether they make any profit at all: it is, however, clear that, after deducting the enormous expenses incurred by their wasteful system, not one quarter of what the monopoly costs the country is left as a clear profit to themselves. But be this profit what it may to the Company, it is a grievous imposition, and nearly doubles the cost of tea to the British consumer, who is proved, by means of samples procured by the Board of Control, from North America and the Continent, and valued by the London teabrokers, to pay (independant of the duty) above a million and a half annually for his tea more than his continental neighbors."

Tobacco.—The consumption of this article is on the increase. Last year 440,500 hhds. more were consumed than in the previous year, yielding an additional revenue of about £80,000.—The increase in the consumption of Segars was nearly 40,000 hhds.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Manifesto of the Polish Government.

The Secretary of state for Foreign Affairs at Warsaw has published, in the form of a letter to the Polish Agents at foreign courts, the following interesting document:

Recent military events having freed the capital and the whole of the right bank of the Vistula from the attacks of the enemy, I deem it a duty to request you to use every possible effort to convey to the government to which you are accredited the wishes of the Polish nation. It is a received principle in Europe, that the independent existence of every country is founded on those rights which have once been recognized, as well as in the formation of a domestic force capable of protecting and maintaining it. When the question of right is co-existent with that of fact, both yield to each other reciprocal support. The former existence of Poland, her relation with other states, are sufficiently known, nor can the three partitioning powers question their historical accuracy, for they must retain a recollection of the intimate relations which Poland formerly maintained with them, of the services that she rendered them, or of the reverses which she forced them to endure.

If then, we consult the history of our country, or that of Europe, it will be seen that the right of the Poles to a national and independent existence, is incontestible. It is true, that at the close of the last century the three partitioning Powers, after having conspirated for our ruin, destroyed that independence; but that act has been designated throughout the world as spoliation and political crime: that act could never annihilate ancient rights nor create new ones. Thus, even after the success of the conspiracy of the three courts, the voice of Europe, in raising itself in favor of the rights of Poland, proclaimed them to be prescriptable; but although they preserved their full vigor, they could not longer be exercised in the political world, invested with their external attributes.

Recent events have changed this state of things. An insurrection, distinguished for its energy and exemption from every excess, has severed the bonds which connected Poland with Russia. The kingdom is now subject only to a national government, unanimously chosen by a Diet, the members of which it is worthy of remark, were all elected under the Russian Government. That Diet has entrusted the public affairs to persons the most eminent both for birth and popularity, and whose political career affords the best guarantee to Europe. The Diet has thus secured in the strongest way possible, those monarchial institutions which the two chambers have declared are best suited to the wishes and wants of the nation. The National Government of the Kingdom encounters no opposition in the exercise of its authority; its orders are executed with the utmost zeal, in every part of the kingdom unoccupied by the enemy. The Polish troops, the armed representatives of the opinions, and of the power of the nation, after three glorious but deadly conflicts, after having sustained dreadful losses, have again completed their full numbers.

Their confidence in their own resources has increased them, and that heroic army responds to the hopes that the National Government reposes in them. We are now independent in the strongest sense of the term, and the question of fact is no longer in opposition to the question of right. The dangers which may hereafter threaten us, and which to-morrow may threaten the liberty and the glory of other powers in Europe, cannot in any respect alter our real position, nor can they prevent us from proclaiming at this moment that we are independent. It is, therefore, admissible for us to claim from other Governments the recognition of our independence, and to claim it in the name of the most sacred rights, which Europe has unanimously declared to be imperishable.

If Belgium, which never ranked among States—if Greece, whose political existence has been annihilated for ages—have obtained, amidst all the uncertainty of war, the recognition of their independence, I ask if Poland have not stronger ground for her pretensions—that Poland whose national existence, extinguished for a moment, revives with so much vigor, sustains itself with so much energy, and at the price of so many sacrifices—that Poland, which alone, and without aid, has dared to combat with the giant of the north, and has already overthrown the illusion of her power? It would be in vain, in discussing the question of Polish independence, to refer to the acts of the Congress at Vienna. The Treaty of Vienna, when uniting the kingdom of Poland to Russia, assured to us a national individuality, and constitutional Government; it also aimed at extending this nationality to the Polish provinces incorporated in the Russian Empire; and this for the purpose of consolidating the tranquillity of Europe.

Such was the spirit of the Treaty of Vienna. The Emperor of Russia has been the first to violate that Treaty by overthrowing in the kingdom the principal Constitutional Securities, in smothering all national spirit in their Polish provinces, in prohibiting even the use of our language. All our sufferings have been sufficiently exposed in the Manifesto of the Diet. The Treaty of Vienna has then been, both in its arrangements and their results, inadequate to the maintenance of peace. The violence of the Russian Government has provoked an insurrection, which has been followed by decisive events. A new order of things has arisen. The chain which attached Poland to Russia has been broken, the bond which united Belgium with Holland has been severed, although but a short time previously the Treaty of Vienna had guaranteed their perpetuity. The European Powers have, notwithstanding, recognized the independence of Belgium, adopting a noble and elevated policy. Why, then, animated by the same spirit, do they not interfere in our favor?

"The union of Belgium with Holland," says the Protocol of London on the 15th February, "is broken. Official communications have convinced the Five Courts that the means originally destined for its preservation can neither re-establish it at present, nor preserve it hereafter; and henceforth, instead of confounding the affections and the welfare of two people, it could only excite passions and hatred, which, from their collision, could only produce war and all its disasters. It does not devolve on the powers to judge of the causes which have destroyed the ancient ties; but when they see these ties severed, it belongs to them to aim once more at the object which was proposed in their formation. It belongs to them to secure, in favor of the combinations, that tranquility to Europe of which the union of Belgium with Holland formed an essential basis."

The cause of Belgium is identified with ours; and if there be any dissimilarity between the two, it is in our favor. Poland was formerly independent. The Congress of Vienna even contemplated the re-establishment of that independence, and of the integrity of the Polish territory; but as these views were counteracted by imperious circumstances—a new kingdom was created, the limits of which were small, and which was united to Russia. On every occasion the best intentions with regard to us were testified, by guaranteeing also the nationality of the other Polish provinces: the inadequacy of these dispositions towards Poland in general was clearly demonstrated—dispositions which may be considered as provisional. The kingdom to which the Congress of Vienna had guaranteed a constitution, was united to the most powerful despotic state. This alliance was difficult to last; its duration was impossible, for it carried in itself the seeds of dissolution. It may be urged in opposition to this, that Russia—that power so redoubtable to all Europe—can, even after a desperate contest, reduce us to submission, and pacify, by exterminating us. The peace of slavery—the peace of the tomb—a peace of such a nature as to excite a terrible war on the first favorable opportunity—can such a peace meet the noble and dignified intentions of the European Powers?

I repeat it: every treaty is the consequence either of certain events, or of certain political combinations. If other events displace those that preceded them—if the combination be altered, the contracting parties must modify their engagements in accordance with the new combinations, for the purpose of upholding the principles which they had adopted, and for insuring the object which they had at first proposed. The Congress of Vienna could dispose of Belgium conquered by the Allied Powers, and of Poland occupied by the Russian armies. But Poland delivered—Poland, which repels the numerous hordes of the oppressors—has a just right to claim admission into the great family of the independent nations of Europe, as Belgium has been there received, after having thrown off the yoke of Holland.

Such are the principles that you will advance—such are the arguments you will employ to strengthen the demand you are authorized to make on the government to which you are accredited—the demand of the formal and positive recognition of the national government of the kingdom of Poland, and of the independence of that kingdom.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
For Foreign Affairs for the National Government of the Kingdom of Poland. April 30.

BELGIUM WITH RELATION TO EUROPE.
(From a Brussels paper.)

Two courses are open to us—war or negociation. Our revolution commenced by war; but we accepted an armistice when the time for negociation had not yet arrived. This was a great fault: but, accusing for it neither the provisional government, nor the diplomatic committee, nor the national congress, let us appreciate carefully our situation, in order to discover the means of altering it. If instead of halting in November last, at the moment when we were about to assume the offensive, we had advanced towards the north, and taken some fortresses, then ill prepared for defence, Nimeguen, for instance, the King of Holland would, ere long, have sued for peace. On the contrary, our enemies, masters of Antwerp and Maestricht, have maintained the offensive. Had our tri-coloured flag floated on the walls of Nimeguen and the banks of the Moerdyk, the Dutch flag would soon have disappeared from the walls of Antwerp and Maestricht.

Hostilities, therefore, were prematurely suspended, and that fact and its effects are now palpable. We entered prematurely upon negociation, but after five months the road still remains open, and we must either advance a few steps, or, retracing our steps, return to that of war.

Our diplomacy has been, and is exclusively French; the revolution of September was in some degree the *contre coup* of that of July, and Belgium presented to Europe the aspect of supporting itself upon France. Thus France took up our cause in consequence of the analogy of position, and prevented us from perishing, but without the power of enabling us to live. Not believing herself strong enough to found a new European system, France re-attached herself to the old one. The future will decide whether she is right or wrong; but the future is not yet for us, whilst with the present we must arrange every thing.

It being, therefore, certain that France alone cannot sustain us, Belgium must enter into a system less exclusive and more European; instead of living for France, and France alone, Belgium must associate with other European societies, as a part of the great European whole. In this point of view, Belgium is not hostile to any power, not even to Holland. We do not recognise the Holy Alliance, but we wish to let it alone; nor are we strong enough or foolish enough to constitute ourselves a propaganda. We wish to be allowed to live in our own way, and that is all we ask.

We love France, but we wish to be her best friends, and not her subjects. France requires the destruction of some of our fortresses; but why? We prefer to keep them, and not to deliver them up either to France or to the Holy Alliance. Since 1815 we have attracted hither half the commerce of Germany, whose welfare is intimately connected with our own. Up to the close of the last century our existence was as much German as French. We are of a mixed race, and why should we deny it or forget ourselves? Placed between the two countries, we are naturally called upon to transmit from one to the other the products of industry, as well as of intelligence; and why should we have any antipathy to the Germans?

Our country is not destined to be to England another Portugal, and British vessels will never guard the mouths of the Scheldt like those of the Tagus. We are not in the situation of Portugal, having no need to make sacrifices to another country in order to exist. Identity of principle connects us with England as well as with France, but we have nothing to envy or to sacrifice with reference to either of them. England does not wish Belgium to be English—she only demands that it should not be French. As to the Dutch, we have no hatred towards them, but only towards the creatures of William, who have, during fifteen years, heaped vexations upon us.

Let us now consider what is to be done. To foreign powers we must declare, that we desire neither union nor the semblance of union with France; and to Holland we must say, that we wish not for a war of extermination, but only to return to the ancient state of the United Provinces with the requisite commercial relations. Thus, with regard to Holland and all Europe, we demand nothing but independence and territorial integrity. If our declarations are not to be believed, or our conditions refused, then we must resort to war, and give every possible intensity to a revolutionary movement, in order that the whole population may only wait for the signal to precipitate itself upon the territory of the enemy.

Our revolution, with regard to external policy, has only two objects,—separation from Holland, and the expulsion of the House of Nassau. In effecting these objects we attack not the social system, and with reference to the expulsion of a dynasty the example has been given both by England and France.

TURKEY.

Insurrection in Opposition to Reform.

The Paris Messager des Chambres of May 18th, says:—"The civil war which is going on in the interior of the Turkish empire becomes from day to day menacing. The Pasha of Albania, the chief of the revolt, keeps the Grand Visier blockaded at Monastir, in Rumelia. On the other hand, the insurgents of Bulgaria are masters of Sophia, the capital of a pachalic. After a few further successes, they may reach the borders of Constantinople. The Divan is deliberating and taking serious measures; the Sultan is urging with ardor the organization of his army, and is sending reinforcements to his generals with all speed. The eastern part of the empire is already torn to pieces. The Pasha of Bagdad is in open rebellion. The Porte has charged the Pasha of Alleppo to assemble all his disposable forces in Asia Minor, and to march towards the Euphrates and Tigris. He had even conferred on the Pasha the title of Caliph of Bagdad. To second his operation, the Viceroy of Egypt has been invited to furnish a body of men against the Pasha of Bagdad; and, as a recompense of the services which the Porte expects from him, the Pachalic of Syria has been added to his extensive territory—an addition which makes Egypt a power almost equal to the Porte, if it be remembered that the Viceroy reigns at the same time over Arabia, Nubia, Senaar, Fezzan, and the large Island of Candia. But the Porte appears to rely on the sincere support of the Viceroy in an insurrectional war, in which the interests of the Divan of Alexandria are the same as those of the Divan of Constantinople.

The aim of the revolted is in fact to destroy the administrative and military innovations introduced by the Sultan Mahmoud on the European plan, and to place all things on the footing of the old Turkish system. The Sultan has been desirous of placing in a state of regularity finance, taxation, and justice; to withdraw from the Pashas and other military commandants those rights of extraction which they have arrogated to themselves; to submit them to fixed appointments, and to separate the administrative from the military authority. He has labored especially to create an army of European discipline, depending directly on the head of the state, and not on the Governors of the Provinces. He has also reformed the Turkish costume too heavy for military manœuvers, and has, in every instance, in his public and private conduct, evinced a propensity for European habits and manners, and a relaxation of the old Eastern etiquette which has scandalized the ignorance, routine, and pride of the ultra Turks.

Whilst insurrections are breaking out in Europe to reform abuses, the contrary is the case in Turkey; grandees and Pashas unite the people, and rise against a reforming monarch, who is aiming to introduce a regular administration into a country in which no one is certain either of his property or his head.

We hope that the Turkish Empire, so necessary to the balance of Europe, and become interesting by the civilizing character of its chief, will not perish in this revolt of Albanians. The Sultan has 60,000 regular troops in good order, and the majority of the population of Rumelia, not taking any part in the insurrection, the revolution may be destroyed in a single battle if they descend to the plains of the province."

From the New-York Standard.

FRANCE AND HAYTI.—By the brig Bunker Hill from Port-au-Prince, we have received the "Telegraph" the Haitian official paper, of the 12th June. By the correspondence between the French Consul and the Secretary General, it would appear that a rupture of a serious nature is likely to occur between France and Hayti. Two treaties had been arranged and signed by an agent not vested with authority so to do, and containing conditions repugnant to the feelings of the Haitians. Boyer has refused to ratify them. The Consul gives notice of his intentions to quit the country, at the same time refusing to convey to his own government any answer other than a compliance with the terms of the treaties. The French residents have guaranteed to them the protection of the President, until such time as they shall be enabled to remove. Business is consequently at a stand, and all sales of merchandise suspended, because persons leaving property will not sell on a credit. In consequence of the anxiety of the French to get away their funds, the price of coffee has risen to $13, and Doubloons to $22 50.

PROCLAMATION OF JOHN PETER BOYER, PRESIDENT OF HAYTI.

Haitiens—Hayti had enjoyed for twenty years the independence she had conquered, when Charles X., who then reigned in France, made a formal acknowledgment of our emancipation. The act containing this acknowledgement was at first rejected by us;—because, besides the ambiguity with which it was drawn, there were in it some such strange stipulations, that we could not conceal our repugnance to them.—Still, under these circumstances, a Council of Senators and of the principal functionaries then present in the Capital, was convened; and upon their decision, accompanied by the reasons for it, the acceptance of the act was resolved on, in the hope that the treaties which were expected to be based on it, would, among other modifications, lead to the annulling of all in it contrary to reason. This hope was the more natural, inasmuch as the French Envoy, who was the bearer of the act, assured me that the Haitien Government could not fail of receiving from that of France the most satisfactory explanations. From that moment I resolved upon writing to the King of France, and on sending a Commission of three Haitiens to negotiate and conclude treaties in the name of the Republic.—The result of this mission, as the world knows, was not such as was anticipated.

The Convention brought back here by the Commissioners was not, and could not be ratified, without compromitting the interests of Hayti. I have then only done what the honor of my country required, in not assenting to that convention; and that is the consideration which will always govern my acts. Meanwhile, the loyalty of the Republic is manifested in incredible efforts to fulfil her engagements to the extent of her means: she had made the greatest sacrifices, while nevertheless negotiations could accomplish nothing favorable to our country, of which the condition has been becoming worse and worse from 1825.—These are incontestable facts.

The French Government in 1828, made through the Consul General, M. Mollien, new overtures.—Baron Pichon came here to bring them to a close; but the clause favorable to the Republic was still an obstacle; an interpretation contrary to that agreed upon with the said Consul, prevented a conclusion in the proper forms, of the arrangement in question.—Finally, in order to come to definite results, I determined again to send an Envoy to France, specially charged to stipulate for advantageous terms for the introduction of the produce forwarded for the payment of our debt. This Envoy was required only to remain one month in Paris. He had not yet been permitted to discuss the proposition he was charged with, when the Revolution broke out which drove the house of Bourbon from the throne. It, in consequence of this event, new powers were necessary for the agent, in order to be entitled to prosecute his mission, there were formed here, nevertheless, the highest hopes of advantage from the liberal system which it was naturally expected, regenerated France would adopt towards us. Could one think otherwise, in fact, on seeing placed at the head of the government of that kingdom, the distinguished men who so often in the tribune, and in their writings, have proclaimed principles favorable to Hayti; and regarding in a lofty point of view the relations between Hayti and France, loudly condemned the exorbitant demands of the fallen Government?

Contrary to all expectation, the Haitien Envoy took upon himself to go beyond his mission. He has returned after a year's absence, bringing two treaties containing conditions he was not authorised to agree to, and which consequently I could not ratify.

Haitiens—the Consul General *ad interim* of France, has declared, because of this refusal of ratification on my part, that the relations of friendship between France and Hayti have ceased. What reflections are suggested by this strange declaration! The fate of Hayti might then be made to depend upon a convention signed in France by a Haitien Envoy, whatever wrong the act itself might be tainted with. The two treaties in question, are then treaties imposed upon us! Haitiens, in order to be at peace, we must be prepared to defend that which is most dear to us—liberty and national independence. In holding yourselves prepared for any events that hatred and injustice can alone bring about, command, at all times, the respect of those who seek to depreciate you.—Let foreigners, whom confidence has brought to our shores, find the security which the laws and our loyalty guarantee to them.

Civil and military functionaries! you will doubtless in all contingencies, fulfil your duties. The commandants of arrondissements especially, will bear in mind always, the honorable but fearful responsibility which rests upon them. Let my instructions of May, 1823, and January, 1824, remind them constantly of their obligations to their country.

Haitiens,—you will be faithful to your solemn oaths, renewed each year, and by this fidelity will be worthy of the protection of Divine Providence. Your patriotism and your courageous determination, whatever be your future destiny, will command the esteem of the world, and the admiration of posterity.

From the National Palace at Port-au-Prince, 12th June, 1831—of our independence 28. BOYER.

COLONIAL.

[NOVA-SCOTIA.—The following remarks on the Agricultural and Commercial condition of that Province, are from an editorial article in the last *Nova-Scotian*:]

A few years ago it was stoutly denied that wheat could ever be successfully cultivated in this country; and in the opinion of some of the shrewdest minds, we were condemned to pay perpetual tribute to our neighbors of the United States. But we very much doubt if any man can now be found a sceptic to the belief, that in a few years Nova Scotia will raise its own Bread. The last season was one eminently favorable to agricultural production, and our farmers in every section of the country were rewarded with a most abundant harvest.—We have not beside us such information as would enable us to speak to positive quantities, or to the relative production or failure in different settlements; but from a pretty general and frequent intercourse with persons from the interior, we may safely assert, that in a very few if in any of the townships has there been a deficiency of bread stuffs. Some Counties have raised wheat enough for two years' consumption; and it is estimated that at least 5000 barrels of flour have been sent into the Halifax market. We know some country merchants who have shipped from 2 to 300 barrels—and large quantities are still reserved. Beef, pork, mutton, &c., have been abundant; and so great was the yield of grass last year, that beef sold for at least a penny per lb. less this spring, than in any former season. Immense quantities of Hay have been sent to market—the most of it bringing a fair price; but latterly, from the prospect of another abundant yield, it has sold at from $8 to $10 per ton. Potatoes and oats have also latterly been quite a drug in the market—the former selling for 10d., and oats bringing but little more. It may be said that a bad market is no sign of prosperity; but while the productive powers of the country increase, they will soon force a market, and, instead of our farmers sending their hay and potatoes to town to be sacrificed, they will use them to fatten cattle and pigs, which, when in good condition, always command a fair price. Even admitting that the farmer is shorn of his profits by the general plenty, still it is a grand feature of national prosperity, when the land, besides supporting those who till it, in comfort and independence, supplies all the necessaries and luxuries of life, at a low rate, to those who are engaged in manufactures and commerce. This Nova Scotia is now doing; and so far as we can judge of the crops which are promised by the present aspect of the country, we have every reason to expect a still more abundant harvest this year than that which blessed the labors of the husbandman during the past. The fields are loaded with grass—upland and interval are alike clothed in luxuriance, and the mower is already busy among their spires. Grain, and green crops of every description, everywhere promise well; and the only fear entertained by our farmers is, that should the promises of the season be realized, they will be forced to imitate the example of the Dutch, who destroyed vast quantities of spice to enhance the value of the remainder.

The commerce of the Province is not behind its agriculture. We do not pretend to say that any of our merchants make such rapid fortunes by our trade, as were acquired by the headlong speculations of the American war; nor can we deny that large sums of money have been sunk by individuals engaged in the fish trade, during three or four years. But without stopping to calculate individual losses, we can safely affirm that the general trade of the Province is greatly on the increase; and that, if some of the old streams of our commerce occasionally run low, others are discovered and made available—our capital is but diverted into various channels without being lost. That commerce is increasing, these are the evidences:—a vast increase in the number, and an improvement in the quality and equipment of our coasting vessels—the additional British and foreign tonnage which frequents our ports—the erection of large and expensive stores, and other commercial conveniences—the repair and extension of our wharves—the demand for ungranted water lots, and the steady rise in the value of Real Estate. These are undeniable evidences of the extension of our commerce.

To speak of Halifax alone:—a sure criterion of the state of our trade may be gathered from this fact—that for ten years past there has scarcely been a single commercial failure in the town of Halifax.

Within ten years—real estate has risen twenty, thirty, fifty, and in some instances, nearly a hundred per cent. 150 houses were erected in Halifax last year; and this season, we have been informed that at least a hundred frames have either been raised, or been ordered. Building is going on in every quarter of the town, and yet rents continue very high.

From the Quebec Mercury, June 21.

THOUGHTS ON EMIGRATION AND ON THE CANADAS AS AN OPENING FOR IT.—A small pamphlet bearing the foregoing title has been recently published; it is from the pen of Charles Shirreff, Esq. a gentleman already known to the public, as the author of an able letter in defence of the Canada timber trade.

The view which Mr. Shirreff takes of the subject differs in one very material point from that which has been adopted by most writers on emigration, who considering that agriculture is the only employment by which the emigrant can subsist in these colonies, direct all their remarks to the object of making them farmers. In truth this was formerly pretty nearly the case, but the rapid improvement which has recently taken place has opened a wider field for the unemployed industry of the mother country.

The writer before us is of opinion that more effectual relief would be given to the emigrant by employing him on public works, such as the improvement of the internal communications, either canals or roads, which might render Canada the avenue to the great western wilderness, than by endeavouring to arrest his progress by the gratuitous offers of lands and subsistence. "The bulk of emigrants," observes Mr. Shirreff, "require defined and immediate means of earning a livelihood upon their arrival, and consequently many who come to our shores go forward to the States in quest of it."

After remarking on the circumstances of Canada as affording little temptation, at present for the employment of capital, a point on which we are far from agreeing with the author, he proceeds to detail his plan of employment which we shall give in his own words.

"But a combination of circumstances, fortunate at least for Canada, seems to point out the way in which an extensive system of improvement, particularly in communications, may be commenced immediately.—The necessity under which the mother country lies to facilitate the emigration of her superfluous inhabitants is every day more acknowledged; and after attentive consideration of the subject, I am convinced that in no way can this effort be so beneficially and effectually directed for both countries, as in offering emigrants employment on public works in the Canadas.

"In forming settlements here of large bodies of the lower classes direct from England or Ireland, it is evident that their previous habits and prejudices could be little disturbed, and might long continue to clog the prosperity of the districts so peopled, and perhaps that of the whole colony. Whereas in disposing them as labourers, Government would only have to deal with a few thousands at a time, who would successively give way to new comers, and disperse among the older inhabitants. Many would ultimately find their way beyond the colony, and none would remain in it as a distinct body. Though it seems necessary, in adopting such a system, to reject no applicant for labour, yet the rate of wages held out would be an efficient means to regulate the extent of the operations. In general the wages should perhaps be little more than a bare means of subsistence, in order that nothing might be kept in the way of the dispersion of the emigrants; at present, considering the general disposition of the lower classes to emigrate, one shilling and sixpence per day would probably be sufficient, but the allowance might be arranged annually as circumstances required. I do not apprehend that the winters of Canada would be found any impediment to the continued operation of this mode of assisting emigration. The weather in winter is seldom such as to preclude out door labour, and it is decidedly the best season for some kind of work, particularly for the carriage of heavy materials, so that in the process of forming roads, canals and fortifications on the most substantial principles, an ample fund of winter employment would be found in quarrying, macadamizing, &c. &c.

"It may be argued against this mode of forwarding emigration that it could not be carried to sufficient extent, and that a much greater number might be settled on lands than could be employed on public works. In looking, however, over the reports of the emigration committee, and other publications on the subject, I do not find it stated in a manner sufficiently particular where such a body of emigrants, as it is thought necessary to send off could be placed. It is said that in Nova-Scotia there may be two million acres of land, and in New-Brunswick about as much more still unoccupied. But these quantities would go but a short way, and the Canadas must therefore be resorted to, where room would be wanted for a population exceeding that of both the provinces.

"The great inconvenience and expense which must attend an attempt to establish such a multitude, as settlers, from the immense space they would cover, have not, in my humble opinion, been fully weighed. They cannot be driven into the woods, and allowed to range at will, like cattle. The country must be prepared for them. Supposing half the land to be fit for occupation, and allotting one hundred acres to each family; for a million of emigrants, or two hundred thousand families, not less than sixty thousand square miles must be divided and surveyed into six hundred townships. Roads and bridges must be formed and churches, court-houses and jails, &c. erected. Superintendents and clergymen; magistrates and other officers of justice must be established, with every arrangement necessary for the preservation of peace and good order, and all this must be accomplished in the short space of six or eight years. It would be a speed in the progress of settlement, and in the organization of Society, infinitely beyond any thing ever yet heard of, either in ancient or modern times.

"I must say, it appears to me quite demonstrable that in a country where so much useful work may be done, a large body of emigrants may be introduced more safely, more conveniently, and even more cheaply as labourers than as settlers. As the former they would be gathered into groups, easily accommodated and kept under control. As the latter, they would overspread and saturate the whole land. Little as these colonies may be now thought of, they would then be still less worth preserving. Great Britain may no doubt exist, and even prosper, without them, but she could not soar so high. They are part of the wings she has spread in ascending, and ought to be kept healthy, vigorous and steady."

Mr. Shirreff observes in a note, that not above one fifth of a body of emigrants can be considered as labourers, the rest are women and children. And again, on the facilities given by the timber trade to the transportation of emigrants he remarks:

"To any other country, the difficulty of transporting such numbers in so short a space of time, would also be a formidable objection—but this, in the direction of the North American colonies, is obviated by the lumber trade, the great importance of which, as an auxiliary to *any* plan of emigration, I have never yet seen sufficiently noticed in any of the public discussions on the subject. It has been remarked that the lumber business may give employment to emigrants upon their arrival in the country, which it no doubt does, in as far as it increases the demand for labour. But the empty vessels starting from every port in England and Ireland for American timber is a facility which emigration never possessed at any former period. In fact the emigrants from Ireland may, by means of this trade, reach the port of Quebec at as little expense, and with less trouble, than they can pour into the streets of London."

The absurdity of considering that all emigrants must necessarily become farmers, and the inefficacy of gratuitous assistance in forming permanent settlements, are shewn in the following passages:

"Every emigrant who enters Canada, does not become a settler or farmer. Many remain mere labourers, and are fit for nothing else; and the usual s of the million which it is proposed to collect from the dregs in England and Ireland, so far from being capable of managing a farm, will be unable to regulate their own conduct. How can it be expected, that men who have never been accustomed to look beyond the wants of the present moment, brought direct from the haunts of idleness and dissipation, and whose very title to enrolment is that vagrancy to which they have been habituated, should all at once become a body of peaceable, prudent, industrious, and persevering husbandmen. Such a transformation could only be the work of supernatural influence, and were it not that the idea has been entertained by so many intelligent men, whose range of information has been much more extensive than mine, I should be led to look for such a happy consummation only in the regions of Utopia.

"With regard to the gratuitous mode of assistance proposed, I must also venture to differ from the respectable opinions in favor of it, already before the public. Would it not be providing the means of idleness rather than those of labour? We should not at home think it a good mode of encouraging industry to make the common people independent of it, even for a limited period, and why should we expect it would be so in the woods of Canada. We may, perhaps, form a better judgment by considering the measure more closely. In a million of emigrants, 200,000 may be supposed of age fit for labour, but as they are all exempted from it for one year, or furnished with the means of being so, it is not improbable that at least one-fourth part of them may take the benefit of the indulgence. Thus fifty thousand years of individual labour would be lost, or there would be wasted funds adequate to the support of five thousand men for ten years at useful work. This cannot be called an extravagant calculation, for although one fourth of the number might not remain in an absolute state of inaction, yet the general effect on the whole body of the all pervading principle of indolence encouraged by this gratuitous aid, could scarcely be less. Thus the measure would be commenced with the prospect of millions being spent to no purpose, or rather to a bad purpose, that of engendering habits of idleness and dissipation, or strengthening those already formed."

Of the improvements which may be effected through the labour of emigrants, the writer points out the following:

"In the plans which may be necessary for either the defence or improvement of Canada, we have only to make a judicious use of the means and facilities