

THE
WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

THURSDAY, JAN. 7, 1847.

THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE
EXPOSITOR.

While our cotemporaries are felicitating themselves and the public on the very high and flattering estimation in which their respective papers are held, and the flourishing state of their finances; we have, at least, the merit of being singular, and announcing that, so far from (this being the case with us, the *Expositor*) after a lingering illness, accompanied with a good deal of irritation consequent on the peculiar nature of its disease, it has nearly breathed its last with the past year, it has, however, managed to rally sufficiently to make its voice once more, and to bid those who have ever enjoyed the slightest interest in its health and prosperity, farewell! Like all things remarkable for extraordinary precocity, it has been doomed to an early death; but whether, phoenix-like, it may rise from its ashes in a new form, and with greater brilliancy or not, it is at present difficult for us to say. At present we have to deal with its remains.

It is by no means a source of uneasiness or concern to ourselves, that the *Expositor* should have met with the little encouragement it has from the community at large. It establishes and confirms our opinion of the serious tone of morals which exists in the country. We gave the suicidal blow to the *Expositor* when we ventured to lay bare the conduct of Justice (so called) in Lower Canada, and when we touched upon the conduct of Peedy, the Teller of the British North American Bank, which we did simply with a view to expose the shameful culpability of those who are sworn to do justice between man and man—between the criminal and the innocent. We raised up a host of enemies, who, though we are well assured, been assiduous in their endeavors to crush the publication. The best evidence of this is the fact that many of those parties who were induced, principally by the example of one of a truly liberal spirit, to put their names down as contributors to the establishment of the paper, have studiously avoided sending their advertisements to the *Expositor*; and without these, it is well known that no paper can enjoy a more than ephemeral existence. Do we regret this, as far as regards ourselves? Most certainly not; for we have no desire to continue a task to which the professed supporters of the paper lend no aid.

Placed at the extremely low rate it was, the *Expositor* could only depend upon numbers for its success, and it was naturally assumed that, where the speculation in railways engrossed so considerable a share of the public attention, a journal devoting a portion of its columns to that subject, and forming a direct medium of communication with the railway interest in England, as the *Expositor* confessedly has, through the *London Railway Record*, the small sum charged for it would have commanded a subscriber in every individual who had an interest in the speculation. But so far from this being the case, we clearly enough perceived, after the publication of the fourth number, that the *Expositor* would not live longer than six months, unless some extraordinary interest could be created in it. Hence our commencement of the publication of the "Eight Years in Canada," which promising as it did to embrace Reviews of the several Administrations which had prevailed in Canada since the Rebellion, we certainly thought would on that account alone have given extended circulation to the paper.

Weeks passed on, yet without any addition of moment to the names on our list; however, as we had taken the precaution to cause a certain number of copies of the *Eight Years* to be put up in book form, after having been carefully revised and purged of its numerous typographical errors, as well as errors of carelessness of our own, we were in some degree consoled for the annoyance we experienced at what we knew would be the fate of the paper, by the power that precautionary measure had given us of making some slight return to the few of those original contributors, who really desired the success of the publication, and were sufficiently interested in the "*Eight Years*" to desire its continuation.

The following is that arrangement:—To those who contributed the larger amount, two copies of the work, when completed, as it must be by ourselves, as a volume, will be reserved; to those who have given the smaller, one copy; while each mere subscriber will be furnished with it at 2s 6d, which, compared with the price at which, as will be seen below, the volume is intended to be sold, will be a virtual return of the half year's subscription. It had been hoped that the paper would have at least lasted six months, and there is money enough strictly due to the office to have effected this, but our Printers have come upon us, like Shylock for his bond. They will not wait, and have refused to publish until settled with. It is in vain that we have called upon all parties who have received the paper up to this hour, and whom it is necessary we should place on a perfect equality with those who have paid. Not even an answer to the remonstrances which we have, from time to time, made have been received, until, in the end, we are perfectly sick and disgusted with asking.

We are really ashamed to confess the smallness of the number of those whom we may consider as actual subscribers to the *Expositor*. It must be sufficient here to state, that the whole of the annual subscriptions, both of those who have paid and those who are ever likely to pay, have not been enough to defray the expenses of half that has been incurred with the printers of the *Expositor* alone. What was contributed for an office has supplied the rest. Under these circumstances it would have been madness to have persevered in that which could not have been effected with the most remote prospect of success.

We deem it necessary here to add that, after paying to the printers upwards of a hundred and twenty pounds, for seventeen numbers of the *Expositor*, they refused to print any further numbers until the two last were paid for. This was the letter of their bond, and they certainly had a right to do so—but we ourselves consider that it would have better served their own interests, as well as those of the public, if they had extended a little time—particularly as we assured them there was sufficient money due to the *Expositor* to enable it to be continued to the end of the half year, and furthermore promising that, putting aside the two numbers in question, those which were to succeed should be settled for without fail, whether the subscribers paid or not. But no: they were inexorable, and could not be prevailed upon.

We have entered with a minuteness into this matter, which we certainly should not have done did the disappointment merely regard ourselves. But we should be sorry to believe that our subscribers did not give us the credit of having done all that lay in our power to make such arrangements as would prove satisfactory to them, and with this view it is that we have, up to the last moment, collected what subscriptions were due to the paper from the issue of the first number, and more than will be required to

settle the arrears which yet remain unliquidated, in order that all might share alike in the advantages, if any, that may result from the sudden discontinuance of the *Expositor*.

We may add that it affords us no slight gratification to find that, all the larger contributors to the paper to whom we have spoken on this subject, and expressed our disappointment at the failure of their well-intentioned views, perfectly approve of the plan we propose, for the partial indemnification of both contributors and subscribers, and deem, with ourselves, that it would be an act of folly to continue the paper under the circumstances of discouragement which have attended it from the commencement. We should, moreover, feel ourselves wanting in proper acknowledgment, were we to fail to express our sense of the promptitude with which the whole of the contributors, with two or three exceptions only—and these we believe caused by our remarks on the Administration of Justice—have met all demands of the office upon them, and in that spirit of acknowledgment for their good wishes and their good deeds, we take our leave of them.

Should circumstances enable us to do so, we may yet bring out a number of the paper, with the remainder of our remarks on the Administration of Lord Sydenham, a portion of which is given in the present issue, and to which we call the attention of our readers. But this we shall do, if at all, only after the arrival of Lord Elgin. We believe there are few Conservatives or Moderates in the country who will not perfectly coincide with us in the view we have taken of the political Canadian career of that nobleman; and to a future Governor, arriving in the country with only the history of his Lordship's paid panegyrist for his guide, the reverse of the picture may not without advantage be displayed. His Excellency will then be enabled to judge how far the encomia passed upon Lord Sydenham were deserved, and to what extent his example should be followed with any prospect of ensuring tranquillity to the country.

MAJOR TALBOT.

We understand, and if true the whole of the Montreal community will rejoice in the fact, that, although Lord Cathcart is about to be relieved, Major Talbot, who has filled the office of Military Secretary to two successive and successive Commanders of the Forces in Canada, will yet remain. Whether as Military Secretary, or as first aid-de-camp to Sir Benjamin D'Urban, is not yet decided. We should assume, however, that, conversant as he is with the details of the Military Secretary's Office, it will be at the head of that Department. But whichever it be, the fact of Major Talbot being continued a *third* time on the staff of the Commander of the Forces of such an important station as this—an honor not often conferred upon an officer—is a proof of the high estimation in which he is held, and cannot, as we have already remarked, fail to afford much satisfaction to the Montreal public—certainly not a little to the frequenters of Christ Church, the orchestra of which has, under his accomplished musical taste, judgment, and untiring energy, (albeit his other manifold duties) attained a state of perfection scarcely surpassed in any of the most fashionable chapels of London.

On the 15th of February will be published,
Price 7s. 6d.

EIGHT YEARS IN CANADA;

INCLUDING

A REVIEW of the several Administrations of Lord Durham and Sydenham, Sir Charles Bagot, and Lord Metcalfe; with numerous Letters to the Author from Lord Durham, Mr. Chas. Buller, Sir John Harvey, &c. &c.