

## CANADA POLITICS.

AFFAIRS OF CANADA, AND THE MINISTERIAL BILL.

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CONCLUDED.

The eighth Resolution of Lord John Russell is another plain violation of the constitution of the Canadas. It is the duty and the province of the Legislative Assembly not only to raise, but to appropriate the revenues. They have, therefore, as much right as the British House of Commons, or any other Assembly on earth, to stop the supplies. Accordingly, finding all their remonstrances, representations, and petitions rejected, they at length, in 1832, exercised their undoubted constitutional privilege of stopping the supplies; a measure which the Whig Mr.—now the Tory Lord—Stanley, especially recommended in 1829. How his Lordship can reconcile his conduct, when Colonial Secretary, in 1834, and his speeches in Parliament now, with his letter in 1829, we leave him to explain. In that letter he says, and says truly, "A constitutional mode is open to the people, of addressing for the removal of the advisers of the Crown," (was he then anxious for office?) "and refusing supplies, if necessary, to support their wishes." Mr Stanley perhaps thought that the remedy of stopping the supplies would prove, in Canada, what it has been of late in this country—a fine thing to talk about, a fine throat, but which would never be carried into effect. But the Canadian representatives being returned, not by the aristocratic class and their dependants, but by the people, under a system of franchise approaching universal suffrage, have not merely stopped the supplies, but to such good effect that four and a half years' salary are now due the judges and other officials; the whole amount being £142,160. There happens however, to be a sum nearly equal in the Canadian treasury, and Lord John Russell means to seize it and pay the Salaries; thus setting at naught the undoubted constitutional right of the Legislative Assembly to stop the supplies. It would have been not one whit more unconstitutional, had he ordered the British troops, in the Province, to seize the money—and we suspect that the Canadians will not be able to distinguish any difference between the one proceeding and the other. They are both nothing else than appeals to force. Matters are now, indeed, brought very closely to the state in which they were in the old colonies at the time of their revolt. The British Parliament does not, it is true, assert the right their predecessors did to tax the colonies; but they do what is equivalent; and by an overwhelming majority too: they take upon them to appropriate—that is, to spend the revenues of the Canadians. If taxation without representation was sixty years ago ultimately admitted by all parties to be nothing but tyranny, by what term shall we designate the expenditure of the taxes, when collected, without representation

Matters have become that pass, that the only true course to be followed with Lower Canada, is for the British Government generously and candidly to free it from restraint, and allow its inhabitants to choose the form of Government which pleases them. If we cannot govern them for good, let us not do it for evil. Separate in peace, and we shall be rewarded for the mortification such a course may give the pride of some few among us, by the extension of a beneficial commercial intercourse with a country yet in its infancy, and which, with unrestricted freedom in its institutions, will proceed in its career of prosperity with the most rapid strides. In the sixty years which have elapsed since the declaration of American independence, the United States have made greater advances in wealth, population and civiliza-

tion, than in any period of three times the length, when under British control. Their population has increased sevenfold, and their wealth in a still greater degree. The enterprise and energy of their inhabitants are unequalled in the history of the human race: and the benefits derived by Britain from commercial intercourse with their free citizens, has been infinitely greater than they could have been, had our dominion continued undisturbed to this day.

The cry which will no doubt be raised against the pacific and friendly separation of the two countries will doubtless be "The Dismemberment of the Empire!" In the ignorance which prevails in this country, of statistics and political matters, a cry is much more efficacious than an argument. Thousands hear the former, while not one in a hundred will listen to the latter. But the truth is, like the cry "Dismemberment of the Empire!" the "Church in danger!" "No Popery!" is raised solely by those who wish to maintain the system of corruption and plunder which has so long existed. The colonies have afforded too valuable a means for providing for the Noodles and Doodles of the aristocracy, who were not presentable at home, and for replenishing those purses which had been emptied by profligacy and debauchery, to be given up without a desperate struggle. If they be driven into rebellion so much the better, in the eyes of aristocrats, whether Tories or Whigs. Troops and ships will be required to coerce the Canadian rebels, or at least to make the attempt; and hence there will be an increased expenditure of public money, and commissions to bestow among the favored class. The Lord Charleses and the Lord Johns, whose patrimonies have suffered from feats of *Sauter la coupe*, performed by more expert knaves than themselves, will be provided for; and what proves beneficial to these classes is, of course, advantageous to the whole community.

To console those who look at the separation of a colony from the mother country in a mere pecuniary point of view, we have a few remarks to offer. Many entertain the opinion that a colony is to a state what an estate is to a private individual—a source whence an income or revenue is derived. But—with the exception, we believe, of Jamaica, and one or two others—none of the British colonies pays the expense of its own internal government. The people of this country are at the sole expense of their naval and military defence.—This for the North American colonies and the West Indies, exceeds a million and a half a year. Under the statute of 1778 no revenue can, by any circumstances, be raised in these colonies for the service of Britain. But then, it will be said, we have the monopoly of their trade, which is held out as of great consequence. The truth is, however, that the total imports into Great Britain from all the N. American colonies in 1831, amounted only to £1,456,909 and the exports to £3,074,128 in official value, from which one third must be deducted, to ascertain the real value. In the above year, we imported into the United Kingdom, from Lower & Upper Canada to the amount of £902,914, and exported £1,922,038, both in official value. Now let the profit on the Canadian trade be set down as high as any one desires—although there is no reason to suppose that it is more valuable even to the merchant engaged in it, than the trade with the United States or other foreign countries—it will be found exceedingly difficult to make it balance following items on the other side of the sheet. First we have, for naval and military defence of these Colonies, an annual expense of £260,000, or more than ten per cent, on the total amount of the exports and imports. Then we have a million expended within a short period on the fortifications

of Quebec; a million and a half on canals and other public works, £693,000 of which has been expended on the Rideau Canal, which will be of service only when we are at war with the Americans; for, during peace, the St. Lawrence affords a much better route for shipping. A new project has lately been set on foot, in which our Government have already employed some of the engineers in making surveys. We allude to the railroad from St. Andrew's in the Bay of Fundy to Quebec, by means of which 1200 miles of dangerous navigation in the St. Lawrence, and along the coasts at its mouth would be saved. But where is the money to come from to make a railroad of 250 miles? Nowhere but from the overtaxed inhabitants of Britain; and a deputation of the colonists is on its way to this country to solicit funds from our Government for the purpose. The injury we have sustained from the North American colonies by supporting their timber trade is incalculable. By levying a duty on Baltic timber from five to six times higher than on that from our own colonies, we have seriously injured our trade with the whole Baltic. Instead of 1000 British ships landing at Memel yearly, the number has sunk to 250 or 300; and the trade with Norway and Sweden has almost disappeared. The landlords prevent our taking corn or cattle from the states surrounding the Baltic—the colonists, from taking timber. The interests of these parties must of course be protected, while that of the public is too general a matter to be at all attended to. As we will not take corn and timber, the only things the nations on the Baltic have to dispose of, they have it not in their power to take the cottons and other manufactured goods of Britain; and their Government, being irritated by the selfish and exclusive commercial system of Britain, are organizing an equally restrictive system for the exclusion of British goods, to which a great part of Germany has already declared its accession. Every one knows the very inferior quality of the North American timber, and how liable it is to the dry rot. Since the Custom House required almost to be rebuilt, on account of American timber having been used in its construction, it is not permitted to be employed in any public edifice. Some years ago, several Frigates were built, under the direction of Sir Robert Seppings, some of them of Baltic and the others of Canadian fir; and the result was, while the former lasted eight years, the latter did not last four. Yet to encourage the consumption of this bad and dear timber, and to prevent the importation of cheap and excellent timber from the Baltic, the people of the United Kingdom are taxed probably a million a year, while it is exceedingly doubtful if the trade we foster at so great an expense is not injurious to the colonies, by removing industry and capital from the cultivation of the soil, and engaging them in an employment which, from the manner in which it is carried on, is extremely demoralising, and has completely failed in one of the chief objects for which it was encouraged—clearing the soil of trees; not one in ten of the trees being worth the cutting for timber.

A great evil attending colonies is the wars in which they involve us. We have seen the expensive preparations we are making in Canada alone, for war. Most of the wars we were engaged in in the last century arose out of colonial questions. The war which commenced in 1739, and lasted nine years, arose from the Spaniards in America insulting our old colonies, and from squabbles about cutting logwood in the bay of Campeachy. It added to our national debt twenty-nine millions. The war of 1756 originated in disputes with the French, about certain districts in Nova Scotia. It lasted seven years, and augmented our debt