

the East. Their guest, however, did not belong to that indiscreet class of statesmen who make confidential communications at public dinners; and a few of the company experienced the disappointment which usually results from manoeuvres of this class. But no disappointment awaited the great majority of that assemblage. They had no object but to do honour to their guest and themselves—to celebrate the friendship subsisting between them and a personage of whose regard the noblest in the realm might be justly proud. It was a social friendly festival, from which every one retired highly gratified, and full of good wishes for the continued fame, happiness, and prosperity of their old and honoured friend, then about to cross the Atlantic for the purpose of succeeding Sir Lionel Smith in the Government of Jamaica, a colony the affairs of which were at that time in a state of the utmost confusion. The Negro Emancipation Act had recently been passed, and the planters, smarting under the sense of wrongs—whether real or imaginary, it boots not now to inquire—and forced to contend against a combination of difficulties, occasioned partly by themselves, and in no small degree by circumstances over which they had no control, made some impotent attempts, or rather uttered some puerile threats. The House of Assembly even went the length of suspending, for a time its own legislative functions. But the frankness, *bonhomme* moral courage, and excellent judgment of Sir Charles Metcalfe, soon convinced the people of Jamaica that there was no disposition to interfere with their local legislation. The new Governor had not been above a year on the island when the aspect of affairs underwent so favourable a change as to excite great surprise and gratulation, both at Kingston and in Downing-street. After two years' residence in Jamaica the health of Sir Charles rendered his resignation a matter of necessity; and he returned to England amidst the regrets of a community grateful for his paternal government, and attached to him by ties of almost personal friendship; for his hospitality, his conversational powers, and his great kindness of heart were surpassed only by his practical and administrative talents. In the year 1844, a statue was erected to his honour at Spanish Town.

Sir Charles Metcalfe returned from the West Indies in 1842; medical aid and a few months of repose so far re-established his health as to render him again able to serve his country. But the Conservatives were in power, and Sir Charles was a Whig; Sir Robert Peel, however, felt so deeply interested in sending out to Canada the best possible Governor, that he disregarded party considerations, and appointed the subject of this memoir. Upon that occasion also a public dinner was given; but not by the East Indian friends of Sir Charles. The Colonial Club were the parties who then thought proper to testify their admiration of his official conduct and personal character.—The dinner took place at the house of the club in St. James's Square, and, as usual upon such occasions, several of the party then assembled persuaded themselves that Sir Charles would in a lengthened discourse develop his whole scheme of future government in Canada; but, like Caning's knife-grinder, he had "no story to tell," and having delivered two or three lively after-dinner speeches, he thanked his friends for their bounteous hospitality, their flattering estimate of his services, their good wishes for his success, and then he took his leave. In a few days from that time Sir Charles embarked for North America to assume the delicate and difficult task of ruling a Colony, which for some time previous to that period had been considered almost intractable. The task of governing the Canadas, of imparting to those provinces the blessings of order, peace, and rational freedom, together with their due position and rank as integral members of this vast empire, had been for many years a difficulty which, to successive Governors-General, proved nearly insuperable. Without detracting from the merits of his predecessors, it may be said that the crisis of the struggle remained for Sir Charles Metcalfe, and that he very adroitly threw the popular colours into his own ranks, while he cast upon his adversaries the odium of opposing their own doctrines. Without impairing the principle of Ministerial responsibility he maintained the prerogative and authority of the Crown; he repressed violence without infringing liberty; and though not departing from the high constitutional doctrines of the old Whigs, which he always professed, Lord Metcalfe carried out into practice the best portion of those monarchical principles which

an opposite party make it their chief pride to cherish. He was intrusted with the supreme direction of Canadian affairs when their administration formed the most difficult problem in the government of our colonies, and he handed over to his successor the care of a united province, in which he had broadly laid the foundations of good order and expanding civilization.

In the year 1845 he was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Metcalfe; but by that time the malady which eventually caused his death had become so distressing that he was obliged to return to England and withdraw into private life. In his retirement he received not only the reward of honours and dignities, but he possessed the consciousness of success. Fresh addresses from Calcutta, and fresh testimonials to his high deserts, followed him even to the chamber of sickness and sorrow. Many distinctions had been conferred on him during the meridian of his days; it was, however, towards the close of life that honours poured in thickly. When this world was receding from his view—when fame seemed an empty sound—when political victories yielded no triumph—when the coronet which he had no heir to inherit seemed a paltry bauble—then was all else that this earth affords spread before him, courting his acceptance; but he was in agony, and could not enjoy them; he was childless, and could not transmit them; he was dying, and did not want them.

SHAKSPEARE CLUB.

Since passing our remarks on the subject of the public mourning to Lord Metcalfe, we are glad to perceive that the Shakspeare Club, of which this lamented nobleman was the Patron, have done honor to themselves by passing a Resolution (which we subjoin) calling on all connected with the Institution to wear crape for one month from the date thereof (6th inst.):—

Resolved.—That this Society has heard with profound sorrow of the decease of its Patron, the late LORD METCALFE, and calls upon its Members of every order and denomination, to unite in an outward expression of reverence for his memory, by wearing a Crape Hat Band and Black Gloves, for thirty days from the passage of this Resolution.

THE OLYMPIC.

We have so completely exhausted our powers of "rendering tribute where tribute is due," in regard to this little theatre, that we really have nothing to add this week, except that the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Skerrett will take place on Friday and Saturday next, when they will take their final leave for the season. We have many dashing and liberal young men on our list of subscribers, and we are confident we have only to mention this fact to them, to induce them to aid in giving Mrs. Skerrett, at least, that testimony of approval of her exertions and her talents which is best evidenced in an overflowing house. Latterly, we regret to say, she has "wasted all her sweetness on the desert air," or, in other words, has been playing, and with a spirit evidently checked by the discouraging fact, to almost empty boxes.

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

The line of this great discovery is now complete from Oswego to New York. A person having one thousand barrels of flour to sell, goes to the Telegraph office and desires that a message may be sent to a certain mercantile house in New York, to ask what he will give for it. In one moment of time, or less, the message passes from the office at Oswego to the office in New York. The message is instantly conveyed by a porter to the office of the merchant, who states what he will give; in as short time as the message can return with the

answer, it is again telegraphed to Oswego, and is carried back with the same rapidity with which it was forwarded.—In less than half an hour, the offer is made, accepted, and another message announcing that it will be immediately shipped by a certain conveyance. The charge for all this is eighteen pence York, or rather less than a shilling currency.

A Bill is presented at the counter of a Banker for discount, drawn on a house in New York, a question as to the responsibility of the house, or whether or no the Bill will be accepted is asked through the Telegraph; the answer is received and the Bill is either accepted or rejected.

A lady wishing to obtain a dress of a particular fabric for a military ball, could not procure it at Oswego: a storekeeper undertook to ascertain if it could be got in New York, and to give the lady an answer in half an hour. The dress was obtained, and forwarded by an Express train. The dress was made up and the lady wore it at the ball; the expense did not exceed half a dollar.

We are glad to learn that a plan is now in agitation, to make a Magnetic communication from Hamilton, by Toronto, through Kingston, Montreal and Quebec, to Halifax. We shall then be able to communicate direct with England in 10 or 11 days; and who shall say that the attempt will not be made to conduct the wires to England itself? When we shall be able to communicate with equal facility as we now can with New York.

A line of communication is also talked of between Kingston and New York, so as to intersect the line from Oswego to that city; recent experiments have fully demonstrated that the wires lose none of their magnetic properties by being immersed even in salt water, and there would be no difficulty whatever in crossing from Kingston to Wolfe Island, and thence across to Cape Vincent, when at a distance of about seventy miles the junction with the New York line can be effected. We shall endeavor in our next to state the probable cost per mile of the undertaking.—Kingston paper.

NOTICE.

ON AND AFTER SATURDAY NEXT, the 10th inst. the PRINCE ALBERT will LEAVE MONTREAL at a QUARTER BEFORE 5 o'clock, instead of Nine o'clock as at present.
ROAD OFFICE,
Montreal, 6th October, 1846.

University of McGill College, MONTREAL.

THE CAPUT of the COLLEGE having this day received through the Principal an Official Communication of the confirmation by Her Majesty of the STATUTES of the COLLEGE, avails itself of the earliest opportunity of announcing the COURSE of LECTURES to be delivered in the College during the current Term:—

On Classical Literature—By the Rev. W. T. LEACH, A. M., Professor.
On Mathematics and Natural Philosophy—By EDMUND A. MEREDITH, L. L. B., (T.C.B.) Principal of the College.

On History—By the Rev. JOSEPH ABBOTT, A. M.
On French Literature and the French Language—By LEON D. MONTIEN, Esquire.

All the above Courses will be commenced on TUESDAY next, the 22nd instant; but Students matriculating on or before the 20th instant, will be able to keep the Term.
Fees, £3 Gs. 8d per Term, or £10 a-year. Board, including Fuel and Candle, £3 3s. a-month.

J. ABBOTT, A. M.,
Secretary.

Sept. 21, 1846.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of JOHN KELLY & CO., Contractors and Carpenters, Montreal, BANKRUPTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned have been duly appointed Assignees to administer the Estate of the said Bankrupts.

GEORGE WICKES, } Assignees.
JOHN G. DINNING, }

Montreal, 19th September, 1846.