The Weekly Mail

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1876.

NOTICE.

Subscribers are reminded that the coloured address label of each paper sent to them shows a figure which indicates that future number of the paper up to which the subscription has been paid, serving, in fact, as a date. The current weekly number can readily be ascertained by reference to the volume and number printed on the title page.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers to the *Weekly Mail*, a paper already affording more reading matter than any other weekly published in Canada, may for the future rely on an extended report of Parliamentary proceedings appearing in our columns. This involves new bright type, smaller than that hitherto used for Parliamentary reporting, has been procured, and while the extra difficulty of reading will not be increased, the amount of matter will be more than ample to provide in this department of the paper will be doubled.

READ.—There is more news and reading matter in the broadsheet of the *Weekly Mail* than in any of the new-fangled weeklies, some of which are printed in a shape purposely intended to mislead the public as to the quantity of their contents.

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THE WEEKLY MAIL.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

THERE was nothing more sacred to the "Reform" Party when in Opposition than the independence of Parliament. And there can be no doubt that their efforts, which we know now were not sincere, to purge the House of placemen—although the political views of the latter were never in any instance changed by the pecuniary advantages bestowed on them, the black-lettering of nine members of the first Ontario Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding—were very favourably received by the country. Electoral corruption, or rather Party corruption in election times, has marked the contestants on both sides, the men who professed the greater anxiety for purity possessing the completest and most widely-organized systems of electoral debauchery. But at electoral corruption our people stop; they will not support those whose motives may be questioned on the ground that they are in the pay of the dominant Party for the time being. The abhorrence of the shadow of suspicion of public men, is our best safeguard against the growth of that Boeotian system which is now making the United States a by-word for venality and corruption in high places.

We cannot believe that there is a conscientious man to be found in either Party to excess in large payments of public money which were paid last year to the proprietor of the St. John, N.B., *Freeman*, who is the Speaker of the Commons, and the Halifax *Citizen* and *Times* in which Mr. VAIL has been charged to be, and in his defence did not deny that he was pecuniarily interested in them, is true that in these two cases, the Independence of Parliament Act was not violated in that neither contract made nor contracted for the work paid for. But that is a begging of the question. If the work for which Mr. ANDREW ANDERSON VAIL were paid had been put up to tender, and they, although members of the House, had obtained the contract, the breach of the law involved might have been, not excused, but palliated, on the ground that they obtained the contract by the lowest price they offered to do, and did, the work for a less sum, and therefore with more advantage to the country than other printers had offered to do it for. But as it was, they, members of the House, received without tender, and therefore in a manner contrary to the provisions of the statute in the sense, a quantity of Government work for which, there having been no competition, they charged as best suited their interests. We hold, therefore, that the spirit of the Independence of Parliament Act was as gravely set at naught in the case as if it had been the Speaker of the House and a number of his colleagues formally contracted for the work they were paid for; and moreover, while in the latter case there would be the plea allowed to the line by competition, in the former they charged just what they pleased; and under such circumstances human nature finds no pleasant or convincing too little. When Mr. MCKELLAR violated the provisions of the Ontario Public Works Act of 1869, and paid over $60,000 worth of Central Prison work to Mr. NATHANIEL DICKEY without tender, his action was condemned by his own friends. But how could even his apologists on that occasion have defended him if Mr. DICKEY had been a member of the Legislature? And yet the case of Mr. ANGLIN and Mr. VAIL is exactly similar and analogous.

The Government organs, it is safe to prophesy, will drag in the *tu quoque* in the discussion of this important question. If they shelter themselves behind Speakers, and their novel method of proving that they are better than others, in that others were once as bad as they.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

IT is not to be expected that the general public can follow with interest discussions on the technicalities of the sugar trade, with frequent reference to "Dutch standard" and scientific tests of the per centage of pure sugar contained in various samples. But there are some considerations having a bearing on the much debated sugar question which are of a kind that anybody can understand, and to some of these we would direct attention.

First, then, we will mention one reason why retail dealers, and their customers too, have found an important advantage in purchasing sugar refined in this country rather than sugar refined abroad. Suppose a lot of sugar ordered to have turned out unsatisfactory in any respect, though this was something very seldom known in buying from the Canadian refiners, the parties furnishing it were within easy reach, and anything wrong could very quickly be rectified. It is quite otherwise if you get sugar from the Clyde or from New York. If you get a bad lot of sugar from abroad you cannot get it exchanged, nor indeed can you obtain redress in any form. But the Montreal refiners are near at hand and conveniently responsible for all their engagements. The difference here pointed out is a very important one, as the large majority of retail dealers will testify.

But perhaps the greatest benefit attendant upon buying from our own refineries at home, has been in the uniformity in the quality of the various grades respectively, and the *certainty* of obtaining at any time the precise article ordered. We will suppose a retailer to have supplied certain customers with a particular kind of sugar, which they pronounce satisfactory, and that he is asked for more of the same. In times past he could have said his order to RENFREW or MONTREAL or to wholesalemen keeping Canadian refined sugar in stock, with the certainty of receiving in a day or two the very article to a shade that he wanted. Let him, however, be dependent upon New York or Greenock for his supplies, or let him deal in sugar as it comes from the place of growth, and he has now uncertainty and anxiety where before he was sure of getting supplied exactly according to order. Say that he has been fortunate in getting a month or two's supply of bright West India or Scotch or New York refined, that his customers are suited with it, and that he wishes to obtain a lot more of the same. He may pay the same price, and the sugar he gets may be known by the same name and grade in the market, but he can never be sure of getting really the same quality of sugar. He gets one week a fine sample of Demerara or Porto Rico sugar, and says, or may say, some more of it, meaning the "identical quality of sugar," orders it, and next time gets something very inferior. Having had a supply of cheap Muscovado, he finds that he found to be of fair quality, he orders more of the same, and this time gets a sugar that looks like molasses, black as ink in the cup. These are not mere suppositions of ours; but will be found dealers generally to be confirmed as facts within their experience. The country storekeeper in particular suffers from the annoyance of getting one time a hogshead of clean, bright sugar, with which his customers are delighted, and next time a hogshead of dark, wet, dirty stuff, costing the same price. If, in buying Canadian refined sugar all such anxiety and annoyance are saved. The merchant, with samples and price lists before him, selects what suits his customers, and can depend upon getting exactly to a shade the colour and quality of sugar ordered. The customers, again, are never disappointed; if they wish to buy this article or that kind of sugar they found last week they can depend with certainty upon getting it. We can confidently appeal to the large consumers of retail dealers, both in town and country, to confirm the truth of what we say will result to them, and the importance which they attach to the quality of the article at any time any particular quality of sugar ordered.

Without entering upon the large general question of Protection or Free Trade, we may point out that it sprely cannot be for the country's benefit to entirely destroy competition between the foreign and the home refiner. Yet, this is what has lately taken place. The reason we have not a Government capable of taking certain practical steps to meet an emergency such as this, lies in the fact that Mr. FRANCIS HINCKS did on two former occasions, when he abolished the silver duties, what he has saved our Canadian trade by meeting the Americans with a discriminating duty equal to their own, we are assured, he would be believing that he has been in the office so incapably filled by Mr. CARTWRIGHT, there would have been no stoppage in the Montreal refinery. More probably, by far, we should have seen a policy adopted that would not only have prevented Renfrew and Montreal from stopping, but would besides have started MOZON'S again into activity, and caused another to be established in Toronto. We hold, therefore, that the spirit of the Independence of Parliament Act was as gravely set at naught in trade case as it would have been if the parties formally contracted for the work they were paid for; and moreover, while in the latter there would be the plea allowed to the line by competition, in the former they charged just what they pleased; and under such circumstances human nature finds no pleasant or convincing too little. When Mr. MCKELLAR violated the provisions of the Ontario Public Works Act of 1869, and paid over $60,000 worth of Central Prison work to Mr. NATHANIEL DICKEY without tender, his action was condemned by his own friends. But how could even his apologists on that occasion have defended him if Mr. DICKEY had been a member of the Legislature? And yet the case of Mr. ANGLIN and Mr. VAIL is exactly similar and analogous.

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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY ALLAN STEAMER.

From Liverpool, March 23rd.

THE COLONIAL INSTITUTE AND THE ROYAL TITLE.

The following memorial to the Queen, of the Royal Colonial Institute, has been posted as a Parliamentary paper:—"We, your petitioners desire to represent your Majesty with the expression of the most profound veneration and loyalty, that the Institute Throne and person. That in conference with the rest of your Majesty's subjects, your petitioners have had occasion to observe your Majesty's gracious intention, as an act of justice to your Majesty's subjects, taking an additional style and title in connection with your Indian Empire. That your petitioners have reason to believe that feel that your Majesty's loyal subjects inhabiting your vast colonial dominions would be gratified if your Majesty's Colonial and similar recognition were accorded to them. That your petitioners have had to think that their memorial will receive your Majesty's gracious consideration, from the fact that in your Majesty's assumption of the Government of India your Majesty was designated by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Dependencies of your Majesty in Europe, Africa, America, and Australia. That your petitioners therefore pray that your Majesty will graciously be pleased to add to your additional style and title as shall distinctly indicate your Majesty's sovereignty over the Queen's Colonies." Commenting upon this Canarvon has laid this memorial before her Majesty.

The *Standard* remarks:—"The Royal Colonial Institute must have been not a little surprised at the use which Mr. DISRAELI made of it into a political power—quoted in a party controversy by ex-Ministers of the Crown, as evidence that the Colonies shirked the responsibility of representing the opinion of their inhabitants. We do not think that at the time was, and not very long since, when the politicians who are now inclined to take their cue from this body in the colonies, ministers were not particularly well disposed to shape their policy by what was supposed to be the Royal Colonial Institute. It is hardly twelve months ago that we our selves were rebuked by the secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute for attributing to it any political character. We are confident that the Institute cannot resent the attitude in a manner in which the colonies have never been counted will be strongly resented by every colony which has a right to speak on the subject. We are by no means sure that the colonists would like the word Empire to be applied to them any more than we like it in England. We are Britons and not Imperials. We are loyal—that's the D. D. for me—that's what we mean when we say we're British to the jolly I will not look at him. We don't want a fellow with a dash's head, who is always talking about his Empire, and wants to send here for the purpose of doing noble work, and to amuse ourselves, not, however, by doing it ourselves, but by proxy, systematically." Well, Norman Macleod says: "If we are over to have a Church in Scotland, it is not the Church of Scotland, the noblest instincts of our nature, that shall be satisfied with a mere Church of Scotland; we have as man, wed together the truthful and the beautiful, and the holy and the loyal, and the loyal and the holy and the true. We are sermonizing mode. That is to say, we don't understand the use of sermons meant. I say sermon, I say sermon was do without wine and consecrated amusement, and consecrated amusement, and dance, drink, or abstain, it should be part of our religion. We should, therefore, have a Church that will not be afraid of dramatic amusement and all other amusements.

FOOT BALL AND THE RUGBY RULES.

The fatal accident to Mr. Wilcox, of Birkenhead, at foot-ball, has occasioned a profound sensation in Derby, where football is much played. In connection with this accident, Mr. T. Beaumont, the Derby footwriter, a friend of the deceased, writes to the Birmingham *Daily Post* giving the following particulars of the accident, and pointing out the Rugby rules, in one Birmingham club (the Blackheath) in the season alone:—"1. A broken thigh and leg bent to an angle of fifteen degree. We put the player off a cab, and thus off to the hospital, where he remained some months. 2. Some dislocations about the collar-bone. 3. A natural hernia, caused by violent and lateral ruptures, necessitating the use of a truss ever afterwards. 4. Concussion of the brain. 5. Some broken bones in the ankle and to hospital for some weeks, and since on crutches for the remainder of the season. 6. Serious injury to the knee joint; laid up for three weeks. Nos. 4 and 5 are brothers; 1 and 2 are twin brothers; and No. 3 is the writer. Mr. Sharp adds that this list was written in April, 1875, and was then just said aside at the request of certain members of the club, one of whom was the unfortunate Matthew Wilcox.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Col. Henderson, the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, has made an arrangement for the disposal of certain members of the force during what belated citizens and nyctaeors term "the small hours," with a view to enabling them to "take the edge off" breakfast and gravitate. Between nine p.m. and one a.m., policemen are to be employed in certain fixed points, so that "in the event of any person springing a rattle, or persistently ringing a bell in the street or in an area," the constable may at once proceed to the spot and render assistance. The list of points has been taken from the publication of that householders may know exactly where to place their bell-handles, and thus obviate unnecessary or fruitless disturbances, notwithstanding—the guardian of the peace being, as he is, a mere mortal, and not an omnipresent or omnipotent being. The arrangement is a sensible one, and should save many disturbances and some other occasion and another motive, which would not look so well in the foreground.

In the broad system of Government and apart from the technicalities that have been imported into the discussion, we should be sorry to see the Queen's new title do not appear to advantage. Since the world began there never was an earthly dominion so well worthy of the title of "Empire" as the British Empire of the present day. Neither the Imperator of old Rome, the Emperors East and West of Rome, nor the Kaiser of modern monarchs who in modern times claim the title of Emperor, ever could or can show such strong geographical unity, or such political claim to the title, as the Sovereign of the Empire to which we belong can show to-day. And it would be a pity, in defence of an Empire, why object to the title of Empress or Emperor for its Sovereign? Is it not a contradiction of terms—a mere shibboleth—to set up a plea against historical light—to make believe that the King or Queen of England in our time is not something more in the world than the Kings who succeeded to power on the ruins of the Saxon Heptarchy? Is not the Queen of our time still holds the old Saxon title and dignity, but we contend that she holds another based on a different development, which brings her into certain relations with two hundred millions of subjects in India, and may bring her into somewhat similar relations to many millions more in Africa. And we hold that her relations to India, at all events, are very different from those which she are very different from those which she sustains towards subjects either at home or in colonies having Parliamentary government. The relations referred to being essentially different, why this uproar of objection to what appears to be the best title suggested, as far for expressing the existence of a difference?

FROM QUEBEC TO THE SEA.

THE commercial men of the ancient capital are jubilant over the prospect of another overland route from their city, or from Levis, rather, to the sea. The prospects of winter navigation of the Lower St. Lawrence having vanished, they are now turning their attention to the more practicable schemes of a short cut by railway to the Atlantic seaboard. Wiscasset, in Maine, said to be a splendid natural harbour, is still the rival of Portland, and the Maine people appear to be enthusiastic about adding another great ocean port to their State. From Levis to the boundary line is a distance of ninety miles, and over half of this distance a railway is already completed. On both sides of the border public men appear to be getting up the steam of popular excitement, with a view to completing the connection through from Quebec to the sea. Last week a great railway meeting was held at Augusta, the capital of Maine, at which there were present Governor Connon and many distinguished citizens of the State, also the Mayor of Quebec, the Provincial Attorney-General, and other representatives of Canadian interests. The *Chronicle* speaks very favourably of the enterprise, and says that it will certainly be carried to completion.

IS IT A FRAUD?

To the Editor of the Weekly Mail.

SIR,—About three weeks ago I noticed an advertisement in your paper stating that "The National Art Co. 220 Wabash street, Cincinnati, Ohio," would, on receipt of twenty-five cents, send an engraving of "a Young Gentleman." I sent the money, and in three days received a letter stating that the engraving was not to be had, but that I could have a chromo in its place, and that I could have a chromo in its place, and that I could have a chromo in its place, and