

give us our panada. This is bread boiled in water with an infusion of oil or butter.—Had my pecuniary means being adequate to my desire to diminish this mass of misery, how was the thing to be accomplished? I do not believe that I could have found a family that would have boarded these melancholy little mendicants, and am quite sure that no one would have had the patience to bear with the waywardness of sickly childhood. In England the parish workhouse, or some neighbouring hospital, would have offered a ready resource. There are hospitals indeed here, but these are so thinly scattered (except those in the Roman States which are both numerous and magnificent), and are administered on such narrow principles, exclusive of particular diseases and particular ages, and always turning upon some miserable question of habitancy with very confined limits, that they are usually insufficient to the purposes I have mentioned. This was written from the Venetian States some twelve years ago, since which time workhouses have been introduced into some of the principal towns.

In Tuscany the peasantry are much better off. Labourers' wages are there between nippence and a shilling a day, which, considering the low price of provisions, and the mildness of the climate, is comparatively a good remuneration. The women earn money by plaiting straw, out of which the Leghorn hats are made. The farmers are either small proprietors themselves, or tenants, share the produce with their landlord, who stocks the farm and provides half the seeds and implements. This mode of holding land by persons not possessing capital, is very ancient—and is now called by writers on political economy, "Metayer Rent."

Of the peasantry of the provinces of Bologna and Romagna, commonly called the Legations, and placed under the sovereignty of the Pope, we have the following interesting account in Simmond's Travels in Italy:—"The peasants are not proprietors and have not even a lease of their farms, but hold them from father to son by a tacit understanding most faithfully observed. The same roof often contains thirty or forty persons,—different branches of the same family with one common interest, and governed by a chief who is chosen by themselves and is the sole person responsible to the landlord. He directs all without doors and his wife all within; one or two women take care of all the children that the fathers and mothers may go to work. *We have lost a child during the night*, said one of them who was not herself a mother. There reigns in general a most perfect harmony in this patriarchal family. When the chief becomes too old, or otherwise incapable, another is chosen who succeeds alike to the engagements and power of his predecessor. He gives half the produce to the landlord, and pays half the taxes. The landlord seldom takes the trouble to inspect the divisions; he chooses only between the heaps laid out by the tenant, and the grain is carried home. The same plan is observed with the hemp, which is not divided till it is pounded and put up into packets. As to the grapes, they are picked into large barrels, and an equal number sent to the farm-house and to the landlord, an operation generally entrusted wholly to the farmer. There are few villages, each farm-house being on the farm. These family associations live much at their ease, but have little money; they consume much of their own produce and buy and sell very little. They have a great deal of poultry for home consumption. The women spin and plait and can even dye. The country diversions go little beyond the game of bowls; they have no dances and no merry-meetings, but in lieu they have fine processions with music, discharge of cannon, and sometimes horse races. Though wine is very plentiful, a drunken man is a rarity; there are few bloody quarrels, and few thefts, at least domestic ones. The roads are safer here than in the Milanese, notwithstanding the Austrian police of the latter, for there the farms are large and the work is done by poor labourers who have no tie; while here the tenants work for themselves, are at ease, and have no temptation. The education of the people is entrusted to the priests, who give themselves little trouble, and very few peasants can read or write. Each large family generally consecrates a son to the Church; they call him priest Don Peter, Augustin, &c., and he becomes the oracle of the family, but all intimate ties with him are broken and he is called 'brother' no more."

The hardy natives of the Genoese coast, hemmed in between the mountains and the sea, resort mostly to maritime occupations, in order to better their fortunes. Their voyages are generally short, being chiefly confined to the Mediterranean. By strict economy and frugality they save the best part of their earnings which they bring home to their families; who, during their absence, are employed in cultivating their gardens and lemon-trees, or in fishing. By these joint exertions, a numerous population is thriving on a barren soil; and the whole line of the Riviera, or shore, for hundreds of miles, presents a succession of handsome bustling towns and villages, inhabited by a cheerful, healthy, and active race.

FORMER AND PRESENT STATE OF BOMBAY.

A few centuries since this island was a mere settlement of Gardeners and Bhundaries, known only for the arrack and coconut oil, which, in common with other palm-clad coasts, it transmitted to the interior, and for the flower of its Mazagong mangoes of which it sent a yearly tribute to the court of Delhi. Even little more than half a century ago, though a fortified settlement of some consequence, it was insignificant in comparison with what it is at the present day; the whole population of the place did not amount to above 60,000 inhabitants consisting entirely of a few tribes of Hindoos and Hindoo Portuguese. The island was constantly ravaged by Angria and other Mahratta pirates, as far as Bycullah. The grand jury consisted of Portuguese Fuzedars from Mahim, who took their seats with bare legs and shaven heads, while their sons officered the defensive militia, and figured on the parade in caps of congeed cotton. The few civil servants of that day lived sumptuously on 30 rupees a month, spreading no other carpet on their Sabine floors than a coating of fresh cow-dung, asking no other light whereby to read their despatches, than what was admitted through oyster-shell windows, and enjoying no other luxury than a healthy shaking in a homely but neatly-curtained bullock-hackery. But times are altered, it is now the capital of Western India, the third in scale of rank in Eastern India. Its increase of population has kept pace with its political and commercial advancement. While neighbouring cities waned in consequence and wealth, Bombay progressed in both, and attracted to itself as a focus of speculation or employment, the adventurous, the industrious, and the needy. The transfer of the presidency from Surat, and its decline in trade, brought Parsees, Banyans, and Boras. The overthrow of Tipoo's power, the capture of the Dutch settlements, and the decline of the Portuguese, produced a similar influx from the south. Goa, Cochim, and every other part on the western coast, sent respectively Sinoys and Malpas, Malabar, Dutch, and Portuguese Christians. The downfall of the Peshwa, and breaking up of the great Mahratta courts and armies, thronged the place with Brahmins and upland peasants, men of the sword and of the pen. The trade in pearls and carpets brought Jews and Armenians, and the demand for the beautiful Arabian horse, lured to its shores a dense population altogether new, presenting alternately the physiognomy of the peaceful and effeminate Persian, the small and piercing features of the Arab, and the wild, swarthy and hairy looking visages of Cabul Candaur, or Kurdistan. The partial opening of the trade the profits of the opium speculations, and the accession of territory which followed the success of our arms in 1816, nearly quadrupled the number of British inhabitants. Add to the above Italian and American missionaries, travellers, experimentalists, and professional men, from the continent of Europe; persecuted Christians from Georgia; ruined families from Cashmere; Polish counts, Dutch barons, Malays, sailors, negro servants, Macao traders, Brazil merchants, Canton shoe-makers, Pekin sausage-makers, bakers, Bhya hamauls, Camatee Chutree-wallas, together with a long string of gypsies, tumblers, fire-eaters, drum-beaters, sarungee players, dancing girls, and courtezans, from every quarter of India; and there is a motley population of 400,000 persons, more multifarious in country, religion, cast, language, complexion, and profession, than, perhaps, any other city in the world could, at the present day, produce.

FLOGGING OF POLES AT CRONSTADT.

From the *Hull Polish Recorder*.

From other witnesses we have received further corroborations of the horrible fact. One of them first heard of the scene that was going forward, from a Glasgow ship-master, who came away horror-stricken. The Hull master left the house of Mr. Booker, British Consul, and proceeded to the spot. He remained until one unhappy Polish captive had run the gauntlet three times, and then felt so sick at heart that he could endure the horrid spectacle no longer. On turning away he asked a resident if the Russian government would not exempt them from future punishment? He answered, "Oh, no! If they survive, as some of them cannot do, they will be flogged again until they do take the oath; and what will be done to those who do not take the oath?"—"Made slaves of!"—Some of the Poles were mingled among Russian convicts, in public labour. They were always distinguishable from the Muscovites by their fairer complexions, the manly expression of their features, and the independence of their gait and carriage.

We are further informed that our noble tars, when they go ashore to get their victuals cooked, &c., are constantly exposed to insult and annoyance. It seems, then, that from the Czar to the boor, the same spirit of contempt and defiance is directed, in the most marked manner, against Great Britain and her subjects. Not content with beating

the gallant Poles to death, before people of nearly all nations, the cowardly, insolent, miscreants must bring them in front of the British Church, the minister's house, and in view of the British Consul's dwelling!—Has Mr. Booker made no representation whatsoever, even incidentally, to his government, of these proceedings?—or, does he let "I dare not, wait upon I would?"

Doubts having been expressed respecting the number of lashes inflicted on the Polish captives at Cronstadt, we have made a point of instituting further inquiries. Another eye-witness—a respectable, intelligent, and truly British master mariner of Hull, assures us that the first narrative is perfectly true. He knows that from 6,000 to 8,000 lashes were ordered to be inflicted, and has good grounds for believing that they have been given, though not, perhaps, all at one time. Some of the sufferers had been taken from the hospital several times, in order that the number might be completed. He saw one Pole dragged or lifted through the files of executioners eight times! After the first hundred lashes he seemed to become benumbed, for he exhibited but few signs of life; his head hung back, and his legs doubled under him;—when he fell he was lifted up again, until Russian barbarity was in some measure sated. The stick, or switch was several feet in length, and seemed to this observer like a willow or osier, but stronger and more tough. Russian insolence, adds this witness, is becoming intolerable to our sailors, who, true to their generous character, sympathise with the Poles, who, they observe, resemble Englishmen in so many respects; and they long to give the Russians a drubbing.

(From the *Acadian*.)

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION.

We have no intention at present, to write a lengthy article on this subject, or discuss the question in all its varied bearings and details. This task has already been undertaken by several Provincial journals, and performed with considerable ability and success. It is admitted in all circles and by all parties, that there are defects, great and glaring defects in our system of Representation, that the interests of large districts are consequently liable to be overlooked and neglected, and that some general and effectual remedy ought to be adopted. Petitions for a change and an increase of the representation are flowing into the House of Assembly, from distant and unconnected parts of the Colony, from Pictou, and from Sydney, from Lunenburg, and Yarmouth, and in some of these places we know the Freeholders entertain very sanguine expectations of success. They conceive that their claims ought to be attended to, that their reasonable demands ought to be granted, and their political rights bestowed. A committee of the House of Assembly has been appointed to consider these petitions and introduce a Bill to alter the Representation, and we have no doubt that persons living at a distance, are fully convinced that this long wished for change will actually be effected. But we confess that we have doubts and fears for the result. This contemplated change must necessarily divide the influence of the present members of the House of Assembly, and vest a considerable proportion of it in the hands of New Members, who may be no great friends to the reigning dynasty. It is difficult for the most sagacious and wily politician to foresee who shall be the future members for Halifax, for Colchester, and Pictou, when these districts are divided into separate counties, and enjoy a free representation, whether they shall be Kirkmen or Anti-Burghers, Whigs or Tories. It may not be so easy to ascend to the Top of the ladder, and control the movements of the House, when new members find their way to the red benches, as it has hitherto been amongst intimate relations, and old acquaintances. The example of the county of Cape Breton affords very little encouragement to adopt new measures. This large and populous island received an increase of Representation last year, and what has been the result? A contested election unparalleled for keenness and violence, protracted in its consequences to the present moment, which has sadly disappointed the expectations of some of our representatives, and embarrassed and retarded the business of the Assembly itself. We are strongly inclined to believe that, some of our liberal members have been much more loud and vehement in their demands for a Reform in the British House of Commons, than in the Assembly of Nova Scotia; and, are much more eager to withhold power from others, than to surrender the influence which they already possess. And there are various ways of defeating this important measure, without entirely losing sight of the question. It is easy for some learned member to bring in a long unintelligible Bill full of technicalities, inconsistencies, and absurdities, at the close of the Session, which the House shall be forced to reject, without having leisure to reconsider the subject. The Committee may plead ignorance as an apology, and seek for delay to obtain more full and complete information, or several Bills may be introduced, different in their details, and conflict-

ing in their operation, which may be forced upon the attention of the House, as a trial of strength by their respective authors, whilst the interests of the Province are entirely lost sight of. We shall be most happy indeed, to find our gloomy anticipations entirely disappointed, and the representation established as it ought to be, on a sure and stable basis, satisfactory to all parties, favourable to all interests, and productive of the happiest consequences. But we know that this cannot be done without the exercise of resignation and self-denial, which although amiable virtues are very difficult to practise. We should hope, however, that there is sufficient intelligence and public spirit in our House of Assembly, to accomplish all that is desired and expected, and that none of the members will have cause to repent that he has injured himself when endeavouring to serve his country.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, HALIFAX, N. S. FEB. 26.

A message from his Majesty's Council, stated the concurrence of that body, in the grant of £20,000, for roads and bridges.

The House, in Committee, passed a resolution increasing the duty on rum and other distilled spirituous liquors to 1s. 3d. Also, a resolution imposing a duty of 10s. per cwt. on imported refined sugar. A resolution was also proposed, increasing the duty on tea to 5 per cent.; which was laid on the table.

NEWSPAPERS.—One person, a trader, is the sole proprietor of four newspapers—the 'Morning Chronicle,' the 'Observer,' the 'Englishman,' and 'Bell's Life in London.' Whilst the 'Morning Chronicle' was a red-hot Radical paper, the 'Observer' was Ultra-Tory; and 'Bell's Life in London' Tory, with a little tinge of Liberalism. The 'Englishman' is little but an artifice—a copy of the 'Observer,' with a transmutation of the locality of its matter. Soon after, the 'Observer' turned furiously Radical, for it was going down hill; but 'Bell's Life' kept its politics. Now, the 'Observer' is Ultra-Tory again, and 'Bell's Life' is Radical. This is not a dereliction, but an utter want of principle. A more offensive and disgusting want of principle as to right and wrong in proprietorship cannot be well imagined. Sentiment, opinion, morality, feeling for the country, or for the good or evil which men or measures may inflict upon trade, or interest, or upon individuals, have no place whatever in such newspaper steam-manufactories; the only object is to make goods to suit all customers. A gentleman, now I believe a reporter, told me that, when he was engaged himself as a *littérateur* and political writer on the 'Observer' and 'Englishman,' the editor or printer, for they are the same person, and not a literary man, wished him to take the line of the very extreme of the most Ultra-Toryism. He, on the contrary, was of all existing Radicals, the most violent and uncompromising, and, like Sterne's parson, 'he trusted he had a conscience.' The idea of a conscience in a newspaper office struck this compound of printer's devil, printer, and editor, as a preposterous fudge. 'Zounds!' said he, 'I never knew any man particular on such points. The last gentleman I had was a clergyman, and he invariably, before he wrote on any subject, used to ask me which side he should take.' 'That clergyman was a scoundrel,' was the reply; 'I have no right to impose subjects upon you, and will avoid or take up subjects as you may think fit; but whatever I write upon, I shall write my honest sentiments and opinions, which are Ultra-Radical!' Finding this zealot a very able man, and that he was inflexible at any price, this *homme d'affaires* gave up the point, and the two papers changed at a tangent from the most abject servility of Toryism to the most exalted abstractions of Radical utopianism. What a picture does this give of the press, that great engine of intellect and virtue which is to improve the age!—*Metropolitan*.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mr. O'Connell has sent the following letter to Dublin—

"14, Albemarle-street, London, Saturday.

"I proposed to myself to send you for publication, on Monday, an Address to the Irish people, on the truly awful crisis of public affairs, but I have been occupied with conferences all day, with Irish and British Members of the Commons—and I derive much consolation from being able to tell you, that not only are the popular Irish members firm and unanimous, but there are a great number, far more than I could possibly expect of the British members determined to resist the atrocious tyranny with which Earl Grey has the unbecoming audacity to dare to threaten Ireland. Talk of an union, indeed, between the two countries, after presuming to attempt to outlaw the inhabitants of one great portion of the empire! But the extreme despotism of the proposed measure has a tendency to disgust every friend to liberty, and in England we shall certainly get considerable support out of doors. In the meantime pray use my name to conjure the people—first, to be perfectly peaceable, no outbreak, no violence;