

THE DOUBLE MAJORITY.—As a remedy for the diseases of the body politic, the scheme of a Double Majority is often seriously spoken of by the Press and in Parliament. It has its advocates, but not its defenders. Many pronounce in its favor; but few if any attempt to explain it, or to carry out its principle to its logical and ultimate consequences.

We have not the presumption to suppose that we have clearly or fully seized the idea intended to be conveyed by the magic words "Double Majority;" but in so far as we have hitherto been able to gather from the somewhat mystic, not to say confused, utterances of the champions of the proposed system, these words seem to us to imply that the Ministry should be composed of persons enjoying, on all the great Canadian political questions of the day at all events, the confidence of the representatives of both sections of the Province; and that, in case a majority of the representatives from either section should clearly pronounce themselves against the Ministerial policy, the members of the Ministry representing constituencies belonging to the section so dissenting from that general Ministerial policy should resign their seats in the Cabinet, and be replaced by others from the same section, holding political views, and advocating measures in conformity with the clearly expressed opinions of the majority of that section of the Province which they are presumed to represent in the Cabinet. If this be an adequate interpretation of the words in question, we can only say that the "Double Majority," however pretty in theory is, in practice, impossible, and incompatible with the very idea of a "Ministry," in a government formed upon the pattern of that which for upwards of a century and a half has obtained in England.

The fundamental, the essential idea of a "Ministry" in the modern acceptance of the word, and as applied to the British Sovereign's responsible advisers, is that of a Committee of the whole Legislature—enjoining the confidence of the majority of the elective House—and holding identical views upon all the great questions of the day, and pursuing one common object by the same means. Two things are essentially necessary to the modern British idea of a Ministry; the one, perfect unity amongst all the members of the Cabinet upon all the great political questions of the day—whether foreign or domestic; the other, the support and confidence of the majority of the House of Commons, or representative branch of the Legislature.

In this sense a "Ministry" is quite a modern institution, and is by no means coeval with Parliamentary or Responsible government. The Stuart sovereigns had their Parliaments; they had also their great officers of State, who by the theory of the Constitution were responsible for every act of the reigning prince; but the Stuarts had no Ministries in the modern acceptance of the term. Unity of political sentiment and political action was never looked for even, amongst the great officers of State under the Stuart dynasty; on the contrary they abused one another, denounced one another in the Legislature, and it was no uncommon thing for one great official dignitary to menace another—we cannot say a colleague—with impeachment. The Stuarts had Ministers, but they had no Ministry.

The same system obtained for the first years of the reign of William of Orange; and several years had elapsed from the Revolution which placed him on his father's throne, before a Ministry existed. This change, all important as it was, was, as Macaulay points out, silently wrought out, the chief agent therein being the double renegade, Sunderland, a man distinguished as an unprincipled scoundrel even in that age of venal and unprincipled politicians. In the words of the great modern English historian:—

"An institution which did not exist in the times of the Plantagenets, of the Tudors, or the Stuarts, an institution not known to the law, an institution not mentioned in any Statute, an institution of which De Lolme and Blackstone take no notice began to exist a few years after the Revolution, grew rapidly into importance, became finally established, and is now almost as essential a part of our polity as the Parliament itself. This institution is the Ministry."

The same writer defines a "Ministry":—"The Ministry is in fact a committee of leading members of the two Houses. It is nominated by the Crown; but it consists exclusively of statesmen whose opinions on the pressing questions of the time agree, in the main, with the opinions of the majority of the House of Commons. . . . In Parliament the Ministers are bound to act as one man on all questions relating to the executive government. If one of them dissent from the rest on a question too important to admit of compromise, it is his duty to retire."—*ib.*

Now the "Double Majority" system in Canada would, if adopted, leave us in the condition of England under the Stuarts, and during the first years of the Revolution dynasty; it would give us Ministers no doubt, but it would leave us without a Ministry—essential though that institution be to constitutional government on the British model. On all the great questions of the day, financial, social, and religious, the views or opinions of one section of the Province, are not only different from, but contradictory to, those of the other section, so that there is no possibility of bringing them into harmony with one another. Any man whose political principles are popular in Upper Canada, must *ipso facto*, or as

the necessary consequence, be an object of bitter aversion to the majority in Lower Canada: and thus unity of political sentiment and political action amongst members of a body, of which one section enjoys the confidence of Upper Canada, and the other section that of Lower Canada, is morally impossible—and yet without that unity a "Ministry" in the modern acceptance of the word, is equally impossible. We might indeed have Attorney Generals, and Solicitor Generals, and other Ministers, but we should have, we could have, no Ministry. To descend from generals to particulars, how is it possible to conceive even, of one set of Ministers fairly representing the views and opinions of the majority of the people of Upper Canada, and of another set equally fairly representing the views of the majority of the Lower Canadians, acting "as one man on" the question of Representation, on the School Question, or on any one of the most important, and irrepressible questions of the day?

The relative positions of Upper and Lower Canada are such that no unity of sentiment or action upon any single one of these questions is possible or even conceivable. Their relative positions are those of North and South in the once United States. The Upper Canadians are to us of Lower Canada what the Yankees are to the Confederates—enemies against whose hostility and aggressions we are compelled to maintain incessant vigilance, and not friends with whom any terms of compromise or accommodation are possible. The relative attitudes of Upper and Lower Canada are those of mutual defiance and antagonism—and such must continue to be the case so long as the majority in one section are "aliens in blood, in language, and in religion," to the majority in the other.

The Double Majority would therefore give us, if carried into execution, and granting—for the sake of argument—that its conditions would be observed—not a Ministry but only Ministers, or at best two distinct and mutually hostile Ministries. But here the question comes up. If two distinct Ministries, why not also two distinct Legislatures. Why not in short, Repeal of the Union? This and this only is the panacea for the wrongs of both sections of the Province; and whilst we believe that it would be gladly hailed by the Lower Canadians as a release from a connection looked upon by the latter as neither profitable nor honorable, it would inflict no injustice upon the Upper Canadians; impose upon them no burthens from which they have a right to demand exemption, deprive them of nothing to which they have any valid claim.

We conclude therefore, that it is not so much a "Double Majority" or in other words a "Double Ministry" that we require, as a "Double Legislature." If we are going to double any part whatsoever of our governmental machinery, let us double the whole of it, and above all let us begin by doubling the law-making portion thereof. A common executive would be inconvenient, but is practicable; but a common legislature for communities so distinct from one another as those of Upper and Lower Canada is a political monster.

We have received several communications from Belleville authorising us to contradict, in the most formal manner, certain statements made in the Legislative Assembly, and elsewhere, with reference to the trial of the Aylwards. It is not true for instance, as asserted, that nearly one-half of the jury before whom the case was tried, were Catholics: there were eight Protestants against only four Catholics on the Jury.

Again it is not true, that any of the witnesses who bore evidence against the Aylwards were Catholics: all the witnesses for the prosecution were Protestants, without a single exception.

Neither is it true that the Executive condescended to send any answer to the petitioners praying for mercy after sentence of death had been passed. If an answer was sent however, it is very easy for the Executive to indicate the name of the person to whom that answer was addressed. At all events, we have been most positively assured that no answer was received by the Belleville petitioners.—Should this statement be false, we—upon being convinced of its erroneousness—will be happy to give it a contradiction, and will publish the name of the person to whom the answer was addressed.

We have been informed also—but we do not vouch for the truth of the statement—that there are great discrepancies between the evidence given before the Coroner, Mr. Corrigan, at the Inquest upon the body of the deceased Munro, and that given by the same witnesses upon the trial before Judge Draper. We hope therefore, in the interests of justice, and of public morality, that the depositions taken before the Coroner will be published in their integrity, amongst the other documents about to be laid before Parliament in the Aylward case. Should the former be suppressed, it will be indeed a most unlucky mistake, and one which will naturally give rise to strange misgivings in the public mind. Only by contrasting the evidence given at the Inquest, with that given at the subsequent trial, can we confirm the truth of, or refute the ugly rumors now current concerning the great discrepancies said to be found therein.

TO QUEBEC AGENT.—Your's of the 10th received with \$8.

PROTESTANT REFORM PRINCIPLES.—A new paper, the *Oxford Reformer*, has been lately started, to advocate Protestant Reform principles in general, and to puff up Mr. George Brown in particular. It may therefore be accepted as a faithful exponent of those principles, and of the policy which Mr. George Brown and his political supporters intend to pursue.

It is as the unflinching advocate of Representation by Population, and as the uncompromising champion of State-Schoolism, that the *Oxford Reformer* recommends Mr. George Brown to the favorable notice of the electors and Protestant Reformers of South Oxford. In other words, because Mr. George Brown is the enemy of the French Canadians, or "Johnny Crapeau" and of the Catholics of Upper Canada, therefore he must be the friend, and the fitting representative of the Protestant Reformers. This is strictly true; for every Protestant Reformer is and must be the enemy of Lower Canada, and of the Catholic Church. Here are the terms in which the *Oxford Reformer* sustains this thesis. It says:—

"Has not Mr. Brown ever been the unflinching advocate of Representation based upon Population? Does he not say that under all circumstances, and on all occasions, he will press this just measure?—The Lower Canadians are united to a man to resist giving this right to Upper Canada, and with the assistance of a few who are false to Upper Canada interests, they have so far been successful. Depend upon it, electors, it is only by letting Johnny Crapeau know that we are in earnest, that we shall ever obtain it."—*Oxford Reformer*.

Upon the School Question the same organ is equally explicit, and explains the views of the Protestant Reformers in the most unambiguous terms:—

"Mr. Brown is sound on the School Question.—He goes for one grand national system of education totally devoid of all sectarianism, or of the semblance of it."—*ib.*

If Catholics can make up their minds to advocate the spoliation of their Church, the perversion of their children, and modern Communistic principles, in that case, but not otherwise, they will be vile enough to accept the Protestant Reformers as their "natural allies."

The *Toronto Mirror* of the 6th publishes a partial report of the Aylward case as laid before Parliament in answer to Mr. Huot's motion.—The *Mirror* must have been imposed upon.—The motion was made only on the night of the 2nd inst., and it is, therefore, a physical impossibility that the papers moved for, should have been received in Toronto in time for publication in a journal issued on Friday the 6th, and therefore, printed on Thursday the 5th inst. We conclude, therefore, that our contemporary is the victim of a hoax; as we would not suspect him even, of being an accomplice in a fraud, as would be the case, if the documents by him published were genuine, but surreptitiously obtained. The attention of the House will, however, we suppose, be called to the matter. Of course in the present case we refrain from comments upon the report published by the *Mirror*—further than this: that if genuine it clearly proves the innocence of the Aylwards, and establishes the fact of a hideous judicial murder.

To R. M.—You ask which is the best Catholic paper in the United States? We answer without hesitation, the N. Y. *Freeman's Journal*. It is edited by an accomplished scholar, and a gentleman, who eschews bunkum and low radicalism, and advocates sound conservative political principles.

THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF KINGSTON.—Election of Officers.—The annual meeting of this Society, for the Election of Officers, was held at their rooms, Anchor Buildings, on Monday, the 2nd March, inst., the President in the chair. After the reading and adoption of the Annual and Treasurer's Reports, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the present year:—

J. O'Reilly, Esq.—President.
Dr. Sullivan—Vice President.
Mr. Hugh Cummins—Cor. Secretary.
Mr. P. J. Buckley, Jr.—Rec. Secretary.
Mr. Patrick Curtis—Treasurer.
Mr. Thos. Howland—Grand Marshal.
Mr. J. Halligan—Assistant Marshal.
The Very Rev P. Dollard, V. G., the Rev J. O'Brien, and the Rev J. Lonergan—Chaplains to the Society.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.
Messrs. Henry Mason, E. J. Garvin, Thos. Simpson, Patrick Redmond, Daniel McGuire, Jas. Hogan, Bartholomew Somers, Daniel Hallinan, Michael Jordan, Patrick Devlin, and Timothy Bowes.

The following is the abstract of the receipts and expenditure for 1862:—

RECEIPTS.	
Cash on hand from 1861.....	\$ 15 62
Members' fees and subscriptions.....	602 00
Proceeds of Soirees.....	250 40
Proceeds of Pic-Nic.....	174 00
Received for St. Patrick's Hall.....	505 00
	\$1547 02
EXPENDITURE.	
Sundry Cash disbursed.....	\$907 00
Charities.....	549 02
	\$1456 02
Cash on hand.....	\$ 91 00
	P. J. BUCKLEY, JR., Rec. Secretary.

UNIQUE MODE OF PUNISHMENT.—The following paragraph, relative to a new mode of punishment adopted by the Mayor of Hamilton, appeared in the *Spectator* of yesterday, and will be read with interest, particularly by those offenders against the laws of the Province who intend visiting Hamilton:—"His Worship the Mayor has added another new feature to his sentences in the Police Court. This morning, as may be seen by our report of the proceedings of that Court, three disorderlies were ordered to submit to the loss of their hair, besides other punishment. The victims screamed lustily during the performance of the operation, and his Worship, determining to carry out the sentence, ordered the prisoners to be gagged during the cropping operation. If this mode of punishment be continued, we may soon hear of a 'barber et coiffeur as general' being appointed to the police establishment. What queer shaver will apply for the position?"

SOUTH OXFORD.—Mr. George Brown has been elected for South Oxford by a large majority.



GRAND PROGRAMME

PROCESSION

OF THE
ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY,
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION,
SAINT PATRICK'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
Irishmen of the Volunteer Militia Force,
AND NO. 1 HOSE COMPANY,
ON THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF IRELAND.

MARCUS DOHERTY, ESQ.,
GRAND MARSHAL, ON HORSEBACK.
IRISHMEN OF THE VOLUNTEER MILITIA FORCE,
Under Command of Lieut.-Colonel Devlin.
No. 1 HOSE COMPANY,
Capt. Farrell

CHILDREN OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS,
With Flags, Banners, and BANDS.
IRISHMEN OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.
(Not being Members of any of the Irish Societies)
Two Abreast.

ST. PATRICK'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Grand Marshal on Horseback.
Sup. with Pike 1 FLAG } Sup. with Pike.
HARDY'S BAND.

MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S B. SOCIETY,
Two Abreast.
Committee of Inquiry,
Collecting and Assisting Collecting Treasurers,
Secretaries,
Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President,
1st Vice-President, President, Physician,
Stewards, { Assistant Marshal on } Stewards
with Wands. } Horseback. } with Wands.

ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY,
Marshal on Horseback.
ACKERMAN'S BAND.
Supported with } FATHER MATHEW'S } Supported
Battle Axe } BANNER. } Battle Axe.

Two Stewards with Wands.
MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY,
Two Abreast.
Sup. with } BANNER OF THE B. VIRGIN } Sup. with
Spear. } } Spear.

Stewards with Wands,
Vigilance Committee,
Executive Committee,
Secretary and Treasurer,
Vice-President, President, Vice-President,
Stewards with Wands,
MONTREAL COLLEGE BANNER,
THE COLLEGE BAND,
STUDENTS OF THE MONTREAL COLLEGE,
Two and Two.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY,
Assistant Marshal on Horseback.
PRINCE'S BAND.
Supported with } GRAND } Supported
Battle Axe } SUNBURST BANNER } Battle Axe
OF IRELAND. }
Stewards with Wands.

MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY,
Two and Two,
Assistant Marshal on Horseback.
Sup. with } GRAND HARP BANNER } Sup. with
Battle Axe } OF IRELAND. } Battle Axe

Two Stewards with Wands.
Members of the Committee,
Physicians,
Secretaries,
Treasurer,
Vice-Presidents,
President,
CHAPLAIN,
Clergy of the St. Patrick's Church,
Assistant Marshals on Horseback

THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY, OF THE ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY AND OF THE ST. PATRICK'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY will assemble at the ST. PATRICK'S HALL,

BONAVENTURE BUILDING.
The Procession will form in front of the St. Patrick's Hall, Bonaventure Building, at 8 o'clock sharp, and thence proceed through Great St. James', Bleary and Lagachebriere Streets to the St. Patrick's Church.

On arriving at the Grand Entrance of the Church, The Procession will form a double line, facing inwards, leaving an open space of at least eight feet. Flags and Banners will fall to the right and the Bands to the left. Prince's Band, headed by the grand Sunburst Banner of Ireland, and followed by the President and other office-bearers of the St. Patrick's Society, the Grand Harp Banner of Ireland, the President and office-bearers of the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society, and of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, will then enter the church, playing the National Air—ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

N. B.—Marshals are particularly requested to use speed in organizing the Procession after Divine Service.

After Divine Service, the Procession will re-form in Alexander Street, and proceed through Craig, St. Antoine, Mountain, and McOord Streets to the St. Ann's Church; passing the St. Ann's Church, the Procession will march through Wellington, McGill, and Notre Dame Streets to the French Square; and return through Great St. James' Street to the St. Patrick's Hall, where the Procession will disperse.
(By Order),
MARCUS DOHERTY,
Grand Marshal.

BANK CLERK ABSCONDED.—We learn that a few days ago Mr. Dowler, the book-keeper in Montreal of the branch of the Commercial Bank established in this city, absconded. It appears that the deficit in his books was very small, only some \$500; but being aware that this must be at once discovered by the Inspector, on his road upwards from Quebec, he determined not to await the ordeal, and having made up his mind cast about for the best mode of preparing a viaticum. With this view he called at the Ontario Bank and asked for \$5,000 in gold, part of the balance due by the Ontario to the Commercial. He then obtained leave to go to Upper Canada to see his mother, whom he stated was sick. He received from the Bank two parcels to deliver in Upper Canada—one for Kingston, which he did deliver, as a telegram had been sent to the branch there directing them to send some person to the Railway Station to meet him—another for Hamilton of \$1600, which he has converted into plunder. The amount, which he has carried off in all is therefore some \$7000; but we understand that the Bank have undoubted security for \$8000, and that they expect to have no difficulty in realizing the amount of the deficiency. Dowler is a married man, and it is astonishing that on the lowest computation of advantage he should have played the rogue to the ruin of all his prospects for so small an amount.

There was a difficulty at Quebec recently at a Volunteer battalion drill, one of the companies present without officers, refusing to drill under an officer appointed by the Colonel commanding, for that purpose. The mutineers were ordered to pile arms and accoutrements, which they did, but ultimately they were allowed to resume their duty. The matter is to be investigated.—*Com. Advertiser*.

No change in the markets this week.

TAKES UP LITTLE OR NO ROOM IN YOUR POCKET.—We never have known so much virtue in so small a space. We speak of Bryan's Pulmonic Wafers. It is capital for a cold or severe hoarseness, as well as a cough. 25 cents a box.

Sold in Montreal by J. M. Henry & Sons; Lyman, Chas. & Co., Carter, Kerry & Co., S. J. Lyman & Co., Lamplough & Campbell, and at the Medical Hall, and all Medicine Dealers.

Birth,
In this city, on the 6th inst., the wife of Mr. James Green, of a son.

Died,
In this city, on the 11th instant, Mary Ann Mulligan, wife of Mr. James Toner, aged 24 years.

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully requested to attend the funeral from her late residence, corner of Dominique and Lagachebriere Streets, to the Parish Church, and from thence to the Catholic Cemetery, on Friday the 13th instant, at 8 o'clock a.m.

At Roucheville, on the 4th inst., having received all the last rites of the Catholic church, L. R. C. de Lery, Esq., in the 61st year of his age, after a severe illness of 23 days, suffered with true Christian patience and resignation. Mr. de Lery will long be remembered and regretted by a large circle of friends to whom he was endeared by his many inestimable qualities.

At Sault-aux-Recollets, on the 1st instant, Francis McKay, Esq., aged 53 years and 8 months, formerly merchant of Montreal. He leaves a widow, father and a large number of friends to mourn his loss.



A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY will be held on FRIDAY EVENING, the 13th instant, in order to re-consider the propriety of holding a Public Dinner on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, and all other arrangements connected therewith.

(By Order) P. O'MEARA, Rec. Sec.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY will be held in the Society's New Hall, BONAVENTURE BUILDING, on MONDAY EVENING, 16th inst., in order to make further and full arrangements for the due Celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Members proposed at the Monthly Meeting may be ballotted for at this meeting.
Old and new members are respectfully requested to attend.

Chair to be taken at EIGHT o'clock, p.m., sharp.
(By Order), P. O'MEARA, Rec. Sec.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.
GRAND
PROMENADE CONCERT,
IN AID OF THE
BUILDING FUND OF THE SOCIETY.

IN THE
CITY CONCERT HALL,
ON
TUESDAY EVENING, 17th MARCH,
(ST. PATRICK'S DAY.)

TICKETS OF ADMISSION—25 cts.

Tickets for sale at M.M. Sadlier's and Prince's stores, Notre Dame street; at W. Dalton's news depot, St. Lawrence Main street; at M. Flynn's and Downey's stores, McGill street; at M. P. Ryan's St. Mary street; and at R. McShane's Wellington street; also from members of the Committee, and at the door on the evening of the Concert.

N.B.—Dinner tickets may be had at the same places; and parties are particularly requested to purchase them previous to the day of the Concert. Dinner tickets do not confer the right of admittance to the Concert.

Immediately after the Concert a PUBLIC DINNER will be given in the Refreshment Room of the City Concert Hall, under the auspices of the Society.

Tickets of Admission—\$1.00 each.
Doors open at SEVEN, P.M.; Concert to commence at EIGHT, precisely.

(By Order), P. O'MEARA, Rec. Sec.

J. J. CURRAN, B.C.L.,
ADVOCATE,
No. 40 Little St. James' Street,
MONTREAL.

INFORMATION WANTED.

OF JOHN COLEMAN, who emigrated to America from London, in June 1837; when last heard of was in New York. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by his mother, Mary Coleman care of Rev. Doctor Doyle, St. George's Church, Southwark, London.

Newspapers, Periodicals, Magazines, Fashion Books, Novels, Stationery, School Books, Children's Books, Song Books, Almanacs, Diaries and Postage Stamps, for sale at DALTON'S News Depot, Corner of Craig and St. Lawrence Streets, Montreal.
Jan. 17, 1863.