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The Chronicle.

St. John, N. B., Jan. 7, 1899.

TO THE PUBLIC.
The Editors of the *Chronicle*, as well as the public generally are respectfully informed that new arrangements have been entered into for the publishing of the paper, with the view of making it more attractive and acceptable to its numerous readers. The political tone, character, and standing of the *Chronicle* will in no way be deviated from, it will as heretofore be essentially and purely a *Provincial and Conservative Journal*, dedicated to Provincial Progress, and British connection. Mr. James H. Hooper has purchased the site of the establishment, and will follow his entire attention to the mechanical department, and the firm in future will be distinguished and known by the name of Durant & Hooper, and the paper will be published weekly at their office corner of Market Square and Prince Wm. street.

In returning my sincere thanks for the extensive patronage I have experienced during the past eighteen years I have conducted the business, I respectfully solicit a continuance of public favor for the firm.

WILLIAM DURANT.
St. John, December 31.

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FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, December 10th, 1898.
Our own affairs still continue to occupy an rather less than those of our neighbors. Every body is speculating what will be the result of Count Montalembert's refusal to accept the pardon offered him, and of his determination to appeal to the Court above. At first the *Montalembert* attempted some bluster; but the general conviction of the illegality of the pardon is so great that the pardon and affirm or reject the conviction on his merits. This is a sad blow to the Imperial government. It enables M. de Montalembert through his counsel and consideration of the French nation and Europe upon the basis of the existing despotism in France. On this side of the Channel Sir F. B. Head has written a couple of letters republishing the irritating attacks recently made by the English press upon the institutions of our neighbors, and upon the Sovereign chosen by universal suffrage. He warns us of the general hostility of the French nation, and bids us prepare ourselves for an open exhibition of this hostility should such attacks continue. On the other hand it is asked whether English journals are to abstain from all criticism upon foreign affairs, and whether such subjects are to be ignored in print though in society they are the one absorbing topic. The golden mean—not entire silence, but habitual and irritating ceases—would probably be an equitable adjustment.

From India comes stirring news. Lord Lytton has begun his winter campaign in Oude, and announces to the population there that he comes to restore the law, and to consider the country as shown in all cases of non-resistance. But a single shot fired upon his troops will, he says, entail the burning of houses and the plundering of villages while "the inhabitants must expect to incur the fate they have brought upon themselves." The march of Lord Lytton was preceded throughout all India by the proclamation of her Majesty, not as Empress, but as Queen of the parts. This most important document has been published in the *Chronicle*. It promises a general amnesty to those not actually guilty of the murder of Europeans, or who have not knowingly sheltered murderers, or been actual leaders and instigators of revolt. Moreover, it assures to the natives universally quiet enjoyment of their lands and their religion, while the Queen is made to renounce all territorial aggression and aggrandisement in India. By the way, public feeling here with regard to the Cawnpore massacre is somewhat altered by a new narrative which shows that the Sepoys and Sowars refused to be the instrument of the terrible butchery of that city. Two of the common butchers of the bazaar were, it seems, hired for the purpose, and blood of the helpless women and children rested exclusively on their heads and that of the monster Nana Sahib.

The Birmingham Reform Association programme of the forthcoming Reform, or rather the Reform they claim for the people of this country may be taken as a foreshadowing of Mr. Bright's bill. The Reformers of Birmingham ask for a large extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, and a more equal apportionment of members to population. This is moderate enough, indeed so moderate that it may be doubted whether it will suit the views of the more advanced liberals—coming from Birmingham it may be considered very mild. A large extension of the suffrage will be difficult in the way of the Government of the Reformers. But Mr. Disraeli is quite willing to extend it, the only difficulty being in which direction the extension will be made—probably Mr. Bright will pull one way and the Government the other, but we may conclude that the end will be a compromise. As regards the second point—vote by ballot—the probability is that the Whigs, Palmerston's followers, will help the Government to overthrow such a measure. There are, however, many persons who think that Lord Derby and his colleagues will yield the ballot. Then comes the apportionment of members, and here will be found the real bone of contention. Mr. Disraeli's views are already known, but it is not so many months ago since he addressed the electors of Buckinghamshire upon this very matter. The Government will fight for the countries, Birmingham politicians will contend for the towns. If Mr. Bright's claims do not exceed those of the Birmingham Reform Association, then we see no danger to the Government from his much talked of Reform Bill, and we agree with Liberals we have heard much of the matter who say many Liberals calculated to offend much more than Lord Derby's supporters. There can be no difficulty of encounter in fact, for the Tories may just as well give the ballot as the Whigs—as a matter of principle. Lord Palmerston having opposed the measure as strenuously as ever the Earl of Derby did. The concession would be a timely and serious one, and would give them possession of the power for another year. The appearance of this manifesto from "radical Birmingham" has caused a little conversation in political circles, but it has failed to create a sensation.

Mr. Gladstone is in his element at Cairo. He is a good Italian scholar and has addressed the Ionian Assembly in that language; he has conversed with Greek bishops, senators, dignitaries, and officials of all ranks; he has held receptions and visited churches and public buildings; and has created an excitement which among his exilic people is very natural and very legitimate. Whether any good result will accrue from his mission after all this testimony, possibly certainly remains as doubtful as ever. Mr. Gladstone has been obliged to inform the Ionians that his mission is founded by the Protectorate which must not be limited cannot be mediated with any under the sanction of all those Powers who were parties to the original treaty. No stone however will be left unturned by the Ionians to convince that distinguished envoy that they will not be satisfied with any settlement or any redress of grievances which leaves them still under the rule of Great Britain. The protest of the ten representatives of Crete which has been just made public conveys this sentiment most forcibly. They declare that a feeling of deep affliction and grief has been caused in the island by Sir J. Young's "abominable assertion" that the Cortices desire to be incorporated with Great Britain. They "will afford a sacred duty in giving solemn aid to the sentiments justly attributed to their fellow-citizens," and protest that their only wish is to be united to free Greece. This is rather an unpleasant salvo for the Lord High Commissioner, and cannot be particularly agreeable to Mr. Gladstone. It has been announced by a medical journal, the *Prize of Wales* is going to extend his Continental trip to Rome, and as the name of a physician is given for his companion, the presumption is that the journey to Italy is for the benefit of his health. Such a report, though pronounced doubtful by competent authority, has excited a good deal of comment. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Earl of Salisbury are deeply anxious to see the youthful highness should be held hold of by Sir J. Young and his party. Coming in nearly a prophesy from "smooth things" from a visit paid to the Sacred Land. At present the Prince innocent of the fervor excited led the heir to the throne should be "perverted," is reported quietly at Potsdam, enjoying the society of his brother-in-law and his sister. By the way, according to the national custom, prayers are now offered up in the Prussian churches for the safe delivery of the Princess Frederick William.

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