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(From the Liverpool Mail, Jan. 12.)

We are glad to perceive that the British authorities in Upper Canada have begun to execute severe and summary justice upon the piratical citizens of the United States. Several men have been hung, and many more will yet have to expiate their crimes in a similar way, and for the sake of example. We know not a graver offence than that of the citizens of a neutral state invading a neighbouring one, and aiding its subjects in rebellion. The men from New York, who, having so committed themselves, have been executed, most justly merited their fate. They were wholly without the shadow of an excuse. Whatever their notions of liberty might be, they had no right to intrude any practical illustration of them upon the loyalists of Canada; and it is much to be regretted that the measures now pursued, as being urgently and indisputably necessary for the preservation of our colonies, had not been adopted at a much earlier period. If, instead of sending out blundering old women and simpering pantaloon in the shape of Governors, like watch-dogs muzzled, if, instead of lavishing the public money upon the pastebord Earl of DURHAM, a weak creature, puffed full of pride and ignorance, and the very *beau ideal* of a modern whig, ministers had at once placed Canada under the government of Sir JOHN COLBORNE, or any other able and intelligent officer, the insurrection would have been crushed at the outset, the peaceable efficiently protected, the guilty promptly punished, and a vast effusion of blood would have been spared. But the whigs are most despicable politicians. They are all Earls of DURHAM. There is hardly a man of sense, or prudence, or foresight, or energy, in their ranks. They are mere quacks and grievance-mongers, men only fit, like JOSEPH HUME, to fret over the loss of farthings, and scrape up cheese-parings, and grumble over the number of buttons on an officer's coat, while they are wasting by wholesale the resources and vitality of the country. All the acts of the whigs, at home and abroad, have been a series of blunders. They have blundered in Spain, in India, in the Black Sea, in Canada, and even in that dirty and codfish settlement, so like themselves, and ridiculously called Newfoundland. Wherever they go, and whatever they do, it is nothing but blundering. Look at the pet revolution which they so much applauded, and by which Belguin was wrested dishonourably and iniquitously from the honest and good King of the NETHERLANDS. They, it is true,

were permitted to set up their puppet, and proud were they at seeing it. The playhouse scoundrel of Brussels, and the Jesuits, allowed them to put a crown upon the head of LEOPOLD. He was the whig puppet; but they have never been allowed to move nor touch a string since they set him up. He is in the hands of LOUIS PHILIPPE and the Pope as effectually and securely as a dumb and blind jackdaw in a cage. Think he cannot, he never could, but he is not even permitted to talk. To propitiate the priests he has dedicated his son and heir, poor child, to idolatry! Lord PALMERSTON'S protocols were of no more service to him than a blister on a paving stone. They were of no more use than waste paper; and while the name of "whig" is remembered, the settlement of the Belgic question will be the laughing-stock of Europe.

But we commenced with whig blundering in Canada, and to that we must return. The DURHAMS, and GOSFORDS, and BULLERS, and TURTONS, and BULLERS, and GIBBON WAKEFIELDS being now swept out of the colony, things begin to wear a more healthy aspect. Sir JOHN COLBORNE is not a whig. This is something. He is an accomplished soldier, an able and experienced general, a man of sense, spirit, and independence, who will save Canada to her MAJESTY, if her MAJESTY'S brainless servants do not prevent him. He has, we say, begun in good earnest to fulfil the trust confided to him. The musket and the halberd are teaching the marauding and plundering citizens and vagabonds of the United States the real value of republican institutions, and giving others the benefit of protection which Citizen MARTIN VAN BUREN says it is not in the power of his government to afford. Sir John Colborne is doing the President's work. If Congress will not vote the dollars, nor give authority to their chief magistrate to repress outrages beyond the British lines and within their own frontier, we must do it by means of the common hangman and at the expense of gunpowder. If they refuse to punish or restrain their own sons, we must shoot them; and we do not see how they can get rid of so many flaming patriots and heroes on cheaper terms.

How far this mode of establishing tranquillity in Canada will meet with the approbation of the court party and the whig party in parliament, remains to be seen. We feel certain, however, that the Warburton clique, Mr. Poulett Thomson, and the Baltic land and timber speculators, who ardently

and selfishly long for the alienation, if not the destruction, of Canada, will complain unceasingly of the conduct of the gallant general. It is said that a fear of offending that party, by marring their schemes, induced Her Majesty's whig to tie the hands and bandage the eyes of all the governors they have recently deposed and recalled from north America. They also, we are informed, professed—it could only be *profession*, or they must be dolts of the dullest order in nature—that they were apprehensive of a rupture with the United States, in case they should do justice upon their piratical and incendiary citizens, or avenge the honour and flag of England, by hanging some of her choicest patriots. They talked of the boundary question being *unsettled*, of a doubt on their minds, poor imbeciles!—as to the legality of assuming the acts of the citizens to be violations of law and recognised treaties; and they were advised that it would not be safe nor politic to treat the robbers and plunderers of our property, the trading miscreants, who burnt our ships and invaded our territory, in any other manner than as *prisoners of war!!!*

Lenses.—Tschirnhausen constructed lenses four feet in diameter, one of which weighed 160 lbs.; and produced powerful effects on bodies placed in its focus; wet wood kindled in an instant, water in small vessels boiled, the metals were melted, and tiles, slate, pumice, &c., were vitrified. Bernieres made a lens which consisted of two glasses in shape, which were plated edge to edge, so as to enclose a hollow cavity between them. This cavity, which was 5 ft. in diameter, was filled with spirits of wine, by which a double convex fluid lens was formed. With this lens two farthings were melted in a half minute, a small piece of steel began to melt in two minutes, and small fragments of iron melted in a quarter of a minute. Mr. Parker, of Fleet-street, some years ago, constructed the most powerful burning lens hitherto known. It was made of flint-glass, and was about three feet in diameter. At short distance behind it was situated another lens, by which the rays were converged into a still smaller and therefore more powerful focus. With this instrument ten grains of slate were melted in two seconds, of cast iron in three seconds, of steel in twelve seconds, of pumice stone in twenty-four seconds, and of flint in thirty seconds. A diamond of ten grains was reduced to six grains by exposure for thirty minutes in the focus of the lens! the gem opened, emitted white fumes, closed again, and resumed nearly its original shape. This powerful instrument was sent to China for want of an English purchaser. The great difficul-

ty of procuring such large pieces of flint glass has induced Sir David Brewster to propose that burning glasses should be built up of several pieces, each piece being so curved as to contribute to the general localizing effect. The same philosopher has also proposed to combine reflection from mirrors with transmission through lenses, in order to produce a powerful combined effect. The rays which fall near the margin of a lens add but little to the heating power of the focus, on account of the obliquity with which they fall on the lens. Sir David Brewster therefore suggests that a number of small lenses should be fitted into the surface of a hollow sphere, so as to unite all their foci at its centre. The apparatus must be so placed that the sun's rays will pass directly through one of the small lenses; while those rays which pass through the other lenses will first be reflected from mirrors properly placed round the sphere; so that the whole of the rays will pass through the various lenses in directions at right angles to the diameter, and therefore in the most favourable direction for producing a powerful focalized effect. All the effects produced by these burning mirrors, lenses, &c. are derived from the employments of solar light. If the light of a fire or candle be employed, the effects are far less intense. But it is a very remarkable circumstance, that the rays from the moon produce not the smallest heating effect. Mr. Parker's lens was exposed to brilliant moon-light, and a delicate thermometer was placed in its focus; but not the slightest elevation of temperature was indicated. We know that the moon's light consists of the solar rays which are reflected from her surface; but it appears as if the heat combined with the sun's rays was stifled or absorbed, either at the moon's surface or in the aerial medium through which they have to pass.—*Penny Magazine.*

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON.—Fifteen of the sixteen celebrated cedars of Lebanon, are still alive, but all are more or less in a state of decay; and one of them is remarkable for three immense trunks, proceeding from the same stump, at a short distance above the soil. Another, one of the healthiest of the old trees, though perhaps the smallest, measured 33 feet French (35 feet 9 inches English) in circumference. All the trees are much furrowed by lightning, which seems to strike them more or less every year. In the middle of these old trees are about forty other cedars, comparatively young, though the trunk of the smallest of them is from ten to twelve feet, in circumference. At the base of eight or nine of the old cedars are altars, constructed with large rough stones, which were formerly used by the inhabitants of the Maronite villages, who, headed by their pastor, went to El-Herze on the day of transfiguration. At this festival all the priests said mass at the same time, each priest officiating at the foot of the cedar belonging to his own village. Disputes having, however, arisen from this practice, the patriarch of the Maronites has made a new arrangement; and now, though the Maronites still continue, on the festival of the transfiguration, to repair to El-Herze, only one mass is celebrated, which is performed on the altar of a different cedar every year, in order that the trees of all the villages in turn may enjoy the same privilege. There is not one young cedar in all the wood of El-Herze.—*London's Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum.*

In a case which came before the Lambeth-street magistrates last week, it was stated that the complainant, in the course of a drunken fit, which lasted three weeks without the slightest intermission, had been supplied with as many as thirty-eight glasses of rum-and-water a day. His "score" for the period referred to was £25.

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