

British News

[From the Liverpool Mail, July 31]

M'LEOD'S CASE

It would appear by the American papers just received, that the Supreme Court of New York has determined to grant the writ of habeas corpus in favour of M'Leod. The court has decided in favour of the legality of the arrest; the indictment found by the grand jury of the county of Niagara is sustained; and the prisoner is remanded to the place whence he came, there to be tried upon a charge of murder.

The judgment pronounced by Mr. Justice Cowan occupies nearly eight columns of the New York Herald, and is, upon the whole, a very laborious specimen of judicial verbiage, by no means creditable to a country which boasts so much of its intelligence and love of justice. Had it been delivered from the benches for the purpose of gaining effect upon the public mind, it would have been a failure. It is a specimen of the kind of reasoning which we hear occasionally on the stage as caricatures of the manner and matter of sound and proper legal pleading at the bar.

What is to be done now? How is Mr. Fox to be treated? What will the insulated and ignorant people of Canada say—rather, what will they do? They are told by a judge of the Supreme Court of New York, that if, in defending their invaded frontier against either robbers or pirates, they happen to shoot a citizen, or burn his coat, or damage his property, they are answerable to the laws of the republic, liable to be arrested if they cross the border, thrown into prison, and tried for their lives as murderers or robbers, or for some other crime, which they did not know they were committing, and which they were acting under the Queen's commission or their own personal responsibility.

The counsel for M'Leod will, forthwith, sue out a writ of habeas corpus, and have it carried to the Court for the Correction of Errors, which is the highest judicial tribunal in this state; but from its jurisdiction an appeal lies to the Supreme Court of the United States. I entertain no doubt as to what that decision will be. In my opinion, it will be in favour of M'Leod. He is a man of good character, and his case is a very good one. The opinion of the Court was pronounced by Justice Cowan, and may be found in the American papers.

THE WAGES

The wages, connected with the restoration of their own altars—Mr. C. M. Talbot is the only person who has for some months past been engaged in a warfare of uncertain advantage of the Melbourne ministry; nor do we recollect a single instance in which he has been successful.

The Duke of Wellington arrived at Aspley House, shortly before seven o'clock, on Friday evening, July 27th. His Grace has been invited to town to join the circle at Woburn Abbey, invited by the Duke and Duchess of Bedford to meet Mr. Talbot, and to see the Duke of Devonshire, which visit will be on the 30th and 31st of the month.

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