(From the London John Bull, May 21.)

In the face of a majority so triumphant as that which we are happy to say is prepared to carry the Government plans into effect, it may appear like a work of supererogation to notice, for the sake of exposing them, the senseless quibbles by which the Whig-Radicals endeavour to excite a popular cry against the new tariff. To be sure there is among the speakers on the opposition side of the House, such a marvellous amount of inconsistency, that it seems difficult to conceive how they can hope to carry any portion of public feeling along with them. Of whatever interest he may chance to be the immediate representative, your genuine Liberal is sure to claim for that, some measure of protection, while he freely gives up all other interests to the tender mercies of the free-trade system. Does he sit for some silk-weaving town, he has no possible objection to the repeal of protecting duties, as they concern cotton goods, or linens, or crockery ware, or corn; but propose to place French silks on the same footing with English in the home market, and he becomes outrageous forthwith. Has he the honour to be returned for the well known and respectable borough of "Sales," he protests against the injustice of allowing the French and Dutch shoemakers to compete with the English shoemaker in the English market. Still, he is no advocate for a return to the obsolete practice of prohibitory duties, as the only means of encouraging a domestic manufacture; on the contrary, he is ready to support the doctrine of a trade absolutely free in every article, save one—namely, leather. And so it is throughout: "Only save my bacon by granting to my constituents the trifling privilege of having their own particular article exempt from its operation, and I will give you my hearty support in carrying through all the other provisions in your measure." Sir Robert Peel has well exposed the folly, as well as the presumption of such proceedings, by comparing his tariff to the painting which the artist in the fable set forth, in order that all the inhabitants of his city might pass judgment upon. There was a loud and general burst of admiration, which lasted just so long as the multitude looked at it as a whole; but in a very few minutes after individuals began to exercise their rights as citizens, it became one huge mass of blotches.

The deadliest foe to the tariff is, however, my Lord Howick, who, disdaining to follow in the wake of such miserable quibblers as these, directs his attacks boldly against the principle of conceding to the colonies advantages which are not conceded to foreign nations in general. According to this view of the question, an English family, by the act of crossing the Atlantic, and sitting down under the protection of the English Government in Canada, has justly forfeited all claim to be treated as a part and parcel of the Queen's subjects. Its members are indeed required to pay obedience to the English laws—they are liable to be taxed for the maintenance of an English Governor and English Judges—they must perform military service should the country be invaded, and hazard their lives in seeking to maintain the honour of the English Crown; but the idea that they are therefore justified in expecting to be treated, in their commercial dealings at least, as English subjects, is the wildest delusion under which men ever laboured. Canada is not England, therefore the inhabitants of Canada are not Englishmen. England gives them, indeed, the protection of her Government, and the inestimable blessing of her laws and institutions, but they have no more right to regard themselves as entitled to the name or privileges of Englishmen than if they spoke Russ or Arabic, and owed allegiance to the Czar or the Cham of Tartary.

If Lord Howick's principle be the right one, then have we been guilty of a very grave political fault in doing away with those restrictions on the trade of Ireland against which, as one of their heaviest grievances, the Irish volunteers of 1782 protested. Ireland is no more England than Canada is England. The ancient Milesians, like the French settlers in Canada, became subjects to the English Crown by right of conquest; and if numbers of English families did go over and settle among them, these, as they could not carry the rights of Englishmen along with them, so it was impossible for them to convey such rights to their descendants. Had Lord Lyndhurst's memorable speech, therefore, been susceptible of the construction which the veracious Daniel O'Connell and his slaves of the Melbourne Cabinet put upon it, it would have been worthy of all acceptation. If the Canadians be "aliens" to us in any sense of the term, so are the Irish, for our connection with the one race is quite as intimate as with the other.

But Lord Howick has no desire whatever to deprive the colonies of any privileges such as deserve to be regarded as worth caring for; he conceives, that by favouring articles, the produce of these countries, and giving them a readier sale in the home market, you do at least as much of evil to the colonists themselves as to the inhabitants of England, because, as far as the colonies are concerned, you provoke foreign nations to lay a heavy impost on their produce, at the same time that you hamper the home consumer by compelling him either to purchase from the colonist at a moderate price, or to pay exorbitantly for that which the foreigner may offer, when in point of fact the foreigner's commodity ought to be the cheaper of the two. How strangely blinded to the plainest and most obvious matters of fact are your theoretical political economists! Cannot Lord Howick see that these arrangements are entered into, not for the purpose of favouring one species of foreign commodities over another, but in order that one uniform principle shall, as far as possible, pervade what is, in strict propriety of speech, the home trade of a great empire? What does it matter whether certain scions of the house of Grey occupy a princely mansion in Northumberland or inhabit a log-hut in Canada or a shelling in Van Diemen's Land? Are they not equally Greys, who, if they no longer enjoy a monopoly of Government patronage, are still possessed of the common rights of English subjects? We assure Lord Howick, with all due reference, that the British empire is not confined within the limits of the British islands. The provinces in North America, in India, and the Caribbean seas, on the continent of Africa, among the South Sea islands, along the shores of the Mediterranean, are all just as much integral portions of the Queen's realm as is the county of York or the city of Durham; and you might with the very same justice determine, that while the people of Durham are allowed to convey their goods to London duty free, the people of Yorkshire shall pay a heavy rate of customs, as make laws which shall draw distinctions between goods the produce of the east and of the west, or render either or both of these less saleable in Liverpool than the same species of articles whether they be natural or manufactured, which are grown in the fields hard by, or woven in Leeds, or cast and ground in Birmingham.

The fact indeed is that colonies, unless they be dealt with on this broad and liberal principle, instead of being towers of strength to the mother country, tend only to weaken her. Hitherto this truth, however, obvious to such as will but open their ears to receive it, has not been recognised—or at least very imperfectly recognised—by the statesmen to whom the management of this great empire was entrusted. The dread of interfering with what were called the West India and the American interests caused our fathers to impose heavy duties on the sugars and the tobaccos of the East. The anxiety to foster a silk manufactory in Spitalfields closed the ports of England against the silks which British India was producing. The same was the case with respect to Indian calicoes, while as yet the skill of British manufacturers continued in its infancy—and even now, when the superior cheapness, if not the texture, of our cotton goods drives the poor Hindoo out of his own market, we carefully guard against his retorting upon us by continuing our heavy duties upon his silks. There is neither justice nor good policy in this. Yes, and we will go further. If it were possible to guard against the substitution of foreign for colonial corn—if we could hinder the colonist from either transmitting to England corn which was actually grown in a foreign country, or else from consuming such corn himself, so that all which his own land produces might be available for purposes of exportation—we see no rational grounds upon which the freedom of commercial intercourse which we claim for the colonial manufacturer, be his article what it may, should not be extended to the colonial agriculturist. For the more you bring her Majesty's subjects to feel that wherever they may be located they are in every respect fellow-countrymen, the more perfect must be the organisation which you introduce into an empire, than which the world has never before witnessed any so colossal. And could this be but thoroughly accomplished—could the settler, however geographically remote, be taught to feel that he has lost no one privilege that appertains to an English subject—then might we look with comparative indifference at all the efforts of foreign nations to cripple our commerce and enlarge their own. In the colonies alone, were they wisely dealt by, outlets would be found as well for the surplus goods as for the surplus population that might be produced at home; for in exact proportion as the former grew in extent, in wealth, in power, and in civilisation, would the latter derive therein the resources which she now seeks to acquire, often vainly, by her commercial dealings with foreign and rival States.

Sir Robert Peel's plan does not yet realise the vision which is now before us. Neither, perhaps, would it be possible to accomplish such vast ends all at once. But it carries us a wide step towards the desirable consummation, and for this—in spite of Lord Howick's sophistries—we are grateful.

It is not easy to guess what our fickle and foolish neighbours would be at. Three years ago the idea of taking a lead in the suppression of the slave-trade delighted them; indeed, so enthusiastic were they then, in the cause of negro improvement, that they must needs found in Paris a Society which should have for its object the diffusion of the arts that refine and elevate man's nature, throughout the wide continent of Africa. Moreover to convince all sceptical people that their motives were purely philanthropic the founders of the said Society opened communications with every man whose name had the fullest halo of renown gathered round it, in England, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country in Europe. To be sure these zealous promoters of African civilization took good care to ask for money as well as applause. They first of all elected their foreign correspondent a member, or Vice-President, or President of the Association, as the case might be, and then on his acceptance of what he regarded as a tribute of respect to his well-earned reputation, they told him that he had become a debtor to the Society of from one to three guineas annually; and, in order to convince him that his sovereigns were well laid out, they favoured him from time to time with a printed report of their proceedings, wherein nothing appeared except extracts from letters addressed to the Secretary from European Governors of slave colonies or Captains of ships employed as cruisers in the African seas. Finally, our philanthropists usually forgot to pay the postage of their letters, so that each sheet on its arrival in London cost the recipient somewhere about half-a-crown. But now, *nous avons change tout cela*—slavery may be a very shocking thing, but the appearance of insult to the French flag is much more so; and when such slight threatens to come from the side of England the thing is altogether intolerable.

It is impossible not to regret, that to this silly, senseless, and most unjust feeling on the part of the French Chambers, and, we fear, of the French people, Mons. Guizot should have lent himself. The announcement of his determination not to ratify a treaty to which France was an original party, though not altogether unexpected, has yet surprised us. We cannot believe that Mons. Guizot harbours any sentiments of hostility towards this country. That M. Thiers should continue to brood over the defeat of his plans for establishing an exclusively French interest at Alexandria, is extremely probable; but why Mons. Guizot, who is mainly indebted to that circumstance for the place which he holds in the service of his King, should resent it also, is indeed to us inexplicable. Must we fall back upon the old ground—of national jealousy, and national hatred? Have the French not yet forgiven us the battle of Waterloo? We are sorry for it; nevertheless, we cannot wish the results of that battle reversed.

Well, then, where are we, after this explicit and peremptory announcement by the French Government? Must we consider the arrangement by which a mutual right of search has been conceded, as set aside entirely; or shall we proceed to act upon it, so far as the terms of existing treaties will allow? Surely the latter will be our course of action. The holy cause of which England is the champion, may, and probably will, suffer; inasmuch as French perverseness increases the facilities of escape to ships engaged in the nefarious traffic. But within certain limits our powers are as great as we desire them to be, and France may rest assured that we will steadily and conscientiously use them. Nay nor need Brother Jonathan flatter himself that his striped flag will save, at least from exposure, the miscreants, be they of what lineage they may, who trade under its sanction in the flesh and blood of their fellow-men, should any of our cruisers happen to encounter the *Traveller*, the *William Torres*, the *Mary Cushing*, the *General Pinkney*, or any other of the clippers which habitually take in cargoes at the mouth of the Senegal.

Now Jonathan may depend upon it that the whole world will hear of it. An English cruiser will not indeed seize the accursed thing, and hang its captain and crew, because where there is no convention between States to sanction it, such an act would be an act of piracy; but she will send her boat on board to ascertain the full extent to which the flag of a nation ostentatiously claiming to be free has suffered prostitution. And if the Government and people of the United States be content to bear the brand which our habitual exposure of the truth must imprint upon them, England will certainly not take any step to rub them of so unenviable a distinction.

It is said that in Paris the chances of a rupture with England begin again to be discussed in the clubs and at the *soirees*. There will be no rupture with England, for this excellent reason—that the quarrel with the United States, out of which it is expected to arise, will never take place. The accounts from Washington are all, we understand, of the most satisfactory nature. Lord Ashburton is winning the hearts of the Republicans by ministering to their stomachs, and good hopes are entertained that he will settle, in a satisfactory manner, all the questions that have so long stood over, that of the disputed territory not excepted. The only person indeed, who is described as being out of humour with the turn which negotiations have taken is the British Minister in ordinary, Mr. Fox. No wonder, but it is a subject of wonder to many that his Excellency does not resign.—*John Bull.*

NUNS AND NUNNERIES.

(From the Achill Missionary Herald.)

We have long been convinced that nunneries, as at present constituted, should not be suffered to exist in a free country. They encourage every species of deceit on the part of the priests and others interested in their maintenance, in inveigling victims into them, and though the superstitious motives which at first rendered the imprisonment in a certain sense voluntary, may cease to operate, and the captive sigh for freedom, she finds herself in circumstances which place her at an almost hopeless distance beyond the operation of those laws which are supposed to secure the enjoyment of liberty to the subjects of the British Crown.

These thoughts were brought to our mind by facts of recent occurrence. One of these facts has already come before the public, through the medium of the newspapers; but as we have had access to the most authentic sources of information, we can assure our readers of the perfect accuracy of our information, while at the same time we are enabled to state some important particulars which have not before transpired.

A young lady, a Protestant, ignorant of her own religion, and equally ignorant of the true character of Popery and the nature of monastic Institutions, entered a convent in Limerick, vainly expecting to find within its walls the peace of mind which she had not found in the world.

During her novitiate she was treated both by the superioress of the convent, and the nuns with the most winning kindness, the former especially exhibited the most vigilant anxiety to promote Miss Stewart's happiness, and assured her that nothing would give her so much pleasure as to see her a professed nun.

Flattered by such attention Miss Stewart imagined that there was no place in the world like the convent, and under this impression she became a professed nun, but no sooner was this step taken than the scene immediately changed. The kind attention to which she was accustomed ceased, and she was treated with extreme severity—being compelled to perform the most menial offices—sometimes scrubbing the floors of the convent until her knees, unused to such labour, were almost excoriated; and when she complained of such treatment as past endurance, she was threatened by her jailors, who exultingly told her that she had put herself into their hands, and they would take good care that she should not escape from them.

The poor captive now clearly saw that it would be useless to claim the right of leaving the convent, and that the liberty for which she sighed could only be obtained by stratagem. An intelligent girl, who had been one of Miss Stewart's pupils in the convent school, was made her confidant, and she proved herself in every way worthy of the trust reposed in her. Dressed in a fashionable suit over her homely apparel, and having her features concealed in the folds of a thick veil, she called at the convent gate and requested to see Miss Stewart. As the gate-keeper had been previously informed that a visitor was expected at that time, she was at once ushered into the school-room. The inmates of the convent were all at prayers, but Miss Stewart having escaped attendance on pretence of indisposition, hastened down to the school room in her chemise and petticoat. Her faithful deliverer speedily disrobed herself of her fashionable attire, and Miss Stewart as speedily dressed herself in it. They then sallied forth—no doubt,—with trembling hearts. The gate was opened to them—they hastened to the Mail Coach Office, where Miss Stewart's uncle was waiting to receive her, the mail started for Dublin shortly after, and the trembling fugitive was soon beyond the reach of her pursuers.

Now let the reader pause for a moment, and recollect that this is no fiction, but an actual occurrence which happened last month in this land of liberty. But the worst part of the tale yet remains to be told.

It might be thought that the Romish Ecclesiastics who could exercise control over the government of the convent, would mark their displeasure at such an unjustifiable infringement on the liberty of a British subject. But it was the very reverse. Miss Stewart was happily beyond their reach, but the poor girl who had been the instrument of her deliverance was made to feel the full weight of their displeasure. She was brought before a Romish Bishop, who reproved her sharply for not having informed the superiors of the convent, of Miss Stewart's intention to escape from it, and he informed her that for the heinous offence which she had committed, she should be excommunicated on the following Sunday,—she was distinctly told, but whether by Bishop or Priest we do not recollect, that she could never be received into the Church again without the express permission of the Pope. She was subsequently denounced by a Priest,—her friends were forbidden to speak to her—her mistress (she is apprenticed to a milliner) was ordered to put her out of her house, and we can ourselves testify, for we have seen it, that she is not permitted to walk through the streets of Limerick without being pointed at with the finger of execration. Nay, more, we have been credibly informed that her own father thinks it will be impossible to keep her in the country, and that regard for his own peace, as well as the security of his child, will oblige him to send her to America. Thus it appears that the conventual system, as it at present exists in this country, is in fact a conspiracy against the liberty of a certain class of her Majesty's subjects, and that a foreign potentate, with whom the domestic conspirators maintain a close correspondence, is the head of this unconstitutional confederacy.

The second fact to which we allude in our introductory observations, is of a mere affecting character than that which we have related above. A young lady, whose parents were Roman Catholics, was sent after their decease, in compliance with her father's desire expressed in his will, to be educated at a convent in the neighbourhood of Dublin. This poor girl having some property, was a desirable prey for the superioress of the convent and the sisterhood to secure. She was frequently visited by her uncle, who was a Protestant, and to him she expressed her determination of taking the veil, as she said she had become attached to the reverend mother and the nuns in consequence of their kindness to her, that she could not endure the thought of separation from them. Her uncle did all in his power to dissuade her from her purpose, but without effect. After her profession he called as usual to see her, but he was frequently denied the privilege—either she was sick or she was engaged in her devotions, or that the rules of the convent would not permit an interview at that time. And when he did happen to see her—her manner towards him was quite altered, she became cold and reserved, seemed to consider his presence a painful restraint, and could scarcely be induced to speak to him. He could assign no cause for such an apparent change of his dear niece's feeling towards him, but began to suspect that she was under some restraint.—This suspicion was increased by observing that he never was permitted to speak to her but in the presence and hearing of some person belonging to the convent. His suspicions were soon found to be correct, for one day when the back of the man who had been placed as a spy was turned, the poor captive hastily whispered into her uncle's ear, "*Take me out of this place,*" and having made this communication she assumed her usual expression of reserve. Suffice it to say that a plan was laid for the rescue; having secured the key of the convent garden, a carriage which was in attendance at an appointed hour conveyed her to her uncle's residence in Dublin. But she was not seated many minutes in his drawing room, when two Priests, connected with the convent, knocked at the door and demanded an interview. When their names were announced the poor fugitive cried out in an agony of distress "Oh do not let those *beasts* come near me." They were refused admittance—they stormed and raged—threatened legal proceedings. The uncle of the helpless female was in business, with a large family to provide for, and fearing the influence of the Priests, he sent his niece to her Roman Catholic relations to be disposed of as they might think fit; by them she was delivered to the Priests, and if death has not terminated her sufferings, she is at this moment a captive in the very convent from which she had been rescued by her uncle!

We again intreat the reader to consider that these are no fictions ingeniously framed to harrow up their feelings, but sober realities. We ask, should houses, falsely called religious, which afford such scope for practising the worst of tyranny over the weaker sex, be suffered to exist in a free country? Yet persons calling themselves Protestants, yea, and declaimers about liberty too, not only connive at the existence, but actually contribute their money to the erection and support of such ECCLESIASTICAL BASTILES. In the very province in which we write, the Marquis of Sligo has granted a site for the erection of a nunnery in the Town of Westport. We do not question his Lordship's right to dispose of his property as he pleases, but we do say that such a disposal of it by one who is not *an avowed bond-slave of Antichrist*, cannot be cleared from the charge of inconsistency, at the bar of human opinion. And with all respect for Lord Sligo's rank, we would suggest to him the propriety of inquiring, before it be too late, by what plea he will justify it, at Christ's Tribunal.

THE QUEEN'S LETTER.

TO HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, FOR A COLLECTION IN AID OF THE SUBSCRIPTIONS ENTERED INTO FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

Victoria R.

Most Reverend Father in God our right trusty and right entirely beloved councillor, we greet you well: Whereas in some districts in England and Scotland, many of the working classes have suffered, and continue to suffer, severe distress: and whereas many of our subjects have entered in to voluntary subscriptions for their relief, and have at the same time humbly prayed us to issue our royal letters directed to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Archbishop of York, authorising them to promote contributions within their reversal provinces for the same benevolent purpose. We, taking the premises into our Royal consideration, and being always ready to give the best encouragement and countenance to such humane and charitable undertakings, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request; and we do hereby direct these our letters be communicated by you to the several suffragan Bishops within your province, expressly requiring them to take care that publication be made hereof on such Sunday in the present or in the ensuing month, and in such places within their respective dioceses, as the said Bishops shall appoint; and that upon this occasion the ministers in each parish do effectually excite the parishioners to a liberal contribution, which shall be collected the week following at their respective dwellings by the Churchwardens or overseers of the poor in each parish; and the Ministers of the several parishes are to cause the sum so collected to be paid immediately into the hands of the Bank of England, to be accounted for by them, and applied to the carrying on and promoting the above-mentioned good designs. And so we bid you very hearty farewell.

Given at our Court at Saint James, the 11th day of May, 1842, in the fifth year of our reign.

By Her Majesty's command,

J. R. G. GRAHAM.

To the Most Reverend Father in God, our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Councillor, William Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan.

London House, May 20, 1842.

Reverend Brother,—In obedience to the commands of Her Majesty, I require you to read from the desk in your Church or Chapel the Queen's letter, a copy of which I have caused to be transmitted to you, on such Sunday before the 1st day of July next as you may judge most convenient, immediately after the morning or evening prayers.

You are also desired to cause the Queen's letter to be read in like manner in every place of worship belonging to the Established Church in your parish (if there be any besides the Parish Church), and to communicate this letter to the minister or ministers thereof.

The accompanying statement will supply authentic information in regard to the distress which prevails in the places therein mentioned, and which unhappily extends to many other populous districts similarly circumstanced.

I trust, therefore, that you will feel it your duty, as a minister of Christ, to give full effect to Her Majesty's gracious intentions by earnest exhortation from the pulpit, and to make known and enforce, as widely and strongly as possible the claims of the sufferers on the charity of their Christian brethern.

The amount collected is to be paid, within three weeks after the collection, into the Bank of England or its branches in the country; or by Post-office orders addressed to and made payable to the cashiers of the Bank of England, London.—From your affectionate brother,

C. J. LONDON.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN SYMONDS OF H. M. 96TH REGT.

We extract the following from the "New Zealand Herald and Auckland Gazette" of the 27th November, 1841:—*Melancholy Event.* William Cornwallis Symonds (eldest son of Sir W. Symonds, Surveyor of the Navy) Captain of H. M. 96th Regiment, Deputy Surveyor General of the colony, late chief Police Magistrate, and the Resident Director of the Waitamati and Manuhau co. was drowned on Tuesday, the 23d inst., in Manuhau Bay. The following particulars of this sad occurrence, will, we believe, be found substantially correct. Mrs. Hamblin, wife to Mr. Hamblin, the missionary at Manuhau (who was absent from home) being very ill, sent a message to the *Brilliant*, lying in the Bay, to request that if there was a surgeon in the ship he would attend her. Captain Symonds having heard the circumstances and knowing there was no surgeon on board, did that which those who knew him might have calculated upon, for with the active kindness and benevolence which so distinguished him, he immediately resolved to procure medicines from the ship and cross the Bay to Mrs. Hamblin's residence. He accordingly proceeded on board the Brilliant and made his arrangements, and, by the advice of the captain of that vessel in consequence of the day being gusty, and there being at the time considerable sea, took the ship's long boat, instead of his own; he was accompanied by Mr. Adam (a gentleman who came out from Scotland in the Brilliant, to settle at Manuhau) two European seamen and a native. Shortly after leaving the vessel a violent and sudden squall struck the boat which was observed to go down head foremost about a mile from the ship. Two boats were immediately lowered from the Brilliant, but owing to the dangerous sea running it was found impracticable to proceed to the unfortunate men, and those in the ship were compelled to witness their unhappy fate. The two seamen disappeared almost immediately. Mr. Adam swam for a long time in company with capt. Symonds, but at length sunk. Captain Symonds who was an expert and powerful swimmer, was observed to make the most extraordinary exertions. He swam for more than an hour and twenty minutes encumbered with a particularly heavy kind of nailed boots, and two thick pea coats (which latter he was attempting to take off), and had nearly gained the shore, when he disappeared. The untimely fate of this truly estimable and highly gifted gentleman has cast a gloom over the whole community. By his death the Government have been deprived of one of the ablest and most efficient officers, and society the loss of one of its brightest ornaments. He was public spirited and independent in the highest degree; he had done much for New-Zealand, and from his talent and energy much more was expected: this event is a great calamity to the colonists of this country, as well as to the infant company of which he was so able a director. The native who accompanied them, through the interposition of Divine Providence, alone remains to relate the melancholy event.

AMERICAN DESCRIPTION OF LORD ASHBURTON'S DINNER AT WASHINGTON.

[From the New-York Herald.]

Lord Ashburton's first official dinner came off April 23, at 6 p. m. This functionary is a very plain, gentlemanly looking man, with a face somewhat careworn, and a complexion which belongs to those who have lived long and well. His suite are fine young men, generally bald, but with intellectual heads, though not very remarkable countenances. The Private Secretary of his Lordship is said to be the cleverest of the Legation. In manners, they are all self-possessed, somewhat stiff in the movements of their bodies, and few or no gestures escape them while speaking. How different from the others of the foreign Ministers here! Why, a lively Frenchman will gesticulate more in one minute with the phalanges of his dexter hand, than Mr. Midmay could in the whole course of his natural life.

The dinner was served up soon after the hour of dining arrived. Late hours are, of course, in fashion everywhere among the diplomatic givers and caterers of dinners, and this one was to take place at six. The table was of the longitudinal character, and there were present about sixteen guests.—Among them were the Foreign Ministers generally the heads of departments, and some of our leading men in Congress. There was no ceremony in entering the dining-room. The guests "stood not upon the order of their going, but went at once." Lord Ashburton took the centre of the table. On his right was John Quincy Adams, on his left John C. Calhoun, opposite him sat General Scott.

Mr. Fox was not present! It has been rumoured that Mr. Fox feels a little sore at this mission extraordinary. He perhaps supposes the business might have been better intrusted to him. But while we think very well of Mr. Fox's abilities, we imagine that the length of time he has been in public life has somewhat case-hardened him—that he takes no interest in public affairs beyond what his instructions require of him—in short, that he has more head than heart, and that a negotiation controlling the destinies of two great nations, affecting every cottage in remote England and every log-hut beyond our mountains, is no more to Mr. Fox than any other negotiation, and that he would conduct it on the same cold, skilful, and gentlemanly manner which he would a game of *ecarte*, and in no other way.

Lord Ashburton is rather a man of the people—is identified with the prosperity of the commercial classes—would be unhappy, truly unhappy, to see mother and daughter at variance; and he would rather sacrifice the twenty-five townships he owns in the State of Maine, but to which he has scarcely given a thought for many years, and of which now for the first time, he learns the real value, than involve us in a war, the scourge of nations and the desolation of mankind.

The table was beautifully laid out, but as all his Lordship's plate has not arrived, there was no plateau in the centre, and no vases elaborate in art, and perfuming the saloon with the choicest cullings of the conservatory. But it was still very elegant, and displayed the skill of an accomplished major-domo. There are twenty-one servants in the house, and the reader may well imagine what a god-send a score of beef-eaters must be to the cattle graziers in this city. Indeed, the out go of his Lordship's establishment will be so large, and the profit so immense to the retailers here, that we should not be surprised if they proposed, in the course of a few months, to purchase the claim of England to the disputed territory, and present it, as a mark of their gratitude, to the people of Maine, for being so much the cause of the present mission.

As his Lordship has three cooks of the utmost talent, artists whom Ude himself would have not blushed to take by the hand, the dinner was not only superb but magnificent. The meats were all nicely carved, and handed round as is now the fashion; and the game, of which there was a great variety, was all cut up and divided by the cooks before it was served up; then reinstated in form and figure, ready to drop apart at the touch of the first fork. Course after course succeeded, delicious to the palate and agreeable to the eye: the wines were rich and soft, and high flavoured, having the body and strength which belong to the English cellar.

Champagne was passed freely round, but no other wines of France, and none from the Rhineland, met our eyes. If diplomacy expresses its feelings at the dinner-table by its preferences for meats and drinks, then we say to Germany and France, England likes not the Zoll Verein, nor the barring duties of the commercial treaty for the right of search. No! no! hard cider and Monongahela, which stoutly represents the apples and the cornstalks of Brother Jonathan, shall find favour on the festive board of John Bull when Chateau margeaux and Vin de Grave shall be forgotten.

This conversation it would be improper to divulge. We do not believe it right, though it may be fashionable, to retail conversations and steal correpondences. We will only say, that the remarks were all of a friendly spirit, now and then approaching the confines of rigid propriety, when they related to the quality of our steam-ships and the differences of our discipline.

The dessert, among other things, exhibited a large number of the choicest fruits of England, beautifully preserved, fair to the eye, and delightful to the taste. They were much admired by the guests, and produced a round of encomiums on the garden from which they were brought.

In due time coffee succeeded, and then the guests departed, much pleased with this first of a series of entertainments with which the new Envoy commences his mission. For some years "the meteor flag" of England has not floated very gaily in Washington. Mr. Fox is a man of retired habits, somewhat peculiar, and does not care for popularity "with the natives." A new system of operation is commenced. The boundary line is to be adjusted on the dinner table to streams of sherry, the right of visitation is to be exercised in diplomatic hospitalities, and the loss of the Creole is to be made up in black and white.

In taking leave we did not forget that the fourteen servants in livery—blue coats, black velvet shorts, and striped waistcoats—had done their best to fill our plates with the dainties of his Lordship's table.

Communications.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.]

SIR,—I beg leave to trouble you with a few observations on Astronomy, relative to the magnitude of the Sun. In the summer of 1841, I had a small volume of Quetelets's Astronomy, which gave me an idea of a surprising mistake in Astronomer's calculations as to the size of the Sun. However I read it over and over, until the volume alluded to was burned the same year. I purchased another of the same kind—I read it repeatedly on the same subject, and at last I came to the resolution in this spring of 1842 to try my skill in finding out the exact magnitude of that luminous body, after mentioning to several of my acquaintance my ideas, which are as follow: On the morning of the 24th May, 1842, I was up at four o'clock, and went out to a proper place with my watch in my hand, waiting the first peep of the sun; and from the time I saw the first edge of light, till the whole of that great luminary was fully in view, was only four minutes. I then took 24 hours, and multiplied this number by 60 minutes—giving 1440; I divided this number by 4 minutes, and find 360, just the exact number of degrees in the Earth; so taking the circumference of the Earth, 24840 miles, and dividing by 69, (being the miles of a degree,) I find 360 for my quotient, being the degrees of the earth, so that the diameter of the sun is just 69 miles, being one degree, instead of 1,330,000, that has been represented to us larger than the Earth.

Now, to make the subject still more plain: suppose the earth and sun to be of equal size, we would always have light. But were the sun of such an enormous size as the astronomers represent it to be, the Earth would be less in the light thereof than a needle point in the light of a candle.

Quetelet's Astronomy is also wrong in his representation of the antipodes not having their feet directly opposite to us. Now supposing this small figure* to be a wheel, and the two extreme points to be a pole right through, and the two ends to be two men, and the wheel to turn round as the earth does the antipodes and us—our feet and theirs will undoubtedly be opposite to each other; and so is every other creature of God, in a like position, animate and inanimate, the one up and the other down alternately, as this earth revolves day and night.

The natural attraction of the earth and the pressure of air keep all bodies in their places, as the centre of gravity keeps the earth in its proper place suspended without prop or stay.

EZEKIEL C. WILSON, Teacher.
Parish Upham, King's County.

* [We have no figures such as the author's ideas are illustrated with, in his communication, and are consequently obliged to omit them.]

NOTICE.

The subscribers have removed their place of business from Water street, to the new Fire Proof Store lately erected by them at York Point, foot of Union street, on the property belonging to R. W. Crookshank, Esq., where they offer for sale on their usual liberal terms:

10 HHDS. BROWN SUGAR; 50 Cases GIN; 20 boxes fresh Chocolate;
75 Boxes Tobacco PIPES;
75 Do. Window GLASS—*assorted sizes*;
25 Kegs Green and Black PAINT;
60 Boxes Mould Candles; 8 bags Saltpetre;
5 Bags Ginger; 1 box Cloves;
5 Boxes Brown Sugar;
150 Bolts CANVAS, Nos. 1 to 7;
50 Boxes Liverpool SOAP, 56 and 112 lbs. ea;
1 Cask Sherry, } Wine;
4 do. old par Madeira }
20M Cigars; 80 bundles Hooks and Sickles;
30 bundles Scythes;
5 Pipes Fico Madeira WINE;
10 Kegs Tobacco, 5 cases CHAMPAIGNE;
10 Do. Coal Tar; 20 do. Stockholm do.;
50 Do. Corn Meal; 50 do. Rye Flour;
13 Boxes Cordyss—*large*;
16 Tierces do. in casks, 6 and 4;
21 Hhds. and Tierces Scale, 8 and 6;
13 Do. Country BEEF;
25 Do. No. 1, American do., 20 do. Mess do. do.
55 Do. Prime do. do., 25 do. Mess do. PORK;
210 Do. Canada Prime Pork;
10 Do. do. Beef; 20 do. Cargo do.,
With a variety of **Dry Goods**,—consisting of—Mousline de Lane, Stripes, Regattas, Scotch Homespuns, &c. &c.

—ALSO IN BOND—
15 Puncheons New Orleans RUM,
2 bales Picked and Cordova WOOL,
1 pipe, and 4 hogsheads PORT WINE,
4 pipes, 1 hogshead, 9 quarter-casks, SHERRY,
1 pipe, 5 quarter-casks MADEIRA,
2 quarter-casks Marseilles.

May 6. SANCTON & CROOKSHANK.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JULY 1, 1842.

Not a syllable has yet transpired concerning Lord Ashburton's mission to the United States. The Herald says that the last *report* on the Boundary subject was, that Lord Ashburton had offered *two millions* of dollars for the whole territory in dispute, and that the Americans required three millions.—Other reports speak of the United States giving England the navigation of the Mississippi in lieu of the same privilege to be granted them in the waters of the St. Lawrence and the St. John.—The negociation has thus far been conducted so quietly, that not a word has escaped whereon to form an opinion as to how it will be ultimately settled, if done at all, which seems to us to very problematical, although we should prefer the pleasure of next week informing our readers to the contrary. The American press appears to be as much in the dark on this matter as ourselves.

Three companies of the 66th Regiment left this City yesterday at 2 o'clock, in the steamer Nova Scotia, for Windsor, on their way to Halifax. The remainder will follow in a few days.

The war steamer Rhadamanthus left Halifax, on her return to England, on the 20th ult.

MECHANICS' FAIR, &c.—The Committee of Members of the Mechanics' Institute have decided upon Wednesday the 17th August, as the time at which the Bazaar and Exhibition will be opened to the Public. It will therefore be desirable that all articles intended for sale or exhibition should be lodged in the Institute during the preceding week, in order to give sufficient time for their proper arrangement. It would also contribute to lessen the duties of the committee, if persons intending to offer articles for sale or exhibition, would acquaint the committee at an early period, that some estimate may be formed of the probable quantity of room that will be required to contain the different varieties. We trust our mechanics will set their wits in operation, and each one shew some specimen of his handiwork. The ladies, we are sure, do not intend to be backward on the occasion.

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Protestant Conservative Association, took place on Wednesday evening at the Room of Mr. Nethery, in Church street, when the proceedings of the Society for the ensuing season were arranged and decided on. A General meeting will soon be summoned, of which the members will receive due notice through the public prints.

The Children of the Episcopal Sunday School were examined at the National School Rooms, on Saturday last. There were present 625 Children, and about 50 Teachers, together with a number of the parents and other spectators. The examination lasted from ten o'clock in the morning till 3 in the afternoon, when the children, as customary, partook of a moderate repast of fruit and cakes, provided for them by the kindness of their Teachers. The scene was a truly interesting one; and we doubt not, from the readiness with which the children answered, in the various portions of Scripture they were examined in, and from the pleasing manner in which they repeated their numerous proofs upon typical, doctrinal, and moral subjects, that all who witnessed it, must have been deeply impressed with the utility of such Institutions. On Sunday evening, the children were all assembled at Trinity Church, and sung very sweetly the several hymns selected for the occasion. Though the weather was unfavorable, a very large congregation was present. An appropriate sermon was preached, and a collection made in aid of the funds of the Institution.—*Observer.*

The collection on the above occasion amounted to £16 0s. 1½d.

The Rev. ROBERT WILSON, A. M. late Pastor of Saint Andrews Church in this city, went passenger in the barque *Sophia*, which sailed on Thursday last for the Clyde. Previous to his departure, he was presented with an affectionate Address from his congregation, very numerously and respectably signed, to which he made a very feeling reply.—*Ib.*

Extract of a letter dated London, 2d June, 1842, published in the Picton Observer:

"A rumour is prevalent here, and I have every reason to believe founded on good authority, that Sir Hercules Packenham, at present the General commanding at Portsmouth, and a brother-in law of the Duke of Wellington, which adds to its probability, is the officer named to succeed immediately to the Administration of the Government of Nova Scotia. Sir Hercules came up to London a few days ago, and I have every reasonable hope for looking forward to his speedy nomination to your misgoverned Province."

RHODE ISLAND.—The Rhode Island War has again broke out. The following items are copied from the *Providence Journal* of June 25.

The General Assembly.—The General Assembly adjourned yesterday to meet in this city, to-day, at ten o'clock, A. M. The present alarming state of affairs forbade the rising of the Legislature, and it was desirable that it should be as near as possible to the scene of threatened danger.

Military Preparations.—The Militia of the First, Third, and Fourth Brigades, have been ordered to report themselves at head quarters immediately.—The Newport Artillery, arrived here last evening, in the steamboat Providence. They mustered three hundred and fifty men, with seven pieces. All the men except those who work the pieces, are provided with muskets, and many of them, we noticed are armed with pistols also.

The Providence returned immediately to Newport, to bring up additional men. Several companies arrived here in the course of the night, manifested a promptness beyond all praise.

One company of sixty men arrived from Warwick, about twelve miles distant, before sunset.

Martial Law.—The General Assembly has authorized the Governor to declare martial law throughout the State, whenever, in his opinion, it shall become necessary.

The signal gun of the insurgents were fired at Holmes' Brewery last evening, and a number of men assembled there and at Baker's Hollow. The Cadets and Light Infantry were ordered to the spot as soon as the information was received, but all was quiet when they arrived. It is supposed that 100 to 130 men left for Chepachet; and it is possible that other bodies may have gone the same direction.

An attempt was made last night to steal scrap iron (such as the insurgents loaded their guns with, on the 18th) from the High street Fur