THE

Weekly Chronicle

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Weekly Almanack.

MAY.	H.	SUN. S.	SOON H.	W.
21 Saturday,	4	46	7 14	3 30
22 Sunday,	4	45	7 15	2 59
23 Monday,	4	44	7 16	3 31
24 Tuesday,	4	44	7 16	Rises.
25 Wednesday,	4	43	7 17	9 9
26 Thursday,	4	42	7 18	10 0
27 Friday,	4	41	7 19	10 24

9 20
10 10
10 54
11 27
Morn
0 18
0 59

Full Moon, 22d. 4h. 43m. morn.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.—Thos. Leavitt, Esq., President.—Discount days, Tuesday and Friday. Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 1 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount days. Director next week: L. H. DeVeber.

COMMERCIAL BANK.—John Duncan, Esq., President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes of Discount must be lodged before 1 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: Wm. Hammond.

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NEW-BRUNSWICK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—John Boyd, Esquire, President.—Office open every day, (Sundays excepted) from 11 to 1 o'clock.—[All communications by mail, must be post paid.]

SAVING'S BANK.—Hon. Ward Chipman, President.—Office hours, from 1 to 3 o'clock on Tuesday's. Cashier and Register, D. Jordan.

MARINE INSURANCE.—I. L. Bedell, Broker. The committee of Underwriters meet every morning at 10 o'clock. (Sundays excepted.)

MARINE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—James Kirk, Esq., President.—Office open every day (Sunday's excepted) from 10 to 3 o'clock. ☞ All applications for Insurance to be made in writing.

Miscellany.

[*From the London Saturday Journal 1840.*]

MACHINERY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

NO I.

[*Continued.*]

Management of "Ministerial" Newspapers.

I have stated that the second secretary of the Treasury attends, amongst his other duties, also to the "Press." The reader will, however, be surprised to learn that this most potent weapon for wielding the force of public opinion—that this all-powerful instrument—enters but very slightly into the "machinery" of the present government. The *Morning Chronicle* is undoubtedly what is called a "ministerial paper;" but it is in no respect dependent upon ministerial patronage. It often, especially of late, complains of the mode in which the government is conducted, and remonstrates against particular measures emanating from the cabinet with great vehemence. Its connexion with the government is in fact chiefly apparent in the columns devoted to foreign affairs, which may be understood to be almost uniformly inspired by the authorities of the Foreign office; but between that journal and the other offices of government there is little of regular intercourse, the Castle of Dublin alone excepted.

The *Courier*, before its late metamorphosis, received intelligence occasionally from the Treasury. The *Globe* is on all hands understood to be the only journal really dependent on government; a considerable share in its property is said to belong to an eminent public officer, who, if report be correct, also writes its leading articles frequently, or has them written under his superintendence. The *Observer* also receives articles of intelligence from the foreign and home departments, as well as from the Treasury, and the *Examiner* is *well* known for its advocacy of the existing cabinet. The *Sun* and the *Morning Advertiser* support the government, although they have rarely any original official intelligence. The *Weekly Chronicle* is known to be the property of Mr. Ward, one of the members for Sheffield, who aspires to a place in the cabinet. He is the writer of its principal articles, and is undoubtedly a man of distinguished ability.

But amongst all these journals, there is not one, except the *Examiner* and the *Globe*, which may be looked upon as *strictly* ministerial, so that it will be seen that the "Press" forms only a very small portion of the actual machinery of the existing government.

It appears to me that the government, no matter what its politics may be, ought to possess, as an integral part of its "machinery," an avowed official journal, authorised to communicate to the world from time to time the views of the cabinet. People in high station and in power may despise the "Press," and flatter themselves that its misrepresentations are often so gross as to deprive it of all influence; but they never recollect that what they know to be misrepresentations are not known by the great mass of newspaper readers to be at all erroneous; and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the truth comes out too tardily and too partially to eradicate the wrong impressions already made upon the public mind. A regular official paper, conducted with skill and moderation, adhering as nearly as possible to historical dignity and impartiality, well-informed from official sources, and looking solely to the welfare of the empire, is unquestionably a great desideratum in the "machinery" of our government.

It need scarcely be added that the Exchequer, in its original form, is a very ancient Court of Record, set up by William the Conqueror as a part of the *aula regis*, or royal hall of audience; it was intended principally to receive and keep account of the revenues of the crown, and to recover the king's debts and duties. It is called the "Exchequer" from the chequered cloth, resembling a chess-board, which covers the table of the court so designated at Westminster. And there are certain ancient functions of the court in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes a part; on these occasions he wears a judicial robe of state, not unlike those of the Lord High Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor. It is his duty to attend to all the finances of the country; the accounts of income and expenditure are kept at the Treasury, and there all payments are made under warrants from the crown, by the Treasury solicitors.

So well contrived are all the checks now upon receipts and disbursements, that it is extremely difficult for any public officer to be guilty of any serious defalcation. Indeed, the general character of the gentlemen who have anything to do with money in the Treasury department places them beyond all suspicion. It is much to be regretted that the sweeping hand of what was called "economy," some years ago diminished to much too great an extent the number of persons employed in that office. It is a most painful operation to any of her Majesty's subjects who have business to transact with that department. The applicant must state his case either by letter or memorial; it first goes before the assistant-secretary, who, being already overwhelmed with the amount of his occupations, is obliged to let the memorial *sleep* for a time upon his table. A "reminder" must then go in; that also undergoes a species of lethargy; and the memorialist may think himself well off if he receives an answer within six months, and a settlement of his claim, or whatever else it may be, within eighteen months or two years. That is surely a most detrimental economy which thus delays the course of justice, and indeed in many cases defeats it.

For instance, it often occurs that overcharges are made in export or import duties at the Custom-house, or questions arise out of the navigation laws as to the amount of duties on articles imported from particular countries. These questions must go before the law authorities at the Treasury for solution. These authorities are always immersed in pressing business, and the new application must wait for its turn. It is at length examined, and submitted to the law officers of the crown,—the Queen's Advocates, the Attorney and Solicitor General being usually meant by that designation. In the hands of those learned gentlemen, who have usually quite enough to do with the affairs of their clients in the courts to which they respectively belong, the matter meets with still further delay; and eventually this most tedious process becomes so vexatious to the parties interested, that they abandon it altogether, finding it much less expensive to submit to the original injury than to waste their time in going on with the transaction. I have more than once seen a letter from the Treasury beginning in this way:—

"Treasury, 14th December, 18—

"SIR,—In answer to your memorial of the 3d January last," &c. &c.

Now I impute no blame to any of the Treasury officers for such delays as these. Those upon whom the business devolves are really overworked; the department is not sufficiently supplied with hands to encounter the vast and growing amount of the business of the empire.

In the catalogue of state offices, next after that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (for the machinery of the Lord High Chancellor's offices is altogether beyond the scope of my subject) comes the Presidency of the Council. In France the "President of the Council" means the Prime Minister; but with us the office gives no rank in the cabinet, and indeed no particular line of occupation. There are, however, many matters to which the other members cannot conveniently attend, and which are, therefore, by arrangement, placed under his care,—such as the application of grants for public education, the regulation of public schools, the encouragement of the fine arts, and the management in the House of Lords of most of the bills which are introduced or sanctioned by government. The Lord President is, moreover, generally expected to take an active share in all debates of an important character.

NO. II.

The Privy Council.

The Privy Council, as a department of state, is a most ancient and important institution, and enters essentially into the machinery of government. It is emphatically called "The Council;" the "noble, honourable, and reverend assembly" of the king, and such as he wills to summon together to be his advisers. Its numbers have varied from time to time,—sometimes they were limited by special enactment; at present they are, and have been since the Revolution, indefinite. No inconvenience arises in this respect, inasmuch as those only attend who are specially summoned. Upon extraordinary occasions, such as the accession of a new sovereign, all the members are summoned,—and all, of whatever political party they may be, obey the mandate, unless they are prevented by indisposition or by absence from the country. Usually those only are summoned who coincide with Ministers in their general policy.

No person can be a member of the Privy Council, who has been born out of the dominions of the crown, unless born of English parents. No act even of naturalization can qualify a foreigner to sit in this assembly, a fact which it is interesting to know at this moment, looking to the recent event of her Majesty's marriage. The oath of a privy councillor still remains much of the old English, baronial, magna-charta sort of expression of loyalty to the sovereign; it consists of seven articles,—to advise the king to the best of his cunning and discretion—to advise for the king's honour and good of the public without partiality through affection, love, need, (i. e. hope of reward,) doubt or dread—to keep the king's counsel secret—to avoid corruption—to help and strengthen the execution of what shall be there resolved—to withstand all persons who would attempt the contrary—and in general to observe, keep, and do all that a good and true councillor ought to do to his sovereign lord.

There are many acts, such as the issuing and signing of proclamations, ordering new coinage, new seals of office, the granting of charters to colonies or corporations, which must be performed by the sovereign "in council." As a court of justice it exercises authority, both original and in appeal, with reference to cases from the colonies, as well as from the ecclesiastical and other tribunals at home. There has been established for some years a judicial committee of this assembly, consisting exclusively of law lords, before which all such cases are argued and decided. But they are supposed to be argued in the presence of the sovereign, and are formally referred to the crown before judgment is considered final. This is a great improvement upon the former system, which allowed cases to be decided by a single judge and any lay members who chose to attend—a mode of administering justice which was attended with the most injurious consequences, inasmuch as the principles upon which judgments were founded varied with almost every new judge, precedents having been then altogether passed over, as having, and indeed often deserving of, no authority. The change has been highly beneficial to the country, and especially to our foreign dependencies. By recent regulations the Privy Council has cognisance of all matters relating to patent rights, thus securing to genius the fair reward of its noble occupation in inventing new machinery for the use of mankind.

The keeper of the privy seal is generally a member of the cabinet. The duties of the office are very limited. The seal is the privy signet of the sovereign, as distinguished from the great seal which is in the custody of the lord high chancellor, or of a keeper, or, at occasional intervals, when the office of chancellor is vacant, of a commission especially appointed for that purpose. There are several species of warrants which must, according to law or prescription, be signed (the royal signature is always at the top of the document) by the sovereign, and sealed with his privy signet. Some warrants so signed and sealed pass at once under the great seal, as a matter of course; in other cases a document having been previously signed by the king, is sent to the keeper of the privy seal, who makes out a writ or warrant thereupon to the chancery, where the great seal is affixed to it. The difference between the two modes of proceeding only causes a difference in the title of the warrant, the warrant or patent in the former case being said to be "By the king himself," in the latter "By writ of privy seal." It must be confessed that this is one of our old state "mysteries," the retention of which may not seem in the eyes of unlearned persons absolutely essential to our national safety in these reforming days. The office is in fact a sinecure, but one which perhaps it has been found convenient to continue, as it frequently furnishes a seat in the cabinet for an individual who, though unequal to the duties of an office requiring much active exertion, may be possessed of experience or character capable of giving weight to a government. It is also often given to young statesmen of distinguished talent, who are introduced into the ministry with a view to prepare them for higher appointments.

The duties of the commissioner of land revenue are principally to manage the income arising out of the crown lands. This income has been for many years dedicated to the construction of public works, and in lieu of it, a settled annuity, called the civil list, has been granted by parliament to the reigning sovereign for life. This grant of course expires with the demise of the crown, and is subject to revision upon the accession of the successor. The expenditure of the land revenue is under the control of the board of public works, to whose enterprise we are indebted for many great improvements in the metropolis. It must be admitted that several of the buildings executed under their superintendence are by no means distinguished for refinement of architectural taste. Buckingham Palace, the National Gallery, and the new offices at Whitehall, are certainly not calculated to raise our character for the arts very high in the estimation of foreigners. A better order of things is however arising amongst us. The new houses of parliament, designed in a great measure by Barry, promise to be a truly splendid pile. His Reform Club House in Pall Mall is certainly the most beautiful edifice in the metropolis.

It would be superfluous to make many remarks upon the functions of the admiralty, or of the home, foreign, and colonial departments. The duties assigned to each of those branches of the government are too well known to require explanation in this journal. A few miscellaneous observations, however, may not be uninteresting, especially as to the foreign department. The chief of this office has under him two secretaries, one of whom is considered a permanent officer; the other is his personal confidential friend, and of course goes out of office with him whenever he resigns. The business of this department, which extends to all parts of the world where governments are established and in communication with England, is divided as nearly as possible between the two under-secretaries, who have again under them a number of clerks and writers to assist them in carrying on the voluminous correspondence of the establishment.

Every letter or memorial which reaches the office upon ordinary affairs is opened by either of the under-secretaries, and submitted to the principal secretary, who writes upon the back in pencil in a few words his answer. It is the business of the under-secretary, or of any clerk to whom he may confide the task, to make out a draught of a more extended reply in an official form, which being approved and signed by the under-secretary, is forwarded to the applicant. But generally speaking, all despatches from the British ministers abroad, especially when questions of importance are in agitation, are opened only by the principal secretary. If the matter to which they refer requires, from its pressing nature, to be immediately communicated to his colleagues, he summons a cabinet for that purpose, and reads to them the whole or such portions of the papers as he may deem most essential, and advises with them upon the answer he is to send.

But more generally when the matter is not urgent, after reading the despatches, he gives them to one of the under-secretaries, who has them copied; the copies are transmitted to the members of the cabinet at their residences, in small boxes covered with red morocco, locked by a key of which each member has a duplicate. To the sovereign also similar copies are sent in the same way. If variation in the leading points of policy be involved in the answer to be given, discussions ensue; if not, the details are generally left to the entire discretion of the minister responsible for them. In some cases the minister has commissioned his under secretary, especially if the latter be a person of distinguished talent, to frame an answer for him: but usually he himself writes his despatches, whether they be answers or instructions to the ministers abroad. The amount of labour which this work requires, especially during war, or in times like the present, when war is imminent at many points, and if possible to be avoided at them all, may be easily imagined. The ambassador abroad is obliged to conform most strictly to the instructions which he receives from home. So much is this the case that he seldom addresses a note of any consequence to any foreign minister with whom he is in communication, which has not been dictated by the secretary of state. The great merit of an envoy to a foreign court, is to adhere most scrupulously to every phrase that is set down for him, to report with accuracy whatever is said orally to him by the minister at the court where he is stationed, to watch its proceedings with a most vigilant eye, to observe and note the characters of all the persons of whom it is composed, and at the same time to preserve a dignity and mildness in his conduct that shall conciliate the good opinion of all parties. It becomes his duty also occasionally to suggest for the consideration of his government points of policy, and it is in the expediency and foresight of his course that the talent of a sound diplomatist may be rendered most advantageous to the country which he represents.

To be concluded next week.

GETTING A TORREY.—A rusty looking wag went into a grocery store the other day, and in walking by the counter, accidentally knocked off a coffee pot on to the floor.—The clerk who sat lazily in a chair by the stove, to display a little of his orthography, said to him, "just have the goodness to pick up that c-o-ff-e-e coffee p-o-t, pot." "I dont see any tea pot here," says the wag, "this is a coffee pot."

"I didn't say tea-pot. I spelled and pronounced coffee pot," said, the clerk.

"If you did spell coffee-pot you pronounced tea-pot you blunderhead, and I do not believe you can do it again without blundering out tea-pot." At this insinuation upon his capabilities, the clerk began to feel a "little might touchea" and blustered up, and says," what will you bet, come?

"I will bet anything you dare put up, that you cannot spell and pronounce coffee pot without saying tea-pot."

"Can you do it?" said the clerk beginning to mistrust there was some catch about it.

"Yes, I can spell coffee pot without saying tea-pot, so can any body that has common sense; but you said tea-pot before, and I will bet one of those turkies (pointing to a pile that lay on the floor) that you'll not do it next time."

"Done said the clerk. At this moment the old man came in and hearing the confab, inquired, what was to pay now?

"Why," says the clerk, "this great dunce here says I cannot spell and pronounce coffee pot without saying tea-pot, and he has bet the price of one of those turkies that I cannot, and I have stood him. Now I want you to witness it."

The old man's scowl now began to disappear, and he became quite interested in the affair, "What do you mean Mr. ———," says he, "do you mean to say he is such a blunderhead as that?"

"I mean just what I say, and I will bet another turkey with you that he cannot do it if you dare?"

"Done," said the man, and two of the largest turkies were selected and the price agreed upon—which the merchant set very high.

"Now," said he, "let us hear it performed—be cautious."

The clerk began—"c-o-ff-e-e coffee, p-o-t pot, coffee-pot."

"There," says the merchant, "the price of the turkies is ours."

"Not so fast," says the wag, "if you ever noticed it, he said tea-pot then,"

"You heard strange things, I heard nothing of tea-pot."

"Well now hear me spell it and I will convince you—t-e-a-f-l-e-e coffee p-o-t pot, you understand it is p-o-T pot."

"I see, I see," said they, "the turkies are yours, he did say T pot."

The wag much elated, shouldered his acquisitions and trudged.

STATUE OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

The equestrian statue about to be erected at the western entrance of the metropolis, in commemoration of the military services and victories of the Duke of Wellington, and with the execution of which Mr. Matthew C. Wyatt was intrusted by the committee of management, is in a great state of forwardness. The model, or cast, in plaster from which the bronze is to be moulded, is finished, and is now to be seen at the studio of the artist at Dudley-grove, Paddington. It is a colossal group representing the Duke on horseback. The horse is understood to be as nearly a portrait of his Grace's celebrated charger Copenhagen as could be modelled from recollection and from pictures. The horse has been dead some years, and lies buried in the park at Strathfieldsaye. This was the horse which bore the Duke on the glorious 18th of June, 1815, on the plains of waterloo. Mr. Wyatt has represented the horse standing; all four feet touch the ground. He is not in motion, but he is nevertheless full of animation and vigour, and breathes the spirit of the war horse in every limb; the veins and muscles are finally displayed and full of life; the head is a masterpiece of expression, the eyes, ears, and nostrils are all instinct with the ardour of the combat. The whole is anatomically correct, and the proportions rigidly preserved. The head of the statue of the Duke is a good likeness of the original; the character of the face has been caught; and though the features are necessarily colossal, no part of them has been exaggerated in amplification so as to distort or disturb the accuracy of resemblance.—The Duke is dressed in the costume in which he was clothed in Waterloo; the characteristic short military cloak forms what may be called the drapery, and while it assists the effect, preserves the identity.—Mr. Wyatt, in having succeeded in this task, has done what has never been attempted before, and he merits the praise of originality in his treatment of this equestrian group. The difficulty of producing effect in such a group without putting the horse in motion must have been one almost insurmountable, and that it has been surmounted is sufficient to establish the reputation of the sculptor. The details of the whole are elaborated with extraordinary carefulness; yet the breadth is not frittered by the minutiæ; the components all add to the general effect, and secure a fine result. Some idea may be formed of the height and dimensions of the whole, when it is said that a man on horseback has ridden between the legs and under the body of the horse without touching it even with his hat.

GOOD NIGHT.—BY J. H. R. BAYLEY.

"Tis sweet to mark at close of day,
When tired of youthful work and play,
Some guardian eye and feeling breast,
Go with us to our place of rest:
To hear some gentle voice impart
A word of comfort to the heart:
And as recede's the taper's light
In fondness breathe—"Good night, good night!"

When stars are shining bright above,
And we are linked with forms we love,
'Tis sweet to feel some soothing power
Come o'er us in the "parting hour."
To find as lip to lip we press,
The sting of separation less,
As by the full moon's paling light,
We warmly breathe—"Good night, good night!"

But, oh! when sickness bows the head,
And reigns in health and pleasure's stead;
And feeble pulse and broken frame
In place of vigour say the same:
'Tis hard to quit loved beings then,
We never more may meet again!
And fancy by their glazing sight,
We hear them breath their last—"Good night."

FIDELITY OF A DOG.—A fortnight ago we announced the melancholy and fatal death by drowning, of a passenger on board the *Helen Macgregor* steamboat, while lying at Oban, on her passage from Glasgow. No one on board knew him, nor did any of the villagers: but his funeral rites were performed by a Christian people, and the cause of his misfortune aroused their sympathies. They spread the mort cloth over the bier; but the tassels hung loosely—unclaimed and told he was far from his kindsmen. No fond relative was there to mourn the loss of a friend—no aged parent to regret his untimely fate—no orphan boy to weep for the loss of a father; he went not to the grave unmourned: in addition to the general sympathy, he was followed by an unforgiving mourner—the companion of his toils—his faithful shepherd dog, who though unaccountably absent at the fatal moment, had given evident signs of extreme attachment to his master. He howled piteously as they bore him away, and on lowering him into the grave, he could scarcely be restrained from being buried along with him. As the funeral party moved slowly away, the faithful animal remained alone—the mournful image of fidelity and attachment. Nor has the cold blasts of gloomy December forced him from his post; there he still remains; and his fidelity has enlisted the commiseration of the villagers, who give him the necessary food; and though the common green mound alone marks the grave of the deceased, this faithful animal has supplied him with mourners, and a monumental effigy more interesting than the most grave or pompous eulogium.—*Inverness Cour.*

(*From the Toronto Patriot, 21st April.*

Yesterday fixed for the arrival of Sir CHARLES BAGOT, was as bright and beautiful a day as ever shone from the changeful skies of a Canadian April. From an early hour in the morning the citizens were to be seen in every direction making preparations in honour of their distinguished visitor and for the credit of their fair city. On the wharf at which his Excellency was to land at the foot of Yonge Street, a noble Arch was erected, decorated with evergreens and crowned with flag and streamer. Another of the same kind was placed opposite the residence of the Mayor. King Street is rapidly assuming a regular and handsome appearance, second to few towns on the Continent, but on this occasion it presented a spectacle equally animated and picturesque. Almost the whole street from the City Hall to the Bay Street was hung with flags, and bright colors; immense lines of tartan, bunting, and many dyed woolen and silken materials were stretched from side to side in an endless succession of glittering festoons.

About half past eleven or a little later the bells rung out a merry peal, conveying to the citizens the tidings that the steamer was coming. Then came the gathering. An enormous and never ending procession was formed at the City Hall, consisting of Fire Companies in full costume; then the different Societies of St. Andrew, St. Patrick, and St. George, each mustering in great force, and preceded by their banners. A considerable body of Indians marched in procession bearing a flag. The colored people appeared in very creditable numbers, with several loyal and patriotic flags.

Mr. Gurnett was the marshal of the day, and had an arduous task indeed to perform, the procession marched up King Street to the wharf, and on defiling into the Front Street, our beautiful bay presented an animated appearance. The *Traveller* was just dashing up to the wharf—the *City of Toronto* steaming along some distance behind; many boats were out, with pennons glancing in the sunlight. From the City Hall to the wharf, and from that to Government House, the Streets were lined with the gallant 93d and 43d Regiments, the former in full Highland costume.

A Guard of honor was on the wharf, and received his Excellency with presented arms. As he proceeded up towards the banks, followed by his Staff, he was greeted with many hearty British cheers.—A handsome carriage and four with an escort of Incorporated Dragoons received him there, and after three cheers proposed by the Mayor, and enthusiastically responded to by the assembled thousands, the procession got again into motion. An immense number of carriages containing the Lord Bishop, the Chief Justice, the Judges, Mayor and Corporation, Sheriff and Gentry of the City and neighbourhood, with a cloud of horsemen and an army of foot passengers crowded the way.

We really never saw such a reception given to any public officer, either in this or any other country. Toronto has surpassed herself, and showed a noble example of her anxiety to do honor to Her Sovereign's Representative, and welcome in a manner, worthy alike of the giver and the receiver, so distinguished a stranger as Sir Charles Bagot.

The procession, like a gigantic serpent, wound its glittering way heralded by banner and trumpet along the Bay-shore, turned up by the City Hall, and marched up King Street to Government House. His Excellency came out on the platform and received the Address of the citizens, which was read by his worship the Mayor—to which His Excellency responded in eloquent and appropriate terms.

After some more cheering the throng dispersed—the Societies returned home preceded by the Band of the 93d and the Pipers—and so terminated the most striking spectacle of the kind ever witnessed in British North America.

The Ball to-night promises to be the most brilliant affair ever witnessed in the City.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM ON THE INCOME TAX.

Sir, I do not know that I should have considered it necessary to have addressed the house on the present occasion, if the noble lord the member for London had not, at the close of last night's debate expressed some surprise that I had hitherto been silent upon the subject before the house.—(Hear, hear.) Sir, I was willing—not denying the ability which characterised the speech of the hon. and learned member for Liskeard—to rest the case of her Majesty's government upon the speeches which had already been delivered by my honorable and right hon. colleagues on a former evening—(hear, hear)—and I was, I confess, somewhat unwilling nightly to prolong a discussion which I had reason to believe had a direct tendency, in this preliminary stage of the question, upon which we have been so many night's debating, to inflict injury upon the great public interests it is our object to fortify.—(Cheers.) Sir, unquestionable testimony that the prolongation of these debates has had this effect, has been borne by one hon. member for the city of London (Mr. Masterman.) It has been also borne by my noble friend the member for Liverpool this night—it has not been dissembled by either of the hon. members for Hull, and it has been acknowledged by the hon member for Leeds, who made his first speech—and a speech of great promise—this evening. (cheers.) The hon. and learned member for Liskeard said last night, that there were in the country strong indications of public feeling upon the subject of the measures which her Majesty's government have considered it their duty to bring before Parliament. I think, however, that that point has been more expressly explained to the house by the hon. member for Lambeth. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for Lambeth says that all idea of any opposition of a successful character to the measures of her Majesty's government is now abandoned—(hear, hear)—and he says that the country must now look to the collection of the tax for objections to it—his hopes being now directed to the effects of the operation of its collection—(hear, hear)—and I see before me at this moment a right honourable gentleman (Mr. F. Maule) who wished that all discussion upon the question of an income tax before the Easter recess should be postponed until after that vacation, in order that he might have an opportunity to visit his constituents, and ascertain their opinions upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) Now, sir, that right hon. gentleman has had that happy opportunity afforded him. (Cheers and laughter.) The right hon. gentleman will have ample opportunities afforded him also of stating to the House of Commons what occurred on the occasion of the visit in question. (hear hear.) I don't profess to know the circumstances, but I am told that the right honourable gentleman has visited the Links of Perth, and that, on the occasion of his visit, very distinct opinions upon the subject of the propositions of her Majesty's government were expressed. (Hear, hear.) I did hear, too that it was stated to him that if he ventured to have held a private meeting upon these questions, of which he so much disapproves, he would have found himself in a very great minority—(hear, hear) but that, if he had been so bold as to have called a public meeting of his constituents in the open air—in the Links of Perth—the unfortunate budget of the government of which he had been a member, as contrasted with that of her Majesty's present administration, would have again been attacked, as it was at the general election—(hear, hear)—and that the measures of her Majesty's government would have again received the approbation of a majority. (Cheers.) And now, sir, what has been the acknowledgment of the hon. gentleman the member for Salford? That hon. gentleman has in a spirit of the greatest frankness told us that he partook of the feelings of the right hon. member for Perth as to his anticipations respecting the opposition which the Easter vacation was to produce, that he had paid, during that period, a visit to his constituents, and that the result was that he abandoned all hopes of success of any immediate opposition to the measures of the government—[hear, hear]—for that at Salford and at Manchester there was the most notorious apathy upon the subject—[hear, hear]—that no popular feeling had been exhibited upon it in that great centre of the commercial and manufacturing industry of the kingdom [hear, hear] and that a meeting of the town council was to be held in Stephenson's square to consider those questions, with respect to which I have yet to learn that there will be a majority of persons whose incomes amount to £150 a year [hear, hear] who will be dissatisfied with these propositions. [Loud cheers.] The honorable member for Lambeth, following in the train of the honorable and learned member for Liskeard, has been pleased to-night to make some observations upon what he terms the glaring inconsistency of the arguments which have been made upon this side of the house. [Hear, hear.] One honourable gentleman says that the tariff will be inoperative, and others hold out great expectations as to its effects, and say, also, that you will gain compensation for the burden of an income tax in the reduction it will create in the price of articles of general consumption. This is a question altogether of a degree, after all, and the honorable member for Lambeth has misrepresented my noble friend [Lord Eliot] the Secretary for Ireland, stating that my noble friend declared that all apprehensions as to the tariff altering the scale of the duties on provisions were vain, inasmuch as it would be inoperative in that respect. But my noble friend said nothing whatever of the kind. My noble friend stated that the apprehensions as to the injurious effects of the tariff were groundless, but never that the tariff would be inoperative as to the objects which the government had in view. Sir, I contend that her Majesty's government have endeavoured prudently, wisely, and with a due consideration of the pressure of the time [hear, hear] to take effective measures gradually to reduce the price of corn of meal, and of articles of the first necessity [hear] and I say that the time has arrived when it is indispensable that this should be done. [Cheers.] I say that, independently of the regard due to the great consuming body of the community, it is necessary that these steps should be adopted for the sake of property itself [hear, hear—inasmuch as the increased value of money has necessarily decreased the amount of wages, while the rapid increase of the population has increased in proportion the supply of labour, the rapid improvement in machinery having at the same time decreased the demand for that labor. [Hear, hear.] The effect of all this has naturally been the reduction of wages—(hear, hear)—and I do contend, therefore, that, so far as the legislature can produce such an effect, a simultaneous reduction—a reduction brought about by gradual and progressive means (hear, hear) of those articles of consumption which are of the first necessity, is clearly pointed out. (cheers.) To this the present measures of her Majesty's government are directed (cheers) and, sir, I do entertain the belief that, within moderate limits, the prices of those articles of consumption will be reduced by the measures of the government (hear, hear) and I am persuaded that the working classes of this country understand that such will be their effect [cheers] and that, whatever may be said, either in this house or out of doors to the contrary, that opinion is fixed and rooted—[cheers] and that the proposed tariff is calculated to promote the best interests of the great body of the people. (cheers.) Upon that ground the tariff has received my support (hear, hear) and it is upon that ground that I am ready to agree that this appeal should be made to the country on the merits of the government measures. [cheers.] And now, sir, to return to the inconsistency of the arguments against these measures, some of which have proceeded from this, and others from the opposite side of the house. It has been said by some honorable gentlemen, that the income tax is a war tax. [Hear, hear.] The hon. and learned member opposite [Mr. O'Connell] has used that argument tonight, and the noble lord the member for London has asserted it in these words, "that it has hitherto been considered as the financial reserve of the nation in time of war." But what is the opinion that has been expressed by many other members on the opposite side of the house? And, more particularly what are the opinions that have been delivered by the two honorable members for Coventry—by two gentlemen returned to this house by the votes and voices of the same constituency? One of those honorable gentlemen, (Mr. Ellice.) himself formerly a member of Lord Melbourne's government, disclaims this doctrine of an income tax being only a war tax [hear, hear, and cheers] and says, "Prove to me the necessity which you say exists for such a tax, and I am ready to acknowledge that it is an impost which is equally applicable to a time of peace as to a period of war." (hear, hear.) But, sir, I do not rely on the authority of that right hon. gentleman only; but it certainly does not appear consistent in gentlemen who were members of Lord Grey's government, to say that this is a war tax only, because I see before me a noble lord, the member for Tiverton, [Lord Palmerston,] who was himself a party to a proposition of Lord Althorp with respect to a war tax, and to the principle that, provided it were repealed in time of peace, there was no objection to a tax upon income as well as upon property. But it is impossible that the noble lord [Palmerston] can contend that this is a war tax only. I well remember the active part which that noble lord took in the year 1816, to maintain the war tax in time of peace [hear, hear] even after the treaty of peace was signed, and all I can say is, that I must refer all those who object to this tax in time of peace to the noble lord himself [hear] who enforced its continuance by his speeches, and by his votes [hear, hear] and I am sure that the part he then vindicated with so much earnestness he is now prepared again to maintain and to assert. [Cheers and laughter.] Sir, there is a marvellous difference on the opposite benches on the subject of the timber duties, and the two gentlemen, the members for Coventry, again two gentlemen, as I said before, who are sent here by the same constituency, differ materially upon that question. One of those gentlemen declares that, in his opinion, a more wise proposition could not be made by the government of my right honorable friend with respect to the remission of the duty on Canadian timber, and the proposed large reduction in that upon Baltic timber, while the other honorable gentleman (Mr. M. Williams) says that the measure, as regards timber, is a bad measure,

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