

## Holland.

The speech of his Dutch Majesty, on opening the Annual Session of the States General, on Monday evening last, is, after the ordinary fashion of King's speeches, tedious, gasconading and mysterious. Its tone is, however, decidedly militant; and it speaks of the "revolt in Belgium" in all the loftiness of insulted pride. This is characteristic enough, and so, also, is therodomontade about waflike preparations, means of defence, and further development of force; but the most curious, and, if we may say so, *squinting* portion of the document is this.—"In the mean time it is gratifying to me, that I am enabled to inform you, that I receive from the foreign powers, many proofs of the deep interest they take in our affairs."

Who can be meant by "the foreign powers"? If England be one of them, the "proofs of the deep interest" which she takes in the "affairs," is not the most cheering subject of gratulation, which his Majesty might have found to beguile the "noble and mighty lords," (Lord help us!) their "high mightinesses," the States General, of their money and their fears. If France, which, though neighbouring in proximity is rather foreign in other respects, the allusion is still more unfortunate. And if Russia, Prussia, and Austria only—what a precious piece of royal humbug it is to call them "the foreign powers"—*pare excellence!*

The Dutch are a solid, substantial, money-loving race: They like their pipes, and their dams, and their duns, and a good market for their cheese and butter; and we much question whether they will not prefer keeping the good things they have to risking their security for the amusement of a Quixotic, stubborn and selfish monarch. We repeat our belief, that William of Nassau would not have been guilty of the extravagances by which he has distinguished himself, but for the secret instigation of the three besotted continental despots; and we add, as a rational hope, that, when they discover the hopelessness of his condition, they will desert him "at his utmost need," and leave him to his fate.—Timely concession alone can save him, and it is scarcely possible that his dogged perversity, however it may have been incited or encouraged, can embroil the Continental Powers. If it should, the result is predicable, and despotism totters to its fall.

## Colonial.

## LOWER CANADA.

The legislative Session opened at Quebec on Nov. 15. Lord Aylmer's speech is unusually long,—about three times as long as King's speeches generally are.

On the return of the members to their own Chamber, thirteen members took the oaths and their seats. The certificate of Mr. Christie's election having been laid before the house, an animated discussion took place. Mr. Bourdages moved that the entries on the journals of 1829—'30 and '31 be read; and subsequently, that the R. Christie now returned was the same person who had been heretofore expelled and declared unworthy of sitting.

Mr. B. said that he respected the rights of election but still more the rights of the house, which the electors of Gaspé seemed to forget; and that Mr. C. had given a new insult by being the originator of the absurd project for the dismemberment of the Province, and the annexation of Gaspé to another. Supporters of Mr. Christie said, that the course pursued was a sacrifice of the interests of the country to the indulgence of hatred against an individual, that the experience of the English house of Commons was against the assumption now made; that there was no written law for such proceedings, and that after punishment by expulsion the individual ought to be reinstated in his rights, particularly as a re-election of the House had taken place since the first expulsion. These objections were answered in the usual triumphant manner, by pointing to Mr. Christie's gross offence against the dearest rights of the representative body, and his refusal to acknowledge his guilt and claim remission as an act of grace not right.

A motion of postponement was lost 42 to 14, and Mr. Christie's re-expulsion was carried 38 to 13. Thus Gaspé, through its own obstinacy again loses the advantage of a representative; as a child will have an offensive toy, or none at all, through sheer mulishness.

An occurrence very different from any of our legislative features was explained on the second day of sitting. Mr. Lafontaine remarked that he had been informed that one of the members of the House had been sworn in as Executive Counsellor, and he thought it right to inquire why there should be a person in the House representing the Executive. The Hon. Mr. Mondelet, the person alluded to, replied, that he had accepted the appointment with the view of being the organ of communication between the Executive and the House; that he received no emolument whatever, and disclaimed all idea of being influenced in favour of any thing that it might become his official duty to announce, or being biassed in any way at variance with

his duties as an independent member of Parliament. The hon. member will be "a man in a thousand" if he keeps up to the rule laid down by himself for his conduct. On this subject, Neilson's Gazette remarks:

"The same cause which produced a regular and continued connexion between the parliamentary majorities in England and the Executive, now exist here, and must eventually produce some similar effect. From the moment that the Government in England could no longer command the supplies without a majority in the House of Commons, the Crown found it necessary to dispense with its former advisers and take the advice of parliamentary majorities. These advisers become responsible to Parliament for the acts of the Government; they were forced to conduct it conformably to the views of the parliamentary majorities, and were maintained in their situations by the Crown, so long as they maintained themselves in Parliament and no longer. But they could only so maintain themselves, while their conduct was found conducive to the well being of the people, who had it in their power to reject periodically, at the elections, the supporters of the Crown, and return others who would no longer support them. Thus, by a simple but constantly operating cause, the Government and the people were kept in unison, the natural prosperity was promoted, and public liberty secured, for a length of time and to a degree unknown in any other country.

It is obvious that our Government cannot go on for any length of time, without a much greater approximation to the English practice. The principal offices of the Government must be held by men participating in the views of the parliamentary majorities; without this, the business of the Government of the country cannot be well done in the House of Assembly. The attending to that business there, is in fact a part of the duties of their offices, which they must perform under the responsibility of losing them; and in a way to secure them the support of a majority. A mere organ in the House may be useful in a state of transition, but he cannot do the parliamentary business which inseparably belongs to the heads of the administrative departments. It is beyond the power of any one man, if even he were willing, to do the duties of officers and incur responsibilities, for which others receive the salary. The English system of responsible Ministers must eventually be introduced here, or the Constitution be in fact changed in its essential feature; a dependancy of the Executive on parliamentary supply. As things stand at present, the Government of the Province is next to impossible; its consequences are anarchy or despotism; or the Government, as in the United States, must be held together and act through a *prevailing party*, holding all Legislative, Executive and even Judiciary authority, checked only by the frequent election of the whole of the principal authorities."

There is matter in the above subjects, perhaps, well worthy of the attention of all Colonial governments. An executive Council, distinct from the Legislative Council, would remove many of the anomalies to which we are in the habit of alluding in this Province; and the securing among the first mentioned body one able member of Assembly, would give distinctness and directness to public questions, which might lead to harmony, and prevent mistake and confusion in many cases.—*Acadian Recorder.*

## UPPER CANADA.

After the delivery of his Excellency's speech, which we alluded to last week, the members returned to their chamber, and adjourned, after doing some routine business. Next day Nov. 1, House adjourned for want of a quorum. Nov. 2, two new members took their seats; and on the Speaker announcing that Mr. McKenzie—who had been expelled the house during last session—was again returned, it was moved that the entries in the Journals relative to Mr. McKenzie's expulsion be read. This passed 15 to 8, after a brief discussion. It was then moved, that by reason of former proceedings, Mr. McKenzie cannot sit or vote in the House as a member thereof. After a short but warm discussion this also passed, 15 to 8.—*Ibid.*

## United States.

THE ARMY.—The peace establishment of the United States is composed of four regiments of artillery and seven regiments of infantry, and, with staff officers, amounts to about 6000 men. Each regiment of artillery consists of nine companies, one of which is equipped as light artillery. A company is officered by a captain, four subalterns, and eight non-commissioned, with three artificers, two musicians, and 42 privates. A company of infantry consists of a captain, two subalterns, and seven non-commissioned, two musicians, and 42 privates. And to each regiment of artillery and infantry there are one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, an adjutant, sergeant-major, and quarter-master-sergeant. The corps of Military and Topographical Engineers are not attached to the Ordnance Department, which is merged in the artillery. The Ordnance service in the States consists merely of 30 officers

of artillery, selected to command the different depots of arms and arsenals of the Union, with 10 superintendents of armories and storekeepers. Major-General Alexander Macomb commands the army at present, and he is allowed two aides-de-camps. Besides him there are two brigadier-generals, each with one aide-camp; and these aids, taken from the subalterns of the line, besides their own duties, perform these of assistant adjutant-general. Two inspectors-general annually visit the posts of the army; their duty is very severe, when one considers the extent of territory they have to traverse.—There are also an adjutant and quarter-master general, two quarter-masters, and 10 assistant-quarter-masters. The Subsistence Department consists of one commissary-general and 50 assistant-commissaries, taken from the subalterns of line, with extra pay. There are also one paymaster-general and 14 paymasters, and one surgeon-general, eight surgeons, and 45 assistant-surgeons.—*United Service Journal.*

THE MILITIA.—A word on the militia of the United States. The system and administration are radically bad, and imperiously call for alteration; in fact, the mere mention of American militia excites ridicule in the citizens themselves. Every citizen between the ages of 18 and 45, with the exception of surgeons, clergymen, &c. is enrolled in the militia, and they are nominally drilled twelve days every year; but, though they are expected to arm and clothe themselves, it is few who do either, at least uniformly; and as to the drill, it is a perfect farce. A "muster," in the state of Vermont last summer may serve as a specimen of the whole.—The privates turned out in their usual working dresses—belts and pouches over shoulders, long coats, round jackets; feathers, red, green, and blue, of all sorts and sizes, were stuck in round hats, on the front of some of which was tied the eagle with a string; some had broomsticks for muskets, and others muskets without locks. The band sent forth martial music from seven bass drums, a fife, and a fiddle; and the Colonel (as usual a tavern keeper), with a huge broadsword by his side, could not attend to his duties for mixing "gin sling" behind a tree, wherewith to inspirit his gallant troops.—*Ibid.*

GENERAL JACKSON.—If the charges enumerated in the following resolution, passed at a great national meeting, held at the Masonic Lodge, New York, are just, we think that General Jackson's election as president rather doubtful.

Resolved,—That the citizens here assembled, condemn and deplore the administration of Andrew Jackson: during whose short and withering career as President of the United States, we have seen the national honour prostrated abroad—the rights of personal liberty trampled upon at home—our public faith pledged by treaty, violated—the Constitution disregarded—the laws unexecuted—the written promises of the Chief Magistrate broken—the second officer of the Government insulted—the Senate denounced—the representatives of the people pointed to as fit objects for personal violence—the honest exercise of opinion punished as criminal—the honours and rewards of the nation held forth as victorious spoils—the interests of Commerce sacrificed to a maritime rival—the fruits of Agricultural enterprise depreciated—the efforts of domestic industry depressed—the march of internal improvement assented—the public treasure wasted—the ministers of religion illegally imprisoned—the Judiciary mocked and proscribed—and the blessed union of these States, brought by selfishness, favour and imbecility, to the very verge of dissolution.

NATURE OF TITHES.—The property in tithes, so far as they belong to the church, and not to lay impropiators, is of this nature. Several centuries after the commencement of the Christian era, the clergy, following the recommendation of St. Austin, who lived in the fourth century, preferred a claim to the tenth of the produce of land, founded on no better right than the analogy between their vocation and that of the Levites under the Jewish law. The claim, in these days of ignorance and superstition, was partly complied with; but compliance was understood to be voluntary, the claimants indeed having no appeal but to the charity and superstition of their flocks. By degrees, compliance became general, and was enforced by the power of both the church and the state. But it is clear that such enforcement was as unjust as it was unsupportable by the authority of Scripture. This enforcement, be it observed, was in favour of the Catholic clergy. At the Reformation, the same claim of a tenth was made by the Protestant clergy, enforced by the Reformed Church and the Government, and submitted to by the people. But can a claim, originally unfounded in Divine law, or human reason, be made good to perpetuity, by the submission to it of a succession of individuals? Surely not. A claim supported by nothing but law can be reduced

to its original injustice and absurdity by repeal of the law. The present possessors of benefices must be maintained; but persons, after the present incumbents are out, can have more than a share of a depa ed right to be installed in the vacant benefices, and continue the exaction of tithes. *Tait's Magazine.*

## LORD JOHN RUSSELL AND MR. MACAULAY.

—Lord John Russell is a great favourite with the House. His manners are gentle and unassuming. His style of speaking is full of information, and clear English expression. In spite of his stature, there is something in his attitude that is pleasing, and his countenance is playful and expressive; altogether you could not but know that he was a gentleman of education; earnest in any cause he undertook, with great command of temper. What is it then that makes Lord John not a great orator? I am almost ashamed to say it—nothing but that he is a little man. There is no man whose diminutiveness tells so much against him. Grattan got over his whimsical—almost grotesque figure, by the vehemence of his gesture, the ardour of his language, and the excitement of the occasions upon which he addressed the House. But our own day affords the most striking instance of superior eloquence overcoming an accumulation of personal defects. The uninteresting appearance of Mr. Macaulay—his hissing tones; his utterance, so rapid, that, as Sir Robert Peel once happily expressed it, "it seemed hardly a fit channel for the rich freight of thought and fancy that it was destined to bear," all are forgotten in the torrents of imaginative eloquence that he pours forth. It is difficult to know what to assimilate to his style of speaking; it is most unlike any thing known either by description, or acquaintance with the present men. He seems to delight in far-fetched information as Burke did, as if sporting with his knowledge, throwing away what other men hoarded for great occasions, and exciting his audience by interesting allusions, of which, while they are inquiring the sources, and conning the intent, he has whirled off in some opposite direction to a more recedite portion of history or literature. Occasionally he has some of the harrowing touches of deep feeling with which Brougham thrilled the house, though neither he or any other can ever imitate that rich and various voice. In his argument, too, he is close and strong. Moreover he has never yet wearied the house. No one can reproach him with prolixity, the evil most to be dreaded of political speaking; and he has shown great command over himself in modulating and steadying his voice, as well as checking his propensity to an offensive violence, so tempting a vice to public speakers, where nervousness finds a ready remedy in the drains of vituperative eloquence. It is little to say that Mr. Macaulay is conspicuous among his contemporaries. It would be no great compliment to say that a lamp burned bright among farthing rush-lights; but his is a light to which the praisers of past times, who are, as if of necessity, the depreciators of their rivals of the present times, may look with consolation, if they wish for it; for my own part, though the chief, and of course the happiest, of my days have been with the past, I look, as I said at first, with eager anxiety to the future; and in the prospective talent before me there is no shade pre-cast so forcibly as that of Mr. Macaulay.—*Evenings in the Ventilator, by a Member of Parliament.—Court Journal.*

At a late Meeting of the National Political Union, Mr. Wakefield observed that Mr. Spalding had assured him "that his father-in-law, (step-father,) the Lord Chancellor, had changed his opinion respecting the ballot, no longer considering that it would make 'the whole of a man's life a lie,' as he had asserted. It was a conversation with the late Mr. Jeremy Bentham that had changed his Lordship." This, if it be true, which we have no reason to doubt, seeing that it is put forth on respectable authority, is a piece of intelligence not less important than gratifying. Jeremy Bentham has made many converts, but never so illustrious as one as the present Lord Chancellor of England.—*Sun.*

POLITICAL APHORISM BY HEINSE.—All constitutions are bad, if the government is not in the hands of the wisest. All the difference between a democracy and a monarchy is this:—that in the former 500,000 and some odd fools may decide against 400,000 sensible people, and, in the latter, one fool may ruin 999,999 philosophers—if they will let him!

The Archbishop of Paris, at the close of the American war, thus addressed his congregation:—"Years (said he) may pass away before the two people will perfectly understand each other, but the day must come, when, in spite of their rulers, France and England shall command all nations to remain at peace, and the nations will obey."

The Paris Papers contain the following brief notice of a personage formerly of some