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THE COURIER.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1851.

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Quebec, March 14, 1851.

You were doubtless taken by surprise, as were the members of the Government themselves, on the occasion of the recent deputation to Lord Elgin, when Lord John avowed himself in favor of Responsible Government. The various interpretations which have been placed on this declaration of his Lordship's opinions, and the construction which has been put upon it by the Opposition Press, have rendered it necessary that the Government should take some decisive step in the matter, in order to prevent the possibility of misconception. Accordingly, a Council was held on Saturday last, at which the Governor General presided, and which was attended by all the Members of the Executive, with the exception of the Hon. Mr. Morin, who is still confined to his room by indisposition. The Council sat for upwards of three hours, and the result of their deliberations was the adoption of a Minute, which was forwarded to Lord Elgin by the Hon. Mr. Cayley, the Inspector General, who left for Toronto on Monday last, for the purpose of conveying it to his Lordship. We have not been favored with a perusal of the Minute, but we understand that it is couched in the most respectful terms, and that it contains a full and explicit declaration of the views of the Government on the subject of Responsible Government. We have also been informed that the Minute expresses the entire confidence of the Government in the loyalty and patriotism of Lord Elgin, and their conviction that his Lordship will not allow himself to be influenced by the violent and factious opposition which has been offered to his Administration by a portion of the Canadian people. We have also been informed that the Minute expresses the opinion of the Government that the Province is not yet prepared for the change which is demanded by the Opposition, and that the Ministry will not resign their offices unless they are compelled to do so by the voice of the people, constitutionally expressed through their representatives in Parliament. We have also been informed that the Minute expresses the opinion of the Government that the Province is not yet prepared for the change which is demanded by the Opposition, and that the Ministry will not resign their offices unless they are compelled to do so by the voice of the people, constitutionally expressed through their representatives in Parliament.

We publish in the present number of our paper the Report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the Petition of the Corporation of Montreal, praying for the establishment of a Harbour Police. It will be seen that the Committee have recommended the adoption of the measure prayed for by the Petitioners, and have reported a Bill for the purpose, which will be found in the present number of the paper. The Bill is a very stringent one, and the penalties which it imposes for the violation of its provisions are very severe; but we are of opinion that the Committee have acted wisely in framing the Bill in such a manner as to render it impossible for the evil-disposed to escape with impunity. The Bill, as it now stands, will be found to be a most efficient measure for the protection of property, and for the suppression of the disorderly conduct which has hitherto prevailed on the Harbour of Montreal.

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The Canadian Committee of the St. Andrew's Society have again to acknowledge the receipt of 2 brl. of oatmeal from the Caledonia Curling Club.

The Quebec Gazette.

Quebec.—The Banner flies, and the Union Jack floats proudly over the Citadel of Quebec, and the Queen's Birthday has been duly honored by the firing of Cannon, the display of Flags, and the assembling of the Militia. The Volunteer Artillery were paraded on the Esplanade, and fired a Royal Salute of 21 guns, at 12 o'clock, M. The Battalion of Militia were paraded on the Grand Parade, and fired a Feu de Joie. Lord Elgin and Staff rode down to the Parade, and were received with the usual honors. The Governor General and Staff, and the Officers of the Militia Battalion, dined at the Garrison Mess. The Citadel was illuminated in the evening, and the Band of the Artillery played in front of the Mansion House. The Band of the Rifle Brigade played in front of the Garrison Mess. The Band of the 71st Regiment played in front of the Officers' Mess. The Band of the Royal Canadian Rifle