

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot but express our extreme surprise that, out of some forty or fifty persons, who receive this paper in Toronto, not one should have deemed it necessary to notice the demands that have been made from this office for the amount of their subscriptions. Where they imagine the means can be found of paying from five to seven pounds to the printers of the Expositor, we really are curious to know. We can assure them Mr. Draper does not provide us with the means (as he has Mr. Cr.-ston, for "unveiling his political infamy," by giving us some two hundred a year under the pretence of obtaining statistical information for the Inspector General's Office. Nay, not even a "location" in the Copper Mine District has he vouchsafed to us, although we confess we certainly did think that, after the issue of our last number, he would have awarded us at least earth enough on our own native soil to have contained our bones—some six feet by three. This surely might have been spared to us, and in asking for that, we deem ourselves to be anything but unreasonable.

All parties subscribing to this paper may be supplied with the whole of the numbers from the commencement, including the Eight Years in Canada.

THE
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MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1846.

THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

The atrocious system which is carried on in this Department, is only equalled by the insolence and obstinacy of those against whose continuance in office, we have no hesitation in stating, three fourths of those who 've business to transact in it, feel the utmost indignation, and most loudly protest. Mr. Papineau is wholly unfit to be at the head of the Crown Lands Department. Instead of facilitating the business of the country, by causing those under him to use despatch in the settlement of the claims of individuals, every obstacle is attempted to be thrown in their way, so that delay, and expense, and uncertainty, are sure to be the portion of those who have not an immediate influence with the head of the department. Nor is Mr. Bouthillier one whit more accommodating than his much disliked chief. We are in possession of some information, in regard to the conduct of this consequential personage, and in reference to some claims preferred by a gentleman from the Upper Province, which he had great difficulty in having arranged, which we shall lay before the public at an early day. In this case, these insolent officers were at issue with the majority of the Council itself, and in such manner that it would almost lead to the belief that they must have had some immediate interest in long refusing to pay the full amount admitted by the Council, on the matter being especially referred to them by the late Lord Metcalfe.

At present we shall confine ourselves to commenting on the most extraordinary nature of a recent advertisement from that office, intimating that "all scrip, already prepared, which may remain unclaimed on the 30th of June, 1847, shall be cancelled."

By what right, we ask, dare the Commissioner of Crown Lands presume to announce that men, who have fought for their country, and to whom the Legislature of that country have voted a trifling compensation, shall lose their title to claims which have been allowed, because illness or absence, or any other unforeseen cause, may have prevented them, before the period indicated, from taking up their scrip? This we unhesitatingly pronounce to be a piece of high-handed ruffianism, without justification or example; and gladly indeed will the country hail the moment when these incapables are made to yield their places, the one to the only man who, from his industry and affability, should fill the office, the able Member for Kingston (Macdonald), and the other to some equally popular subordinate.

But we think we have a clue to all this public infamy. One of the very Commissioners, acting in concert with Mr. Morris and Mr. Papineau, has, or has had, in his employment a Crown Lands clerk purchasing scrip for him, and distributing his cards as a land agent. If this will not entitle him to be made a Chief Commissioner for Western Canada when the Land Agents are dispensed with, the system of making appointments will have been greatly altered indeed.

MR. HOPKIRK'S APPOINTMENT.

The Gazette of Saturday last contains the nomination of this fortunate individual as Collector of Customs at Kingston, as well as a Commissioner of the Penitentiary, vice Acheson, out of the country. This is a nice little arrangement, which we shall endeavor to sift to the bottom.

It is well known that general indignation has been excited at the perpetration of certain cruelties in the Penitentiary of Kingston, the management of which is so gross a perversion of all justice, that it led to the resignation of the honorable and high principled men who composed the late Commission. The public are not aware perhaps, but we can assure them of the fact, that the Warden of the Penitentiary has full power to make all contracts (and these are necessarily on a large scale), with parties for the supply of the prison, *without* the Commissioners having the slightest voice in the matter, or exercising that supervision which it must have been one of the objects of their appointment, they should enforce.

Let the public for one moment pause to consider the manifest consequence of this infamous system. The Warden of the Penitentiary is the father of the Member for Frontenac, who was not only whipper-in to Mr. Draper and his tail last session, but, by his bullying, contrived to obtain an influence over the Executive, and to worm himself into their confidence in a manner that was denied to other members of the House who had far more legitimate claims. What more natural than to suppose that, as it was necessary to keep so useful a member in the House to support their tottering power, they should give to the Warden the means of

commanding the highest influence in the country, through whom his son's future election should be secured. The applicant who could command most votes in a contest of that kind, would be the person naturally selected, and thus, with this wand of bribery in his possession, might Mr. Henry Smith be continued as Member for Frontenac during life. We do not assert, whatever be our opinion, that such means of corruption have been resorted to; but what we will assert is, that the denial to the Commissioners of a power which should be vested in them, and not in the Warden, would seem to warrant the supposition. In any case, the principle is dangerous and full of wickedness, and cannot be too severely condemned.

And why has Mr. Hopkirk been appointed a Commissioner? Because, as a creature of the Government, he will lend all his cunning and energies to quash the enquiry which will be made into the charge of cruelty preferred against the father and supporter of him who feels his power over them, the necessity of his support to them, and who, consequently, beards them with his incessant demands. He is the last stay they have in the House. They have disgusted all other parties, yet they "lay the flattering unction to their souls" that Henry Smith will be enabled to command a certain influence in their favor by his blustering and his importunity. Believe it not, Mr. Draper: your *protégé* has no power beyond that of his stentorian voice, and your political days are numbered. What those days have been—how versatile, how puerilely, yet how shamelessly, changing—since your first entrance into public life, we shall take an opportunity of unfolding, on the arrival of the proper Governor General of the province, whose chief popularity will be based on your dismissal from an office which the united voice of the country has pronounced you unfit to retain. With the picture before his eyes which we shall draw of your political infamy, charlatanism, and deceit—a picture which we defy you to deny as your own—His Excellency cannot fail, if he would win the commendation of all honest men, to regard you as one whose connection with his Government must assuredly bring down upon it ruin the most complete.

But, apart from the other considerations involved in this most extraordinary double appointment of Mr. Hopkirk, the act is at once a slight and insult to Lord Elgin. That nobleman is alone the Governor General of Canada, and possessed of the power of distributing office; and we cannot but express our surprise that the Earl Cathcart, who is, in fact, a mere *locum tenens*, until the arrival of his successor, should have lent the sanction of his name to any appointment of the sort. Lord Elgin might not exactly have been of opinion that the ex-brewer of small beer, and the contemner and resister of the laws of the Province, was the party best qualified to fill the situation of Collector of Customs at Kingston, and Commissioner