

THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 26, 1837.

CANADA.—The movements in Lower Canada having now assumed an aspect, which cannot fail to excite a deep interest in the minds of all the inhabitants of those countries, we devote a considerable portion of our Editorial columns to that important subject.

It was a most unfortunate circumstance, that, at the very time when the wisest politician the British Empire contained, was required to allay the ferment raised by the crooked and dishonest policy of five or six previous Governors, Lord Gosford should have been selected to assume the reins. This nobleman appears to exceed all that have preceded him in weakness, meanness, and duplicity. Without possessing any thing deserving the name of principle himself, he has tried to rule Lower Canada by the principles of both the opposing parties alternately. He began by concealing his instructions received from the Colonial Office, and by temporising with, and deceiving both Constitutionalists and Reformers, ever since, he has gone himself most thoroughly hated and despised by both. His late Proclamation for the suppression of the Reform Meetings, and the Officers whose duty it was to promulgate and enforce it, have been treated with the utmost contempt, and both the tory and the reform press have pronounced it a weak and inefficient document. Public Meetings and popular excitement have greatly increased. The "Gosford Atrocity," and "Russell Coercion" have been denounced throughout the breadth and length of the land; so that all Canada is at present like a volcano on the eve of an eruption. Conviction will be forced ere long on the British Ministry, that it is not by such vacillating men, nor such contemptible measures, that they can retain these Colonies.

Among the Reformers of Lower Canada, are many men of no ordinary talent, and were they in almost any other country than Canada, they would shine either at the bar, in the senate, or the camp; of this number Messrs Papineau and Morin are not the least conspicuous. They have long stood boldly forward for the redress of their country's grievances, and will not, we feel confident, desert her cause till they obtain their object, or place her liberties beyond the control and misrule of Downing-street politicians.

Many silly stories have lately been circulated by Couriers and others in this place, about the express mails which have lately arrived at Halifax. Among others, it was said that a treasonable correspondence was discovered between Papineau and the Governor of Maine. Than this nothing could be more unlikely, either as regards the true policy of the one or the other. The truth is, that the Executive is not bound to divulge the purport of these expresses, nor is there any evidence that it has done so. We believe, however, that they are connected with both the Canadian grievances and the Boundary Question.

The leaders of the Canadian reformers are too intelligent, and have been too long exercised with the arbitrary measures, the empty promises, and crooked policy of the Colonial Office, to be caught in a treasonable correspondence with the Governor of a petty State; and Papineau is too honest a patriot to employ any other means to accomplish his end, save such as will command the respect of all reflecting men. He will not, we think, in the mean time, lead the Canadians into acts of rebellion. His object is to cripple and harass the Government, to render it a nullity and powerless, and thus forcing upon them the necessity of adopting sounder measures of Government. In this he has already partly succeeded, for we observe the revenue at the Custom House has fallen off materially from the returns of former years. Papineau knows besides, that the late measures of the Imperial Parliament are founded on principles derogatory of the freedom of all the Colonies,—such as must unite them

in one common bond of fellowship for their defence, and such as will make them view the first shot that is fired at a colonist, in the onward march of coercion, as a signal for general revolt. We do not state this for the purposes of alarm or intimidation, but from our sober conviction of what we believe to be the real state of facts. We hope, therefore, the British Ministry will pause before they lay sacrilegious hands on the monies of the Colonists; it will be more honorable to rescind and retreat in time, than to wind up the affair as they did in the last struggle for American independence.

That we do not stand alone in our opinions, we quote the following extract from a well written article in a late number of the *Novascotian*, on Canadian affairs:

At the risk of appearing tedious, let us now, before we dismiss this subject, contrast the situation in which the Mother Country would have stood to the Colony, had this truly Constitutional demand been conceded, with that which it at present occupies. Had an Elective Council been given to Lower Canada, the Ministry would have shown to the Province more immediately concerned—to all Colonies, and to the talented party in and out of Parliament who support our views, that to the fullest extent, it was disposed to secure Colonial liberty and prosperity, by a gracious and magnanimous application of the broad principles of the Constitution; it would have tried a great experiment for the restoration of order, and the preservation of peace. It would have justified to all the world the employment of force, if force was afterwards necessary to preserve the authority of the Crown, and respect for the general laws of the Empire. But it may be said that, to have given an Elective Council to Lower Canada, would have been to render the Papineau party omnipotent in both branches of the Legislature. We believe it would, however high the franchise might have been raised. But what then, ought not the majority to govern? Should not the views of four fifths of the Constituency of any Colony influence its policy and frame its laws? If not, why was a Representative system granted—why was not the elective franchise confined to the minority, if they and not the mass of people were to have all authority in the Province? Could they have framed any law destructive of the rights and liberties of the minority, without the consent of the Executive—without the revision of the Crown Officers in England, and the rejection of the King in Council? And had they attempted it, would not the Government have been justified in the eyes of the reformers of England, of the other Colonies, and of the world, in employing force to abridge their powers, and secure justice to all concerned? The concession of an Elective Council, then, so far from involving any risk, would either have ensured peace and contentment, or it would have placed the British Government on most imposing vantage ground, to deal with the rebellious and refractory.

But in what position is she placed by the passage of Lord John Russell's abominable resolutions? For 20 years, it is admitted on all hands, even by the report of the Parliamentary Committee, she grossly misgoverned the Colony. Since 1825 she has leaned rather to the side of the official faction, than to the views of the great majority of the popular Branch; and finally, she answers a demand for a radical change of the system, by the most tyrannical and unconstitutional attack, that ever was made on the liberties of a people struggling to be free. To withhold the supplies, even assuming that the act was impolitic, was the undoubted right of the Provincial Parliament—to seize upon the taxes of the Colonists, without the consent of that Assembly, and by the mere acts of a body in which they are not represented, is a violation not only of the great charter of the Colonies, but of every principle of the Constitution, which a British subject is taught to reverence. The attempt is as execrable as the results will be disastrous.

What can either the Conservatives of Canada, or the Whigs and Tories of England, hope from such a burghlarious violation of the Colonial Treasury? The greatest good to any party will be the payment of the arrears due to the public Officers, and the circulation of a little money. The evils may be judged of by what has already occurred. The passage of the Resolutions, having withered all hopes of a fair adjustment of their claims, has placed between the mass of the people of Canada and the Mother Country, a widening gulf of hatred and distrust, which we doubt if any thing can close. There is, we fear, no Curtius prepared to leap into it, to preserve the integrity of the Empire. Many worthy people here daily ask the question, is there not going to be a Civil War in Canada? We anticipate no such thing, at least for many years. With the Upper Province in an attitude of hostility—the other Colonies standing aloof—and a

powerful and determined party within her own borders, opposed to such a step; Lower Canada could not now, in our opinion, even with the aid of volunteers from the States, achieve her independence,—and therefore it is that we doubt the policy of placing her in such a position as subjects her to the certainty of spoliation or defeat. We believe that, as matters now stand, the British Government can hold the Colony, in spite of any resistance from Mr Papineau and his party, perhaps for eight or ten years. During all that time, both public and private affairs will be in "most admired disorder." The feelings of contempt and hatred, formerly entertained by the majority of the local faction which troubled them, will be transferred to the British Government and people, by whom it has been protected by daring inroads on public liberty. Every child born within the homes of the hundreds of thousands represented by the Parliamentary majority, will be reared with sentiments of hatred to the British name, and his eyes towards the sun of independence rising in the distance. The Assembly will continue to refuse the supplies, and perhaps decline doing any business with any Governor till satisfaction be obtained; if dissolutions are tried, the same man will be returned, and the same system followed out, the agitators all the time keeping, as they easily can do—as O'Connell and his party did for years in Ireland—within the limits of the law. Papineau's advice and opinions will, throughout the whole range of his party have the effect of law; the Government will be shorn of all real authority; and naturally peaceful people—now pretty well prepared by thirty years of political agitation, will become in eight or ten years from this, a band of organised, well disciplined, and self-sacrificing soldiers. The result no man can foretell; but who that reflects on the precarious tenure which Head and the Tories have of Upper Canada—on the natural increase of the population in both Provinces—the six months closing of the Gulf of St. Lawrence—our unadjusted Boundary line—and the natural fondness of American backwoodsmen for skirmishing in defence of their neighbors, even if their Government do not formally interfere—who, we ask, is there, that reflecting upon these things, and upon the present aspect of Canadian affairs, but must deplore the narrow and unstatesmanlike policy that has cursed the Empire with such a recoil as this; and who that for a moment considers the evils which Lower Canada must endure, before the struggle ends, but must regret that they had not been averted by a course of sounder policy and discretion, even on the part of the Colonists themselves.

Mrs JONES.—We have much pleasure in stating that the report of this lady having "secretly abdicated" her home, is untrue. The state of her health rendered it advisable that she should visit England, and her husband accompanied her to New York, and secured her a passage on board a packet ship. "In no instance," says a writer acquainted with Mr and Mrs Jones, "have we witnessed a more cordial attachment than that which exists between the gentleman and lady at whom this disgraceful slander was aimed."

MR MUNN has been returned for the Lower Town, Quebec. At the close of the poll the numbers stood, Munn 660, Connolly 628. Majority 37.

THE LEGISLATURE OF LOWER CANADA are summoned, for the dispatch of business, on the 18th August next.

WE have been favoured with Boston papers to the 19th, inclusive, but they contain no news of importance.

BARRINGTON, July 8, 1837.—The schooner Frances, Capt. Fields, from St. John, N. B., for Antigua, was wrecked on the Northern Mud Island, on the night of the 2d instant. The vessel belonged wholly to the Master, and is partially insured. The vessel was shortly afterwards taken possession of by the Superintendent of the Island, in pursuance of his instructions from the Commissioners at Halifax; and the Master being thus precluded from the care of his own property, took passage with his crew yesterday, for St. John.—*Yarmouth Herald*.

DIED.

On Friday morning last, Mr David P. Patterson, in the 32d year of his age.