

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The communication of "TRUTH" has been received; but it must be perfectly understood by all parties that nothing will be inserted in the EXPOSITOR, unless the name of the writer be confidentially given.

"JUSTICE" will perceive that we have offered some observations on the case of Ready, and that his hint has been acted on. Knowing who he is, we place implicit confidence in his statement.

We recommend "A DEPARTING SUFFERER," who complains of the filthy state of the Officers' Man-Guard Room, to include it in his morning report, or address himself to the proper authority. We have ourselves frequently been struck by the sombre and not very cleanly appearance of what may rather be called a prison than an Officers' Guard-Room, and which we conceive to be a disgrace to the Department under whose superintendence these things are usually placed.

"H. M." is informed that there is a letter-box in the door of the publishing office of the WEEKLY EXPOSITOR, in which communications may be dropped without delivering them personally.

"OSCEOLA" is reminded of his promise to procure for his brother of the Big Beard, not two hundred warriors of his tribe, but two hundred sages who desire the medicine book, and drink not firewater, but the words of the Great Manitou.

## NOTICE.

A large edition of this number having been struck off, with a view that it may be widely disseminated through the City, it is particularly requested that, to prevent much inconvenience and uncertainty, they who approve of the principles of the paper, and are desirous of preserving a record of all interesting matter connected with those important schemes which are at present agitating the public mind, and on the successful termination of which the future prosperity of Canada depends, will leave their names as subscribers at the Office, St. Francois Xavier Street, before the second paper, which will be thereby regulated in number, is put to press.

An original and interesting account of a tour through Canada and the United States, by a gentleman already favorably known as a writer in both countries, will later be given in the columns of the 'EXPOSITOR,' if the number of subscribers to the paper should be found such as to justify the publication.

THE

## WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, AUG. 20, 1846.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

As it may be expected that we should state, in this our opening number, what will be the tendency of the political portions of the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR,' we will here briefly observe, that, while on all occasions we shall endeavour to adhere to the motto we have chosen, and to render to an Administration the least popular that ever presided over the affairs of a country,—not even their immediate predecessors excepted,—every meed of commendation their acts may justly command, we shall also unhesitatingly condemn and expose them, when, as has been the case for some time past, their conduct is marked by that absence of honesty and dignity of purpose which most tend to bring a Government into contempt with the People.

Nor let it be supposed that merely individual or personal feelings or views will be expressed through the columns of the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.' It is with deep satisfaction we are enabled to state that the

most wealthy and influential of the Conservatives of the country, and of this great and rapidly rising city in particular,—its merchants and its professional men of high talent and attainment,—are numbered amongst the supporters of the paper. And surely it must be admitted to involve a singular anomaly, and to convey an intimation anything but flattering to the present rulers of the country, when we see sustaining a publication, the avowed object of which is to denounce all abuses whether of the Government or other public departments, those very Conservatives who, under a proper and honest Administration professing the same political principles, would naturally lend all their aid in furtherance of its policy, and check whatever might have a tendency to embarrass or obstruct it.

It would have been in the highest degree idle in us, unsupported by the voice of public opinion, to have interposed a shield against the almost tyranny,—altogether absolutism,—which has marked the conduct of the present Government for some time past, unchecked as it has been by that strictly constitutional head and hand, to which should properly, and in accordance with the true spirit of Responsible Government, have been confided the reins of vice-regal power in this important but much-neglected colony. Singly, we could have done nothing. Our feeble voice would scarcely have been heard in the din of opposition which, at the nod of the Executive, would have been raised with a view to crush our efforts. But, fortunately, it is otherwise. We are merely the organ of a large portion of the public, who have watched in silence, but with cold and disapproving eye, the conduct of the Government,—who have felt the strong necessity for the establishment of a Journal wholly independent of Executive favor, yet Conservative in its principles,—and who, with that view, have liberally subscribed towards the establishment of the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.' And who are these men?—The answer is an important one, and cannot but fall startlingly on the ear of the public,—say on that of the Government itself. They are those who have ever been considered Conservative in their principles, and who, were justice and consistency made the guiding rule of the policy of those whom they have raised to power, would be the last to condemn their acts. In a word, amongst them are those who, in this section of the Province particularly, are most distinguished for their wealth, their probity, and their intelligence; and although we do not pretend to deny to many men of opposite political principles the possession of similar qualifications, we particularly note, as an additional evidence of the unpopularity of the acts of the present Administration, that none but the name of Conservatives are on the list of those who have contributed to the establishment of this paper.

We trust that, in furtherance of the views set forth in this preamble, the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR' will, not only as a political paper, receive that support which its independent character ought to command from

every independent member of the community, but, that as a record of all that, in a more commercial sense, is engrossing in interest in regard to railway and mining speculations, it will be considered a new and desirable acquisition in Canadian newspaper literature.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS OF CANADA.

Whatever credit Sir Robert Peel may have acquired at home by the introduction of the Free Trade system, as applied to England only, it must be admitted that he has betrayed the utmost indifference, and evinced the utmost short-sightedness in regard to Canada. So old and acute a politician ought to have known, unless he be lamentably ignorant of the spirit of the people of this country, that crippled in every branch of her commerce, as she must inevitably be by the sudden check to her industry and enterprise which the operation of the Free Trade system must infallibly occasion, Canada would naturally grow impatient under the injustice—this palpable neglect of the important interests of an important colony—and seek for other channels of commerce which might prove to the rulers of England that there was both danger and impolicy in slighting, if not wholly overlooking, the interests of any portion of the community, however assumedly humble.

Had any consideration for the interests of Canada entered into the scheme, through the successful operation of which Sir Robert Peel hoped to confer happiness upon the millions of his own countrymen, its ruinous effect ought to have been foreseen, and guarded against by some commensurate boon, such for instance as the repeal of the Navigation Laws, by which the St. Lawrence would be thrown open to the flags of all commercial nations; or by the surrender to the Province of the million and a half of money borrowed for the prosecution of the public works—chiefly canals—which have been rendered comparatively valueless, by the act of the Imperial Government.

But there is another yet more important interest at issue on this subject, and resulting from the total disregard, by the late ministry, of the position in which the Corn Bill would place Canada. In what position, it may be asked, does Sir Robert Peel stand in regard to this country, and that solely from having neglected to make those concessions which were indispensable to the well working of his plan? We answer plainly, but not in the language or spirit of alarmists, that one of the results of the prosecution of the Rail-road which the people of this city, have in a great measure in a spirit of self defence, been compelled to embark in without the assistance of British capital, will be an unavoidable tendency to produce an interchange of interest—a community of purpose—between the Canadians and their neighbours the people of the United States, which some five years back might have been thought extremely impolitic, and would at all hazards, have been discouraged.

True it is, that the people of Canada, and particularly of Montreal, are not likely now to forego those high political principles which