

HON. MR. VIGER.—HIS POSITION.

The Hon. Mr. VIGER's long promised explanation has at length appeared. The pamphlet which contains it is at least sufficiently imposing in appearance. There is an "Avertissement," "Première partie," "Seconde Partie" and "Postscriptum." Were it not for the respect which we entertain for Mr. Viger's personal character and for his undoubted talents, we should be tempted to exclaim "Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus." The greater part of the pamphlet is occupied with Mr. Viger's speech in the Assembly on Mr. Price's motion, which might certainly have been published at least two months ago. The remainder, which is about the length of an ordinary editorial article in one of our leading prints, contains no new matter whatever, and leaves Mr Viger and his position precisely where they were.

If the Speech, when delivered by Mr. Viger, with his usual ability, failed to convince the Members of the House of Assembly that he was right in opposing the Ex-Ministers who had made a constitutional stand in defence of the rights and liberties of the people, there need not be much apprehension entertained that the pamphlet under consideration will produce any serious effect on the public mind. Nevertheless, Mr. Viger is not a man to be treated with any thing like contempt, and his apparent confidence in the soundness of his views, and the challenge he has thrown out to his opponents, would alone be sufficient to ensure for him a notice at our hands. The following is a brief extract from the pamphlet:

"Ce qui devra maintenant paraître inexplicable, c'est qu'en dépit de l'insistance de Mr. Viger sur ces motifs, comme sur une foule d'autres, d'une importance égale pour les Ministres, de reculer devant ce qu'il regardait comme un grave oubli de leur devoir, on ne voit pas qu'un seul Membre ait tenté de le réfuter. Ce qui devra surprendre encore davantage, c'est qu'à peine il est question de ces remarques dans les nombreux discours des Ministres ou de leurs partisans!"

Mr. Viger might have spared the word "tenté." The members of the late Ministry and their friends have always felt quite satisfied that Mr. Viger's objections to their conduct were fully answered, and it is therefore a little too bad to be told that they never even made an attempt to refute them.

Before going into the merits of the questions at issue between Mr. Viger and the Ex-Ministers, we would observe that we are not of the number of those who look upon Mr. Viger either "comme dévoré par l'ambition" or "comme s'étant couvert de déshonneur," or "comme un traître à son pays," or as being under the influence "de vices d'une ambition vaniteuse, ou d'intérêts mercenaires." Mr. Viger has passed through the ordeal of public life with so much honor to himself as to render the charges of which he complains quite nugatory.