

members, elected in the same way as members of the legislature, and invested with powers for municipal legislation within their respective districts: Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto, retaining or receiving each a separate municipal organization of the same sort. His Excellency has prosecuted with assiduity and success the exposure of the abuses in the management of King's college funds, and has established a system characterised by greater economy and integrity. But it is to be lamented that the act passed last session for the application of certain portions of these funds, and of the general school fund to extension and improvement of district schools has proved wholly inoperative. A very important improvement has been made in the mode of disposing of the crown lands; an agent having been established in each district for this purpose; the upset price greatly reduced; immediate payment of purchases required, and the former delays, uncertainties and partialities provided against. Doctor Strachan's history and character require his recent elevation in the church to be ranked as a political event. He is now to be known as Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Upper Canada. The new Governor General Mr. Poulett Thompson, and the new Commander of the Forces Sir R. D. Jackson, are now daily expected at Quebec—when Sir John Colborne will be relieved from his arduous duties—having remained long enough to have it in his power to suspend the operation of martial law in the Lower Province, and to preside on the 7th instant at laying the foundation stone of McGill college in Montreal.

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEST INDIES.—In these colonies also, little has occurred of general interest. The city of St. John's, N. B. has been visited with a very destructive conflagration, and the legislature of the province have held a special session for the purpose of extending relief to the sufferers by that calamity, and of making some precautionary enactments to prevent a recurrence. Lieut. Col. Mudge and Mr. Featherstenough are engaged in making a survey of the disputed territory on behalf of Great Britain. It is quite refreshing to observe the harmony that prevails in the government of that province. The state of Newfoundland presents a very strong contrast. There the assembly has been again dismissed without proceeding to business. The difficulties in Jamaica and other parts of the West Indies still continue, and much of the crops will be lost for want of labourers. It is not easy to apportion justly the blame in this matter between the planters and the negroes. It is certain, however, that the latter should not bear the whole—even supposing them to be in a condition of full moral responsi-

bility—which is far from being the case. It is unequivocally asserted by the Marquis of Normanby, that previously to the emancipation of the negroes, the planters had entered into combinations to keep wages below their just level—that this prompted the negroes to combination in self-defence—and that the circumstances justified the course which the missionaries and stipendiary magistrates have pursued in favor of the negroes in this contest. The ministry have been obliged to abandon their purpose of suspending the legislature of Jamaica, and to content themselves with some modified provisions in behalf of the negroes to be carried into effect by the governor. Contracts have been entered into by the government for the establishment of a regular semi-monthly communication by steam packets throughout the West Indies, with Mexico, Havanna, and the southwest part of the United States. These contracts will cost the British treasury £240,000 per annum—an expense which the advantages to be derived will more than compensate.

IN GREAT BRITAIN.—With the exception of matters connected with her Colonial and Foreign relations, the *Chartist proceedings* are, perhaps, the most remarkable. Much blame has been attached to the Ministry, for not interfering with vigour to put a stop to them; and much alarm has been excited, in regard to them, in various parts of England. In Birmingham the greatest excesses have been committed. The proposition of the Chartists, to keep a sacred, or Sabbatical month,—during which, as projected, the whole working classes were to abstain from labour,—seemed fraught with danger; but when the time came for carrying the plan into effect, it was found impracticable, and seems to have fallen to the ground.—Indeed, by the latest accounts, this desperate party would appear to have been broken up through its own violence; and, it is to be hoped, that these excesses may prove a salutary warning against that reckless spirit of change, which has so widely pervaded the community, and diffuse a more conservative temper. Among the measures of greatest interest that have engaged the attention of Parliament, during the recent Session, may be reckoned the Ministerial schemes of National Education, and the Penny Postage Bill. The object of the former is to invest a Committee of the Privy Council with authority to establish, endow, and govern schools throughout Great Britain—in which, although the Bible is to be admitted, religious instruction is not to be regarded as an essential,—nor is there any security provided against the introduction of the very worst forms of religious errors. The system, indeed, seems to be founded on the principle, that all forms of religion are pretty nearly alike, and none of them