

All this keeps Lord Melbourne under; and the gaiety and nonchalance of the Minister have subsided into quiet urbanity, which hitherto—except here and there—was not particularly the characteristic of his Lordship's behaviour.

A laughable scene took place the other day in one of our Local Courts. A farmer had summoned two cattle dealers for the payment of a sum of money, for the time they had had some of their cattle grazing in one of his parks. The farmer is one of those characters who, from whatever cause, can scarcely keep themselves awake when once comfortably seated, no matter in what place. He was nearly asleep two or three times while his case was going on; and, by the time it was finished, he was fast locked in the arms of Morpheus. Awakening, however, shortly after, and probably imagining he was sitting at a comfortable fire-side in some public house, he rubbed his eyes, at the same time coolly observing, "Come, my lads, it's time we were stappin'." The laughter of the Court was for some time unbounded.

A Dummy.—Tooke, in his life of Catherine of Russia, described the library of a Russian nobleman as being entirely composed of the backs only of books. What will our readers think of a concert being composed partly of dumb fiddlers—fellows with greased bows to make a show? In provincial town a dummy of this description rendered himself conspicuous by the freedom of his bow-arm; but upon being asked how he could play without moving his fingers, he kept up the joke with exquisite nonchalance, saying, "Oh, zur, zome do, and zome doant—that's all a matter of fancy."

We have much pleasure in calling public attention to the proceedings of the ninety-fifth Conference of the Wesleyan Ministers, now holding their deliberations in Bristol. The fact, that we are on the eve of the centenary of this great Religious Society's existence, gives additional importance to them, especially when we take into account the vigorous operation of its principles both at home and abroad, and the healthy discipline maintained throughout so large a community of Christians. The creditable moderation, also, of a vast majority of its members in political matters, and especially their loyalty and love of order, have commanded very general respect. Would that those, who eye their religious principles with a jealousy unfelt in the contemplation of their political attributes, could be induced to take a little more pains to ascertain the truth of the matters at issue! But we resolutely discard every painful association, at variance with the catholic feelings inspired by the occasion; and invite, along with the most scrutinizing investigation of the principles of Wesleyan Methodism, a candid attention to the practical character of their results, its magnificent missionary operations and other departments of general usefulness.—WATCHMAN.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—The ninety-fifth conference commenced its sittings on Wednesday morning at six o'clock. The Rev. Thomas Jackson, of London, was chosen, (by a large majority,) to fill the important office of President, and the Rev. Robert Newton (well-known in Bristol as the powerful and eloquent advocate of foreign missions,) was again elected to the office of Secretary. Perhaps no man, since the days of the venerable Wesley and Whitefield, has more successfully exerted himself in the cause of truth than Mr. Newton; he is not ubiquitous, but nearly so. During the present week, various committees met to facilitate the business of conference, composed of preachers and gentlemen invited from different parts of the United Kingdom. The important matters brought before them were discussed with freedom and in the true spirit of christian courtesy. The addresses of Mr. Wood, of Manchester, Mr. Farmer, of London, and Mr. Crook, of Liverpool, were distinguished by the elegance of their language, and the manly and independent sentiments they espoused. Perhaps there is no meeting of ministers whose deliberations are connected with so many persons and circumstances in every part of the world; and whose decisions are more anxiously expected. The eyes of the members of this increasingly extensive connexion are fixed upon this annual assembly, and it must be very gratifying to every true lover of the British Constitution to be assured, that the spirit of the men composing the conference is truly loyal, and, from principle, attached to the Queen, their country and its laws.—*Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*

An important petition has been presented both to the Queen and to the House of Lords on the inefficiency of our foreign policy by certain merchants, manufacturers, bankers, shipowners, and others of the city of Glasgow. Its object is to obtain redress for the insults and injuries offered to our flag, to maintain the rights of British commerce, and to uphold the national character in the eyes of Europe and the world. It censures the system of diplomacy pursued of late years by the British government, as subversive of our national greatness. We quote the following just and spirited paragraph as too truly descriptive of

its sad results:—"The consequences of that diplomacy have been to leave us defenceless in every quarter of the world; to compromise the existence of Turkey, as an independent sovereign power, and thereby to destroy the natural barrier to encroachments on the East of Europe—to abandon Circassia, the bulwark of our Indian possessions, to the conquest of Russia—to reduce Persia to the condition of a Russian dependency—to exclude the British merchant entirely from the coasts of the Black Sea, where a most lucrative trade could be carried on—to enable the Dutch government to evade the obligations of a treaty (1824), and to impose illegal duties on our exports to Java, whereby many of us have been deeply injured—to tolerate the establishment, in Africa, of a French colony, an enterprise contra y to a specific treaty—to exclude our manufactures from the European markets, by a high scale of duties, contrary to existing treaties—to tolerate encroachments on our fishing grounds at Newfoundland, and even on the British coast—to permit the destruction of the ancient nationality of Poland, and the independence of Cracow—to annihilate the British claims on Greece: we pass over the difficulties in which this country is involved as regards our relations with Spain and Portugal, with the United States of America, with the empire of Brazil, and the government of Mexico."

LORD MINTO.—It is reported in well-informed circles that Lord Minto holds office only until his successor is appointed and that Ministers have applied to the Duke of Richmond to join them.—*Times*.

CANADA.—An estimate of the sum that will probably be required to defray the expenses, beyond the ordinary grants for the years 1837-8 and 1838-9, for army and ordnance services occasioned by the insurrection in Upper and Lower Canada:—Five hundred thousand pounds.

F. BARING
Whitehall Treasury Chambers, July 25, 1838.

THE NAVAL FORCE OF FRANCE.—France has 11 ships of the line, first class, 126 guns each; 23 of second class, 80 guns each; 23 of third class, 32 guns each. This forms a total of 57 ships, nearly every one of them built since 1818. Besides this France has 40 frigates, first class, each of 60 thirty-six pounders; 10 frigates each of 46 thirty-six pounders; 15 frigates, third class, each of 32 guns; 10 frigates, fourth class, of 26 guns; 24 corvettes, each from 20 to 32 guns; 26 gun brigs, 27 steamers, the majority of 160 horse power, and each of them well armed. In her arsenals there are nearly 3000 guns and cannonades for the naval service enough to fit out 51 ships of the line, 20 frigates and 20 corvettes.

FAMINE IN INDIA.—The upper provinces of the Bengal presidency were, (when the last despatches reached this country) scenes of the most frightful misery and mortality. Owing to the extreme poverty of the natives, occasioned by the impolitic and ruinous system pursued by the government of India towards the occupiers and the cultivators of the soil, tens of thousands have been reduced to utter starvation. On the 14 of April last, 78,000 pining wretches, men, woman, and children, were fed by bounty at Agra; and between the 1st and 15th of March, 71,523 infirm and sightless creatures were relieved in a similar manner. So great have been the ravages of death that the air for miles is tainted with the effluvia from the putrifying carcasses of men and cattle, and the rivers of the Jumna and Ganger choked up and poisoned by the dead bodies thrown into their channels.—The water and fish of these rivers are rejected as unfit for use, and men are kept constantly employed in pushing the accumulated bodies down the torrents. From the July number of the *Oriental Herald* we learn that starvation, disease, and death, are doing their work at Cawnpore, Muttra, Gwalior, and Delhi, while the weather natives look on with listlessness and unconcern. Though a famine fund has been established by the European public of India, it is found impossible to meet the necessities of the destitute and dying multitudes.

THREATENED INSURRECTION IN PORTUGAL.—The Royal Tar steamer, which left Lisbon on the 24th instant, Oporto the 25th, and Vigo 26th, brings important intelligence. Another plot to overturn the existing government of Portugal has been discovered, at the head of which is the Duke de Terceira. The object of the conspiracy is said to be, to proclaim Donna Maria Queen Absolute, with a promise of a code of laws, supposed to have been framed and actually signed by Don Joam VI., but suppressed at the instance of his advisers. Should this project take place, (which I am told was fixed for the 25th,) do not be surprised to hear of Donna Maria's arrival in England, as well as that of the Duke de Terceira, who is the first Lord Chamberlain to the Queen. The mististry continues unchanged at present, but a new list is prepared to suit altered circumstances.—The disturbances at Braga, where the levying of the decima and other new taxes was effectually resisted, had been followed by the fishmongers and fishermen at Lisbon, in consequence of the edict that the fish should be sold by weight. The government were expected to succumb.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.—From the 37th report of the select committee on public petitions, issued on Monday, it appears that the petitions against any farther grant to Maynooth College up to the 20th inst., amount to 41, with 19,384 signatures.

THE GREAT WESTERN.—The Great Western left Bristol on Saturday last, for New York, with 118 passengers. Her cargo is estimated at £20,000 value; every nook and cranny where goods could be stowed being filled. She carries despatches for Lord Durham; and there were 3,180 letters from the Post-office, and about 5,000 from that of the Great Western; also about 2,000 newspapers, and a great number of small parcels;

besides which, the passengers' luggage was sufficient to freight a small steamer.

Lord Charles Wellesley embarks for Canada early in the present month, to assume the command of the 15th foot, to the lieutenant-colonelcy of which corps his lordship has been appointed.

The exiled Bourbon family have transferred their residence from Goritz to Kirchberg, where the Duchess de Berry was expected on the 12th. The Duchess d'Angouleme had paid their respects at Kirchberg, were Prince and Princess Polignac, who had since returned to Vienna.

THE GORGON STEAM FRIGATE.—This splendid vessel, it is expected, will shortly be despatched to the coast of Spain.—Her average velocity is twelve miles an hour, and her consumption of coal was one ton during that time. There is convenient stowage for a supply of fuel for 25 days. This, at an average speed of nine miles only per hour, will carry her a distance of 5,800 miles by steam alone. As this steam frigate will carry, besides the crew, 1,000 troops, with stores and provisions for two months, it is evident that we might, at pleasure, transport a regiment to Odessa, Constantinople, or any of the ports in the Mediterranean, or to St. Petersburg, or any of the northern cities, or to the West Indies, and principal American ports, at once, without waiting for wind or stopping for fuel.

The *Sirius*, belonging to the *St. George's steam navigation company*, and recently trading from London to New York, sailed on Friday for *St. Petersburg*, with many passengers. This is the first attempt to go from England to *St. Petersburg* by steam.

An order, transmitted by M. Fornari, Internuncio of the Pope at Brussels, prohibits all the convents now existing in Belgium from receiving any novices in future.

A letter from Cairo, in the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, says that the English Government have purchased the Port of Aden in Arabia, as a central point for the steam navigation in the Red Sea. Aden, in the hands of an European garrison is represented to be an impregnable fortress. The price supposed to be paid is said to be a perpetual annuity of £1,500 to the sultan.

Lord Trimleston, a Roman Catholic Peer, has caused great excitement at *Maynooth*, by suing a great number of the peasantry for his lay *tithe*.

The Duke of Montebello has demanded the expulsion from the Swiss territory of Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte.

The Marquis of Clanricarde has been appointed Ambassador for *St. Petersburg*. His lordship is busily employed in making preparations for his departure, which will take place in October next.

A novel stoppage of the railway train lately took place near *Walsall*, in Staffordshire. The company had been assessed in the respect of the road, towards the relief of the poor; but demurred to the payment. In consequence, a warrant of distress was obtained, and the broker, with his assistants, stood on the road, with handkerchiefs in their hands, and intimated the absolute necessity of stopping the engine. The guard, conceiving it was an intimation of some impending danger, stopped the engine, which was instantly seized for the disputed rate. One of the carriages was ultimately left in pledge to meet the demand.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1838.

To Correspondents.

We do not wish to be angry with our Correspondents.

dent "P. Q." but we would much rather he would not tease us at present with his calculations; suppose he were to devote a year or two more to the Mathematics, perhaps then we may listen to him.

"Y." must ask the Wardens of the Fire Companies why their Accounts have not been published.

Multum in parvo!!

His Excellency the Governor has REFUSED to pay to some of the Contractors for public works in this District their legally prescribed advances unless the orders for such advances be signed by a MAJORITY or by the CHAIRMAN of the respective Boards,—again, His Excellency the Governor has been PLEASED TO PAY to others of the contractors for public works in this District their legally prescribed advances WITHOUT the signature of a majority and WITHOUT the signature of the Chairman of the Board

Strange there should such difference be
Twixt tweedle dum and tweedle dee!!!!

In justice however to the fair and impartial administration of His Excellency—a fairness and impartiality seldom met with in this intriguing age—we are willing to admit that some mistake lies at the bottom of this apparent inconsistency.

We observe that that unfortunate and itinerant pest, the Marquis of Waterford, has been lately fined in the sum of £100 for his disgraceful frolics at *Melton*.—Cannot Lord Durham find some employment for this criminal creature in the service of our beautiful Queen? *Turton, Chapman, Wakefield and Waterford* would compound a delectable quaternion; besides, there would be something sweetly harmonious in the very sound of the firm.

A list for Subscribers to the Pamphlet advertised in another column, is open at this Office.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR]

SIR,—Many, I can assure you, were very much surprised, that in your last number you did not repel with indignation, the insinuations of the 'PATRIOT' with respect to Mr. STARK. You must have seen the article in that paper asserting that Mr. STARK was the Editor of the STAR: now Sir, in justice to yourself and to that Gentleman you were bound to contradict the statement, and that too, in the most unqualified terms.

I am, Sir,
A CONSTANT READER.
Harbor Grace, Sept., 1838.

[Surely our Correspondent does not mean to say that we are bound to take notice of every little gingerbread witticism which the jealousy and ingenuity of our contemporaries may chance to bring forth: as to feelings of "indignation" we trust we have been schooled under a better system than that which would tolerate them. The PROTESTANT!! Editor of the "Newfoundland Patriot" is at liberty to say what he pleases about our Journal, only, we must observe, that upon the "POINT" in question, as well as many others, he is at variance not merely with the truth, but with his own convictions!!! With respect to the character of Mr. STARK, we beg to remind our Correspondent, that it stands too high in the public estimation to dread the attacks of the "PATRIOT" or to need the advocacy of the "STAR".—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.]

SIR,—The charge of DISLOYALTY which has been preferred against the Honorable the House of Assembly is of so grave and very serious a nature, that I am not at all surprised at the exertions which they are making to remove the imputation from their character, and to restore themselves to the favor of an excited constituency. There is something so formidable and shocking in the accusati-

on of Treason as to of almost any mean and degrading stigma and obliterated. I of the Colony, and young and rising upon the land of pride and jealousy Legislative Repres to come out of the defiled,—that they vining the Sister it appears they des (liance) that their lo that it has been the times, to support 'tution' whether the nada had been over Mr. Editor, I have notable Assembly the charge,—that t to the meanest cap they have been su fully slandered; an der it manifest to world, that neither rebellious principle any way, mode, or succoured or suppo advocacy in others. preparatory remarks the following Cat would most earnest of your numerous most respectfully s of the House as a their serious delibe which, if not prop far more effectively their manifold viol berty.

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