

Lord Stanley, in the course of his speech, in reverting to the financial policy he should have adopted, had he taken upon himself the reins of Government, observed:—

"I believe that, without interfering with the credit of the country, dealing with the existing surplus, without attempting to alter or reduce other taxes, in the course of this year a reduction of from one-third to one-half in the amount of the income tax might safely and beneficially be effected. I was desirous that Parliament should, by some resolution, pledge itself to the gradual reduction of the income-tax, with a view to its final abolition, and I should have been prepared, if the duty had devolved upon me, to recommend Parliament to grant only such a renewal of that tax as would reduce its amount by one-third or one-half, and I should have been prepared to pledge myself that any surplus revenue that might arise should, in the first instance, be applied towards the reduction and final extinction of that tax."

After denying that there was any ground for the rumour that he had applied to her Majesty for her authority to dissolve the Parliament, and that he had been refused, his Lordship went on to state that he could not lay before her Majesty a Cabinet solely composed of his own party, more especially in the other House of Parliament, so strong as to act in the face of a most powerful majority—a majority "ready to combine for the purposes of opposition, though unable to act together for the purposes of Government." This is in fact no government at all. Some of its members may be diligent and skilful clerks in the public offices (though, unhappily, most of them are not entitled even to that praise) but all are obsequious servants of a predominant party, or rather predominant coalition of parties, in the House of Commons; but Ministers of the Crown, that is, independent representatives of an independent Sovereign, they certainly are not. They cannot pass, as at present constituted, any important measure they wish, without trucking to a tyrant majority—combined of all grades of Whigs, Radicals, Socialists, and Romanists, whose servants they are, but this is not to guide the House of Commons as it was guided in the healthy days of our Parliamentary Constitution, but to be *divined* by the tyrant majority in that House. How deplorable is the weakness—but weakness is too feeble a word—the *nothingness* of the Russell Cabinet, which even with its new infusion of strength, will barely eke out an existence through the present Session.

We again exhort our Agricultural friends not to despond; but rather to take fresh courage, from the well-founded conviction that a Dissolution of the present Parliament cannot be far distant. To stimulate them to increased patience, energy, courage and determination in the great and good cause in which they are so righteously engaged, we direct their attention to the wise and patriotic sentiments, to which Lord Stanley gave utterance, in the House of Lords, on the occasion above referred to, from which they may gather the great Protectionist's views on the subject of their distresses:—

"I hold it to be an admitted and undisputed fact that the land is at this moment the only suffering interest, and that it is labouring under an amount of taxation of various descriptions far exceeding the amount which falls upon other classes of the community. I believe also that it will not be contradicted, I think, by any one—that the result of the measure of 1816 for the total repeal of the Corn Laws, and the unrestricted introduction of foreign corn, has had an effect upon prices far more extensive than was expected, more extensive than was desired, and more extensive than could possibly have been anticipated by the framers of the Bill. When the Corn Laws were repealed, it was asserted and endeavoured to be proved, that, under ordinary circumstances, from the state of foreign markets, the price of corn could not, on an average, fall below 48s. We now see it at 37s. or 38s.; and, with no desire to check the free exercise of commerce, with no desire to reverse the general policy of the commercial system introduced by Sir Robert Peel, I say that, by imposing a moderate duty upon the importation of foreign corn, you might raise a very considerable revenue for the country, while you would not materially raise the existing price of produce to the consumer—(Hear, ear.)—but you would by the acquisition of a duty of £500,000, or £2,000,000, enable the Government more rapidly to effect that object to which I have referred and great advantage to the community at large—the extinction of the income-tax. I do not hesitate, therefore, to say that if it were found impracticable, as I think it would be, to effect such a commutation of the system of taxation as to place all classes upon a perfect level, then, according to the best Free Trade authorities, it is not adverse to the principle of Free Trade to impose, in favour of the class which is subjected to an undue share of burdens, countervailing duties to an amount sufficient to meet those burdens—(Hear)—and I believe that by the imposition of a moderate duty upon the import of corn and provisions you might raise such an amount of taxation as, at the close of the year after this would enable the country altogether, and I trust for ever, to abolish the income-tax. I venture to say that the relief of the finances of the country, and the removal of that pressure of taxation, would infinitely and immeasurably exceed any possible trifling alteration in the price of food—and trifling indeed it must be—which could touch the consumer. I do not want to enter upon the general question. I express my frank opinion that the question of Protection, or, if you please, the question of the unrestricted import of provisions, is or which must be settled by the country—(Cheers)—one and for ever—(Renewed cheering)—whenever an appeal is made to the country for its decision. I cannot take the present policy as more than an experiment—(Hear and cheers)—in the course of being carried out. Should the next election prove that the sense of the country is in favour of the perfectly unrestricted import of all provisions unaccompanied by those duties which other countries are imposed for the purposes of revenue on all articles, and which in this country are imposed and to a vast extent, upon articles of prime necessity for consumption, hardly inferior to that of bread itself.—I say, if that be the opinion of the country at the next election, I for one, and I believe the majority of your Lordships and of Parliament, will respectfully bow to that expression of the sense of the country. (Hear, and cheers.) But until I see that expression of the feeling of the country, when I find that the present system is working an amount of evil far greater than was anticipated by its opponents—certainly far greater than I anticipated myself, I cannot as an honest man abandon that attempt to relieve the existing distress by the imposition of a moderate duty upon corn. We have been to that the labouring classes in the agricultural district are well off. Now, in some countries and districts stress has not reached the labourer so soon as it has reached his employer; but it is impossible for labourers to continue in a state of prosperity when the employer's labour is daily, weekly, and hourly seeing his capital diminish

and his means dwindle away, as impossible as it is for a river to continue to flow if you cut off all the springs by which it is supplied."

QUEEN ADELAIDE'S CORRESPONDENCE.—The pile of letters which each day's post brought to the widowed Queen was of no common bulk. Letters from all parts of England, on all charitable projects, from clergy, from laity, from widows, from orphans, from partics in every grade of society, assailed her benevolent sympathies. Every county and almost every town in England furnished her with a correspondent. No one sustained a harsh or contemptuous rejection. The Queen read all her letters. Patiently, perseveringly, and systematically would she sit down morning after morning, and, despite of bad writing, wretched grammar, interminable periods, and endless repetitions, master their meaning. Her own impressions was recorded in her own hand writing on the back of each application; this done, the letter passed into the hands of Lieutenant Bedford, her secretary for charities, for the purpose of further investigation; or if this was not deemed needful, to be replied in the affirmative forthwith. Some of her annotations ran thus:—"This appears incredible." "Plausible, but has too much the air of an imposter." "An extraordinary, and, it is to be feared, exaggerated statement." "This case deserves immediate investigation." "To be relieved at once." "Needs no confirmation." And then followed the sum, £5, £10, or £20, which, in the Queen's judgment, would meet the necessities of the case, and which was at once to be forwarded to the petitioner. Her discrimination was rarely at fault; so rarely, that when equivocal cases were inquired into by members of her household by the Queen's command, the results of such inquiry bore out, with scarcely an exception, the view which their royal mistress had originally taken. One of these applications, with the Queen's autograph comment on the back, I have seen. A curious document it is. The writer, from his own admission, had previously participated in the Queen's bounty. Now he addressed her in dying circumstances. He alleges that his physician has recommended him "jellies," and other "expensive articles of nutriment," which his own means would not admit of his procuring; and very adroitly suggests to the Queen the propriety of her supplying this deficiency. But he writes in articulate morris—he is dying—absolutely dying—he has but a few hours to live—and still his thoughts run on no other subject but the Queen Dowager and Jellies. The letter is long, written in large characters, with a profusion of flourishes. The Queen's autograph comment, endorsed on the fourth side, runs thus:—"An odd epistle! Written in a good, strong, steady hand, for a dying man. A."—*Neale's Earthly Resting Places for the Just.*

DEATH OF JOANNA BAILLIE.—We regret to announce the decease of Joanna Baillie, a poet whose fame is indelibly inscribed on the annals of our literature, and whose genius, remarkable in character, has received the homage of the most exalted of her contemporaries. Born in the year 1762, in the manse of Bothwell, near Glasgow, of which place her father was minister, her great age connected her with a period signalled by the most remarkable events, and equally so by the great intellectual impulse which then leavened the social mass. At the end of the last century a crowd of distinguished persons appeared in every department where eminence could be attained, and the names of Rogers, Wordsworth, Campbell, Moore, Scott, shortly to be succeeded by some equally celebrated, proved that in poetry the period was particularly rich. The works of Joanna Baillie, which then appeared anonymously, created as great a sensation as any production of the great authors above-mentioned, and the impression which was the result of their first appearance was much heightened when, contrary to all expectation, they were found to be the writings of a woman. This impression was still further increased when it was discovered that the authoress was still young, had always led a secluded life, and had, therefore, by the force of imagination alone bodied forth productions usually the result of experience and much intercourse with the world. Her works are marked by great originality and invention, for the foundations of her dramas are not in general historical, nor stories from real life, but combinations wrought out from her own conceptions. Her knowledge of the human heart, of its wide range of good and of evil, of its multiform, cheerful, and wayward nature, was great and her power of portraying character has rarely been exceeded. Her language is simple and forcible, while the illustrations and imagery, often suggested, probably, by the picturesque localities where her youth was passed, are copious and effective. Her female portraits are especially beautiful, and possess an unusual degree of elevation and purity. Several of her dramas have been acted. Though her fame tended greatly to draw her into society, her life was passed in retirement. It was pure and moral in the highest degree, and was characterized by the most consummate integrity, kindness, and active benevolence. She was an instance that poetical genius of a high order may be united to a mind well regulated, able and willing to execute the ordinary duties of life in an exemplary manner. Gentle and unassuming to all, with an unchangeable simplicity of manner and character, she counted many of the most celebrated for talent and genius among her friends, nor were those who resorted to her modest home confined to the natives of this country, but many from various parts of Europe, and especially from America, sought introduction to one whose fame is commensurated with a knowledge of English literature.

Communication.

[We deem it necessary to follow the example of the London Church periodicals, and to apprise our readers that we are not responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.—Ed. C.]

To the Editor of The Church.
"THE CLERGY RESERVES."
(Concluded from our last.)

Our duty to our country demands from us that we firmly withstand every act of spoliation and sacrilege no matter who the man or men may be desirous of effecting it. National crime is punished in this world, and next to murder no sin is so remarkably punished as that of sacrilege. Examples innumerable are to be found in the histories of all ages, of Heathens and Infidels as well as of Jews and Christians. One of the three last injunctions laid upon his son by Lord Strafford, when under sentence of death was:—"I charge you touching Church property never to meddle with it, for the curse of God will follow all them, that meddle with such a thing, that tends to the destruction of the most Apostolical Church upon earth." And it was found in England by many families, who amidst the confusion which prevailed had seized upon Church land, that when added, even to an ancient and just inheritance, it proved like a moth fretting a garment, and secretly consumed both.

If we go to the Word of God, we find this crime of applying to other ends, what is devoted to religion punished by scorching judgments. The people of Israel withheld from the worship of Jehovah what was expressly set apart for its use; and were for that impoverished by famine, and by disease desolated. Read the 8th and 9th verses of the 3rd chapter of the Prophet Malachi, wherein the Almighty asks—"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wh-rein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." Who can therefore doubt that before Heaven, this wresting of Religion's righteous patrimony to secular purposes is a great sin. We cannot doubt it. We well know, that if the Clergy Reserves be seized, and held otherwise than for the support and propagation of the Christian religion, the country will have committed a blunder and a crime which shall entail upon it the withering curse of an avenging God, through successive generations. Nor let us think that we shall escape unharmed, when the vials of a Divine wrath are outpoured upon a guilty land. If the abettors of a wicked measure of spoliation be successful through our negligence and inaction, a blighted commerce, unfruitful seasons, and unyielding fields, trouble, perplexity, distress and death, will evidence that no nation can insult heaven by flagrant wrong, and pass unscathed.

When we consider that we receive all things from God, and should therefore cheerfully afford somewhat of our substance from gratitude, for maintaining his worship and the public exercises of religion; we might reasonably have expected that it would not have entered into any man's mind to rob God of that which was religiously dedicated to his service. Yet, men of station—men of influence—men professing to regard religion, would be guilty of this horrible iniquity! An iniquity which the very heathens, apprehensive of the divine vengeance, hesitated to commit; for which the Almighty sent the most horrible want and suffering into India; and for which He sent the kingdom from a Babylonian monarch, and caused the fingers of a man's hand to inscribe his doom before his eyes, when in the very enjoyment of his spoils.

Surely, if we have the fear of God before our eyes, we shall exert ourselves to prevent the hand of the spoiler from resting upon the heritage of the Lord; hinder the land we love from incurring God's curse.

R. G. C.

Colonial.

EXTENSIVE FIRE.—On Thursday last, about noon, a fire broke out in a block of frame buildings abutting on the east side of St. Patrick's market, Queen-street, west. It originated from sparks which were emitted from a chimney on fire, in the house occupied by Mr. Egan, grocer; as the wind blew with moderate strength at the time, the flames speedily extended to adjoining buildings, and notwithstanding the early and unremitting exertions of the Hose, and Hook-and-Ladder companies, the danger was not stayed until a very large portion of the whole block had been destroyed. At one time it was apprehended that the damage would extend to buildings still further eastward, many of the occupants of which removed their furniture into the street. The houses destroyed on Queen-street were occupied, respectively, by Mr. H. Cook, tavern keeper; Mrs. Skerry, provision dealer; Mr. Ferguson, tailor; Mrs. Long, shop-keeper; and five dwellings at the back were also burnt to the ground.—A corner house, occupied by Mr. Egan, was all but destroyed. The tavern was the property of Mr. Cleary, who owned one of the back dwellings; and Messrs. Ferguson, Malone, and Lennox, owned part of the property. Mr. Cleary was partly insured in the Columbus office, and Mr. Ferguson in the Orleans office. Whether other insurances had been effected, we have been unable to ascertain. It may be added that the supply of water from the hydrants was tolerably good, though by no means sufficient.

The "Old Jail" was sold yesterday after a spirited competition, to Mr. Edward Tyrrell, of Weston, for £2,105. The sale was deferred for nearly half an hour, to afford the government an opportunity of effecting the purchase by arbitration, and after the bidding had commenced, the Post Master General attended and offered £2,000, and subsequently £2,050, but being influenced, apparently, by an idea that Mr. Tyrrell was "running up" the sale, ceased to compete when £10 more were offered, and thus lost the opportunity of securing an eligible and convenient building for the public service.—*Patriot.*

A writer in a Baltimore paper says that this year is the time for the appearance of the 17 years locusts, particularly in the States of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. They will begin to leave the ground about the 25th of May.

INUNDATION.—On Monday night last, the principal street in our town was completely overflowed with water. The flood was caused by the breaking of Mr. Atkinson's mill-dam, where a saw-mill and a number of logs were carried away. Onwards the waters rushed over the several dams between this town and Mr. Atkinson's mill, carrying with them saw-logs and drift timber of every variety, size and shape. We have been unable to learn the exact amount of damage done above, but understand that it is not very great. Mr. Kerby suffered some loss, in the flooding of the lower story of his flour-mill, and in the partial destruction of his mill-dam. Mr. Hullock had about 200 saw-logs floated from his mill-pond, and Mr. —, whose mill is situated on the verge of the falls, was also robbed of some saw-logs, which went dashing, pell-mell, into the abyss below. Just below Mr. Spencer's dam, the water broke over the bank, and rushed across the flats and down King-street with velocity, tearing up some portions of the sidewalk, and flooding the cellars of some few of our townpeople. On the whole, however, we are happy to say that the damage done, so far as we have been enabled to learn, is not considerable. It is not improbable that the works now in course of construction for the Great Western Railroad, at the point where the water overflowed, will prevent the recurrence of a similar inundation; the town authorities, however, should keep a watchful eye both on the creek, and on those who dam up its waters, that they do not endanger the town by their operations.—*Dundas Warder.*

FIRE AT ST. CATHARINES.—On Tuesday last, the house of Mr. W. F. Hubbard, Master of the Grammar School in St. Catharines, was discovered to be on fire; but by the exertions of the firemen, the flames were prevented from spreading, and with the exception of the roof, the property was saved. Mr. Hubbard was insured.

THE NEW POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.

For a half-ounce letter 3d. currency, through the whole of the British North American Provinces; 6d. currency, through the whole of the Provinces and the United States, except California and Oregon; and 9d. currency, through the whole of the Provinces and the United States, including California and Oregon.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Toronto, 2nd April, 1851.

Commencing on and from the 6th instant, Letters, Newspapers, &c., will pass through the Mails between Canada and the United States, including California and Oregon, at the rates of postage, and under the regulations herein mentioned.

- Letters posted at any office in Canada, addressed to any place in the United States, except California and Oregon, are to be rated with a uniform rate of six-pence currency per half-ounce.
- Letters posted in any part of the United States, except California and Oregon, will be rated there with a uniform charge of ten cents, equal to six-pence currency per half-ounce.
- The postage rate on letters passing between Canada and California and Oregon; will be a uniform rate of nine-pence currency, equal to fifteen cents per half ounce.
- It is to be understood that the above rates include the whole charge for the transmission of a letter between any place in Canada and any place within the United States, including California and Oregon.
- The scale for computing the charge upon letters weighing more than half-an-ounce, will be the same as that for letters passing within the Province.
- Pre-payment of letters passing between Canada and any place within the United States, including California and Oregon, will in all cases be optional.
- Newspapers, Pamphlets, &c., posted in Canada, addressed to the United States, including California and Oregon, are, excepting such as are hereinafter differently provided for, to be forwarded through the Post at the same rates of charge as if addressed to a place within the Province; the said rates must, however, be *pre-paid*—as, if the ordinary Canada rate is not paid at the time of posting a newspaper, or pamphlet, &c., it cannot be forwarded to the United States.
- United States Newspapers, Pamphlets, &c., will be received in this Province, with the American postage thereon pre-paid—leaving the ordinary Canada rate of charge from the Frontier Line to the place of destination to be in all cases, with the exception hereinafter provided for, collected by the Postmaster who may deliver the same in Canada.
- Newspapers posted by publishers in this Province, addressed to publishers or subscribers in the United States, including California and Oregon, are to be forwarded through the post in Canada, free of charge to the Province Line.
- One copy of each United States Newspaper, addressed to the Publisher or Editor of a newspaper, within this Province, is to be delivered to the said Publisher or Editor free of any Canada charge for conveyance from the Province Line.
- Printed documents from the United States addressed to the Publisher or Editor of a newspaper in this Province, are to be delivered to the said Publisher or Editor, free of any Canada charge—such documents must be without covers, or in covers open at the ends or sides.
- The Canada Postage Stamps when used will be taken as evidence of pre-payment of postage on letters going from Canada to the United States, and in like manner the United States Postage Stamps on letters coming into Canada are to be taken by Postmasters in this Province as evidence of pre-payment having been made in the United States.
- The following are appointed to be the Offices in Canada through which the Post communication with the United States will be maintained, and to which Postmasters are to forward their Mail matter for the United States, according to the relative position of their several Offices:—

By Command, W. H. GRIFFIN.

NOTE.—Another important regulation has been made. Mails between the offices of New York, Albany, Buffalo and Boston, one side, and Toronto, Kingston and Montreal on the other, are to pass each way as through mails, not to be opened at any intermediate frontier office.

On Tuesday last, a sad accident occurred near St. Catharines, by which an industrious and prosperous neighbour, Mr. B. Gregory, came to his death. He was hauling lumber, and having loaded his wagon and in the act of paying for the load, his horses were starting off; by holding them back he got forced against the fence, and missing his step tumbled under the horse. The animals, no longer restrained drew the wagon over Mr. Gregory, by which he lost his life in twelve hours after the occurrence. Mr. Gregory is much regretted by an extensive circle of acquaintance, being an old inhabitant.

The St. John's Railway will be opened on Monday next, on which day also a small steamer will commence running from St. John's to Rouse's Point, which will be a great accommodation to travellers to the States. The cars will leave Laprairie, at 2, P. M.

LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT IN BLENHHEIM.—On the morning of Sunday last three young lads were chatting together among the saw logs placed on the face of a bank near Mr. David Snider's Saw mill, in west Blenheim, a short distance from the Dumfries Town line. Whilst quietly conversing a log on the brow of the hill suddenly moved, and toppling down towards the unfortunate lads, jammed two of them, named Chisler and Fudy, up against another log with such violence, that their lower limbs were smashed to pieces, and their bodies severely crushed. The third boy miraculously escaped, from a knot in the log preventing him from being crushed like his companions. One of the unfortunate boys died in about an hour after the accident; the other survived long enough to endure the additional suffering of having his thigh cut off, but died the same evening. The parents were formerly residents in the Township of Warkenton, and the mother of poor Chester was confined only a few hours before her darling boy so miserably perished.—*Galt Reporter.*