

## POLITICAL SUMMARY.

CANADA.—Our lucubrations under this head have been kept in abeyance now for three months, but in looking back on that period we find little of peculiar interest to arrest our attention—at least, in so far as this colony is concerned. It seems generally agreed that emigration from this country to the United States is going on to a considerable extent. If this involved only the removal of the politically disaffected—those absolutely hostile to British institutions and connexion—there would be little reason to regret it. But it is to be feared that many good subjects and useful members of the community are also withdrawing themselves—some through timidity and a desire to be out of the way of apprehended trouble—others from the scarcity of profitable employment, and the backward state of public improvement, and of private enterprise. The French Canadians are said to be removing in considerable numbers; a very unusual proceeding among them. The wretched system of agriculture practised by them, has no doubt rendered the effects of their distractions and troubles far more grievous than they might have been—and sheer want is expelling many of them. In the investigation by Lord Durham in regard to the agricultural state of the region below Quebec it was found that neither seed nor stock had been changed for ages. In the course of the summer some alarm was occasioned by reports industriously circulated respecting a renewal of the conspiracies against our peace on the other side; and the 4th of July was represented as big with danger of renewed incursions into our borders. It passed over, however, quietly—and whatever we may think of the purposes and plots of our own refugees, there seems to be good reason to believe that the great bulk, even of the most ardent and philanthropic of our republican neighbours, have quite given us up as a hopeless case, and will leave us to hug our chains in peace and quietness. It has unhappily cost Great Britain £1,053,000 to bring them to this conclusion.—Several convictions have been obtained by the United States' authorities for levying war within their territories against Great Britain, and Mackenzie for one has been sent to jail for eighteen months. Amongst ourselves, whilst a great number of political culprits have been released or removed to the penal colonies, fresh atrocities continue to be committed, which are supposed to be of a political character—such as the Cobourg conspiracy, and the frequent acts of incendiarism in various parts of the country, but especially on the Niagara frontier. Public meetings also have been held in a good many places in support of the

views contained in the Earl of Durham's report, at which, the leading topics of the orators have been, the responsibility of the local executive to the provincial legislature in local matters—the union of the provinces—the dissolution of the present house of assembly, and the subversion of that most abhorred of all oligarchies—the family compact. These meetings have perhaps been neither so general nor so numerous, as the objects contemplated by them, and the actual state of political feeling in the community, might have led us to expect. But in fact, they have been mainly composed of the extreme politicians on either side; and there is a large proportion of our community who either take no interest in political matters; or who, although grumbling or approving in private, have an unarmountable aversion to compromising themselves by any decided steps. We admire greatly the counsel of the town clerk of Ephesus—which is peculiarly applicable in such matters—and firmly believe that every consistent christian will exhibit a conscientious moderation in this as in all other respects—but, at the same time, it is not to be overlooked, that the citizen has obligatory duties as well as the individual—and is as much bound to faithfulness and diligence in the former as in the latter capacity. Whatever good or evil may result from the meetings in question, it seems to be very obvious that some powerful stimulants are required to prevent and remedy the mischievous consequences arising from the temporising, procrastinating, undecided course of the imperial government. It were indeed, vain to expect, that any measures they could adopt, will at once, or very speedily restore the health, or even materially mitigate the disorders of the body politic. They are too deeply seated to admit of easy cure, or of any cure that does not apply itself directly to the moral and religious condition of the whole population, as well as to their executive system of government. But indecision and uncertainty can only aggravate every symptom, in a community like ours, when true political wisdom is so little diffused, and where the qualifications of the statesman and legislator are scarcely to be found. Nothing has been done in the imperial parliament in regard to the colony, except the modification of the act for the temporary government of Lower Canada—Lord John Russell's bill for the union of the provinces, was only to be postponed till next session. Besides providing for the union, and the establishment of a general legislature, differing in almost no respect from the present one, it proposes the division of the united province into five districts, each to have a district council of twenty seven