The first assertion they make out by very plausible estimates; and the second is grounded, first upon the physical impossibility of a collision occurring, since the motive power cannot act in two directions at the same time; and second, upon the fact that a train cannot get off the rail, as the leading carriage is firmly attached to the piston, which travels in the pipe between the rails, and that, as no engines travel with the train, accidents from fire or explosions can never occur. It need be no wonder if a project which promises such advantages as these has hitherto met but with little notice, as the very men who are likely to have their attention attracted to it—namely, railway proprietors and engineers—are those whose interests it appears mostly to threaten, and who accordingly have generally treated it with ridicule. Of late, however, Mr. Pim, the treasurer of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway Company, has taken up the subject with great energy, and has published a letter addressed to Lord Morpeth, setting forth the merits of the invention, and proposing that as their appears to be some intention of establishing a system of railways in Ireland, it should, under the protection of the Government, receive a fair trial upon an extended line, with a view, if found successful, of adopting it throughout that country, to which, as the traffic is not considerable, railways with a single track would be found amply sufficient. A scheme so plausible in appearance as this, holding forth a prospect of so important an amelioration in railway travelling, and against which no valid objections have hitherto been raised, does indeed seem to call for a fair trial, by which its alleged merits may be attested or confuted.—*Times.*

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, OCT. 29, 1841.

As we stated in our last, the English first October Mail arrived at Halifax on Tuesday the 19th inst. in 13½ days from Liverpool, and was received in this city on Saturday morning last, by the land mail. We have received our usual files from our friends in England and this Province, and from which we have made as many extracts as our limits will permit. We are glad to perceive that a slight improvement has taken place in commercial affairs, and that, although the country has been brought to an almost unparrelleled state of excitement and distress, the people of Britain have the fullest confidence in the new Conservative ministry, that in due time they will be able to restore the country to its wonted prosperity. Sir Robert Peel has declared "that with respect to the Corn Laws, and the other vital questions which now occupy the attention of the country, he would form his own opinion of the alterations necessary to be made, and *no considerations of convenience, no leaving them open questions to be proposed here and defeated there, should prevent his bringing them forward; and having stated to the House of Commons the course he meant to pursue, he would stake the existence of the Government on the issue.*

There spoke the PRINCIPLE which has made England what she is, which has animated the actions of all her great men, which rendered a NELSON invincible on the ocean, a WELLINGTON unconquered on land, a PITT the guardian PALINURE, who slept not until he had piloted the world on the course which saved it from a worse desolation than that which followed at the heels of an ATTILA, and which makes Sir ROBERT PEEL in himself the embodiment and representative of the English people. He will have neither concealment, nor paltering, nor shuffling, nor subterfuge—all shall be open as day, direct as truth, and he will stand or fall ON THE BASIS OF HIS DUTY. England recognizes the statesman she wants; and the statesman knows the people whom their Gracious SOVEREIGN has summoned him to aid her in directing in the ways of peace, of happiness, of prosperity, order, and of RELIGION."

The John Bull justly remarks—"It would seem to be a severe practical satire upon the common sense of this country that after *nearly eleven years* of Whig-Radical, "Reform, Retrenchment, Non-Intervention Government," which according to its promises and professions was to raise this country to a state of prosperity greater than any it had ever seen before, England should find itself in 1841 in a gulph of distress and deficiency, caused by some *seven millions excess of expenditure over income*, in which it has been involved by this fine "Reform Government" in the last five of the said eleven years.

Does anybody suppose, now that the delusion of 1839 has been dissipated and removed by the nearly eleven years trying difficulties and distress which have consequently followed—does anybody imagine

"Now that the rabble's first vain shout is o'er!"

—that if the Duke of WELLINGTON, not merely one of the greatest warriors, but one of the best and most diligent practical men of business that ever existed, had been suffered to continue to conduct the Government, from that period to the present time, that his Grace in these eleven years would have so misruled the country, and mismanaged its affairs as to have brought England—*which in* 1830 *he left with a surplus of more than two millions*—into a deficit of more than seven millions in 1841?

It is a delightful result of the popular and other Reform mania of the two or three first years of the reign of WILLIAM IV. It looks like a consequent visitation. And truly enough the country pays tolerably dearly now for its frolic of those days. It almost seems to be an express punishment upon us for having deprived ourselves of the services of the Duke of WELLINGTON for ten or eleven years, at a time of life which in an able and active man of his business-like habits, are the best, because the most experienced and mentally vigorous years, in a Statesman's life.

But lest it should be imagined that we are exaggerating the price the country is now paying for its Reform Government mania of 1830 31-32, &c., let us state the case in detail, in the very words of Sir R. PEEL himself, in his excellent speech of Friday se'nnight. After enumerating the respective deficiencies of 1837, 1838, 1839, and 1840, the Right Hon. Baronet spoke thus:—

"In the year beginning the 5th April, 1841, and ending the 5th April, 1842, it is estimated, and estimated with lamentable truth, that the deficit for this single year will amount to two millions five hundred thousand pounds, making a total deficit—an accumulation of deficiency, if I may use the phrase—of *seven millions six hundred and sixty-six thousand pounds.*"

A deficiency of something *more than seven millions and a half*, since Lord MELBOURNE took the management of the affairs of this country, in 1837! *Surely it began to be time* for the country to get rid of the services of "this distinguished Nobleman," who according to *Globy*, and *Globy's* friend, *Monsieur*, "had no political ambition," "nor shared much of the anxiety or responsibility of office."

To get into debt is an easier and quicker thing than to get out of debt. The ex-Ministers themselves, though not overburthened with knowledge, must know this. They at least are strong examples of the sad truth of it. Yet they pretend that they supposed—though it took them, *dabs* as they are at getting *into* debt, five years to contract these more than seven and a half millions of deficiency—that Sir R. PEEL would declare his plans, or ways and means, for the extrication of the country from this distress and difficulty, and deficiency, the moment he came into office—or if not five days, five weeks, afterwards."

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Catherine Countess of Dunmore to be one of the ladies of the bedchamber in ordinary to her Majesty.

Prince Augusta of Wirtemberg, son of Prince Paul of Wirtemberg, has been promoted to the rank of general in the Prussian army. His royal highness was colonel of curassiers in the Prussian guards.

Lieutenant-Colonel Story, of the 7th battalion, commanding officer of the Royal Artillery in North Britain, died suddenly from apoplexy at Leith Fort, soon after his return to that station from a tour of inspection.

Lieut.-General the Right Hon. Sir George Murray, G. C. B. and G. C. H., the Master-General of the Ordnance, is expected to visit the garrison at Woolwich, to be introduced to the officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, and the heads of the departments in the Royal Arsenal, on his appointment.—There appears to be but one feeling of universal satisfaction that this gallant officer should have been appointed to fill so important a station as Master-General of the Ordnance, and consequently to be Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and Royal Engineers, and Captain of the Gentlemen Cadets at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich.

The 99th Regiment, of Foot, 800 strong, left Dublin on Monday morning, and arrived in Liverpool by a steamer the same day. The following day the 1st division proceeded on its route by railway to Birmingham, and from thence by trains to the Euston-square station, from whence they proceeded on the march to Gravesend. Thursday the 2d division of the same regiment, following the same route, passed through Greenwich. The last division will reach its destination to-day. The regiment will then proceed on its voyage to Sydney, New South Wales, to relieve a regiment in that colony destined for home service.

In the anatomy school of Oxford, among other curiosities they show the skeleton of a woman who had ten husbands, and was hanged at the age of thirty-six for the murder of four of them.

The *Sun* of Marseilles represents the olive trees in that part of the country to be weighed down with fruit and to promise a gathering at least equal to any within the memory of man, and thus to compensate for the losses of the country by the inundations from which it suffered so severely at an earlier part of the year.

The Lady of the Lake left the London Docks, on the 23th ult., for Constantinople: her cargo is the whole of the machinery required for the imperial mint of that place, manufactured by Messrs. Mandslay, Sons, and Field. It is supposed to be worth nearly £30,000.

The *Morning Post* says that Sir R. Gordon, G. C. B., is appointed ambassador at the court of Vienna; and that Lord Burghersh will probably go to Naples as the representative of Great Britain.

A private letter from Amsterdam states that, alarmed at the consequences which may result from the non-ratification by Holland of the treaty with Prussia, respecting the union of the Duchy of Luxemburg with the German Customs League, Baron Van Zuilen de Nevedt had respectfully declined accepting of the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Yesterday morning the Service Companies of 20th (East Devonshire) Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. N. Hercklesson, embarked on board the *Cornwall* transport, for Bermuda. The first division embarked on board the *General Palmer*, transport, on the 11th instant.

The Depot of the 86th Regiment is at present stationed at Spike Island.

Colonel Stawell, of the 12th Royal Lancers, has been placed upon the staff of the Army in Ireland, for the purpose of commanding the garrison of Dublin.

ROYAL ARTILLERY.—Lieut.-Col. C. Cruttenden is expected to relieve Colonel Oliver at Ballincollig, in Ireland, and take command of the Munster district.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, G. C. B., to be Captain-General and Governor in chief of her Majesty's provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and of the Island of Prince Edward; and Governor-General of all her Majesty's provinces on the continent of North America, and of the island Prince Edward.

A letter from Athens, of the 27th ult., in the *Augsburg Gazette*, states that the King of Greece had issued a decree to the effect that no Bavarian officers but such as were absolutely indispensible should be retained after the expiry of their terms of engagement in his service, in order that the more rapid promotion of Greek officers might be thereby favoured. In consequence of this, upwards of 70 Bavarian officers had immediately thrown up their commissions and had sailed for Trieste.

A new steamer, bearing the title of the Cario, made her first appearance in the Thames on Friday week, and excited general attention. She was built by Messrs. Ditchburn and Mare, of Blackwall, for the Peninsular, and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, for the Navigation of the Nile, and is intended as a branch steamer to convey passengers and langage to and from various places on that river.

The public were greatly taken by surprise on Saturday the 18th ultimo, by the failure of a very old and highly respectable West India house, Messrs. W. R. and S. Mitchell. The failure of crops in the West Indies is assigned as the cause, and it is thought the are indebted in a very large degree, though not to the commercial world. One of the firm is a director of the Bank of England.

A Liege journal state the Emperor of Russia has sent an order to an armourer of that town for 15,000 percussion muskets with rifle barrels, at Sleach, for the imperial guards. These guns are to carry a ball 1000 paces, and to be discharged are placed on rests which are so light that they are easily carried slung to the belt. A box formed in the butt end of the pieces carries the various small implements required. Bavaria and other German states it is said have sent orders to Liege for similar arms.

Sir Henry Hardinge, as secretary at war, has appointed Capt. Wood to be his private secretary.

By a recent order from the new board of admiralty, a considerable increase of men are to be sent to every ship.

Viscountess Melville expired on Friday, the 17th ultimo, at Melville Castle, near Edinburgh.

The Duke of Wellington, it is said, has determined, by means of a lottery, to throw open Waterloo Bridge to the public.

General Baron de Rosen, of the Russian army, who so greatly distinguished himself during the late war, died a short time since.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Lieut Frederick J. F. Henslow, R. N., to be a Naval Knight of Windsor, vice Lieut. W Jones, R. N., deceased.

A meeting of the Repeal Association took place in Dublin last week, when Mr. O'Connell said the motto of the society was that "Everything coming from England should be burnt, except coals." No one should be admitted to its meetings who was not dressed altogether in Irish manufactures.

The American ship Henry, Capt. Pierce, lately cleared from Liverpool for Ostend, there to be laden with machinery and workmen for the manufacture of cotton, to be conveyed to Vera Cruz, and put into works in Mexico. The machinery was made at the Phœnix Works, in Ghent.

The widow of the late Mr. Tyrone Power, whose melancholy death on board the President, must still be fresh in the minds of our readers, has just administered to the effects of her late lamented husband, in the Prerogative Court of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, in Doctors' Commons. The personal property of the deceased is sworn under 50,000l.

Her B. M. S. Acorn had captured a slaver called the Gabriel, the master of which, as soon as the vessel was seized, jumped overboard with the ships papers and was lost. The prize, which sailed under Portuguese colours, was sent to Saint Helena, and her contents were estimated at 8,000 livres st.

Sir M. White Ridley, Bart. of Heaton and Blagdon, Northumberland, married on Tuesday week at Ampthill Church, Bedfordshire, Miss Cecilia Anne Parke, eldest daughter of the Right honorable Baron Parke. The honourable Miss Harriet Elizabeth Pitt, only daughter of the late and sister of the present Lord Rivers, recently a maid of honour to the Queen, was married, on Saturday week, to Mr. Charles D. Bruce, nephew of the Earl of Elgin.

A letter appeared in the *Times* of Saturday, signed "G. Cockburn, General," which announces that the writer has already submitted to Sir Robert Peel a plan by which he could raise £30,000,000 or more without loan or payment of interest. He does not divulge the details of his plan; but it is based on the following sentence of an article in the *Times*:—"It is unquestionably a growing feeling that the queen's government ought to keep the sole power of coining money, whether in gold or in paper, in its own hands, subject to the constant inspection of parliament."

Captain Lecosannet, of the whaler Roland, who rescued the passengers of the India, Campbell, which was burnt to the water's edge, near Rio Janeiro, on her passage to Port Philip, has been presented by the English merchants there with a gold chronometer, as a reward for his meritorious exertions in preserving the lives of so many of his fellow creatures. Each of the crew of the Roland were presented with ten cents in money. The conduct of Capt. Campbell is spoken of in the highest terms; he was the last who quitted the India, and it was then at the peril of his life, for his clothes were on fire.

The *Morning Chronicle* reports progress in the negotiations between the Belgian and French commissioners for arranging a commercial treaty.—'In the conference which took place between the Belgian and French commissaries, the latter, we understand, saw little to demand. The Belgians, however, asked for the taking off the prohibition on iron and woollen stuffs as well as upon cotton. A very few words interchanged, however, soon bro't the commissaries to the conviction that they were not prepared on either side to fix the amount of duty to be substituted for absolute prohibition. The interests of both countries were first specially to be consulted; and the commissaries are about to separate in order to devote themselves to a collection of more accurate information, thereby virtually adjourning the conference to next year. The commissaries, however, will meet again; and, in the end, it is very probable that a kind of triple commercial treaty between England, Belgium, and France may be the result."

Sir Robert and Lady Peel were included in the royal dinner party on Wednesday.

The effective strength of the army in Ireland, up to the 15th of September, was 15,294 rank and file.

John Pirie, Esq., alderman and plasterer, has been elected to serve the high and important office of lord mayor of the city of London for the year ensuing. The new sheriffs are Mr. Alderman Magnay and Mr. Rogers.

The Hon. Edward Allured Draper, formerly a lieutenant-colonel in the army, and latterly treasurer and paymaster-general of the Mauritius, has expired in the 68th year of his age.

Forty-six stallions of the best breed were purchased in England, last week, for the king of France.

A farmer died, a few days ago, at Resons-le-Long, in the Marne, aged 96. He has left ninety-nine direct descendants, including his sons-in-law and daughters-in-law.

WHAT IS TO BE THE POLICY OF SIR ROBERT PEEL?

The *Quarterly Review*, just published, contains an article under the head of "*The Old and New Ministries*," in which the respective characters of the two are illustrated and contrasted with infinite clearness and force. We extract from it the following anticipation of the policy of the new Ministry, or summary, we ought rather say, if the two things were not identical of what that policy ought to be:

That is a question which the Whigs pressed even before the Right Hon. Baronet was in office, and which he fairly tells them no one should answer but himself, and he only in its proper and practical season. We therefore cannot pretend to anticipate his future course; but it cannot, we hope, be unbecoming in us to suggest in one emphatic phrase, what we humbly think it *ought* to be, namely, *the very reverse of the policy of the Whigs.* If he should guide himself by that golden rule he cannot go far astray.

TOWARDS THE SOVEREIGN *he* will exercise that dutiful fidelity in the business of the State, and, in all cases, that respectful delicacy and personal deference to which her station is constitutionally and her sex peculiarly entitled. *He* will never abuse her sacred name to the selfish purposes of her Ministers. *He* will remember that the name is sacred only in reverence to the more awful one which we are forbidden *to take in vain*; and neither he nor his colleagues or followers will inscribe it on the banners of election mobs? *He* will appoint no factious or fanatic partisans to be the chaplains of the Head of the Church, to carry the ravings of a dissenting *Conference* into the sanctuary of the Chapel Royal. *He* will not endeavour to involve her Majesty's individual opinions with questions of 'cheap sugar' or 'cheap bread,' or such like topics of popular excitement, over which the Royal feelings—however benevolent and tender to all classes of her subjects, and especially the poorest—can have, by the laws of nature, no personal influence. *He* will not seek to controul or embarrass her Majesty's discretion in the choice of future Ministers by false and factious misrepresentations of his opponents. *He* will never condescend to shelter his own unpopularity, if he should happen to incur any, behind the draperies of the throne; and, finally, *he* will vindicate to himself—on whom the constitution imposes it—the responsibility of all debateable measures, and will leave to her Majesty the unimpaired enjoyment of her dearest prerogative—the undivided and unanimous affection of all her subjects.

TO FOREIGN POWERS he will show a calm and conciliating spirit, and an attitude elevated and conscious, such as command esteem and respect in private society, and are equally becoming and beneficial in the intercourse of nations. *He* will remember that, though he represents a people more generous than susceptible, it will be his duty to soothe the susceptibilities of others. In negotiations he will steer his course by the wrecks of his predecessor—

"Set as sea-marks for himself to shun,"

and will avoid the alternate extremes of waspish haste and snail-like delays. *He* will neither suffer scratches to fester into cancers, nor injustice to be diluted by procrastination and evasion. If he should unhappily be forced (which Heaven avert!) from the paths of peace, he will be animated by the spirit and guided by the prudence of his illustrious friend—"*the foremost Man of all the world.*" He will make no "*little wars*," nor any war in little ways. *He* will not be giddily aggressive in India—nor contemptibly inconsistent and dilatory in China—nor blindly blundering in America—nor flippantly offensive to France—nor of doubtful faith to the other great continental Powers. *He* will not lend himself to the abasement of our ancient allies of Portugal and Holland. *He* will not aggravate the unhappy anarchy of Spain, either by an armed intervention, whose doubtful and mischievous success shall overthrow the ally it is sent to support, or by a crooked diplomacy, which inflames dissensions it has no power to allay. *He* will not send our highest military honour to an adventurer and usurper, nor will he word and time so strange a favour with such ridiculous ill-luck or such mischievous bad faith, that the alleged reward of *loyalty* shall look like a premium of *rebellion*. He will endeavour, we trust, to engage the common sense and common interests of mankind in the ways of *peace*—not war in disguise—not a precarious truce amidst rancorous and ruinous armaments, which exhaust the resources of nations without even the barren compensation of glory—but a PEACE of solid and abiding international confidence, of political and commercial reciprocity, and of free and friendly personal intercourse and esteem, equally honourable and profitable to all. We know not whether at this late hour such hopes can be suddenly and completely accomplished, but at least the mischievous courses which led to such contrary results will not we trust, be pursued.

AS TO OUR FINANCES, Sir Robert Peel's task is one of great and, but for our confidence in him, we should say, insuperable difficulties. It cannot be too often repeated that the Whigs received the Exchequer from the Tories with an annual and growing *surplus* of £2,500,000., and that the Whigs have handed it back to the Conservatives not merely exhausted, but with an accumulated and growing deficit of £7,500,000. Sir Robert Peel has become, as it were, the *official assignee* of a most enormous *bankruptcy*; and nothing but the greatest diligence, prudence, and, we may even add, good fortune, can enable him to extricate the creditors. His means will probably be slowly and cautiously developed, but at least, we think, we may anticipate that he will not imitate his predecessors in the system of recklessly increasing our expenses, and shabbily sacrificing our revenue. *He* will not starve public services that he may fee private jobs; and, in any case, *he* will not sit down contented on an empty chest, and implore the eleemosynary assistance of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer to help him to replenish it. But we venture to indulge more cheering hopes; we trust that it may be found possible to reduce these ruinous armaments, and that the novelty of possessing a *Government* that is capable of *governing* may give confidence to public credit, and a fresh and fructifying impulse to national industry.

(From the Times.)

Where else but in Dublin in the spacious universe, could Lord Morpeth—the man who was pursuivant-at-arms to the Marquess of Normanby's state progresses—the man who was selected to favour the escape of Irish criminals—the man who had literally to be kicked out of office after ludicrously boasting that his proud spirit could not brook to retain it "'upon mere sufferance"—where, we ask, except in Dublin, could Lord Morpeth have been publicly dined, toasted, speechified, and intoxicated with enlogistic nectar? Surely the Irish admirers of vicious politics and pompous rhodomontade are not better able to appreciate a shining character than the political philosophers of his Lordship's own country who, by means of the Yorkshire extinguisher, have recently put out that "burning light." The Duke of Leinster, who had been invited to preside, declined the flattering distinction. Though doubtless not unwilling to do justice to the Whig ex-Secretary, refused to mix himself up with the mere sweepings and samples of the Corn Exchange; and if Lord Morpeth had been actuated by a little of that heroic chivalry which he is so passionately fond of talking about, his Lordship would have done the same. A high minded officer, more concerned about public interests than about personal vanity, would, under all the circumstances, have peremptorily declined such a dinner. Lord Morpeth knew perfectly well the repeal principles of the great majority of those who meant to dine him. Equally cognizant of the fact, that how sincerely soever he himself may be attached to British connexion, the treat was really given to him by a disaffected party from a conviction *sub rosa* that their guest had essentially promoted their objects by his official influence, his Lordship was bound to have repudiated in the most emphatic manner the very discreditable compliment which they wished to pay him. And how did he use his intimate friend Lord Stanley, whom he sat and heard abused in the most brutal terms without a single word of remonstrance? Had Lord Morpeth listened contentedly to any fair argument, or even to any dignified reprobation against his noble and absent friend, no fault could have been found with him. But O'Connell's virulent blackguardism and disgusting personalities were silently tolerated by this pink of patriots, and therefore stamped with his moral sanction.

MURDER AND PIRACY.

The *Sag Harbour Corrector* of August 11, gives the following account of an atrocious murder and daring piracy, sent them by the American Consul, at the Island of St. Helena, to put persons on their guard visiting the Nicobar Islands:—"In November we steered for the Puppy Islands, off Sumatra, and took some whales, but could not remain, the weather proving so very unpropitious; therefore Capt. G. Wheeler determined to run up the Bay of Bengal, and endeavour to obtain refreshments, some of the crew having appearances of scurvy.—On December 22, 1840, we made the land, and in the afternoon came near. The natives, through one of our boat-steerers who could speak and understand the Malay language, told him to lower a boat and sound the entrance; the second mate, Mr. Snowden, and his crew, went and sounded, found plenty of water, one of the native canoes leading the way, and returned to the vessel and reported. Directly after four o'clock, in the afternoon, when all work was put aside for the day, the second mate, Mr. Snowdon, and third mate, Mr. Clark, said they were going on shore, and asked me to go also; we left the vessel almost immediately, in one of the old whale boats, and nine hands, in all twelve of us; upon our nearing the village we perceived another of our old boats leaving the ship, containing the mate or the captain and some of the ship's crew; they went towards another village, but I cannot say how many were in her; we went on shore, saw several natives, and went up into one of their houses, and gave them some tobacco and cigars, and they gave us fire, and we all commenced smoking (they are very fond of tobacco); we did not make any purchase, and they promised to come to the ship in the morning. In about a quarter of an hour we left this house, and in walking amongst the others saw more natives; all of a sudden we heard a kind of howl or scream, which appeared to proceed from the ship. Mr. Snowdon said it imported something he did not like to hear, and said 'Let us go to the boat and return.' At the same instant he saw several natives arming themselves with spears, and Robinson asked one old man in the Malay language what they were going to do? his answer was 'I do not know,' and immediately a number of natives came running from the bush at the back of the houses, and attacked us with spears; one struck Mr. Snowdon, second mate, through the body; he fell, and the native then pierced him through with another, and pinned him to the ground; James Robinson, immediately afterwards, by another native, was served in the same way. Mr. Clark was struck through the side with a spear, close to the boat;—Wm. Burt, wounded in two places: these two and the rest succeeded in getting into the boat and pushing off towards the vessel, although numbers of spears struck the oars, boat, &c. Upon our nearing the vessel, great was our consternation to find her in the possession of the natives, who were standing all round the rail, in the boats, and every one armed with ship's cutlasses, cutting spades, lances, harpoons, &c., and in such numbers that we had not the slightest chance to get on board, being totally unarmed ourselves, therefore we had no other alternative then either to be killed there, or endeavour to proceed to sea and risk being picked up by some vessel. As soon as the natives saw us retiring from the ship, they immediately pulled off in canoes from the village we had been attacked at, as also from another village, both being between us and the entrance of the harbour, but through the good management of James Clark, who took the steering oar, they could not come up with us sufficiently to throw their spears to injure us, although they pursued till dark; we continued at the oars all night: in the morning Chowry Island was in sight, about seven miles off; we continued pulling against the wind, tide, and a heavy sea, and when it came near about midday, saw some natives fishing, and endeavoured to buy some cocoa nuts from them for handkerchiefs, tobacco, razors, knives, &c., and one rupee, which we had about us. We succeeded in inducing the natives to let us have about 27 cocoa nuts, and we then put to sea without bread, water, sail, or any individual thing to subsist upon, besides the 27 cocoa nuts among ten men, in an open boat, and 1,000 miles from Ceylon, and 700 from any other place we could pull towards, having no compass. We agreed to live upon two cocoa-nuts per day if possible, but our thirst becoming so great we were obliged to use more; we cut off the legs of our trousers to make a sail and tore up the boards from the bottom of the boat, and tied them with handkerchiefs together and made a sail, the mast being one of the oars; in this way we were picked up at sea by her Majesty's ship Cruizer, who took us on board on December 22th, at half-past eight in the morning, and immediately gave us sago, &c., and in the afternoon the captain inquired the particulars of us, and he having General Sir Hugh Gough, for the China expedition, on board, proceeding to China, he altered his course, and on the 31st December, at five in the evening, we re-entered the place where the Pilot was still lying, but not one of our crew could be found, and every appearance of their being all massacred. The vessel was found to be plundered of every article of clothing, bedding, sails, ropes, blocks, lances, harpoons muskets, guns, (large,) cutlasses, all the spirits, wine, ale, porter, bread, and every piece of iron cut out from her bulwarks, davit heads, the copper stripped off her bottom, and in fact such destruction committed in the short space of one week, that no person can accurately describe, and in a day or two more she would not have been worth removing.—We visited the villages, and the natives had fled upon our coming in. Have found a great quantity of rope, canvass, sails cut in pieces, lances, &c., iron hoop bands from masts, &c. but no clothing or article of dress. Twenty one of the officers and crew are missing, two we saw killed, and ten only escaped. There cannot be any doubt of every one being massacred—the decks stained with blood in many places, also old sails, canvass, &c. In one part of the deck, the shape of a man having been apparently smashed to pieces, can be distinctly traced, and in several places the print of a man's bloody hand can be seen.

"W. BLECKWELL,

"Surgeon, whaling barque Pilot, of London."

DESTRUCTION OF THE SHIP INDIA BY FIRE.

RIO JANEIRO, JULY 25.—It is my lot to describe to you one of the most melancholy events in the annals of ship disasters which has occurred for years, tempered with the merciful interposition of Providence in saving multitudes of human beings from certain destruction. "On Monday, the 19th instant, our ship the India was in 14 degrees south latitude; after breakfast one of the passengers came to the cabin and reported that a strange sail was in view. Not having seen one for the previous 14 days, we were all on deck instantly; but it was too far distant to notice our signals, and as she was sailing in the same line with us, we kept in view of one another all the forenoon, and came rather nearer after lunch, at twelve o'clock." The writer states he returned to the cabin, and then proceeds with his narrative:—

"I had not sat above half an hour, when I was surprised by a cry for water, and, horrid to relate, mixed, with oaths, by the second mate, who was running from the stair leading to the store room in the direction of the saloon—I immediately sprung towards the door of the stair which leads to the state-room, where the cause was but too apparent from the smoke and light. Not a moment was to be lost: the men were immediately called aft, with all the pails, pitchers, and everything they could lay hold of. This was done with the utmost alacrity; the supply of water was, however, far from sufficient. We had a pump behind the binnacle, but its bore was very trifling; some flung buckets over the ship's sides, but in a hurry those were drawn up scarcely half full. All this time, although some of the hands were breaking up the vessel to get at the seat of the fire, it was fast gaining ascendancy. It being evident that we could not save the ship, our whole energies were directed to the preservation of our lives. "When I came forward all was one scene of confusion and despair, the women wringing their hands in the most heart rendering manner, and this, mingled with the screaming of children, presented a scene it would be vain to attempt to describe. During this interval, guns of distress were fired to attract the attention of the vessel in the distance. But in the meantime we sent away the jolly boat, with five seamen, to overtake or attract her attention to our situation; as it was apparent that unless she came to our assistance every soul on board must perish. They next commenced clearing the long-boat of pigs, goats, &c., which were tossed overboard. The boat was strong and heavy, and it was with difficulty got over the side. After it was over, it was immediately filled with children and as many of the females as it could hold, with four men to row them towards the vessel, and the gig was lowered and lay off about fifty yards to prevent its being swamped." The writer goes on to state that it was by this time evident that the strange sail was aware of their situation, and several of the crew and passengers who could swim were now floating towards the vessel. Nothing but despair was depicted on every countenance, and every one was anxiously in search of some means of deliverance. So great was the rush when the boats of the strange vessel reached them, that one of the boats was upset, and five or six men drowned. The total number on board the India was 214, of whom eighteen perished, viz., sixteen steerage, one cabin passenger, and the boatswain. The fire originated thus; the second mate and one of the boys were drawing off some gin, and as the candle was too short for a lanthorn they took it out, and when placing it, it fell between the two barrels, where some of the spirits had been spilled, and in a moment the whole was in a blaze, the store-room being full of canvass and other combustibles.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE HONORABLE JOHN ROBERTSON.—On Tuesday last, the Left Flank Company, City Militia, under the command of Capt. Alexander Robertson, met together to fire for a Silver Medal, presented by their late Commander, (the Hon. John Robertson,) which was won by Mr. G. Edgar, after a sharp contest. The Company, on their return, presented an Address, together with a beautiful silver Snuff Box, made by our townsman, Mr. Toler, bearing on the lid the following inscription:

Presented to
Major, the Honorable JOHN ROBERTSON,
By the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of
the Volunteer Left Flank Company
Saint John City Militia,
As a mark of esteem on his retiring from the command of the Company.

COPY OF THE ADDRESS.

SIR,—The Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Volunteer Left Flank Company, First Battalion Saint John City Militia, beg to embrace the present occasion of their meeting, to express their unanimous sentiments of regret at your retirement from the command of this Company, and to request your acceptance of the Snuff Box herewith offered by them, as a small token of the high estimation in which they have always held your character as an Officer and a Gentleman.

It affords us at the same time unfeigned satisfaction to observe, that as a just reward of your faithful services, the Commander-in-Chief has been pleased to confer upon you the rank of Major; and although for the present retired from the more active duties of an officer, we are well assured that, should circumstances ever occur to require your services in defence of your Queen and Country, none will be found more ready to unsheath the Sword in support of the British Crown and the British Standard than yourself.

On behalf of the Company,
JAMES MALCOLM,
DONALD ROSS,
ARCHIBALD FRASER.

To Major the Hon. John Robertson.

To which Mr. Robertson made the following reply:

Saint John, 19th October, 1841.

GENTLEMEN.—I beg you will convey to the Non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Volunteer Left Flank Company, First Battalion St. John City Militia, my sincere thanks for the very handsome present which they have been pleased to present to me on my retirement from the command of that Company, and more particularly for the flattering and friendly manner in which they have expressed their good wishes towards me.

I always had the proud satisfaction, during my command of the Company, of receiving the approbation of the Colonel commanding, and more than once that of the Commander-in-chief, for their uniform steadiness and good conduct. When men are willing and desirous to do their duty, that of their officers becomes a pleasure, and I can state most sincerely that this has been the case with your company. That they will long preserve this character I feel well assured; and although retired from the Militia service, I shall always take a deep interest in their welfare, and should circumstances render it necessary for the militia of this Province to turn out in defence of their Queen and Country, (which I sincerely hope may not be the case,) I know of no duty that could be assigned to me so agreeable as that of mounting the garb and obtaining the command of that faithful Band that wears the Tartan.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN ROBERTSON.

To Messrs. James Malcolm, Donald Ross, Archibald Fraser, } Committee.

THE TIMBER DUTIES.

An impression seems to have gone abroad, that however much the new Ministry may be disposed to maintain the protecting duties upon American timber, some modification must be made in order to suit the present state of things: in fact, it is urged that the pressure from without will be so strong in England on this point, that Sir Robert Peel must give way if he would retain his place at the head of affairs. The whole of this is a mere supposition—a mere conjecture, and that in the face of strong evidence to the contrary.

Those who take this view of the case, seem to forget that the present Government is strictly conservative in its principles, and that they are not men given to change. Not but that they will be ready enough on all occasions to promote the advancement of real improvement; but they are not the men to make changes, merely for the sake of meddling. They know that alteration and improvement have, during the last ten years, been often two different things; and therefore they will be cautious in adopting any measure which will not tend to the benefit of all.

The great charge brought against the late administration was that their measures were one sided: not that they were always on one side: on the contrary, they were constantly vaccillating: one day they were high tories in their measures, the next whigs, or radicals, as it happened; but they never could take a comprehensive view of things: Audi alteram partem was no part of their policy. This they had learnt in opposition, and during the time they were in power, they never could forget it; just like a Judge of some eminence in England, who, during his practice at the bar, had become so accustomed to take a one sided view of causes, that when raised to the Bench, he never could get quite over his professional feeling. But the present men are altogether different in their counsels: they know that they have to consult for the good of all, and not to set one interest against another: that the manufacturing and the agricultural, the domestic and the foreign interests are alike under their superintendance, and are alike entitled to their protection.

But besides the general principles of the present administration, the stand they took upon the last budget is a yet stronger guarantee that they will not meddle with the present timber duties.—Their opposition then was not with a view to embarrass the government, for that they might have done on a hundred other occasions, had they been disposed: it was a carrying out of their leading principle, that every one who lives under the British Constitution, no matter in what part of the world, has a right to look to the Imperial Parliament for protection.—They look upon the Colonies of the Empire as so many parts of the same great family; and they wish always to foster and protect them as children.—Hence, when it was proposed almost entirely to remove restrictive duties, and to admit the commodities of other nations into the Colonies nearly on the same terms as British goods, they stood forward manfully and opposed it; and when it was proposed to sacrifice the agricultural interests to the supposed good of the manufacturers, they raised their voices as one man against it. Cheap bread, cheap sugar, and cheap timber, might suit very well as a hue and cry to bolster up the falling whigs; but the conservatives cannot understand how the Empire at large is to prosper, if one interest is to be sacrificed for the sake of another; they cannot comprehend what real good would be gained to the manufacturer if he had a cheap loaf, and nothing to pay for it, or how we are to pay for the manufacturer's goods, if our timber is not taken in exchange.

But apart from this, the present state of the North American Provinces is such as to make Ministers pause before they resolve even on modifying the timber duties at present. In the Canadas, every thing depends upon the measures that shall be adopted by the new Governor General; and in the case of Sir C. Bagot, he has no interest to serve by any change in the price of Baltic timber at home, for he is in no way connected with mercantile affairs; and he will soon discover that any alteration of these duties at the present time, would greatly endanger the peace and prosperity of the Canadas, and that these Provinces must henceforth be governed on the true British principle of protection and encouragement.

And if we consider the present condition of our own Province, we shall find a yet stronger argument in favour of continuing the present state of things. All but open war on our Southern boundary, which is only kept from breaking out by the well known loyalty of those on the British side of the lines: An almost provincial bankruptcy, bro't on, or at any rate accelerated and aggravated by the threatened measure of the whigs last spring, and the present deranged state of our commercial interests in consequence. If these, and other drawbacks which at present press upon us, do not weigh with the present administration at home, then they must consent to surrender up their title of Conservatives, and take their place among the Whigs, whom they have just succeeded in the government.

But there is no reason whatever to fear such a result: the present Ministry, it is true, will have to rectify the errors of their predecessors: they will have to devise measures for replenishing the Exchequer, which, ten years ago, they left overflowing, and which now is not only empty, but has been running behind ever since 1835. But yet there is no reason to be afraid: the well known talents and experience of the present men are a sufficient guarantee that they will be able to surmount all these difficulties, and to repair the deranged state of the finances by bringing out the inexhaustible resources of our vast Empire, without imposing any additional burdens. At all events we may feel quite sure they will not meddle with the timber duties. S.

Captain John Leavitt, late chief officer of the steamer *Nova Scotia*, succeeds Capt. Reed in the command of that vessel.

Mr. M'Leod has arrived safe in Canada, after his imprisonment in the United States.

H. M. ship Seringapatam, commodore Douglas, sailed from Halifax on the 18th inst. for Portsmouth. The Pique and Crocodile sailed for the same Port on the 23d.

[*From the Woodstock Telegraph.*]

We have just been informed that the Americans have succeeded in damming the waters of the Aliguash in the "Disputed Territory," so as to turn them into the Penobscot. It seems that the work was commenced last Spring, and is now so far completed that they intend running their timber in that direction, which they have been cutting in that neighbourhood, which, it is said, abounds in timber of the very best description. We cannot vouch for the correctness of the report. We shall however, institute an enquiry, the result of which we shall lay before our readers at an early opportunity. But a very little distance intervenes between the head waters of the Aliguash and those of the Penobscot, probably not more than four or five miles. With the activities of the lands in question, and the facilities afforded by nature for making a Canal, we are unacquainted. If the facts are, as have been stated, it would certainly appear that there is remissness somewhere. The following from the Augusta Age, would seem to argue, that the Government of Great Britain had resolved to concede their just and rightful claim to the Territory South of the St. John. If not, why are not her interests