

Saturday, August 23, 1851

## THE COURIER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1851.

If we are to believe the report, or her announcement, of our Toronto changes, this day will terminate the legislative labors of our "collective wisdom" in Parliament assembled. Like "the soldier tired," each of our Provincial Solons will retire under the shade of his own vine, to recommence the cultivation of his paternal acres, to attend the petty details of his little bargain-making, or renew his acquaintance with the many pages of some popular law authority. Some have been lured so foolishly, as absurdly, and so unconstitutionally, that they will not dare, however impudent they may be by nature, to face their much abased constituents again; others will carry their venality and baseness to another market, and prepare themselves to play the same game over again, which they have already done with so much profit to themselves and disgrace to the country; one or two are expected, from the practice they have had, to settle themselves down as professors of the noble art of self-defence, and others will retire, like spiders into their cobweb labyrinths, to watch the newspapers for libels, so that they may eat at the expense of a whine and a well got up for the loss of a defunct character. It would be almost impossible to conjecture the various trades, occupations, and employments, to which emancipated legislators will betake themselves when they have wrung their harassed minds and enslaved bodies at last from the terrible agony of four dollars a day. An infliction such as this is enough to melt the solids, bones and all, of such a member as he of Drummond, who is conspicuous for travelling at his own expense, and turning his juices into vinegar, to accelerate the decomposition of the solids within. It is really painful to a sensitive and sympathizing mind, such as ours, to contemplate the consequences of so many irrational beings let loose upon the country, and literally

"To ave, recte, et modis raudet laudem" until the close of another election. It is fortunate, however, that the dog days are past, the thermometer is sinking, the sun is declining towards the South, and the weather at least should not be accented by the anthropephatic, which has been raging for some time past in the House of Parliament, break out with anything like violence in the remoter districts during the approaching contest for place and power.

Well, let us suppose that the Provincial Parliament will be prorogued today, and all the nonsense they have spoken, all the vituperation they have uttered forgotten, except perhaps what may have been left ranking in the bosoms of the injured and insulted. It might, in these circumstances, be naturally expected by our readers that we should take a retrospect of the measures they have adopted, the reforms they have effected, the changes they have corrected, and the advantages their sitting has brought to the country generally. But when we look for these, we look in vain. They have effected no reform, they have corrected no abuse, they have brought no advantage to Canada. A dead act has been made indeed for party purposes against certain established and lawfully constituted rights, but the grossest and most corrupt, which have long since disappeared from every corner of Great Britain, if not from Europe itself, but have now, to the disgrace of its Legislature, disgraced the annals of Canada, remain still more the statutory book of that Province. We do not know as yet what the Session has cost the country; but we find that the last one cost \$300,000 dollars, and this cannot have continued so long in consequence of the sum. Yet among all the Bills that have been talked over, equalized about, balanced by one party and abused by another, there is not one of any prominent, public, or general concernment. Many of the mercantile firms in Montreal have transacted business during the spring and summer of far more advantage to the Province, and of more consequence to its interests, than the abortive legislative enactments of its heated and boastful legislators in Parliament assembled. We have indeed heard a great deal about economy and retrenchment, but we begin to fear that we do not quite understand the exact meaning of the word in modern Parliamentary parlance. It used to signify the act of lopping off or removing what is superfluous; but now-

that the Constitution of the Empire of Canada.

LETTER IV.

In this fourth communication, the subject wavered in a previous one is to be resumed, and further, there is to be discussed the necessity and practicability of a change being made in the aristocratic circle of the country.

Alderman Greiner said that, in his opinion,

of the preceding meeting of the Council, he was then prepared to make the resolution referred to, and that of Mr. MacLean, MacLean, was the first, with regard to which the citizens, and the Corporation especially, had to do did feel gratified.

The balance arising from the excess of imports over exports, it appears from the tables before alluded to, that nearly the whole revenue to Great Britain and the United States, is the proportion of about 50 per cent., to the latter, or in round numbers, \$200,000 to Great Britain, and \$200,000 to the United States—these sums being approximations to the truth sufficiently near for the purpose in hand, without any pretension to accuracy.

The balance according to the United States, more than the whole amount is necessary to leave

than 20 articles purely agricultural, which Canada does produce, and yet that can produce to any extent, and yet that can import.

There are here some error of management—some

error in developing the resources of the Province.

Appeal to a Canadian farmer of average common sense, who has ever seen anything of the country beyond his own door—let him be illiterate, if you please, so that he knows the difference between import and export, but let him be a farmer—and that man, sought Canada to import pork or any meat, whether salt or fresh—ought to be import oxen, or bulls, or cows, or horses, or any domestic animals, as their products, as lamb, and mutton, and hams, and chops—ought she to import hemp, or flax, or hops, or broom corn, or bark, or maize, or new tobacco, or trees and shrubs, or wheat—ought she to import all those things from a country possessing no natural advantages which she herself does not possess—and what will be, what must be, what can be that man's answer, but an empiric? No! not I! Why should Canada, by importing these things, weaken herself to benefit a neighbor and rival, than there is manifestly no necessity for doing so? Is there not here error in management—gracious! in developing the resources of the country?

There has been much writing, and more talking, on the subject of reciprocity with the United States; reciprocity has been paraded as the one thing—the panacea for all ills. The writer avows himself to be, to the full extent of the term, a free trader, and must be, therefore, in favor of all approximation to free trade—and reciprocity is an approximation towards free trade.

Will the shrewd and calculating people south of 45, give, or grant, or concede (all the terms are offensive to an independent mind) reciprocity, so long as the people and farmers of Canada willingly and voluntarily labor for their benefit?

So long as they offer, and not only offer, but actually pay, a premium of at least \$20,000 per year to those said neighbors to induce them to withdraw reciprocity, will they be likely to concede, or grant, or give reciprocity? Do not hope it.

Mr. MacLean, MacLean, gave notice, that he would resign his office to the Hon. Mr. Justice of the Peace, and the Inspector of said Police, having expressed his readiness to cooperate with His Worship the Mayor and the City Police, in the maintenance of peace and order, and the execution of the laws.

Councillor Greiner, secy. to the Council in relation to Alteration Greiner, secy. to the Water Police, recently resolved—

"That the Water Police, recently formed in this city, having been established by the law and the provisions of an Ordinance of the Legislature, and the Inspector of said Police, having first declared his readiness to cooperate with the Water Police, in the maintenance of peace and order, and the execution of the laws.

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A Report from the Committee, relative to the late heavy Blumart to £15, arising

out of the fees from one of those of the Police stations, was next considered, and the amount was adjudged to be £10.

Councillor Greiner, secy. to the Inspector of said Police, having expressed his readiness to cooperate with the Water Police, in the maintenance of peace and order, and the execution of the laws.

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