

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A READER OF THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR" wishes to know why Repeal Meetings are so often announced in this city. We cannot answer; but suppose it to be a new way of enacting the farce of "Raising the Wind." As for any good to Ireland that can result from these repeated demonstrations here, we significantly say to the agitators at home, "We wish they may get it."

A CORNISH MINER'S" third letter shall appear next week.

AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE" is very witty, but we can assure him that he is not less wrong. What we may have done, on the occasion to which he refers we always do. "'Tis a way we have got."

With "A FRIEND OF THE TIMES," we cannot pretend to decide that the conduct of the individual to whom he alludes was in the Beau-bien style, but most assuredly it was not in the Bienbeau.

We have received "A CORRESPONDENT'S" letter, complaining of the very great difficulty he finds in obtaining an interview with the Perpetual Secretary. His complaint is one so universally made, that we shall for the present decline publishing his very severe letter.

After the present issue of the WEEKLY EXPOSITOR no single numbers will be sold. They who desire the paper must subscribe to it, in which case they will be supplied with a file from the beginning. None of those, however, who receive a copy of the present impression, and have not given their names as subscribers, will have it continued to them, unless they signify their desire. All letters must be sent free to the Office, the address of which is given at the foot of the paper.

THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, Oct. 1, 1846.

POSITION OF THE GOV.-GENERAL.

The *Times* and the *Courier* have both, we perceive, taken up this subject in the manner they ought. The system hitherto pursued, of making the Governor-General of the country a mere nonentity, and giving to the President of the Council a thousand a-year of the public money, for the discharge of an office which ought to be filled by the head of the Government alone, should no longer be tolerated. It is not, however, for the press to throw away its fire now. The moment is premature, and the proper time for action will be when Lord Elgin makes his appearance amongst us. Then, the Conservative press must be united, and point out to his Excellency what are the requirements of all honest men, who have been thoroughly sickened with the manner in which the Government of the country has been administered since Lord Metcalfe's departure from it.

The Opposition are watching, with a lynx-like eye, the present division in the ranks of the Conservative party—a division which the haughty insolence of Mr. Draper alone has occasioned. He has contrived to insult, in the domineering spirit he so often exhibits. Sir Allan McNab and Mr. Sherwood—both men of high influence—and in a manner which must render their future co-operation with him an absolute impossibility. The Radicals gloat over this. They affect to espouse Sir Allan's cause, that they may render the breach even wider, but the cloven foot cannot

be hidden—their motive is obvious, and they hope that, by increasing the bitterness of feeling subsisting between the insulter and the insulted, to induce Mr. Draper to yield up the reins of Government in their favor.

But though Mr. Draper must yield up the reins of Government, it will not be in their favor. Lord Metcalfe did not restore to the British population of the country that position in the colony which was their birthright, and had been wrested from them, to have it again lost through the weakness of any succeeding Governor. The Opposition have been tutored to think, by the Conservatives themselves, who have been foolishly giving it forth as a fact, that no one of their party can succeed Mr. Draper, as leader, and it is in the want of union among those who so weakly doubt themselves, that the Radicals principally found their own hopes of coming into power. Now, what particular tact or talent, we ask, does it require to lead a party on this country, and what is the immense responsibility which devolves upon this leader? Surely it will be admitted that if Mr. Draper has talent, he is utterly deficient in tact. No man of tact or common sense would have weakened his position, and that of his colleagues, as he has done, in pursuing the course he did towards Sir Allan and Mr. Sherwood, and we will venture to assert that whoever may, of the Conservative party, be made to supply his place, he will, with infinitely less talent, command much more of the public respect and confidence.

With the experience we have had of the past, we can fully believe that Mr. Draper would unhesitatingly sacrifice the party who place no trust in him, to their political enemies, were it not that his desire of self-aggrandizement intervenes to prevent such a course. It is said that he is to supply the place of Mr. Hagerman on the Bench. If this really be the case, the sooner he does so the better for the country. We are not of those who think his "Premiership" entitles him in the slightest degree to the honor to which he aspires, and which, we understand, he designs for himself (if he can get it), but the evil is pressing, the danger imminent. He must go before Lord Elgin arrives in the country, for Sir Allan and Mr. Sherwood must not be rendered lukewarm in the cause of Conservatism, through the petulance and hauteur of Mr. Draper. Let him go at once to the Bench, take half a dozen of his colleagues (the Perpetual Secretary included) with him, and leave the Government to be filled by honest and consistent men.

M'GILL COLLEGE.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the announcement of the Caput of the M'Gill College, published in another part of our paper. It will be seen from it that the statutes of the College have received the sanction of Her Majesty, and not only the Institution itself, but the country generally, may be congratulated on the infusion—however tardily—of vitality into the system. Now for the first time may it be said to have an existence. It is at length invested with all the powers and privileges of

an University, and placed in a position to carry into effect the object of the charter and the enlightened views of its munificent founder.

M'Gill College, it must be borne in mind, is the only University in Eastern Canada. In it those literary distinctions can be obtained, and those degrees conferred, which in more classical countries, is the paramount object of ambition, and should be equally sought by ourselves. The present age is essentially utilitarian and practical—perhaps too much so—Mammon has usurped the judgment-seat of Minerva—Prose has dethroned Poetry; and if this be the case in the old world, how much more correctly does the remark apply to the new? This continent seems to be specially the strong hold of utilitarian tenets and practice, and we cannot but greatly rejoice at the introduction amongst us of a new, and, we trust, a zealous champion on the side of literature and science. We tender the right hand of fellowship to the College, and fervently wish it success.

Let those at the head of the institution be but careful to watch over its interests with zeal and singleness of purpose, and we have no doubt that in a few years we shall behold M'Gill College not only prosperous and respected, but an honor and ornament to the country, and a practical illustration of its own motto—*Grandescunt aucta labore*.

PROGRESS OF RAILWAYS IN FRANCE.

From the subjoined, which we copy from the *London Railway Times*, it will be seen not only the railway system is making great progress in France, but the profits from even newly formed Companies, as instanced in the Orleans and Bordeaux route, are such as to justify the most sanguine expectations of all who embark in this now almost universal enterprise:—

The trial is, we understand, now taking place upon the Rouen and Havre Railway, as to the solidity of the bridges, viaducts, and other similar works, which are being loaded with about four times the weight of the heaviest train, in order to test their power of resistance previous to opening the line. Should they go satisfactorily through this ordeal, the railway will be opened, probably, about the beginning of October.

The portion of the Orleans and Vierzon Railway from Orleans to Vierzon, and probably even to Bourges, is now so nearly completed, that it is expected shortly to be transferred to the Company by the Government, as fit to open; but it is understood, that as it would be so near to the beginning of winter before the Company could complete their arrangements for working it, they will wisely postpone the opening of the line until the spring, which will both give them more time to mature their working arrangements, and allow the embankments and earth works to settle during the trying winter months, so as to get the railway into excellent working order before it is opened in March or April next.

The works of the Amiens and Boulogne Railway have proceeded with so much speed and success, that the opening of the first portion, from Amiens to Abbeville, is now past doubt, in the beginning of October. The Minister of Public Works has just inspected it, with the Company's Engineers, and expressed his great gratification at the rapidity and excellence of the construction. Independent of the thorough traffic between London and Paris, this part of the line will have a large local traffic, as it goes through a very populous and rich manufacturing district.

The traffic of the Orleans and Bordeaux Railway continues to increase most satisfactorily. The number of passengers carried in the week