

Canada, or the indifference they seemingly entertain as to the manner in which its affairs are administered.

This was not the case a few years back. Canada was then considered more worthy of the Imperial regard. In 1838, Lord Durham, a man celebrated for the important political trusts with which he had been honored by the Sovereign, was sent out with almost kingly authority.—To him succeeded Mr. Poulett Thomson, taken as it were from the very councils of the Empire, and thus, so far the Home Government manifested its interest in the Colony.—Not so when they sent out Sir Charles Bagot. But they redeemed themselves when his place was supplied by the best and most popular Governor that has ever swayed the destinies of Canada—Lord Metcalfe.—To his Lordship they gave a merely nominal successor, and now they send us a Governor whose claims to Canadian favor, we are gravely told, are merely those of seniority in the routine of Colonial Government, and a successful rule over an abased if not enslaved population. But let the paragraph, taken from a London *quasi* official source, and inserted in most of the newspapers of this city, explain itself:—

"IMPORTANT COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The system upon which the present government is acting in its colonial appointments is eminently satisfactory. Instead of being given to partizans, they have in every recent instance been made the rewards of efficient public service, and in this respect partake rather the character of promotions than appointments. Thus, Lord Elgin, after acting with much ability as Governor of Jamaica, has been appointed to the more important post of Governor General of Canada; Sir C. E. Grey, late Governor of Barbadoes, will succeed Lord Elgin in Jamaica; while Lieutenant-Governor Colonel Reid, from Bermuda, will replace Sir C. E. Grey, and he himself be succeeded at Bermuda by Captain Elliott. The only fresh appointment is, therefore, to the least important post, and the principle is established that a colonial governor, by an able and diligent discharge of his duty, may rise through regular gradations to the highest honors and emoluments of the department."

Now, assuredly it will not be pretended that the mere fact of having governed the Colonies above named, by any means involves a proper qualification for the Government of Canada. Lord Elgin may possess every requisite power, but we certainly object to the principle in the abstract.

By the way, we see a friend of scarlet frock-coat notoriety has been appointed to the government of an old quarter of ours, Barbadoes.—It is a pity that this regulation of succession in Governments, according to seniority, could not have been departed from in this instance, and Col. Reid sent to Canada.—So practised a hand at invention could not have failed to establish a mode of Government which might have had the effect of reconciling all political parties, and then what a foretaste of the millenium we should have enjoyed.

Col. Reid was a Brigadier-General under Sir De Lacy Evans, in Spain, and when the fanciful Adjutant-General of that force, Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, who afterwards commanded the 98th Regiment, fully impressed with the belief that the Spaniards are as easily frightened by red, as are their bulls, order-

ed red frock-coats for the officers of the Legion, General Reid was the only person who obeyed the order, and procured one.

The winter of 1835 was rather a severe one for Spain. General Reid was occupied in fortifying Trevino, captured from the Carlists, and not many leagues distant from Vittoria, then the head-quarters of the army. No man could be more indefatigable. He was constantly at his post on the ramparts, superintending the work, and on the white field of snow, which, during much of the time, covered these and the adjacent country, the tall figure of the General, in his frock of dazzling scarlet, might not inaptly have been compared to a moving pillar of fire. Such a bright example, we regret to say, was not generally followed by his officers, while the places of the lazy men were often supplied by black-eyed senoritas of the humbler class, who were warmed, amid snow and cold, by the very sight of the memorable coat which formed their centre of attraction.

But not only in this was the ingenuity of General Reid exercised, giving earnest of his ample qualification to govern, not only a fortress but a colony, but he was the inventor and proposer of a system to General Evans, who, doubtless, jealous of his talent for discovery, would not avail himself of a scheme, by which the strictest economy (another essential in government) might have been preserved.

This proposal was, that the men of the Legion should, on a march, be supplied simply with roasted chestnuts, which were to be carried in their haversacks, and furthermore, that instead of the useless appendage of great coats, a blanket should be worn, with a hole cut in the middle, so as to admit of its being thrown over the head, thus protecting all parts of the body from exposure. This blanket, worn as it was during the day, was to be the covering at night, and, if our memory be correct, the vacant space left for the introduction of the head through it, was to be covered, no matter on what part of the body it rested, by the bag of roasted chestnuts.

When we take into consideration these illustrations of the economical principle, with that of the General's almost Spartan diet of ration bread, ration wine, and ration meat, we cannot but think the British Government would have acted wisely in sending him out to Canada. How he would have retrenched the fat salaries of the Executive, while making them do their duty. And what a close eye he would have had on the Board of Works.

THE ARMY.

Under the head of "Government Improvement of the Condition of the Army," the *Courier* has given, in its columns of yesterday, several excellent remarks, from which we extract the following:—

"The Officers of the army too, will have to look about them, under the new state of things, or they will find their heels sharply trod upon by the intelligent privates, and we do not believe that the present system of purchasing commissions can be allowed to remain as it is. We are decidedly of opinion that no man should be allowed to enter the service without having been educated for it at a military college, and then

that he should do duty in the ranks, for one year at least, as a Cadet, before receiving his commission; and we would have no step given afterwards, as far as the rank of Captain, without previous examination, not only in matters strictly military, but on all subjects of general literature and information, such as ought to form a part of the education of every gentleman. People think that the abolition of purchase would keep the higher classes from entering the army, but we do not see why this should be the case. There is no purchase in the navy, and yet we see it entered daily by some of the sons of the first men in the kingdom; neither is it found to have this effect in the Continental armies which are mostly officered by the sons of the nobility."

In the above strictures we fully agree. Officers of the line should go through the same routine of military study as the Artillery and Engineers, and, as in those highly efficient corps, the system of purchase should be done away with. We do not say that there are not many men of high education and scientific attainment in the line, constituted as the system is; but it also cannot be denied, that any dunce, who can command money and interest, may obtain a commission. This is unjust to the officers of Engineers and Artillery, who cannot enter without being duly qualified, and to whom, even with all his study and acquirements, the privilege of purchase is denied.

Nothing, we conceive, reflects higher honor on the British Government than the system which has recently been adopted for the elevation of the morale of the army, in the promotion, as occasion offers, of the Sergeant-Majors of regiments, and the liberal allowance to them for an outfit, which places them then more on an equality with those by whom they had so recently been commanded.

We perceive, and with satisfaction, that not less than two Sergeant-Majors and one Color-Sergeant of regiments serving in this country have been promoted last month: namely, Sergeant-Major Knott, of the 52nd, to an Ensigncy in the 4th, or King's Own; Color-Sergeant Fortum, of the 23rd, to be Quarter-Master in his own regiment; and Sergeant-Major Taylor of the 71st, to the same office in his own corps: the last two, of course, from the first battalions of these regiments, now in the West Indies. This is well, and affords the best encouragement to good conduct in the soldier.

THE ROCHELLE CANNON.

We, last week, promised to revert to this subject in our ensuing impression, but the following letter, addressed to the *Times*, by a Quebec correspondent of that journal, so fully anticipates what remarks we should have offered, that we content ourselves with giving it insertion, unaccompanied by any further commentary of our own:—

I think Col. Campbell, after summing up all the good qualities of La Rochelle's self-loading, self-spunging, self-firing model cannon, in his letter to Mr. La Rochelle, published in the *Herald*, viz: that it is an ingenious piece of mechanism, easily worked, and correct in its movement, "and the effect produced," makes a curious assertion when he states it is unfit for all practical purposes. When steam power was first applied to drive weaving looms, the hand-loom weavers conceived that the application was very absurd, and perfectly unfitted for all practical purposes; in short, it did not seem to them possible that as fine fabrics could be made by machinery as by