

STYLE.

The Quebec Mercury, Aug. 3rd 1858.

"The small knowledge of the affairs of Canada frequently displayed by the press of the United States, is often truly singular, considering the proximity of the countries and the nature of their institutions, so favorable to free and genial intercourse between them. We are well aware that foreigners are often accused by Americans of attaching more importance to the 'New York Herald,' as an index of American opinion than it merits. Be that as it may, the large circulation and immense pecuniary success of the Herald make its assertions worthy of an attention of which it cannot be deprived, even by the numerous and respectable voices raised in its repudiation as an organ of even local public opinion. This paper has recently been thus holding forth ament."

The above is a specimen of fine writing by one of the "talented young gentlemen" who having been recently expelled from the columns of the *Morning Chronicle*, finds refuge in the sheets of a Paper whose proprietor he but lately stigmatized as a *Nicompoop*.

Be that as it may, we think it our duty as censors to warn the public against these would be Macaulays, and to apply the birch to the delinquents who hand up to us such ill-penned themes—at the same time we conceive it but just to point out to the trembling culprit the sins of omission and commission against that high potentate "Lindley Murray,"—of which he has been guilty. For "small knowledge," we should read ignorance—there are no degrees of comparison about knowledge—it must be one thing or the other. "Frequently displayed is often truly singular,"—observe the admirable tautological generality of this expression! But observe also that whatever minimum of accusation may lurk under this hazy figure of speech, attaches to the *Press* generally of the United States. The writer having forcibly hammered into his mind the fact that this "small knowledge is frequently often displayed," arrives at the conclusion that it is truly singular!—but if displayed on so many occasions, how can it be singular? Surely the expression would be more to the purpose if it were stated that "the small knowledge frequently often displayed is truly plural."

But again, why is it singular?—Ah—on account of the nature; of what?—their Railroads, their Steamboats—their Post Offices, their literature, their language? Not at all; of their Institutions! Which may mean dollars and cents, Barnum's Museum or Gin Sling, anything, ("which you please my little dear,") but what the writer means. For if by Institutions he means the vital political elements of the two countries, they are as opposite as light is to darkness. Slavery, the presiding genius of American affairs, is on the Canadian side hated and unknown. While the distinctive Federal Machinery of the United States Government has not as yet been adapted to the British North American Provinces. Along such vast divergencies it is not necessary to pursue the contrast. It is only necessary to confute this assertion, to show that if it depended on the Institutions of the two peoples, the intercourse would be as small as the knowledge of the "New York Herald."

"Between them" of course, the reasons attempted to be adduced would not account for any intercourse between any other peoples, not the *Ashantees* and the *Fantees* certainly. "We are well aware." Well, the public must be gratified by this announcement, it is satisfactory, to know that the writer is not only aware of what everybody knows, but that he is well aware of it! But the subject now changes, instead of generalities we come at last to something tangible, in place of the

Press, we catch one offender, "the New York Herald," which, we are rather supererogatorily apprized claims to be an index of American opinion.

Be that as it may, the writer elegantly proceeds to say, "it cannot be deprived of an attention." As attention is external and not inherent, simple minded people those who are not "talented young gentlemen," might suppose that this is a mistake. Attention is the art of regarding by others, and therefore the *New York Herald* might very easily be deprived of attention.

We presume the writer may mean influence, authority, respect, or some quality which resides in the paper and its writings and of which therefore it could not be deprived until those qualities change, not even by "the numerous voices raised in its repudiation as an organ of even local public opinion." How public opinion can be local, we are not obliged to explain. The fact is that the more we analyse this remarkable literary production, the more incomprehensible it becomes and the more bewildered will be our readers. No further criticism is required. It is sufficient to show the deficiency of grammar, the arrant nonsense of the opening of the article which we take to imply this.

"The ignorance displayed by a portion of the press of the United States is truly singular, considering the proximity of the countries and the similarity of their institutions, so favorable to a free and genial intercourse. Foreigners are often accused of attaching more importance to the 'New York Herald' as an index of opinion than it merits. But the large circulation and pecuniary success of the 'Herald' make its assertions worthy of attention as an organ of local opinion. That paper thus holds forth respecting." Then, "Du sublime au ridicule il n'y a qu'un pas." Having disposed of the ridiculous we may contemplate a few lines lower down the sublime, in the peroration of this wonderful literary effort.

"It may be said of McNab, as was said of a still more distinguished statesman and soldier, that he 'exhibits nothing of age save its experience.' He has watched Responsible government from its cradle to its maturity, he has passed through the furnace of civil war, and has had opportunities of dealing with and estimating the forces of the popular element in action, such as no Englishman of this day has enjoyed; he has presided, for a greater number of years over popular Assemblies than any man in the realm save Lefebvre; he has a knowledge of the races, classes and nationalities who will make up the population of New Caledonia, which no European possesses, and his years, and the fiery experience of his active life combine to give guarantees that his caution will be equal to the delicate and important duties which will call for its exercise. Those who know him, who know his services to his own locality, and the power which he has shewn in conciliating the rough and hardy pioneers of the wildest parts of Western Canada, when Canada had wilder wildernesses than any now upon the Pacific, and spirits not less rugged or less adventurous, will laugh at the idea of Sir Alan's needlessly quarrelling with the Californians, or alienating the rough and ready sons of Western adventure by any untimely prejudice of caste or nationality; and the statesman who passed the most liberal measures ever introduced in a Canadian Assembly, and whose administration has been even blamed for the sweeping reforms it inaugurated, is well calculated to guide the infant steps of New Caledonia in the path of Constitutional freedom.

We will not stop to enquire whether this grand style of literary composition is the one suitable for a triweekly paper, it is a point which will admit of argument, but we are irresistibly reminded that we have somewhere or other seen something like this, in fact most of Macaulay's Historical Portraits are drawn with similar glowing tints. Of course this is quite

accidental, les beaux esprits se rencontrent!

Appointments.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Toronto, 31st July, 1858.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:

Edmund Nugent, Esquire, M. D., to be Associate Coroner for the County of Middlesex.

Louis George Loranger, Esquire, to be Revenue Inspector in and for the District of Terrebonne.

George Ross, Esquire, to be Returning Officer for the Village of Renfrew.

John Eastwood, Esquire, to be Returning Officer for the Village of Southampton.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant Licenses to the following gentlemen, to enable them to practise Physic, Surgery and midwifery in Upper Canada, viz:

Samuel Wallace, of Grafton, Esquire, M. R. C. S., England.

Thomas Miller, of West Flamborough, Esquire, B. M.;

John Washington Agnew, of London, Esquire;

François E. Roy, of the City of Québec, Esquire, M. D.;

Henry C. Fleak, of Waterford, Esquire, M. D.

From the Canada Gazette Extra.

HEAD QUARTERS.

TORONTO, 2d August, 1858.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 5.

UPPER CANADA.

ACTIVE FORCE.

BAND OF VOLUNTEER GENTLEMEN PENSIONERS.

Captain, the Honble. J. S. McDonald, is permitted to retire, retaining his rank, with a view to future active service in this Corps.

Lieutenant, the Honble. L. V. Sicotte, is permitted to retire, retaining his rank, with a view to future active service in this Corps.

(Here follow the resignations of the other Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.)

The following Appointments are made.

To be Captain:

George Brown, Esquire.

To be Lieutenants:

A. A. Dorion, O. Mowat, Esquires.

To be Ensign:

J. E. Thibeaudeau, Esquire.

To be Paymaster:

Capt. the Honble. F. Lemieux.

To be Quartermaster:

L. H. Holton, Esquire.

To be Adjutant:

The Honble. J. S. McDonald.

To be Assistant Surgeons:

C. J. Laberge, S. Connor, Esquires.

To be Chaplain:

The Rev. J. Morris.

To be Fugle Sergeant:

The Honble. L. T. Drummond.

To be Drum Major and Letter Carrier:

M. H. Foley, Esquire.

From the Canada Gazette Extra Extraordinary.

HEAD QUARTERS.

TORONTO, 4th August, 1858.

ACTIVE FORCE.

BAND OF VOLUNTEER GENTLEMEN PENSIONERS.

The organization of the above Corps

not being complete, it is struck off the strength of the Provincial Forces.

Afternoon Orders.—Fugle—Serjeant Cartier will recruit for this Corps till further orders.

MODESTY.

A Mr. Dubord—the other day, when commenting in Parliament—had the assurance to speak of a friend, Mr. Thibeaudeau as Mr. "What's his name." As Mr. Dubord will have comparisons, we will freely admit that there is some difference between Mr. Thibeaudeau and Mr. Dubord. The former being simply a respectable, sensible, and honest representative of the people, who obtained his place in Parliament by 1613 bona fide votes, making up three-fourths of the Constituency of Portneuf, while Mr. Dubord was elected in such a way that he may think himself lucky that he was not returned to that assembly of notables who figure in the Penitentiary. Mr. Thibeaudeau will come back sure of reelection, while Mr. Dubord will come back pretty sure of being hooted, and lastly, Mr. Thibeaudeau was absent from the place where he had a right to be, while Mr. Dubord was present in the place where he had no right to be.

The fact is that every body, now a days, aspires to be a Minister—this Mr. Dubord expected the Department of Public Works—and we must say that he has claims, claims which the Quebec public have recognised, to one department of Public Works—and which it is unjust not to have yielded to him ere this—viz: that of the *àakam* picking department!

MR. BROWN'S PROGRAMME.

1. Representation by population postponed till Census or Federation.
2. Separate Schools—to be left in statu quo.
3. Governor elective by the people.
4. Thorough Reform of all Government Departments.
5. Seat of Government Montreal, but to come to Quebec for four years.
6. North Shore Railroad to be built.

We give the above without expressing any opinion. The Quebec District can judge for itself. All we can say is that if it gets the Seat of Government now, we shall be agreeably mistaken.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The greatest fact of the age is accomplished. The greatest triumph of the human mind which the world ever saw is achieved. Henceforth all men form one community. Social relations enter into a new phase. Henceforth the word *exile* disappears from the vocabulary.

The effects of instantaneous communication in the political and commercial relations of men will be varied and extraordinary.

In our portion of them that of the *press* important modifications must be looked for. May we not expect that a division of labour will occur, and that public journals will be classified under two heads. *Newspapers*, properly so, and solely intended to give the intelligence of the hour whether political or commercial, and *journals* which will treat political subjects and seek to lead public opinion.

However whatever the effects, our first feeling is that of exultation and congratulation to those enterprising men who have, by their intelligence, prophetic genius, and indomitable perseverance, enabled us to record this glorious termination of their labours.

We have to thank Mr Langevin and Lieut. Col. Price for interesting Parliamentary documents.