

## IMPORTANT NEWS.—PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.



WE have just been informed, on unimpeachable authority, that a Provisional Government is immediately to be proclaimed at Montreal, as a substitute for the wept-by-many-creditors establishment which is departing from amongst us, and whose deal packing-cases,—the last deal, it is to be hoped, of the Government packing, whose shuffling has of late been so frequently resorted to,—are daily encumbering the decks of persecuted steam-boats. Monklands is fixed on as the seat of the Provisional Government; and Stewart Derbishire, Esquire, whose judgment in the selection of provisions is proverbial, has been elected, *una voce*, to the Presidency. The villa, which will be provisioned for a six month's siege, is to be governed by a battalion of choice spirits (and wines)—a brisk fire will be kept up (in the kitchen and principal apartments), so as to insure a warm reception to the invaders. Should any report emanate from the neighbourhood of the Presidential residence, no alarm need be felt by the citizens; as all such reports will be referable to the sudden liberation of fixed air, from tightly-corked bottles of champagne. And,—to use the language of the prize ring,—although the expenditure of claret will be considerable, and the taps both strong and numerous, yet no inconvenience will be felt in the vicinity of the victualling office, owing to the superior style of the President in making a hit. *Vive le President!* says Punch; and may the Republic of Conviviality never find a worse head—and heart.

## SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL.

Some light has recently been thrown upon the subject of cholera, by a series of microscopic investigations. Dr. Brittan has demonstrated that the disease may be referred to the presence of minute algide formations, generated in the viscera, each individual plant—if we may be allowed the expression—presenting the appearance of a regular cell. If Great Britain would take the hint from Dr. Brittan, and proceed to institute a microscopic search into the morbid condition of the body politic of this Colony, we have little doubt but that the malady might be traced to a source of cholera;—the fungous excrescences here, combining to form what is called a Colonial Government, being neither more nor less than a regular sell.

## THE GOVERNMENT GRASS-WIDOWS.

It is, we believe, generally known that many of the gentlemen connected with the Public Offices, who are compelled by the unfortunate pressure of political events, to follow in the wake of the "strong government," have come to the determination of not removing their domestic establishments from Montreal, in the present unsettled state of the Provincial pulse. Hereupon a question has naturally arisen, as to what provision was to be made for the security as well as consolation of the discónsolate matrons thus recklessly left destitute of their natural protectors, at the commencement of an inclement and cheerless Canadian winter. Disastrous consequences were hinted at as likely to arise from the rude and ruthless separation forced upon the fair partners in the polka of life of many an official, and the dilemma would have been awkward in the extreme, to say the least of it, had not Government, with a degree of manly generosity which would be creditable to a Grand Vizier, taken the vigorous step of chartering the building recently known as the Baptist's College, for the purpose of fitting it up as an asylum for the much-injured victims of a misplaced seat of Government. The institution to which the building originally belonged is, as most of our readers probably know, *defunct*,—if not of cholera, at least of something bearing a close affinity to it,—a very frightful Cramp having been one of the symptoms by which its decay was attended. But could the deserted building have been selected for a more graceful purpose than that contemplated at present? Will the bowers of the Baptist be less musical than formerly, now that

they *re-echo* with the dulcet moaning of many grass-widows? We rather imagine not,—the very architecture of the building, which we whilome condemned as gross and heavy, seems to us to have acquired a sudden and admirable lightness—a sort of airiness, well according with the ethereal attributes of the fair creations by which it is about to be tenanted. The rough disproportion of the square columns of the Baptist College, becomes refined to a Doric elegance in the roseate atmosphere of a grass-widow's refuge,—and the hard hearted granite of the cold vestibule will grow soft and warm in the genial influence of fair weather smiles. We will not rudely violate the sanctity of the contemplated bower, by even hinting at the style of its internal arrangements,—with all the details of which, however, we are perfectly acquainted, on the kindly vouchsafed authority of one of the Ladies Patronesses; but this we feel ourselves at liberty to mention, that the general supervision of the establishment is to be entrusted to Major Talbot, who, with his usual gallantry, has nobly consented to undertake, gratuitously, the performance of the duties involved in the office of Guardian of the Grass-Widows' Asylum.

## BRICKS! BROKERS!! AND BANKRUPTS!!!

The *Gazette* of Wednesday morning, says, when speaking of the cause of depression in commercial affairs:

And then bankrupts began tumbling, one man after another, like a row of bricks set up on end, when striking one bring down the whole.

We were not aware before that the mercantile community of Montreal consisted exclusively of bricks, nor that John Tully had been regularly engaged to write leaders for the *Gazette*. Some brokers *are* bricks, however, though the houses to which they formerly belonged have tumbled to pieces.

## NEW POLITICAL FEATURE.

We are credibly informed that an act of tardy justice is at length about to be performed by His Excellency the Governor General, towards our Indian brethren, who have hitherto been almost without representation in the Provincial Legislature.

Three Chiefs,—Wo-was-kish, or The Jolly Old Buck, warrior of the remnant of the tribe known as the Algonquins, or All-gone-coons; Go-to-the-mis, Chief among the Chippewas of Lake Huron, and No-tax-cumsa-mis, or The Beer Drinker, Sagamore in the Huron Nation at Lorette, are to be called immediately to the Legislative Council,—an honor to which these distinguished children of the forest may well aspire, and a position upon which their well-known talents for business will be sure to shed a lustre.

From the nature of these appointments, much moral scalping may be anticipated at the approaching meeting of the Legislature, and any Honorable Member who rashly dares to contradict any assumption on the part of the red gentleman on his right or his left, will quickly find himself the centre of a war-dance, with a radiation of weapons bristling from his unhappy corpus. When a division is called for, it will be done expertly with a triad of gleaming tomahawks; and instead of an Honorable Gentleman catching a Speaker's eye, according to the present usage, he will find his own caught in a peculiar and disagreeable manner, if he does not keep continually minding it, so as not to interfere with the prejudices of the Honorable Aborigines. The process of counting the House, on a division, will, however, be less simple than formerly, owing to the difficulty of bringing together missing members,—for which the tomahawk and scalping-knife alone can be accountable. On the whole, Honorable Gentlemen will stand a chance of being quartered better than usual, this winter.

## A VERY SINGULAR FACT.

Mr. Papineau has written a letter to say, that he has read the Annexation Manifesto, and highly approves of it. He thinks it almost as good as the ninety-two resolutions, and never imagined that "the Tories" had so much spirit in them. The whole of the enterprising freemen of "Petite Nation" have had it read to them, and are ready to put their marks to it. On all of which Punch has only to remark, in his usually mysterious manner—Shallabala, shallabala, shallabala!