Rec'd 23 Aug

THE

Weekly Chronicle

Terms—15 shillings per annum.] "Nec Rege, Nec Populo, sed utroque." [12s. 6d. if paid in advance.

VOL. VI. SAINT JOHN, (N. B.) FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1842. No. 35.

THE CHRONICLE,

Is published every Friday afternoon, by DUNLOP & Co., at their office in the brick building corner of Prince William and Church street.

Terms—15s. per annum, or 12s. 6d. if paid in advance.—When sent by mail, 2s. 6d. extra.

Papers sent out of the City must be paid for in ADVANCE.

Any person forwarding the names of six responsible subscribers will be entitled to a copy gratis.

☞ Visiting and Business Cards, (plain and ornamental,) Handbills, Blanks, and Printing generally, neatly executed.

All letters, communications, &c., must be post paid, or they will not be attended to.—No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

Weekly Almanack.

MAY.		H. SUN.	S. MOON.	H. W.	
28 Saturday,	- -	4 41	7 19	11 9	1 41
29 Sunday,	-	4 40	7 20	11 36	2 19
30 Monday,	-	4 39	7 21	Morn	2 51
31 Tuesday,	-	4 39	7 21	5 20	3 30
1 Wednesday,	- -	4 38	7 22	0 41	4 21
2 Thursday,	- -	4 38	7 22	1 0	5 8
3 Friday,	- -	4 37	7 23	1 21	6 4

Last Quarter, 1st July 1h. 55m. morn.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.—Thos. Leavitt, Esq., President.—Discount days, Tuesday and Friday. Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 1 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount days. Director next week: R. F. Hazen, Esq.

BANK OF COMMERCIAL BANK.—John Duncan, Esq., President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes of Discount must be lodged before 1 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: D. J. M'Laughlin.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—(St. John Branch.)—A. Smithers, Esq., Manager.—Discount Days, Wednesdays and Saturdays.—Hours of Business, from 10 to 3.—Notes and Bills for Discount to be left before 3 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days. Director next week: Hon. John Robertson.

NEW-BRUNSWICK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—John Boyd, Esquire, President.—Office open every day, (Sundays excepted) from 11 to 1 o'clock.—[All communications by mail, must be post paid.]

SAVING'S BANK.—Hon. Ward Chipman, President.—Office hours, from 1 to 3 o'clock on Tuesday's. Cashier and Register, D. Jordan.

MARINE INSURANCE.—I. L. Bedell, Broker. The committee of Underwriters meet every morning at 10 o'clock, (Sundays excepted.)

MARINE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—James Kirk, Esq., President.—Office open every day (Sunday's excepted) from 10 to 3 o'clock. ☞ All applications for Insurance to be made in writing.

☞ NOTICE.

THE subscribers having this day entered into Co Partnership, the business heretofore carried on by L. H. Deveber will in future be conducted under the Firm of

L. H. DEVEBER & SON.

L. H. DEVEBER,
RICHARD SANDS DEVEBER.

St John, 7th May, 1842.

THE Subscriber having admitted Mr. JOSEPH T. HAMM, as a Partner in his business, it will in future be conducted under the firm of T. L. NICHOLSON & Co.—Counting House in Mr. Melick's Brick Building, Market square.

T. L. NICHOLSON.

The Subscribers, with reference to the above Notice beg to tender their services as *Auctioneers* and *Commission Merchants* to their friends and the public, and to assure them that their strictest attention shall be given to any business they may be entrusted with.

T. L. NICHOLSON,
JOSEPH T. HAMM.

St. John, 30th April, 1842.—4ins.

Removal.

THE subscribers have removed their place of business from *Water street*, to the new Fire proof store, lately erected by them at the foot of *Union street*, on the property belonging to R. W. Crookshank, Esq.

SANCTON & CROOKSHANK.

April 29, 1842.

CROOKSHANK & WALKER have removed their Counting House to the same building.

April 29.

REMOVAL.

THE General Agency for Moffatt's Life Pills and Phœnix Bitters is removed to the store on King's Square, adjoining Mr. Fellows' Commercial Hotel.

J. ELLIOTT.

6th may.

Winterbon's
ANTI-BILIOUS SOLUTION.

THIS Invaluable Medicine has only within a few years been offered to the Public, the Proprietor having used it in his private practice for many years, and has experienced the most wonderful success by its use in the undermentioned diseases.

In a few moments after taking it the patient is entirely relieved of the most painful heartburn, or pain occasioned by a superabundant quanity of bile in the stomach and bowels. Though the effects of the Anti-Bilious Solution are so instantaneous, they are not the less permanent; it strengthens the stomach, improves the appetite, removes all acidity and bile from the stomach and bowels, raises the spirits, and strengthens and invigorates the whole constitution.

The most delicate and feeble invalid labouring under Dyspepsia will by continuing the use of the Anti-Bilious Solution for a few weeks, experience its most happy effects in being restored to the enjoyment of perfect health.

Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, Weakness, Languor, Coldness of the Extremities, Morbid Acidity in the stomach and bowels, headache, drowsiness, habitual costiveness, and general debility, bilious complaints of every description, diarrhœa, vomiting, sour stomach, wind and flatulency of the stomach and bowels, jaundice heartburn, eruptions of the skin, scrofula, and red gravel, Asthma and Coughs in old Persons.—For these and many other complaints the proprietor has experienced the greatest benefit in his general practice, and can confidently assert that others may experience the same result by merely attending to the directions in taking the Medicine.

☞ The subscriber has received a supply of the above for sale at the late Circulating Library Germain Street.

JOHN ELLIOT.

November . h.

Miscellany.

[*From the London Saturday Journal 1840.*]

MACHINERY OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

NO II.

The Foreign Office—Suggestion for its improvement.

[*Concluded.*]

Our Foreign Office, like our Treasury, is extremely deficient in the strength which it ought to possess for the ready despatch of all the business that devolves upon it. The quantity of copying that often presses upon the clerks employed there is very severe—so much so as to break down the health of some of them. There is another defect in the constitution of this office, which ought to be remedied without delay. Our merchants, in the course of their trade with foreign nations, frequently sustain injuries to a very material extent. Their ships are captured under the pretext of their violating quarantine or revenue regulations, or of attempting to break blockades. Those ships are sometimes only detained, sometimes they are confiscated together with their cargoes. For these or other injuries the merchant has no means of obtaining redress, unless through the secretary of state for foreign affairs. He goes with the statement of his case, and the protests of his captains and supercargoes, and whatever other evidence he can procure, to the foreign office; he presents them to the under-secretary, who lays them before his chief, who desires them to be sent to the Lords Commissioners of Trade, who is much employed in his own professional career, and consequently has but little time to devote to any other affairs. The papers sleep of necessity month after month, upon his table; they are probably drawn up and arranged with little skill; many points necessary to guide his judgment are left out, and he is obliged to send them back for additional information. The process, which may be said to be the first stage of the suit, takes in many cases a full year.

The aggrieved party then sets about obtaining the fresh information called for. He procures it with difficulty, and at great expense, and amends his case, which is returned to the foreign office. There it slumbers again for a while, and unless frequent remonstrances be made, it is ten to one but another and another year slips over before any decision is obtained; so much is the principal secretary, and indeed every individual in the office, taken up with political affairs. And to this, that from the chief down to the most subordinate rank in the office, there is not an individual to be found, who has not an absolute distaste for all matters of a merely legal or commercial character; a distaste not at all to be wondered at, for their pursuits are of a different nature.

It happens in many cases, that from the very outset the view taken of the matter by the merchant is really erroneous. His servants may, very probably from ignorance, or over desire of gain, have violated the law of the country of whose acts he complains, and then of course he must submit to the consequences. But suppose the matter to be otherwise, and that his claims are founded upon justice, and after two or more years they are admitted to be so by the law authorities at home, we have next to follow the train of negotiation between our secretary of state and the government of the offending power. It is utterly impossible to say when a proceeding of this kind is to come to an end, when once it assumes a controversial shape between the two governments. I have known of cases of this description which have remained undecided for thirty years; and of several which have been continued during periods varying from three to twenty years.

Let it not be understood, however, that far such delays as these the minister at home is wholly answerable. The foreign government naturally enough, though with little justice, takes as much time as it can for consideration. It has a great reluctance to pay money sometimes it has not the money to pay. It is not worth while to go to war even for millions. In the mean time the merchant has become a bankrupt; his family is plunged from a state of wealth and happiness into poverty and wretchedness. "Hope deferred hath made the heart sick;" death sweeps onward in its career, and at the end of thirty years comes some scanty indemnity to a new generation! This is no ideal picture I have known it in reality in many an instance, where it was perfectly practicable, if proper "machinery" had been in operation, to have had the whole matter satisfactorily arranged within three or four months.

The "machinery" which I would apply ought to be something of this description. A commission consisting of three individuals sufficiently skilled in commercial, navigation, and international law, should be attached permanently to the foreign office, the queen's advocate of course to be the chief commissioner. To this tribunal should be addressed all complaints of our merchants against the injurious acts of the authorities of foreign countries. The parties making the complaint should be forthwith summoned before this commission; all the parts of their case, and of the evidence by which it is supported, should be thoroughly sifted, and when the whole of the evidence is obtained and fully considered, judgment should be passed. If the judgment be in favour of the claim, it should be transmitted to the secretary of state, and by him forwarded without delay to the government responsible for the injury. A certain reasonable period, previously defined by common consent between the two governments, should be allowed for the investigation of the claim abroad; if that period should pass over without a complete defence having been made on the other side, judgment to go by default. If defence be made within the time, then, unless it be admitted to be an adequate one by our commission, an umpire selected from among the foreign ambassadors at either court—an individual not merely eminent for integrity and impartiality, but also for his knowledge of international law—should be called upon to decide in the last resort. In either case,—that of judgment by default, or of judgment by the umpire, the amount of indemnity settled by the commission or the umpire to be advanced out of our treasury, in order that the merchant should be kept no longer out of his capital. For it is not merely the loss of interest upon that capital which he sustains, but the privation of the profits which he might have acquired had he not been interrupted in the progress of his lawful trade. The amount of the claim so advanced, it would be the business of the secretary of state to recover from the government convicted of having done the wrong. If any difficulty should occur on that point, if, for example, as Spain has been for some time situated, there was a disposition in the Spanish Government to pay, but no funds in their treasury, it might be expedient to let the claim stand over for a while. But that expediency being a question of national concern, it ought not to be committed at the expense of the merchant, who should not be taxed beyond any other private individual for matters of national concern. A commission of the kind I have described has been for some years established in the foreign office at Paris, and has been found to work with great advantage to the department, and to the country.

Nothing can be more objectionable than the "machinery" now in use for the settlement of claims such as those which have been above mentioned. After all the delays that arise from the course of preliminary investigation according to the mode at present established, the question still remains to be solved—What is the amount of the injured party's claim, assuming it to be admitted by both governments that he has a right to an indemnity to some amount? This question is sometimes submitted for adjudication to a mixed commission; that is, a commission consisting of two or more commissioners, one half British, the other subjects of the country which has done the wrong. It is very seldom that any good results from a tribunal of this nature. It is a fact which has come within my own knowledge, that a mixed Spanish and British commission sat in London for five years, and that although upwards of three hundred claims were entered upon their register, only one award was made by the commissioners during that period. The reason of this indecision is obvious enough. The Spanish members were for refusing every claim, or at least throwing every obstacle in the way of adjudication, and they were remarkably successful. The commissioners, moreover, considered the claims according to principles derived from different laws—one judging by Spanish, the other by English rules of law or equity, some of the commissioners being very superficially, if at all, versed in jurisprudence either foreign or domestic.

The selection of commissioners for duties of this description is an affair of mere patronage. Persons utterly ignorant even of the most common principles of municipal or international law have been thrust into places in which they are called upon to deal with the rights of parties—those rights being often dependent upon very nice constructions of articles of treaties, or principles of commercial law. I have known commissioners absolutely ignorant of the existence of treaties, by which the rights of claimants were nevertheless to be adjudged. Cases are within my experience to which foreign laws were applied, which have had nothing whatever to do with the facts that gave rise to the claim. These are matters requiring to be forthwith reformed.

Under the department for foreign affairs is placed the whole of our consulate establishment. Consuls-general, consuls, or vice-consuls, are stationed in the capitals and principal ports of almost all foreign countries with which we carry on mercantile intercourse to any considerable extent. The consuls-general have been of late years reduced in number, and are now rather political than commercial officers. In most of the states of South America, in Egypt, Servia, Wallachia, and Moldavia, we have no envoys of a higher rank than that of consul-general. It is generally the business of mere consuls and vice-consuls to protect the interests of our merchants trading to the ports or places where they are stationed. They have all salaries, varying according to the ordinary extent of duties which they have to perform.

The "London Gazette" establishment is considered, for what reason I do not know, as under the authority of the foreign department. Probably in its origin it was intended chiefly to publish despatches which arrived from abroad, and with which it was of importance that the country should become officially acquainted. It is now chiefly occupied with advertisements relating to railways and bankruptcies, and other notices particularly required by acts of parliament to be inserted in it. If profits be derived from this journal, I am ignorant of the fund to which they are paid.

To the foreign, and indeed to all the higher departments of state, a certain amount of "secret service" money is voted annually by parliament. The minister who uses any portion of this money is not bound to explain the mode in which it is applied. He generally discloses it to the prime minister; but the account is passed upon his oath that the sum which he has drawn has been by him faithfully dedicated to purposes connected with the public service. The sums drawn from this fund of late years have been very inconsiderable as compared with the years of war. While we are engaged in hostilities with foreign countries, it was necessary that we should employ hosts of secret agents; during peace England has very little state "machinery" of a secret nature. Russia is known to have a regular establishment of agents who are dispersed all over Europe and Asia: some are employed to write in the public journals, with a view to cover, under plausible appearances, the deep policy of that ambitious empire; others watch the progress of public opinion, and collect statistics of the public wealth, and report them to headquarters.

The machinery of the home office is admitted upon all hands to be excellent. The under secretary is an accomplished lawyer; and as his office has to transact a great deal of business connected with the magistracy and administration of justice in every part of the country, it is fortunate that he is a person perfectly competent to all the duties of his situation. The police department, and that for the administration of the poor laws, has been vested for some time in separate commissions; with what degree of success it is scarcely necessary to say. Our police is most admirably organised, and whatever complaint may be made of the poor laws, the conduct of the commissioners appears free from just reproach.

NO. III.

The Privy Council—the Foreign Office—Suggestion for its improvement—the Colonial Office—the Board of Control—Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—the Mint—the Board of Trade—the Secretary at War and the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces—the Board of Admiralty—the Ordnance.

The machinery of the Colonial Office has been for a long time in a most dilapidated state. The genius of indolence presided with absolute power through all its departments until very lately. Much of its inefficiency was undoubtedly attributable to a most injudicious economy, which reduced the number of clerks just about the period when the population of our North American and antipodean colonies began to "increase and multiply." The reader must excuse this phrase "antipodean." I mean by it Van Diemen's Land and Australia, to which New Zealand may now be added. The mismanagement of that office drove the Canadas into rebellion, and created in our West India islands a great deal of needless discontent. As to our settlements upon the coast of Africa, they were consigned to entire neglect. A better spirit, however, has at length found its way into that important portion of the machinery of our government. A commission has been appointed for the regulation of the distribution of all the crown lands in the colonies.—To this commission, no doubt, will be referred complicated questions of every kind emanating from our dependencies, and rules will eventually be established for their administration upon a wise and salutary system. The idea of despatching an exhibition up the Niger, with a view to cut off the trade in slaves at its very source, is a most admirable one; and we trust it will be carried into practice in such an efficient way as to *prevent* its being a failure, so far as our government can. It is, indeed, not new, for it was long ago suggested, but in vain pressed upon the colonial department, until Lord John Russell's accession to the presidency of that office. Measures are now in active progress, the object of which is to teach the natives that a species of commerce much more lucrative than that to which they have been hitherto accustomed may be cultivated amongst them. Orders have been given for the construction of iron steam-boats, which, as boats of that description are known to require but a slight depth of water even when fully laden, will be peculiarly suitable to the navigation of rivers abounding in rocks and sand-banks and cataracts. Thus are we at length (and let us praise the Omnipotent for it!) proceeding to fulfil the mission appointed to our nation; a mission so clearly described in a work published five years ago, and now on my table, that I hope the reader will excuse an extract from it upon this important subject.

"He must tread to little purpose the earth upon which we are placed, who does not read in letters of light, the ordinance of the GREAT GOD, whereby He has announced it to be his will, that from this island should be dispersed the knowledge of his Law, and of the happiness with which it overflows, amongst all the families of men still immersed in mental darkness and misery. All our important acts upon the theatre of the world, our impregnable positions on the sea, which gives us access to every tribe under the sun, the power we at this moment exercise from the point where that sun rises, to the point whence it is to rise again, are palpable tokens of a divine mission, for the due execution of which, we who live in discussion and action, and our children's children, will be held responsible.

"The whole continent of Africa is waiting to bear testimony to our character in this respect. We are the only European nation that holds any portion of that territory, from which light can eventually be shed on the sable multitudes in the occupy its central and southern districts. The incursions of the barbarians who swarm on our frontiers in the south will compel us ultimately to extend those frontiers until they touch the Nile. Men actuated by extraordinary impulses have gone forth from amongst us at the hazard and almost uniformly at the forfeiture of their lives to explore the rivers and lakes and mountains and plains, and to become acquainted with the tribes of those magnificent though as yet unhealthy regions. They have already felt our power in the south and in the west, and know that it is irresistible. They warred with each other in order that they might make captives, and sell them to less populous climes. We have nearly put an end to that unhallowed trade, have extinguished their motives for perpetual hostilities amongst themselves, and have attempted to show them that there are other kinds of commerce, which can only be fostered by peace, extended by industry, protected by laws, blessed by religion, and capable of forming a bond, which shall connect them by the ties of interest and affection with all their brethren of the human race,—a bond never to be broken. The last shout of our people, speaking the living voice of our God, was—'Break the chains of the negroes!' *It is done.* The last must be—'Baptize them!' IT WILL BE DONE."

The Board of Control consists of the president and eight commissioners; of these six are Ministers already mentioned, and two are gentlemen not very different in their official character from the Lords of the Treasury—that is to say, they have very little to do. I forget who it was—I believe Mr. Creevey—who described his occupation in that office, as being confined to his attendance there whenever he found it pleasant to go into a large room furnished very handsomely, and well supplied with fire and newspapers. The president and secretary are, however, efficient persons, and generally very fully employed.

The office itself is a most anomalous one. A body of London merchant-adventurers, tempted by the reports which they had heard of the abundance of gold, diamonds, emeralds, and rubies—of ivory, spices, cloths of gold and silver, and other produce and manufactures of the most precious description to be found in India, formed in the reign of Elizabeth plans for opening a trade with that country. Their first enterprises were attended with many failures, which it is not here necessary to enumerate. Gradually, as their views expanded, their numbers were augmented. In the year 1600 they constituted an association, designated the "Governor and Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies," and obtained a charter from the crown, by which they were invested with very extensive privileges. The court even then exhibited a disposition to interfere with their operations, by naming a commander of one of their expeditions. The company resisted, saying in the blunt homely language of John Bull that they were resolved not to employ "gentlemen," but "to sort their business with men of their own quality." Expeditions followed expedition with increasing prosperity. Small factories were established on the coast of Coromandel. The island of Bombay having been in 1662 ceded to England by the Portuguese as part of the dowry of the Infanta Catherine on the occasion of her marriage with Charles II. was subsequently transferred to the company. Thus they became sovereigns of a small portion of the Indian territory; they have since extended that small dominion into an empire, which now may be said to reach from the borders of China on one side to those of Persia on the other, and from the ocean in the south to the magnificent range of the Himalas in the north, including the highest mountains in the world.

Thus, a little band of merchant-adventurers, whose officers were in fact in their early expeditions little, if at all, better than a set of buccaneers—for with or without provocation they made no scruple of capturing every well-laden vessel they met in the course of their voyage—eventually have become a most formidable power, having at its disposal numerous and well-appointed armies on land, and at sea a considerable fleet lately rendered all-powerful by the employment of war-steamers. Late events in India have proved that their legions are organised in the most admirable manner, and that their military leaders are men of consummate skill and dauntless gallantry. It is indeed to be regretted that their civil departments of government are as yet in a very imperfect condition. But it must, at the same time, be admitted that the establishment of legal order in an empire containing at the least 100 millions of inhabitants is an affair of no ordinary magnitude, and which must require many years for its due establishment.

From time to time, as the power of this company was enlarged, the ministers of the crown, jealous of its imperial character, sought to exercise an ascendancy over it. Undoubtedly the crown may at any time revoke its charter; or whenever the charter expires, it being granted only for limited periods, may refuse to renew it. But many difficulties would stand in the way of either of these proceedings. Some of these difficulties arise from the debt contracted by the company, which the government would of course be unwilling to take upon itself. Then there must be compensations to officers of the company, compensations for its corporate property, and a variety of other inconveniences which are altogether so numerous as to weigh down the balance in favour of the continued existence of the corporation.

The next expedient was to create a system of superintendancy, by which the proceedings of these imperial merchants should be brought within the cognizance, and to a great extent within the jurisdiction, of the crown: hence our present Board of Control. It is a question not yet satisfactorily settled, notwithstanding the many legislative regulations made for that purpose, how far the board does possess authority to control the decrees of the court of directors. Nothing can be done by the board without the concurrence of the court, with the exception, I believe, of the appointment of one member of the legislative council in India. The court has, it is understood, more than once refused to sanction despatches which were materially altered by the board, and to agree in the nomination of governors-general recommended by the crown.—However this may be, the board, as part of our state "machinery," is indeed a most important institution, and the minister at the head of it ought to be a thorough statesman. He is, nevertheless, seldom heard of in parliament. The affairs of India,—even the late brilliant actions of our armies there, the most distinguished perhaps ever executed within so brief a period of time, and with such certain effect—have attracted scarcely any attention in this country. Whenever the president has any measure to propose or any communication to make in parliament, he most commonly has to address himself to empty benches! Such is our apathy as to the welfare of one hundred millions of our fellow-creatures, the great majority of whom are immersed in the most deplorable ignorance and idolatry!

The office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is a part of our state "machinery" which may be described in a few words. Counties Palatine are so called from the Latin word *palatio*, "palace," the owners thereof having been privileged to exercise all regal prerogatives as fully as the king was in his palace. The principal reason of such an argumentation seems to have been this: that the counties enjoying those privileges—Chester and Durham, for instance—were contiguous to countries long hostile to England, viz., Wales and Scotland, and it was desirable that the inhabitants should have justice administered at home, in order that they should not seek it at any distance, and thereby leave the border territories exposed to the incursions of the enemy. The counties palatine just mentioned were such by prescription or immemorial usage; Lancaster was created a county palatine by Edward III. in favour of Henry Plantagenet, first earl, and then duke of Lancaster. It had its own courts of justice, and among the rest a court of chancery. In process of time all the rights and privileges granted to this county became vested in the crown, and many modifications have been made in its laws themselves. But still the dignity exists, and the court of the duchy chamber, which is held before the chancellor of the ducy or his deputy, has jurisdiction in all matters of equity relating to lands held of the king in his right as duke of Lancaster. These lands were formerly very extensive, and embraced a large district surrounded by the city of Westminster. I rather think that William IV. surrendered to the public the whole of his revenue arising from this source; but the jurisdiction of the court still remains, though the equity side of the court of exchequer, and the high court of chancery, have a concurrent jurisdiction with it, and may take cognizance of the same causes.

The Mint is an extensive establishment situated near the Tower, where the coinage of gold, silver, and copper is carried on under the royal authority. The gold and silver bullion necessary for this purpose is usually supplied by the Bank of England; but it is competent to any individual to send in gold bullion to the Mint and have it converted into sovereigns. Individuals, however, who receive bullion from abroad, whether in gold or silver bars, find it most advantageous to dispose of their treasure to the Bank than to manage the coinage of it through the Mint for themselves, as they thus get rid of all the trouble, and also of some trifling expenses which they must otherwise incur.

The Board of Trade is a committee of the Privy Council, to which all matters relating to the commerce of the country are referred. The duties appertaining to this board have never been strictly defined. It has for many years had a president and vice-president, two secretaries, and a large establishment of clerks, the public derived little benefit from this office until lately. Ample materials were upon the shelves of the office for furnishing many statistical tables relating to our trade in every part of the world. It was only within these last six or seven years that such tables have been drawn up with any degree of regularity. They are collected in a volume and published annually. New functions have been committed to the board by several recent acts of parliament: one of these is the examination of projects for the establishment of joint-stock banking companies, which solicit the crown for charters of incorporation. The board takes cognizance also of all private bills passing through parliament—a duty the strict performance of which would be extremely useful to the public. It must, however, be confessed, that it is very practicable to render this establishment much more beneficial to the interests of our trade in general than it ever yet has been.

It is very difficult to distinguish between the proper functions of the Secretary-at-war, and of the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces. The latter seems to have all the patronage, and the former all the constitutional responsibility for the right exercise of that patonage. All orders for the management of the army emanate from the office of the secretary at war, and are sent direct to the commander-in-chief, who is bound to execute them. But the power of promotion is claimed exclusively by the commander-in-chief.

Undoubtedly the Commissioners of the Admiralty, or, in point of fact, the First Lord—or rather, indeed, the political, as distinguished from the permanent secretary,—exercises much of the patronage of that office; and although the chief is usually a member of the cabinet, he only acts, as to the distribution of the navy, under orders signified to him by the secretaries of state for foreign affairs or the colonies. The mere regulation of the navy,—such as the sending out squadrons for exercise, or supplying the usual stations, or altering the destinations of vessels from one station to another, or directing the construction of new ships—belongs wholly to the Board of Admiralty; but the secretary-at-war and the commander-in-chief exercise their functions upon a different plan altogether. Perhaps the true constitutional course would be to combine the officers of both into one board, and that upon the president all the responsibility should be devolved.

It is the business of the Ordnance to regulate all matters relating to the artillery.

We have thus gone through a considerable portion of the "machinery" of the state, so far as its executive departments are concerned, but undoubtedly Parliament is the great "machine," the vast steam engine, by which the whole is set in motion. We will say something about it in future papers.

"Coin's Steam Voyage down the Danube, vol. ii., p. 47, 49.

THE BLACK BIRD'S GRAVE.—This is a celebrated point on the Missouri, and a sort of telegraphic place, which all the travellers in these realms, both red and white, are in the habit of visiting the ever to pay respect to the bones of one of their distinguished leaders, and the others to indulge their eyes on the lovely landscape that spreads out to almost an illimitable extent in every direction about it. This elevated bluff, which may be distinguished for several leagues distant, has received the name of the "Black Bird's Grave," from the fact that a famous chief of the O-mas-hows, by the name of the Black Bird, was buried on its top, by his own peculiar request; over whose grave a cedar post was erected by his tribe some thirty years ago, which is still standing. The O-mas-haw village was about sixty miles above this place, and this very noted chief, who had been on a visit to Washington city, in company with an Indian agent, died of the small pox, near this spot, on his return home; and whilst dying enjoined on his warriors who were about him this singular request, which was literally complied with. He requested them to take his body down the river to this his favourite haunt, and on the pinacle of this towering bluff, to bury him on the back of his favourite war-horse, which was to be buried alive under him, from whence he could see, as he said, the "Frenchmen passing up and down the river in their boats." He owned, amongst many horses, a noble white steed, that was led to the top of the grass-covered hill; and with great pomp and ceremony, in presence of the whole nation and several of the fur traders and Indian agent, he was placed astride of his horse's back, with his bow in his hand, and his shield and his quiver slung—with his pipe and his *medicine bag*—with his supply of dried meat, and his tobacco-pouch replenished to last him through his journey to the "beautiful hunting grounds of the shades of his fathers"—with his flint and his steel, and his tinder to light his pipe by the way. The scalps that he had taken from his enemies' heads could be trophies for no one else, and were hung to the bridle of his horse—he was in full dress and fully equipped, and on his head waved to the last moment, his beautiful head-dress of the war-eagle's plumes. In this plight and the last funeral honors having been performed by the *medicine-men*, every warrior of his band painted the palm and fingers of his right hand with vermilion, which was stamped and perfectly impressed on the milk white sides of his devoted horse. This all done, turfs were brought and pieced around the feet and legs of the horse, and gradually laid up to its sides, and at last over the back and head of the unsuspecting animal, and last of all, over the head and even the eagle plumes of its valiant rider, where all together have smouldered and remain undisturbed to the present day. This mound, which is covered with a green turf, and spotted with wild flowers, with its cedar post in its centre, can easily be seen at the distance of fifteen miles by the voyageur, and forms for him a familiar and useful land mark.—*Catlin's Letters, &c.*

MY SISTER'S GRAVE.—By a LADY.

From Blackwood's Magazine.

I had a little sister once,
And she was wondrous fair;
Like twined links of yellow gold,
Was the waving of her hair.

Her face was like a day in June,
When all is sweet and still,
And the shadows of the summer clouds
Crept softly o'er the hill.

O, my sister's voice—I hear it yet,
It comes upon mine ear,
Like the singing of a joyous bird,
When the summer-months are near.

Sometimes the notes would rise at eve
So fairy-like and wild,
My mother thought a spirit sang,
And not the gentle child.

But when we heard the little feet
Come dancing to the door,
And met the gaze of brighter eyes
Than ever spirit wore;

And she would enter full of glee,
Her long fair tresses bound
With a garland of the simple flowers,
By mountain streamlets found.

She never bore the garden's pride,
The rose, upon her breast,
Our own sweet wild flower ever loved
The other wild flowers test.

Like them she seemed to cause no toil,
To give no pain or care,
But to bask and bloom on a lonely spot
In the warm and sunny air.

And oh! like them as they come in spring,
And with summer's fate decay,
She passed with the sun's last parting smile
From life's rough path away.

And when she died—neath an old oak tree
My sister's grave was made;
For, when on earth, she used to love
Its dark and pensive shade.

And every spring, in that old tree
The song birds build their nests,
And wild flowers bloom on the soft green turf
Where my dead sister rests:

And the children of our village say,
That on my sister's tomb
The wild flowers are the last that fade,
And the first that ever bloom.

There is no stone raised there to tell
My sister's name and age;
For that dear name on every heart
Is carved on memory's page.

We miss her in the hour of joy,
For when all hearts are light,
There was no step so gay as her's,
No eyes so glad and bright.

We miss her in the hour of woe,
For then she tried to cheer,
And the soothing words of the pious child
Could dry the mourner's tear.

Even when she erred we couldnot chide,
For though the fault was small,
She always mourned so much, and sued
For pardon from us all.

She was too pure for earthly love—
Strength to our hearts was given,
And we yielded her in her childhood's light,
To a brighter home in heaven.

DIALOGUE.—"Sir, can you tell me where I can find Mr Delaluze?"—"Yes, do you see the building before you?"—"Yes."—"Then exactly the quadrangle, and take the diameter of the plot beyond it; enter the opening before you, and ascend the fignecen grades; then turn to your left, and you will find him either perpatonating in his crucible, deliberating in his lecinary, or perseveponating through his fenestra." "And pray, sir, what is a fenestra?" "It is an orifice in an edifice, to admit luminous particles." "Oh, thank you."

INSTINCT OF SPIDERS.—It has been observed that some spiders with an instinctive sagacity, select, as the greatest security from disturbance, the lids of the poet's boxes in churches.

POOR COPY