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THE WEEKLY EXPOSITOR,

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

OR REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES,
AND RAILWAY AND MINING INTELLIGENCER.

Vol. 1.]

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1846.

[No. 8.

LITERATURE.

EIGHT YEARS IN CANADA, &c.

EMBRACING A REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF LORDS DURHAM AND SYDENHAM, SIR CHARLES BAGOT, AND LORD METCALFE;

And Dedicated to the Memories of THE FIRST AND LAST OF THESE DISTINGUISHED DEAD.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "ECARTE," &c.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS ET QUIBUSDAM ALIIS.

[A difficulty of arrangement having occurred with the only two London publishers to whom the following pages have been submitted, the Author has decided on reverting to the usual practice, and publishing in Canada first; thus affording that means of direct communication with other metropolitan publishers, which his absence from London renders a matter of much inconvenience. It will be borne in mind, therefore, by the Canadian reader, that what is now offered to his perusal, was intended for an English public.]

[It Deposited at the Office of the Registrar of the Province.]

(CHAPTER III. CONTINUED.)

It was not likely that the French Canadians would regard, without mistrust, the after policy of a Governor who, although professedly a messenger of peace, and a reconciler of national differences, should have commenced his career by adopting a course of severity towards their favorite leaders, which preceding administrators of the Government had lacked energy to pursue, during a period of open anarchy and actual warfare.

Lord Durham saw this, but he, at the same time, perceived the necessity, not only for appeasing the wounded spirit of the British portion of the Canadian family, by the infliction of punishment of some kind on the authors of the violence which had occurred, but for placing the offending parties in a position which should disable them from future attempts to disturb the colony. Hence the Act of Amnesty which, however, party may rail at, or personal enmity malign it, posterity will admit to have been one of the most efficient measures for restoring peace to the distracted Canadas that could, at that particular moment, have been devised.

Had the rebel chiefs who were exempted from a participation in this amnesty, been misled in regard to the alternative that was submitted to them, there might have appeared reason for complaint that the British Government had compromised its dignity and acted unworthily, but what was done was without disguise. They pleaded guilty to the charge of treason—vehemently even as they subsequently denied this—and threw themselves wholly on the mercy of the High Commissioner. Nor was that mercy withheld from them. Although exiled from a country where their presence would have presented an insurmountable obstacle to the restoration of order, they were simply removed to a sister province,* the near proximity of which to their own afforded every facility for communication with their friends, whom a few years of good conduct on their own parts would have enabled them to join, under circumstances of advantage equal to any they had previously enjoyed. No objection was offered, no remonstrance made by themselves at the time, and the only complaint of the British population was, that Lord Durham had manifested too much lenity and forbearance. Little was it then imagined that this act of amnesty, which was undeniably the measure most likely to soothe the rankling spirit of party in the Canadian provinces, was to be made matter of serious accusation against his Lordship at home. And wherefore? Because, as it was asserted, the proceeding he had adopted was not in accordance with the strict letter of the constitution. And where was that constitution? In abeyance. It existed not in practice. Circumstances had occurred which had deprived (and justly deprived) the people of it. Lord Durham had accepted his office with the express object in view of creating a new constitution, suitable to the emergencies of the country, therefore the passing of an act founded at once upon the

* If any legitimate ground of complaint existed, it could only have been with the people of Bermuda, for having been in some degree placed on an equivocal footing. But the people of Canada themselves, and the expatriated in particular, had none whatever.

broad basis of justice and mercy, by the very man whom the task not only of alleviating the present ills of the province, but of collecting materials on which to frame a new system of government, had been confidently could not be properly said to be an infringement of that which was virtually dead from the moment martial law had been proclaimed. The violation of the constitution, by Lord Durham, was, with his enemies, both public and private, a mere pretence. They well knew that circumstances had fully warranted the measure of expediency he had adopted, and that in fact there had been no such violation of the constitution as they affected to believe had taken place. But what though they did not so understand it? It afforded them an irresistible opportunity to indulge in vituperative censure, and, in the eyes of the world, then directing its attention to the disturbed state of Canada with an interest proportioned to the magnitude of the objects at stake, to stamp the political conduct of the man they at once envied and hated, with the seal of a disapprobation as injudicious as it was undeserved. The jealousy of Lord Brougham was especially remarkable in the course of the debates which took place on the subject in the House of Lords.

Meanwhile, after the passing of what he conceived to be, and what certainly was his equitable act of amnesty, and little anticipating the storm which had commenced in England in the shape of private and purely personal attacks on his character, and which was so soon to rage into a tornado upon his public life, Lord Durham proceeded with the great objects he had in view. The outrage committed by the celebrated Bill Johnson on the Sir Robert Peel steamer, afforded His Lordship an opportunity for carrying into execution his second leading design—namely, the attainment of a full and satisfactory understanding with the American Government. His brother-in-law, Colonel Grey, was despatched on an especial mission to Washington, and in reply to the warm remonstrances of which he was the bearer, received every assurance from Mr. Van Buren not only that the strictest neutrality should be preserved, but that competent and experienced officers should be despatched to the frontier with a view to its enforcement.

These two essential objects gained—namely the disposal of the State prisoners, and a satisfactory pledge of exertion and activity from the Government of the United States, Lord Durham next turned his attention to the abuses and deficiencies of the existing laws of the country. A number of most useful bills were in the course of creation, among the principal of which were the Education Bill, the Registry Bill, a Bankrupt Bill, and, what was of paramount importance in the Lower Province, a Feudal Tenure Bill. The preparation of the latter required some tact and judgment, for it was necessary so to mould the act as to reconcile prejudice and strong addiction to ancient usages on the one hand, and a desire of undue innovation on the other. This Bill had been submitted to the Seminary at Montreal, and had been by them favorably received. At the period of Lord Durham's subsequent most unexpected departure, when his public acts had been declared nugatory and invalid by the timid Ministry whose duty it was boldly and generously to have supported him, it was rapidly advancing to completion. The Registry Bill, moreover, was actually in type, and drafts of the same were even then on their way to England.

In addition to these projected benefits, his Lordship had carried into effect one which was of the highest value to the country. The necessity of the introduction for a system of police, modelled after that of Sir Robert Peel, in a country where every facility was, in the absence of all immediate controlling power, afforded to the commission of crime, had impressed itself at an early period upon his sagacious mind. The brothels and other infamous places of resort in the city of Quebec were the theatres of unblushing guilt, to which people of all classes, and especially the numerous seamen frequenting the port, were in the habit of repairing. Great injury was, moreover, sustained in a commercial point of view in consequence of the latter deserting their ships and engagements. Appeals to the magistracy were vain, for either the magistracy would not redress the wrong, or, if they felt the inclination, knowing not the secret haunts of the offenders, they could not successfully interfere. A vigilant police could alone destroy the evil at its source, and purge the city of the gross stain upon its character. This was forthwith instituted; and within two months from its formation, the moral condition of all classes of the people had undergone a striking change

for the better. Armed with authority to penetrate into suspected dwellings, and to take into custody those who could not render a satisfactory account of themselves, the police were not long in eradicating the evil. The lower orders of the people abstained through fear from frequenting the haunts of vice, while those of a better class acknowledged the more powerful influence of shame; inasmuch that insensibly the licentiousness and disorder which had attained a most alarming growth under preceding administrations, was succeeded by a quiet and decorum as favorable to public and private morals as it was to public and private interests. True it is that these important objects were not effected without a strong manifestation of indignant clamor against Lord Durham; nor indeed without occasional collisions between the police and the townspeople, but these ebullitions finally gave way before the general good sense which admitted the importance of the improvements introduced.

The Police system, as originated in Canada by Lord Durham, is spreading itself gradually over the country. It still continues in Quebec, although on a much more limited scale than when His Lordship was there, and had at one time attained an almost equal efficiency in Montreal, where such a force is absolutely indispensable, and has been adopted with advantage both in Kingston and Toronto. In the course of time the Police of Canada will become a highly useful body.

But these improvements, essential even as they were to the prosperity of the country, were lesser considerations in the gigantic plan which had been formed by Lord Durham. It at once suggested itself to the comprehensive mind of the High Commissioner that whatever advantages might be designed for Canada, they must be valueless as long as the chasm which separated the British from the French Canadian population, as well in interest as in feeling, should remain open. How was this chasm to be filled up?

In devising the scheme of a Federal Union of the Provinces of British North America, Lord Durham not merely evinced the most thorough and statesmanlike knowledge of the difficulties with which he had to grapple, but the most ready and suitable resource in meeting and overcoming them. The great complaint of the British population in Lower Canada had been the numerical superiority of the leading French Canadians in the House of Assembly, by whom all measures of improvement were overthrown, and the advancement of the province consequently retarded. To remedy this state of things, and to give a preponderating power to British interests, without openly aiming at the subversion of that enjoyed, nay, almost wholly monopolized by the French-Canadian population, required all the skill of the diplomatist. Lord Durham at once saw that a Federal Union of the provinces was, independently of the higher objects embraced in the plan, the only measure likely to secure this, for, as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, would return subjects of British origin to the inferior Legislature, the French ascendancy would necessarily be swamped, and thus a vast change in the political condition of the country be effected. And this without giving serious ground for complaint to the party most injured by it, or even in the slightest degree wounding their national pride.

That Lord Durham's plan, very imperfectly understood by them, should have encountered opposition on the part of a certain influential class of the citizens of Montreal, is no evidence of its inefficiency. Unfortunately for Canada, any scheme having for its object the general good of the country is made too much the subject, not of mere party, but of individual criticism, and is measured too much by the standard of individual interest, to meet the support that is necessary to fruition. With a very few honorable exceptions, the British inhabitants of Montreal acted, during the period of Lord Durham's government of Canada, not in parties or in accordance with certain acknowledged and defined principles, bearing on the general prosperity; but each, influenced by personal interests, appeared to have a political code of his own, which, whenever an opportunity offered, he was sure to intrude upon the High Commissioner. This was a bitter cause of complaint with Lord Durham, who could not tolerate the vulgar assumption of those who pestered him with proposals and schemes of the most absurd, and obviously the most selfish description, and who consequently impressed him very unfavorably with the British population as a body. There was one individual in Montreal whose pertinacity on this subject induced a strong feeling of aversion in the mind of Lord Durham; and this man, wealthy but of obscure origin, and indifferently educated, was in the habit of expressing his views and wishes in so confident and arrogant a manner, that his Lordship had, more than once, according to his own avowal to me, experienced difficulty in suppressing the inclination he felt to desire him never to intrude himself upon him again.

The utter impossibility of any measure, however great or important, giving satisfaction to a people so divided in feeling—so disunited in purpose—and yet so devoted to minor interests, was obvious, and they were necessarily, from the reasons just named, the least competent to pronounce a correct or impartial judgment on measures undertaken and followed up for the general good.

The objection raised to the plan of a federal union of the Provinces, by a portion of the Montreal Press, was asserted to be that it would eventually place the country at large in a position to throw off all allegiance to England. This is a view difficult to be sustained. It is impossible to assume any such result could pro-

ceed from the combination of measures proposed to be adopted by Lord Durham in furtherance of this object, and there is but too much reason to infer that the objections of the people of Montreal arose, not from any well founded apprehension in regard to the working of a measure, the details of which had been made known to them, but on the contrary, from their very ignorance of those details.

It was a part of the system contemplated by Lord Durham, that the Legislature of the country should embrace within its sphere of operation, all such measures and improvements as should bear on the general prosperity, while those of a purely local character should be administered as heretofore. Indeed, this was to some extent known to be the case, and they who, as I have before remarked, either from personal or selfish motives, opposed themselves to the measure, attempted to shew that in framing a constitution in some degree assimilated to that of the United States, it necessarily would result that the tie which bound Canada to the Empire must be weakened, and the eventual independence of the country established.

Now, on this head, there are two essential observations to be made. Firstly, this possible disseverment of the British North American Colonies from England had been anticipated, and would have been prevented by the crowning feature in Lord Durham's well-digested plan, which was, that each Province should be represented by two members in the Imperial Parliament. This, assuredly, while giving to British North America an importance commensurate with her growing wealth, and affording her the fullest facility for advocating her own interests, would have proved a much stronger bond of attachment to the Empire than any which has hitherto existed. Secondly, it is but natural to presume, that in the course of time and prosperity, when these fine Provinces shall have risen into a position to enable them to take their stand among the nations of the earth, the chain of nominal dependence which now binds them to England will be cast loose. Nor need this be done violently, or without the continuance of the same maternal and filial relations which at present unite them. That the great body of the colonial people, who enjoy an almost utter exemption from taxation, while the treasures of the mother country are lavished upon them with an unsparing hand, purveying to all their necessities, should feel it to be their interest to continue dependent on England, may be readily understood; but it is, on the other hand, difficult to comprehend how they should not desire to see their country elevated—after the lapse of much time, it is true—in the progressive scale of nations. Continuing as they now are, the British North American provinces can never attain this position; while, on the contrary, had the plan of a Federal Union, as proposed by Lord Durham, been carried into effect, not only would they have risen, through that union, into rapid consideration, but a means would have been supplied to the mother country of ridding herself gradually of the incubus of expense consequent on their possession. Nations are like families. A colony bears to an empire the same relative position that a child does to its parent: in its infancy it is nurtured with care: in youth, trained in the way that it is necessary to ensure its own means of subsistence; and when it arrives at a stage of manhood, it is left to the exercise of those innate resources which it has been taught to develop. It is quite as preposterous to assume that Canada can continue another century dependent on the generous aid of England, as it would be to expect that a man in the vigor of life and exertion should continue to drain the paternal substance to the dregs.

But while giving all credit to Lord Durham for that vast and comprehensive scheme which was to have united the British North American Provinces to the Mother Country in a bond which distant time alone could sever, I cannot but remark on one seeming contradiction in his Report. To myself, personally, he never, in the course of his numerous conversations with me on the subject, appeared in the slightest degree to countenance the project of a Union of the Canadas, and yet we find him, at page 110 of the Report, recommending that measure as a preparatory step to the attainment of the great and ultimate object he had in view—namely, the Federal Union. My own belief is, that Lord Durham never entertained the question of Union of the two Canadas until after his return home, although it would seem from what he states in the very first page of the book to which I have just referred, that the Federal Union was considered unpracticable by him only on his first arrival in the country. Now, Lord Durham was altogether about six months in the country, and yet, not one month before his departure for England, he appears to have entertained the same aversion from the lesser union subsequently recommended. Witness the following letter addressed to me in Montreal.*

Annexed are his Lordship's communications to me after his arrival in London: the one on the subject of the Report itself—a copy of which he sent to me—the other on the policy then being pursued by Mr. Poulett Thomson.†

* See Appendix No. 1.

† See Appendix Nos. 2 and 3.

NOTE.—Since this volume has been compiled, I have been informed by the Hon. Peter McGill of Montreal, who had been much in communication with Lord Durham, during his administration of the affairs of Canada, that Mr. Charles Buller had, on his way from the Upper Province to England, whither it will be recollected, he had followed Lord Durham some time after the departure of that nobleman, called upon him and stated that he (Lord Durham) had abandoned his plan of a Federal Union of the Provinces, in favor of that to which he had hitherto been so strenuously opposed.

THE CONVENT AND PASS OF ONÁ

It was early in the autumn of 183-, that a regiment of Cavalry was ordered from the northern provinces of Spain to join headquarters at Logrono,* on the Ebro, the then centre of the operations of the Commander-in-Chief, Espartero. My regiment was fortunately the one picked out for this service, and accordingly one afternoon, we, the subs, were not a little astounded to hear that the morrow was to see us horsed and en route for the milder and more delicious climate of the "Rioja," as the beautiful valley bordering on the Ebro is called, connecting the provinces of Navarre and Castile, and following the meandering course of that river downwards. It was a fine September morning that found us on the high road to the South. The regiment was in good order, and with about as gay a body of men as ever were mounted, the greater part of whom were young and fresh, and up to anything, and with spirits overflowing with the prospects of a southern campaign. Our first day's march was short and not very interesting. The country being rather flat did not exhibit any of that bold and striking scenery peculiar to the northern provinces of Spain; it was, however, well cultivated, and the small farm-houses indicated an abundant harvest. Now and then a solitary and frightened hare would start up, and with anxious and astonished look bound away, amidst the jeers and shouts of our fellows—here a covey of red-legged partridges would take to wing—there the shrill but plaintive notes of the quail could be heard, calling for its little amorous mate. The midday sun shone, as it only does in Spain, clear, brilliant and oppressive, without a breath of air; the sandy road threw up clouds of sand, enveloping us in a sort of sandy mist. The horses oppressed with the heat and sand, snorted incessantly, keeping up a monotonous but not unpleasant noise. This, though a short day's march, was very fatiguing both to men and horses for the reasons above stated; and when the regiment halted on the borders of a small mountain stream, and near a tolerable "venta" (inn), answering at the same time the more useful and profitable purposes of a mill, few riders there were in that martial group who did not feel relief when the order to dismount was given. I, for one, felt as if the term of my life had been extended; my poor old charger plunged into the stream and sticking his head up to the eyes into the water, slaked his moderate thirst in a way only to be seen after such a march, and in a southern clime. I turned into a small cottage, near the venta, with my servant and horses, accompanied by the other sub. of the troop, and like true campaigners we were in a short time as comfortable as we could desire. Our old "patrona" (hostess) was an aged woman of the witch description in person, with sharp dark features and quick brilliant eyes, that seemed to read one at a glance—she was, however, like most of the peasantry in these parts of Spain, kind and hospitable, and gave us all she had with a grace that would not be met with elsewhere, under similar circumstances. We continued the route next morning by four o'clock, amid road and scenery much the same as on the previous day, till the afternoon, when we came in sight of some mountains in which lay the celebrated pass, and more celebrated Convent of Oná.† It was about six o'clock when we entered the pass, and certainly the effect was grand and sublime. The road lay in a gorge of the immense mountains that towered perpendicularly over it, meeting at times at the summit, obscuring daylight, and making everything look sombre and dismal; a company of Gue-

* Pronounced Logronio.

† This word is pronounced Onin—the accent on the latter vowel, as the Scotch and French read the Latin tongue.

rillas at any given point would have been sufficient to retard the progress of a large army. The road was barely sufficiently wide to admit two well packed mules abreast; and to see a column winding its way through this pass, and at a distance, would remind one of a huge serpent creeping slowly along and eventually emerging with difficulty from the bosom of the vast mountains. At the southern side of these, and almost at the extremity of the pass, lay a beautiful valley, rich in everything that nature could bestow. Protected by the huge mountains that surrounded it from the keen blasts of the North and from the Atlantic seaboard, it enjoyed a climate peculiar to the spot and generally unknown in that part of Spain. In this valley, and occupying almost the whole area, lay the once celebrated convent of Oná, the pride of that part of the kingdom. It was about an hour before twilight, when we presented ourselves before the massive portals of the Convent, and as the whole space occupied by the Convent and grounds was well walled, answering the double purpose of seclusion and defence in this ever-stirring and ever-agitated country, it was sometime before we gained admittance, and even then not without an attitude of precaution and defence on the part of the jolly monks inside. To the twenty or thirty "quen vica's" that echoed round the ivy-mantled walls, "La Reina" we found was a passport; and a short interval introduced us into the "sanctum sanctorum" of the jolly but holy fraternity. We entered into the well-paved court yard, and the regiment formed up, fronting the magnificent chapel of the Convent, of the purest Gothic style. The holy brothers were at that moment engaged in performing their "Tenebras," and as the sounds of the organ and the fine crash of vocal music reached us in swelling and melting tones, each rider seemed at once impressed with the same sentiment, and unitedly echoed these divine strains in their souls. I was delighted with the music, and certainly the chanting of these monks was magnificent; and as at that moment a little less than two hundred of the fraternity were mingling their musical voices together, the reader can imagine the effect where, as in these soft climes of the olive and the dove, music has lent her magic aid to soften and harmonize the picture more exquisitely. As the superior was engaged in these holy offices, we remained on horse till the service was over, and till our chief had communicated with him in reference to our night's lodging. Pious reader! be not startled at the distribution, for such things have been of frequent occurrence in Spain, from necessity. They were, for want of better accommodation, turned into the chapel as a stable, and a beautiful one it made; and having placed a strong guard near the altar, from fear of the propensity of soldiers in campaign—that of enlisting everything into the service; and having besides placed the proper stable guards, we, the subs, having seen the horses "fed and rubbed down," and I was going to add, "bedded," (I hoped they might get it) sallied out to see the wonders of Oná, and also to find out our own quarters for the night. On this last point we were amply provided, as the good brothers had given up their cells and beds to the officers, and besides had, much to our joy, invited us all to "cinar" (supp) with them. We sauntered over the beautiful grounds or rather gardens of the Convent, and as a young cornet remarked, if father Adam had been turned out of such a garden as that, it was no wonder he was sorry for it. Here in this valley and garden were all the fruits of the peninsula, all the vegetables, and I would add, all the flowers that could be collected; as also various descriptions of trees, from the hazel to the pine. The walks were beautifully gravelled, and the place was intersected by various little canals, conducting water from the mountain streams to several reservoirs or

tanks containing fish of different sorts. The walks were lined with various descriptions of the vine, loaded down to the ground with the delicious grape, which here grows to perfection: beautiful arbours were here and there constructed and enveloped with the vine and honeysuckle. The mulberry spread its wide and purple-loaded branches to screen you from the midday sun, whilst clusters of almond trees formed shady walks under which the holy brothers were wont to stroll, and con over their beads, and mayhap plot and intrigue secretly for the chances of the then contested crown. Statues too were not wanting to remind the brothers of the other good things that their vows had for ever excluded from within those walls. I could have remained in such a spot for ever, and would not have coveted either riches or grandeur, but I fancy this was not the case with some of the stout and able-bodied brothers, who from the various questions put to us, and the free and easy intercourse formed at once with the younger men of the regiment, told a tale that needs no comment. We strolled about till the Convent bell pealed a summons which we were glad to hear was for the "Cena" (supper): it was a peal and an appeal which, once heard, could not be forgotten. We started off in full trot for the Convent, and having performed a hasty toilet, were summoned and ushered into the "Sala," or refectory, which was an immense room lined with oak carved into various grotesque forms and shapes. An immense oaken table occupied the centre of the room, beautifully polished. The oaken panelled walls were here and there painted in fresco, with devils and archangels fighting, and other similar souvenirs of bygone celestial feuds. And certainly the painter had not flattered either one or the other, as I could have defied poor mortality to have distinguished one from the other, except from the color. The devils were really getting the worst of it, and looked very blue indeed. I sat at the end of the table, between an old and a very young monk, and after a few preliminaries, and after having said grace and duly crossed ourselves, we commenced to do justice to as good a supper as ever was put before a hungry dragoon; one would have imagined all the viands in the world had been selected for our particular entertainment and the wines of the choicest and rarest kind, from Imperial Tokay and Val de Penas* to every other description ordinarily met with. My companions pled me well with the juice of different grapes, and as we pledged and quaffed in horn tumblers, (the brotherhood did not indulge in glass from the severity of the discipline in the establishment) gentle reader, you may imagine that my head became a little dizzy, and that my heart was more than happy. The President, the superior of the convent, had before him a huge silver goblet, which every now and then was passed from one end of the table to the other as a token of his condescension, and which etiquette compelled you to drain to the dregs. This goblet was the terror of the whole of us, and my companions told me that the passage of the goblet to any particular part of the table was usually looked upon as the *quintus* of the party who undertook to drain it; and no wonder! Fortunately our insignificance saved our part of the table, but proved to some others already, that the honor had been too great, and that they were overcome with it. I never was happier in my life, and the thoughts of war and charges had been completely lulled in my bosom. We quaffed and we quaffed again; and though the silver goblet had not reached us, still the horn was doing its work in a less ostentatious, but as sure a manner. I became at last—gentle reader, do not be disgusted with me—very, very tipsy indeed. Now and then I fancied myself a bishop; then a general; then set-

* Pronounced Penas, for the reason already given.

tled down quietly to a monk; in fact, anything but a jolly cornet. Time went floating on the wings of the butterfly: at one moment I enjoyed myself in the past; at others, indulged in the pleasing anticipations of the distant future. I was not conscious of the present. I believe that at last the large goblet had reached me, for I do not recollect anything after that—till the shrill trumpet echoed through the vast hall, sounding boots and saddles, for the regiment and for the route. I endeavoured to start up, but that was impossible: I was still glued to my chair. All my efforts were in vain. I opened my eyes and daylight had already penetrated the vast refectory; but the sight! oh, the sight that met my gaze beggars description:—My two companions of the night before were at my feet in the arms of Somnus. The old fat fellow was in his shirt sleeves, and I found myself dressed in his cassock. He had a huge pair of corked moustaches on his lips. The younger one had a pair of immense whiskers, and his cassock tied over his shoulders and close round his neck, forming a sort of strait jacket for him. On each side of the table were black heaps, as far as the eye could see. The president had disappeared under the table, but in his large oaken chair sat, or rather lay, one of our youngest cornets with the president's skull cap half way down his face. Various were the attempts made to get to the door, but in vain. There was an universal titter as each dragoon got up and came to his senses. Some huge moustaches had been singed off, and others again increased by the use of the cork, together with most immense and Salvator Rosa style of eye-brow. Who had been the principal actor in this scene, we never could find out; but we always suspected the last president, who was ever a sad dog in his way. Poor fellow! he was killed afterwards—peace to his ashes. At last we managed to get out; my horse was at the door. I had forgotten to take off my canonical dress, and when my old servant saw me, he stared and then went off into a hysterical laugh. He laughed, and I laughed, and at last every body laughed, for who could help it, as each officer presented himself to his troop. Reader, do not start! in the midst of this revelry the goblet had disappeared; and "who stole the goblet?" was ever after a cant phrase with us; or if any body was ever drunk, we used to say that "he must have the goblet." We continued our route, leaving our friends of the Convent with a great deal of regret, and with a most pleasing souvenir, with the exception of the accident that befel that large silver goblet.

Four years had elapsed, and the civil war was over. I retired from the service, and was on my way from Madrid to the frontier of France. The escort that I was with halted in a valley at the entrance of a pass. The valley was covered with ruins, and there was not sufficient shelter afforded by them from the sun, for our small party. I managed to get under the walls of what once had been a chapel. The rear of it was the only part in tolerable preservation, and that I should imagine was from the support of the ivy and other strong shrubs that had taken root in the walls. As I was conversing with the sergeant of the party, I asked casually if he knew the name of these ruins. His serious answer astounded and filled me with a melancholy I could not resist, and I really could have cried if I had been alone. Reader, these were the ruins of the once celebrated convent of Onâ! I did not recognize it: nobody could. There was not a vestige of its former grandeur and beauty—its trees had been cut down for firewood for the contending parties, and its vines uprooted. There was no vestige of a garden: all had disappeared—to the very

walls. Alas! this is indeed grim-visaged war! God forbid it here.*

CABALLERO.

* Note.—We had previously supped in that refectory, and slept in one of the dormitories of the brotherhood. It was once the largest and most wealthy Convent in Spain. Fourteen leagues of territory, extending in every direction from its walls, and crossing the Ebro in front, formed its domain. Its chapel was the most gorgeous perhaps, after that of Burgos, in the world, and the wines from its cellars—when the Holy Fathers chose to give their best—the most delicious that a soldier, fatigued with a long day's march through that romantic pass so graphically sketched above, could desire.—E. W. E.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"POST OFFICE."—Several of our subscribers in Kingston complain of never having received a number of the WEEKLY EXPOSITOR since its first issue. All that we know is that it is regularly mailed here, and that it is received at the Post Office in Kingston, for other subscribers have acknowledged the receipt of their copies, and the whole are made up in the same parcel. Unless this matter be satisfactorily explained to us, we shall make it an especial matter of complaint to the Deputy Post Master General, and comment in this paper; for abuses of this kind are not to be tolerated. The principal parties to whom we allude, do not having received their papers, are a well-known legal firm in Kingston. The Postmaster there will have no difficulty in understanding to whom we allude.

"THE LONDON RAILWAY RECORD" has come to hand in exchange for our own Colonial Railway and Mining Journal. We have made, and shall continue to make, extracts from the valuable columns of this paper, and hope that in return our London cotemporary will aid in conferring a benefit upon Canada, and afford information to the British speculator, by quoting from our columns all that appertains to the great Railway in contemplation here. It will be seen from our files that the undertaking is not only one of vast magnitude and importance for the country, but so certain of success that a Bridge across the St. Lawrence (an accessory measure) is intended to be built.

"A CORRESPONDENT" again writes to us on the subject of the Exhibitions in this city, and calls our attention to the removal of the Moscow Diorama to the Odd Fellows' Hall in St. James Street. He complains bitterly that the Corporation do not impose a tax on these never-ending attempts to extract money from the pockets of the citizens, and we think not without justice. If the Theatre be taxed, why not these exhibitions? It is but lessening the profit of the exhibitor, while the public are benefited.

"A CORNISH MINER'S" letter is again postponed until next week.

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. 8, 1846.

PUBLIC MOURNING FOR LORD METCALFE.

The article from the London Times which, although of some length, we copy into our columns this week, so fully details the services and character of the late Lord Metcalfe, that any remarks we could offer would be wholly a matter of supererogation. But we have another duty to perform, quite as important as that of eulogizing one whose

praises have already been justly sounded by the great trumpet of the Times. It is that of pointing out to the people of Canada generally, and to the citizens of Montreal in particular, the propriety of paying to the memory of this good man that tribute of respect which, even in the common relations of life, we bestow upon our fellow creatures.

Had Lord Metcalfe's health permitted, there can be no doubt that he would have made Canada his home, even as he had once intended to lay his bones in India,—another illustration of his love for the country he governed—and surely the vast sums of money he expended in this country, in public as well as in private charity, and in the furtherance of all Christian institutions, no matter of what denomination or sect, it will not be denied, gives his memory the strongest claims upon our gratitude.

Statues we may design, but we never erect,—witness the Brock monument—the Tecumseh and the Sydenham. Perhaps we are too poor, and "our appetites are larger than our stomachs,"—that is to say, we purpore much but do little. A statue was once spoken of to be erected to Lord Metcalfe, but few of the present generation of Canadians, however young they may be, will ever see laid the first stone of that tribute of love to the good. But what we may all see, what we should all see, and that immediately, is the customary outward symbol which marks the affliction within. Who is there who knew Lord Metcalfe—either personally or through his actions,—who will hesitate to pay to his memory a tribute of respect which is as honorable, if not so enduring, as the erection of a statue, and which can be rendered without expense of any moment to most individuals in the community.

In this spirit, and feeling satisfied in the consciousness that, in recommending what we do, we are acquitting ourselves of a solemn duty which the whole of Canada owes to the departed nobleman, the tidings of whose decease has so lately reached us, we call upon the Government itself to issue an order to the effect, as well as upon every corporation and public body in the Province, to pass a resolution expressive of their sentiments of regret and their determination to wear some symbol of mourning for the space of one month, at least, from the passing of such order and resolution—recommending, at the same time, a similar course to be followed by the public at large.

Let us not be misunderstood. This is not intended to be a political demonstration. Men of all parties and opinions in politics may kneel at the same shrine. It is not the Governor General to whom we offer up the incense of the soul's sorrow, but to the generous—the high minded—the benevolent—the self-sacrificing nobleman, whose ear was ever open to the plaint of the distressed—whose heart was ever touched by its recital—and whose hand was ever extended to relieve it. Peace to his shade: if there be a Heaven for him who hath done to others

as he would they should have done unto him—he is there.

We have ever had laudation on our lips, when the name of Metcalfe was pronounced, but the time of lip-deep homage has passed. It is now that our actions—and these embrace the slightest external sacrifice—must test the truth of our professions. Again we call upon the Administration created by the hand of him to whom we direct the offering up of the tribute of their grief, and upon every public body in the country, to adopt our suggestions. On the Mayor of the corporation of this city particularly we call, and we also call upon the ex-Mayor to use the influence he is known to possess, for the purpose of giving effect to that which to be efficient must be founded on unity of purpose and action among the citizens.

Whatever be the reception by the public bodies to which we have alluded, and whatever the course they may pursue, we at least shall feel that we have done our duty. Will the remainder of the Montreal Press do theirs, and join in the same advocacy? We can answer, we think, for one—and that in the affirmative.

COLONEL GUGY AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

We really know not which of two things creates in us the greatest surprise—the cool way in which the Government do the most extraordinary things, or the equally cool and apathetic manner in which the public at large regard them. It can only be that the former are quite sensible that their acts, however strange, have become so complete a matter of course that they have ceased to excite wonder in the public mind; and that the latter are so utterly hopeless of consistency in their rulers that they submit to the infliction of wrong without even feeling that it is such.

For the last three months, if not more, the press of this city has been teeming with the attack and defence of Colonel Guky, between whom and the Government a regular war has been waged, the Attorney-General East being the principal *writing* combatant on the side of the latter. Now let us mark the result—

As a bonus to Colonel Guky—an inducement to make him forego his well-grounded complaints against those who had most infamously treated him with a view to the consolidation of their own power—a gratuity of £500 of the public money was given to him. And here we may observe (par parenthese) that, had the same Government been liberal enough not to have opposed the grant of a gratuity to ourselves, as recommended by a Select Committee of Parliament, one of whom was the very Adjutant-General for whom Colonel Guky was compelled to make way, and for whom we have the highest personal esteem—had they, we repeat, granted that to which we were declared to be entitled, we should have been enabled to have discharged certain obligations incurred in the exercise of our duties, and for any delay in the settlement of which we hold the unjust conduct of the Govern-

ment chargeable. But, although it was deemed advisable to oppose all gratuity to us, notwithstanding the recommendation of a Committee of the House, and to give one, unsolicited, to Col. Guky, the bribe failed to secure the silence it aimed at. Colonel Guky very quietly pocketed the money, and opened a fire upon his tempters which he continued with much spirit. And to this they replied, until a hint was thrown out that he might and would oppose them in Parliament. This was their most sensitive point. They could bear to tyrannize over Col. Guky while out of a House on whose breath their political existence depended, but the very thought of a new and powerful adversary *there*, was gall and wormwood to their spirit of tenacity, and not the remotest chance of such a contingency must be permitted. How was the danger to be avoided? The Adjutant-Generalship was gone—that was beyond their control, but still there was a means by which they might, on the one hand, escape the charge of injustice, or on the other, stay the clamor of the officer they had so seriously injured. Mr. McCord, the late Police Magistrate of Quebec, was here a few days since—we know not for what purpose, but we do know that, only a day or two after his departure from Montreal, it is stated in the *Morning Courier*, a paper which ought to be, and generally is well informed on these subjects, that Col. Guky, who had shown up the administration for what they are, had been offered by that administration the very situation vacated by Mr. McCord, and that he had indignantly refused it.

Now, in what a position does this place the men who govern Canada, and have governed it since the departure from amongst us of the lamented nobleman to whose memory we this day cause our columns to pay the only mark of respect—weak and imperfect we admit it to be—which can here be offered to his more than human virtues. Mark well their political manœuvring. If accepted by Colonel Guky, they of course disembarrass themselves of a dreaded opponent in the elections that may take place on Lord Elgin's assumption of the reins of government. If, on the other hand, rejected by him, they are enabled to show that Colonel Guky has no further claim upon them, in consequence of his refusal of the only public office they have in their power to tender to him.

This latter may now be given as their true reason for making the offer, which has been rejected by Colonel Guky; but no man of any penetration whatever will believe that they considered even this puntillo necessary. It is the apprehension of a coming election which has induced him to try whether Colonel Guky cannot be won upon to accept £300 a year, and forego his chances of success in the contest, but this, as we have already seen, has been declined, and the Administration have to suffer the humiliation of seeing it recorded that he, who declared *guerre ouverte* against their injustice, has contemptuously and spiritedly refused the bribe with which they sought to purchase his silence.

We may not conclude these remarks without commenting on an extract from a letter from its Quebec correspondent which appeared, in reference to this appointment, in a late number of the *Times* newspaper. If the writer of that letter means to insinuate, and the paragraph we subjoin evidently bears that construction, that we have been an applicant for the office of Police Magistrate in Quebec, or any other whatsoever, we give it the most distinct and unqualified denial:—

W. K. McCord, Esquire, has been re-appointed Circuit Judge, and the office of Inspector and Superintendent of Police has consequently become vacant; but it will not be long so. It is said that Col. Guky, the editor of the *Expositor*, or R. Symes, Esquire, will be appointed to the vacant office. I would rather that Mr. Symes should get it, but I believe Col. Guky is to be the lucky applicant.

MINING ANECDOTE.

So prevalent is the mania for mining in this country at present, that visions of gold and silver seem to be called up as readily as in the days of the lamp of Aladdin. A good story is told by a friend of ours, who, we have reason to know, has discovered on his estate a mine far more valuable than anything Lake Superior has yet produced. He had employed one of his people, a simple French *habitant*, to crush some quartz supposed to contain ore, in a stone mortar the bottom of which was inlaid with pewter. When this had been carefully reduced to powder, the whole was emptied into a black iron pan filled with water, by which process any ore contained in the stone would remain in the bottom, and was of course distinctly visible on the dark surface. The man carefully emptied the pan of everything but a bright and shining metal which lay at the bottom in small and detached particles. Delighted at the sight, he ran exclaiming to his neighbours that he had found plenty of silver in the stone which was in great abundance on his own farm, and declared that as he was now so rich a master of the means of procuring wealth he would work no more. In short, his joy at the discovery was unbounded. But alas! it was of brief duration. The gentleman to whom we allude had, of course, been a good deal amused at the extravagance of his joy, but, unwilling that the delusion under which he labored should be continued, he explained to the poor fellow that what he had taken for silver was nothing but particles of pewter, which the act of pounding had detached from the bottom of the mortar, and concluded with the following very pithy advice:—

“Gallor tans ego, et nunquam animo!”

Which being interpreted, may be read thus—

“Cock your eye, and never mind.”

We have given, in our number of this week, as promised, the highly amusing Spanish sketch, entitled “The Pass and Convent of Ona.”

General Kearney has taken possession of New Mexico, in the name of the American Government; and the other division of the army (7000 men) under General Taylor, are approaching Monterey, where an engagement may be expected.

DEATH OF LORD METCALFE.

From the London Times.

The intelligence of this melancholy event was not generally made known in town until Monday night, although it took place last Saturday. The noble lord just deceased had been, ever since his return from Canada, suffering under severe indisposition, and for some months past his medical advisers ceased to indulge any hope of his recovery.

There prevails a well-founded opinion that Parliamentary distinction is the high road to power and place. But an exception to this general rule may be found in the history of Lord Metcalfe. He never possessed a seat in the House of Commons, nor did he ever participate in the proceedings of the Lords. Neither was he a learned theologian nor a gallant commander, a popular demagogue or a successful lawyer; but he was an extremely well-informed, shrewd, adroit negotiator, and his administrative talents were of the highest order. The distant possessions of the English crown, and the diplomatic service of the State, frequently demand the exercise of qualities very distinct from those which win the favour of electoral bodies or "charm a listening senate." That Lord Metcalfe might have been wise in legislation as well as "cunning of fence" in the arts of debate, is one of those possibilities respecting which it would now be futile to speculate. There never arose an occasion upon which his qualifications for such undertakings could have been fairly tested; for the early and middle portions of his life were spent in the Oriental possessions of England, while his latter years were divided between Canada and the West Indies. Hence he acquired dignity and emolument by a less beaten path than that which official personages usually tread. A narrative of his life, however, will not on that account be less acceptable to the public.

So little is to be said respecting his ancestors that their history may in a few words be related before we enter upon a detail of his own personal career. Soon after the Revolution of 1688 an English gentleman, named Theophilus Metcalfe, settled in Ireland, and being a barrister, practised his profession in that country with some success. His son Thomas entered the army, and having married the daughter of the Rev. John Williams, had a son, also called Thomas. This gentleman served many years in India in a military capacity, became a director of the East India Company, and was created a baronet in the year 1802. He had married in 1782 Susannah Sophia, relict of Major Smith, and daughter of Mr. John Debonnaire; the second son of that marriage was the subject of the present memoir. Sir Thomas Metcalfe died in the year 1813, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Theophilus John; and he dying in 1822 without male issue, was in his turn succeeded by his brother Charles Theophilus, to an account of whose life and character these columns are assigned.

This eminent person was born on the 30th of January, 1785, and therefore at the time of his lamented death was in the 61st year of his age.—On the 13th of October, 1800, he received his appointment as a writer in the service of the East India Company, and quitted Europe at the early age of 15. He had received as much of what is called education as could be imparted to a boy of his years, and went to India with quite as large a stock of knowledge as in those days usually fell to the lot of youths destined for similar employments; it was, however, evident even in his boyhood that the strong common sense and natural talents which he possessed would to a great extent compensate for any of those deficiencies in mere literary attainments under which he might labour.—Not that his education had been by any means neglected; on the contrary, he was considering that he entered upon active life at so early an age—a man of sound and varied knowledge; but the extraordinary vigor of his intellect resulted less from the training of instructors than from the gifts of nature—less from the toils of the library than from a perusal of that book of life which large intercourse with the world opens to the view of the assiduous student. So early was his advancement that at the age of 16 he received the appointment of assistant to the Resident with Dowlat Row Scindiah. On the 4th of October, 1802, he became assistant in the Chief Secretary's office; in less than seven months from that time—namely, on the 4th of April, 1803—we find him an assistant in the Governor General's office; and early in the year 1806 he was transferred to the Office of the Com-

mander-in-Chief. On the 15th of August, in the same year, he became first assistant to the British Resident at Delhi; and on the 29th of Aug. 1808, he proceeded to Lahore. At that time the growing power and territorial encroachments of the late Runjeet Singh induced Lord Minto, then Governor-General of India, to send a mission to the Court of Lahore, the object of which was to secure the Sikh states between the Sutlej and Jumna rivers from the grasp of Runjeet. He selected the subject of this memoir, though then a very young man, only just 22, for that difficult undertaking, and Mr. Metcalfe was authorized to announce the unpardonable fact that those states were taken under British protection. He was, however, supported by the march towards the Sutlej of a body of British troops under the command of Col. (afterwards Gen. Ochterlony). The management of the negotiation was attended with considerable difficulty; but Mr. Metcalfe, by tact and firmness, completely succeeded; and a treaty, concluded in April, 1809, which recognized the independence of those states, was the result. During the stay of Mr. Metcalfe at a Court of Lahore a collision took place between a escort of British Sepoys and the Akalis, or native soldiers of the Sikh army. Some of the Akalis amongst the escort celebrated the "maspurrum" there, which the Akalis resented as an insult to their religion, and they attacked the camp of the British army; but the Sepoys gallantly repulsed their assailants. The discipline, steadiness, and valour of this small band won the admiration of Runjeet Singh, who often referred to the occurrence, for it evidently made such an impression on his mind as rendered him extremely cautious ever afterwards in any attempt to encounter British troops. With this event it may be said that the more distinguished portion of Mr. Metcalfe's career commenced. Here we find a youth not older than the majority of undergraduates at Oxford or Cambridge measuring the moral strength of his character, the resources of his limited experience, and the force of his yet untried penetration, against the multiplied stratagems and deep deceits of an Indian ruler and his advisers.

In the course of the next 10 years he was advanced through several offices. On the 15th of July, 1809, he received the appointment of Deputy Secretary to the Governor during his Lordship's absence from the presidency. In the month of May, 1810, he became acting Resident at the Court of Dowlat Row Scindiah, and in February 1811, Resident at Delhi. It was on the 29th of January, 1819, that he received the appointment of secretary in the Secret and Political Department, and that also of Private Secretary to the Governor-General. Mr. Metcalfe succeeded Mr. Russell as British Resident at Hyderabad, the Court of the Nizam. This appointment took place on the 26th of December, 1820; and his departure from Calcutta not only occasioned much regret, but so popular was he that it was proposed to invite him to a public banquet at the Town-hall in order to mark the high sense which the inhabitants of that city entertained of his public services and his private worth, the extreme modesty of Mr. Metcalfe alone prevented the accomplishment of this intention, and the proposed entertainment was converted into a private dinner. He proceeded without delay to the Court of the Nizam; owing, however, to the state of his health, he was compelled to leave Hyderabad about the close of 1823. In the preceding year (1822) his elder brother died, and he succeeded to the baronetcy. After the lapse of 13 months from the time of his quitting Hyderabad—namely, in June, 1825—his conduct there became the subjects of an inadvertent, in the Court of Proprietors at the East India-house, in consequence of charges of neglect made by Chundoo Lall; but the motion of implied censure was eventually withdrawn, and it is understood that the charges were groundless. His health after a short absence from Hyderabad having been considerably restored, he accepted on the 26th of August, 1826, a fresh appointment—that of Resident and Civil Commissioner in the Delhi territories, and agent to the Governor-General for the affairs of Rajpootana. It was not, however, till the 24th of August, 1827, that he became a member of the Supreme Council. The Presidency of the Board of Revenue was conferred on him in July 1828, and on the 11th of November 1829, he was constituted Vice-President and Deputy-Governor of Fort William. The discharge of his duties in that position was so successful, and gave so much satisfaction to the King's Government,

as well as to the Court of Directors, that he was intrusted with the Presidency of Agra. The appointment to that high office was made here on the 16th of June, 1834, but it was not until the following November that he took charge of the Government. On the 28th of that month an entertainment was given at Calcutta upon the occasion of Sir Charles Metcalfe's departure for Agra; and at that banquet Lord William Bentinck, in proposing his health, said that whether in public or in private he had never met with any individual whose integrity, liberality of sentiment, and delicacy of mind excused in a greater degree his respect and admiration. His Lordship further stated that he never had a more able and upright councillor, nor any Governor-General a more valuable and independent assistant and friend. In the succeeding year still higher trusts were reposed in the subject of this memoir. On the 3rd of February, 1835, Lord William Bentinck gave in his resignation, and Sir Charles Metcalfe was provisionally appointed Governor-General, which office he held till the 28th March, 1836, being the interval between the departure of Lord William Bentinck and the arrival of Lord Auckland. During that short period Sir Charles originated, as well as adopted, several important measures—namely, the issue of a uniform money for all the presidencies, the abolition of chowkies in Bengal, and a still more important step—the liberation of the press from all restrictions. This last measure (the anniversary of which, the 15th of September, is still celebrated by a "press dinner") was the theme of universal eulogy in India, and rendered him pre-eminently popular amongst natives as well as Europeans. It, however, gave great umbrage to the Court of Directors, and was the eventual cause of his resignation and return to Europe, though he had always declared his intention of spending his life in India. The post of Governor of Madras about this time became vacant, and the friends of Sir Charles concluded that it would be given to him; but the Court of Directors thought proper to mark their opinion of his conduct by bestowing it upon another. In the month of September, 1837, he signified his intention of withdrawing from the public service. The distinction of a Civil Knight Grand Cross of the Bath had been conferred upon him in the course of the preceding year, and his retirement from Agra was marked by every token of the public sympathy and affection, including dinners, balls, addresses, and the presentation of a magnificent piece of plate: never was man more heartily beloved and esteemed by the inhabitants of British India than the subject of this memoir. By public subscription a statue was erected to his honour, and an address presented by the community of Agra, which styled him the "brightest ornament of the civil service"—which celebrated his magnificent benefactions and his private generosity. In reply to this address Sir Charles, with his characteristic candour, avowed the cause of his resignation. He reminded his friends that reports had prevailed in the preceding year to the effect that he was in disgrace with the home authorities on account of the liberty of the press; and he added that that was a position in which he "could not remain with comfort;" he therefore, sought information on the subject at the fountain head; the reply which he received was by no means explicit, but its uncondemned tone satisfied him that the reports which prevailed were not untrue; and therefore on the 21st of February, 1838, he withdrew from the service of the East India Company; but, as subsequent events very clearly showed—the responsible advisers of the Crown more justly appreciated his high talents than did the Board of Directors in Leadenhall-street.

Soon after his arrival in England a public dinner was given to him in London by friends who had known him in India, with whom were associated on that occasion several other gentlemen interested in the affairs of the East, and to whom the high character and great public services of Sir Charles Metcalfe were well known. Doubtless the banquet thus given in honour of Sir Charles Metcalfe originated in sentiments of personal esteem and affection; but it must not be forgotten that precisely at that time he had been appointed to the Government of Jamaica, and, according to a common practice amongst a certain class of minor politicians, there were some gentlemen who attended the dinner more for the purpose of extracting from Sir Charles a disclosure of his intended policy in the West Indies than with any view of celebrating his former administration in

the East. Their guest, however, did not belong to that indiscreet class of statesmen who make confidential communications at public dinners; and a few of the company experienced the disappointment which usually results from manoeuvres of this class. But no disappointment awaited the great majority of that assemblage. They had no object but to do honour to their guest and themselves—to celebrate the friendship subsisting between them and a personage of whose regard the noblest in the realm might be justly proud. It was a social friendly festival, from which every one retired highly gratified, and full of good wishes for the continued fame, happiness, and prosperity of their old and honoured friend, then about to cross the Atlantic for the purpose of succeeding Sir Lionel Smith in the Government of Jamaica, a colony the affairs of which were at that time in a state of the utmost confusion. The Negro Emancipation Act had recently been passed, and the planters, smarting under the sense of wrongs—whether real or imaginary, it boots not now to inquire—and forced to contend against a combination of difficulties, occasioned partly by themselves, and in no small degree by circumstances over which they had no control, made some impotent attempts, or rather uttered some puerile threats. The House of Assembly even went the length of suspending, for a time its own legislative functions. But the frankness, *bonhomme* moral courage, and excellent judgment of Sir Charles Metcalfe, soon convinced the people of Jamaica that there was no disposition to interfere with their local legislation. The new Governor had not been above a year on the island when the aspect of affairs underwent so favourable a change as to excite great surprise and gratulation, both at Kingston and in Downing-street. After two years' residence in Jamaica the health of Sir Charles rendered his resignation a matter of necessity; and he returned to England amidst the regrets of a community grateful for his paternal government, and attached to him by ties of almost personal friendship; for his hospitality, his conversational powers, and his great kindness of heart were surpassed only by his practical and administrative talents. In the year 1844, a statue was erected to his honour at Spanish Town.

Sir Charles Metcalfe returned from the West Indies in 1842; medical aid and a few months of repose so far re-established his health as to render him again able to serve his country. But the Conservatives were in power, and Sir Charles was a Whig; Sir Robert Peel, however, felt so deeply interested in sending out to Canada the best possible Governor, that he disregarded party considerations, and appointed the subject of this memoir. Upon that occasion also a public dinner was given; but not by the East Indian friends of Sir Charles. The Colonial Club were the parties who then thought proper to testify their admiration of his official conduct and personal character.—The dinner took place at the house of the club in St. James's Square, and, as usual upon such occasions, several of the party then assembled persuaded themselves that Sir Charles would in a lengthened discourse develop his whole scheme of future government in Canada; but, like Caning's knife-grinder, he had "no story to tell," and having delivered two or three lively after-dinner speeches, he thanked his friends for their bounteous hospitality, their flattering estimate of his services, their good wishes for his success, and then he took his leave. In a few days from that time Sir Charles embarked for North America to assume the delicate and difficult task of ruling a Colony, which for some time previous to that period had been considered almost intractable. The task of governing the Canadas, of imparting to those provinces the blessings of order, peace, and rational freedom, together with their due position and rank as integral members of this vast empire, had been for many years a difficulty which, to successive Governors-General, proved nearly insuperable. Without detracting from the merits of his predecessors, it may be said that the crisis of the struggle remained for Sir Charles Metcalfe, and that he very adroitly threw the popular colours into his own ranks, while he cast upon his adversaries the odium of opposing their own doctrines. Without impairing the principle of Ministerial responsibility he maintained the prerogative and authority of the Crown; he repressed violence without infringing liberty; and though not departing from the high constitutional doctrines of the old Whigs, which he always professed, Lord Metcalfe carried out into practice the best portion of those monarchical principles which

an opposite party make it their chief pride to cherish. He was intrusted with the supreme direction of Canadian affairs when their administration formed the most difficult problem in the government of our colonies, and he handed over to his successor the care of a united province, in which he had broadly laid the foundations of good order and expanding civilization.

In the year 1845 he was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Metcalfe; but by that time the malady which eventually caused his death had become so distressing that he was obliged to return to England and withdraw into private life. In his retirement he received not only the reward of honours and dignities, but he possessed the consciousness of success. Fresh addresses from Calcutta, and fresh testimonials to his high deserts, followed him even to the chamber of sickness and sorrow. Many distinctions had been conferred on him during the meridian of his days; it was, however, towards the close of life that honours poured in thickly. When this world was receding from his view—when fame seemed an empty sound—when political victories yielded no triumph—when the coronet which he had no heir to inherit seemed a paltry bauble—then was all else that this earth affords spread before him, courting his acceptance; but he was in agony, and could not enjoy them; he was childless, and could not transmit them; he was dying, and did not want them.

SHAKSPEARE CLUB.

Since passing our remarks on the subject of the public mourning to Lord Metcalfe, we are glad to perceive that the Shakspeare Club, of which this lamented nobleman was the Patron, have done honor to themselves by passing a Resolution (which we subjoin) calling on all connected with the Institution to wear crape for one month from the date thereof (6th inst.):—

Resolved.—That this Society has heard with profound sorrow of the decease of its Patron, the late LORD METCALFE, and calls upon its Members of every order and denomination, to unite in an outward expression of reverence for his memory, by wearing a Crape Hat Band and Black Gloves, for thirty days from the passage of this Resolution.

THE OLYMPIC.

We have so completely exhausted our powers of "rendering tribute where tribute is due," in regard to this little theatre, that we really have nothing to add this week, except that the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Skerrett will take place on Friday and Saturday next, when they will take their final leave for the season. We have many dashing and liberal young men on our list of subscribers, and we are confident we have only to mention this fact to them, to induce them to aid in giving Mrs. Skerrett, at least, that testimony of approval of her exertions and her talents which is best evidenced in an overflowing house. Latterly, we regret to say, she has "wasted all her sweetness on the desert air," or, in other words, has been playing, and with a spirit evidently checked by the discouraging fact, to almost empty boxes.

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

The line of this great discovery is now complete from Oswego to New York. A person having one thousand barrels of flour to sell, goes to the Telegraph office and desires that a message may be sent to a certain mercantile house in New York, to ask what he will give for it. In one moment of time, or less, the message passes from the office at Oswego to the office in New York. The message is instantly conveyed by a porter to the office of the merchant, who states what he will give; in as short time as the message can return with the

answer, it is again telegraphed to Oswego, and is carried back with the same rapidity with which it was forwarded.—In less than half an hour, the offer is made, accepted, and another message announcing that it will be immediately shipped by a certain conveyance. The charge for all this is eighteen pence York, or rather less than a shilling currency.

A Bill is presented at the counter of a Banker for discount, drawn on a house in New York, a question as to the responsibility of the house, or whether or no the Bill will be accepted is asked through the Telegraph; the answer is received and the Bill is either accepted or rejected.

A lady wishing to obtain a dress of a particular fabric for a military ball, could not procure it at Oswego: a storekeeper undertook to ascertain if it could be got in New York, and to give the lady an answer in half an hour. The dress was obtained, and forwarded by an Express train. The dress was made up and the lady wore it at the ball; the expense did not exceed half a dollar.

We are glad to learn that a plan is now in agitation, to make a Magnetic communication from Hamilton, by Toronto, through Kingston, Montreal and Quebec, to Halifax. We shall then be able to communicate direct with England in 10 or 11 days; and who shall say that the attempt will not be made to conduct the wires to England itself? When we shall be able to communicate with equal facility as we now can with New York.

A line of communication is also talked of between Kingston and New York, so as to intersect the line from Oswego to that city; recent experiments have fully demonstrated that the wires lose none of their magnetic properties by being immersed even in salt water, and there would be no difficulty whatever in crossing from Kingston to Wolfe Island, and thence across to Cape Vincent, when at a distance of about seventy miles the junction with the New York line can be effected. We shall endeavor in our next to state the probable cost per mile of the undertaking.—Kingston paper.

NOTICE.

ON AND AFTER SATURDAY NEXT, next, the 10th inst. the PRINCE ALBERT will LEAVE MONTREAL at a QUARTER BEFORE 5 o'clock, instead of Nine o'clock as at present.
ROAD OFFICE,
Montreal, 6th October, 1846.

University of McGill College, MONTREAL.

THE CAPUT of the COLLEGE having this day received through the Principal an Official Communication of the confirmation by Her Majesty of the STATUTES of the COLLEGE, avails itself of the earliest opportunity of announcing the COURSE of LECTURES to be delivered in the College during the current Term:—

On Classical Literature—By the Rev. W. T. LEACH, A. M., Professor.
On Mathematics and Natural Philosophy—By EDMUND A. MEREDITH, L. L. B., (T.C.D.) Principal of the College.

On History—By the Rev. JOSEPH ABBOTT, A. M.
On French Literature and the French Language—By LEON D. MONTIEN, Esquire.

All the above Courses will be commenced on TUESDAY next, the 22nd instant; but Students matriculating on or before the 20th instant, will be able to keep the Term.
Fees, £3 Gs. 8d per Term, or £10 a-year. Board, including Fuel and Candle, £3 3s. a-month.

J. ABBOTT, A. M.,
Secretary.

Sept. 21, 1846.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of JOHN KELLY & CO., Contractors and Carpenters, Montreal, BANKRUPTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned have been duly appointed Assignees to administer the Estate of the said Bankrupts.

GEORGE WICKES, } Assignees.
JOHN G. DINNING, }

Montreal, 19th September, 1846.

RIVER DU CHENE BRIDGE.

TENDERS for the CONSTRUCTION of a BRIDGE across the RIVER DU CHENE. In the District of Quebec, in accordance with the Plans and Specifications to be seen at the Office of JOSEPH LAURIN, Esq., M.P.P., Quebec, and at the Department of Public Works, in Montreal, will be received until THURSDAY the FIFTEENTH day of OCTOBER next, to be addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed, "Tender for River du Chene Bridge."

The Tenders are to state a bulk sum for the erection of the Bridge complete, and a certain rate per Cubic Yard for the embankment and approaches, also, to give the names of two responsible persons who are willing to become security for the due performance of the Contract.

By order, THOMAS A. BEGLY, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Montreal, Sept. 15, 1846.

NICOLET BRIDGE.

TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Nicolet Bridge," will be received until THURSDAY, 15th OCTOBER next, for the CONSTRUCTION of a BRIDGE across the RIVER NICOLET, in accordance with the plan and specification to be seen at the Office of LOUIS CRESSÉ, Esq., Mayor, Nicolet, and at the Department of Public Works, Montreal. Blank Forms of Tender may be had at the above named places, and no Tender will be received unless in accordance therewith.

By order, THOMAS A. BEGLY, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Montreal, Sept. 15, 1846.

ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC RAIL-ROAD.

NOTICE.

THE STOCKHOLDERS of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, having, at their Special General Meeting, held on the 2nd instant, unanimously resolved upon the immediate commencement of the Rail-Road, whereby the Subscriptions for Shares of Stock conditional upon that resolve (received subsequent to the 30th ultimo) have become absolute, the New Stock holders are requested to PAY the FIRST INSTALLMENT of £4 10s. Currency per Share, to the Treasurer, at the Company's Office, 18, Little St. James Street.

By order of the Board, THOMAS STEERS, Secretary.

Office of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, Montreal, 25th August, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE Partnership heretofore existing between HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO., was this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

All Debts due to and by the said Firm, will be settled by JOHN YOUNG and ROMEO H. STEPHENS.

HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, ROMEO H. STEPHENS.

Montreal, 31st August, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE BUSINESS hitherto carried on by Messrs. HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, will be CONTINUED by the Subscribers, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO.

JOHN YOUNG, BENJAMIN HOLMES.

Montreal, 31st August, 1846.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the respective INSURANCE COMPANIES, represented by the undersigned, will not, in future, be responsible for loss or damage by Fire to Buildings or Property contained in them, where CAMPHENE Oil is used, unless the use of it has been privileged previous to this date. And also that in all cases such privilege shall cease at the expiration of the policy.

R. GERRARD, Agent, Alliance Insurance Co., London.

RYAN, CHAPMAN & Co., Agents, Globe Insurance Co., London.

J. L. LETOURNEUX, Secretary & Treasurer, Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

WM. MURRAY, Manager, Montreal Insurance Co.

J. H. MAITLAND, Agent, Quebec Fire Insurance Co.

GILLESPIE, MOFFATT & Co., Agents, Phoenix Insurance Co., London.

JOSEPH JONES, Agent, Fire & Protection Insurance Cos., Hartford, Connecticut.

JOSEPH WENHAM, Agent, British America Insurance Co.

Montreal, June 25, 1846.

WANTED, for the EXPOSITOR OFFICE, several CARPENTERS, who have been in the habit of taking soundings.

CHAMPLAIN AND ST. LAWRENCE RAIL-ROAD.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

ON and after MONDAY next, the 31st inst., the starting of an EXTRA TRAIN from St. Johns, on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS, will depend upon the arrival of the steamer Prince Albert, in time to leave at half past 4 o'clock, P.M. precisely. The low water upon the Laprairie Ferry making it imperative that the Prince Albert should leave Montreal in the evening much earlier than at present, at same time the Public will observe by the following arrangement that Passengers may go from MONTREAL to St. JOHNS and back EVERY DAY, except Sunday, by leaving Montreal at NINE o'clock, A.M., and St. Johns at ONE o'clock, P.M., viz.:-

Table with columns: From Montreal, From Laprairie. Rows: 9 o'clock, A.M., U.S. Mail & Passengers, 12 o'clock, Noon, 4 do P.M.

Table with columns: From St. Johns, From Laprairie. Rows: 9 o'clock, A.M., 1 do P.M.

ON SUNDAYS, TILL FURTHER NOTICE. Prince Albert, from Montreal, 3 o'clock, P.M. Care by Locomotive, from St. Johns, 8 o'clock, A.M. on arrival of the Lake Champlain Boats.

N.B.—By the above arrangement the public will observe that Passengers for the Old Line of Steamers on Lake Champlain must leave Montreal at 9, A.M., instead of half past 12, as at present.

FARES.

First Class Passengers, 6s.; Ditto, over and back same day, 5s. (provided they state their intentions on taking their Tickets). Second Class Passengers, 2s. 6d.; Ditto, over and back same day, 3s. 9d., (provided they state their intentions on taking their Tickets).

All Freight to be paid for on delivery. Application for Freight or Passage from Montreal, to be made on Board the Prince Albert. Rail-road Office, Montreal, August 25, 1846.

THE SUBSCRIBERS offer for SALE:-

- Bright Muscovado Sugar in Hhds. White Crushed Sugar in Tierces Pipes Port Wine Puncheons Cuba Honey (Clear) Bales Cuba Tobacco for Cigars Roasted Coffee in Barrels Green do in Bags Seal Coal Whale and Dye Barrels No. 1 Arichat Herrings Dried Herrings in Boxes 10 M Superior Cuba Cigars Bee's Wax, Esstic Mahogany, Cedar Pimento in Barrels Jamaica Preserved Fruits, &c &c.

W. H. LEAYCRAFT & CO. Sept. 3. No. 9, St. Nicholas Street.

TO SURVEYORS AND EXPLORERS.

THE Subscribers have lately received a Large Assortment of FRENCH PRESERVED MEATS, Warranted to keep. SARDINES A L'HUILE. POTTED FISH. ANCHOVY PASTE. PARINA OF VEGETABLES, for making all kinds of VEGETABLE SOUP. ESSENCE OF MEATS, ESSENCE OF CELERY, PORTABLE SOUP, WAX MATCHES, not affected by Damp. GERMAN TINDER.

All kinds of PORTABLE MEDICINE CHESTS, CHEMICAL TEST CASES, &c., Fitted up to Order. S. J. LYMAN & CO. Chemists and Druggists PLACE D'ARMES, Montreal, 20th Aug. 1846.

WINES.

MAITLANDS, TYLEE & CO. have RECENTLY LANDED: 100 Baskets "PERRIER, JANET & Co.'s" First Quality CHAMPAGNE, 100 Baskets "JACQUESSER'S" First Quality CHAMPAGNE, 150 Cases "BARTON & COZSTER'S" Superior CLARET, 5 Hogsheads Fine "St. GEORGE'S" BURGUNDY, 75 Cases Curzon, Marschino, and assorted LIQUEURS. 19th August, 1846.

FOR SALE.

TEAS: Twankay, Youtay, Hyson, Gunpowder and Souchong, in boxes, Molasses, Heavy, Martel's Cognac Brandy, Sicily Marsala Wine, Boiled and Raw Linseed Oil, Olive Oil, English Glue, Plug Tobacco, Pimento, and Pepper. Patent Sperm Candles, from the Manufacturer. STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO. 20th August, 1846.

DONEGANA'S HOTEL.

THE Proprietor of this UNRIVALED ESTABLISHMENT, in returning thanks to the Public for the liberal share of patronage bestowed upon his uncle (Mr. Rasco) and himself, during the twelve years they conducted the Establishment so well known as "RASCO'S HOTEL," begs to inform them that he has now removed into that

SPLENDID BUILDING

on Notre Dame Street, formerly the Property of WILLIAM HINGHAM, Esq., and the Vice Regal Residence of Lords BURHAM and BYDENHAM, which has been greatly enlarged and fitted with

EVERY CONVENIENCE & ORNAMENT

Table Comfort and Luxury can desire. THE SITUATION is central, and within an easy distance of the Champ-de-Mars, the Cathedral, Bishop's Church, the Banks, the Government Offices, the Court House, and other Public Buildings. The openness of the site, and the elevation upon which the Hotel stands, ensures it abundance of light and air, while it commands upon every side an Excellent View, including the River, the Island of St. Helens, and the opposite shore, the Mountain, and the adjacent Picturesque Country.

The Establishment has been furnished throughout with NEW AND COSTLY FURNITURE, and fitted in every way worthy of what it is—

THE FIRST HOTEL IN BRITISH AMERICA!!

Among the conveniences will be found SIX BATHING ROOMS and a BILLIARD ROOM.

THE TABLE

will be supplied with EVERY DELICACY of the Season; and while the Proprietor will spare no expense to give satisfaction to all who may honor him with their patronage, the large number which the extent of the Establishment enables him to accommodate, will admit of making his CHARGES VERY REASONABLE.

CARRIAGES will be always in attendance, to convey parties to and from the Steamboat Wharves, and the Upper Canada and other Stage Offices. And the Proprietor will spare no exertion to make his New Establishment worthy of the liberal patronage he received as Lessee of Rasco's.

J. M. DONEGANA.

CALEDONIA SPRINGS.

THE Undersigned begs leave to inform the Public that he has leased from the Proprietor of the CALEDONIA SPRINGS,

THE CANADA HOUSE,

which is now Open for the reception of Visitors.

The House has been recently thoroughly renovated, and the Subscriber pledges himself to spare no pains in making his guests comfortable.

The Caledonia Springs present the great advantage of a variety of Waters, acknowledged to be, each of their kind, unrivalled in their efficacy for the cure of disease and invigorating qualities.

For several years past they have been approved by the highest of the Faculty, and thus acquired a well merited reputation which is increasing far and wide.

The Salt and Sulphur Baths will be in full operation, from the use of which so many visitors have derived extraordinary benefits.

Miss MURRAY will, as usual, preside over the female department.

STAGES will leave the Depot, 4, Place d'Armes, Montreal, EVERY MORNING, at Half past FIVE o'clock, and arrive at the Springs by 4 in the afternoon; and passengers leaving the Springs at 9 o'clock in the Morning, will arrive in Town the same day. The fare each way will be reduced to 12s. 6d.

The Charges at the CANADA HOUSE will be as follows:— By the Month £0 0 0 By the Week 0 5 0 per diem. By the Day 0 7 6

HENRY CLIFTON.

Caledonia Springs, June 30, 1846.

NEW RAIL-ROAD JOURNAL.

The Weekly Expositor, OR, REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES; And Railway and Mining Intelligencer.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS having for their object redress of grievances, and well-founded complaints against any Public Department whatsoever, as well as those treating of Railways and Mining Speculations, are requested to be dropped in the Post Office, addressed to the Editor of the 'WEEKLY EXPOSITOR'; and all Advertisements (which are especially solicited from those who are interested in the prosperity of an Independent Paper) may be left at the Office, corner of St. Francois Xavier and Great St. James Streets.

The names of communicators of flagrant abuses or injustice will not, unless they desire it, be made known.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—Two Dollars per Annum in Montreal, and Two Dollars and a Half in the Country, payable in advance.

Montreal, August 11, 1846.

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR, BY DONOGHUE & MANTZ, Chapter's Buildings, 142, Notre Dame Street.

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