

THE Morning Courier

FOR THE COUNTRY.

Optimus est Reipublica status, ubi nihil deest nisi licentia porcundi. — SENeca.

VOL. II.

Morning Courier.

MONTRÉAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1837.

Montreal, Saturday, March 25, 1837.

Montreal, Sunday, March 26, 1837.

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MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1837.

Halifax and Fredericton papers of the 6th inst. were received yesterday.

The February Falmouth packet arrived at Halifax on the 9th inst. The London dates by her are only to the 26 February.

The proceedings of the Nova-Scotia House of Assembly still maintain their ominous character. The celebrated "Twelve Resolutions" having passed the House in a slightly modified shape from that in which they were first put, the Legislative Council, which they severely censured, sent down a message declining to do business with the House till the resolution, which referred to the disposition evinced by some members of the Board "to protect their own interests and emoluments at the expense of the public," was rescinded. To meet this difficulty, Mr. Howe, their author, next day moved to refer the whole question, leaving his intention to follow up his motion with another for the appointment of a Committee to draw up an address to the Crown on the state of the Colony. After a long and spiritless debate, in which the opponents of the Twelve Resolutions moved that only one, and not all, should be rescinded, Mr. Howe's motion was carried, by 28 votes to 14.

Howe assembly the majority of the Nova-Scotia Assembly Mr. Howe, reading on the heels of the Assembly of this Province, cannot escape the observation of the most indifferent spectator. True, our Society passed Ninety-two Resolutions, and based upon them an Address to His Majesty, while the Nova-Scotia initiators content themselves with Twelves. But we have passed the age when such indulgence was attributed to certain numbers, and every thing of the kind we are inclined to, great or small, long or short, is referred to and adjudged by a standard called principles, of which there are many varieties in politics, such as are distinguished by the supporters, Tory, Whig, Democratic, &c. Looking then at the principle of the two sets of Resolutions in question, there can be no hesitation in ranking it in the democratic class, and designating them by the same name. The Canadian Ninety-two abhorred in alleged grievances, for which an elective Legislative Council is declared to be the sole and only remedy. The Nova-Scotia Twelves do not fall a whit short of these in essence, although they are in more general terms to corruption, malversation in office, treasurers, legislators, &c., and declare for the introduction of the elective principle into the Council, less unequivocally. That nothing short, however, of an elective Council can be deemed a part of the Resolution, bearing particularly on this point, will be sufficient to convince the most sceptical. It runs thus:—

"Resolved.—That as a remedy for those grievances, His Majesty is implored to take such steps—either by granting an Elective Legislative Council, or by such other reconstruction of the local Government—as will secure the ability of the Province, and confer upon the people of the Province, what they value above all other possessions—the blessings of the British Constitution."

We have said enough, we think, to show the worthiness in principle, of the notorious Ninety-two Resolutions of the Lower Canada Assembly, and the Twelve Resolutions of the Nova-Scotia Assembly, which may become as notorious as the former. Now it is the duty of every one who takes an interest in the welfare of these Colonies, or who can exert any influence on their affairs, and there is no man so thoroughly degraded but may yield some to considerately these—signs of the times, to which we have alluded; and to weigh well, whether, that a decided majority of the Assembly of a neighboring Province, are bent upon levelling what is generally regarded as a valuable bulwark of the Constitution, over the alleged ground that it is rotten and worthless—a mere obstruction to the stream of the Colony's prosperity. Without being any defence in the hour of danger. It will not do to point to Upper Canada, and cite the similar acts of her present Assembly, from that her last, an any proof that the next new House that may be summoned in Nova-Scotia, will show evidence of having undergone a similar metamorphosis. But even admitting that such a change is probable, we beseech you, that the Houses of Assembly in both Upper Canada and Nova-Scotia, destined, for many years to come, to oscillate between Democracy and Conservatism—at one time touching this, at another that, and now to it, in one case, and another case, with the reflection, which we prefer, to build some organization, that if the political pendulum is at this moment dipping deep into democracy, it will by and bye mount up again into the region of Conservatism?

We come now to enquire into the cause which have set this pendulum oscillating.

We scarcely any longer the professed tenets of the schoolmen—just as similar with us, or not, nothing is wanting, to convince our readers that this wide spread dissatisfaction with Legislative Councils, as they are constituted and composed in the British North American Colonies, must have its origin in something, whatever that may be. There are individuals who, despite the tendency to conceive in explanation, which they often is a natural disorder, of an infectious nature, which renders me dissatisfied with all established institutions and governments, and creates in those afflicted with it, a craving desire for change, change, change. Hence, according

to these philosophers, so natural desire to have the Councils elected by the people, for no other reason than that they are at present appointed by the King. But our reverence for the schoolmen's axiom, quoted above, compels us to repudiate this explanation of the "something," although it be temptingly simple. We must look elsewhere for the cause of this array of opposition to the Legislative Councils, than in the gratuitous restlessness of men's minds. In our opinion, if the composition of the Councils be narrowly scrutinized, the truth will be found there. It is unnatural to suppose that such an outcry as now exists against those bodies, could have been raised at first, and sustained so long, were there not something rotten in the state of Denmark." We have no wish to conceal this fact, or gloss over the unsound parts with apologetic explanations. We would rather leave it alone, that the friends of the Constitution may be induced to apply timely remedies.

We believe, then, that the fact which feeds the desire for an elective Council, which has been strongly manifested in Upper Canada, in this Province, and in Nova-Scotia, is drawn from the improper and vicious composition of the Councils themselves. The advocates of these bodies have lost a great deal of ground by a childish timidity in not grappling with the evil, and eradicating it. By so doing, they have acted the part of teachable friends; they have cried "peace, peace, when there was no peace." No intelligent and conscientious man, we except the "Divine right" gentry, who has made any progress in the study of the character, principles, and influence of the members of the Legislative Councils, but must allow that a great portion of them have been most injudiciously appointed, who act as a dead weight upon the interests of the bodies to which they belong. Confining our observations to our own Province, which we have in the Councils, with five or six more, honourable exceptions, but some official grub-alive, a few old wives, and some weather-cocks. We wished neither to startle nor abash at the truth, but we should rather rouse our countrymen to the exigency of the case.

We see that in our sister colonies as well as in our own, large and influential parties have taken their stand upon the supposed necessity for the Councils being rendered elective. The elective principle in their watch words, and non-si-gave. They point to the defects of the present system, the existence of which defects we admit, as distinctly, if not to the same extent as they do. They affirm that the defects in question are inseparable from the system; we deny it. The onus probandi, therefore, evidently rests with the advocates of the Councils; and as nothing short of practical proof—a substantial reform, viz., an addition of intelligent, honest and impartial men to these bodies, can be taken in the case, the line of duty in the present crisis lies plainly before them—they must distinguish themselves by unremitted endeavours for a reform in the Councils.

On board of this Scouring Lizard, on Friday last, as this vessel was on her way from Dartmouth to this place, she got entangled in an ice field, and was driven on a ledge and bilge. Captain Kennedy made every exertion without success in getting adrift, and finally, after a long and fatiguing effort of this place, suffered severely.

A company of men, desirous of rejoining the

Lower Canada.

Boats and Concerts.—Mr. Howe's Resolution relative to His Majesty's Councils, lay after some warm and lengthy debate, passed in the British brig of war, Wasp, having arrived at Kingston on the 2d of February. Mr. Russell, about whom the difficulty with Great Britain arose, was a passenger in the Wasp. The remuneration required for him—\$5000—was paid, the judges and magistrates concerned in his sentence were remunerated, and the apology made to the British Government.

Shortly after the commencement of hostilities, two French vessels of war arrived off Carthagena, to look after the property and safety of French subjects. Five small vessels laden with flour were stopped by the frigate Medegee, and the inhabitants were reduced to starvation.

A company of men, desirous of rejoining the

Lower Canada.

Information from Calcutta.—We have no news from the Indian Corn for sale, at six shillings York currency per bushel. It can be shipped from Cleve-

land at the opening of the navigation, and be brought to this port for about 16d per bushel, costing only 4d. 1d. per bushel when here.

Application to be made to James STRACHAN, Port

Burwell, U. C."

The Herald adds that "it is stated that the

Wellesley Canid will be open about the middle of April, the 11th is given as the day fixed upon."

on our, to offend, against the Ministers, and to restrain their payments. How ever favorable may be the information from New Orleans, it is perfectly certain that in the present condition of the money market, the Mr. Journeys would be under the necessity of raising funds at the most exorbitant rates of interest, during a period of protracted absence.

It is to be hoped that the Bill for the more serious dissolution. Is it not better

to bring the faces of the Ministers before the public? The Royal Gazette, Feb. 14, 12 o'clock, 26 to 26 pm. There is still a great demand for money among the commercial community. Spanish Bonds have improved to 964. London 113 1/2. Paris 73 to 3 1/2. Portuguese Bonds are 65 to 1 1/2.

Two o'clock.—Consols are unvaried. To-morrow is settling day in the Foreign Market at 20 1/2.

London, Feb. 9.—Money for commercial purposes is very scarce, and credit in some quarters is an unsatisfactory state; and there appears to be a disposition at the Bank to restring the amount of an advance in the rate of interest to 5% or 6% point, which was imagined early in the year. The Bank of England, which has been a source of much trouble to the country, is a point upon which the directors are agreed in opinion, but the party in favor of it are reported to form a majority at the board, though they have yielded to the representations which have been conveyed to them from all quarters.

On Saturday the 11th, Bermuda was visited by a gale, which is said to have sprung from the roofs were blown from many houses, and several small craft were sunk.

The London Packet lost her

Lower Canada.

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who were on board the East Indiaman, en route for the West Indies.

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