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THE COURIER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1861.

We publish this morning, at greater length than in our wont, the debate (as given by the Toronto Patriot) in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday last respecting, and inquiring into, the Report of the Penitentiary Commissioners. The motion was made by the Hon. the Member for Kingston, and being opposed by Mr. Baldwin, he (the Member for Kingston) rose and commented at considerable length upon the conduct of the Commissioners and their neglectors in the Government. He thought they had acted against Mr. Smith, the late Warden of the Penitentiary, through fear of George Brown, who had bullied them into his measures. The whole speech opens up a scene of corruption, abuse, and tyrannical oppression, such as scarcely the most despotic Governments have dared to perpetrate. When a certain person—a servant in the Penitentiary—gave evidence in favour of the Warden, he was met by Mr. Brown and asked what he did there, and upon saying that he came to give his evidence, "Then," thundered this pure, impartial, and immaculate Commissioner, whose eight dollars a day depended upon Mr. Smith's conviction, "Then you are discharged!" And it is further stated that all the servants who had given evidence in favour of Mr. Smith were discharged. This is absolutely so monstrous that it is difficult of belief, yet it is true that Mr. Hincks winds up by saying that in the early part of the evidence several officers gave evidence against him, but upon Mr. H. Smith's asking him to name one, he began to fumble among his papers that had lost his place at school, and not being able to find any instance, he mumbled something about his not being so well acquainted with the details as he had been a Member for Kingston. Why then make so confident an assertion? This shows as clearly as the noonday sun shines that Mr. Hincks, in his public capacity, has no regard for truth; that his whole anxiety is to bolster up his party, and throw dust into the eyes of the public. Mr. Hincks has the reputation of being rather a clever business man, but we cannot perceive in what his cleverness consists. His tricks are all as gross and palpable as a feat of legerdemain performed by a bear. If he were really so very clever and cunning, fewer people would know it; yet in the face of all his reputed dexterity, his aim is always as transparent as glass.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The Legislature is now enjoying its Whitehall holiday, and the House of Commons placed the Ministry in a minority on its last act before breaking up. Lord Russell's motion for a Bill for the extension of education in Scotland was lost by a majority of 107 to 184 against the second reading. The cause of the loss of the Bill is, in fact, the rooted repugnance of all parties to contribute to the teaching of any other but their own. The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill was once more discussed in Committee on Friday. After one of Mr. Russell's amendments had been rejected, the Bill was ordered to lie on the table. The House of Commons passed the Bill on Monday, and the House of Lords on Tuesday. The Bill is now postponed till Friday. Mr. T. Baring tried once more to procure the revocation of the Treasury Order, which allows whisky to be mixed with coffee, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer relied upon the same provision. The opinion prevailed that people were perfectly well what they were buying by the price paid, and the motion was negatived, but only by 49 to 89.

Legislative Assembly.

A petition from Messrs. Chalmers, bookbinders of Montreal, praying for compensation for books furnished the Council in 1859, was referred to the Committee on the Independence of Municipal Councils. The Montreal Trinity House Bill was passed through Committee of the whole without amendment. The House then adjourned. The House then adjourned. The House then adjourned.

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