

he culprit, "take vengeance upon men for their injustice towards me? and the false witnesses heard against me, will they not feel remorse? At my age to die, and upon a scaffold!" After a short silence, she said, in a mild tone of voice, to the executioner, who was tying her hands behind her back, "You bind me too tight—you hurt me." "It is only for an instant," replied the man. "Alas! I know that well," she replied; "but why bind me at all?—is not my humiliation already sufficiently great?" "It is the law ordains it," said the executioner; "we must obey it." "I know that," said the culprit; "I am not angry with you—I even thank you for your gentleness towards me, poor unfortunate and innocent woman that I am. You cut off my hair," said she, to another of the executioners; "do not throw it away! Jerome, my friend, put it into a piece of paper, and carry it to my child—it is all that will remain to him of his mother." To another of the turnkeys she said—"M. John, take my basket, and what is in it, and do with it what you please.—Adieu! kiss me, and take this neck-kerchief, which I bestow upon you for all your attentions towards me; keep it; you will hereafter say it belonged to an unfortunate and innocent woman." She then burst into a flood of tears. It was remarked that, amidst all her protestations and exclamations, she never once mentioned the name of her husband, nor made the slightest allusion to him. As she was going towards the cart that was to convey her to the place of execution, she perceived that a white kerchief had been put on her head; she entreated to have it taken off and replaced by a black one, saying, "I ought to go in black; do not refuse me this." During her passage to the place of execution she continued protesting her innocence, and, even after being bound to the fatal plank, she exclaimed in a voice that was distinctly heard, "I die innocent; Divine justice will avenge me of man's injustice; tell this, all of you, to my son." The girl Darcy, on being delivered into the hands of the executioners uttered not a single word. She remained in the same state of frigid and immovable apathy as she had hitherto been, and instead of the harrowing emotions excited by the tears and lamentations of the other culprit, amongst those present during the preparatory operations, a gloomy silence was observed; which was only broken by a low groan, a cry suppressed as soon as uttered, which escaped the culprit when the executioner bound a cord tightly round the wrist, near the part where the hand was to be cut off. Her head enveloped in a black veil, and a white garment over her clothes, this wretched creature walked with a firm step to the cart. A few minutes after, a frightful scream or howl was heard from the place of execution; this, and the silence of horror that immediately succeeded, intimated that both of the dreadful awards of justice (cutting off the hand and head) had been accomplished. It would appear that, like a brute creature, this wretched being could, even under such terrible circumstances, be awakened only by physical pain.

To Improve the Light from Oil Lamps.—If persons who are in the habit of burning oil in their families would take the trouble to filter it, previous to use, through charcoal, it would be found to burn as brightly equal to our best gas. The French uniformly do this, and no one can doubt the superior brilliancy of their lamps to those which are to be seen on the dinner tables of our countrymen.

THE HALF-PAY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—It appears that the half-pay officers of our Army are anxious to ascertain the object of a circular from the Adjutant General, which called upon them to send in statements of their past services, their present situations, and their wishes as to future employments. Whatever may be the intentions of Government, it is but right that a correct knowledge of the members composing the half-pay establishment should always be in the possession of headquarters. The amount and management of the half-pay service involve considerations of no small difficulty, as they are of unquestionable importance. It is, in the first place, a matter of duty, for the sake of the finances, to reduce the half-pay expenditure not offering any direct compensation to the public. And second, it is altogether indispensable that the officers on full-pay should be men quite capable of active and effective service. It has often been asked members of the profession, whose military vision was rather minute than comprehensive, why not fill up all military vacancies from the half-pay list, until that list should be exhausted, and then, and not till then, begin to grant commissions to novices who had never served at all? This sounds like economy, but it would be a wasteful and wild improvidence,

because at least two-thirds (we might say a larger proportion) of officers who have been placed upon half pay, are no longer fit for the duties from which they have retired; and if they were to be competent for two or three years longer, they would stop that regular succession of youths which is necessary to the wholesome supply of the Army, to its growth and firmness, and to the relations of its several ranks, thereby leaving an immense gap in the junior and most improvable classes of officers, which it would be utterly impossible to fill up upon the pressure of any military emergency. If draughts from the half pay list into the line, to the extent which some persons have repeatedly called for, and been acquiesced in by the Government, the consequence would have been, that instead of some thousand worn out officers receiving half pay without any adequate return to the country, the same worn out officers would have been in the receipt of full pay—that the nation would have been paying double what it has already paid, to men who are incapable of useful service—that the army itself, instead of the retired branches of it, would have constituted the real dead weight—and that England would have purchased a reduction of her military pension list, by the extinction of her military power. We have, nevertheless, but little doubt, that without carrying the war against the dead weight to this absurd and ruinous extremity, Ministers in case of any crisis arising out of the perplexed relations of our foreign affairs, will draw from the half-pay list whatever effective materials may be found in it, to supply the wants of the service. If, for instance, it became necessary to assemble the militia, or any portion of it, there is no reason why the battalions of that national and useful body should not be extensively recruited from the half pay list. Though past the capability of severe and continued exertions against a foreign enemy in a distant climate, the officers of the half pay might be of inestimable benefit in instructing the militia regiments at home, and maturing their organization and habits. If there be an idea, as insinuated by our correspondent, of proposing to any members of the half-pay to act as preceptors to the troops of powers at peace with England in a distant quarter of Europe, they may be very sure that such a service will be made an advantageous one for those embarked in it, and at all events, that it would not be compulsive.—*Times.*

It is said that Ministers will be prepared, on the opening of the Session, to announce to Parliament considerable retrenchments in various departments, and it is anticipated as possible, that taxes to the amount of a million will be reduced. Among the subjects for retrenchment, the Militia Staff, and the Half-pay of the Army have been mentioned.

The spirit of Ministerial economy is not confined exclusively to the army, but, as we have already stated, pervades every department under government with the most unsparring determination. Acting upon this principle, Sir George Murray has instituted the strictest inquiry into the Colonial-office; and much present saving, as well as future benefit to the public is likely to result from his reforming inquiry.

Important Commercial Enactment.—The Liverpool Mercury says: "By the 9th Geo. IV. Cap 14, which comes into operation on Thursday next, the first of January, it is provided that no endorsement, or memorandum of any payment, written or made after the time appointed for that act to take effect, upon any promissory note, bill of exchange, or other writing, on behalf of the party, to whom such payment shall be made, shall be deemed sufficient proof of such payment, so as to take the same out of the operation of the Statute of Limitations."

Colonial.

HALIFAX, FEB. 4.

THE LATE GOVERNOR FANNING.—Mr. M'Gregor's recent work on Prince Edward's Island, contains some passages reflecting on the memory of the late Governor Fanning; and in the last number of the Register, a Biographical sketch of that gentleman's life appears, accompanied by a great variety of documents, illustrative of his public services, and the high opinion entertained of them by the officers under whom he served in the scenes of the American Revolution, the people over whom he subsequently presided, and the Government by which he was employed. We have not room to copy this article, but as Mr. M'G's book will obtain general circulation in the Colonies, we think justice to the dead requires that we should state, that it furnishes a successful and full refutation. In opposition to the assertion that Governor Fanning's administration was

productive of no advantage to the Island, Addresses from the inhabitants are placed, in which their sense of his public conduct is warmly expressed. "He was brought up," says Mr. M'Gregor, "and I believe born in the United States, and of very obscure origin. The Revolutionary war afforded him an opportunity of raising in the world; but, as he never was actively engaged against the enemy, he owed his fortune to circumstances, the advantages of which he had the finesse to seize". It appears, however, from the documents published in the Register, that Governor Fanning was the son of a Captain in the British service, was educated at Yale College, N. H., and subsequently received degrees from several American Colleges, and from the University of Oxford. He was bred to the Bar, and obtained the situation of a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Carolina. He was afterwards employed by Governor Tryon, to raise corps of Provincials, in 1766, 68, and 71, and was second in command at the battle of Allamance, in which the insurgents, to the amount of 12,000, were totally defeated. When Governor Tryon removed to New-York, Colonel F. went with him as Private Secretary. He served throughout the Revolutionary war, during which he was twice wounded, and numerous letters from Generals Howe, Clinton, Cornwallis and many others, contain very handsome testimonials of his public conduct. We would therefore caution such of our readers as may have an opportunity of perusing Mr. M'Gregor's work, not to place implicit reliance on those passages to which we have alluded.—*Novascotian.*

THE NAVAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF on this Station, is most justly entitled to the compliment paid to him in the Free Press of yesterday. The Ships under his command, in addition to the performance of other Public duties, have been much engaged in ascertaining, with the utmost precision, the latitude and longitude of the Headlands of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and have discovered a number of important errors in the Charts of the Coasts of these Colonies. Mr. JONES, the Master of the Flag-Ship, has, for several Months, been unremittingly occupied in making Astronomical remarks from an Observatory, erected in the Dock Yard, and results of great consequence to the Mariner, may be expected from his perseverance, skill, and ability.—*Royal Gazette.*

HAMILTON, BERMUDA, January 27.

Acorn and Contest.—We understand that the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Ogle, Bart, the Captain, Officers and Crew, of H. M. S. *Hussar*, have contributed two days pay, each, to the widows and children of the unfortunate men who perished in H. M. Ships *Acorn* and *Contest*.—The Seamen were the first to come forward, and generously offer their mite towards the support of the widows and the orphans of their unfortunate brother Seamen—and we trust that this truly christian like act will be followed by the Officers and Crews of other Ships on the Station.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, TUESDAY, FEB. 10.

SIR RUPERT GEORGE presented to the House the public accounts for the year, and also the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor:

PEREGRINE MAITLAND.

In reference to the communication which the Lieutenant Governor acquainted the House of Assembly he was instructed to make, respecting the disposal of the duties collected under the statutes of the Imperial Parliament, for regulating the Colonial Trade; he has to intimate to the House of Assembly, that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having given due attention to the representation submitted to them, and have been pleased to observe that their Lordships must they shall have no cause to regret, that the abolition of fees upon shipping, from which the Officers of the Customs had, for a long series of years, derived their emoluments, should have taken place before some satisfactory arrangements had been made with the Colonies, for permanently providing for the salaries of those Officers.

Their Lordships cannot believe that the circumstance of the relief to the Colonies, having been given in the first instance by the immediate abolition of the fees, can operate upon the Legislature of the several Colonies to the disadvantage of the officers themselves, or can be considered a ground for throwing a burthen on the Mother Country, or for invading the just and acknowledged right of the Crown, as