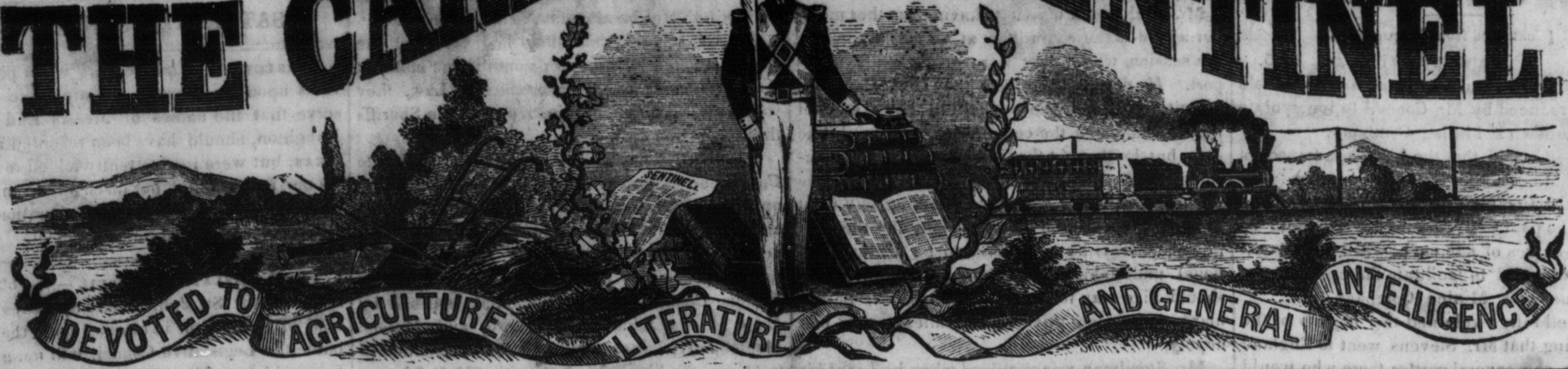


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English and Foreign.

DURATION OF ENGLISH MINISTERS.—The following account of the names and the duration of the various Administrations which have governed England since the passing of the Reform Act of 1832 may at this moment, be interesting to all parties. The Ministry of the late Earl Grey held office from November, 1830, to August 1834, and was instrumental in carrying the bill for the reform of the representative system. On the resignation of Earl Grey in August 1834, the Whig Ministry was modified, and Viscount Melbourne raised to the office of First Lord of the Treasury. The Ministry was dissolved by William IV, in November, 1834, when Sir Robert Peel was summoned by the King from Rome to form a new Government on moderate Conservative principles. Sir Robert's tenure of office, however, was brief, for in the following April (1835) the right hon. baronet was defeated on the famous "Appropriation Clause" of the Irish Tithes Bill, and Lord Melbourne once more resumed the reins of Government. This, the second Melbourne Ministry endured from April, 1835 to August, 1841, or upwards of six years, exclusive of the week's interregnum in 1839, when Lord Melbourne temporarily resigned, and was reinstated on the refusal of Sir R. Peel to take office under certain circumstances which need not now be reverted to. In the summer of 1841 the Whigs were defeated in two Parliaments elected under their own auspices, and Sir R. Peel formed that Administration which carried the principles of Free Trade, and was eventually upset in 1846 by the secession of its "Protectionist" supporters.—Lord John Russell's Administration, which succeeded, lasted from June, 1846, to February 1852 when a defeat on the Militia Bill induced his Lordship to resign office.

Then came the brief Administration of the Earl of Derby and the "country party," which lasted about nine months. It was dissolved in 1852, and the Earl of Aberdeen succeeded as the head of a Coalition Ministry. This Administration has lasted a little more than two years. It will be seen that the second Ministry of Viscount Melbourne held office for upwards of six years, that of Sir Robert Peel (the second Ministry) nearly five years and that of Lord John Russell nearly six years.—During the period in question, viz: from 1834 to 1845, three appeals were made by existing ministers to the public opinion of the nation, by the usual constitutional course of a general election.—Thus, Sir Robert Peel dissolved Parliament in December, 1834, and the result was a considerable but not adequate, accession of Parliamentary support; Lord Melbourne dissolved in 1841, but the country returned a majority of 100 against him; and the Earl of Derby's appeal to the people, in 1845, was, to judge from the result, similarly, though not equally, unsuccessful.—[*London Times*.]

THE NEW BRITISH MINISTRY.

That tribute, due to the leadership of a great mind, so long withheld from Lord Palmerston, has been finally awarded him, and at the age of 70 he is for the first time Prime Minister of England.—The critical condition of European affairs, has called the ablest statesmen of England to the head of its Government.

Without the wealth of Peel, or the aristocratic connections of Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston has earned for himself the proudest position in Europe. The acknowledged chief of the liberal party, he is now at the head of the greatest maritime power and the richest and ablest nation of the earth. Nobility of name has yielded to the nobility of nature, and the iron rule of aristocratic opinion given way to the superior claims of genius. Lord

Palmerston took the office of Secretary at War, under the Duke of Portland in 1809, at the age of 25 and continued in that office under successive administrations till the accession of the Duke of Wellington to the office of Premier in 1828. On the accession of Earl Grey's administration in 1830 Lord Palmerston became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which office he held, with only a brief interruption, till September, 1841, when Sir Robert Peel and the Tories came into power.—On the return of the Russell Ministry in 1846, Lord Palmerston again took the same office, which he held till Dec. 22, 1851, when he resigned on account of differences with Lord John Russell, regarding the French Alliance. On the breaking up of the Russell Administration, Lord Aberdeen came into power as Premier, and Palmerston took the Home Department in the Coalition Ministry in March, 1852.

Time and subsequent events have vindicated the Foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, and at the end of 46 years of public service he is Prime Minister of England. He is of the same age as Lord Aberdeen, but retains his activity and vigor far beyond any of his cotemporaries, among whom he is regarded with the same sort of jealousy as that felt toward our Mr. Webster in his life time. The public feeling of England has risen above the jealousies of the hour, and called to the seat of power the master mind of the country.

Lord Panmure, at the head of the War Department, has had a military education. In 1819, at 18 years of age, he entered as an ensign in the 79th Highlanders, and resided in Canada in the staff of Lord Dalhousie, from 1822 to 1828. He retired from the army in 1831, and entered political life, and was made under Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the formation of the Melbourne Ministry in 1835.

The interests of politics at the present time naturally attach to the above named officers and if Lords Palmerston and Panmure cannot carry England through the present struggle, she may well despair of success. The surest guarantee of peace is the power to wage a vigorous war.

The British press is generally well disposed towards the new ministry. The continuation of Mr. Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer is especially gratifying. The *London Chronicle*, the organ of Lord Aberdeen, is very complimentary towards the head of the new government.

The French journals express their satisfaction with the appointment of Lord Palmerston to the post of Premier, as an event likely to strengthen the alliance between the two countries.

The great question arises as to who shall be Lord Raglan's successor in command of the army of the Crimea. The *Times* names Lord Gough.

The former services of Lord Raglan will not be overlooked, nor will he be dealt with in any spirit of harshness. Had he succeeded, his name would have gone down to posterity with that of Marlborough and Wellington. He cannot be disgraced for he has always shown courage and fidelity, though he has not exhibited any qualities that entitle him to the appellation of a great General.—[*State of Maine*.]

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.—We have received a copy of the "Reports of the Commissioners, and of the Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum," for 1854. It is published in pamphlet form, and should be perused by all who take an interest in public institutions of so important a nature.

The number of patients admitted during the year was 108; the greatest number of inmates at one period 142. Every County in the Province contributes patients to the Institution, and their

number is progressively increasing. Are mental maladies, then, becoming more frequent among our population?

The nett expenditure for 1854 was £3851 2s. 8d., being £472 7s. 7d. more than in 1853; an excess principally caused by the increased cost of all articles of food.

During the prevalence of the Cholera last summer the Institution was free from any visitation of that terrible scourge.

The estimated expenses for the current year are, Maintenance, £4000; Furniture for the new Wards, £500; Contractors, (for extra work, &c.), £1250; Apparatus for warming and ventilating the Buildings, washing, &c., from £2000 to £3000.

The Superintendent earnestly urges the immediate completion of the Buildings, and the adoption of a variety of improvements and appliances for perfecting the Institution; which, involving as they do, a further outlay of no less than £10,000, demand the serious consideration of all concerned.

The Commissioners certify "their continued confidence in Doctor Waddell, and in his management and care of the Institution;" and also gratefully acknowledge the "gratuitous services of the Rev. William Scovil, A. M., the Chaplain."

The Commissioners also submit a remark demanding immediate legislative consideration and remedy; viz: that "under the provisions of Chapter 89 of the Revised Statutes, many persons are sent to the Asylum who are not fit subjects for this Institution; and others, having sufficient property to pay the moderate charge made by the Commissioners for the support and care, are kept there at the public expense." This is a gross abuse, and must forthwith be suppressed.—[*St. John Observer*.]

SYNOPSIS

OF A BILL RELATING TO JURORS,

Submitted by Hon. Mr. Fisher.

1. Male inhabitants between 21 and 60 years, British subjects, and possessed of real or personal estate of value of £100, are qualified to serve as Grand Jurors, except members of the Legislature, &c.
2. Sheriff annually shall prepare alphabetical List of qualified persons, to be paid for out of County funds.
3. To draw the Jurors by Ballot, so that at least one Grand and Petit Juror be drawn from each Parish.
4. No person to be twice drawn in 3 years unless the list be exhausted.
5. Petit Jury for trial of civil and criminal causes shall consist of 7 persons, except in capital cases when it shall be 12.
6. In civil cases if Jury cannot agree in two hours any five may return a verdict; but in no case to be detained longer than six hours. In criminal cases the Jury to be unanimous.
7. Judge may, if deemed necessary, upon Jury disagreeing proceed to a second trial at the same assizes, or liberate party charged on bail; abolishing the keeping of Jury without meat or drink &c. (Every Petit Juror shall receive 5s per day, to be paid by County Treasurer after they are discharged, out of the county funds and from part of the county expenses thereof.)
8. All Jury fees and fines to be paid into County Treasurer. Every party recovering a verdict shall pay Clerk a fee of 5s. towards Jury fund.

Nine States have enacted prohibitory liquor laws, viz: Maine Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont Michigan, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois.

By the last advices, about £4,000 had been subscribed at Melbourne for the Patriotic Fund.

The *London Times* launches its thunder against the military system, and boldly charges its defects to the aristocratic element in the Government.—Other London papers have followed up the attack. Douglass Jerrold, in his *Weekly Newspaper*, has the following bold language:

"The aristocratic dry-rot in our military system has been exposed and doomed. The whole fabric, the structure of a century and more of the most shameful injustice, the vilest jobbing, and the most selfish ignorance fell with a crash on Monday night, and can never be pieced together again. Henceforth, we must have generals and officers from the great mass of the people, and not from a few coteries. Genius, and wounds, and service must henceforth purchase military rank, and not cash. Scars may buy promotions, but not bank checks.

And the time is fast coming—present events hurry it onward—when the people of England will no longer be the property of two or three houses—(coronetted Noodles and Doodles; imbecilities that 'came in with the Conqueror' and will go out with the coming of the conquering mass)—but will supply their own statesman. Brains will rule, and not baubles.

NEW TARIFF.—Quite a small panic took place here on the 27th and 28th of last month among the owners of goods in the bonded warehouse, on which a higher duty will be enacted under the new Tariff than under the old one. It was whispered about among the knowing ones that the Government intended to put the new tariff into operation on the 1st inst., so as to secure an additional duty on certain goods in warehouse—Liquors and Tobacco being those most affected by it. A rush was made on Tuesday and Wednesday last to the Treasury, and in the course of these two days about £7300 were taken at "the receipt of Custom." The first of March, however, came round, but no new tariff, so the excitement gradually died away, "like the baseless fabric of a vision," and only about £100 were received on that day. We are informed that one of our principal importers of liquors paid duties to the extent of £1600 on Tuesday last—a good stock, therefore, appears to be laid in against the operation of the Maine Law.—[*St. John Courier*.]

EDUCATION IN JAMAICA.—The subject of Popular Education has been engaging for some time past a large share of public attention in this Island and the Government stands pledged to the country to take up the matter with the least possible delay, and to make suitable provision for the instruction and training of the children of the lower orders.—[*Kingston Journal*, Jan. 8.

Belgian Convicts.—The Mayor of New-York is taking the necessary legal measures to send back to Antwerp a number of Belgian convicts who recently arrived in the United States.

Four thousand barrels of Flour were destroyed by fire in Pearl-street, New-York, on the 15th ult.

IMPORTANT BY TELEGRAPH.—A telegraphic despatch from Washington, to M. H. Perley, Esq., announces that the bill for refunding duties last night. We congratulate our exporters to the United States on this information.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—£2000 have been voted in the Legislature of Prince Edward Island towards the Patriotic Fund, £1000 for the purchase of stud horses.

TORONTO. Feb. 26.—The Rev. Mr. Roaf's church, in this city, together with six adjoining dwellings, were destroyed by fire this morning. Less was ascertained.