

Miscellaneous.

PROVINCIAL.—We have arrived at a crisis in the history of this Province upon which it becomes the duty of all thinking men to ponder. The woe or the woe, the right of self-government, or despotic and aristocratic rule of the present and future inhabitants of this Province depend on the wisdom, the intelligence, and the firmness of the constituencies who will be shortly called upon to pronounce between the Governor and the majority of the late House of Assembly.

That we may arrive at a full understanding of the present position of things, we will glance shortly at the past history of Colonial Government as administered in this Province. Like the other Colonies of Great Britain, our affairs were for a long time managed by a Governor who ruled in all things as directed from Downing Street, assisted and advised by a Council appointed by the Crown for life, composed of the Judges, the Legislative Council and the Heads of Departments. These latter were generally sent out from England, received enormous salaries, and strutted on their little platform with all the airs of a genuine aristocracy, to the wonder and admiration of the poor Provincials who had to work for their living, and who could only look from a distance at the honours and dignities which were placed beyond their reach.

In process of time the descendants of this original aristocracy, educated in a College provided at the public expense, for their sole use and benefit, fell heirs to the snug berths of their progenitors, and so was at length formed a general Colonial aristocracy, without the pale of which all were held as common people or plebeians, none of whom had the remotest chance or hope of office or power in their native land.

Such a rule, known vulgarly as the "family compact" government, prevailed for many years in Canada, Nova Scotia, and New-Brunswick, and the people as such had no more to say in the management of their public affairs than the slaves of the Southern States or the serfs of Russia.

If we have been rescued from this state of slavery, it is not, we are sorry to say, to the intelligence, love of freedom, or patriotism of New Brunswickers that we owe it. Too many were always found here to lick the hand of power and bow the knee to oppression, and although some contended manfully for their rights, it was reserved for Canada to take the bull by the horns, and force from the hands of a corrupt oligarchy that right of self-government which is the inherent right of all intelligent people.

The British Government and Parliament were no sooner made aware that the Canadians only asked that the government should be administered in accordance with the wishes of the people, and that they claimed as British subjects to be secured in the Constitution, the rights and the freedom inherited from their forefathers, than they at once acceded to all their demands, and while granting "responsible Government" to Canada, in the same despatch pressed it upon the acceptance of Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick.

In Canada and Nova Scotia the people being better and longer instructed in their rights, sent the aristocracy about their business, and placed the management of affairs in the hands of those who, having been foremost in the fight, were most interested in the working of the new system.

In this Province, unfortunately, our House of Assembly proved recreant to their trust, and allowed the old "Family Compact" party to retain power, forgetting as they had condemned Responsible Government as *Responsible Humbug*, they were bound to make it turn out so.

Up to last year the rule of the "Family Compact," or Lilliputian aristocrats prevailed to a certain extent amongst us, not improved or mitigated by the tame-led captains, or the broken down politicians whom they now and then brought from the enemy to keep them quiet, but roused at length by the open corruption and slavish truckling to the Governor's behests of the men in power, the people at the last General Election returned representatives, who by a majority of 29 to 11, declared that the country had no confidence in "Family Compacts," or rulers for life.

To the astonishment of the aristocracy and even of many of themselves, a Government was formed from the sons of the common people or plebeians, of sons of carpenters, shopkeepers, and farmers, who, when tried, were found as capable at making speeches, writing despatches, or concocting financial statements and estimates, as any of their predecessors.

It was not to be expected, however, that those who had been long habituated to think that in them lay the inherent right to govern, would qui-

etly submit to such a deprivation of what they considered their rights.

Since the change of government, therefore, there has been nothing left undone to disgust the people with plebeian rule.

A hireling press and venal writers have been engaged to vituperate, to misrepresent, and to place in the worst light every act of the Government and its supporters.

The breaking down of the Railway scheme of the former government was laid upon the shoulders of the new. The financial embarrassments, the deficient revenue, and the depressed trade resulting from the European war, were all attributed to the incompetence of the Government. The discord and ill feeling produced by the prohibitory Liquor Law, was all the fault of the Government, although it was voted for equally by the Opposition and the supporters of Government in the House, and the new railway scheme was pronounced wild and ruinous, although far less in magnitude and risk than that which it superseded.

Such was the state of things up to the beginning of the last session of the Legislature.

During the session, the aristocratic party and their tame followers used every means, fair and foul, to upset the Government. They saw that if the railway works were once commenced, and a dissolution staved off until the new election law came into force their hope of getting back into power was gone for ever, and their efforts were frantic and desperate. All their attacks failed, however, and the Government was sustained on all points by overwhelming majorities.

Our present Governor, the Hon. Mr. Manners Sattou, the son of a lord, and addicted to convivial habits, it is generally understood, had no sympathy or liking for his constitutional advisers, and associated only with "gentlemen," in the Frederick sense of the term. All with whom he was liable to come into contact, therefore, would unite in depreciating the character and abilities of the members of his administration, and, no doubt, led him to believe that they did not truly represent the people's choice.

Acting on the advice of his associates, and, desiring to have a Government whose "previous habits" would entitle them to the entree of Government House, it is said that the Governor insisted on an immediate dissolution, and that upon the Council differing with him, he, against their advice, ordered a proclamation to be prepared. This was done—but with it was sent to his Excellency the resignations of his Council.

Had the difference between the Governor and his Council only been on the question of the Prohibitory Law, he would have dissolved the House, placed the departments in charge of the head clerks, or temporary Commissioners, and when the new House met, requested them to form a Government; but as he has thrown himself into the hands of the minority of the old "Family Compact" rulers, he has plainly declared that his will is that responsible government should no longer exist in this Province.

He has made it manifest that he has been taking counsel with a party, against the people's representatives; and in doing so, has in our opinion, acted in direct contravention of the British Constitution.

The issue now to be tried is, whether this people, or the Governor and an Oligarchy, shall rule the Province. It is for the people to decide.—*Courier*.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE UPON NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS.—We have now in full, but it is only necessary to give the following paragraphs to present its character, which is according to the established doctrine of the United States:—

"In the circumstances of the political debility of the republic of Nicaragua, and when its inhabitants were exhausted by long continued civil war between parties, neither of them strong enough to overcome the other, or permanently maintain internal tranquility, one of the contending factions of the republic invited the resistance and co-operation of a small body of citizens of the United States from the State of California, whose presence, it appears, put an end at once to the civil war, and restored apparent order throughout the territory of Nicaragua, with a new administration, having as its head a distinguished individual, by birth a citizen of the republic, D. Patricio Rivas, as its provisional President.

It is the established policy of the United States to recognize all governments without question of their source or their organization, or of the means by which the governing persons attain their power provided there be a government *de facto*, accepted by the people of the country, and with reserve only of time as the recognition of revolutionary governments arising out of the subdivision of parent states with which we are in relations of amity. We do

not go behind the facts of a foreign government exercising actual power, to investigate questions of legitimacy. We do not enquire into the causes which may have led to a change of government.—To us it is indifferent whether a successful revolution has been aided by foreign intervention or not—whether insurrection has overthrown the existing government and another has been established in its place according to preexisting forms, or in a manner adopted for the occasion by those whom we may find in the actual possession of power.—All these matters we leave to the people and public authorities of the particular country to determine; and their determination, whether it be by positive action or by ascertained acquiescence, is to us a sufficient warranty of the legitimacy of the new government.—*American paper*.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.—If we needed any assurance that the American government has reconsidered its violent and unadvised language, and is not likely to persevere in that tone of menace which created recently so much uneasiness, that assurance may be found in the speech of Mr. Dallas last night at the Mansion house. The American Minister, indeed, seems to regard the apprehensions of a rupture with the country he represents as so completely groundless, that his remarks read like a grave sarcasm upon the gasconade of the government by which he is accredited to this Court. We believe, however, that Mr. Dallas has most correctly described the state of public feeling in America, and we accept his language with the more satisfaction inasmuch as it is a complete justification of our own views on the American difficulty, and an attestation of the correctness of our anticipations. From the first we felt assured that public opinion in America was determinately opposed to an interruption of friendly relations with England. The two countries are mutually dependent to an extent which forbids the idea, and whatever may be the jealousies on the other side of the Atlantic, and how vigorously soever those jealousies may be inflamed by stump oratory and a licentious press, the Yankees would think twice before they put to the hazard interests of such magnitude as would be involved and sacrificed in a war with this country. This was from the first our conviction, and we are gratified to find it borne out by so high an authority as that of the American Envoy himself. In the brief but appropriate speech of Mr. Dallas, we find something more than the customary and commonplace expression of international courtesies.—There is the admission, doubtless, that causes of irritation have existed, and, perhaps, do exist; but we have the assurance from the American Minister that his "best exertions and energies shall be given unreservedly to the restoration of that most harmoniously friendly feeling which should subsist between the two countries."

This cannot be regarded merely as the individual purpose of the speaker. Mr. Dallas has, no doubt his instructions, and before he left Washington for the post he is so likely to occupy with honour, the course he was to take in his public duty was defined. We conclude, therefore, and we think not incorrectly, that Mr. Dallas's language reflects the views and expresses the intention of his government, and that notwithstanding all of the loud and angry declamation of President Pierce's cabinet, we are just as far, in reality, from an armed collision with the United States—except something unforeseen arises—as we were before the Bulwer-Clayton treaty received a new and unexpected interpretation, and before the blundering of our own government in the matter of foreign recruitment resulted in the misunderstanding of which the world has heard too much already. It has happened opportunely that Mr. Baillie's motion has been deferred until the American Minister had announced the sentiment of his government. The question can now be discussed with a somewhat better appreciation of its various bearings, and of the most probable effects of that discussion, into which, when it comes on, we trust nothing will be imparted calculated to increase in any way the irritation which, we doubt not, is subsiding in the West. We do not admire the discretion of those journalists who are constantly boasting of the American government and people of England's state of preparations, and her determination to assert her rights and to stand by the letter of treaties. Of England's power, and of her promptness to vindicate her honour, no country is better convinced than America. Our brethren across the Atlantic know that we are accustomed to act when it is necessary rather than to talk; and we know ourselves that Americans can act as well as talk. The mutual knowledge has generated a mutual respect, and it is quite unnecessary to refer to it on every occasion, in order to gratify our vanity or to pull down our neighbour's pride. It is sufficient that England and America understand each other well enough to be convinced that war between them would be a dire calamity to each, and that the difficulties which have lately arisen afford no excuse whatever for it.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The reply of Lord Clarendon, April 30th, to Mr. Marcy, thus concludes: "The undersigned has now had the satisfaction of communicating to the government of the United States, the statements and declarations of Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, and Her Majesty's Consuls at Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York, as to the conduct imputed to them. The government of the United States had been led to suppose the law and sovereign rights of the U. S. had not been respected by Her Majesty's government, and relying upon evidence they deemed to be trustworthy, they believed that the law and those rights had been infringed by British agents. If such had been the case, the government of the United States would have been entitled to demand, and Her Majesty's government would not hesitate to afford the most ample satisfaction; for no discredit can attach to the frank admission and complete reparation of an unquestionable wrong. Her Majesty's government unequivocally disclaim any intention either to infringe the law or to disregard the policy, or not to respect the sovereign rights of the United States; and the government of the United States will now, for the first time learn that Her Majesty's Minister at Washington and Her Majesty's Consul at New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, solemnly affirm that they have not committed any of the acts that have been imputed to them.

The government of the United States will now also, for the first time, have an opportunity of weighing the declarations of four gentlemen of unimpeached honor and integrity, against evidence upon which no reliance ought to be placed. The undersigned cannot but express, as the earnest hope of her Majesty's government, that these explanations and assurances may prove satisfactory to the government of the United States, and effectually remove any misapprehension which may have hitherto existed, and he cannot doubt but that such a result will afford as much pleasure to the government of the United States as to that of Her Majesty, by putting an end to the difference which has been deeply regretted by Her Majesty's government, for there are no two countries which are bound by stronger ties, and by higher considerations than the United States and Great Britain, to maintain unbroken the relations of perfect cordiality and friendship.

Signed. CLARENDON.

It is stated by the Paris correspondent of the *Independence Belge*, that the publication of special treaty signed on the 15th of April between France, Great Britain, and Austria, guaranteeing the execution of the stipulations of the general treaty— took the Russian plenipotentiaries by surprise.—They were unaware, it is said, of its existence.

PROPOSED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.—It is proposed by the Toronto Board of Trade that the Canadas should have an ambassador to represent their interests at Washington. If this should be considered by the Home government as contrary to Imperial interests, the Canadians suggest the feasibility of having a properly authorised commercial agent at the seat of the United States Government. The Board of Trade contents itself with pointing out the want, leaving the Home and Canadian Government the task of supplying the remedy.

NOVA SCOTIA.—While our Governor is trying his hand at the resurrection of buried parties, his Excellency of Nova Scotia is endeavouring to reform the extortions of Truckmen. At the Police court May 22nd (says the *Recorder*) William Owen, truckman was fined 20s for asking Sir Gaspard Le Marchant a greater rate of fare than allowed by law.

CANDIDATES IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY.—The *St. Andrews Standard* appears to be in ecstasies at the expected dissolution of the Assembly, and gives the names of the following candidates, although the editor says he has heard of others—(we should be sorry if he had not):—James Boyd Esq., for St. Andrews; Geo. D. Street, Esq., for the Islands; Robert Thomson Esq., M. D., for St. George, &c., Wm. Porter, Esq., St. Stephens.—*Courier*.

DISASTROUS FIRE.—On Saturday morning, the North Wayne Scythe Company's Factory at Fayette was destroyed by fire; together with a grist mill, saw mill, tannery and machine shop, owned by Samuel Parker.—Loss about \$40,000.—*Bangor Courier*.

Mr. Crampton, it is rumoured, will not return to England in case of his dismissal, but be made Governor General of Canada.—*Bangor Whig*.

FRANCE.—A naval expedition to the River of Plate is talked of, where a French Colony have considerable ill-usage to complain of.

"Why did Joseph's brethren cast him into the pit?" asked a Sabbath school teacher of his class. "Because," replied one young lady, "they thought it a good opening for the young man."

Why was Adam's first day the longest? Because there was no Eve.