

THE GLEANER:

AND
NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME III.]

"Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignant nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

No 7.

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25, 1831.

THE GLEANER.

FROM ENGLISH PAPERS UP TO THE 2d SEPTEMBER.

FRANCE.

We received last night the Paris papers of Saturday and Sunday. The whole of their interest is centered in the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the former day, when a measure was brought forward by the Government which had been looked for with considerable impatience and anxiety for a considerable time, and concerning the terms of which much doubt prevailed, and speculation was busy.

Our readers are aware that since the revolution of July there is no part of the institutions of the Restoration which has been looked at with so evil an eye by the people as the Chamber of Peers. The late King, Charles X., and his predecessor, had, by wholesale creations, for despotic and corrupt purposes, brought the body into general distrust and odium. It is not long since it had been purged of some of its most obnoxious members, by the explosion of those of the latest creation; but this step to popular prepossession had not by any means the effect of satisfying the public appetite, and the abolition of the Chamber itself has been in all quarters loudly demanded, as a work necessary to the completion of the triumphs of July. The question has been evaded by successive Ministers from time to time, and the King is well known to have been personally adverse to any interference with the principle of descendible rights, from a natural misgiving, perhaps that the principle if once adopted with respect to the peerage, might one day or other be applied to the title to the throne itself. It was found impossible, however, to parry with the impatience of the Liberals any longer, and in the recent Speech from the Throne to the new Chamber it was found necessary to give an express pledge that the matter should be taken without loss of time into consideration. On Saturday last, when the Ministerial profession of faith upon the question was to be made to the Chamber, the curiosity and interest of the public are described as being at their height. The approaches to the assembly were blocked, and its galleries crowded by an impatient audience. M. Casimir Perier, the Minister, opened his project amidst profound silence, which in a French assembly bespeaks no small share of attention, and was listened to with the greatest respect. We have in another place given an abridgment of the elaborate and eloquent address by which he bespoke the favour of his audience to the proposition; and it is not necessary here to follow him through his argument. We will therefore only state, as a summary of it, that he assumed throughout as an irrefragable principle, that according to the letter of the French Charter, and the commentaries which events have made upon it, the existence of a second and non-elected Chamber is indispensable—that the notion of making the Peerage elective, is derogatory to the King's prerogative, destructive of the happy balance between the Executive and the Electoral Body—and that in fact, a Chamber of Peers so chosen, would be nothing more or less than a second Chamber of Deputies, under another name. The only question, therefore, which could be fairly referable to the Legislature, were these three—1. Ought the Peers to be named by the King?—2. Ought their number to be unlimited?—3. Ought the Peerage to be hereditary or for life? Upon the two first points the Minister said Government had made up its mind affirmatively, and would admit of no debate; upon the last, or hereditary, it was willing to yield, and cast the responsibility of its abolition upon the Chamber. His own and his colleagues' opinion was, after the most mature considera-

tion, that an hereditary Peerage was the best; and in proof, he cited the example of England and some other countries; but still the nation had expressed itself so unequivocally against the principle, that he did not hesitate to abandon it. The proposition which Ministers made was, therefore, that

'The nomination of the Members of the Chamber of Peers belongs to the King.'

'Their number is unlimited.'

'The dignity of a Peer is to be conferred for life, and is not transmissible by hereditary descent.'

The Chamber rose almost immediately after the Minister had concluded his address, and the substance of it was known at so late an hour on Saturday evening, that we have not yet had time to learn the sentiments of the Press upon it. There is no doubt, however, but that it will give rise to a most violent discussion. The feelings of the Peers themselves upon the subject, are variously represented; but without entering into the controversy about some conduct imputed to Marshal Macdonald, it is natural enough to suppose that the project should have but few recommendations for the Chamber, the honours of which it proposes so materially to abridge.

THE APPEARANCE OF A NEW ISLAND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—Towards eleven o'clock of the 10th of July, 1831, Capt John Corrao, commander of the brig Theresine, going from Trapani to Girgenti, in Sicily, at the distance of a gunshot, a mass of water arose sixty feet above the level of the sea, and presented a circumference of nearly 400 fathoms; a smoke proceeded from it, exhaling an odour of sulphur. The preceding day, in the Gulph of Trois Fontaines, he had seen a great quantity of dead fish and black matter floating on the water, and he heard a noise like that of thunder, which the Captain attributes to a volcanic eruption. He continued his voyage to Girgenti, and all the time that he was lading his ship he saw a thick smoke rise incessantly from the same point, before which he arrived on the 16th, on his return from Girgenti. A new spectacle was then presented to him, namely, a tract of land, of the same circumference as that of the mass of water which he had marked in his first passage. This island (which we shall call Corrao, from the name of him who saw it formed,) is elevated about twelve feet above the surface of the sea; it has in the middle a kind of plain, and the crater of a volcano, whence a burning lava is seen to proceed during the night. The island is bordered by a girdle of smoke. The sounding all around this island gives a depth of 106 fathoms; its latitude is 37. 6 N. and longitude 10. 26 from the meridian of Paris. Such is the relation of Captain Corrao himself, who entered the port of Marseilles the 30th of last July. This volcano has also been seen by several captains going from Malta and Taganroc to Genoa; the pilot of the latter learnt from a fisherman that on the day of the eruption of this volcano he had seen a brig perish, and also a fishing boat, his companion; and that he considered his own escape miraculous.

IRELAND.—The last report of the Irish Distress Committee has just been published, from which it appears that upwards of 290,000 persons have been rescued from famine by the prompt benevolence of this country. We find by the balance sheet contained in the appendix, that the sum subscribed amounted to £50,939 19s. 1d of which only £50 remains in hand to meet contingencies. The Committee, after briefly enumerating their proceedings, take leave of the subject with the following appeal to the Legislature, in which we have no doubt that the general voice of the

public in both countries will most heartily concur:—
'The Committee in conclusion, venture to indulge a hope, called forth by the frequently expressed sentiments of many respectable contributors—that having used their best endeavours to allay the pressure of temporary distress, the landed proprietors, together with the legislative authorities, will turn their attention to the permanent improvement of the condition of the peasantry of Ireland, and devise such measures as may under Providence, prevent the recurrence of appeals, which in their effects must be precarious to the sufferers, humiliating to those with whom they are locally connected, and derogatory to the national character of the United Kingdom.' This is precisely the hope which suggests itself to every disinterested man who turns his mind to Irish affairs. Whether the calamity from which that part of the kingdom has been just rescued has produced any change in the Earl of Limerick's opinion, with respect to the adoption of poor-rates in Ireland, we know not, but it will require all his Lordships ingenuity to make out a case in favour of the Irish Landlords, as opposed to the case which the people of both countries have now one common interest in supporting. Surely there must be some discoverable—some tangible defect in the system under which Ireland is governed, when the failure of a potatoe crop is tantamount to a famine. Why, the pigs in England are not exposed to such a contingency:—no, nor in Ireland either.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

BELGIUM.—The Marquis of Londonderry said that he wished to ask the Noble Earl if he could yet realize the assurance he had held out to the House and to the country, that the French troops would evacuate Belgium as soon as the Dutch troops retired within their own territory. He hoped the Noble Earl was prepared to give some decided information on the subject, as, if he were not, it was his intention, on Monday, to move for further papers relative to the state of our transactions with Belgium.

Earl Grey said that, though he was persuaded the putting of these questions was both unusual and inconvenient, he would not refuse to admit that he was authorized to state that Marshal Gerard had received orders from his Government to retire from Belgium—(hear). The French Government had acted with sincerity and good faith, and he had no doubt but that all its engagements would be honourably and faithfully fulfilled—(hear, hear). Whether any part of the force might remain or not he could not undertake to say but he had only to repeat that he had authority to state that orders had been given to Marshal Gerard to withdraw.

The Marquis of Londonderry said, if that was the result of the negotiations he was happy to have no occasion to congratulate himself and the country.

Lord Holland said that it gave him much pleasure to find the Noble Marquis so happy on the occasion—(hear and laughing).

The Lords are quite right in having their House better ventilated previous to the crowded state and warm debates which the Reform Bill is likely to produce, though, after all, the bill itself will, we suspect, be the truest safety-valve their Lordships can have recourse to.

The Lords' Minutes, in mentioning the Beer Act Amendment Bill, facetiously enough call it the 'Beer Amendment' Bill; This is making light of heavy business, but it would, nevertheless, be cheering if their Lordships were compelled to prove that such is the tendency of their measure. There certainly is much room for amendment in beer.

PARISIAN GAMING HOUSES.—Impossible as it has been found to restrain these hells, the matter seems ordered better in France, for the Government derives from them an annual income of nearly four and a half millions of francs, with which are borne the following items of the public expenditure:—Secret services (police); Royal Hospital for the Blind; succours to the former colonists of St. Domingo; succours to the charitable institutions and others, and aids to the royal theatres. This is certainly turning an uncontrollable evil to some advantage, while in London we have the 'hells' without the profit to our charities, &c.

THE HEIR OF SHAME.—It is difficult to conceive a more awful situation than that of a miserable female who recently gave evidence in a Court of Justice. She is the mother of a child by her father, and her evidence sends to a scaffold her own father, and the father of her infant. Should the latter have the affliction to live, and possess ordinary sensibility, how must he look on his wretched and surviving parent—how reflect on the guilty being who has ignominiously passed into eternity, and with what feelings hear others repeat the Fifth Commandment!

The amount of stamp duty paid on Marine Insurances in England in the year ending Jan. 5, 1831, was £220,000 15s. 6d.—near a million of dollars.