

The Gleaner

AND

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

"Nec arancarum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vilior qui ex alienis libamus ut apes."

[No. 19.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 18, 1831.

THE GLEANER.

EUROPE.

FROM THE AGE, OF DECEMBER 5.

The New Ministry is beginning to settle a little, and people are becoming reconciled to the idea of calling Brougham a Lord. The paltry attack upon him has reacted, and his speech upon Law Reform has made him friends among all persons who do not love law expenses—a body of mankind which, we take it for granted, comprizes a very great majority of the nation.

The other Ministers are getting on quietly enough, though with few signs of life. We therefore have not much to say about them, and through the principle that we have already laid down, of not saying a word in praise or blame, until they have done something to deserve the one or the other, we keep upon the principle of 'non-intervention'—which is at present so much in fashion all over the world—so far as the Cabinet is concerned. We owe it a debt of gratitude for having ousted the Wellington administration—so far we are favourably disposed—but old recollections, personal and political, come rather in the way of our being cordially disposed to the Whigs. However, any body before the traitors.

Vigorous measures are being taken to put down the rioters and incendiaries; and down they will be put the moment that Government exerts itself strenuously. Our firm belief is, that our late ministers looked on without making any real effort to suppress them from motives of ministerial policy. They knew that riot and outrage always determine the friends of order and the possessors of property to look towards the government of the time being, and forgetting other feuds when the elements of civilization itself are in danger, to strengthen the hands of administration. Whoever, therefore, believed that the burnings in Kent and Sussex, and elsewhere, were matters of general danger, had no objection that even the most obnoxious of Cabinets should not be thwarted in the course of its policy in any part for fear of so aiding the designs of disaffection. Honest men might, without any imputation on their honesty, whatever we might think of their judgment, act in this manner, but what a shelter and protection it would have been for the rogues, the sham heroes, the coy rats, the whole brood of the vermin who were hungering and thirsting after place, and who longed for the first opportunity of declaring themselves the adherents of those who had the leaves and fishes to distribute. It would have been a fine pretext for a fellow of this sort to have said—'True, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel have broken faith with their party: have deceived and betrayed us, and there is no body so indignant against them as I am—I shall never forget my own old Protestant principles; and if I can see any way clearly how to throw them out, I'll do so. But the Duke, Sir, is the minister; it is nonsense to think that all England can produce such a cabinet as he has gathered about him; he must, in fact remain minister; and here is the country in a dreadful state. It is literally on fire—property is in no security—life itself is in jeopardy. There's young Mr. Baring had his brains almost knocked out the other night; poor fellow! he can ill spare the little he has—in short, the state of affairs is dreadful, and therefore on old Tory principles, or the principles of the monarchy, or the conservative principle, &c. &c. &c. I must, reluctantly to be sure, give my humble support to the Minister. These are times in which one's duty to King and country requires such a sacrifice.' And accordingly the worthy gentlemen would rat outright, or (like George Moore; of Dublin, and other great protestants of that stamp, looking a-head for pretty little places), take care to stay away, when dividing against the Duke might be annoying.

Now that the necessity exists no longer, we shall see the fires end as fires generally do—in smoke; but after that has been done much more remains behind. The causes of popular distress must be examined into and removed.—There must be, in the first place, an end of free trade! and, although that may seem unattainable, under present circumstances, while the countenance of Charles Grant gleams upon us from the cabinet, it will come sooner or later—at least we have a ministry pledged to enquire—not like the last, determined to treat the people with scorn and impertinence, to laugh at their sufferings, to sneer at their petitions, and to tell them that in this country there must always be a certain quantity of starvation. Much, we repeat, must be done before Lord Brougham's prayer of 'peace at home' can be granted.—[A-propos, his Lordship's bringing forward the motion for law reform avowedly without even communicating it to his colleagues, does not look as if there were peace in the Cabinet; but of this anon.]

Turn we, however, to his second head, viz. 'peace abroad.' The late administration had unquestionably lowered us in the eyes of the world. To employ the words of an eloquent writer in the Last Monthly Magazine—

'By this Administration but was to keep England at the head of Europe, the supremacy was almost instantly lost, and given over to a Barbarian Power. Russia became the first empire of Europe, Our Ally Turkey has broken down before our face. Spain defied us; Portugal held us at bay. France sent an expedition to Greece in direct contempt to the Duke of Wellington's remonstrances, and conquered it. He remonstrated against her keeping it. She defied him again, and kept it.

Feebleness like this produced its effects gradually on the British nation. The military Premier was discovered to be a boaster, fit for nothing beyond the coarse work of a campaign, and acquainted with nothing beyond the harshness of military command.'

We may not agree in all these details, but it is beyond question that febleness was the general feature of the Duke's ministry. The warrior appeared to have turned his club into a distaff. In short he had linked himself with the Polignacs and Van Maens and Metternichs, and would not stir to do any thing that might derange their system; and when that system was overthrown he found to his rage and sorrow that nobody would let him stir to re-erect it.

The overthrow, however, has not broke up the Holy Alliance—has not left Europe on a bed of roses. The 'horrid front of war' is frowning in all quarters. The Emperor of Russia has, to be sure, issued circulars, informing all the Cabinets of Europe that he will not move a soldier beyond his frontiers without the concurrence of the Great Powers. To be sure he has marched half a million of men to the frontier to be ready for anything that may turn up promiscuously; but no matter, Prussia is most pacific; and if she has 75,000 men in the Rhenish provinces, it is just by way of holding out cold iron and looking on. Austria has expressed herself quite pleased with the new arrangements in France, (Metternich, of course, is quite in raptures with the result of Prince Polignac's affairs, and admires the precedent of putting Prime Ministers of the Holy Alliance pattern within view of the gallows excessively); and the trifling addition of 100,000 troops to her army is merely to pass time. And France—why in France up gets Lafitte, who tells us that—

'The events accomplished in a neighbouring country had led us to believe that a crisis was inevitable—hence the cause of the armaments made by several powers, but we can assure you that they are made rather as a precaution than in hostile disposition. We are determined on acting with the most perfect prudence in our foreign relations. War has terrible chances.—We trust the triumph of liberty will not require a waste of blood and treasure which is incalculable; but France, at all events, is decided not to suffer the violation of the principles of non-intervention.'

Oh! no! by no means; never violate the principles of non-intervention. FRANCE NEVER DID. As for the hint in the end:

'When France and England (continued he) wish for peace; when other great powers are anxious for it, how can a war, I ask be anticipated? I repeat it; our negotiations shall be supported by 500,000 men and a million of national guards.'

Why that is only a bagatelle. We are as peaceable, says old Lafitte, as if we were so many tame elephants. True it is we have a million and a half of men; but never mind.

This is quite conciliatory; and so is the speech of Marshal Sault.

'We received (he said) the most pacific assurances from the powers of the Continent; yet grave events are passing; considerable armaments are in progress in the greatest parts of Europe. We cannot remain peaceable spectators of the warlike preparations. The unanimous cry of France is for peace—she has given too many pledges of her pacific intentions to be doubted; but she has firmly determined on supporting the principle of non-intervention. France has abandoned the idea of conquest; she wished for liberty at home, and independence without, and if she were obliged to draw the sword, three millions of National Guards are ready to take the field.'

No doubt. France is quite tranquil and good humoured, and she has only three million of men in arms, (the old stockbroker said a million and a half, but the marshal doubled it, just by the way of no harm) so don't be afraid, good people of Europe—don't be afraid. We remember the story of the beggar man in Gil Blas, who requested charity with a loaded blunderbuss, all for the love of God. The peace of the French ministers seems to be preached in the same spirit. To be sure, the blunderbuss, and the three millions of armed men, look a little odd; but kindly-disposed Christians, think only of charity and peace.

There is one European potentate who is against war, viz.—King Rothschild I; and his circumcised majesty has without doubt no small influence; but in spite of this, where there is a will there will be a way; and in spite of the extremely pacific state of Europe, when not more than twelve million of soldiers are about—quite a pleasant party—it would not strike us as very astonishing if there might be a LITTLE turn-up, just to keep us warm in the cold weather. What a lengthening of jaws there will be among the 'peoples'—what a forty days' rain of tears in the lane of Swithin.

Another month will tell us something more about it—with which safe prediction we conclude.

WAR.—We continue to receive from all quarters of the Continent rumours of approaching war. Large bodies of Russian and Prussian troops are in active motion towards the South. Austria is in arms; the smaller states of Germany, Saxony for example, are augmenting their forces. As, however, the Emperor Nicholas or his cabinet, is the only directing power in this movement, we must wait until we learn what effect the alteration in our ministry will have upon his Imperial Majesty, before we venture to predict that war is the inevitable consequence of all this preparation. In France there is a party very well inclined to be hostile; but if we

may believe that Marshal Sault, as the newspapers tell us, has declared that the finances of the country do not afford the means of going to war; we are not apprehensive that their inclinations will be indulged. We extract the following from the National, which is by no means pleased at the prospect of peace:—'Yesterday there was a long discussion in the council on the subject which engages all minds at present—War. If our information be correct, Marshal Sault demanded, with much earnestness, that the means should be given him of putting the army and all fortified places on a respectable footing; and the answer which he consequently received was, that money is wanting—that the treasury is exhausted, and cannot undertake extraordinary expenses. It is said that one member, who is a general, undertook to prove, with the map in his hand, by political and military reasons, that Europe has neither the power nor the will to make war; and his assertions obtained general approbation.' The General Officer was, we suppose, Sebastiani; and it would not be difficult to conjecture his arguments. Russia was never able to maintain a large army against civilized troops, at any distance from her own frontiers, without obtaining pecuniary assistance from others, and as from England, 'the oil that fed the lamp' can no longer be expected, we do not know where else she has to turn. France is embarrassed, and it is not probable that Lafitte her prime minister, will be so indifferent to the state of the European money market, as to do any thing that would depress the funds, and produce bankruptcies without end, unless upon some more urgent motive than any which at present exists. As we may leave Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, out of the question, the only continental powers that remain are Austria and Prussia, who may find enough in the domestic circumstances of their own territories to keep them from needlessly agitating the questions of revolution and anti-revolution; nor indeed are the finances of either in a flourishing condition. As for England, our way is clear. Let the nations of the Continent wrangle among themselves as they please. We are not called upon to interfere upon one side or another. The quarrel of Belgium, now that it is in effect lost to Holland, by the most absurd mismanagement ever displayed, can be arranged by pacific means. Letters from Paris state, that an extra levy of 80,000 men is resolved upon. This is in all probability no more than a measure of precaution.—STANDARD.

The French papers continue to show the belief of the approach of war, which exists not only on the part of the part of the people, but of the Government of France. It appears to be firmly believed that a resolution has been taken by Russia, Prussia, and Austria, to interfere to restore the House of Nassau in Belgium. In some Letters from Brussels it is stated, that the French Government, which we believe to be sincerely desirous of peace, endeavoured by advice to prevent the Belgians from voting, or at any rate to induce them to delay the vote, the exclusion of the Orange Family, being aware that the exclusion would be followed by a hostile declaration on the part of the great powers. The Belgians, who, though not a swinish multitude, have this at least in common with swine—a prevailing impulse to go on in an opposite direction from that in which the rest of the world, friend or foe, desire to drive them—took the that after their fashion, and instantly voted the exclusion for ever of the house of Nassau from all authority in Belgium. The Belgians, perhaps, calculate, that though it may be very disagreeable to the French Government to be forced into a war by the pertinacity of another nation, on a question so insignificant as that whether A. B. or C. D. shall be invested with the name of King in Belgium, yet if the Belgic territory is invaded, the French must defend them. This indeed, we have no doubt, the French will do. France has laid down this broad and intelligible rule: she will not interfere in the affairs of Belgium, she will even reject all offers originating with the Belgians themselves for a union; but she will not suffer other nations to interfere. This interference, it is now plain, she considers inevitable. Though the war might have been avoided for the present by some self-denial on the part of the Belgians, yet the contest would have become sooner or later—the great contest between constitutional and despotic governments of the Continent; and there is no reason to be apprehensive as to the result it begins now. In such a war there is no reason at present for England to interfere; but if she is at any time required to join, it will certainly not be in aid of the barbarous powers who are to assume to act as judges in the internal concerns of the people of the west of Europe, and who may perhaps please to interfere to moderate our Parliamentary reforms. The certainty which, after what has happened here, must be felt by Russia and Austria, that in no case will England assist them in their projects, may tend to make them hesitate even yet. It is observed that the doctrine of non-interference, which has been proclaimed by the ministers, has given a degree of steadiness to public credit which could not have been hoped for under the universal belief that a war on the continent is that approaching.—GLOBE.