

of the franchise on this principle might check some prevalent evils and do some good. It is problematical, however, and perhaps the agitation of the question would lead to such a revolution in the country as to overbalance any contingent benefit. But of this we are convinced, that universal suffrage, and popular elections over the whole country would be the greatest curse that could befall us as a nation; and it is to evince our detestation of this phantasm that we have taken the trouble, in these hurried remarks, to point out the errors which lie at the very foundation of the project. Mr. Hume is a very useful watchman over the interests of the country in matters of small detail; but in the great questions of policy which involve comprehensive views of human nature in the varieties of its social condition, his conceptions are narrow, vulgar, superficial, in an uncommon degree.

There is one subject, however, which we would point out for his special study and the exercise of his peculiar talents. He and his associates are perpetually talking of the grinding operation of the taxes on the poor, upon which he alleges the aristocracy batten. Now we would propose that instead of talking vaguely upon the subject, he would set to work and calculate, upon specified evidence, the amount of taxes, direct, and indirect, which a labourer, drawing wages at 20s. per week, pays to government. Let him do this before he bid that class of people put their necks into a noose. We know he will shrink from the task, and flounder away in idle generalities about the collateral effects of taxation. But we call on him to prove the amount of taxes paid by a labouring man earning £52 a year or less. Until he do so let him cease to preach sedition to the populace.

But whether Parliamentary Reform is right or wrong in itself, this is not the time for urging it on for discussion. It is a subject that requires the coolest and most dispassionate consideration of our political constitution and the character of the British people. All men, however, are at present more or less excited by the extraordinary scenes now passing on the Continent; and it is most unwise to create contentions in this country which may, nay, if persisted in, must lead to the most disastrous consequences.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE NEW MINISTRY.

Earl Grey, (formerly the Hon Charles Grey, and afterwards Lord Howick;) was a distinguished member of the House of Commons from 1786, for 54 years; in 1806 he was first Lord of the Admiralty on the accession of the whig administration, and on the decease of Mr. Fox, became Secretary for Foreign Affairs, he retired with his party in 1807 and in the same year succeeded to the Peerage. His father, Sir Charles Grey, was a General in the Army and served in America during the Revolutionary war.

Viscount Althorpe is the eldest son of Earl Spencer and in the 49th year of his age. He entered early into political life, and has been an inviolable advocate of the popular cause. He has been long looked upon as the leader of the Whig party in the Lower House. His connexion with the county of Northampton, which he represented in Parliament, commenced in 1812, since which he has been one of the sitting Members. His Lordship is married to Hester, daughter and heiress of the late Richard Acklent, Esq of Wiven Hall, near Retford, Nottinghamshire. His Lordship was one of the Lords of the Treasury in 1807, with the Marquis of Lansdown. His father, Earl Spencer was at the same time Home Secretary.

Viscount Melbourne, formerly known as the Hon. William Lamb, the patriotic Member for Hertfordshire; he married Caroline daughter of the Earl of Beborough, and is cousin to Lord Althorpe. He was for a short time Irish Secretary, but the death of his father having called him to the Upper House, he was obliged to resign that post.

Viscount Palmerston is a descendant of the celebrated family of Temple, and was born in 1784. He was educated at Cambridge, and in 1806 was returned Member of Parliament for Horsham; he afterwards sat for Newport, in the Isle of Wight. In 1807 having joined the then newly formed administration he was appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty, and in 1809, Secretary at War, which office he held until the difference arose between the Duke of Wellington and his friend Mr. Huskisson on the Earl Retford question. In 1810, his Lordship, who is an Irish Peer, but has, in order to sit in the Lower House relinquished his privileges as such—was elected Member of the University of Cambridge, which he still represents.

Viscount Goderich, formerly known as the Right Hon. Frederick Robinson, is brother to Lord Grantham and in his 49th year. His official career as Chancellor of the Exchequer was distinguished by the introduction of that system of liberal commercial policy, called by some of its opponents, in scorn, the Free Trade system. On the death of Mr. Canning, he succeeded to the situation of Prime Minister; but his ill-assorted ministry was of very short duration.

Lord Duncannon is only an ancillary peer, and is the eldest son of the Earl of Beborough. The family name is Ponsonby, he is 30 years old.—Marquis of Lansdowne, formerly Lord Henry Petty.—Lord Auckland is 46.—is son of William Eden, Esq. a Commis-

sioner to negotiate with the United States, in 1778.—Lord Durham is 39—he was made a peer in 1823 and is known as J. Lampton, the member for the county of Durham.—Lord Holland, (brother of the late C. J. Fox,) is 56 years of age.

The King has fixed the fourth of June for the celebration of his birth-day, in memory of his revered father.—*Liverpool Courier.*

AFFABILITY OF THE KING.—When His Majesty went to breakfast with the Duke of Wellington at the Tower, the Lord Mayor was, it is well known, one of His Grace's guests. The King, when he saw his Lordship, went up to him, and, taking him by the hand, said, 'Ah, Crowder, I am most happy to see you, and in the situation of chief magistrate of my faithful citizens of London. I am glad to see your years sit so lightly upon you.' 'I thank your Majesty: I am as well as a man full of years, and more full of honours by your Majesty's gracious notice, than any of my living predecessors can expect to be,' said the Lord Mayor. 'Well, Crowder,' added the King, 'you are at the head of a set of excellent fellows—good fellows—capital fellows. I'll tell you what, Crowder I have a few friends to dine with me to-morrow: you must come.' The Lord Mayor said, 'I shall do myself the honor of dining with your Majesty.' 'Very well, Crowder,' said the King, 'be with me at five o'clock. Don't forget.' His lordship was punctual.—*Observer.*

AMERICA.

United States.

GEORGIA.—Tassels, the Indian whose case led to the clashing of judicial authority between Georgia and the United States, as mentioned in our last, was executed, we learn from a Georgia paper, on the 24th ult. It is mentioned that in compliance with the resolutions of the Legislature, the Governor sent orders to the Sheriff to proceed with the execution without regard to any notice he might receive from the Court of the United States. It is, however, added that no such notice was served, either on the Judge of the Court by which the criminal was convicted, or on the Sheriff of the county by whom the sentence was carried into execution. Another authority, we find, differs as to this point.

We copy the following remarks upon the subject of the Boundary Question, from the Message of the Governor of Maine, to the Legislature of that State.

After the usual salutation, and some reflections upon the duties of the executive and legislative departments, the Message refers to the President and Congress of the United States, and to the deep interest which the state has in the measures and policy which they may pursue. The settlement of the Boundary Question, in particular, is mentioned, as directly dependent upon, or under the controul of the General Government. The Governor expresses his regret that it is not in his power to give any definite information, as to the progress which has been made toward a final adjustment of this controversy. The delay, he supposes, has been occasioned by the late disturbances in the dominions of the King of the Netherlands; the Power to whom this subject was referred for arbitration by the treaty of Ghent. In this selection he observes, regard was undoubtedly had to the efficient character, as well as to the personal honor and private worth of the individual—but recent events having deprived that monarch of the greatest portion of his kingdom, rendering him necessarily dependent upon foreign power for succour and support, his political situation has been so essentially changed, that it may be doubtful at least whether he will give a decision on this delicate and important question.—Should the recent revolution have the effect to unite in still closer bonds of amity the relations of the King of the Netherlands with England, which Gov. Smith thinks probable, the agreement to refer, he suggests, would be rendered of no avail—for the state could not be willing to submit to the umpirage of a sovereign, who is not only the ally, but who, by the force of circumstances, may have become in some measure

the dependent ally of Great Britain.—*Boston Patriot.*

Colonial.

ST. JOHN.—FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting of a number of the Inhabitants of this City, held at the Court House; on Monday the 24th June, 1831, for the purpose of considering the expediency of forming a Fire Insurance Company.—James Hendricks, Esq. was unanimously called to the Chair, and George D. Robinson, Esq. appointed to act as Secretary when it was

Resolved, That a Company be formed in this City, with a Capital of £50,000, for the purpose of Insuring Houses and other Property against Fire.

Resolved, That the Capital Stock be divided into Five Thousand Shares, of Ten Pounds each.

Resolved, That no person be allowed to subscribe more than Fifty Shares, previous to the obtaining an Act of Incorporation. Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Petition to the Legislature of this Province, praying for an Act of Incorporation; and further Resolved, that Messrs. R. F. Hazen, Benj. Smith, John Kinnear, and I. L. Bedell, be a Committee for that purpose, and that they also get a Bill prepared and send with the Petition.

Resolved, That Books be opened for the purpose of receiving Subscriptions to the Stock; and further Resolved, that Messrs. A. M. Leod, J. Keer, J. Hammond, H. Blakeslee, and G. Robinson, be a Committee for that purpose.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman, for the attention while in the Chair.

Adjourned. We have been requested to state, that Subscription Books are now open at the Stores, &c. of the respective Gentlemen composing the Committee.

At a meeting of the Subscribers for the purpose of supporting a Reporter, at the House of Assembly, the ensuing Session—25th January, 1831.

H. Gilbert, Esq. called to the Chair by the unanimous voice of the meeting.

The head of the Subscription and the names of the Subscribers was then read by the Chairman—

On motion of Dr. Bayard—seconded by H. G. Kinnear, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, who shall have power to make such arrangements as may be necessary, for carrying into effect the object of the meeting.

On Motion of G. D. Robinson—seconded by I. Woodward,

Resolved, That the person employed shall send the Reports to the Committee, and that it shall be their duty to hand the same to the Publisher of the Paper to be first issued after the arrival, and also to see that every accommodation is given to the other Printers.

On motion of John Robertson—seconded by Dr. Bayard,

Resolved, That the following Persons be the Committee:—G. D. Robinson, Esq. Mr. H. G. Kinnear, Mr. Isaac Woodward, Mr. Wm. Leavitt, and Mr. James Kirk.

On motion of G. D. Robinson—seconded by Wm. Leavitt,

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman for his services—and that the meeting be adjourned.

The new barque Joanna, burthen 557 tons, cleared at this port, last week, for Liverpool, with a cargo consisting of—1027 tons White Pine Timber; 6803 superficial feet of Deals, 2158 do. Deal Ends; 9660 ash bhd Staves, 12 Spruce Spars; 24 oar rafters, and 1 cord lathwood. She took no deck load, and instead of Birch Timber, has on board a considerable quantity of ballast. The Joanna, was built by John Dow, Esq. of Oromocto, for Mr. John Wishart, of this city, and is the largest vessel ever launched on the Main River. Her model and workmanship are pronounced by good judges to be inferior to no vessel ever built in the Province.

AFFECTING CIRCUMSTANCE.—On Wednesday morning last, William R son of Mr. R. Harris, of this City, a promising child, aged 5 years, came to a sudden and painful death by burning. He was, it is thought, in the act of reaching across the fire place, when his cloths (although of woollen), caught the flame, and in a moment he was enveloped in a blaze. There was in the room at the same time, besides the unfortunate sufferer, only a young child, and before the parents were alarmed, the whole of his clothing were entirely consumed, and it was then too late to render any assistance that could preserve life. After lingering about 5 hours, in great bodily pain, death relieved him from further suffering.

Another equally melancholy casualty occurred to a child named Betsy Cummings, aged 4 years and two months, whose parents reside in Church Street. On Saturday last, being left alone in the room, her clothes caught fire, and she was, in consequence, so dreadfully burned, that she died on Tuesday morning.

On Friday, a Coroner's Inquest was held on view of the body of John Killan, private, in the Rifle Brigade. Verdict, perished from the severity of the weather.

ACCIDENT.—This morning a Coroner's Inquest was held on

view of the body of John Killan, private, in the Rifle Brigade. Verdict, perished from the severity of the weather. The circumstances of the case were as follows:—The deceased, who was a private in the Rifle Brigade, was on duty at the time of the accident. He was engaged in some military exercise, and was suddenly struck by a bullet from an enemy's fire. The bullet entered his chest, and he fell to the ground. He was immediately taken to a hospital, but he died before he could be removed. The coroner's inquest was held on Friday, and the verdict was that he died from the severity of the weather. The deceased was a young man, and was much beloved by his family. His death is a great loss to his family and to the Rifle Brigade. The circumstances of the case are very sad, and it is to be hoped that some steps will be taken to prevent such accidents in the future.