

The Gleaner

AND

NORTHUMBERLANDSCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

"Nec arancorum sane levis ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vilior qui ex alienis libmus ut apes."

[No. 18.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11, 1831.

THE GLEANER.

EUROPE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, NOVEMBER 11.

THE KING'S VISIT TO THE CITY.

In answer to several questions put to him by Lords Radnor and King, the Duke of Wellington said—that Ministers had been fully justified in advising the King to postpone his visit; that he gloried in having given us, from the information received, he was convinced that bloodshed would have been the consequence of the King's visit, and that the letter of Sir R. Peel to the Lord Mayor, had received his Majesty's sanction. He declined laying the information on which Ministers had acted before the House.

THE REGENCY.

The Lord Chancellor introduced a bill to provide for the due administration of the Royal authority, during the time that might elapse between the demise of his present Majesty, and the attainment of her 18th year, (at which age the minority of a female terminated) by the Princess Victoria, daughter of the late Duke and present Duchess of Kent. The first question it was likely their Lordships would ask was, to whom was to be entrusted the guardianship of the infant Sovereign? (Hear.) The answer, he was sure, at once suggested itself to all who heard him,—who but the infant Princess's illustrious mother? (Loud cheers from both sides of the House.) The manner in which her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent had hitherto discharged the duties of a parent towards her illustrious daughter, and he did not speak on vague report, but on the most accurate information—[hear] afforded the best security for the satisfactoryness of her future conduct as Regent. [Cheers.] His Lordship then stated the reasons which rendered it advisable that the Regent should not be fettered by a Council of Regency, as in former cases, but act with full power under the counsel of responsible advisers, the Ministers of the Crown. In the event of their being a posthumous heir to the crown, there was a proviso in the bill, that on the birth of such heir, the authority of the Duchess of Kent, as Regent, should cease, and that her present Majesty should become guardian and regent during the minority of the posthumous child. Lord Eldon highly approved of the measure. The bill was brought in and read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, NOVEMBER 15.

THE CIVIL LIST. MINISTERIAL DEFEAT.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer having moved for a Committee of the whole house on the Civil List, Sir Henry Parnell said, that the statement put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was so involved, confused, and unintelligible, that he defied any man to understand it. The Hon. Gentleman had talked of a saving of upwards of £100,000; but he (S r R. Parnell) had tried every calculation, and could not by any means make out a saving of more than £27,000. If the £38,000 formerly paid to the Duke of Clarence could be called a saving at all, it could not be called one on the saving list, as that allowance had been paid out of the consolidated fund. Of the eight classes proposed by the Right Hon. Gentleman, as constituting the civil list, only three bore any relation to the personal interests of the Crown, and even in these, amounting to £460,000, there were included many expenses similar to those which were annually submitted to the House. It was too much to ask, that so large a sum of money as £970,000 should be voted for a whole reign, without inquiry by a new Parliament, just returned from their constituents with promises of retrenchment fresh upon their lips; and however disagreeable such an inquiry might be to Ministers, it was perfectly agreeable to his Majesty himself. [Hear, hear, hear.] For pensions and half pay, the country was annually charged £6,150,000, and in addition to this, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed that £139,000 should be annually charged upon the civil list. There was another point which required explanation, £100,000 was granted as the civil list of Scotland, in lieu of the hereditary revenues of the Crown in that country; but the crown expended this sum, and a great portion of the hereditary revenues also; for out of 184,000l. hereditary revenue, only 20,000l. had found its way into the Exchequer. He contended that the civil list should be reduced at least 100,000l. in consequence of the reduction in prices, and concluded by moving an amendment for the appointment of a Select Committee, to take into consideration the estimates, accounts, and statements of the civil list. [Loud cheering.]

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the sums transferred from the civil list, amounted to 16,184l. but these were not savings. There was, however, a clear saving of 85,448l. He did not think it consistent with his duty as a Minister of the Crown, nor, indeed conducive to the proper examination of the subject, to accede to the Hon. Baronet's motion. He also opposed it, because he thought it proper for Government to incur the responsibility of bringing forward the Civil List, instead of shifting the burden upon a committee. He objected to paring down the civil list to what was necessary for private and personal purposes, as likely to create the very feeling as to the amount of personal income which the Hon. Member deprecated. (Laughter and cries of "Oh, oh.") It would bring the Monarch into obloquy. (Laughter.) What would the people say if they were

told that the Monarch had 500,000l. a year, instead of being told that the civil list was granted partly for private purposes, and partly for public affairs? He should give his most decided negative to the amendment. Mr. Bankers, Lord Althorpe, Mr. Wynn, and Mr. H. Sumner supported the amendment, which was opposed by Mr. Calcraft, and Mr. Herries.—On a division there were—

For the amendment	233
For the original motion	204
Majority against Ministers	29

The announcement was received with loud cheering. Mr. Hobhouse asked Sir Robert Peel, whether Ministers would retain their places after such an expression of the opinion of the House.—No answer was given to this.—Mr. Brougham thought the question very natural, but premature. The committee was then appointed. Mr. Home moved for a return of all pensions on His Majesty's Civil List in England, on the 1st January, 1820, stating the name of each person for whom the pension was granted, the amount of pension, and the date when granted (the pensions to be arranged according to the dates when granted), stating also whether the pension is for life, or during pleasure; similar return of the Irish Pension List; similar return of the Scottish Pension List.—Ordered.

NOVEMBER 16.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

Sir R. Peel rose. Every eye was instantly directed towards him, and the most complete silence pervaded the house. The Rt. Hon. Baronet spoke as follows: Sir, the deep and unfeigned respect which I owe to this House induces me to take the earliest possible opportunity of publicly stating, here in my place, that, in consequence of what occurred last night, I have felt it a duty to wait upon the King, and humbly and respectfully to inform His Majesty, that I perceive it is no longer in my power to undertake the administration of those affairs depend upon me, either with satisfaction to my own feelings, or perfect advantage to the country. Sir, His Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation thus tendered on my part, and I have to inform the House, therefore, that I consider myself as holding the seals of the Home Department only until His Majesty shall have been enabled to appoint a successor to me in the office which I have resigned. The same, Sir, is the case with the other members of the Government. They will consider themselves as holding their respective offices only until their successors shall be appointed.

HOUSE OF LORDS, NOVEMBER 16.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

After the presentation of petitions for the abolition of slavery, and one for the reform of Parliament, the Duke of Wellington approached the table, and in a voice scarcely audible, on account of severe hoarseness, said, "My Lords, I deem it my duty to inform your Lordships, that in consequence of what occurred last night in the other House of Parliament, I felt it right to wait this morning on the King, and tender His Majesty the resignation of the office which I hold; that His Majesty has been pleased to accept of my resignation; and that I continue in my present situation only till a successor shall have been appointed." Having made this declaration, the Noble Duke left the House.

NOVEMBER 22.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION.

Earl Grey spoke to the following effect:—My Lords, I have heard, with much satisfaction what has been said by my Noble Friend; and my Lords, I feel inclined to take the occasion of what has fallen from him, to state very shortly what I hope will not be unbecoming in me on this occasion. I am desirous to say a few words in explanation of the principles upon which I, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, have accepted the high office to which, in the most kind and gracious manner, he has been pleased to call me, and in which my best services are due. My Lords, on this most important subject, it cannot be necessary for me to say much: My opinions on this question have been long made known to you, and on more than one occasion. It is not long since I felt called on to explain them at some length to your Lordships in the debate which took place on the first day of this Session. I then stated, and I now repeat my conviction of the necessity, that the Government (by whom alone the question can be satisfactorily taken up and settled) should take into their immediate consideration the state of the Representation, with a view to the corrections of those defects which have been occasioned in it by the operation of time; and the re-establishment of that confidence upon the part of the people; which I am afraid Parliament does not at present enjoy to the full extent that is necessary for the welfare and safety of the country. I said, too, my Lords, at the same time, and I now repeat it, that I will not support any of those fanciful and extensive plans which would lead, not to Reform, but to confusion [cheer.] I do not support universal suffrage, nor other of those very extensive changes which have been, I regret to say, too much promulgated in this country [cheer.] I wish to stand upon the true principle, some Reform being necessary, and I am sure your Lordships cannot fail to see that, to fix that principle on which we desire to regulate Reform, is no task of slight difficulty. But, my Lords, our principle would be to do as much as may be necessary to secure to the people their due influ-

ence in the great council in which they are more particularly represented, and by that means to restore satisfaction and confidence in that degree which every government required progressively to conduct the affairs of state, and this I would propose to do with due and fitting regard to the settled institutions of the country. The earnest desire to embark in sudden change, which must inevitably produce disturbance, I do not share—on the contrary, I reject it utterly. My Lords I do not know that it is necessary for me to say more.

It is obviously impossible for me now to lay before your Lordships the details of any plan. Suffice it, therefore, for me to say, in general terms, I acknowledge the necessity of a Reform in the Representation; and that it is my anxious wish to regulate that reform in such a manner as to restore confidence and satisfaction upon the part of the people without interfering with any thing that exists according to the established principles of the Constitution. [cheer.] I am not disposed to meddle with the settled institutions of the country, and I am altogether averse to those fanciful alterations, which, if they could be carried into effect, would produce no result except that of occasioning a lamentable collision between the several orders of the State, the firm union and mutual interests of which it will ever be my object to maintain. So much my Lords, with regard to this subject, on which it will be only necessary for me to add, that before I endeavoured to unite all those, whom I considered most likely to advance the interests of the country, to myself, in His Majesty's Councils, I had his most gracious sanction to be allowed, at a proper period, to submit a measure of this nature and with this object, for the approval of his Majesty, and I am sure your Lordships will, at once, understand that, notwithstanding the most extensive industry upon our part, the question is one most likely to be taken up, being, as it is, one requiring time and consideration, and that besides the load of official business to which we will be subjected, must be such that I could hardly be expected, at this moment, to have any specific motion to submit. My Lords these are one or two other subjects on which I conceive will be becoming in me to say a few words. We have succeeded to the Administration of affairs in a season of unparalleled difficulty. [hear, hear, hear.] All I can say is, that on the subject of the motion for Monday next, I look with the utmost anxiety, from the reference it bears to the labouring classes, and the whole situation of the country [hear, hear.] It is only within the last three hours that we have been installed in our respective offices as members of His Majesty's Government, and we have had no access to official documents, or no information respecting the measures which have been pursued by our predecessors. Under these circumstances I can only promise that the state of the country shall be made the object of our immediate, our diligent and unceasing attention—of our first and most anxious attention; for what is there which can call upon so imperative a for our most unceasing and diligent attention [hear, hear.] I have, therefore, my Lords, summoned a Council for this evening to consider what may be done with greatest speed and effect. To relieve the distress which now so unhappily exists in different parts of the country, will be the first and most anxious end of our deliberations; but here I declare for myself (and in doing so, I also speak for my colleagues)—I declare that it is my determined resolution, wherever outrages are perpetrated, or excesses committed, to suppress them with severity and vigour [cheer.] Severity is in the first instance, the only remedy which can be applied to such disorders with success; and, therefore, although we are most anxious to relieve the distress of the people who are suffering, let them be well assured they shall find no want of firm resolution upon our part [hear, hear.] I am desirous, then, my Lords, that the people—though God forbid I should say the people, or attribute to them such feelings and conduct—but that a portion of the people in some of the districts of England should be told the effects of their proceedings is this—that while they complain of want of employment, they destroy the very means by which they would be benefited; and that the Government, although they commiserate their situation are resolved not to connive at their excesses. [Hear, hear.] So far my Lords, respecting our domestic concerns; but there is another subject closely, I might say intimately, connected with them, to which I will advert. My Lords, a reduction of all unnecessary expense, is the firm resolution of myself and colleagues, maintaining, however, all that is positively required for the support and service of the Government [hear!], while we cut off with unparing hand all that is not demanded for the interests, the honour, and the welfare of the country [hear!]. We have in our appointment to office, already cut off some places about which there has been a discussion elsewhere [hear!] but do not suppose we limit our views to that. No, my Lords, every part of the Government is open to consideration and revision, and I