

SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

LONDON MORNING HERALD.

The friends of corruption having a direct personal interest in keeping up the system through which they have been enabled to work their hands into our pockets—this is what they call working well—are constantly on the stretch to devise means for keeping up that system and that workmanship; while the people who have a general interest in putting down both, run a great risk of neglecting their duty, through the want of some personal or rather selfish provocative. It is true that in strict reasoning every man has a personal interest in the promotion of good government, but the responsibility of acting in conformity with that interest is divided amongst so many, that its force is often compromised, if not lost, in the universality of its application. Every one remembers the perseverance of the anti-reformers while the fate of the bill was doubtful. Let that be a reason with every one for watching their perseverance now that the bill is formally carried, for it may yet be substantially defeated. The conservatives, as they call themselves—and we have no objection to the name, meaning by it the conservatives of corruption—have been playing a desperate game from the first, and they seem not at all disposed to change their plan with the change in their circumstances. As late as Friday week last, an attempt was made in the House of Lords to throw out the Irish Reform Bill; but the grand effort seems to be to frustrate Reform throughout the whole kingdom, by setting up the selfish against the social spirit, by sowing dissension between interests whose prosperity is one and the same, and taking every opportunity to prevent the return of confidence and the resumption of industry, for want of which the people are now suffering to an extent, such as was never before experienced in this country. We need not look far to discover the motives of the conservatives in pursuing a course so desperate. They are willing to embarrass ministers and defeat reform, even at the hazard of embroiling the nation. They care not how, nor from what quarter, the storm may blow, as the same storm that blows the Whigs out must blow the Tories into office, which is the paramount object of conservative policy at this moment. We have called their measures desperate, because they ran a great risk for a little and a contemptible purpose. The risk was revolution—the purpose was place. Like those who fight in hope of plunder, they were willing to expose the country to all the horrors of revolution rather than give up the prospect of making it pay the highest price for bad government. They would have risked revolution for this; nay, they did risk it, and would have persevered, but that their pride took the alarm at the threatened infusion of a set of honest men in the House of Lords—which it seems was against the rules of the hospital—and they determined to preserve their character by resisting the approach of any more honesty than they knew what to do with. Of a piece with this proceeding are their present attempt to frustrate the operation of the Reform Bill. They have an unholy faith in the folly and depravity of human nature, and, with that opinion for their guide, they invent all sorts of falsehood, and hold out all kinds of temptation to induce the people to desert their own cause for that of their enemies. But we warn the people to be true to themselves. If a reformed constituency should return a Tory House of Commons, it will be in vain that an attempt was made to reclaim and re-establish the liberties of England. In that cause it will be manifest that the long reign of corruption has tainted the heart of the community, that society is rotten to its very core, and that in making an appeal to the intelligence and spirit of the age, our ministers have only hit upon a plan for exposing, by a more direct process, its deficiency in every manly virtue. But we do not despair of the people. On the contrary, we look back upon their past conduct, and recognise in its boldness and decision an earnest of their future energy.

FROM BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

One thing is perfectly clear, that if the future electors wish to confirm to demonstration all the arguments of the anti-reformers, they have only to return representatives who will go on with the movement, and precipitate the country into those changes which must soon induce revolution. If they would prove their errors, silence those among their opponents who proceeded on selfish, and convert those who were actuated by patriotic motives, they have only to return conservative members, we do not mean men of any particular party; we do not mean Tories in opposition to Whigs—we mean those, of whatever party, who will uphold the remaining institutions of the country; who will protect our liberties equally against legal oppression and popular violation; who will shield all classes, of whatever rank, from outrage, spoliation, or intimidation; who will uphold, at the expense of the landed proprietors, the religious establishments of the country, and not, to relieve them, lay upon the poor the burden of providing

themselves with religious instructors; who will preserve sacred and inviolate, subject only to the correction of its abuses, the funds provided by the charity of our ancestors for the relief of the indigent and the education of the poor; who will save from spoliation the national funds, the great savings' bank of the middling and industrious classes; who will not expose the agriculturists and country labourers of England to certain ruin, in order, by their destruction, to enable the foreign grower to levy the same price from the British consumer which now contributes to the maintenance of the rural classes, this, one third of the total population of the state. These are the interests which the conservative members of the legislature have now to support, and not any vile contest for place or power which they are to maintain. If they return members of this description, whether they are Whigs or Tories, the march of revolution may, for a time at least, be stayed, and the anticipations of the really patriotic and enlightened among the reformers be realized. If they are seduced by the movement party, and return members who will support any farther measures of innovation, the worst fears of the anti-reformers will at once be realized, and the torrent of revolution at once be let loose to devastate the sea.

BRITISH AMERICA.

QUEBEC GAZETTE, Sept. 3.—The nights have lately been cool, and on that of Friday it was unusually so. Saturday morning, a strong hoar frost was observed in the parishes round Quebec. It is supposed that tender vegetables must have suffered.

The new Custom-house, King's Wharf, is now completed. The walls of the third story of the new House of Assembly are nearly finished, and in the course of a week or two the timbers of the roof will be raised.—Another large new building, the Irish Catholic Church, St. Angel-street, near Palace-street, is also advancing; the walls of the first story are up; the building fronts on St. Angel-street, looking to the north.

Within the last forty-eight hours, several deaths by Cholera have taken place at private residences.

HALIFAX NOVASCOTIAN, Sept. 12.—Departure of the Governor.—We understand that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, having obtained leave of absence for a year, will, with his family, take passage for England in the Chebucto, in the course of the present month. We know not whether he intends returning—but as his health is indifferent, and the salary has been greatly reduced, we think it extremely probable that he may either remain in England, or obtain some more lucrative Colonial or Diplomatic appointment. We have not heard what arrangement will be made for carrying on the Government in the meanwhile—it is said that the usual course will be pursued, and that the Hon. T. N. Jeffrey, senior member of Council, will assume the reins. If so, we shall have another beautiful example of the advantages arising from the structure of His Majesty's Council, which certainly prove, to the satisfaction of the most indifferent, that we have not objected to the constitution of that body without sufficient cause. Of Mr. Jeffrey's character as a Public Officer, or as a Private Gentleman, we say nothing—but just look at the absurdities which follow from giving persons at the heads of departments seats round the Council board. Questions affecting every department are continually the subjects of discussion in the Legislature, and there sits perhaps the party most affected, to judge of his own case, and vote against the interests and wishes of the people. But the farce does not end here, for if the party happens to have the luck to be the oldest member, and a Governor's health or his salary fails, and he takes a trip to England or Bermuda—the Official Councillor becomes Governor; and if any reduction is necessary, or any improper conduct occurs in his Department, who are the public to complain to? If a question comes for discussion, in which, in one capacity, a man may be concerned—there he stands, to smother and bear it down, with the whole weight and power of the Executive.

THE RESURRECTION MEN.—Those sad rogues, the Commissioners of Streets, will neither allow the living to enjoy the comfort of their fire sides in peace, nor even let the dead rest in their graves. Heaven preserve us! when they lie down at night, what a goodly array of old porches, railings, cellar doors, and mud-puddles, must disturb their imaginations, and haunt them in the still hours when evil deeds arouse the guilty conscience. But was it not enough that they should remove the ancient landmarks by which we found the way to the dwellings of our friends? was it not enough that they should heap 'Pebon upon Osn,' and bury the living, but that they must disturb the ashes of the dead? Is it not too bad that they should be allowed to make such a 'rattling among the dry bones' of this community? The minstrel singeth prettily enough, 'Where shall the lover rest?' but we say, if these things are allowed to go on, where shall any man rest? If he go into the attic, a fragment of rock is sent after him with a little force of gunpowder—if he seek refuge in the cellar—LOW! the Commissioners are there; and dig him out as uproariously as Robin Hood's men dug out the Friar and the Jew. Even, if we could say with Elgar, 'five fathom deep poor Tom doth lie,' we should still have no security; and we think a Joint Stock Company should be immediately formed, to insure parties from the risk of being dug up, covered up, or blown up, by the Commissioners of Streets.

In the course of excavation for the Sewer in Buckingham street, some eight or ten skeletons were discovered this week, nearly opposite the Old Baptist meeting house. How long they have lain there, of course cannot be known, and can scarcely, with any approach to accuracy, be conjectured. They may have been Indians killed in a fray, and hastily buried on the spot where they were stricken down—they may have been some of the Duke d'Anville's soldiers, who died of the scurvy; or they may have been some of the early British or German settlers, who amidst privation, danger, and toil, laid the foundation of this flourishing metropolis—and if so, the spirits of the old fellows will rejoice, to see that so active has been the enterprise, and so indefatigable the industry of their descendants—that improvement is not only carried over the surface of the soil which they bequeathed, but far

down into the interior. Some of the bones, and many of the teeth are in excellent preservation.

HALIFAX JOURNAL.—It appears by the Prince Edward Island Gazette of the 21st ult. that His Majesty has been pleased to sanction an Act passed by the Legislature of that Colony, imposing a tax on Land, to the amount of £1400 per annum for five years, which is to be appropriated to the building of a Government House and an Academy—during the continuance of which Act His Majesty has been further graciously pleased to relinquish his claim to Quit Rents.

In answer to a Petition, recently presented to the Lieut Governor of that Island, praying that a Court of Escheats might be established for the purpose of investigating into the titles of Claimants upon the soil, that such of those who have fulfilled the terms of their grants, may be fully established, and that the lands held under illegal titles may be re-invested in the hands of His Majesty, His Excellency replied that having previously made His Majesty's Government aware of the subject, he awaits its commands.

ST. JOHN, N. B. Sept. 4.—Mr. AUDUBON, the Ornithologist.—The Boston Daily Advertiser says that this gentleman was recently in this city, and has since proceeded to the Eastward, with the intention of going as far as Nova Scotia. Mr. A. may possibly visit this Province—He has been engaged for several years past in preparing for publication a book of natural History, entitled, 'The Birds of America,' and for this purpose he has traversed a great portion of the American continent. The work is to be of the most splendid description, and the price is set at eight hundred dollars.

ST. JOHN'S COURIER.—Customs' Duties Bill.—Several important amendments have been added by the Commons, in Committee, to the Bill to amend the Laws relating to the Customs; among them are the following, some of which have been suggested to the Board of Trade by the Chamber of Commerce in this city, will be of essential benefit to the trade of the Colonies:

A clause repealing the bounty on the exportation of cordage and spun yarn, where the same may not have been shipped prior to the passing of this Act.

A clause that 'Free Ports may be made in the Colonies for limited purposes.'

A clause enacting that 'Coals may be re-exported from possessions abroad, upon the payment of export duty.'

A clause declaring that 'all British vessels shall be subject to equal duties in the Colonies.'

Clause 54 of this Bill provides that the 59th Geo III. c. 54, &c known by the general names of the Reciprocity Acts, shall apply to all Foreign Powers as well as to the United States and Portugal, but the recited Acts not to be construed as granting powers beyond subsisting treaties, and His Majesty with the advice of the Privy Council, to declare the powers with whom treaties are subsisting.

FREDERICTON GAZETTE.—On Monday last, the election of a member (in the room of John Dow, Esquire, deceased,) for this county, took place: at the close of the Poll, last evening, the votes stood as follow:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. James Taylor, 57; W D Hartt, 76; Jeremiah Connell, 25.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F. AUGUST 23.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT HARBOUR GRACE. It has too frequently devolved upon the public journalists of this town, to record melancholy instances of devastation from fire, but never, we believe, has it fallen to their lot to present to their readers the details of a calamity more widely destructive in its consequences than that which occurred in Harbour Grace on Saturday last. The particulars of this awful catastrophe are given in the following letter from a gentleman in that town. We subjoin a catalogue of ninety-seven families—comprising upwards of 600 individuals—who have been deprived of their homes; and of that number, we understand, 200 are absolutely destitute. The loss of property is stated to be about £60,000, very little of which was insured. The progress of the overwhelming element appears to have been fearfully accelerated by the explosion of a large quantity of gunpowder in the premises of Messrs. Ridley & Co. soon after the fire broke out. This carried the burning masses of wood in every direction, and made the conflagration, almost from the commencement, so general, that the inhabitants became panic-struck, and were lost to every other consideration than that of saving their lives. The origin of the fire seems to be involved in mystery.

Soon after the melancholy intelligence reached this town on Sunday morning, His Honor the President, with his wonted humanity, ordered a number of tents, 1000 blankets, and a large quantity of provisions, to be forwarded to the destitute sufferers. His Honor, also, accompanied by Colonel Oldfield, R. E. set off in the course of the morning for Harbor Grace, offering consolation by his presence, to the wo-stricken inhabitants. A reference to our columns will serve to show that our fellow-townsmen have not been inactive in the cause of charity—the subscriptions already amount to £600, and will be considerably increased. We are proud to remark that the generous inhabitants of Carbonear have been most prompt on this occasion, and we hope their example will be emulated by those of the other harbours in the bay. The case is most urgent, and requires that we should all exert ourselves to the utmost.

HARBOUR-GRACE, Sunday, 10 A. M. August 20.

Sir—It becomes a most painful, but I conceive it to be an imperative duty, for me to acquaint you, for the information of the public, that at about three o'clock, yesterday afternoon, a most awful fire broke out in this town, the whole of the centre part of which has been

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