

had succeeded in attaining their dizzy station, would find themselves in very unusual company—the friends of my next room neighbour, one of Warren's blacking-stirrers, who possessed similar advantages with me, and consequently was entitled to half the parapet. But, independent of this respectable collision, what was I to do with the remainder of the visitors that I calculated upon—between three and four hundred persons? There were but 446 thrust into the Black Hole at Calcutta, and 123 of them perished in a few hours; how then should I cram more than double that number into the still small space of my attic apartment?

Oh! the days and nights I spent revolving my desperate situation!—no courage had I to explain to a single individual the cause of the utter prostration of mental and bodily energy I exhibited, and which was becoming every day more apparent. I still moved among them, but my identity was scarcely discoverable; my cheeks grew hank and colourless, my eyes sunken and glazy, my figure attenuated, and my dress comparatively neglected—I strove to laugh, but the attempt was hysterical—I listened to the joyful anticipations of young and old, all directed towards the gratifications I was to afford them, I saw new dresses, shawls, caps, &c. arrive to each of my female acquaintances, and I was told they were intended to grace my windows. The prudent portion of my intended visitors requested me not to put myself to any extraordinary trouble for their reception; 'a few cold fowls and some wine,' said they, 'laid in a back room, will be quite sufficient'—'How delightful a little dance would be after the show!' whispered pretty Fanny Syllabub, 'if it was only to the piano, I dare say Mr. ——— has got one?' Oh! responded Angelica Celestina, 'I know he has, for he told me he sometimes amuses himself, learning to play on it.' Thus, another thorn was added by the thoughtless fair ones to those which were already stinging me to death; they determined on having a dance, and I—CUR NON OUSTA? assented. A miracle, thought I, can only save me now!

The first week of the awful month I passed in a sort of desperate resignation to the certain fate I saw gradually approaching. I made no preparations. All the under part of the house, I understood, was to be thronged—no hope, therefore, remained in an attempt to bribe my next neighbour for a loan of this apartment. I had every wish, alas! my coffers held my inclination in bondage. Sunday the 7th dawned. 'Well,' said I to myself, 'if I can't show fair play, let me exhibit a "clear stage," at all events,' saying which I jumped from my sleepless couch and immediately laid about me with a vigour which astonished myself. In the twinkling of a bed-post I knocked four of them from their perpendicular on the floor, and in a few minutes I had thrust the whole sleeping paraphernalia from the room; then I seized hold of two crazy chairs, and excluded them likewise, a table shared the same fate, and in short, a complete vacuum was in half an hour obtained. The window was now wrenched from its moorings, and a strict survey made of the territory I could command; this, as I before stated, was certainly capable of accommodating about ten persons, and these I determined should be the Bottleblissoms and the Whimples, who would thus complete the number.—Kate might dispose of the rest. All that day I laboured intensely to render this ever-tearable, and the entrance to it somewhat less hazardous. The apartment itself, too, by wheeling my grand bedstead, I got into some sort of receptionable order, and, by two or three personal sacrifices, I contrived to furnish my abode with a pair of tolerable looking decanters of wine, and a cold roast goose. Altogether, towards evening, the thing did not present a very bad appearance, and I contemplated it with feelings much relieved. The subsequent day I determined to spend entirely among my friends, that it might not appear that I was obliged to be personally concerned in the arrangements for their reception at my 'Lodgings in the Strand;' besides that, I might afterwards throw much of the onus of the disappointment which awaited them, not my landlady and her servants, who, of course, were to take advantage of my absence, &c. &c. That night I spent with the Bottleblissoms, and made desperate advances to Angelica Celestina. I thought her eyes betrayed a particular interest for me, as they rested on my haggard countenance; and I boldly asserted that love was consuming me, I hesitated not to assign it as the cause of my altered appearance: this made no little impression on her, and as, towards the close of our conference, her voice assumed a tone of tenderness, testifying that love's relative was pleading my suit, I scarcely two or three times restrained myself from making a frank avowal of my real circumstances, and throwing myself on her compassion and indulgence. I forebore, for the present, by resolving to reconsider the step against the morrow, and then act decisively one way or the other. At parting for the night, the Major made me promise to breakfast with them in the morning.

Monday the 8th.—'I will pour my sorrows,' said I, as I strolled towards the Major's, 'into the gentle bosom of my Angelica; this day is the last of my reign, unless by some bold stroke I secure a retreat from the ills that environ me; with Angelica's assistance I may brave them all—why should I hesitate?—nothing else now can save me.' Musing thus, and thus determined to make the awful confession, I entered the Major's library: 'Good morning Mr. ——— sad news for us all,' whispered he, laying down the newspaper he had been reading, 'the King won't join the procession to-morrow, after all.' I felt my heart literally leap within me—I seized the blessed journal in a transport of delight—(I shall continue to take that paper as long as I live!) 'twas true! Oh! who would not envy me my feelings, if I could describe them!—I was emancipated from a living death. Grumble on, good citizens, I join you; but, pleased as your Englishmen proverbially is with the privilege and enjoyment of grumbling, few there are, I ween, who feel more satisfaction in the performance of this national anthem than a certain "Lodger in the Strand."

Regardless of the gloom that quickly overspread the sensitive Angelica Celestina's fair visage, reflected from half a dozen others round the breakfast table, I positively smiled—in my sleeve, while I never ceased all day, nor indeed have I yet ceased talking loudly of 'provoking disappointment,' 'great preparations,' 'insufferable Sir Claudius'—and 'unfeeling ministers,' though as far as these last are concerned, I cannot help thinking then, in this particular instance, the wisest that ever took office: and out of pure gratitude, and upon the principle that flowers were strewn by some unknown hand upon the tomb of Nero, I shed several very watery-like looking tears when they resigned.

By the by, as I understood his majesty WILL honour the 'good citizens,' although he has put it off, at least once, since the above

occurrence, whenever the happy day is positively ascertained, I shall be delighted to give up the eligible apartment mentioned above, in favour of any lady or gentleman ambitious of obtaining 'Lodgings in the Strand.'

SPIRIT OF THE PROVINCIAL JOURNALS.

LIBEL! LIBEL! LIBEL!

CANADIAN FREEMAN.—We have this day, for the first time in nearly seven years, to apologise to our readers for the delay of our publication, and to give for our reason, the awful heading of this article. Little Mackenzie, the would-be great agitator of Upper Canada, has been arraigned before the House of Assembly of this Colony, for a Libel upon the House, and the question having occupied the last two days, during which we were confined wholly to the Reporter's chair, we have been unable to make up our paper in time.

There is a good deal of matter quoted from the Colonial Advocate as libellous; but the following sentence seems to us the strongest:—

"Our representative body has degenerated into a sycophantic office, for registering the decrees of as mean and mercenary an Executive, as ever was given as a punishment for the sins of any part of North America, in the Nineteenth Century."

Now, as this question affects the character and liberty of a person now on his trial before the Grand Jury of his country, for a high alleged offence, we would have abstained from all remarks upon, at present, had not the accused, in a most wanton, slanderous, and malignant manner, coupled the name of the Editor of this paper, with the prosecution. In the course of what is called a sreech, which lasted the whole day, the substance of which could be delivered in an hour, Mr M'Kenzie a dozen times stated, that this libel prosecution "originated with Francis Collins, and that Mr John Wilson, the mover, was only a CATS-PAW in his hands." We shall only for the present state, that this is as great a falsehood as ever emanated from the lips or press of Wm. LIE-ON M'Kenzie, and a malignant libel on the character of the Editor of this paper. The first we heard of the alleged libel, or of the intention of Members to prosecute, was from Mr Carey, who handed us the Advocate, and we never advised or consulted with Mr Wilson, or any other member of the House upon the subject, since or before—but in conversation with many individuals out of doors, we gave it as our opinion, that the proceeding on the part of the House, was impolitic, and only calculated to elevate an unprincipled character, who had been raised above his level by a faction, and if let alone, would shortly return to his original insignificance.—Mr M'Kenzie repeatedly called upon the House, in this case, to follow the "Divine Law—the Law of God—and do as they would be done by."—Is not this pretty language coming from the author of "Patrick Swift?" How durst M'Kenzie talk of the "Law of God," while with that on his lips he was bearing false witness against his neighbour before the assembled Commons of his country? Can such a man possess moral or political principle? We think not. The sense of the House, in favor of a conviction, seems to have been already taken by the adoption of the first of a series of Resolutions, by a majority of TEN; but it is probable, from the PERPETUAL MOTION of Mr M'Kenzie's tongue, the proceedings which have already occupied two days, will not end before a week.

MONTREAL GAZETTE.—During the last two days the weather has been much milder than those which preceded it. We noticed that on Wednesday and Thursday the thermometer ranged at 10° or 12° below zero, yesterday and to-day it was fully as much above it.

HAMILTON, (U. C.) MERCURY.—To the utter disgrace of this Province, the unfortunate sufferers who lost their property during the late war, have been kept in suspense for sixteen years, many of them in a state of poverty and destitution, such as might render them fit objects of public charity, if they had no better claim upon their fellow subjects; but to withhold from them a just debt, which has often been acknowledged and partly paid, is cruel and dishonourable in the extreme. As soon as our Legislature provides their proportion of this debt, £57,000 sterling will be applied by the British Government to the same purpose, which will be so much added to the common stock and to the circulating medium of the Province. Surely this ought to be a sufficient inducement to bring the matter to a close, if there were no better. But when the public honor stands pledged to it, it is base to hesitate, and those who would oppose it, can be no other than the secret and decided enemies of the country, let them mask their designs in whatever garb they may. Were a private individual guilty of such a breach of honor as has marked the conduct of our Legislature with respect to this debt, his name would be branded with disgrace, and his word considered a mere dead letter; but when the honor of a nation is concerned, it is of much more importance to preserve it pure and unsullied, as it in-

volves the general interests and character of the whole community, and proves a lasting injury to the public service; for who, after so notorious a breach of common honesty, would confide in the promises or the engagements of our Legislature again? We trust that this act of justice will be no longer delayed than until the next Session of the Provincial Parliament, and that the sufferers will then be relieved, and the deep stain upon our national character wiped away from the public annals of our country.

ST. JOHN COURIER.—The Light House lately erected on Cape Sable Seal Island, was lighted for the first time on the 28th November. The Light, which is stated by our informants to be one of the clearest and most brilliant exhibited on the American coast, is a fixture, elevated about 80 feet above high water mark, on the S. W. part of the Island, and can be seen by persons approaching it from any point of the compass. The persons engaged to superintend the establishment are confidently expected to give every satisfaction; and much benefit to those engaged in navigation will doubtless result therefrom.

The Gannet Rock Light was lighted on the 20th inst. displaying a Standard brilliant red light.

A most convincing proof of the attention that is now paid to the different departments of Agriculture in this Province, may be inferred from the fact, that 100 firkins of Butter have been shipped by one of our merchants on board the brig Maria, bound to Liverpool, England. This is really changing the course of trade in our favor; for it is not many years since large quantities of butter were annually imported into this Province from the mother country. We trust the present speculation will prove successful, and that in future the produce of our dairies may form no inconsiderable item among our articles of export.

ST. JOHN, OBSERVER.—Yesterday, about a quarter past three o'clock, P. M. our city was alarmed with the cry of Fire, which had broken out on the premises of Mrs. Thomas, in Princess-street, in the occupation of Mr Wm. Reynolds. The dwelling house itself is completely burnt down, and the fire communicated to Mrs Boyd's barn, which is very much injured. The stable adjoining the premises, occupied by W. H. Robinson, Esq. was torn down by that Officer as a precautionary measure to save the Commissariat Office.

The brig Edward Walker, John M'Kenzie master, part owner, which sailed from this port for Dublin on Wednesday last, is reported to have gone ashore about 4 miles above Digby Gut, at 3 o'clock on Thursday evening. The crew consisted of the Master, Mate, and five men:—of whom Captain M'Kenzie (who it is said had his back broken by a stroke from the main boom, before the vessel struck,) and four men with a passenger (name not known) were lost: the Mate and one man saved, but both much frost bitten. Further particulars have not reached town.

Extract of a Letter dated Montreal, Saturday, 17th December.

'A prospectus for the formation of a Company of Canadian Merchants and others, with a capital of at least £50,000, is preparing. The object is to take a share in the English trade, and to have a person well skilled in the business at home to purchase and despatch the goods. The prospectus will be submitted to subscribers next week; and the shareholders will pay for their shares and, the operations of the Company commence without delay. About £20,000 are already promised, and a gentleman, I hear, is authorized to take a large number of shares for the country merchants; and the retailers in town will be solicited to take shares. The Company will, as soon as possible, also engage in the Provincial trade.'

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:
TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1833

By the arrival of the Ontario, at New-York, we have been put in possession of London dates to the 3d ult. The most important information which these dates communicate, is—that riots to an alarming extent have taken place in England, but they appear to have originated entirely from intemperate language having been used by members in both Houses of Parliament, upon discussing the merits and demerits of the late Reform Bill. Property to the amount of half a million sterling, has been destroyed at Bristol, and several lives have been lost. It does not appear by these disturbances, that any thing threatens the general tranquillity of England. With a promptness peculiar to the British nation, the army, the yeomanry, the influential persons of ALL POLITICAL sects, have rallied round the standard of Government, and are exerting themselves to prevent farther disorder.