

the same perception of the sublime and beautiful in nature and art, when distinctly placed before them by the touches of a master—and, what is most of all to the present purpose, the same desire, having once been pleased, to be pleased again. In short, you will find that in the higher and better class of works of fiction and imagination duly circulated, you possess all you require to strike your grappling-iron into their souls, and chain them, willing followers, to the care of advancing civilization.

“When I speak of words of imagination and fiction, I would not have it supposed that I would turn loose among the class of readers to whom I am more especially referring, a whole circulating library of novels. The novel, in its best form, I regard as one of the most powerful engines of civilization ever invented—but not the foolish romances which used to be the terror of our maiden aunts; nor the insolent productions which the press has lately teemed with under the title of fashionable novels—nor the desperate attempts to novelize history which the herd of Scott's imitators have put forth, which have left no epoch since the creation untenantated by modern antiques, and no character in history unfalsified; but the novel as it has been put forth by Cervantes and Richardson, by Goldsmith, by Edgeworth and Scott. In the writings of these and such as these, we have a stock of works in the highest degree enticing and interesting, and of the utmost purity and morality—full of admirable lessons of conduct, and calculated in every respect to create and cherish that invaluable habit of resorting to books for pleasure. Those who have once experienced the enjoyment of such works will not easily learn to abstain from reading, and will not willingly descend to an inferior grade of intellectual privilege, they have become prepared for reading a higher order—and may be expected to relish the finest strains of poetry, and to draw with advantage from the purest wells of history and philosophy. Nor let it be thought ridiculous or overstrained to associate the idea of poetry, history, or philosophy, with the homely garb and penurious fare of the peasant. How many a rough hind, on Highland hills, is as familiar with the “Paradise Lost,” or the works of his great national historians, as with his own sheep-hook! Under what circumstances of penury and privations is not a high degree of literary cultivation maintained in Iceland itself—

“In climes beyond the solar road,  
Where savage forms o'er ice-built mountains,  
The music has broke the twilight gloom  
To cheer the shivering native's dull abode!”

And what is there in the character or circumstances of an Englishman that should place him, as a matter of necessity, and for ever, on a lower level of intellectual culture than his brother Highlander, or the natives of the most inhospitable country inhabited by man? At least, there is always this advantage in aiming at the highest results—that the failure is never total, and that though the end accomplished may fall short of that proposed, it cannot but reach far in advance of the point from which we start. There never was any great and permanent good accomplished but by hoping for and aiming at something still greater and better.”

We add one or two detached passages from this excellent tract:—

**Village Enthusiasm.**—“I recollect an anecdote told me by a late highly respected inhabitant of Windsor as a fact which he could personally testify, having occurred in a village where he resided several years, and where he actually was at the time it took place. The blacksmith of the village had got hold of Richardson's novel of ‘Pamela; or Virtue Rewarded,’ and used to read it aloud in the long summer evenings, seated on his anvil, and never failed to have a large and attentive audience. It is a pretty long winded book—but their patience was fully a match for the author's prolixity, and they fairly listened to it all. At length, when the happy turn of fortune arrived, which brings the hero and the heroine together, and sets them living long and happily according to the most approved rules—the congregation were so delighted as to raise a great shout, and procuring the church keys, actually set the parish bells ringing. Now let any one say whether it is easy to estimate the amount of good done in this simple case. Not to speak of the number of hours agreeably and innocently spent—not to speak of the good fellowship and harmony promoted—here was a whole rustic population fairly won over to the side of good—charmed—and, night after night, spell-bound within that magic circle which genius can trace so effectually, and compelled to bow before the image of virtue and purity which (though at a great expense of words) no one knew better how to body forth with a thousand life like touches than the author of that work.”

**A Taste for Reading.**—“If I were to pray for a taste which should stand me in stead under every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness and cheerfulness to me through life, and a shield against ills, however things might go amiss, and the world frown upon me, it would be a taste for reading. I speak of it of course only as a worldly advantage, and not in the slightest degree as superseding or derogating from the higher office and surer and stronger panoply of religious principles—but as a taste, an instrument, and a mode of pleasurable gratification. Give a man this taste and the means of gratifying it, and you can hardly fail of making a happy man, unless, indeed, you put into his hands a most perverse selection of books. You place him in contact with the best society in every period of history, with the wisest, with the tenderest, the bravest, and the purest characters who have adorned humanity. You make him a denizen of all nations, a contemporary of all ages. The world has been created for him. It is hardly possible but the character should take a higher and better tone from the constant habit of associating in thought with the class of thinkers, to say the least of it, above the average of humanity. It is morally impossible but that the manners should take a tinge of good

breeding and civilization from having constantly before one's eyes the way in which the best-bred and the best informed men have talked and conducted themselves in their intercourse with each other. There is a gentle, but perfectly irresistible coercion in a habit of reading, well directed, over the whole tenor of a man's character and conduct, which is not the less effectual because it works insensibly, and because it is really the last thing he dreams of. It cannot, in short, be better summed up, than in the words of the Latin poet—

‘Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros.’

It civilizes the conduct of men, and suffers them not to remain barbarous.’

## COLONIAL.

### SPIRIT OF THE PROVINCIAL JOURNALS.

**MONTREAL GAZETTE.**—Every friend to constitutional liberty, and every well-wisher of the Province, must derive satisfaction from a perusal of the highly important messages which have been communicated to the Assembly during the present week. They display a firmness of character, a decision and energy which ought to be found in every British Minister; they speak the language of one, who will not tacitly permit the rights of his sovereign, nor the interests of the country to be trifled with by a party, whose sole aim is anarchy and confusion. They are couched in language far more determined than any that has been adopted in former communications and it appears to us that these documents augur well for the decision of His Majesty's Government, no longer to be deceived by the pretensions of the Assembly, but to apply itself vigorously to remedying those evils, which a weak and absurd system of legislation has entailed upon this Province.

The Message in relation to the Supply Bill, expresses clearly the constitutional mode in which supplies can be accepted by the Crown. The bill of last year contained provisions and conditions, which were tacked to it in the Assembly, upon which the Members of the Council could not give their opinion—they had either to accept or reject, and it is pleasing to know, that even if the Upper House had betrayed the cause of the country, and sanctioned such an assumption of controul—such a dictation to the Crown, as to the manner in which it should distribute its offices, as the Supply Bill of 1833 presented;—that if the Council had tamely assented to such an inroad upon the prerogatives of the Crown, His Majesty never would have given his sanction to such an arbitrary project on the part of the Assembly. Unless the House return to its senses during the present winter, an event that can scarcely be imagined, it is very unlikely that a Supply Bill less objectionable will be offered—the country must remain in the present state of confusion, and ruin and bankruptcy be the fate of every officer of the Government. We, however, are happy to find by the tone of the Despatch, that the Home Government will not long permit such a state of things to continue, and will apply a remedy that will not prove palatable to our demagogues of the Assembly. His Majesty's Government, however, do not pretend to say that the conditions, which were added to the votes of the Assembly, are of such a nature as not to be accepted, provided they were sanctioned by both Houses in a bill, where the merits of those conditions of holding office could be fairly tested, unclogged by those restrictions which are connected with a money bill, but when they are adopted by the Assembly only, without any possibility of being discussed in the Council, they become unconstitutional and improper.

The second Message relating to the unwarrantable expulsion of the Hon. Dominique Mondelet, is an able document, and well worthy of an attentive perusal. To understand the question fairly, it is perhaps necessary to revert back to the history of the resolutions under which that expulsion took place. In 1825, a resolution was passed in the Assembly, vacating the seats of all members of that House who should accept of office, and bills to the same purpose were duly passed in the sessions of 1826, 1827, 1828, and 1830, the second and fourth of which passed the Council, and were severally reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, but this determination of the King has never been made known. The passing of these bills was a complete acknowledgment on the part of the Assembly that the question of expulsion of their own members for accepting of office, was not solely within their own jurisdiction but required a solemn act of all the branches of the Legislature. On the 15th February, 1831, Mr Neilson introduced a resolution, declaring that until the Royal assent be given to a bill of that nature, the house would, of its own authority, declare the seat of all Members accepting of office, to be vacant, and direct a new writ to issue. This was a total violation of the constitutional privileges of the other branches of the Legislature, and in direct opposition to all equality and justice. The Hon. Mr Panet was the first who was at all likely to be brought within the pale of the resolution, but on declaring that he had accepted of the situation of Executive Councillor, without salary, he was permitted to retain his seat. Next year Mr Mondelet obtained the same office on the same condition, and was expelled. He derived no profit or emolument from his office, yet in the face of the declarations of Mr Neilson himself and others, that he could not by any interpretation, be deemed to fall within the resolution, his seat was unconstitutionally declared vacant, and His Excellency declined affixing his signature to a writ, which would have sanctioned this decision, so contrary to the plainest rules of evidence. The Secretary of State has fully approved of the course adopted by the Governor-in-Chief and the reasoning he has adopted is clear to every perception. The resolutions are regarded as illegal, when not sanctioned by a law of the land, but even if legal, the interpretation given to the case of Mr Mondelet, is deemed wholly inapplicable. The object of vacating seats on the acceptance of office, is to

prevent the Crown exercising an improper controul over the Representatives of the people, who are referred back to their constituents on accepting office. This in England has been effected by an Act of Parliament, and less objection would be offered to a similar measure, if constitutionally brought forward, though the instances of Members of the Assembly accepting of office under the Crown, are few, and the chances of the Government corrupting our pure and immaculate Commons are very limited.

The third Message transmitted by His Excellency to the Assembly, is of a local nature, and alludes to the distress said to prevail in the lower parts of the Province, from the total failure of the crops. His Excellency has, on his own responsibility, and from his own funds, advanced on behalf of the Province, about £600, in aid of the unfortunate sufferers. It is certainly to be hoped that the benevolent views of His Excellency may be seconded by the Legislature, and that they will as promptly reimburse the amount thus advanced, as they did when the Earl of Dalhousie was prompted to act in a similar manner, to the sufferers by the great fire which occurred in New-Brunswick in 1825.

The fourth Message relates to the Emigrant Tax Bill, to which His Excellency has received instructions not to give the Royal Assent, in case a similar bill should pass this season, but to reserve the same for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure. This step, we should imagine, has been resolved upon, in consequence of the strong remonstrances made by Upper Canada to the Bill in question, and has probably been obtained through the exertions of Mr. Solicitor General Hagerman, who, on his visit to England, had instructions to oppose a continuation of the measure, or to obtain its absolute repeal. We have always been favourable to some legal provisions being made for the support of emigrants arriving at Quebec and Montreal; but now, that a change is in contemplation, we should prefer that that aid should be voted from the general funds of the Province, as is now done in Upper Canada, than obtained either by a duty upon the tonnage of the vessels conveying the emigrants, as was originally proposed by Mr. Dewitt in 1831, or by a poll tax upon the emigrants themselves, as is effected by the Act now in force, to which strong constitutional objections have been urged by the Sister Province. Whatever modification may be made upon the present law, we hope that at least one change may be made by rendering the law equally applicable to all persons, and that emigrants from the United Kingdom, may not be placed on a worse footing than those coming by the St. Lawrence from foreign countries, from the adjoining Provinces, or from the West India islands, who, strange to say, are exempt from the tax in question, to which all coming from Britain are subject. The easiest mode of avoiding all difficulties, is by a vote from the general revenue of the Province, and an Imperial Act may probably be obtained, to prevent parishes at home shipping off their paupers, without making adequate provision for their support on arrival here.

The fourth message communicated to the House, is by far the most important of the documents which we have submitted to our readers. It is a clear and distinct announcement of His Majesty's determination to preserve inviolate the British constitution in this Province, to oppose firmly the absurd scheme broached by the Assembly, of calling a national convention for the avowed purpose of overthrowing our present form of government, and a positive intimation that the Colonial Secretary is prepared, should dissensions continue to take place in Canada, to call upon the Imperial Parliament, to amend the Act under which our Legislatures meet. Though Mr. Stanley says he is not ready at present to recommend to the British Parliament a repeal of the Act of 1791, which divided the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, he certainly tells the Assembly, in language which they cannot possibly misunderstand, that such a step will inevitably be taken, if they persist in their present unconstitutional course of opposition to Government. Will the Assembly persevere, or will they retrace their steps? We hope they will persevere; we trust they will continue to exhibit how totally unfit they are to be entrusted with legislative powers; we desire nothing better than a farther exhibition of their prejudice and animosity; and we look forward with satisfaction to the hope now held out for obtaining that healing measure, so long desired by every true friend of the Canadas, a *Legislative Union of the two Provinces*. Let them resolve as they please—let them load their journals with reports—let the speeches of their Members exhibit the same violence of language as has hitherto been used, the Colonial Secretary will not brook menace—His Majesty's Government are determined to be firm—the British lion is aroused, and the supremacy of the Mother Country over this Province, and the practical working of the British Constitution among us is to be maintained. The despatch of Mr. Stanley can be repeatedly read, without losing its interest to those who, to use his own expression, are ‘inimical to the introduction of institutions inconsistent with monarchical Government.’

The Despatches and Messages subsequently communicated to the Council and Assembly, were received by us too late to offer any remarks upon them in the present number, and we must therefore reserve them for a future occasion, by which time we shall probably have a few more similar documents to comment upon.

### LEGISLATURE OF LOWER CANADA.

The Governor-in-Chief now informs the House of Assembly, that in answer to his reference, he has received from the Secretary of State a Despatch, from the following extract in relation to the case of Mr. Mondelet, is transcribed for the information of the House:—