

defies them—defies them to the mortal combat, here before this company, here in the presence of men and angels, to prove his innocence, their bold and overweening treason?" and he hurled his ponderous glove to earth.

"Well said and nobly, gallant Earl!"—cried Seyton, "so shall this cowardly be staid, and floods of Scottish blood be spared. On to thy *dévoir* and God will shield the right."

And at the word the heralds rode forth again, the foremost bearing the glove of the challenger high on a lance's point. Again the trumpets flourished, but not now as before in peaceful strains. At the loud clangor of defiance the confederate chiefs again strode to the front, their horses led behind them by page or squire, and as the menace of the challenger was proclaimed loudly and cheerily by the king at arms, a smile of fierce delight flashed over each brow.

"I claim the privilege of battle," shouted the impetuous Glencennin.

"And I—'and I—'and I—'—rose horsely into air the mingled tones of Morton, Lyndesay, and Kirkaldy, as each sprang forth to seize the proffered gauntlet.

"I am the senior baron!"—shouted one—"And I the leader of the van!"—cried another, and for a minute's space all was confusion, verging fast towards strife, among those chiefs of late so closely linked together. Till the deep sonorous voice of Murray, in after days the regent of the realm, was heard above the tumult.

"For shame—my lords—for shame!"—Scents it so much of honor to do the hangman's office on a murderer, that you would mar our fair array with this disgraceful broil for the base privilege. By heavens, should the duty fall on me, I should perform it, doubtless, even as I would perform the meanest that came before me under the name of duty—but, trust me, I should hold the deed a blot upon mine ancient escutcheon, rather than honor. But to the deed, my lords—the herald waits our answer. Lord Lyndesay, thine is the strongest arm, if thou wilt undertake the deed, thou hast my voice!"

"As joyfully!"—muttered Lyndesay beneath his grizzly moustache—"As joyfully as to the banquet, do I go forth against the craven traitor.—Morton lend me thy falchion for the trial—that two handed *espaldron* which slew Spens of Kilspindie at the brook of Fala, in the hands of Archibald of Douglass, thy renowned forefather.—God give me grace to wield it, and it shall do as trusty service on the carcass of yon miscreant!"

"It is decided, then,"—cried Murray; and not a voice replied, for none had the presumption to dispute the fitness of the choice, which thus had fallen on a leader so renowned for strength and valor.—"Herald!"—he continued—"Go bear our greeting to her majesty of Scotland and say to her, we do accept the challenge. An hour's truce we grant—an equal field here, on this hill of Carbury. The noble Earl of Lyndesay will here prove, upon the crest and limbs of that false recreant, James, some time the Earl of Bothwell, the justice of our cause—and so may God defend the right."

The shout, which rang from earth to heaven, at the noble confidence of Murray, bore to the ears of Mary and her trembling followers, the assurance that the challenge was accepted:—an assurance, that sounded joyfully in every ear, but that of his who uttered the bravado. Many a time, and oft, had Bothwell's crest shone foremost in the tide of battle—many a time had he confronted deadliest odds with an undaunted visage, and a victorious blade;—yet now he faltered—his bold brow blanched with sudden apprehension—his frame, muscular and lofty as a giant's, actually shook with terror—and his quivering lip paled, ere he heard the name of his antagonist. Whether it was that guilt sat heavy on his heart, and weighed his strong arm down, or that his soul was cowed by the consciousness that he was unsupported and forsaken by all his friends, he turned upon his heel, and muttered some inarticulate sounds, half lost within the hollow of his beaver, he strode to his pavilion, and thence sent his squire forth, to say that he was all at ease, and could not fight until the morrow! Mary, herself—the fond—confiding—deceived Mary, burst on the instant into loud contempt, at this hardly credible baseness.

"What! James Bothwell false!"—she cried—"then perish hope—I yield me to the malice of my foes—I will resist no longer. Oh, man! man! base, coward, miserable man! Is it for this we give our hearts, our lives, ourselves, to your vile guidance? Is it for this that I have given thee mine all, mine honor, and, perchance, my soul! that thou shouldst cowardly desert me at my utmost need!—Little, oh how little doth the cold world know of woman's heart, and woman's courage; for thee would I have perished, oh how joyfully,—and thou—oh God! oh God!—It is a bitter, bitter punishment for my credulity and love; but if I have deserved to suffer, I deserved it not at thy hands, James Bothwell! Seyton, true friend, to thee I trust mine all. Go summon Kirkaldy to a parley: say Mary, Queen of Scotland, rather than look upon the blood of Scottish men, will grant to her rebellious lords those terms which they desire! Nay, interrupt us not, Lord Seyton. We care not what befall that frozen viper, whom we warmed within our bosom till he stung us. Away—let Orkney quit our camp, for, by the glorious light of heaven, we never will behold him more."

## POLITICAL EXTRACTS.

### SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

LONDON TIMES.—*Resignation of Ministers.*—We are happy to say that the result which we yesterday anticipated, has actually occurred. We do not mean that we rejoice that two estimable members of the Cabinet have ceased to belong to it; but we rejoice that the majority of the Cabinet have at last assumed that firmness the want of which has hitherto disgraced them, and have, by a persevering adherence to a just principle, brought a question of transcendent importance to an

immediate issue. As soon as this determination was peremptorily arranged, the two dissentients, Mr Stanley and Sir James Graham, expressed their equally fixed determination to resign their offices. But there was still a possibility of impeding this apparently easy result. The King might have hesitated to accept these resignations, and by that hesitation might have embarrassed the proceedings of the remaining members of the Cabinet, and have produced almost inextricable difficulties, by exciting the alarms of the liberal party, or the hopes of their enemies. The King has, we have reason to believe, acted on this occasion as he has on all the critical emergencies which have occurred since his accession to the throne. Straightforward in manner and patriotic in design, he at once, without vexatious circumlocution or inexpedient delay, consented to adopt the course which his conviction pointed out as most useful to the country. He, however, reluctant to part with two Ministers whose talents and character have won the Royal regard, consented to accept their resignations. With the knowledge of this fact, Lord Althorp went last night to meet the House of Commons: his course had been rendered plain, and a short explanation would have put the members in possession of the important fact, that the principle which was sought to be established by the house had also triumphed in the Cabinet. But even while Mr Ward was speaking, the unexpected intelligence is conveyed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that a sudden difficulty has sprung up in a quarter where certainly he had no reason to expect any. He learns that two other members of the Cabinet had also, from motives which, as we cannot understand, we shall not attempt to appreciate, tendered their resignation to His Majesty, which, however, it was understood had not been accepted. Puzzled at this extraordinary intelligence, unable during a sitting of the house to acquire any certain knowledge by which to shape his course under new circumstances, he did the only thing which he could then do with advantage—he asked for an adjournment of the house till Monday next. In the interval it is expected matters will be arranged; the two members who were seized with the unexpected wish to resign, will, it is thought, retain their places, though they could be better spared than their two more consistent colleagues, whose decisions are unaltered. In these comparatively personal matters, however, the country has very little reason to feel any interest; all they can care about it is, that the result may be the triumph of a beneficial principle, and the formation of a ministry which will carry into effect all those reforms which the nation has a right to look to at their hand with vigour, perseverance, and resolution.

One thing is quite clear, we have a right to expect—indeed to assume as a fact—that in the choice of colleagues as successors to the retiring Ministers—Lord Grey will be more careful as to his materials than he proved to be in some of those which he has now got rid of, and we must add, that in some of those which still remain to clog and thwart, or dilute and enfeeble, the natural policy of the Noble Lord's Administration. That there are persons in the political world, members of each House of Parliament, well qualified to add strength and character to an administration founded on liberal principles, the country has no reason to doubt; so that any selection of bad or inefficient Ministers, to supply the place of those who have at length succeeded, cannot be justified on the plea that none better are accessible for the public service. We repeat again and again, that what we want is a Cabinet that will know its own mind—a Cabinet that will not undo to-morrow what it does this day—that it will not drag its friends through the dirt, nor with every week that it remains in office loose ground, instead of gaining upon the respect and affections of the people. May 28.

The communication which Lord Althorp made to the House of Commons last night, and which led to the adjournment of the House to Monday next, shows that the Whig Administration received a blow which has shaken it to its very foundations. Whether the Cabinet will go to pieces, or patch itself up for a short time, by a compromise of principle which may enable its constituent parts to come together once more, we cannot pretend to say. To us this appears to be a matter of very little consequence; the Whigs have so falsified the expectations which the public at a former period had of them, and have excited so much disappointment and disgust with regard to both their foreign and domestic policy, that all reflecting people must be convinced that even if they should weather the present storm they must soon go to wreck, and share the disgraceful fate of every Ministry that forfeits the public confidence.—May 28.

MORNING HERALD.—*Defeat of Ministers.*—The Ministers were defeated by no inconsiderable majority, on the subject of the contributions made by merchant seamen to Greenwich Hospital. While no one can be more sensible than ourselves of the value and importance of that most splendid monument of national munificence which shelters the decrepitude of our Naval veterans, we are yet anxious to see its resources provided by means strictly national and just. We do not think that the payment of the merchant seaman is any longer such. We say any longer, because we are of opinion that peculiar privileges afford a justification for peculiar burdens, and therefore that while the British sailor had privileges in British ports which were denied to foreigners, he might justly be called on for some specific contribution towards a national object, from which he was likely to derive contingent advantage. This state of things, however, has passed away. A new era of legislation has confounded the claims of the British and foreign Sailor, and no plea can any longer be set up for peculiar exactions from a class to whom no peculiar advantages are accorded. The abolition of the privileges, and the abolition of the payment have gone together; which is the greatest evil, it is difficult to determine.—May 28.

LONDON MORNING HERALD.—*Death of General Lafayette.*—The Paris papers received by express, bring intelligence of the death of General Lafayette, after a short and violent

illness, the fitful vicissitudes of which had, it would seem, almost up to the last moment, emboldened his friends to hope that the issue would have been otherwise. His name, more than that of any other individual living, is connected with modern history, and may be said to be so identified with that of 'revolution,' as to be almost a convertible term for it. Without any immediate connection with the causes of the great convulsions which have shaken the world for the last half century—for he was an actor, not a plotter—Lafayette was present at the birth, and acted as the god-father to most of them. His interference in North American affairs greatly influenced the ultimate secession of the United States from this country, and upon every occasion he is found most prominently mixed up with all the extraordinary scenes which occurred in his own country some few years subsequently. But though cradled in insurrection, his character was mild and his disposition merciful. He revolted from scenes of blood; but, strange to say, justified those outbreaks which, necessarily provoking resistance, must in their nature be sanguinary. He was weak enough to think that the most violent disorders might be perpetrated in an innocuous peaceful manner. He would not hurt a fly, and could yet approve of convulsions which unsettled all the guarantees of life, liberty and property.

Weak and inconclusive in council, he was straight-forward and formidable in action, most commonly the slave of his own impulsive attachment to abstract liberty, or the tool in the hands of somebody more cunning and less principled than himself. He was the last of that theoretic school which received its notions of sedition from the writings of the philosophers, and was as unlike a modern Republican as D'Alembert to a member of the *Adie-Toi* Society. His reputation belongs to the former rather than the latter revolution. During the 'three great days' of 1830, he certainly took a leading part, but his countrymen impute to him that upon that occasion he displayed more generosity than judgment, and to his good natured error in measuring the King's character by his own, is imputed much of the evils which have since unsettled France. He it was who accepted Louis Philip's vague assurance 'that the Charter should henceforward be a verity,' as a full pledge of the newly-elected Monarch's intentions respecting the Charter.—He lived, however, long enough to be himself the dupe of this *naïveté*, and after being the hero of so many revolutions, he died the victim of the last, having been ill-treated, slighted and disgraced, by the very man whom he had raised to power.

By a very slight acquiescence in the wish of the people in 1830, Lafayette might have declared himself head of the 'French Republic,' but he was contented with the more humble title of 'Chief of the National Guard,' a distinction, however, which in a very few months, the ingratitude of the King obliged him to abandon in disgust. His death, under present circumstances, is an affair of considerable national importance. He was avowedly the head of the Republican party in France; at once the most influential and the most respectable of that political sect. How far his departure will act upon the future conduct or present importance of the Republicans, appears to be a question of doubt amongst the speculative in that country. May 28.

## SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 8, 1834.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The arrival at Halifax of H. M. S. President, has put the editors of papers in that place, in possession of London papers to the 29th May. The principal item of intelligence thus furnished is, that a difference of opinion having arisen among the Members of H. Majesty's Cabinet, upon important questions, the Duke of Richmond, Lord Goderich, Sir James Graham, and Mr Stanley, had tendered their resignation on the 27th. The two latter were accepted, but there was some hesitation as to the others. The particulars of this event as far as reported by the extracts, will be found in another place. The veteran Lafayette died at Paris on the 20th May, at the advanced age of 77: he was in the possession of all his faculties up to his latest hour.

NOVA-SCOTIA.—Major General Sir Colin Campbell the newly-appointed Governor of this Province, arrived at Halifax on Tuesday last, in H. M. Frigate President. His Excellency landed at noon the following day, under a salute from that ship, and proceeded to the Province Building, accompanied by a Guard of Honor, and in the presence of the Members of H. M. Council and the Public, took the usual oaths of office.

The Novascotian contains the following highly laudatory remarks on the conduct of Mr Jeffery, the late President of this Province, during his administration of the Government:

His Honor the President laid down the reins of Government this forenoon, after having presided over the Province of Nova Scotia for the last eighteen months. At the commencement of his administration, we gave him frank and honest advice—and we rejoice that the end of it, we can bestow unqualified approbation. We were of those who did not expect much from his elevation to the Government—and we are most happy that we have been agreeably disappointed. Upon principle, we have always been opposed to investing a public officer with the powers of the Executive, because it opens a door to abuse, and diminishes that system of responsibility and control which are es-