

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XII:1

Nec arcanarum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

Number 36.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, May 18, 1841.

THE GLEANER.

THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

London Standard, April 19.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.
The Paris Journals of Friday and Saturday have reached us. On Thursday a majority of the Chamber of Deputies, consisting of 195 against 57, agreed to all the extraordinary and supplemental credits for the departments of War, Marine, and Public Works, amounting altogether to the sum of 200,000,000 francs. The Uniers asserts, that there has been a perfect reconciliation between Count Mole and M. Thiers. The discussion of the bill for recruiting the army commenced on Friday. The expenditure of the French government in 1841 will amount to about 60 millions sterling, of which at least one third (more than the revenue of the country will cover) has been expended in warlike preparations. To this must be added the expenses of the conscription laws. The attendance on the debate on this bill was thin, and in its general discussion M. Beaumont was the only speaker. The first fifteen paragraphs were, in fact, adopted without opposition. A question of interest was, however raised by M. Corne, a deputy from one of the northern departments of France, who proposed that all the inhabitants of the French territory, the offspring of foreign parents, should, if they were born in France, and resided in the country until 20 years of age, be liable to the conscription law. This amendment, which was supported by M. Golbery, a deputy from Alsace, and M. Poalle, the member for Toulon, was warmly opposed by M. Odillon Barrot and M. Guizot, who argued that the almost daily reclamations made by the French to other governments, in assertion of the rights of Frenchmen, although born out of France, to be exempted from military service, disqualified them from so seriously infringing on the rights of other nations. After a short discussion M. Corne's one-sided proposition was rejected. Sure the French government has troops enough for its *pair armee*, without thus straining the law of conscription so as to entrap the offspring of those foreign residents to whom it stands indebted for so much of its prosperity. Hitherto 40,000 men only were taken annually from their families. Now, after four years' service, one half of this number are sent home as part of the army of reserve. The commission estimates the army and the reserve at 550,000 men, whilst Marshal Soult made the new law produce 620,000 men, including the volunteers. Surely such an army will answer any demand that may be made upon France during a period of peace.

Workmen are crowding into Paris from all departments, for the purpose of assisting in the construction of the *excrcinte continuee*. On Friday a large body of men passed through Paris on their way to Mount Valerien, the works of which are to be pushed with the same activity as those of Charenton and Saint Denis. The influx of workmen into Paris has raised the price of meat to an exorbitance which places it beyond the reach of the greater portion of the labouring classes.

London Atlas, April 10.

PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENT.

We are arrived now at that short recess which separates the session of Parliament into two unequal parts, and we can take advantage of this brief interval to look back for a moment upon the path we have already trod.

The review is, upon the whole, highly satisfactory. Much good has been accomplished and much evil has been averted. If the after part of the session should only perform the promise which the former part has already given, the present year shall have good claim to be remembered as one of tranquil and practical improvement.

Lord Stanley's bill has at length effected good: it has gathered all the virulence of the opposition into one focus, and by drawing all their power upon spot, has left them little time or energy to spare for 'watching, harassing and obstructing' the Queen's government in the exercise of the ordinary functions of administration. If the majority, although it be but five, should still hold good, we shall not have to repine that this pestilent production has existed to draw the buzzing hornets around it, and prevent their settling upon some more useful thing.

Even a majority of five in favour of freedom and peace, and against slavery and civil war, is, in the present low state of liberal principles, in the House of Commons, a cheering commencement of the session. After the great party fight has been postponed beyond the recess, many bills of real utility were brought forward, which have been dismissed with a

moderation we never saw, while the Tories had no great scheme of opposition, and acted only upon the harassing principle. Some of these have advanced far towards maturity, and among them the County Courts' Bill seems to afford fair promise of extending the protection of the law to the humbler classes, and abrogating that corrupt and shameful system which has taken the scales from the hand of our English Justice—rendering her a goddess, blind indeed, but using her sword blindly and indiscriminately upon all suitors. This bill, if it should happily escape the ordeal of the House of Lords, will introduce habits of honesty among the lower classes, and make our little tradesmen punctual and exact in their dealings as our merchants are; it will remove the public scandal of the law being more dreaded than the swindler, and it will render rare the now frequent occurrence of an honest creditor receiving at the hands of our law, ruin, instead of redress. This bill has been prepared with great care, after enquiries made by five distinct commissions, composed of the first men in the profession of the law, and aided by the evidence of commercial men of every rank and station. That it has its petty faults, even now may not be denied, but these are so entirely comprised in its details, that they can be rectified without in any way interfering with the general scope of the measure. The country has approved this bill as one of enormous practical importance, and is most rightly anxious that it should pass.

Of still greater importance is the bill for continuing the powers of the poor law commission, a bill conceived in wisdom, and pressed with energy and courage against the foul-outpourings of falsehood, ignorance, and malignity which ever assailed a great public good. This measure has already passed nearly thro' the committee, and all the house will have to do with it after Easter, will be to negative the crochets of about a dozen members, very great Solons in their own estimation, and then to read it a third time. The bill is, in effect, already passed.

It is painful to read the sickly fallacies uttered by Radical and Tory members of Parliament, and written by notoriety hunting parsons in the Times newspaper. These persons hold up a dietary which is certainly not very sumptuous, and they describe a state of being which is certainly not very comfortable. It would, perhaps, be too much to ask these scribbling parsons, amid their daily avocations of visiting union houses and preparing highly seasoned descriptions for the capacious gorges of the Times newspaper, to find time to attend to their pastoral duties of visiting the poor and the sick in their own cottages. But if they can, will they tell us what they have seen there? Take a labourer who has his family to keep and a £5 a year rent for his cottage to pay out of his weekly wages of 12s. They will find his cottage clean, his good dame not very miserable, and his children, not very smartly dressed, but as playful and mischievous as monkeys—that is, when all is going well with the good man of the cottage, for, when sickness or want of employment comes, then a period of squallor and wretchedness will come with it. But take this labourer at his best, and the Reverend anti-poor law reporters of the times will look upon him as a happy being compared with the inmate of the union house. No doubt he is, but what does the difference consist in? Does it consist in the difference between the diet of the cottage and the dietary table of the parish pauper house? Do they suppose that if they searched the crock in which the dinner of that labourer's family is seething, they would find that the materials obtained at the cost of two or three pence, would look more attractive in a dietary table than the weak beef broth, the weak coffee, and the oatmeal porridge which is held up to execration as the famine diet of the pauper house? Certainly it would not be so. The children of the labourer would eat the oatmeal porridge with avidity, and the labourer himself would look upon the broth as a luxury. Bread sparingly consumed, and potatoes and other vegetables are his usual diet, and they also form the diet upon which his family increases and his young ones thrive. Divide his twelve shillings—and we here allow wages half as much again as those of the *well paid* labourers of the Duke of Buckingham—into the necessary divisions which answer to their wants; set apart a portion for his rent, another for his own and his family's clothing, another for fuel and light, and another for the small necessities which a family always entails—then count what remains for the week's supply of food, and count the months which is to fill—try to draw up a dietary table in accordance with the capabilities of this remnant of the week's wages. We will defy any man to do so without finding himself compelled to adopt materials and quantities which shall make him

wonder when he looks upon it, and look with less disgust upon the oatmeal and beef broth of Somerset House.

London John Bull, April 18, HOLIDAY WEEK.

Another Easter is come and is gone—so wears life away; and the buds on the trees, which in the spring time of youth served as sweet announcements of the coming summer, look to us like the notches on Robinson Crusoe's stick, records of the number of days we have passed. The Houses of Parliament have adjourned. The Court has gone to Windsor, where, as the newspapers tell us, every precaution is taken to prevent the public from witnessing the domestic felicity of the Sovereign and her Consort—everything is done privately now; even the hunting is carried on in *incog*. We certainly take credit to ourselves for obtaining for the people some information respecting the young Princess Royal. Till we noticed the extraordinary silence upon so interesting a subject

'Oh no, they never mentioned her,

Her name was never heard.'

Now, we are happy to remark the proceedings of the Royal Infant are duly registered in the daily Court Circular. A damp hangs over the country arising from the doubtful fate of the President, nor do we think the delays and dangers of the British Queen at all calculated to allay the worst apprehensions. There are many excellent, estimable, and highly gifted persons whose fates are involved in the fate of the President, but it is remarkable that her passengers amount to only twenty-seven—not more than one quarter of the number which she has been known to have had on board. In fresh water nauticals, the splendid exhibition of the contest between the men of Oxford and Cambridge, on Wednesday, takes the lead. It cannot fail to be gratifying to the noble fathers and mothers of these patrician youths, to see them not only rising to the highest stations in the Church, the Senate, the Law, and 'all that sort of thing,' but to behold them emulating the Keppens, the Phelps, the Cambells, and the Coombes's, in the classical and graceful exercise of the ear.

London Examiner, April 19.

SIGNS OF REFORMATION AMONG CHARTISTS.

The maxim, that party is the madness of many for the gain of a few, has never been more forcibly exemplified than in the conduct and fortunes of the Chartists. As the many become less mad, the few will become still fewer, and the gains scarce in proportion. Even as it is, Mr F. O'Connor is desperately and hopelessly inviting the people to raise a fund to be paid into the hands of his banker, for some regenerative purpose; while in London, under circumstances equally unprosperous, arrangements have been made for calling together a Convention, whose members, however they may have profited by a former experiment, will find themselves helplessly doomed to take rank with the Unpaid, and form a new class of public creditors. Everything denotes that the cries of the misguiders of the Chartists, and of their diminished followers in the country, are 'loud not deep,' signifying less and less! while in the metropolis, we have evidence of the decline of ardour and the inferiority of class, not only in the scanty numbers of a public meeting—four hundred on an Easter Monday to summon a Convention—but in the quality of the persons elected as the metropolitan delegates, three of the noisiest and least respectable of the tribe of leaders in London being unanimously chosen. In the mean time the more honest and enlightened of the Chartist body are uniting their energies to form—not a Convention to reform the too ridiculous burlesque of the year before last—but a new Political Association, the principles and details of which they explain in an address to the Reformers of the United Kingdom. Whatever we may think of the scheme, or of its present prospects of success, it is impossible not to see that Mr Lovett and the other promoters of it, are resolved to employ their powers more creditably and wisely than their late associates, who assembled on Monday to call the convention, and who figure, to the delight and profit of the Tories, in the disgraceful work of insulting anti-Corn Law speakers wherever they may appear.

Bell's London New Messenger, April 19.

PASQUINADES.

We are told by the Court scribe that on Good Friday, in consequence of the New Terrace at Windsor not being opened, the Cockney visitors at that place 'waited in shoals' to catch a glimpse of her Majesty, as the Royal party left Saint George's Chapel to proceed to the Castle. Herring and mackerel go in shoals and why should not *flat fish*.

Dukey made a grand discovery the other day—he made a conundrum. Turning to Lord Fred., as they were driving along, he saw two shops, a carpenter's and a barber's, close to one another. 'I say nunky,' said his Grace, 'those two fellows deal in the same article.' 'How so?' said Lord F. 'Why don't they both have 'shavings' in their shops?'

Hong Kong is one of the Ladrone Islands—Ladrone in Spanish meaning *thief*. The polite Chinese have given the barbarians the Thieves Island. How complimentary!

'I really do not see why Ambassadors should have such large salaries,' said an Economist to Hook, the other day in a political argument. 'My dear fellow,' was the fat 'un's answer; 'their expenses are but consistent with diplomacy—they must have full power to treat.'

Glencel gives his decided preference to wearing a hat in lieu of a nightcap, as the somniferous influence is more agreeably 'felt.' He patronizes the 'short naps' chiefly.

More Legislation.—Ben Hawes intends shortly after the Easter recess, having disposed of his 'Reform' Medical Bill (by the way what can a soap boiler know about the dispensing of 'pills, potions, and bolusses,' and the virtues of sarsaparilla, ipecacuanha, assafetida sugar plums, and jalap)—to introduce the following additional measures:—To prevent little urchins shouting 'hot cross buns' on Good Fridays. To abolish the shameless practices of milliners' girls and 'prentices indulging in the game of 'kiss in the ring.' To disallow the pastime of 'hunt the slipper.' To put down the unseemly revels of 'tom cats' on 'house tops squalling.' To forbid little boys with a cotton line, brass pins, and worm, to indulge in the cruel, inhumane pastime of angling for 'little bats.' To transport every Christian that gives a penny to a street beggar. To forbid charity boys to eat perriwinkles and greed gooseberries. To hang every obnoxious soul that objects to the power of the Poor Law Commissioners.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

From the Westminster Review.

COMMERCE AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTS.
If the best evidence of the improved condition of the human race is to be sought in the subjugation of those difficulties by which in the ruder state of society, man is isolated from man, is it not strange that intelligent legislators should be found, not engaged in removing, but in creating barriers to intercommunication, not lowering, but raising, impediments to the free interchange of commodities; not aiding men to transfer to one to another what they may severally desire to alienate or obtain, but interfering with the poor man's labor, the rich man's capital, the adventurous man's enterprise, the instructed man's knowledge, the active man's exertion, by narrowing each and to all the spheres of profitable engagement? For by every impost, every restriction, by every prohibition is the value of labor, of capital, of knowledge, enterprise, and activity diminished. * * * The first impediments to free and uninterrupted interchange between man and man, had their origin in the necessities, real or pretended, of princes and potentates to levy contributions on the community. The advantages and blessings of barter might, it was supposed, be well purchased at some pecuniary sacrifices to be made by the buyer and the seller. * * * Nearly fifty millions are levied for the service of the state, but a far higher amount is furtively collected for the encouragement and support of agricultural and colonial monopolies. In the heavy drain of enormous fiscal demands we pay the penalty of the rash wars, the busy meddlings, the costly corruptions of our forefathers; but larger still are the sacrifices we are compelled to make by the laws which fetter trade, depreciate labor, absorb capital, and levy imposts on every consumer. * * * Enough of man—intelligent, civilized, religious man—basely employed in damaging himself and injuring his neighbour by outward and disastrous legislation. Enough of man occupied in the unreasonable and unholy task of sacrificing great interests to small—the toiling many to the privileged few—the vast claims of beneficence to the narrowest selfishness. Enough of man repudiating the fruits of our common mother, earth—the labor of his brethren—the various gifts of God!

Foreign Quarterly Review.

THE FUTURE OF THE SAXON RACE.

* * * The true church was strong enough in ancient days to resist all attacks from within, and even to endure the schisms and heresies of Macedonius, Arius, and Socinus, and the British church is at present assuredly