

THE WORTH OF BOOKS.

THE effect of my writing on the public mind is mathematically unassurable by its depth of thought. How much water does it draw? It it awakes you to think; if it lift you from your feet with the great voice of eloquence; then the effect is to be wide, slow, permanent, over the minds of men; if the pages instruct you not, they will do like flies in the hour. The way to speak and write what shall not go out of fashion, is to speak and write sincerely: The argument which has not power to reach my own practice, I may well doubt, will fail to reach yours. But take Sidney's maxim:—'Look in thy heart, and write.' He that writes to himself, writes to an eternal public. That statement only is fit to be made public which you have come at in attempting to satisfy your own curiosity. The writer who takes his subject from his ear and not from his heart, should know that he has lost as much as he seems to have gained, and when the empty book has gathered all its praise, and half the people say—'what poetry! what genius!' it still needs fuel to make fire. That only profits which is profitable. Life alone can impart life; and though we should burst, we can only be valued as we make ourselves valuable. There is no luck in literary reputation. They who make up the final verdict upon every book, are not the partial and noisy readers of the hour when it appears; but a court as of angels, a public not to be bribed, not to be entreated, and not to be overawed, decides upon every man's title to fame. Only those books come down which deserve to last. All the gilt edges and vellum and morocco, all the presentation-copies to all the libraries will not preserve a book in circulation beyond its intrinsic date. It must go with all Walpole's Noble and Royal Authors to its fate. Blackmore, Kotzebue, or Pollok may endure for a night, but Moses and Homer stand for ever. There are not in the world at any one time more than a dozen persons who read and understand Plato;—never enough to pay for an edition of his works; yet to every generation these come duly down, for the sake of these few persons, as if God brought them in his hand. 'No book,' said Bentley, 'was ever written down by any but itself.' The permanence of all books is fixed by no effort friendly or hostile, but by their own specific gravity, or the intrinsic importance of their contents to the constant mind of man. 'Do not trouble yourself too much about the light on your statue,' said Michael Angelo to the young sculptor; 'the light of the public square will test its value.'

THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

London Shipping Gazette, April 2.
ALTERATION OF DUTIES.

The modification intended to be proposed by Mr Labouchere of the scale of duties originally suggested by him last month, in the committee on the trade of our possessions abroad, will doubtless prove satisfactory to even the boisterous recusants of all interference with our West India Colonies. After consultation with parties whose interests are wound up with those of our Colonies in the West, and in North America, the President of the Board of Trade has found that the reduction of duties proposed by him to be made upon many articles, not the produce of the United Kingdom or of British possessions in America, would not be sufficient to strike off the shackles of commercial difficulty by which our West India dependencies are at present bound.

Finding this to be the case, and that even the reduced duties originally suggested by him would in fact amount still to a prohibition to import the articles for which he intended to open our colonial ports, Mr Labouchere has intimated his intention to propose, that instead of the ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. on the articles specified in the schedule of the 3rd and 4th William IV., which are now liable to duties varying from 15 to 30 per cent., he will modify his proposition to an uniform duty of 7 per cent.

Thus, at present, clocks, watches, leather and linen manufactures, musical instruments, wires of all kinds, and books, paper, silk, &c., not the produce of the United Kingdom, are subject to an ad valorem duty, when imported into our West Indian and North American Colonies, of 30 per cent. Glass and cotton manufactures, soap, refined sugar, sugar candy, and manufactured tobacco, being foreign produce, and similarly imported, are, at present, in these colonies, liable to a duty of 20 per cent. Goods, wares, and merchandise, not otherwise charged with duty, and not declared free of duty by the 3rd and 4th William IV., being foreign produce, are liable in these colonies to a duty of 15 per cent. The proposition of Mr Labouchere last month was to reduce the duty on all these articles to an uniform impost of 10 per cent. over all duty imposed on such articles, when the produce of the United Kingdom, or of British possessions, by the Colonies themselves. But the proposition the right

hon. gentleman now intends to submit to the committee on our colonial trade is, that 7 per cent. over and above the colonial impost on British produce shall be the duty upon all the articles we have enumerated, including also the numerous class upon which a duty of 7½ per cent. is now levied, but which was not proposed to be affected by the proposition originally made by Mr Labouchere.

Again, it is intended that a further reduction from the original decreased scale shall be proposed upon two most important articles connected with the agriculture of our West India Colonies. There is at present a specific duty of 7s. per 1,000 on shingles of 12 inches, and of 14s. per 1,000 on shingles above 12 inches. These duties Mr. Labouchere originally proposed should be reduced to an uniform specific duty of 3s. 6d. per 1,000—he now intends to propose a reduction to an uniform duty of 2s. per 1,000. There is at present also a specific duty of 11. 1s. on pitch, pine, and other lumber one inch thick, per thousand feet. This was proposed by Mr Labouchere to be reduced to 10s. 6d. per 1,000 feet, but his intention now is to propose the reduction of it to 7s.

We publish elsewhere all the resolutions which are intended by the President of the Board of Trade to be submitted to the Committee on our Colonial Commerce; but we have detailed above the principal modifications recently introduced in his propositions, and their bearing, comparatively with the present duties, and the reductions originally proposed to be made from them.

These modifications are not only called for by sound policy, but by impartiality. The duties upon East India and West India sugars have been equalised; the bill for the equalization of the rum duties will, in a short time, be the law of the land; and when we consider the increased expenditure provided for by our West India dependencies, and made necessary by the new institutions rendered requisite by the emancipation of the negro—when we consider that the same Act which caused these results, affected injuriously, and in a considerable degree, the agricultural interests of those colonies—when we find the present state of the Colonies to be such as to demand the utmost encouragement from the mother country; and when we find that the differential duties upon foreign produce imported into our West India and Canadian possessions, over those duties imposed upon British produce, are two, three, four, and five times as great as those imposed upon foreign produce, when imported into our other Colonies;—when we consider these facts, we are at a loss to conceive what well-founded opposition can be made to the increased reductions about to be proposed by the President of the Board of Trade.

We have already shown that, upon most of the articles of foreign produce imported into our West India and Canadian possessions, there are duties imposed which vary from 15 to 30 per cent. over the impost levied upon British produce. Let us now look to the differential duties imposed on foreign produce imported into our dependencies elsewhere. In India, the duty on foreign silks and cottons is but 4 per cent. over those of Great Britain; in Ceylon, the differential duty ad valorem on foreign manufactures is only 6 per cent.; and in Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales, where British produce is admitted free; there is a duty of five per cent. only on foreign goods. Even-handed justice demands that, at least the propositions of Mr Labouchere, respecting Canada and the West Indies, should be agreed to—the boon proposed to be conferred on them being less than those already bestowed upon our dependencies in the East.

London Southern Advertiser, March 30.

UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY.

The only important foreign news received during the week is that from the United States, by which it appears that the leading members of the Harrison Cabinet have declared their earnest desire to maintain a friendly intercourse with Great Britain on honourable terms. The case of Mr. McLeod, which has been so prolific of newspaper discussion, was not deemed by the President of sufficient importance to notice in his inaugural address to Congress. The only passages which related to the power or propriety of one state interfering in the affairs of another, though asserted by some portions of the London and Provincial press to bear upon the case of McLeod, plainly relate to a question of greater magnitude in America, and even more important to the interests of humanity, viz.: the license claimed by New York, for instance, to interfere with the Southern slaveholding states respecting the abolition of slavery. Notwithstanding that the new President came into office as the representative of the intellect of his country instead of its prejudices, the republican dignity has been compelled by the power of an ignorant populace to proclaim his adhesion to the slave-system. This land of universal freedom, therefore, is still to continue, in its government, in its institutions, laws, and customs,

the chosen seat of the plague-spot of humanity. Oh liberty! liberty!

The disputed boundary question, it appears, is now in a fair course of settlement; but it has been so for so many years that we are not a little sceptical in the present instance. If Mr Clay, however, who is a man of talent and experience, and inclined to be straightforward in the discharge of his public duty, continues in his present position after reading a few of Lord Palmerston's dispatches, we shall then have some belief in the assertion.

But the war question—ay, there's the rub. The very silence respecting the case of Mr McLeod and the burning of the Caroline, though deemed by the more hasty writers of the press as symptomatic of a rupture, has a direct contrary object in view. It is well known that arrangements are in progress by which an investigation by the authorities is to be made; and all diplomatic experience has shown, that when some important matter is in course of settlement, nothing is said upon the subject; so that silence is the best augury we can have that our dearly-beloved brother Jonathan is not so foolish as he himself at one time would have us to believe. He tried his voice, no doubt, at a little bluster, in imitation of the French; and as the latter were circumvallating their capital with a brick wall, he must needs talk of defending his immense line of coast by ramparts, bastions, and other protective means. Jonathan, however, has a most judicious dislike to his Government getting into debt, whatever individual debts he may contract himself, and as he could afford no more than the paltry sum of £200,000 to line so many hundred miles of coast with battlements, he has very quietly allowed the subject to be converted into one of 'improvement.' We take some little credit to ourselves in having our opinions thus confirmed by Jonathan himself, whose recent placability has somewhat confounded not a few of those writers who already saw fire and slaughter on the main, and conquest on the shore. The old lion of England, though somewhat tamed in peace by the conduct of his present keepers, has but to place his paw on a national affront or injury, and he will shake the dew from his swelling mane, and stand at once the victor and protector of the world.

Colonial.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

Fredericton Sentinel.

We understand that His Excellency Sir John Harvey, intends embarking for England, in the steam packet, which is to leave Halifax on the 4th May, and that a Levee will be held by his Excellency at Government House, and also at St John, previous to his departure from the Province; notice of which will be given in the next Royal Gazette. The Levee at Fredericton will probably be held on Monday the 26th or Tuesday the 27th inst.

St. John Herald, April 21.

New Brunswick Agriculturist.—We understand that the first No. of this work will appear early in May.—From the known talents of the Editor, Robert Bayard, Esq. M. D., we anticipate a large circulation for the work; and we have no doubt that the information diffused in its pages, will be the means of greatly benefiting the agricultural interests of this Province.—For the better convenience of binding and preserving, it will appear in Magazine form—Price city, 5s. per annum; when sent to the country by post, 6s.

Dismissal of Sir Allan McNab.—From the Hamilton Gazette, we learn that this 'great and good man' has been superseded in his office of Queen's Council, by the appointment of James E. Small, Esq. who has received instructions from the Governor Gen. to conduct the Crown prosecutions, throughout the Western Circuit.

From the St. John Courier.

Steam!—The steamer North America started on Thursday morning on her first trip to Boston this season. She has undergone sundry refittings and alterations in her interior arrangements, with a view to render her more comfortable and convenient, and is now under the command of Captain Mabey, an experienced seaman and pilot, and in other respects, also, well adapted for the situation. The North America proceeded from this port to Windsor last evening, being her first trip thither this season.

St. John Observer, April 20.

Peter Robinson, the murderer of Mr Snydam, was executed at New Brunswick, New Jersey, on Friday last, the 16th instant, at 10 o'clock in the morning. He was hung in front of the jail; he maintained the same hardened indifference till he saw the gallows, the sight of which caused him to tremble a little. When he was swung off, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground. Immediately afterwards he got upon his knees, and appeared to be in the act of prayer for a few minutes. The rope was then put around his neck again, and he was hauled up, and was thus choked to death, his neck not being broken.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Guardian, April 21.

The Rev. Simon Fraser's Address.—A very earnest, and faithful, and practical Address, from the pen of the Rev. Simon Fraser, now in Scotland, to his late congregations at Glenelg and Kouchibogauac, will be found in a Supplement to this day's paper, which we beg leave to recommend to the devout attention of our Readers, more especially to those who, like the Presbyterians at Miramichi, once enjoyed, but are now destitute of the ordinances of Religion. Mr Fraser has already approved himself as a Minister of God, amongst his countrymen on the banks of the Miramichi; and although he has found it necessary to return, for a short season only we hope, to his native land, his affectionate people cannot fail to rejoice, that he is still mindful of them, and desirous to promote their spiritual welfare, that he is anxious they should live in peace with each other, and maintain that christian unity for which they have been so long distinguished.

At the time when he penned this Address, he was unable to state how, or when they would be supplied with another Pastor. But from a letter lately received from him, dated on the 22nd of March, and from an extract taken from the Missionary Record, and inserted in this day's paper, it appears that the Rev. John McBean; of the parish of Ardelach, Nairnshire, has been appointed for Alnwick; and is now on trial for ordination before the Presbytery, and may be expected to sail for New Brunswick in a very short time. 'I am sorry,' says Mr Fraser in this letter 'that I have not yet been able to find any one willing to accept of the charge of Glenelg, but I hope, and pray, that one may be soon found ready to say, 'here am I, Lord, send me.' I cannot rest satisfied, neither can I acquit my conscience until that cure is supplied. The Church here is in such an unsettled state, that it does not find peace, I think it would be preferable to be in America, and that it will not be so difficult to find ministers to go as formerly. Indeed I shall not say but I may yet return, but God only knows, I wish to be reconciled to his sovereign and blessed will.'

Novascotian, April 21.

Charles R. Fairbanks, Esq., late Master of the Rolls, and Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty, expired on the 15th inst., and was followed to the grave by a numerous body of his fellow citizens on Sunday.

Mr Fairbanks has been before the public for many years—as a lawyer, a member of the Legislature, and a Judge—and in each capacity earned a reputation for untiring industry, indomitable perseverance, and extensive information. Our first recollection of him, as a member of the Assembly, was as the leader of the opposition on the old Custom House controversy, in which he distinguished himself by his sound constitutional and liberal views, the stand he took, at a later period, on the currency questions, well entitled him to the respect and gratitude of his countrymen; and although he had his faults, which sometimes marred the effect of his better qualities (and who is there of whom the same may not be said) he was a man that a young country might well be proud of, and can scarcely afford to lose. As one of those who, on the bustling theatre of public life, have acted with or against him, as our own judgment led us to believe he was either right or wrong, who have often listened to his eloquence, and been instructed by his information, we cannot but feel that the descent into the tomb, at so early a period of life, of such a man, is a common misfortune, particularly when we reflect that he has shortened his existence by excessive labour. Mr Fairbanks rarely unbent the bow, rest was to him irksome, and toil a delight, but the 'over-wrought brain' at last prostrated the whole system, and his family are left to deplore the loss of a valuable life, which, by a less sedulous devotion to the business of his office, and to his favourite pursuits, might have been prolonged for many years.

Halifax Royal Gazette, April 21.

His Excellency Sir John and Lady Harvey, we understand, may be expected here in the course of next week.

It seems a present uncertain when Major General Sir Jeremiah Dickson, appointed to the command of the Troops in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, may be looked for, it is probable, however, he will be a passenger in one of the May Steamers.

The situation of Brigade Major at Fredericton was discontinued by the Horse Guards on the 31st ult.

We are sorry to learn that letters from Montreal have been received which mention that His Excellency the Governor General had sustained a very severe attack of illness. When the last accounts came away, he was somewhat better, but still unable to attend to business; his Lordship however signed a Proclamation, farther proroguing the Parliament from the 8th inst. until the 26th May, for Despatch of business.

Friday, May 14, is appointed to be observed as a day of fasting and prayer in the United States, as a tribute to the memory of the late General Harrison.

The Highland Society gave their annual Ball on Thursday evening last, at the Mason Hall. The Guests were numerous, and the entertainment most splendid.