

their owners. If the treatment we recommend were resorted to twice or thrice a year, and orchards were not burdened with grasses or small grain, but subjected to row culture of some kind, we entertain but the slightest doubt but that even trees which are now enjoying a mere breathing existence, might be resuscitated into vigorous health, provided care were taken in judicious pruning the decayed limbs and applying a proper composition to the wounds thus made.

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Colonial Gazette. A REFORM OF COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

Dipping into our friend the "Grumbler's Diary" with a view to fish out some amusing picture of scenery, men or manner, we stumbled on the following growl. We have given it a place at present in preference to other extractable matter, because it dwells upon the real source of colonial mismanagement—the inadequate organisation of the Colonial Office as a service. It is less the men who are to blame than the rickety machine they are expected to work. We do not mean to say that the "Grumbler" has hit upon the best reform, but he has hit upon what requires reform.

It is well known that the colonial minister with the under secretary is removed, not only at every change of administration, but for the convenience of ministerial arrangements oftentimes during the existence. Thus within a few years we have seen Sir G. Murray, Lord Goderich, Lord Stanley, Lord Glenelg, Mr. Spring Rice, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Normanby, Lord John Russell, and Lord Stanley, to the head of colonial affairs; and considering the extent of our colonial possessions—north, south, east, and west,—with the mass of business which must present itself for consideration, can it be wondered at that, under a change of secretaries and under secretaries, the settlement of long agitated questions should be procrastinated? that grievances should go unredressed, and those decisions which had been arrived at by one minister should be revised, amended, or forgotten by his successor? Looking, therefore, at the constitution of this office, its sectional division, its one permanent under secretary (the valuable depository of all the difficulties of colonial government, from Newfoundland and the Canadas to Australia and New Zealand), and, above all, to the complete absence of practical and local knowledge which prevails on colonial matters throughout the office, can it be a matter of wonder that this department should be stamped as the most inefficient, dilatory, prejudiced, and illiberal of the whole machine of the British Government?

And so long as its present constitution exists, and the extent of its dominion remains undiminished, it must be so. What then is the remedy for a system which has produced at divers times an utter alienation of the Canadas, serious difficulties in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Jamaica, Natal, Mauritius, Australia, and New Zealand, with a mass of discontent in every island of the West Indies where the public voice can be heard through their representatives or the public press? Place the office under a board of permanent commissioners, with a secretary of state at its head, and let no one be promoted to the rank of commissioner or higher clerk in the office who has not qualified himself for the duty by a five years' initiation, every young man should be posted to a government abroad, as sub or extra secretary, to enable him to obtain some practical knowledge of our colonial system. Surely a department formed of gentlemen conversant with colonial society, would be more likely to unravel the meshes of colonial questions than those who have been educated among the eternal round of formal official correspondence. How often are the aggrieved colonial communities charged with disloyalty for attempting to set forth their complaints; and individuals who are forced into an opposition line of conduct, stigmatised as factious, interested parties, utterly unworthy of attention, from the absence of some individual to explain who and what the situation of the complaining persons may be?

If this view of the colonial department be thought exaggerated, let the style and tone of successive secretaries of state to the governors of colonies be examined. As a mild instance, let us take the language of a despatch of Lord Goderich (and no one will doubt his lordship's urbanity and kindness of heart) to Sir Lewis Grant, dated 14th January, 1832, in answer to a communication made to the colonial department by the agent of Trinidad, enclosing various papers respecting the revenue and expenditure [a legitimate object of solicitude on the part of tax-payers] of that island. The despatch runs thus, and may be found in that mine of official palaver, the "Blue Book," presented to Parliament on the 21st of February, 1832:—

"I enclose herewith a copy of a communication which has been made to me by Mr. M., containing various papers in regard to the revenue and expenditure of the colony under your government, which have proceeded, it is said from certain persons who are designated as the committee at Trinidad, and which are signed by a Mr. J—, as vice chairman. I have no knowledge of any such body, of the manner in which it has been constituted, or of the functions which it assumes to perform. Considering these papers, however, as proceeding from some persons who interest themselves in the welfare of the colony under your government, and recommended to attention by a gentleman of respectability in this country [N. B., and in-

fluential member of Parliament, and one of the first merchants of the metropolis], I have to request that you will call upon Mr. J— for copies of them, and that you will bring duly under my notice such remarks and explanations as they may appear to you to require. You will at the same time call the attention of Mr. J— to the circular instructions which have been issued from this department respecting the mode in which communications are to be made by the colonists to the local authorities, and if ultimately necessary, to his Majesty's Government; and you will point out to him the uselessness of any other mode of communication, and the delay which is occasioned by adopting it."

Now, any person reading this despatch would conclude that the writer of it was not in the best of humours when he penned it, and that a Mr. J— had presumed to put himself forward as the organ of some nondescript body of colonists, who took an interest in the affairs of Trinidad from a pure love of disturbing the quietude of the very sensitive gentlemen of Downing street. It so happens, however, in this very "Blue Book," containing in all 43 pages, there is a letter from the Trinidad agent to the Secretary of State, dated December 30, 1831, enclosing "The humble memorial of the undersigned planters and merchants of the island of Trinidad being the members of a committee appointed at a general meeting of all the inhabitants of the colony, in the month of November last," which memorial sets forth a long list of grievances under which the inhabitants of Trinidad were then labouring, from the defects in their legislative and judicial system, and signed, as the agent states, "by persons who raise and export four fifths of the whole produce of the island, and comprise all the considerable mercantile houses in Trinidad." On the 31st of December, 1831, a further communication is sent to the Colonial Department by the agent, enclosing documents relating to revenue and expenditure from the same committee to which the letter last quoted and date refers. And on the 30th of January, that is, 16 days after the above letter to Sir L. Grant was written, by the next packet, a long and elaborate dissection of the memorial follows, for the edification of the petitioner, a copy of which is directed to be communicated to that body; so that it would appear as if the ruffled dignity of the Secretary of State had calmed down between the 14th and 30th of January, and "waiving every question of secondary importance"—that is, "the transmission of petitions to the department through any other channel than that of the Governor, which is not only inconvenient, but indicates some failure in that respect, which is due to every officer to whom his Majesty has been pleased to delegate the local exercise of many of his prerogatives;" and considering only the nature of the application, and the station occupied in the colony by the persons from whom it proceeds, he condescends to go through the complaints preferred by the petitioners.

To any one who knows Trinidad the expression in the letter of the 14th January, "a Mr. J—," is amusing; for not only is he a very eminent man in the profession of the law, and a large landed proprietor, but, even looking back ten years, he was decidedly one of the most prominent characters of the community of Trinidad. What has been now stated is only a faint instance of the Colonial Department's style of dealing with the colonies: ten, twenty years pass on, and the same complaints, the same grievances, remain to be redressed. The reason is clear—it is impossible to feel an interest in those things whereof we are ignorant; and until the senior officials acquire a local knowledge of the wants and exigencies of the communities which they control and govern, no reform can take place. To conclude this portion of the subject, on which volumes might be written, with a hint for the especial benefit of the Secretary of State: Send forth an under secretary to visit the colonies in detail, to mix freely with society, and report on all subjects connected with their political condition, and much which now appears intricate will disappear.

United States Press.

From the New York Albion.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

In the debate in the House of Commons on "the state of the country," which we published last week, Lord John Russell took occasion to ask of Ministers, "Have you passed any measure to increase your exports to the United States?" accompanying the question by statements of the diminished value of those exports.

It has long ago appeared to us that very erroneous ideas prevailed at home in regard to the position of the trade between the two countries, which it is desirable should be rectified, and we therefore attempt it.

In the first place, it is argued that by giving increased facilities to the exportation of corn from the United States, you would increase the exports from England to this country. Do those who entertain this opinion know that at present England imports from this country a greater value than she exports to it? The fact is indisputably proved by the rate of Exchange between the two countries, which with some slight exceptions—and then the currency here was in a deranged state—has always been in favor of this country, or, in other words, she has had more to receive from England than she has had to pay her. Indeed, the imports made by England from the United States during the last twelve months have been so much greater in amount than the exports from England to the United States, that England has had to pay the United States a balance of some five or six millions sterling in specie, besides which she has received payment of the interest due her, the amount of which, notwithstanding repudiation,

must still be considerable, in exported merchandise. Now, this being the existing state of the trade between the two countries, we cannot see how a still further increase of exports would lead to increased exports from England. Were the case the other way the argument might hold good; but assuredly it at present is not.

Again, it appears to us that it is not correct to infer that there is a diminution in the extent of any given branch of trade from a diminution in the declared value of the exports or imports. Value is a question of price and not of quantity. The value may be materially less and yet the quantity exported and consumed abroad may be materially larger, and this Lord John Russell does not at all seem to take into account in his estimates. Exports from England have certainly fallen one half in price and their value therefore now, shows double the quantity that it did before the decline in prices took place, and we may add, that this general decline in prices has much more to do with the currency question than with any regulation affecting trade.

We are happy to be able to say in conclusion that there are all around us evident indications of a strong revival of trade, and that next spring certainly there will be a large increase in the consumptive demand of this country.

Colonial News.

Nova-Scotia.

Halifax Times, September 5

Newfoundland papers were received by the mail packet Sandwich, on Friday last, to the 24th ult.

The interesting and imposing ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Cathedral Church of that Diocese, took place on the 23d ult. A procession was formed of the principal officers of government, clergy, judges, officers of garrison, Sunday schools, temperance societies, &c., which proceeded to Government house, where it was joined by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and from thence to the parish church, where they Lord Bishop delivered an address. The procession afterwards moved to the Cathedral ground, where the assemblage was addressed by the Lieut. Governor. The Lord Bishop then proceeded to lay the foundation stone in the name of the Holy and undivided Trinity. At the close of the benediction, the military band which accompanied the procession struck up the national anthem, the numerous assemblage dispersed, and His Excellency, His Lordship the Bishop, the Clergy, &c. repaired to the Rectory. We must defer a fuller account of the proceedings, which have a historical value, until next week.

Previous to the departure from N. F. of the Lord Bishop, who has been translated to the See of Jamaica, affectionate Addresses from his Clergy, and from the Parishioners of St. John were presented to him, to which His Lordship returned expressive and feeling replies.

Halifax Guardian, Sept. 8.

The Church of Scotland.—The first fruits of American sympathy have appeared in the liberality of Mr. J. Johnstone and Mr. J. Lennox of New York, who have remitted a bill for £1,100 to the Rev. Mr. McMillan, of Kirkcubright, for the benefit of the Free Church in that locality. Dr. Chalmers has since received from the same quarter another bill for £1,100—1,000 having been contributed by Mr. Lennox, and £100 by two persons anonymously. The Free Church deputation to Ireland have been very successful. From a letter which has appeared from Mr. Makgill-Crichton, we learn that the subscriptions in Belfast have reached £3,500; at Newry, £20, besides 150 contributed at the Belfast meeting; 270 at Ballymena; upwards of 100 at Coleraine; 330 (expected speedily to be increased to 500) at Londonderry. It is believed that the contributions from Ireland will not fall short of £29,000—a sum which indicates the extent to which the principles of the Free Church are approved of.

Royal Mail Steamers.—We have been informed, upon good authority, that there is no foundation for the report that a new steamer called the Percussa, (or Precursor) is about to be placed on the Royal Mail Line between Liverpool and this port, instead of the Columbia.

Newfoundland.

Newfoundland Public Ledger.

Cathedral and Parish Church, Newfoundland.—The interesting ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Cathedral and Parish Church of this town took place yesterday, pursuant to notice, the ceremony having been conducted nearly in accordance with the intended details published in our last. At the Church of St. John, the usual service having been performed, an appropriate address was delivered by the Lord Bishop; and the procession having arrived at the site of the new Cathedral, a suitable anthem was sung, and prayer was offered up; after which a sealed bottle, containing a scroll, bearing, we understand, the date of the ceremony, and other particulars, was deposited, together with a box, in which was enclosed several of the current coins of the Realm. The corner stone was then lowered, and fixed in its proper position, with the ceremony usual upon such occasions; and His Excellency the Governor having addressed the assembled multitude in terms appropriate to the solemnity of the service, the proceedings of the day terminated in a manner to elicit the best feelings of the congregated spectators.

Canada.

Montreal Herald, August 30. Fire and Loss of Life.—A correspondent at

Three Rivers writes us that on Sunday morning the 23th instant, a fire broke out in one of the shanties erected for the workmen by the contractors for building the bridges across the St. Maurice. In a short time the flames spread to two other shanties close by, and so rapid was their progress, that a carpenter in one of them who was with difficulty waked up, had not time to effect his escape, before the fire caught his shirt. The poor man was dreadfully burned, and removed to the Nunnery Hospital in Three Rivers, where he lingered until the following day. He was a workman from Sorel. One of the men had his hands so much scorched, in endeavoring to extinguish the burning shirt of his companion, that he has been obliged to be sent home and will be unable to work for a long time.

The shanties stood on an island in the river where the bridges are erecting, and therefore, removed from all assistance. The contractors lose a good deal in prepared timber, and the carpenters in their tools, all of which are burned. It was at first supposed to be the work of an incendiary, but was afterwards ascertained to have been occasioned by a candle, having been carelessly left burning.

New-Brunswick.

St. John Courier, September 9.

The Regatta, we believe, is likely to prove a more extensive and grand affair than even its projectors expected. Several sailing-boats from St. Andrews are expected to compete with those of St. John, and as this is the first time that there has been a match between vessels of that description at our Regatta, the contests are looked for with much interest, and we sincerely hope the weather may prove auspicious.

We understand that His Excellency Sir William Colebrooke, Lady Colebrooke, and Family, will be present to view the aquatic sports. They are expected to arrive in the City from Head Quarters, in the steamer New Brunswick on Monday, and propose remaining at the St. John Hotel during the week, where a suite of apartments has, we learn, been engaged for their accommodation.

It will be seen by a notice in another column that the Stewards of the Regatta are determined to do every thing in their power for public amusement and gratification on the occasion, and have determined that a Ball shall take place at the St. John Hotel on the evening of Thursday. We have no doubt that those under whose management it is got up will make it a splendid affair. We observe that a Pleasure Trip from Fredericton to St. John is proposed for Friday next. We should certainly think that the good folks at Head Quarters would alter their arrangements, and endeavour to be in the city on Thursday, as the scenes of the day would certainly be new and gratifying to many of them, and their presence would be doubly pleasing to their friends in St. John at such a time.

It has been intimated to us that it is expected our business people will, as usual, give those in their employ an opportunity of witnessing the sport on the day of the Regatta, but in doing so we would recommend that the window shutters of the stores be kept open, as otherwise the city has more the appearance a religious holiday than a gala day.

United States News.

New York, September 4.

Great Forgeries.—Wall street has been thrown into a state of great excitement by the discovery that a clerk of Austern, Wilmersding & Co., named Henry Saunders, has succeeded in forging on various Banks, a very large sum, —that he obtained the money, and has, it is supposed, escaped in the Great Western, steam ship.

Saunders has been missing from the counting house since mid day on the 31st, Thursday, when he was at his desk. Supposing him to be sick, no notice was taken of his absence until Saturday, when learning from one of the banks that their account was overdrawn, Messrs A. W. & Co. immediately commenced an investigation, when it seemed that this apparent overdraft was occasioned by a forgery. This led to further investigation, and this morning it appears that each of the banks named below has paid forged checks of Austern, Wilmersding & Co., for the amounts stated.

Table listing banks and amounts: Merchants' Bank, \$3,000; City Bank, 5,000; Ppenn Bank, 5,000; Bank of Commerce, 2,500; Manhattan Bank, 1,000; Seventh Ward Bank, 3,000; State Bank, 500; Union Bank, 3,000; American Exchange Bank, 2,000; Bank of America, 3,000. Total: 29,000.

The imitation of the signatures is so perfect as to deceive the most practiced eye.

It seems that Saunders, when he disappeared from the counting house on Thursday, must immediately have gone to these banks, (at all which he was known as the clerk of A. W. & Co.) which he was known as the clerk of A. W. & Co. drawn the money, proceeding thence to his boarding house, took his clothing and his bill and passing rapidly to the office of Wm. Westera, took passage under the name of Wm. Henry Taylor, of Ohio, paid \$100 therefor, and \$5 for the Steward and immediately drove up to the ship just in time to get on board, before her departure at 2 o'clock.

The man who is honest merely because honesty is the best policy, would be a felon were he not afraid of Newgate.