

tom The rocks on either side of the pass, arose to a height of at least 1,500 feet, and it was about ten miles long, and presented in the various windings many wildly picturesque points. * * * The principal inhabitants of these rocks are a few herdsmen and their goats who have constantly to dispute the ground with their enemies, the eagles and foxes. The wolf is said to have inhabited these wild regions longer than any other part of the British islands—the last Irish wolf having been shot in the year 1700, in Maggillycuddy's Reeks, whereas the last was destroyed in Scotland in 1680, and none have been seen in England since 1300, when in the time of Edward I. many were killed in Yorkshire. Perhaps the gradual extinction of these fierce animals may serve as a standard to measure the progress of civilization in the three countries. The goats are by no means carefully tended by the herdsmen, who, indeed, seldom look after them much, except once a year, when they collect the herds, take such as are fit for the market, and set the rest at liberty again. They generally calculate that ten out of every fifty will be destroyed by the eagles and foxes, or perish in some way or other among the mountains. A little river rushes through the Gap of Dunloe over the rocks, and in the middle of the valley several small lakes, of a most remarkable appearance, are formed; namely, the water has the peculiar property of staining all the ground it flows over of a deep black colour, so that now in the beginning of October, when the waters, after an unusually dry season were very low, the black rocky hollow, on which we were riding, had the appearance of a gigantic inkstand half empty. Had there been at the bottom the rugged masses of black rock, some smoke and flame instead of water, we might have imagined we were looking into the dark entrance to the infernal regions. The Irish have named all this part of the Pass, with good reason, the "Dark Valley."

LAKES OF KILLARNEY.

"The effect of the lakes of Killarney, with their banks of soft meadow land and the rich fringe of trees scattered over them, is greatly increased by their lying in the midst of this rocky wilderness. They are also sprinkled over with a number of grassy and wooded islands and peninsulas running out far from the main land into the bosom of the lakes, and forming a never ending variety of straits, bays, and harbours of fairy proportions. On many of these, wealthy amateurs, delighted with the solitary and fantastic character of the place have built ornamental cottages, and thrown picturesque bridges over inlets of the lake. The whole crescent of the lakes, from one end to the other is not more than nine miles long, and forms undoubtedly one of the most varied and agreeable excursions one can take. The water appears, when looked into, of a dark golden brown color, but as clear as crystal, so that one sees to a great depth beneath it. When you dip up a glass, it shows no color. We had a crew of six rowers to our boat, for in Ireland there are always six pair of arms used where two would suffice. In reading some of the exaggerated English descriptions of the lakes of Killarney, one might fancy them to be really something supernatural. A well known Irish writer (Wakefield), for instance, expresses himself concerning them in the following manner:—"Nature here puts on the wildest and most terrific attire to astonish the gazing spectator, who, lost in wonder and surprise, thinks that he treads on enchanted ground; and whilst he scarcely knows to which side to direct his attention, can hardly believe that the scenes before him are not the effects of delusion, or the airy phantoms of the brain, called into momentary existence by the creative power of a weird imagination." This is a rare specimen of bombastic nonsense, and if all this is to be said of the lakes of Killarney, what are we to say of others that much exceed them in beauty. Nature is, indeed, almost everywhere more attractive and beautiful than any language can adequately describe; but when we do attempt the description of a country, and of the charms of a particular spot, we must speak by comparison with other places, and not forget the infinite number of lovely spots of earth to which we might do injustice by our immoderate praise of one. Besides, these vague generalities of "enchancements" and "delusions," and "airy phantoms," and "creative imaginations," really describe nothing at all. The realities of stone and wood and earth, which we meet with in nature, are beautiful enough—we do not need to try and lift them into the realms of phantasmagoria; but should do much better, if we would try and give the distant reader some idea of what has excited our admiration, by a faithful representation of the individual features of the scene, often by no means an easy task. Along the upper lake lies a range of small rocky islets, all surrounded, as well as the shores, with a black stripe, about four or five feet broad, pointing out what has been the height of the water in the summer. Immediately above the black stripe, and in sharpest contrast with it, comes a streak of white moss. I have already mentioned in speaking of the Gap of Dunloe, and over this again another of yellow force, which seems to flourish amazingly in these boggy grounds. Above all comes the beautiful foliage of the arbutus and the oak, the former making indeed, one of the especial attractions of Killarney. These beautiful shrubs are nowhere so numerous and flourishing as on the lakes and islands of Killarney, and the finest specimens may be seen shooting up among the rocks. The autumn is said to be the most favorable season for viewing them, on account of the endless variety of colors then exhibited by the leaves; and as, besides the advantage of this season, I had that of fine weather, an uncommon one at Killarney, where it almost always rains,

I certainly had reason to consider myself fortunate. Many of the islands are covered with weeds and bog, and cannot for a moment be compared with the Isola Madre, Isola Bella or others in the Italian lakes. Amongst the bold promontories of the Glenna mountain, which project in lofty and commanding forms over the lake, is one more steep and apparently inaccessible than the rest, called the Eagles' rock, because a pair of eagles have for many years had a nest upon its summit. The people of the country, however, contrive to rob the poor birds every year of their young, and sell them to this or that nobleman, who generally pays four or five pounds for the stolen goods. In the space of two or three miles, we were told, there were known to be five eagles' nests. A regular trade is carried on in the young birds who are sent to England. Between the 15th June and the 1st July, they are old enough to be brought up by the hand, and this therefore is the time when the robberies begin. The rocks on which the nests are built, are usually so steep and dangerous that they can only be reached by ropes from above. The people watch for the departure of the old birds, who fly away at regular hours in search of food. The men are then let down, in baskets, to deprive the feathery parents of their tender care. It happens sometimes, however, that the business is not accomplished before the birds return and then a desperate conflict takes place with the spoilers, who come provided for such a contingency with an old sabre or a pistol. For twenty years, our boatmen informed us, they had regularly robbed the nest on the Eagles' rock, and for twenty years the same birds had regularly returned and laid and hatched their eggs here. They are the oldest birds in the whole district, and can be distinguished by the paler color of their feathers. Generally for a week after they have been deprived of their offspring, the bereaved parents hover screaming round the empty nest, but they never seem to grow wiser by experience, or to seek for their progeny some better asylum from the ruthless rapacity of man. The men all agreed, that whenever a tamed eagle escaped, and returned to its native rocks, it was sure to be attacked and torn to pieces by the wild ones. Through a narrow channel, along which the water rushed with great rapidity, overshadowed by beautiful trees, and spanned by the half-decayed arches of an ancient bridge, we entered, after some hours rowing, the Turk lake, landing here and there to view some fine trees, or try a remarkable echo, and then passed through another narrow strait into the large lake, on one of whose grassy banks, under an old arbutus tree, we spread our noon day meal. The cold meat, the ale, and the mountain dew were fully appreciated by me and my companion, but our six rowers, though they accepted thankfully the food, seriously and resolutely declined both the ale and the spirits, asserting that they were all temperance men. We tried to overcome their objections to the ale, as it had been very cold on the water, and we thought it would do them good, but they remained firm, said it was no temptation at all, and that they would rather drink water. The officer and I really felt ashamed of our self-indulgence in the presence of these abstinent people, and consumed a much smaller quantity of the "alcoholic drinks" than we should have done, but for the reproving example before us. My friend had witnessed many of the beneficial effects of temperance in the army, and maintained that the Irish soldiers had become much improved in their discipline, and the crimes and punishments in his regiment had diminished more than one half, since Father Mathew's reform. In the "old drinking time" he had had every day some trouble and vexation in the barracks, but now he could enjoy his fourteen days' furlough, without being harassed by anxieties about the behaviour of his men.

THE BEAUTIFUL.

THE beautiful, the beautiful!
Where do we find it not?
It is an all pervading grace,
And lighteth every spot.

It sparkles on the ocean wave—
It glitters on the dew;
We see it in the glorious sky,
And in the flower's hue.

On mountain top, in valley deep,
We find its presence there;
The beautiful, the beautiful!
It liveth every where.

The glories of the noon tide day,
The still and solemn night,
The changing seasons, all can bring
Their tribute of delight.

There's beauty in the dancing beam
That brightens childhood's eye,
And in the Christian's parting glance,
Whose hope is fix'd on high.

And in the being whom our love,
Hath chosen for its own,
How beautiful! how beautiful!
Is every look and tone.

'Twas in that glance that God threw o'er,
The young created earth,
When he pronounced it "very good,"
The beautiful had birth.

Then who shall say this world is dull,
And all to sadness given,
While yet there lives on every side,
The smile that comes from heaven.

If so much loveliness is sent
To grace our earthly house,
How beautiful—how beautiful!
Will be the world to come.

Provincial Legislature.

Extracts from the Journals.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 6.

FORMATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
Downing Street, 11th July, 1843.

Sir,—I have laid before the Queen the address of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, (enclosed in your Despatch, No. 27, of the 15th April last) recommending certain measures for the reconstruction and improvement of the Legislative Council of the Province. Having maturely weighed this address, Her Majesty's confidential advisers have humbly submitted to the Queen the following opinion on the subject to which it refers.

The House of Assembly insist that the Legislative Council of New Brunswick ought to be composed of persons connected with all the great Religious Denominations, and with all the more considerable social interests of the Province; that they should be men of independent property, and of unimpeached personal reputation; that any member becoming bankrupt or insolvent, or a public defaulter, should immediately vacate his seat; that some period should be prescribed, beyond which, no Legislative councillor should be permitted to absent himself from his duties without incurring a similar forfeiture; that of the whole body, a decided majority should be persons exempt alike from any direct influence of the Executive Government, and from any dependence on the popular branch of the Local Legislature; and that the entire number of Legislative Councillors holding office at the pleasure of the Crown, should never be greater than might be necessary for the conduct of the business of the Government in that House.

From this address, and from your own Despatch transmitting it, it would appear that there is little conformity between these principles and the existing composition of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick. It is maintained in the address, and it appears to be virtually acknowledged by yourself, that of the present members, an unduly large proportion are holders of offices at the pleasure of the Crown; that such official persons constitute a majority of the members usually present at the meetings of the Legislative Council; and that there are some considerable Religious Denominations and social interests in the Province with which no member of that body has any immediate connexion. The absence of any provision for vacating the Seats of Members in the various cases already mentioned is a fact which demands no proof.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government have humbly submitted to the Queen their opinion that it would be proper to revise the Instruments by which the Legislative Council of New Brunswick is constituted. We have recommended that on that revision the number of Legislative Councillors should be increased to twenty one; that of that number seven only should be persons holding office at the pleasure of the Crown, and that the Quorum should be fixed at eight. We have further advised Her Majesty that provision should be made for vacating the Seats of Members either in the case of Bankruptcy or Insolvency, or in any case where a member should be a defaulter, or should be convicted of any of the crimes, which in the technical sense of the word are distinguished as infamous. To these Rules we have proposed that another should be added, for rendering void the seat of any member absenting himself, whether with or without leave, after the lapse of a certain prescribed period.

Thus far it has appeared to us that no practical difficulty would arise in giving effect to the views of the Assembly. But it may not be equally easy to adopt their suggestions as to the qualifications which they desire that every unofficial member of the Legislative Council should possess. To find fourteen gentlemen all at once, able and willing to serve in that House, all independent in their fortunes, and all so connected with the social and Christian Denominations of the inhabitants, as that no such interest or denomination shall be without some one Patron or Representative there, is a problem of which it may not be possible to discover any perfect solution. The utmost that can be promised or attempted is, that in the selection of Members, these recommendations will be borne in mind, and will be acted upon as far as may be found practicable.

The House of Assembly further recommend that no Councillor should hold his seat except so long as he may possess a certain Proprietary Qualification. To this recommendation the Queen has not been advised to accede. Her Majesty's Government have not thought it right that the Royal Prerogative of selecting Legislative Councillors, should now, for the first time, be narrowed by such a restriction, or that such a precedent should be established in opposition to the practice, which, during the last two centuries, has uniformly prevailed throughout the widely extended Colonial possessions of Great Britain.

Such being the advice which the ministers of the Crown have tendered to the Queen, I have received Her Majesty's commands to instruct you to signify to the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve and to adopt our recommendations; and that the necessary instruments for carrying them into effect, will be transmitted to you before the next session of the general assembly of the province. The Queen further commands me to convey, through you, to the House, the assurance of the gratification with which Her Majesty has received the renewed expressions of loyalty and affection contained in this address. Relying implicitly on the at-

attachment of her faithful Commons of New Brunswick to the constitution under which they live, it is peculiarly grateful to the Queen to find that the changes which they propose for her acceptance are entirely in the spirit of the constitution, and appear to Her Majesty well calculated to promote the great ends, with a view to which it was established, by her Majesty's Royal predecessors.

I have, &c.

STANLEY.

His Excellency Sir Wm. Colebrooke.

Downing Street, 30th Dec., 1843.

Sir,—In my Despatch of the 11th July, 1843, I informed you that Her Majesty's Government had humbly submitted to the Queen, their opinion that it would be proper to revise the Instruments by which the Legislative Council of New Brunswick is constituted. That decision was postponed only until I should be in possession of the additional intelligence which your Despatches of the 20th October, 1843, and of the 14th November, 1843, have conveyed to me.

On proceeding to execute the intention which I had thus announced, aided by your two last mentioned Despatches, it has been gratifying to me to discover that it will be practicable to fulfil the pledges contained in my Despatch of the 11th of July, without incurring the inconveniences of introducing any change in the Royal Commission and standing Instructions under which you are acting.

1. The first change to be made is that of increasing, from fifteen to twenty one, the total number of the members of the Legislative Council. In exercise of the power reserved to Her Majesty by the Royal Commission, the Queen has partially effected this alteration, by issuing, under the Royal Sign Manual, the four accompanying warrants, for the appointment of four of the additional Councillors.

2. The rule, that of the twenty one members of the Legislative Council, seven only should be persons holding office at the pleasure of the Crown, being a rule in restraint of the Royal Prerogative, and obligatory on the Crown itself is as fully established, and is as binding when laid down in Her Majesty's name, in pursuance of the commands which the Queen has been pleased to lay on me for that purpose, as if it were incorporated in the Royal Instructions.

3. That the quorum should be fixed at eight is a rule, the repetition of which would be superfluous, as it is already to be found in the Royal Commission.

4. As the commission already authorizes you, on sufficient cause, to suspend any member of the Legislative Council, and as they all hold their offices at the Queen's pleasure, the principle that every seat shall be vacated on proof that the holder has become Bankrupt or Insolvent, or a public Defaulter, or guilty of any infamous crime, is a rule which, without any change in that Commission, may be effectually established. If any such case should arise, you will immediately exercise the power of suspension already vested in you, nor will the Queen hesitate to confirm any such suspension, by the final removal of the person affected by it, if the fact on which your original order may proceed shall be substantiated.

5. The last change contemplated in my Despatch of the 11th of July, regards the effect of the unauthorized or protracted absence of Members of the Legislative Council. On referring to your present Instructions, you will however see that all that is necessary for securing this object is a close adherence to the provisions of them.

Whenever a change in the office of Governor General may render indispensable the issuing of a new Commission and Instructions, care will be taken that they should be framed in strict accordance with the views and intentions explained in my present Despatch, and in that of the 11th of July. In the mean time you will find that there is nothing in the existing Commission and Instructions which could in any degree obstruct or interfere with the complete fulfillment of her Majesty's gracious purposes. For the more complete elucidation of them, you will communicate this Despatch, and my Despatch of the 11th July, to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, in compliance with any address for the production of them which they may present you.

I have, &c.

STANLEY.

His Excellency Sir Wm. Colebrooke.

February 21.

On motion of Mr W. H. Street, Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to instruct the Commissioners appointed to negotiate a Loan to accept the amended Tender of the Bank of British North America for the said Loan.

The Honorable Mr Wilmot, by leave, presented a petition from the Reverend Ench Wood, Chairman of the New Brunswick Wesleyan District, on behalf of the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville, praying for a Legislative appropriation in support of the said Institution; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee of Supply.

The Lieutenant Governor lays before the House the copy of a Presentment of the Grand Jury of the County of Gloucester, respecting a Disease at present prevailing at Tracadie; also, a Letter from Doctor Key, with a Report of the late Board of Health, explaining the nature of it.

The Lieutenant Governor recommends to the House of Assembly that provision should be made for the due care of the sufferers, and with a view to prevent the spread of this distemper.