

## The Politician.

## The British Press.

From the London Morning Chronicle.  
THE URGENT BUSINESS OF THE  
APPROACHING SESSION.

The momentous step taken by the Government on Monday last will obviously have one very important incidental consequence, which has, no doubt, already begun to occupy the attention of ministers. An immediate meeting of Parliament is, we take for granted, regarded as a necessary corollary to the recent ministerial deliberations. Lord John Russell's known disinclination, on constitutional grounds, to anticipate the presumed judgment of the legislature on such a matter as the suspension of an act of parliament, will naturally render him solicitous to obtain immediate legislative sanction for a proceeding that in the meanwhile rests only on public opinion, and the necessity of the case. The circumstance that this most important step has been taken shortly after a general election, and while ministers are (officially) unacquainted with the temper and opinions of the House of Commons on any subject whatever, is evidently a strong additional reason for losing no time in submitting the whole matter to parliamentary approval. We suppose, therefore, that we cannot be mistaken in inferring that the legislature will meet on an early day in November, for dispatch of business. We count this a very fortunate necessity. On every ground it appears to us essential that the legislative year should commence forthwith. It is not possible to exaggerate the practical importance, to the commercial and trading community, of immediately learning the precise views of our leading public men on those vitally interesting questions which at present agitate it. We shall allude our way the clearer for knowing at once, with the distinctness and publicity which our parliamentary debate can afford, what ministers think, and what Sir Robert Peel and his late colleagues think, of the causes, proximate or remote, that have produced the crisis, and of the extent to which these, or any of them, are to be regarded as within the range of legislative action. There never was a time when the British public needed more than now the guiding and re-assuring influence of that frank announcement of Ministerial and ex-Ministerial thought and purpose, which is only to be had through the medium of parliamentary discussion. At this moment the whole order of things, in the commercial and monetary world, is provisional. We must wait till Parliament meets, to learn how far we are to consider the first and chief of our commercial and monetary institutions as in a state of revolution. Even apart from the immediate necessities of the present commercial juncture, it is in the highest degree desirable that the first session of the new parliament should at once begin. There is a vast quantity of work to be done, which would infallibly be slurred or neglected if the opening of the legislative year were deferred to the usual period.

From the London Morning Chronicle.  
STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

A writer in the Chronicle, in a letter set in leader type, and addressed to Lord John Russell, says—"Is it possible, my lord, that you are not entirely aware of the immense importance which the decision or the indecision of these passing hours will hereafter assume in your political biography. Be assured that our crisis, as a nation, is your crisis, as a British statesman. This month of October, 1847, is the turning point of your fortunes as a public man. You will be known, and remembered to the latest hour of your political life, as the minister who could—or who could not—deal with an emergency and weather a storm. This is the one point of your lordship's character on which the commercial public of this country are not as yet fully informed. The great body of your countrymen cordially esteem your lordship's many admirable qualities of head and heart; they honour your political consistency; they place unbounded reliance on your integrity; they are deeply grateful for your untiring and efficient championship of civil and religious liberty; but they are not so certain that you quite understand commercial questions, and are the minister for a commercial crisis. Long before this day month, my lord, the British public will be certain on this point, one way or the other. Your lordship, no doubt, sufficiently appreciates the influence which questions of commerce and finance largely and increasingly exercise over the public mind, and the distribution of political power, to perceive that the gain or the loss of a reputation for commercial and financial capacity is at present the most interesting incident that can happen in the life of a parliamentary leader. The trading classes of this country will never forget that the patriotic and liberal minded statesman who struggled successfully for their franchises, is, or is not, as the case may turn out, fit to rule in difficult times. A negative verdict on this issue would be very sorrowfully given in, but, my lord, it would be final. Those are not your best friends, my lord, who would shrink from informing you, that the occurrences of this week have made a deeply unfavourable impression on the public mind. From the hour that your lordship, and the gentleman who most unhappily possesses your confidence in the capacity of Chancellor of the Exchequer, dismissed the Liverpool deputation with a refusal to hold out any hope—from that hour, prudent and practical men of business

have begun talking of 'these Whigs again,' in a tone and language in which lingering sentiments of respect and esteem bear a rapidly diminishing proportion to emotions of another kind. One month, my lord, of a Government that has neither hope nor help to offer to the struggling trade, and industry of the classes that make and support all governments, and these Whigs become matter of history. A word from the lips of your parliamentary rival—that word which he has hitherto forbore from speaking, possibly from motives similar to those which delayed the appearance of a well remembered "Letter to the Electors of the city of London"—would decide the question, who shall govern England. People have a great notion, my lord, that the function of a government is to govern, and that 'liberal and enlightened opinions,' with 'consistency' to boot, have somewhat less to do with making a statesman than the practical faculty for bringing a country through a crisis. The minister of this crisis is the minister of the British Crown and people, for as many years now next ensuing as ever came within the range of a political calculation of forces."

## Colonial News.

## New Brunswick.

From the Fredericton Head Quarters.

**Providential Escape from Death.**—We learn, by a private letter from Woodstock, that John Grant, Esq., of the Crown Land Department, of this Province, one of them employed in conducting the survey of the Halifax and Quebec Railroad, came very near losing his life in that service, under the following circumstances.—It appears that about noon on the 5th instant, Mr. Grant left the party of which he was in charge, on the line somewhere near the Tobique mountains for the purpose of ascending a hill in the neighbourhood to make some observations on the face of the surrounding country, telling his party that he would return in about an hour. Hour after hour passed away until the party became alarmed for his safety when they proceeded to search for him, which search they continued from day to day until they were at last compelled to give him up for lost. It seems that Mr. Grant had left unattended and without a morsel of food or even a pocket compass, expecting to be gone only a short time, when a fog overtook him in which he lost his way, and continued to travel from the 5th to the tenth instant, without a particle of food. On the morning of the 10th, he had become so completely exhausted that he could go no further, but even in this dreadful situation he had presence of mind to take his handkerchief from his pocket and hang it as high as he could reach on a tree, on the bank of the stream which he was following down, in the seemingly vain hope that it might attract attention to the spot where he laid himself down to recruit his exhausted strength, or die. Most fortunately a party of three men were out in the wilderness exploring for lumber berths, when one of them, whose name we did not learn, observed the handkerchief and said to his companions that as it appeared to be a good one he would take the canoe and cross the stream and get it. He accordingly did so, and found, to his astonishment, its owner lying insensible at the foot of the tree. He immediately procured the assistance of his companions, and these hardy good hearted woodsmen used every means in their power to restore the sufferer, and finally succeeded in conveying him to a house on the Tobique river. Medical aid was immediately sent for to Woodstock, and we are happy to learn that Mr. Grant is now doing well, and that Dr. Rice expected it would be practicable to remove him to comfortable quarters at the mouth of the Tobique on Monday last. Captain Henderson, of the Royal Engineers, left Fredericton for the Tobique immediately on hearing of the accident which happened to Mr. Grant.

From the St. John Chronicle.

**Tribute of Respect.**—A complimentary address, accompanied by a testimonial of gratitude, was presented by the inhabitants of Campo Bello, to Doctor Deas, of her Majesty's steamer *Columbia*, previous to that vessel's departure for England—Doctor Deas, during the *Columbia's* five years visit among us was ever ready not only with his professional services, but with his purse, to administer to the wants of the afflicted and the necessitous, particularly among the poorer classes along the shores of the Bay of Fundy; and he is justly entitled to this tribute paid to his valuable services.

St. John's Observer, November 23.

An intoxicated woman was found in a yard in Sydney street, on Saturday mor-

ning, so much chilled by the inclemency of the weather that she died in few hours after being discovered.

Fredericton Head Quarters, Nov. 24.

**Lighting Fredericton with Gas.**—We are happy to learn that some of our public spirited citizens are again agitating the subject of lighting Fredericton by means of Gas—an improvement which could be effected in this city at less expense in laying down pipes, and erecting the necessary buildings, than in any other town in this Province, or perhaps in British North America.

**Closing of the River.**—The River St. John, opposite this city, froze over on Saturday night, and on Sunday some youngsters skated across to the other side. In the evening the Ice commenced breaking up and continued running for some time on Monday, when it again closed, and people were crossing on it yesterday. To-day, about 12 o'clock, the Ice broke up a second time—the weather being quite soft and mild—and we should not be surprised if the River was once more open before the winter sets in in good earnest.

**Death in the Pulpit.**—Rev. Mr. Tappan, Chaplain of the Almshouse, New York, while concluding the opening prayer of divine service on Sunday evening, suddenly fell dead in an apoplectic fit. He was greatly esteemed.

## Canada.

Quebec Morning Chronicle, Nov. 17.

It appears by the Montreal Courier received this morning, that the Lachine Railroad was opened on Monday last. At four o'clock of the afternoon of that day the locomotive and tender started from the terminus, at the head of Bonaventure street, for a trip to Lachine, carrying as passengers, the president, contractors and other officers of the company.

The Niagara Falls suspension bridge Companies have been several days in session at the Falls. They have decided on the construction of the bridge, for the passage of Railroad trains. The strength of the supporting cables is said to be no less than six thousand five hundred tons. The cost is not to exceed \$190,000, and the work to be completed by the first of May, 1849. Charles Ellet jun., Esquire, of Philadelphia, has been appointed the engineer. The bridge will be within sight both of the cataract and whirlpool, and span the gorge by an arch of eight hundred feet, suspended two hundred and thirty feet above the surface of the Niagara River.

We omitted mentioning in our last, the death of Colonel Calvert, who expired on Friday last. This gentleman, as our readers are aware, accompanied Mr. LeDoyen to this country, for the purpose of testing his Disinfecting Fluid, and he has, no doubt, fallen a victim to his zeal in the philanthropic cause in which he was engaged.

Quebec Chronicle, Nov. 19.

Another North east snow storm set in yesterday evening and continued during the night with much violence. This morning it still continues, but somewhat abated at the time of our going to press.

The Bytown Gazette of the 13th inst. says that on the Wednesday evening previous, between the hours of seven and eight o'clock, a person by the name of James Darcy, while passing down Rideau street, was attacked by three ruffians in a most wanton and brutal manner. One of them struck him a violent blow with an axe, almost severing his leg below the knee, while another plunged a knife into his abdomen. They then made their escape, and the unfortunate man was carried to an adjoining house. Surgeon Barry who was immediately in attendance, extracted from the wound in the abdomen the blade of the knife, which must have broken down from the violence of the blow, and dressed his wounds. Doctor Barry entertains favourable hopes of his recovery.

## European News.

From English papers to the 4th November, by the Steamship Acadia.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**Surviving Marshals.**—There are now but two survivors of the twenty six marshals of the empire created by Napoleon; Sult duke of Dalmatia, and Marmont, duke of Ragusa.

**Awful Catastrophe.**—Immense loss of life.—A letter from Christiana (Norway)

relates that, on the 11th ult., a huge rock which hung over the vast domain of Helsingegard, and which several days before had split in many places, came suddenly down and covered an immense space, crushing beneath its weight thirty four dwelling houses and their inhabitants, estimated at two hundred and thirty in number. Attempts were immediately made for their release, but after labouring for a week, when the letter was written, only two bodies had been reached, one of a woman, and the other of a child, seven years old both lifeless. Only thirteen of the inhabitants of the place have escaped this tremendous disaster, which has occasioned a loss of property estimated at 800,000f.

The London and North Western railway company, whose capital amounts to about twenty million of pounds, has issued circulars to all companies with which it is connected, urgently recommending the suspension of works in all cases where it is practicable.

**Switzerland.**—The accounts which we receive from Switzerland are of the most gloomy character, and it is probable that before the present time the opposing parties have come to blows.

We are assured that at the sitting of the Diet on the 25th, a motion was to be brought forward on the part of the government for a formal declaration of war, and that there was no doubt of its being adopted by the majority,—which usually has supported the government throughout the struggle.

Three battalions of troops belonging to the canton of St. Gall had refused to take the oath of allegiance, and were at once disbanded. The St. Gall government, in consequence of this event, has demanded reinforcements from the central Federal government, which was at once agreed to and three battalions from Zurich were sent into that canton.

The journals and correspondence of Switzerland have arrived to Saturday last. The news of the retirement of the Austrian ambassador, and the neutrality of that power in relation to the present civil dissension, are fully confirmed. The office of the legation, with an agent for the transaction of ordinary business, will be continued as usual at Zurich. The ambassador retires to an adjacent neutral territory. The ministers of Russia, Prussia and Sardinia, were at Berne, and were expected to demand their passports, giving the same explanations as those given by Austria. It is now clear that no intervention whatever is contemplated, and that the captives will have to settle their own disputes. All the federal commissioners had returned to Berne, and had made their reports. Their mission was in every case without result. The deputies of the Sonderbund were in constant conference with M. Bois le Comte, the French minister, by whom they were earnestly advised to propose a compromise. On the 27th the deputies of the League addressed themselves to those of St. Gall and Schaffhausen, to obtain their mediation. On the majority of twelve appointed four of their colleagues to confer with the deputies of the League, with a view to an amicable arrangement. This conference was without success. The ultimatum of the Sonderbund was, it appears, to re-establish the convents of Argau, and to postpone the expulsion of the Jesuits until 1849. These propositions were rejected by a majority.

On the 28th, M. Calame announced to the voters, on the part of the cantonal government of Neuchâtel, that it would decline supplying the military contingent required in the present exigency by the decrees of the diet. The answer given to this communication was, that if the contingent were not supplied as required, the troops of the Federal Government would immediately occupy the canton of Neuchâtel. M. de Sidow thereupon waited on president Ochsenbein to support the demand of M. Calame, assuring the president that it was the wish of his Majesty the king of Prussia (who is sovereign of the principality of Neuchâtel) that the canton should not be required to supply troops for the war; but that, nevertheless, his majesty entertained no intention of interfering in the internal disputes of the confederation. The answer of the president left no doubt of the determination of the Federal government to enforce the military contingent from all the cantons indifferently.

During the 28th, a large quantity of artillery, munitions of war, and military stores, were sent from the arsenal of Berne to the head quarters of the several divisions of the Burmese army.

According to the reports of the partisans of the Diet, extensive desertions are taking place daily from the forces of the League. The troops pass, it is said, from the Catholic cantons into the