

begins by giving much that large profits and years of labor end with."

How then are we most effectually to promote the interests of that profession? We have not only to take into account existing circumstances, but to look forward to what we have reasonably to expect, now that it has been determined by the wisdom of the Imperial Legislature, that we are to forego the advantages we formerly enjoyed in the markets of Great Britain, where we shall hereafter have to compete with, not only the superior mode of cultivation practiced there, but with the producers of all other countries who resort to those markets with the produce of their soil. How is this to be done? By adopting the same thorough system of cultivation that prevails in Great Britain—by an intelligent practice of every improvement—by persevering in the selection of the best breeds of our domestic animals—by the manufacturing and use of all labor saving machines and implements—and by the cultivation of every variety of crop the soil of the country is capable of producing—and lastly, by seeking access in the cheapest possible way to those markets where we can obtain the highest price for our produce.

Although wheat is essentially the staple article for exportation, and the crop that has hitherto proved the most remunerating to the Canadian farmer, there are several others which are well adapted to the soil and climate of Canada, and of which we have usually imported to a considerable amount, and paid for in cash thereby creating an exhausting drain upon the resources of the country, that would eventually prove ruinous and which is the worst possible policy, unless we could exchange the proceeds of more remunerating crops for such importations but this is not the case, particularly with regard to hemp for the manufacture of cordage,—an article the consumption of which is very great,—and although we have manufactories of cordage established amongst us, the proprietors are compelled to resort to the United States for a supply of raw material. Hemp and Flax ought not only to be produced in sufficient quantities from which to manufacture all the cordage, (and other coarse fabrics of which they form the staple) required for consumption, but to become a profitable article for exportation; and from the flax-seed we ought to make all the linseed oil we require for use amongst ourselves which is also an important item in our imports. Another important item to be taken into the account is the oil cake, &c., made from the refuse of the seed; food that would be available for fattening animals for our markets, which are now supplied to a considerable extent by our neighbors. We also import the finer qualities of wool, the improvement of which is easy accomplishment and within the reach of every farmer. But the proper encouragement for the cultivation of hemp and flax would perhaps be best effected by an effort of this Association; as the amount of capital required in order to get the proper machinery into operation for dressing, is probably greater than what any individual can command; and a united effort will be necessary to ensure a sufficient supply of the raw material to make it profitable. A good deal has been, from time to time published on the subject of these important crops; but it does not appear to have attracted the attention of our farmers to the extent that might have been expected, which may in part be accounted for from the circumstance of wheat having been in brisk demand for the last few years, owing to the failure of the potato crop, and the partial failure of the grain crops in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as on the continent of Europe; but especially owing to the preference we enjoyed in the markets of Great Britain,—a preference we no longer enjoy.

[To be Continued.]

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Morning Herald.

MR. STEPHEN'S RETIREMENT FROM THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

The retirement of Mr. James Stephen from the Colonial office is an event too serious and significant not to be chronicled in something more than a mere paragraph. For thirty years and upwards this sedate, sanctimonious, and most subtle of men—without noise or display—by the mere exercise of unbounded craft—huge dissembling—a large stock of Italian diplomacy—the profoundest reserve—silence, solemnity, astuteness and intellectual power—contrived to govern a greater number of human beings, and of more diversified races, than either the Czar of Russia or the Emperor of Austria. In every clime where the British flag floats, and the British influence felt, the name of Mr. Stephen was known

if not respected. In Europe his influence extended from Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands to the little rock of Heligoland. In America his influence was known in Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edwards Island and Newfoundland. In the West Indies his sway was felt from Jamaica and Barbadoes, to St. Vincent, Granada and Tobago. In Asia he was dreaded, and feared at Ceylon, Hong Kong, and Aden. In Australia he was found to be all powerful—at Australia, Van Diemen's Land, New Holland, and New Zealand; and in Africa he was potent, not merely at the Cape of Good Hope and St. Helena, but at Sierra Leon, the Isle of France, and Gambia. Thus east, west, North and south where his name and his influence, too often disastrously felt. Though only a subordinate and second in the office, he always contrived to be viceroy over the constituted head of the department in which he served. Whether the colonial minister was a Bathurst or a Ripon, a Glenelg or a Stanley, a Russell, or a Clarendon, or a Gladstone, he reigned supreme—too often lord of mischief and mismanagement. That a man long versed in the routine of office, and used to habits of business, should have assumed an ascendancy over such men as Bathurst and Ripon, the dreamy Glenelg, and the incomprehensible, nebulous and Puseyite Gladstone, is not wonderful; but that he should have wrestled with and brought round to his views men of powerful, masculine minds, such as Stanley and Russell, is a subject at first blush, of wonder, if not astonishment. When, however, it is remembered that Mr. Stephen had served three apprenticeships in the colonial office—that, by his diligence and application, he had made himself master of the history, laws, constitutions, natural resources, agriculture, commerce, population, tariffs, taxes, restrictions, banking, commercial, legal, and penitentiary system of every dependency of the British crown, the secret of his immense power, and his abuse of it, will not appear very extraordinary. The manners of the under secretary were, to his superiors, grave, conciliatory, and deferential. Imperturbable and collected, he heard from the heads of the office, without changing a muscle, sentiments and opinions very opposite to his own, and resolved in his own mind by degrees to make those the most opposed, on their entrance to the office, to his opinions, the exponents and advocates of them at the close of their career. This certainly was, in a sense, the triumph of a species of ability and information, and a great amount of tact, management, and cunning, but it was a triumph scarcely ever obtained by an open, an honest, or a direct course. If there were two paths by which Mr. Stephen might arrive at a given goal, he would, from preference choose the narrow, the sinuous, and the winding, and eschew the broad, open highway, where, though his steps might be free, yet his motions could be certainly tracked, and perseveringly followed. A purist Whig in politics, he was in practice a thorough Protestant Jesuit, dealing always in secrecy and reserve, and often using expressions like a late head of the office (Gladstone) in non natural sense. Though ever and anon he opened out to his superiors copious stores of information on the religious condition, physical character, geography, climate, position, and productions of many of our possessions; still there were always reticences and reserves, in the last recesses of his mind, so that you were never sure of your man or of his matter. Tho' he told you the truth, he did not tell you the whole truth, and his learned reserve was often more fatal to sound government and honest impartial administration than the most flagrant and palpable ignorance. If his dealings with his superiors were open to these objections, his official intercourse with the public and individuals was open to graver rebuke and denunciation. He was sly, he was supercilious, he was dissingenuous, and when challenged with indirectness and double dealing, full of whining cant worthy of a Tartuffe or a Mawworm. There was too, a patronising look and manner about the official man, a sanctimonious smugness, all the more disagreeable in that it was masked with an air of *cajrad*, most misplaced in a public government office. That Mr. Stephen was a man of immense official information, we are willing to allow; that he was a person of considerable scholastic attainment, and no mean powers of analysis and composition, we freely accord; but that he was a wise or good public servant we entirely deny. Of a frigid temperament and a cold heart, he was not often misled by passion; and his judgment was generally, and indeed constitutionally cool; but he improperly, because unjustly, mistrusted every man that came to him on public business, and had no saving faith or belief in human virtue of any kind. This cardinal and constitutional vice grew with him as he increased in years, and it lay at the root of nearly all his worst errors and vices as a public man. To genius or brilliancy Mr. Stephen had no pretensions. The best things he ever did was the result of long and patient labor, and in this respect many of his articles in the Edinburgh Review may be justly cited with no common praise. He was not a man of the world or society, but of cliques and narrow corners, and herein also was a prime source of many of his errors, as a public servant. If a candidate for a colonial judgeship or governorship were not of his clique, or known or patronised by them, his pretensions underwent a more rigid scrutiny and a more hypercritical examination. A great humanity monger in the gross, Mr. Stephen was often unjust and even cruel in particular instances, whether with regard to communities, to sections of them, or to private individuals; and for this reason there is scarcely a person con-

nected with the colonies who will not rejoice at his removal from a position in which his injustice, hollowness, insincerity, double-dealing, superciliousness, and jesuitism, were often so apparent. Mr. Stephen realised the Italian's conception of *i pluriere stelli*, but he never was distinguished by the *volto scioto*. In dissembling and dissembling consisted all his tactics and guilemanship. The day for these small wares and petty arts has long gone by. In the ignorance of everything relating to colonial affairs exhibited by our leading statesmen, lay also another source of Mr. Stephen's strength, and it is, we suppose, because so many of our public men are at his mercy, that he is rewarded being made a privy councillor, instead of being rebuked by the government, as he has already long been by the nation at large. Mr. Herman Merivale of the Western circuit, a barrister of fifteen years' standing, and hitherto a reporter in the Law Journal, is to be the successor of Mr. Stephen. Mr. Merivale is the son of the late John Herman Merivale, the reporter of the court of Chancery from 1815 to 1817, and who contributed some translations from the Anthology to English literature, and died a commissioner of bankrupts, about a year ago. Mr. Merivale, his son, educated at Balliol College, Oxford, is a person of considerable scholarship—a good historian, well read in general literature, and has published some lectures on colonisation, delivered at the university in which he graduated; but his manners are cold and repulsive, his demeanour somewhat pedantic and prigish, and he is wanting in that knowledge of the world and character which only a greater mixture with society and large dealing with mankind can confer. But he is persevering, assiduous, and, we believe, honourable and honest; and though not a man likely to be loved, much more likely to be respected than his predecessor. A long time must of course elapse before Mr. Merivale is to so great a degree master of commercial, financial, legal, and constitutional facts, connected with the colonies, as Mr. J. Stephen; but with his industry and habits of labour, and the aid of Mr. Meyer, the librarian, he will, we have no doubt, be soon in a position to get through business somewhat satisfactorily. We could wish to see the duties divided, and differently distributed. In that case it would be well to choose a retired merchant or naval officer for the details relating to trade and navigation,—leaving the questions of colonial law, administration of justice, constitutions, &c. to a well-read and competent lawyer like Mr. Herman Merivale.

The Colonial Press.

Halifax Sun, December 20.

CHEAP POSTAGE.

Of the constituents of our social economy the post office is one of the most valuable,—it is also one of the most costly.

The population of the British Colonies in America is annually multiplying and extending. Steamboats will shortly establish a weekly communication between England and the provinces, whilst, at no distant day, railroads must knit the extremities of these provinces together in an intimate and compact federation and political union.

The time has arrived then, when post office arrangement, and the subject of cheap postage may well invite a large share of Legislative and general attention.

The policy of the mother country, up to a very recent period, was to deal with the post office as with the customs and excise, (i. e.) as a source of revenue.

In 1837, the post communication of Great Britain was carried on at an expenditure of £500,000—it yielded a profit of £1,500,000. Then arose the question—'Is this a social good?'—is it good policy, in the language of a very old homely proverb, to 'make a shilling at the expense of a pound?' the people answered in the negative, and England has a penny postage.

Evils not inconsiderable have risen out of the high rates of postage. We shall enumerate a few of them.

The high rates of postage have created a general habit of sending letters by private conveyance, instead of through the Post office.

The Post office is little used by the mass of the population—a grudging feeling arises in the poor man's heart for the shilling or quarter dollar, the approximate value of his day's labor.

It has created a habit of hunting after members of parliament to get letters franked, and as all men have a natural tendency to be pleased in the exercise of an influence which gratifies others, hon. gent's. are not generally 'bound sparing in the exercise of any prerogative' in favour of constituents and friends.

Those are a few of the many evils originated by exorbitant rates of postage. Let us sum up some of the advantages likely to arise out of their reduction.

1. Enhanced the value of the post office to commerce, and multiply commercial intercourse.

2a. Aid the progress of education, and draw out the feelings, attachment and regard for each other amongst the various members of the community.

Who we said that it would give an impetus to the march of mind, and speed the progress of popular education—we mean that, inasmuch as 'writing is but the tool of education'—that instrument will be the more present, and a greater degree of coherence of thought be obtained generally amongst the industrious classes of the population,—in proportion to the measure of facility in the means of inter-communication afforded—the unused pen will

more frequently be called into requisition. In plain English, there will grow up around us a generation of the 'sons of toil,' taking an increased and increasing interest in each other, more intelligent, better able to use that intelligence rightly, whether for purposes of government, in church or state, in the circumscribed relations of Home, or the broader connexions of public life.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

St. John Observer, December 21.

The hurricane of the 11th Oct., to which we before alluded, caused much destruction of property at the Island of Tobago, as well as a great sacrifice of human life—27 persons are known to have been buried in the ruins of houses, &c., and there were still many individuals missing. The Governor of Barbados had forwarded from the Public Chest of the island £200 towards the relief of the sufferers.

Great Flood in the Ohio.—The Ohio River and its tributaries has risen to an unusual height. At Cincinnati the water is only 8 feet lower than it reached in the great freshet of 1832. It has caused immense damage throughout the country.

New York papers state that Judge Edmonds has issued an order to commit Messrs. Prime, Ward & Co. to close confinement in the city prison, until they shall make an assignment.

The bible is to be stereotyped and printed in the Danish language, by order of the Managers of the American Bible Society. There are now in Northern Illinois and Wisconsin upwards of 20,000 Danes, and this number is to be increased by 2,000 more who are to join them next spring.

New Papers.—The first number of a new paper, called *The Mail*, to be published on the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, (issued from the Albion Office, by Bailly & Day,) made its appearance this morning.

Mr. Hill, editor of the Loyalist, also intends commencing, on the 4th of January next, a new morning paper, to be published on the same days, to be called the *Commercial Times*.

We wish the several parties much success in their enterprises, and a fair participation in the various pleasures and profits, as well as "pains and penalties" of the profession.

Novascotia.

From the Halifax Journal.

Importance of Life Assurance.—We understand that the late Mr. Meyer, took out a Life Policy for about £400, only a few weeks since, in the Eagle Life Assurance Office of London, of which Mr. Archibald Scott is agent in this City.—This is another illustration of the importance of Life Assurance, and ought to induce heads of families and persons of limited means to avail themselves of the opportunity which these institutions offer, for securing to those dependant upon them, something in case of a sudden or unexpected death—as in the above case.

From the Halifax Sun.

Incendiarism at Kennetcook, Hants County.—We learn that on Monday night last, the dwelling house and barn of Mr. John Harvey, Kennetcook, together with their contents, were destroyed by fire, of which we may note, 23 head of cattle, 5 horses, 50 tons of hay, grain and other produce, together with farming implements, &c. Loss, about £350. Three men of the name of Sanford, have been arrested on suspicion, and lodged in the gaol at Windsor.

From the Pictou Chronicle.

Shocking Occurrence.—We were informed yesterday of a melancholy and frightful occurrence which took place some time ago near Arisaig. A widow woman, whose name we have not heard, it appears was working in her potato field some distance from her house having with her two children, a boy and girl. The latter, a child about eight years old, requested leave to go home which was granted by the mother, who sent the boy with her to see her safely through a patch of woods which lay between the house and where they were working. He accompanied her a part of the way until it was thought she could find her way alone. And shortly after turning from her, he heard her scream, but not being repeated he supposed her startled at something trifling, and paid no more attention. On going home no traces of the child could be found, and on the following day a search was instituted, which soon resulted in the