

Communications.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

But where, meanwhile, are the remaining representatives? Excited by emulation—aroused by jealousy—fascinated by the ambitious visions awakened on every side by ardent imaginations—moving in a stage in which colonial affairs, the interests of their constituents, must appear but as interludes in the great political drama; who would be surprised if they too should forget their brothers across the water, and cast a longing eye on the pride of place, the emoluments of office, bewildered in their enchantment, lured by their attractions.

The interest of the representative and constituency would not be one, since the former could aspire to and win offices materially affecting the latter, and over which they could exercise no controul. That subtle and invisible chain which should connect the two, would be wanting, while enticements innumerable would abound. Even supposing the power of recall to exist, would Joseph Howe, Baldwin, or Weldon, if once fairly on the floor of the House of Commons, ask the Provinces of Nova Scotia, Canada, or New Brunswick, for the privilege of re-election? The path once opened, its intricacies might be threaded with somewhat less difficulty than osamond's bow.

But nevertheless "the higher honors of the empire would be opened to the colonies." Is Mr Howe serious when he asks for the introduction of a system which will afford an opportunity but to two in every two hundred thousand to become distinguished, and not call it "practical exclusion;" to open an avenue, by which a few aspiring individuals may realize long-cherished visions, veiling them under the screen of colonial delegations? Is there not a little inconsistency in first making colonial delegates, and then metamorphosing them into imperial representatives? Or would the people of England and the sister kingdoms be content, for that trust which they alone claim the right of imposing, to be conferred by other hands than theirs? In short, if they return, the end is but feebly answered, for such a "participation," and by so few, would be but a mockery to the youth of America. Few indeed would care to offer incense at such a shrine. If they return not, what benefit would America receive from men mixing in the turmoil of angry debate—dependant on the breath of a populace for their existence—sharing in the excited feelings which taint the political atmosphere of the mother country, and bound by ties of closer affinity and more immediate interest, than any which can possibly connect them to their fatherland?

But let us view this representation in relation to other colonies, and affecting other times. Mr Howe looks forward to a time when twelve millions will be doomed to suffer the corroding cares of the two millions, unless the voice of the latter is raised in vindication of their claims. There is certainly a debt due from present to future generations. Races of men have lived, having good reason to curse the stupidity or negligence of their ancestors. But waiving this, if two millions of Americans claim the right as colonists to representation in the Imperial Parliament, does not an equal right exist among the other millions, enjoying the same relationship? Or is there something in the situation, connection and feelings of the one, which entitles them to superior advantages? Assuming twenty as a moderate number for other dependencies, (judging from an editorial in the Albion) we have thirty representatives say in 1850. According to Mr Howe's calculation, the dawn of the twentieth century will break upon a population having increased at least six fold. As a natural consequence, the representation must increase in equal proportion, thus requiring in 50 years, 180 members—otherwise the mockery would be downright insult. One fourth of the House of Commons composed of individuals, enjoying all the distinctions, revelling in all the advantages, but liable to none of the inconveniences of the remaining three fourths! But would the three sister nations quietly permit those not elected by them, to exercise such an undue influence over their affairs, and at the same time be freed from the burden of taxation? Few (I think) would be inclined to answer in the affirmative.

Should such a day ever arrive, it is an unwarrantable flight of imagination to suppose that the light of the next century might reveal

the torch of rebellion again enkindled this side of the Atlantic—the flames of another American revolution arising out of another abstruse question of taxation, and the streaming fires of ruin, spreading immeasurably wide in their extent, converting a land of peace, and harmony, and happiness, into a scene of havoc, of misery, and of desolation. The colonists of '75 stood up and battled for one of the first principals of government, and British Americans must now feel grateful, that the greatest truth was recognised as sacred, and engraven (though unfortunately with a pen of blood) on the features of the new world; let not the colonists of '50 gratuitously peril their memories by bequeathing a legacy to their posterity, the elements of a struggle which may rival the former one in every character but its justice.

ARION.

New Brunswick, January, 1847

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, FEB. 23, 1847.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for Advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH, otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

Gleaner Office, October 23, 1846.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—The arrival at New York of the iron steamer Sarah Sands, has put us in possession of highly important news from Europe. The dates she brings are to the 20th of January.

The extracts we give in another page, are copied principally from the New York Albion of the 13th instant; and we are concerned to state that the description given of the progress of destitution, famine, and disease in Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland, but particularly in the first-named country, is heart-rending in the extreme.

Parliament was opened by the Queen in person on the 19th ult. Her speech on the occasion will be found among our extracts.

CANADA.—A late Montreal paper furnishes the following information respecting the views of Lord Elgin on several important measures of Colonial government:—

"It is reported on the authority of a traveller who crossed the Atlantic with Lord Elgin, that His Excellency has expressed himself very freely in favor of three great measures which will be of incalculable benefit to Canada:—1st, the free navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; 2d, the consolidation of the Departments of Revenue; 3rd, the remodelling of the Post Office Department to the British plan. If His Excellency should be able to carry these three measures into effect, his administration will be a new era in the history of Canada."

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The Hon. Mr Hazen informed the members of the Assembly on Tuesday last, the Executive Council had been filled up; that the Surveyor General, Alexander Rankin, and G. S. Hill, had been called thereto.

We copy the speech of the Hon Mr Hazen, in which he notified the House of the appointments:—

"The Hon. Mr HAZEN said, that he rose for the purpose of informing the House that the Executive Government of the country had been constructed; and he would, as briefly as possible, explain the reasons which had led to the appointments of those gentlemen who now formed part of Her Majesty's Executive Council. There could no longer be any question that the principles of what was usually termed Responsible Government, were now in force in this colony. There was no use in any longer denying that these principles were in force, and had been in force for the last two years, and the present Council held themselves responsible to a majority of the house; but in order to work out the new system fully, it would be necessary to introduce other changes which had never been asked for, and which the head of the Government could not accede to or recognize unless by positive instructions. That is what is called Departmental Government, a system which he thought inapplicable to the colony at present; but whether applicable or

not, it would never be conceded by the home Government until asked for by the people of this province. In filling up the council, therefore, His excellency recognized no claims on the score of political opinion. There was also another circumstance which had had due weight on the mind of His Excellency in making a selection of his Executive advisers.—That was, that it was inexpedient to have too great a number of the Executive Councillors taken from that house. On this point he (Mr. Hazen) had heard complaints more than once, and there certainly would be a danger in bringing too much executive influence to bear on the popular branch of the Legislature.

There was also another principle which he thought was worthy of consideration, and which had not escaped the notice of the government, which was, that it would not be expedient to have too many lawyers at the council Board. He for one, would never like to see the Government of this colony carried on by a majority of professional gentlemen, to the exclusion of other classes who could bring much experience and information respecting the wants of the country to the council Board. The gentlemen who had been called to the council, were the hon. the Surveyor General of the province, who was at the head of an important department, and who could give such information to the council respecting his own department as must be valuable to any government. Another was the hon. member from Northumberland, (Mr Rankin) who had been long a member of that House, was intimately connected with the trade of the province, and who, he believed, possessed the confidence of that house and of the country, and residing in the northern section of the province, would be able to represent the wants and wishes of the inhabitants of that part of the province. The third, (Mr. G. S. Hill,) had been selected from the western side of the province.—He had also been a long time a member of that house, and was well known to many honorable members. These gentlemen had been sworn in yesterday and had taken their seats at the council Board. And he now hoped he should be able to get through the business of the session and the business of the country with satisfaction to a majority of that house, and to the people of this country."

PUBLIC MEETING.

RELIEF TO THE FAMISHING POPULATION OF IRELAND.

In accordance with previous announcement, a Public Meeting was held in the large room of the Mechanics' Institute, in Chatham, on Wednesday afternoon last, for the purpose of devising means to aid the sufferers in Ireland, in their present deplorable and helpless condition.

It was unanimously resolved, that the Hon. JOSEPH CUNARD should occupy the chair, and

JAMES A. PIERCE was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman having opened the meeting by stating the object of being called together, and the necessity there existed for prompt and generous action—

It was moved by the Rev. Mr Egan, seconded by the Rev. Mr Sweeney, and

Resolved unanimously.—That a Subscription List be now opened for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of the sufferers in Ireland by famine.

Moved by Mr Michael Dunne, seconded by Mr John Bagnell, and

Resolved unanimously.—That the Hon. Joseph Cunard, the Rev. Messrs Egan and Sweeney, be a Committee to forward the subscriptions raised as speedily as possible, to the scene of distress.

The following gentlemen were also appointed to obtain subscriptions—Messrs James A. Pierce, Henry C. D. Carman, John Porter, Michael Dunne, Patrick Lawlor, Samuel Adams, John Bagnell, John Drinan, and Patrick Wheeler.

A subscription paper having been prepared, the very handsome sum of One Hundred and Eighty Pounds was in a short time subscribed, and the money, with the exception of a few pounds, paid down.

The honorable Chairman having very generously offered to supply all the necessities required for a Tea Party, and offered his large Moulding Loft at the Chatham Ship Yard for the occasion—it was unanimously resolved, that the said TEA PARTY should come off on St. Patrick's Day, and that the price of admission should be five shillings.

The following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee to see the same carried into effect—Hon. Joseph Cunard, Rev. Messrs Egan and Sweeney, and Messrs Henry C. D. Carman, John Porter, James A. Pierce, John Bagnell, Michael Dunne,

William O'Brien, James McDonald, W. Mason, John Bergin, Patrick Lawlor, Samuel Adams, John DeCanteloz, and Robert Rainsborrow.

It was unanimously Resolved, that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. J. Samuel for his liberality in allowing the meeting to be held in his room without remuneration.

The thanks of the meeting were also unanimously given to J. A. Pierce, for his valuable services in the discharge of the duties of Secretary.

A resolution was also passed, thanking Mr. Carman for the assistance he had given the meeting.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and H. C. D. Carman, Esq. being called thereto, it was moved by the Rev. Mr. Egan, after a number of highly eulogistic remarks, which, was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Sweeney, and

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Hon. J. Cunard, for the manner in which he had presided over the meeting—for the liberal subscription he had given—and the generous offer he had made respecting the Tea Party.

JAMES A. PIERCE, Secretary.

Since the meeting a large addition has been made to the subscription list.

KING'S COLLEGE, FREDERICTON.—His Excellency the Visitor of King's College, Fredericton, in pursuance of an act (8th Vic. cap. cxi.) has been pleased to appoint the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, to be President of the said college, and the following gentlemen to be members of the college council, viz:—

The Hon. William Black, L. L. D.,
The Hon. James Carter,
The Hon. John Montgomery,
The Hon. Alexander Rankin,
The Hon. George Stillman Hill,
The Hon. Amos Edwin Botsford,
The Hon. William Boyd Kinnear,
John Ambrose Street, Esq.,
Lemuel Allan Wilmot, Esq.

BRITISH FEBRUARY MAIL.

THE Courier arrived last night about half-past nine, with our British February mail. It was brought to Halifax by the Cambria, after a passage of 14 days. The news is important. Notwithstanding but little time is allowed us for extracts, we give below such a selection as embraces all the prominent features of the intelligence received.

An application has been made by the merchants of London and Liverpool to the steam mail company, for an extra steamer to leave about the middle of the present month. This application is made in consequence of a number of persons not having been able to obtain a passage in the Cambria.

From Willmer and Smith's European Times, February 4.

On Thursday, Lord John Russell proceeded to develop the scheme to open the ports for the admission of foreign grain, duty free; and, in the course of doing so, showed that the freights on the importation of corn had seriously risen, and that, to enable this country to compete with its neighbours in the markets of the world, it was necessary, not only to repeal the duty, but to suspend the Navigation Laws. The suspension of the Corn Law, according to the ministerial intention, was only to extend to the 1st of September next.

On Friday the House of Commons met for the purpose of passing through their remaining stages the suspension of the Corn and the Navigation Laws. The Sugar, Molasses, and Rum Bill was then considered. The spirit produced from Sugar is to pay the same amount as the spirit made from Malt, the regulations respecting which were duly set forth by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He would not admit the use of Molasses, as it would open the door to frauds on the revenue. The differential duty of 1s. 6d., in favour of British Spirits, over Rum, was to be reduced to 6d. The duty on Rum would now be 8s. 4d., and the duty on British Spirits 7s. 10d. Rum to be imported into Scotland at 4s. 2d. duty, and into Ireland at 2s. 2d. duty, leaving the same relative difference between the duties on Spirits distilled in those countries, and the Rum imported into England. The general result of these measures would be, he thought, to reduce the price of Grain rather than the price of Spirits or Beer. The same evening Lord John Russell moved for a select committee relative to the Law of Settlement. The Poor Law Commission would expire at the