

midnight a great roar was heard far over the country, and a shock felt as of an earthquake, and then a solemn stillness followed; in the morning a cloud of dust and vapour hung over the valley, and the bed of the Maira was dry. The river had been stopped by the falling of the mountain across its channel, and the town of Pleurs, with the village of Celano, had disappeared together. All the excavations of all the laborers that could be collected failed to discover a single vestige of the inhabitants or of their dwelling places. The miners could not reach the cathedral for its gold and jewels; and there they lie at rest, churches and palaces, villas and hovels, priests, peasants, and nobles, where neither gold, nor love, nor superstition, nor piety, can raise them from their graves, or have any power over them.

Communications.

COLONIAL POLITICS.

Mr Editor,

While it is officially intimated for the benefit of New Brunswickers, that they are governed by the action of a Responsible Government, the best of the joke is, there seems to be nothing by which its leaders can incur a responsibility. This is an oft-reiterated fact, and is also a very pretty manner of at once evading inquiry and stifling investigation. But let the principle that Heads of Departments are to compose an Executive Council, over whom the House of Assembly in the name of the constituencies of the province, would exercise a censorial and judicial power, be adopted, and the responsible joke will become a solemn and serious fact.

I am aware that I am writing on a hacknied theme, and may perhaps use hacknied ideas, but this will not alter the case. Now, why should this not be so? Is it not notorious that some change is contemplated by the people of this province, and is it premature to ask what that change can be? Or has time so sanctified our present system of government as to render it hallowed and venerated in the people's eyes? I fancy a sacrifice, indeed, may be required; but it will be at the hands of the ministering priests, not the obedient congregation.

Two changes seem pointed out; one the mode which I have described, the other a system of paying executive councillors, who are to expend their time and talents for the advantage of their country. The question is, which would prove most beneficial. In order to arrive at a conclusion, a slight review of the objections against the one, and arguments for the other, may be necessary.

Responsible Government, then, in its most extended sense, and associated with its various accompaniments, is denied to be applicable, first, because it requires two parties differing in their political creed, and they neither do nor can exist. Secondly, because a sufficiency of talent is not yet the spontaneous growth of our northern clime, and in consequence, two classes of men could not be found possessing the confidence of the country, and at the same time capable of fulfilling that country's requirements. Thirdly, because men every way qualified to perform the duties attached to some department may not enjoy that degree of popularity necessary to obtain a seat in the Assembly. And fourthly, because it detracts from the proper power and influence of the Queen's representative, rendering him but an agent in the hands of a party. These constitute, I believe, the principal objections.

Now as to the first, is it really true, that there is no difference in the political creed of the people of this province? Is there no distinction between those who advocate a system of government by heads of departments, and those who oppose it; between those who declare for protective duties, and those who demand a free and unrestricted trade; between the timid and creeping, and the persevering and energetic legislator? Has no subject existed during the last ten years to divide the House in opinion? Or is it true that admitting the theory of government to be recognized by all, there can be no difference of opinion in carrying out the practice, as to what will, or what will not, benefit the province?

In England we no longer see ministers going in or out of office on mere abstract and speculative points. It is not now whether the Sovereign reigns by divine or human right, or whether parliament can constitutionally alter the succession, that divides the nation; but it is whether the practical results of a measure will directly subvert the nation's interest.

Is New Brunswick then, beyond the reach of a practical measure of utility, or if the system spoken of were adopted, would none such be submitted? Can any one contend, that with every capability for improvement, no improvement can be made; or if made, there can be no difference of opinion as to the means? It is not necessary that like the celebrated Westminster election, one party should erect a standard for Pitt, another for Fox. It is not necessary, indeed, that two parties (in the usual definition of the term) should exist at all, otherwise coalition cabinets could never have a being. The departmental system has for its object to form a council of those persons who, possessing the requisite qualifications for office, come recommended as their country's choice.

But if experience may lend her aid to solve this question, it will be found that by the strange constitution of human nature, parties will inevitably exist. Every where around us we discover such to be the case. And if the system were once established, the difficulty I fear would be, not indeed to evoke, but unfortunately to ally, the spirit of party. But supposing that measures were proposed, and all parties were united to further their operation,

what could it prove, but that those measures were the most beneficial, or that all had united to betray their trust.

There is yet one other light in which this question may be viewed. The departmental system necessarily supposes that the principal duty of the Assembly would consist in reviewing and passing sentence upon practical measures submitted to their consideration. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for, and the necessity of which (however effected) none deny, save perhaps, the Assembly itself. Now if we compare this mode with that of paying executive councillors, we find the latter open to every objection which its advocates offer to the former, while wanting its strongest defence, which is cheapness. Mr Hill, the proposer, I believe, of the latter, is pleased to denounce as innovators, republicans and rebels, if necessary, all who advocate a departmental system, while vindicating a method fraught with the same objections which he himself raises.

Slight reflection suffices to shew, that a council composed either way is alike liable to be affected by a vote of the Assembly, their responsibility being the same,—is equally obliged under our own acts to have each appointment sanctioned by the popular voice, and consequently subject to the same influence and the same hazard,—is in the same proportion obnoxious to the charge of insufficiency of talent, for if either lose its ascendancy, other and equal abilities are required to supply the vacancy,—and also similarly affects the power and influence of the Queen's representative. Mr Hill's plan involves an increased expense, while the departmental system would be carried out without increasing salaries or creating offices.

As to the objection of want of talent, it certainly comes with an ill grace from those who in general oppose the system herein advocated. That, however, cannot affect its validity if true. It is certainly a matter which experience alone can competently decide; yet were we to reflect upon the limited circle within which hitherto sufficient talent has been discovered to conduct political affairs, it is quite reasonable, indeed, to suppose that in the much more extended sphere as yet unsearched, an equal degree of ability may exist. It is at least charitable to suppose so; even Gray thought "full many a gem the dark unfathomed caves of ocean bore." But this objection need not be pursued farther; whoever has a proper respect for the land of his nativity, would securely disregard so narrow and invidious a reflection.

[To be continued.]

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, SEPT. 21, 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.

LADY COLEBROKE.—We are sorry to perceive by the Fredericton Head Quarters, that the lady of our Lieutenant Governor continues very much indisposed at Saint John.

QUARANTINE—Quebec.—The Chronicle of the 13th inst furnishes the following news of the state of affairs at Goose Isle.

"The number of deaths at Grosse Isle from Monday to Friday last, was 104. The new sheds having been completed, the sick have been removed from the tents and the churches, and the hospital accommodation, we are happy to learn, is quite sufficient. Things were getting into good order, when unfortunately there arrived two vessels, in a most deplorable condition with sickness and filth, which had caused considerable derangement. One of the vessels, the ship Superior, from Londonderry, had 366 passengers, 19 of whom died on the voyage and 120 were landed sick. The other vessel was the Eliza Jones, from Glasgow, from which 30 sick were landed; she had 369 passengers in all, and had 30 deaths on the passage."

POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—The Saint John Observer gives us some further intelligence respecting the robbery of the mails bags, alluded to in our last number.

"Reports having been in general circulation in this City since Saturday last, that the Postmaster at Dalhousie, in this Province, has been guilty of the serious crime of opening money letters in bags passing through his office, and abstracting the contents, amounting to several hundred pounds! The discovery is stated to have been first made in Canada. We learn that he has gone to the United States by way of Holtoun. A warrant for his arrest was issued on Saturday evening, and High Constable Stockford, with the Post Office

Surveyor from Canafa, immediately started in pursuit of the delinquent. He will most probably be overtaken and brought back."

Cunningham, the party alluded to, has been apprehended, and in charge of High Constable Stockford, together with the Post Office Surveyor, arrived at Newcastle on Sunday. They have proceeded to Restigouche.

TRADE OF QUEBEC.—The following comparative statement of the number of vessels that have arrived at this port, and amount of tonnage in the years 1846 and 1847, to the 10th inst, is given in the papers, which shews a large decrease the present year.

Table with columns: VESSELS, TONNAGE, and rows for 1846, 1847, and Less in 1847.

The following comparative statement of the quantity of timber &c. surveyed during the last three years, is also given.

Table with columns: 1845, 1846, 1847, and rows for White Pine, Red do, Oak, Elm, Ash, Basswood, Butternut, Tamarac, Birch & Maple.

EMIGRATION.—The following Letter from the Lieutenant Governor, in answer to the Resolutions passed by the Mayor and Corporation of Saint John, relating to the evils likely to result from the present system of Pauper Emigration, is copied from the Saint John papers.

St. John, 7th September, 1847.

GENTLEMEN.—I have had the honor to receive a copy of the Resolutions passed by you on the 3rd instant, in which you have urgently represented the situation in which the community has been placed by the arrival in the present season of an unusual number of indigent emigrants from Ireland, a large proportion of whom are suffering under diseases of an infectious character, occasioning an undue pressure on the public resources for their relief, as well as in the precautions necessary to guard against the spread of the infection, and the eventual exposure of so many destitute persons to the severity of the approaching winter.

Having visited the city from time to time during the summer, mainly for the purpose of co-operating with you in alleviating the sufferings of the emigrants and in providing for the safety of the community, I can fully appreciate the justness of your apprehensions, and knowing as I do the inadequacy of the resources at your disposal, while applauding the humane spirit by which you have been actuated, I am anxious to assure you of the disposition of the Government to aid you in providing for the mitigation of disease and for preventing its extension.

We must all feel, that in the dispensations of Providence, a severe calamity has fallen upon a large portion of our fellow subjects in the United Kingdom, where all classes have felt themselves called on to unite their efforts to rescue the sufferers, and to alleviate their condition, and while lamenting the irregularities which have taken place,—a recurrence of which it will be indispensable to guard against,—it has been very gratifying to me to observe in your community that it has not checked the exertions which have been so benevolently made to meet the exigency thus occasioned.

The funds so considerably placed by the Legislature at the disposal of the Government have been dispensed where they have been most required, and I hope that in relieving the sufferers it will be found practicable to make effectual provision for the protection of the community from the spread of disease.

It is indeed a subject of the most serious apprehension that so large a number of helpless beings should have been cast upon your shores, whose preservation at this advanced season must depend, under providence, on your humane interposition.—I lament that such a charge should have devolved on you, but I entertain no doubt that your active co-operation will be afforded in rescuing them from the fate which would otherwise in too many cases be inevitable.

I will not fail to transmit your resolutions by the earliest occasion to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient servant, W. M. G. COLEBROOK. To the Mayor and the Common Council.

CANADA.—The Bytown Packet gives the following distressing intelligence respecting severe trials and suffering endured by the Clergy, in attending to the passengers that have been cast sick and

wretched on the charity of the people of Bytown.

Some time since we informed our readers, that the Reverend Mr. Molly, P. O. M., had contracted the prevailing sickness during his attendance on the sick emigrants there. We are happy in being enabled to state, that after an illness of two months, he has sufficiently recovered to permit of his removal to Longueuil, near Montreal, where he will spend some time for the benefit of his health. The Rev. Mr. Beaudran, who succeeded Mr. Molly, was attacked by the same disease, and is now lying ill. He had partly recovered but met with a relapse. It is expected that he will be sufficiently recovered in a few days to permit of his removal to the country. Another clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Dundurand, who previously spent some time in Bytown, took the place of Mr. Beaudran; but had not been many weeks in attendance when he, too, was stretched on a bed of sickness; and, we are informed, the medical gentleman in attendance upon him entertains but feeble hopes of his recovery. Three Rev. Gentlemen, Messrs. Fitzhenry, Lagier, and Ryan, have arrived during the last few days to supply the place of Messrs. Molly, Beaudran, and Dundurand. It is justly due to the protestant clergymen, the Revs. Messrs. Wardrope, Durie, and Strong, to say that their conduct has been such in the present crisis, as to merit the praise of all who dwell in the works of Christian charity. The principal portion of the unfortunate emigrants profess the Catholic religion, hence the greater danger incurred by Catholic Clergymen. The nature of their duties bring them in close contact with those afflicted. In addition to the above, it is our melancholy duty to state that out of the fifteen Sisters of Charity then present, two-thirds have been attacked by the same malady. The lady Superior is now suffering under its effects, as also three others. Six are recovering. There are only two at the present time capable of giving their attendance at the Emigrant Hospital.

QUARANTINE, ST JOHN.—The Observer of Tuesday gives us the following statement how matters are at the Quarantine Station at this port.

"There were 36 deaths at the Emigrant Hospital, (near the Alms House) in the week ending 10th inst.—admitted during the week, 70; discharged 41—remaining in Hospital at the above date, 556."

FISHERY IN THE BAY CHALEUR.—The American papers state that upwards of eighty vessels have gone from the port of Gloucester, in Massachusetts, to prosecute the fisheries in the Bay Chaleur. We should like to know the number of vessels from the Colonies engaged in the fisheries in this quarter.

SUPREME COURT.—On Wednesday last a lad aged about 18 years, named Wm. Tait, was found guilty of breaking into the store of Messrs. Johnson & Mackie, in Chatham, in April last. His Hon. Judge Carter sentenced him to 7 months imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary.

Samuel Gillis was found guilty of stealing three barrels of Salmon, the property of Mr. Innis. The Jury recommended that the Judge should deal leniently with him. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment in the County Gaol.

PLOUGHING MATCH.—The annual Ploughing Match will take place in Chatham, on Wednesday, the 6th October, not the 7th, as previously announced.

NEWCASTLE FAIR.—This semi-annual Fair will be held on the First Tuesday in October next.

We learn by letters lately received from the Rev. Mr. MACBEAN, that this gentleman expects to reach Chatham by the mail on Friday next; and we are requested to announce that Divine Service will take place in Saint Andrew's church next Lord's day, at the usual hour.

Marriages.

On Tuesday, 7th inst, at Boies Town, parish of Ludlow, by the Rev. William Henderson, A. M., Mr. DUNCAN MCKEEL, to Miss CHRISTIANA ANN MCKAY, both of the parish of Ludlow. By the same, on Friday, 17th inst, Mr. ROBERT RENNIE, to Miss MARY BATES, both of the parish of Newcastle.

At the residence of Mr. J. W. Patten, of Kouchibouguac, on the 25th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Law, of Richibucto, Mr. ALEXANDER McDUGALL, of Glenelg, County of Northumberland, to Miss ELIZA MOSEY, of the former place.