

country. The existence and power of a Republican party was ascertained, although its ripeness was not known. At the time when the provincial banquets were proceeding, and when the Government threatened to proclaim down the reform dinner at Paris, we were informed that France would immediately be a republic.

This information was more than a fortunate guess. At that time there were serious movements amongst the Republican leaders. They were counting their strength, and they were pleased with the result. Therefore, when Paris rose to demand the expulsion of Guizot, they sought the expulsion of the King. When Thiers and Barrot, supported by the National Guard, offered terms from the barricades, the Republicans demanded larger concessions. In the chamber of Deputies when the members were in the act of proclaiming the monarchy of the Count of Paris, and the regency of the Duchess of Orleans, Ledru-Rollin demanded and named a Provisional Government. His proposal would have been indignantly scouted by the representatives, but it was clamorously accepted by the armed men, who crowded the hall of meeting and expelled the Deputies.

The members of the Provisional Government were not bulleted for on the moment—they were not struck by chance—there was not an accident but a design in the affair. The Government was not thrust on the gentlemen of the Hotel de Ville. They were not asked, elected, or compelled to take office. They made their own situation. They deliberated on their choice. They struggled to accomplish it. Their responsibility is a voluntary act, and not even the result of a momentary resolution—taken during excitement—but of a solemn purpose formed in calm hours, and scanned in unbroken secrecy.

These circumstances prevent us from giving all the weight claimed by several supporters and admirers of the French Provisional Government, to the plea that they have been cast, unprepared, into their present struggle. They knew the stake for which they played, and the difficulty of managing their winnings before the game began. They were not unprepared, but they willingly adopted their present responsibilities. They may not have acted from motives of personal ambition, personal vanity or aggrandisement. Lamartine, we believe, to be a perfectly pure and sincere patriot. Dupont has the services of a long life to plead in bar to suspicions of a personal object. Power to an aged man, bowed beneath the weight of eighty years, is a very small temptation. Peace is the guardian that the soul seeks at that evening hour of life. Power then is a solemn mockery, unless it be the power of doing good—the power of seeing good—the power of being in some way the means of breaking another chain, and lighting another woe in the world. Arago has his academy, and the stars—the nebulae and the new comet—the natural objects of his ambition, and we could scarcely dream of the scholar abandoning the high pursuits of a life—and that a life of success, to seek in political strife a new career of personal aggrandisement. From suspicions of that character these men stand free. That freedom does not however, alter our case, arising from this fact, that the revolution and their appointments were acts deliberated on, and the consequent difficulties should have been foreseen, and provision made for them.

In this country we can see more plainly than in France, perhaps, the tendencies of the currents in society. We can perceive the movement of Lamartine and his friends on the crest of the wave, although they may not feel the motion. There is not a position of certain danger, but it is one of great risk. Events have occurred to prove that the Provisional Government is not the exposition of a French will; but that of the Parisian opinion; and not of the unanimous feeling of Paris; but of the principles of the mob, as the real Government of France at present is quaintly titled. The influential people in France are men in blouses. Molestin governs, as we should say here; and the genius of Lamartine will triumph nobly and for a great end, if impelled and borne onward by this mighty power; rising from the sufferings, and even the ignorance of Faubourg, he can guide us masses, and his refractory colleagues, into a peaceable and settled state of society. Napoleon never experienced a struggle of equal ardour. The world has not recently looked on an experiment of equal moment. Washington and Franklin had few internal dangers to dread. The broad continent of America, free and debtless, was there before their followers. They could not starve. They had land for nothing, and food for its growth. The grave question in France is that of food. Its gravity arises from the strictly artificial state of society existing there. The revolution necessarily shook Parisian society. The peasant of the north, or the vine-dresser of the south, scarcely feel the shock; but the tradesmen and the shopkeepers of Paris have been terrible sufferers. Liberty by them has been dearly bought. Their business has been destroyed. Their credit is gone; and the losses sustained by many of their number are immense. The French traders, like those of London, are in the habit of keeping their spare money in the *rentes*. The revolution came upon them without warning. Few of them expected the expulsion of the king, and the instalment of the republic. They bought then three per cents. within a trifle of 80. They can now sell them only for 40. The fall is utterly ruinous. Those who lodged their funds in the banks are in an equally bad position. The banks have stopped payments, and the lodgments are likely to be permanent; they are inaccessible. Men of smaller means,

who cast their spare money into the savings banks, are told that they can have £4. and £4 only; while the balance is payable in treasury bonds, or in stock that is almost unsaleable, and can only be realised by a large sacrifice. The confusion is increased by the departure of wealthy foreign families, and wealthy French residents in Paris, who scrape together all the bullion that they can command, and then they leave. Confidence is also injured, for a time, by the premature legislation of a government that has no power to legislate, upon the rights and the conditions of labour. Employers are ignorant of the position that they may occupy, and the expulsion of foreign workmen is aggravating the evil; because, in some departments of industry new to France, foreign workmen were absolutely necessary. The funds in the hands of the Government are nearly exhausted; and the new direct tax, calculated to produce eight millions sterling, may not be rapidly realised. The commercial distress is most intense, and it may be followed by sufferings amongst the working classes. This is the rock on which, not the French Republic, which will subsist, but the present government may be destroyed. They should have passed fewer decrees, interferred less palpably with matters of legislation, and directed all their energy to bring together a National Assembly before this period. As matters stand, the meeting of that body is deferred until the early part of May; and if the Government have money to maintain the army, to pay the fleet, and to support the vast array of workmen who have joined the National Guard for the pay of 30 sous daily, until that date, the delay will not be dangerous to them.

There is one comfort in the poverty of their exchequer. War is almost impossible. Armies cannot be marched without money; and the French Provisional Government is destitute of money and of credit. The presence, talents and influence of Lamartine in the Government is another ground of hope, that peace will be preserved. Lamartine is understood to be personally opposed to war. Amongst the people as yet has arisen no apparent desire, on a large scale, to intermeddle in the affairs of other nations. There has been no sanguinary feeling displayed towards the fallen. There has not been the semblance of a reign of terror. On the other hand, processions innumerable, fetes, balls, concerts, and amusements, seem to be the fashion in Paris, along with a little military display amongst the citizen workmen. This jubilee of processions, and of the candle manufacturers, is agreeable, good natured, and amusing, but it cannot pay.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1848.

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.

DOINGS OF THE SESSIONS.

The following extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Sessions, has been handed to us for publication.

At a Special sessions of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland, held at the court house at Newcastle, on Tuesday the second day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight—

PRESENT—John Fraser, John Nesmith, Henry B. Allison, John T. Williston, Donald McKay, John Porter, Roderick McLeod, Alexander Goodfellow, Alexander McLaggan, Jared Tozer, Alexander Davidson, Junior, Donald McDonald, Richard Hutchison, Alexander Fraser, Junior, John McDonald, Donald McNaughton, Esquires, Justices.

Read an Act passed at the last sitting of the General Assembly, for the relief of distress occasioned by the failure of the potato and other crops during the last year.

Moved by Mr Justice Tozer, and seconded by Mr Justice Williston.

That the sum of six hundred pounds, granted by the Legislature, be applied for and apportioned to the Parishes of the county, for the purpose of being appropriated, pursuant to the said act.

Moved in amendment by Mr Justice Hutchison, the following resolution:

Resolved, that this Session fully impressed with the belief that the people's Representatives in the exercise of their prerogative, in making the grant of £5100 to alleviate the distress prevailing throughout the province, were actuated by the most humane intentions, yet it cannot view the distribution of the sum allotted to this county of £600, in conformity with the act, without feelings of dread for the consequences resulting in

many cases from both its distribution and collection.

Therefore resolved, that while we thank the Government for its liberality, we in the meantime decline to accept any part of the said £600. Which being seconded by Mr Justice Nesmith and the question put, the Justices decide as follow, for sustaining the amendment: Messrs. Justices Nesmith, McLeod, Allison, McNaughton, A. Fraser, John McDonald, Donald McDonald, Hutchison. Against the amendment:

Messrs. Justices McKay, A. Davidson, jun., Williston, Tozer, Porter, McLaggan, Goodfellow.

It is therefore carried in the affirmative. Mr Justice Alexander Davidson takes his seat as Chairman.

Moved by Mr Justice Williston, seconded by Mr Justice Goodfellow—

That eighty pounds of the sum of £600 be apportioned to the parish of Blackville, which question being put—the Justices decide as follows: for sustaining the Resolution,—

Messrs. Justices McKay, A. Davidson jun., Williston, Tozer, Porter, McLaggan, Goodfellow.

Against the Resolution.

Messrs. Justices Nesmith, McLeod, Allison, McNaughton, A. Fraser, John McDonald, Hutchison, John Fraser, Donald McDonald. It therefore was carried in the negative.

Moved by Mr Justice Williston—

That eighty pounds of the said grant be apportioned to Glenelg parish.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Justice Nesmith.

That this Session do adjourn—which being seconded by Mr Justice Hutchison, is carried in the affirmative.

Extracts from the minutes.

THOS. H. PETERS, Clerk.

NEW YORK ALBION.—The last number of this Journal, received by Saturday's Mail, contains the valedictory address of Dr. Bartlett, the Editor and Proprietor of this popular journal, who, from ill health, has been induced to dispose of his interest in the paper. The purchaser is Wm. Young, Esqr., of whose literary attainments report speak favourably.

STEAM FERRY BOAT.—This boat has been plying during the week, and the manner in which she performs her work gives general satisfaction to the public, who already begin to feel the advantage of her superior mode of conveyance.

HOME MANUFACTURES.—Such of our female readers as are desirous of promoting our domestic manufactures, and are in want of neat Straw Bonnet, would do well to give Mr John Fraser a call, who has a very superior article of this description, manufactured in the county.

GOOD ADVICE.—An exchange paper contains the following most admirable piece of advice. It is well worthy of notice, particularly at the season of commercial depression.

DON'T GRUMBLE.—He is a fool that grumbles at every little nuisance. Put the best foot forward, is an old and good maxim. Don't run about and tell acquaintances that you are unfortunate. People do not like to have unfortunate men for acquaintances. Add to a vigorous determination a cheerful spirit; if reverses come, bear them like a philosopher, and get rid of them as soon as you can. Poverty is like a panther—look at it steadily in the face and it turns from you.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The Quebec Gazette of the 6th May, contains the following significant remarks. It shews what confidence our Canada neighbors have on the lines of communication passing through the territory of the United States.

We have no Telegraphic despatch this morning, the line being down; from whence most persons will be apt to conclude that the English mail of the 22nd April had arrived at Boston. When shall we be independent of the United States for commercial and other news from England?

REPEAL MEETING AT HALIFAX.—The following Resolutions were passed at the meeting of the friends of Ireland in Halifax on Tuesday week.

1st. Resolved, That the cry of Ireland for justice, mingled with the dying groans of starving millions, borne across the Atlantic on every breeze, has awakened in our bosoms the keenest sympathies for our suffering country and countrymen.

2nd. Resolved, That as the history of the last half century has taught us that the union between England and Ireland is maintained only at the expense of the sweat and blood of Irishmen, for the aggrandisement of absentee landlords, and the support of a Government having no sympathies in common with the people—we therefore pledge ourselves to aid

our fellow countrymen by every means in our power, to Repeal that Union, and establish in Ireland a just Government, which will protect alike the rights and interests of all classes.

3rd. Resolved, that we, the Irishmen of Halifax, admiring the independent and public spirit of Smith O'Brien and his co-patriots, in demanding from the British Government justice for Ireland, cannot but express our deep regret at the policy of her Majesty's Ministers, in their attempt to stifle the free expression of opinion, by a criminal prosecution now commenced against him and them.

4th. Resolved that an appeal to Irishmen and the friends of Ireland, throughout the Lower Colonies, be prepared and published, inviting them to hold, wherever practicable, simultaneous meetings, on the 30th of May—the ever memorable anniversary of the imprisonment of the Repeal Martyrs—to express their strong sympathies with the people of Ireland, in their present eventful struggle for Repeal, and subscribe liberally in aid of the fund to sustain the defence, in the prosecution now commenced by the British Government against Smith O'Brien and his co-patriots.

HALIFAX.—The Times of Tuesday reports that the American Steamer Buena Vista, has arrived at that port from New York, and intends plying between Boston and Halifax during the season.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—All accounts concur in stating that the Seal Fishery during the season has been the most successful one that has occurred for a number of years past.

THE SEASON.—We have experienced the past week, a continuation of cold east wind, accompanied with heavy rain. A few square rigged vessels have arrived from Britain, and judging from the accounts received, we cannot but expect there will be a large fallen off in our arrivals from the mother country.

ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT TREES.—There is an advertisement in another column, to which we would call the attention of all lovers of taste and rural improvement. It is one from Mr THOMAS SPRATT, who hourly expects a consignment of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Roses, &c. Will our friends in Napan, and on the opposite shore, below Douglastown, expend a few shillings in adding beauty to their highly cultivated districts? We trust they will.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Steamer Cambria reached Halifax on Thursday morning last, after a speedy passage of 12 days. The papers are to the 29th ult. and we give below a summary of the news thus obtained.

Continental politics still continue of an exciting character. In Lombardy the scene of war has not materially changed during the week. The army of Charles Albert, after having been repulsed before Peschiera, which up to the last accounts has not been taken, continues to maintain its position on the banks of the Mincio, the king's head quarters being at Volta; and from all accounts, we judge that the main body of the troops continue on the right bank of the river. There is evidently a pause in the courage of Charles Albert. The Milan Gazette, not a bad authority on such a point, although very little to be relied upon respecting the real incidents of the war, hints now that the Mincio is the limits separating Lombardy from the Venetian provinces, and that having driven the Austrians out of Lombardy, the mission of the Sardinian envoy, and of the king, would terminate when Peschiera and Mantua have fallen. On the 19th an attempt was made to surprise the advanced posts of the latter fortress. The King advanced to the ditches, but the garrison kept itself rigorously within the walls, and four men of the besiegers were killed. On the following day the bulletin goes on to say, the head quarters will be changed to Volta, probably to commence a new attempt on the Mincio. By the official accounts from Redevsky, through Vienna, to the 15th, his position was unaltered; and he seemed little to apprehend any success of the Piedmontese against Peschiera. He assures the minister of war that, as soon as the corps stationed at Isorno shall have joined him, he will resume operations; indeed, a letter of the 19th from Pontafel, states that the corps reached Palma Nova on the 18th. On that day skirmishes had taken place, in which the Austrians were victorious,—taking possession of Prevano, Valvasane, and Coidroips. Reinforcements were coming down the passes towards Udine, and the steamers of the Austrian Lloyds are armed, and placed at the disposal of count Nugent. The fortunes of Charles Albert appear to have received a check, which only an effort of great courage can repair. Inactivity will be almost as fatal to his army as a defeat. It is a critical moment for his fame.

In Sicily the House of Commons met on the 13th, and after, some preliminary discussion, whether it would be expedient to call to the throne an Italian prince from the family