

son Oscar, says—' In peace thou art the gale that bloweth over the flowers in spring, in war the storm that comes sweeping from the mountain.'

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Times. THE COLONIES.

Are we to keep our Colonies and lose our money, or keep our money and lose our colonies? This is the alternative to which a new school of politicians is perpetually urging us. This is the question into which labors, the speeches, the theories, the grumbles of a new fashioned economy resolve themselves. Never was it more strongly put yet than it was last Thursday night by Sir R. Peel, though only by way of introducing the most lame and impotent conclusion to which he had arrived respecting the West Indies. Never thus far, did the question receive a more effective answer than—strange to say—it received from him. According to the politicians whom we have referred to, no colonies are worth keeping which 'don't pay.' According to the same school, a colony does not pay which does not furnish us with some article cheaper than we can get it elsewhere, or which costs us more money than it gives back, in a word, which does not show some immediate and tangible return for the outlay made upon it. The pecuniary value is, with these gentry, the only measure of all value. They see nothing beyond it, above it, beside it. National power—national greatness—well merited gratitude—reciprocity of kindness—identity of blood, religion and language—community of danger, glory success and losses—all these considerations go for nothing compared to the achievement of knocking off a few pounds from the estimates, and a few pence from a ton of sugar. Talk of them about the moral obligation of protecting an ancient dependency—the shame of deserting a faithful an inseparable, and not the less valuable because involuntary ally, talk to them about honour, faith and duty,—they will retort by a murmur at the cost which they involve, and the taxation they necessitate. Their mortality is codified in an account of debtor and creditor, their statesmanship is limited to the one simple object of buying cheap and selling dear.

If it were our object to raise a feeling against these people, we believe it would be the easiest thing in the world. Mercantile and material as is the character of this age, we are confident that the heart and intelligence of the country are on the side of honor against expediency. Place before the educated and the intelligent people of every class throughout the kingdom the pros and cons of the question—tell them that the alternative is whether England shall keep or give up the possessions which she purchased with the blood of bravest and wisest—possessions which have clung to her through peril and menace—in the hour of desperate contest and the darkness of threatening ruin—possessions which have stood forth to bear the brunt of hostile attack, and—as Sir R. Peel well expressed it—as conductors of aggressive warfare from her own unviolated shores, ask this on every hearth and in every household of England, and we no doubt not but that nearly all—not excepting those who now petition for the havoc of our West India islands—would concur in repudiating the abandonment of the colonies as an outrage on the majesty of English dominion, and a wound on the purity of English faith. They would refuse to sacrifice to a temporary parsimony the empire as yet undeveloped, but full of promise and resource, which is wedded to us by the blood of WOLFE and the conceptions of CHATHAM.

Nor is this a matter of mere sentiment. They are right on principles of policy, gain, and interest. They could not sacrifice any of our colonies without sacrificing more than the money value of the colony. Let us just for a moment imagine Canada, the Cape, or Jamaica, or Trinidad, either wrenched from our unresisting, or deserted by our protecting hands. Take the former supposition. Suppose Montreal, or Cape Town, or Kingston, or Port of Spain in the hands of a French, a Russian, or American commander, blockaded by a hostile fleet, turned over to the caprices of insolent invasion, without help, or hope of help from the Imperial Government of Great Britain, and undergoing such changes as every conquered country must necessarily submit to—does any one dare to tell us that we Englishmen—who sat quietly at home, congratulating ourselves on a wise and pacific economy, and folding our arms in the spirit of unwarlike acquiescence, would not feel the effects of such a shock here; that men and families would go to bed, rise ay, eat, drink, and sleep, without any sensation of this convulsion, or any appreciation of its consequences, and that the only difference to England would be, that she got rid of a great appanage, and had escaped the burden of a great war? Strange and wonderfully made must that mind be, which contemplates such fruits of such a change—which believes that power taken from us would not be power used against us—and that the resources of which we refused to avail ourselves would be left unused by our enemies and successors! It is not in human nature, nor within the compass of human probabilities that such things should be. We may neglect, despise, or disregard these symbols and instruments of power, but they would not. Their first act would be to thwart and destroy that commerce, which they look on as a diabolical engine in our hands. Prohibition would be

levelled at our national, no less than confiscation against our individual industry. True it may be, that in a series of years the mischiefs and folly of such reprisals would be apparent. But what damage, what ruin might in the mean time be inflicted on British proprietors, merchants and manufacturers! Our Colonies know little of free trade as yet, and what little they do know they do not like. Our continental rivals know less, and like it as little. They have yet to learn the certain, though mysterious way by which Manchester cottons and Staffordshire earthenware permeate through the barriers of protection and the breakwater of monopoly. It will take, perhaps, generations to teach them. England, indeed, with her Colonies opened to all the world, receiving the productions of every clime, annulling and annihilating the ties of reciprocated monopolies—England enjoying free trade and permitting her Colonies to enjoy it too, might indoctrinate the world with her maxims, and lead the world on her footsteps. But England, reft of her colonies, isolated, sitting like the Niobe of nations in the squalor childless bereavement, would be a warning and a spectacle, not a wonder and an example. Warned and frightened by her, but less frightened by her downfall than triumphing in it, they would, one and all, enter on a policy which, though in the long run it might fail in its desired effect, would necessarily inflict, by prohibitions, confiscations, and pillage, a serious and enduring wound on private and public fortunes. Such a state of things, too, of course, implies the absence or the disuse of a navy, it therefore implies the transmission of English marine power into the same hands that had succeeded to the possession of English colonial power. It is tantamount to a surrender of the strength and strong arm of the country. It is tantamount to the degradation and humiliation of Englishmen on the very soil where they had erst been lords and masters—to the restitution of slavery in a worse form and worse features, on the very spot where philanthropy had hoped to strike its deadliest, surest blow! And do these men know so little of man's nature as not to know that, when England had been reduced to this state—when she had lost colonies and maritime greatness—when she was forbidden the harbours which had been once her own, when another flag floated in place of hers—when slaves were bought and sold where she had said no slave shall be—when the islands that once spoke of and prayed for our 'gracious Sovereign,' discussed 'our respected President' or 'our indivisible Republic,'—when English planters were turned over to the tender mercies of the Alien Vagrant Act,—that then—though Englishmen in England might possibly sugar their tea for a few farthings less, their honour, their dignity and their security would be far different from what they had been? Yet these are the conditions of abandoning or losing our colonies. We cannot abandon them without transferring them; we cannot transfer them without losing all the essential benefit of their occupation.

As a nation we have courted high responsibilities, and we cannot shake them off. It is less permitted to an empire to be discreetly penurious or dishonorably mean than to a great lord or millionaire to forego the natural exences of his position, and descend into the careless tranquility of irresponsible retirement. What we have undertaken that we must fulfil. The vast territory of which we vaunt was delegated to us not for idle boast or vapid ostentation. The millions whom we rule, we rule as much for their as our own good. We are the trustees of great possessions and great powers. Let not the reproach be verified with which a Frenchman has twitted us; viz, that we have spread everywhere and taken root nowhere; that we have ruled as tyrants, extortioners and locusts, never as beneficent and benevolent masters. Above all, let us not seem to verify the taunt, by shirking in a period of pressure the consequences of our counsels and our own acts. It were ignomy to bate one inch of that ground which we have occupied between the Sutlej and the Saint Lawrence for an incidental convenience. But double would be the ignomy we would bequeath if we left it to posterity to say of us,—'The English of the nine tenth century inherited enormous power, and an enormous empire, with unparalleled means of doing good to the world. They mutilated the first, they omitted the last. But as the price of opportunities despised and majesty deteriorated, they learned how to buy sugar cheap and sell calico dear; for this they lost the world, and were content to lose it!'

United States News.

The Retaliatory Postal Law—We understand that the United States Mail Agent seized on board the steamship Niagara yesterday, quite a number of letters, which had been given to passengers and others, in order to avoid the retaliatory postage of twenty-four cents now levied by our government.—Boston Traveller.

Reported Capture by Pirates.—Captain Newton, of the bark Saint Cloud, which arrived at this port yesterday from Trinidad de Cuba, reports that on the 5th instant two brig one Spanish and the other English, were chased, and said to have been captured by pirates off Cape Saint Antonio. Two men of war were immediately despatched from Trinidad de Cuba, but up to the sailing of the Saint Cloud they had not returned.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Grain Crops in Western and Central as well as in Southern New York, are excellent. Wheat will be nearly all harvested this week. We have not yet heard of the Potato

rot north of the highlands, but its ravages elsewhere lead us to fear that we shall. Wheat and corn have yielded more than an average in the states of Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The Dead Sea Expedition.—We are pleased to learn from private letters, that the Dead Sea Exploring party have successfully and satisfactorily completed their task, and returned to Jerusalem, where they were on the 10th May. They have sounded the sea in all parts, to the depth of 600 fathoms, and found the bottom crusted with crystallized salt. The pestilential effects attributed to the waters turn out to be fabulous. Ducks were seen skimming over the surface, and partridges abound along the shore. The party were upon the sea in their boats, or encamped on its borders for some two months, and their researches and estimates have been of the most thorough and interesting character. All were in excellent health and spirits, no sickness or accident having occurred. By the Arabs they had been received and uniformly treated with the utmost kindness and attention. The Syrians consider 'the men of the Jordan,' as they call them, the greatest heroes of the day. Lieutenants Lynch and Dale will visit, under the most favorable circumstances, all the places made memorable in scripture history, and we may expect from them a highly interesting account of their explorations of the Dead Sea.—Boston Traveller.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

From the Saint John Albion.

Important to Ship Owners, Merchants, and Mariners.—The dense fogs that so generally prevail in the Bay of Fundy, and which veil in almost total obscurity the entrances of our harbours, some of which are extremely intricate, and the soundings little to be depended upon, render the navigation of our waters a work of great difficulty. Scarcely a season passes in which some of our most valuable ships with costly cargoes, although commanded by trustworthy and able captains, are not totally wrecked, almost within hailing distance of our port; while the upper part of the Bay is pervaded by fogs so dense, that the utmost skill and caution are inadequate to avoid the unseen dangers. This has long been a source of great inconvenience and heavy losses, and a very serious obstacle to the successful prosecution of our coasting trade. Of late years much anxiety has been manifested and strong wishes expressed by those most deeply interested in maritime avocations, to adopt some mode of obviating the difficulties to which we allude, but the great desideratum has never yet, as far as we are informed, been in operation. This we believe, has at length accomplished, after nearly twenty years study, by one of our old coasters, who is intimately acquainted with the difficulties which he has sought to remove. We have lately inspected a model of a Pneumatic Fog Bell, invented and patented by Captain Thomas Robson, of Sackville, Westmorland county, in this Province, which is rung by the wind, and so arranged as to operate in the slightest current of air, and may be made to strike single, double, treble or quadruple strokes, or in a brisk wind to keep up a continual ringing. This result is produced by a series of wheels, driven by a large fly wheel, which is ingeniously contrived to turn in the same direction by wind coming from any point of the compass. The great merit of this invention consists in acting independent of human agency, and as it is not liable to disarrangement when once properly erected, it will continue to perform its functions for a long period. This we conceive, gives an immeasurable superiority over all other Fog Bells now in use.

Another, and by no means unimportant feature in this invention is the attachment of an admirable apparatus, constructed upon simple and well-known scientific principles, which causes the bell to cease ringing in clear fine weather. The Bell may be constructed with or without this self regulating apparatus.

Canada.

From the Quebec Gazette, July 31.

Emigration.—We beg leave to call attention to the announcement of a meeting which is to be held this evening, on the important subject of Emigration. The object is the establishment of systematic Colonization on a sound, practical basis. The mode in which it is proposed to effect this, is, that Great Britain should advance as much money as would suffice for the maintenance of emigrants as settlers during the first year of their residence in this country, the money so advanced to be refunded to the state, the locations settled being held liable for the repayment of it.

West Indies.

The Jamaica Journal of the 30th June says:—Disaffection in many parts of the Colonies exists among the working classes, caused either from bad management or from the inability of the planters to remunerate them for their services.

At Hanover and Montego Bay, the feeling of discontent among this class assumed a very serious turn, causing much uneasiness to the inhabitants.

From every British dependency through the West India Islands, the accounts confirm the statements we have already published, in regard to the distressed condition of the public, as well as individual affairs. Every colonial

government, as far as we can learn, is bankrupt, their treasuries empty, and their revenues far too limited to sustain the common wants of the officers of justice.

There had been a Negro insurrection in the Danish West India Islands, when considerable fighting took place, and many murders were committed in Saint Croix. The blacks had been successful in overthrowing the government.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1848.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and in our 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.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer America, arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning last. The most important news is from Ireland, where the disaffected are making vigorous and united efforts to oppose the British Government, and fears are entertained that an insurrection will speedily break out. The Continental and French news is comparatively uninteresting.

Our papers are to the 22nd July, and we have copied, principally from Willmer & Smith's European Times, numerous extracts.

Of the weather and the crops, this paper gives the following gratifying intelligence.

The reports which have lately reached us from all parts of the United Kingdom respecting the state of the Crops, &c., is very encouraging, and afford convincing proof that we shall, should the weather continue as favourable as heretofore, have a most abundant and timely harvest. We append a few of the many reports received.

The following sketch is given of the commercial affairs.

The great political excitement which prevails in Ireland, and the apprehension of an emeute in that country, has operated very unfavourably on all branches of trade and commerce during the past week. The produce markets have therefore, been less active and holders of most description of goods being willing sellers, prices have given way slightly.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.—We are indebted to Messrs. James & Morrow for a copy of Dempsey, Frost & Co.'s Circular, of the 19th July, from which we copy the following proasable notice of this trade.

Pine.—In consequence of the light importation of Timber so far this season, prices have rather improved. St. John's cargoes of 19 inches average, having brought 17½d per foot, and 18 inches 16½d per foot; several Quebec Cargoes have also been disposed of at 14d to 14½d per foot.

Railway Sleepers.—Are in fair demand, but prices continue to rule low.

Pine and Spruce Planks.—St. John's Deals have been sold at £7 10s to £8 per standard hundred; St. Andrews at £8; and Nova Scotia Deals at £7 5s per standard hundred.

BERMUDA.—Exchange papers state, that there are 2,500 convicts constantly at work on the Government works, at the Dock yard and fortifications, which are extensive and very formidable.

The Halifax Courier furnishes the following interesting piece of news, being an extract of a letter dated on the 19th July.

Since the arrival of Mitchell, all the disposable portion of the 42nd, have been removed to Ireland Island—the fortifications are double manned and the strictest surveillance kept up. Two or three alarms were given at night, which tested to perfection the admirable discipline of this well known corps. I also learn that several of the convict guards, who were Irish, have been dismissed in consequence of giving or reading public newspapers to Mr Mitchell. Information having been given by a sergeant of the 42nd Regt. On their way to Hamilton they waylaid the first Highlander—an inoffensive man, whom they met—abused him in a shocking manner—broke the bones of his leg, and left him for dead, stretched across a wall with a heavy stone on his chest. The vital spark, however, had not fled when he was discovered, and he is now in the hospital in a very precarious state. The perpetrators of this outrage have been arrested and are now in Hamilton Jail, awaiting the assizes, which will be in November next.

UNITED STATES.—The Mexican war has entailed a debt of \$75,000,000 on the American people.