

some parties were employed in laying down gravel on the ice, to facilitate the cutting of the passage out of the ships from the harbour at the proper season. The gravel, which was taken from the shore on sledges, was laid so as to absorb the sun's rays, which, acting upon the ice, predisposed it to rot and to melt away. This work very much assisted the arduous task of cutting a canal out of the harbour of fifty feet wide, and two miles and a half long. These and other exercises during the winter, somewhat acclimated the men, and insured them to sustain the privations which they subsequently encountered in the searching expeditions. All around Leopold Harbour nothing was seen but snow, rocks 1100 feet high, bounded on each side; and a narrow low ridge enclosed the harbour northward. There were very few icebergs seen from this point.

Sir James Ross began to send out detached parties at the early part of the month of April. From the *Enterprise*, Sir James was the first to go himself, and with Mr Cheyne and a party of ten men, left the ship, and proceeded with a quantity of bread, preserved meats, fuel and skins, and went 15 miles to the westward. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Barnard and a party from the *Investigator*, the provisions being carried on two sledges. They penetrated as far as Cape Hurd. Another party from both ships, under Lieut. Robinson (*Investigator*), and Lieut. Brown (*Enterprise*), and Mr Adams, assistant surgeon (*Investigator*), were despatched on similar service, and proceeded about 15 miles southward. They deposited their provisions about 15 miles north of Elwin Bay. Both parties suffered severely from this expedition, being most of them blinded by the snow drifts.

It was arranged that the principal expedition should leave the ships on the 15th May. The morning did not give any indication of fine weather, for it blew high, and the snow was a foot and a half deep. About six o'clock, however, in the evening, the weather moderated, and the parties started with three hearty cheers from the ship. It was composed of Sir James Ross, Lieut. McClintock, and twelve seamen of the *Enterprise*; the first lieutenant, Mr McClure, having been left in charge of the ship. They were absent exactly forty days. They carried with them preserved meats, with supplies of pork, biscuit, and rum, and also their sleeping apparatus, which consisted of tarpaulins to spread out on the snow to prevent the heat of the bodies from thawing it, buffalo robes to lay upon, the blanket bags in which they ensconced themselves, and racoon skin blankets to serve as counterpanes; they also had two sledges, six men to each, and two tents. They travelled to the westward, from Cape Clarence around the coast as far as Cape Bunny, about 100 miles upon the shore of North Somerset. Here, as before stated, they found the coast, which had been up to that time unexplored, trending to the southward. They pursued that course about 140 miles further, at the extreme point of which they erected a cairn, and deposited cylinders therein, with the usual notices, dating them 5th June, 1849. They had by this time shortened their provisions, and the men were so knocked up that Sir James was reluctantly compelled to return. From the extreme point they reached they could see the coast southward for forty miles further. The ice in this direction was pressed up in some parts to the height of between 50 and 60 feet. They shot, in this expedition, 8 ptarmigan and a few ducks. On the western coast they saw the remnants of an Esquimaux hut, and the relics of a deer's antlers, which were supposed to have been there for at least a century, and from the appearance of the ice in this direction there was no possibility of any ships having penetrated in that direction—at all events that season. Every one was on the sick list, with the exception of Lieutenant McClintock. Many were also frost bitten.

[To be continued.]

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the *Fredericton Amaranth*.
THE WHIG MINISTRY.

Earl Grey, the Colonial Secretary, from the office he holds falls more immediately under our observation than any one of his colleagues; and what has he done to merit our regard? It will be fresh in the recollection of our readers that on the 28th of August, 1846, Her Majesty accorded her royal assent to an act of the Imperial Parliament, authorising the Legislatures of this and other Colonies to repeal by enactment, the Imperial Duties upon imports, then and theretofore collected in the said Colonies respectively. The Legislature of New Brunswick passed a Bill accordingly, in the Session of 1847, repealing the said Imperial duties, which Bill shortly after received the royal assent and became Law; and as a part of the same scheme the Revenue departments in this Province were consolidated. Our Legislators upon this, very rationally supposed that they would thenceforth enjoy the privilege of regulating our own Tariff, and that certain despatches from Downing Street prohibiting the imposition of differential duties had become null and void,—we say this was their rational conclusion, for the tenor of the Despatches referred to were to this effect: "you may levy what duties you may require for revenue purposes, but we regulate the difference necessary to be made, by the Imperial Tariff." Now, as this Imperial Tariff was abolished, the difference could no longer be so regulated, and in 1848, our Legislators undertook to regulate the difference themselves. But lo! on the

opening of the Session of 1849, a Despatch from Earl Grey to Sir Edmund Walker Head was communicated to the Legislature, in which his Lordship instructs Sir Edmund to withhold his assent in future to any Revenue Bill containing a differential scale of duties, and intimates that nothing but the reluctance felt in depriving the Colony of its Revenue for one year had prevented the Ministry from advising Her Majesty to withhold her assent from the Revenue Bill of 1848. The excuse taken by Ministers for exercising this control over the Local Government is this: That Great Britain has different Trade Treaties existing with foreign nations, several of which contain clauses that the said foreign nations, respectively, in exporting certain specified articles to the British dominions, shall be placed upon "the same footing as the most favoured nation," and that, were Colonial Legislatures permitted to make disinctions in the products of foreign countries, it would disarrange the economy of the Imperial Government, and lead to difficulty and confusion. This is the excuse urged, but it is a mean and pitiful subterfuge. The Colonists never claimed to exercise the power of drawing distinctions between the products of "foreign nations;" it was never dreamt of! but feelings of loyalty, consanguinity, and gratitude for former protection, prompted them to admit British manufactured goods at a lower rate of duty than similar goods from foreign nations, and to reciprocate with other British Colonies: and this privilege is gravely refused, lest foreign nations take umbrage and difficulties arise. Can anything be more absurd? Does Earl Grey suppose the Colonists to be perfect idiots, that they cannot perceive that treaties guaranteeing privileges to Foreign nations can have no reference whatever to the home trade—to the trade between different sections of the same Empire.

What motives could have prompted the Whigs to adopt this silly course of unprofitable meddling and wretched subterfuge? It would require a wide stretch of the imagination to ascribe it to ignorance, and we can hardly suppose men would act in this manner out of sheer recklessness, or through inattention. Probably Earl Grey's conduct last winter affords the proper clue to the motive. Canada, through a variety of circumstances, requires a large Revenue to meet her annual disbursements; consequently the duty upon imported goods into that colony are much higher than in the colonies of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Bound down by the Differential Duty Despatches, Canada was obliged to impose equal duties upon British and Foreign goods; the British manufacturer found this interfered with his business, and merchants and manufacturers memorialised Earl Grey. The consequence was, a despatch from his Lordship, laid before the Canadian Legislature at the last Session, complaining bitterly of the high duties upon British goods! This, then, is the policy of his Lordship and his Colleagues: first to compel the Colonies to impose the same duties upon British goods they do upon foreign, and then remonstrate if the duties upon the former are higher than suits their notions! They have but one step more to make (advise Her Majesty to disallow a Colonial Revenue Bill which imposes duties upon British goods) to coerce the Colonies into the system of free admissions, or (which is more likely) compel them to demand a separation from the parent state.

About the same time Earl Grey despatched his *Ukase* to this Province, prohibiting differential duties; he issued another, instructing the Lieutenant Governor to withhold his assent to any Bill granting Bounties to encourage a particular branch of industry. Thus, although an Imperial Act of 1837 cedes and guarantees to this colony the management of its own revenues, Earl Grey's mere dictum prevents the Legislature from giving bounties for the encouragement of agriculture, the prosecution of fisheries, or the establishment of manufactures; and although an Act of the Imperial Parliament passed in 1846 gives these Colonies the regulation of their own Tariffs, Earl Grey insists that we shall not favor *British*, but tax her goods equally with foreign! We shall shortly advert to this subject more fully, but will at once declare our opinion boldly and unequivocally that this absurd—this monstrous dictation—can no longer be submitted to—that a hasty and ill composed letter written by a Clerk in the Colonial office, and bearing the signature of the head of that department, cannot be recognised as superior in power, and superseding a solemn Act of the Three Estates in Great Britain—that Despatches from the Colonial Office must no longer form our Constitution! The facts we have just recorded place the Colonial Minister before the public in a light sufficiently ridiculous and sufficiently reckless, but his folly and wickedness cannot fail to appear more striking and atrocious when we state that almost at the very moment the dictatorial Despatches referred to were leaving London for their destination, he had the unblushing assurance to declare to the House of Lords that in his correspondence with the Colonial Governments, whatever he might have suggested, he had been careful not to dictate.

The troubles in Canada in the months of March and April last, consequent upon the passing of the Rebellion Losses Bill, are of too recent occurrence to require recapitulation in this sketch. But there was one remarkable feature connected with the affair: in reply to the many inquiries made in the House of Lords, up to the arrival of the mail bringing the intelligence that Lord Elgin had given his assent to the Bill, and the bitter consequences, his Lordship invariably replied that he had

nothing to communicate—that he had perfect confidence in Lord Elgin, but had neither received or sent an *Official Despatch* about the matter,—in short, that whatever correspondence had taken place between Lord Elgin and himself about it was strictly of a private nature! This, certainly, was a new dodge, much more creditable to his Lordship for its ingenuity than for its honesty. If this course is to be pursued, his Lordship may at any time keep Parliament in ignorance, whilst he issues his commands!

Another phase in his Lordship's conduct upon this occasion, was equally disingenuous. In reply to some objections as to the nature of the bill, his Lordship observed that he could not perceive what the Imperial Parliament had to do with it—that the Canadian Legislative bodies were privileged to expend the revenues of their country as they saw fit, and that they knew what was best for their country, &c. Now, all this would have been very fine but for the contrast between his Lordship's words and his conduct. New Brunswick is situated precisely the same as Canada, with respect to the management of the revenue, and every word his Lordship uttered about the privilege of the Canadian Legislature, and the impropriety of interfering with it, applies equally to New Brunswick; and yet his Lordship but a few weeks previous to uttering those non-interfering sentiments, had sent an *Ukase* to New Brunswick prohibiting the practice of giving Bounties! Here are two Legislatures, enjoying equal privileges, and yet it is *right* (according to Earl Grey) for one of them to pass a bill to expend the revenues of the country to remunerate rebels for losses sustained in consequence of their own misconduct, and *wrong* for the other to expend the revenues of the country for the purpose of encouraging useful branches of industry! According to His Lordship's opinion, the first should be tolerated and the other prohibited!

His Lordship has not been a whit more happy in his rule over other colonies than in the affairs of British North America. His conduct towards the colonists of the Cape of Good Hope has been marked by jugglery and prevarication quite humiliating to those Britons who are still sufficiently unsophisticated to admire the blunt and straightforward character of John Bull of the olden times. His Lordship at first intimated to the Governor, Sir Harry Smith, the desire entertained by Ministers to make the Cape a Penal Colony, but at the same time promised that of course no convicts would be sent there unless the Colonists approved of it. Subsequently His Lordship forgetting this promise, intimated to Sir Harry that military convicts from the island of Mauritius would be sent to the Cape, and excused himself on the ground that they would be so few. In a subsequent Despatch it was stated that the Cape would be made the convict station for all the military convicts from the east, including India and China, and later still, a ship load of convicts have been sent from Bermuda to the Cape! Sir Harry Smith, a high minded and honorable soldier, thus forced to break the pledge he made to the people on the strength of Earl Grey's promises when he first broached the subject, remonstrated strongly, repeatedly, and even angrily against this measure, but without effect. The people, also thus deceived and trampled upon, remonstrated at first, then threatened, and at length entered into combinations not to harbor the convicts, nor have any dealings with them, or with those who countenanced or trafficked with them. His Lordship was still obstinate, until he had reduced the Colony to the verge of rebellion, when he at length yields so late papers inform us) and countermands his obnoxious orders.

Again, the island of Jamaica (ruined by Whig dishonesty and inconsistency) governed by His Lordship's relative, is now in a ferment, in consequence of His Lordship's absolute refusal to allow the inhabitants to reduce the public expenditure to a scale befitting their present means. The island, impoverished by Whiggism, is compelled by an arbitrary Whig Minister to support an extensive scale of salaries! We could give other instances of Earl Grey's misrule, but it is unnecessary. So puff away Radicals! He is one of your bright ornaments.

The British Press.

From the *London Examiner*.

CANADIAN ANNEXATION.

The question of annexation to the United States is mooted in Canada, and a manifesto has been published, variously stated as being signed by 350 and 1,200 persons, of all political parties. The leaders, however, seem to be the old Tories, who, sated by loss of power, and by commercial difficulties which they have only shared with the rest of the empire, have suddenly turned round and become republicans, as a cure for all the ills their flesh has been subject to. This is, as if our own agricultural protectionists were for the nonce, to become good Democrats—because out of place, and because wheat was 42s. a quarter, and meat at 4d. a pound.

To annexation it may probably come at last, but assuredly, in the meanwhile, not one of the three parties interested in the question is ripe for it. The pride and prejudices of the English nation are unquestionably against it. Three hundred and fifty signatures in its favor, or twice three hundred and fifty, are no proof that it is desired by a population of two millions of colonists. Then, the whole southern states of the American union are against the

measure to a man. There is no chance whatever, then, of its being carried, or even making any considerable progress just now.

Some of the grounds on which annexation is argued by the writers of the manifesto are futile, and indeed absurd. The abolition of protection on the part of Great Britain, deeply deplored by these sons of freedom, is to be remedied by the protection afforded by the great Republic. At the very moment that the subscribers are attaching their subscribers, the main portion of this ground is cut away from under their feet by the abolition of the American navigation laws. On every load of timber which the Americans import into the United Kingdom, they have, down to this hour, a protective duty of 5s., equal to one-fourth part of the whole tax on foreign timber. This, of course, they would lose by annexation; nor would they have protection, under the laws of the union, from any timber whatsoever that it was possible to bring into competition with them in the American market.

But the most extravagant of the anticipated benefits from annexation is protection to Canadian manufactures. What are these either in esse or in posse? The American legislature, under the advice of certain American manufacturers, imposed a tax on the American people, through a protective duty which greatly enhances the cost of every yard of calico and every ton of iron they use, depreciating at the same time the quality of the articles they are forced to consume. It is this piece of economic mischief which the framers of the Canadian manifesto coolly propose as a great national advantage.

By the aid of protection, or, in other terms, of self unproductive taxation, the Americans have been enabled to establish large manufactures of cotton and iron, one of which, at the moment of drawing up the manifesto, was tottering for want of sufficient protection, calling out for more taxation to bolster it up. These manufactures have been established for many years, and against them, on equal terms, the young manufacturers of Canada would have to compete. Without coal, and without iron in the same abundance as in the old States of the Union, and with cotton farther fetched, and therefore dearer, the struggle of the Canadian manufacturers would assuredly be a very hopeless one.

The manifesto particularly dwells on the advantage which Lower Canada, in particular, would reap from the establishment of protected manufactures, owing to the abundance of 'water privileges' and of 'cheap labor.' This is sheer self-delusion. For one half the year the 'water privilege' of Canada is solid ice, which does not move wheels, but locks them up. A country like Lower Canada with neither iron nor coal, gains nothing by cheap labor. In the poorest part of Scotland, Ireland and Wales, where labor is low-priced, but where there are no coals,—manufactures, although tried, have never succeeded, but they flourish where labor is high and coal abundant. Some deduction, too, must be made for race. Manufactures in Lower Canada, with low priced wages, supposes Gallician labourers;—artisans of the age of Louis XIII, and Frenchmen of any age, have not as yet been found successful competitors with men of the Anglo-Saxon race, and in any great branch of national industry, even on a fair and equal field, which Lower Canada, compared with Pennsylvania, is not. In so far as manufactures are concerned, what the Canadians would acquire would be the privilege of buying dear manufactures; and what they would lose, that of purchasing cheap ones.

Let us, however, suppose a peaceable annexation of the Canadas to the great federal Republic, and glance at its probable results, as they would affect the different parties interested. It must be a peaceable one, brought about by a friendly negotiation. If not England will assuredly fight, and whatever be the final issue, the other certain results will be much spilling of blood, and a malice of not less than a hundred millions on each of the belligerents, with the conversion of Canada into a battle field for several years, retarding its material prosperity for some quarter of a century. First, then, with respect to the Canadians. The long line of custom houses on the present frontier will be removed; the productions, the capital, and the population of the Union will enter the Canadas freely; and the lumber of the Canadian (they have little else to exchange) will find a market in the Union, without payment of any duty, but in competition with the timber of the present less cultivated states, while they will lose all advantage in the English Market,—indeed the English market altogether; for with inferior timber, and a long carriage, they cannot compete in an equal market with the nations of the north of Europe.

The authors of the manifesto state that the public service of the United States would be open to them by annexation. But the civil and military services of England are also open to them, for there is not an office under the crown that a Canadian may not now hold. No doubt the Canadas would have the additional privilege, under annexation, of sending representatives to the two houses of the American Legislature; but the professors of ultra-loyalism, the leaders of the present movement, could hardly expect to be the choice of democratic constituencies, to represent their country in a Republican Government.

Next for the advantages of annexation to the United States. We are disposed to think they will be smaller than to either of the other parties. Upper Canada will be a valuable acquisition, and so will the complete navigation of the lakes and the St. Lawrence. But