

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Quebec Gazette.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

As it will be seen from the subjoined resolutions, to be moved by Mr. Sherwood, the cities of Quebec and Toronto are to be the alternate capitals of the Province. To obviate the inconvenience and danger of transporting the records every four years from one end of the Province to the other, all proceedings are to be made out in duplicate, and a copy deposited in each of the vaults of the two Parliament Houses. There will still be considerable expense incurred by the transmission of these duplicates from one city to the other: but any feasible plan, by whatever difficulties it be accompanied, is better than leaving the legislature in a city where no security against open violence is to be found.

It may be that the next four years will witness radical changes in the government of Canada: the majority, we believe, of the inhabitants, look with an eye of discontent upon the present system. Some agitate the repeal of the union, and wish to place the country in the position it was before 1837, leaving us at the same time responsible government. Others talk of a repeal of the union, but with a new division of the Provinces, throwing Montreal into Upper Canada: the Lower Province would then be composed of Quebec and the country parishes. To this arrangement, if the spirit of the French Canadian members remain as it is, the British population of Quebec would never consent. Others, and many of our fellow citizens among them, desire a federal union of the Provinces, and Quebec as the capital of the union: this scheme seems to us mainly to depend upon the Halifax railroad. Until the means of communication between this and Halifax be more rapid and more regular, there is little prospect of a fusion of the two colonies. The most powerful argument, geographical demonstration, seems unfavorable to this plan. A large section of the inhabitants of Canada, chiefly of Upper Canada, now boldly express their opinions in favor of annexation: a few years ago, it was but whispered, *sub rosa*, and now several leading journals have warmly espoused the cause. The very mode which the advocates for British connexion have adopted for repelling the annexationist doctrines, is calculated to spread them through the country. Many of the Tories, sick of a disheartening contest with the present ministry, declare that they prefer an alliance with Yankee descendants of Anglo-Saxons, to a state of subservience to their Norman fellow-countrymen. On the other hand, the *Avenir*, organ of the most enlightened and most energetic party among the French Canadians, a party, too, which is every day gaining ground, has boldly declared its predilection for annexation.

These facts are ominous: they may perhaps be balanced, however, by the circumstance that annexation to the United States has been a favorite hobby with discontented Canadians ever since 1774. It, as some say, we are destined sooner or later to be incorporated with the Great Republic, we do not think it will come to pass through a fit of ill-humor on the part of the merchants here. The benefits to be derived from annexation must be coolly weighed, before rumor will acquire any degree of consistency.

From the Sherbrooke Gazette.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION.

We are enjoying the bitter fruits of the union of Upper and Lower Canada. Previous to the consummation of that act, the Gazette remonstrated against the measure as injurious to the interests of the Eastern Townships. We foresaw that the people of the Upper Province would care very little for their Anglo-Saxon countrymen in Lower Canada, if they could but gain their own ends. We expressed the opinion that the liberals of Upper Canada would join with the French party, and have a majority in the Legislature, and that we should be left to the tender mercies of French Canadian politicians. The Indemnity Bill, the Canadian Emigration Scheme, Mr. Fortier's Bill to aid the owners of the Township Wild Lands, the Representation Bill, and lastly Mr. Drummond's scheme to manufacture voters with promises of sale, are some of the fruits of the Union. Let the Election Bill with Mr. Drummond's amendment, as it has passed the lower House, become law, and the counties of Sherbrooke, Drummond, and Sherbrooke, are about as effectually placed under French control, as though they were removed to the banks of the St. Lawrence, and a Seigneur placed over them. We believe it is perfectly plain to every intelligent man that all the political evils under which the Townships suffer, are in consequence of the double legislation to which the Province is subjected.—We have a Road Law, a Municipal and a School Bill, embracing all the subjects over which the people have a direct control, framed to suit the French people. These laws may be very suitable for them, but they are unsuited to this portion of the Province. It is then very evident that any proposition to remedy existing evils, which leaves the races to be legislated for together, whether the French or English have the ascendancy, will not reach the difficulty. It is not to be supposed for a moment, that the French in Lower Canada will tamely submit to be crushed by the English party; and be must be a madman in politics, who proposes to exterminate, or to deprive of their political rights, 500,000 of the population of this

Province. We have no sympathy for any scheme which has for its object merely the turning out of the present ministry, to make room for an equally hungry and remorseless set of their opponents: this would only be changing the ground of the quarrel. Were the tory 'scamps,' (as the *Courier* once termed the late ministry) to come into power, their heels, we fear, would not sit very lightly on the necks of their enemies. The combatants must be separated, or the fearful scenes which are now desolating Europe, and of which we have recently had a taste in Montreal, will be re-enacted in Canada.

With these feelings we rejoice to see a proposition introduced into the Legislature, to dissolve the union, and to draw the line of separation between the races. The resolution introduced by Mr. Boulton, proposes, according to the Montreal Transcript, a complete separation so far as legislation is concerned, of the whole of the British Counties from those principally inhabited by French Canadians, by placing the Eastern Townships, with the District of Montreal, and the Ottawa, with Upper Canada.

This appears to us to be the most practicable scheme that has yet been proposed. There might be some inconvenience, for a while, in assimilating ourselves to the local institutions of Upper Canada, but it would relieve us from the evils of French legislation for an English constituency. At all events, whatever remedy may be adopted, a separation as far as possible, should be provided for, or there will be no peace or prosperity for Canada.

From the Quebec Chronicle.

COINCIDENCES—THE TIMES.

One can scarcely fail to be struck with the coincidences of the years 1792, 1830, and 1848. These have already arrested attention, filling some with wonder, others with awe; and like causes producing like effects is the philosophic solution, and a ready answer for the similarity of occurrences. We do not mean to enter into the matter now. We have no time for philosophizing. We merely mention that there are striking coincidences in the events of these periods, so that he who desires it may inform himself. The coincidences between the past and the future, however, have not yet ceased. There are things in store for many of us, which just now we hardly expect. We are on the brink of ruin. The ruin of the British Empire would seem impending; but it is not yet ruined; nor, if we can see well before us, will it be. There are events, about to be, in Europe, which must alter all our free trade schemes, even without the aid of popular reaction. There will be, if any reliance may be placed on the 'Signs of the times,' a compulsory protective policy, before long. The day is not far distant when the whole continent of Europe will be engaged in deadly strife. Already are Prussia and Denmark at it, Austria and Italy. Preparing, we find, Russia and Turkey; and seeking for it France. Then, will Great Britain be compelled to trade with her colonies, in preference to the foreigner, and so make a little world within herself. The Hibernia brought us the important intelligence that France has induced Sardinia to refuse the terms of Austria.

Only one year had elapsed after the revolution of 1792 until France was engaged in war, and in the course of that very summer General Dumontiez and 1500 men had deserted to the Austrians. What will be the result of the present French interference in the affairs of Italy against Austria, time must tell; but it is our fixed and deliberate opinion that it can end in nothing else than war, from which we sincerely trust, but do not imagine, Great Britain will be enabled to keep free.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1849.

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.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The Halifax papers contain an advertisement from the Commissioners, for tenders to supply 4,300 posts, for the erection of an Electric Telegraph, to connect that city with Amherst, the boundary of Nova Scotia. The Sun contains an editorial article on this subject, and we are glad to perceive that there is a likelihood the line of communication to connect Quebec with Halifax, will be completed this fall. From this article we take an extract:—

A Company has already been formed to construct a line from Quebec to Amherst, under the auspices of Mr. Gisborne, which is now in operation as far as the River du Loup, and will in all probability be pushed on to its completion with due haste. Another company

has been formed under the auspices of an American gentleman named Darrow, to construct a line from Saint John to Amherst. Mr. Gisborne appealed to our citizens last winter, and met with considerable success. Mr. Darrow is now in our city, with a like object, and it remains to be seen what encouragement he will receive. So far, we must confess, appearances are not very favorable. At a public meeting holden yesterday, at the Exchange, but seven gentlemen, besides Mr. Darrow and the editor of this paper, (who attended in his public capacity) were present. But two of our large mercantile firms were represented at this meeting—that of Fairbanks & Allison, and Creighton & Grassie. The legal interest was as strong as the mercantile, and the dry goods stronger than either. We were gratified, however at the liberality of the stock subscriptions of those present, which amounted to £1000—one third, we understand, of the whole amount required to be raised in Nova Scotia, the balance, we presume, having been subscribed in New Brunswick. The meeting adjourned after a mere conversation as to the best mode of procedure, and it was understood that Mr. Darrow with Thos. Grassie, Esq., who volunteered to accompany him, would call upon those of our citizens who may be supposed likely to take stock, for their signatures. We doubt not the required amount will be readily subscribed.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON.—This veteran completed his 80th year on the 2nd inst.

NEW YORK RIOT.—From late papers we glean a few further incidents relating to this disgraceful transaction:—

John Dalzel was shot in the groin and had his thigh broken near the head. The wound was almost surely mortal, but the surgeons offered the patient the slight chance afforded by amputation at the hip joint, the most fearful operation in surgery. It was accepted by him and performed by Dr. Rogers. The patient died soon after the amputation. This man was one of the foremost among the rioters, having been so near the troops that the ward entered with the bullet. When warned to retire on pain of being shot, he became more violent than ever, telling the troops 'to fire and be d—d, G—d d—n you.' They fired and he instantly fell.

The wounds received by the military are much more severe than most persons suppose, from the fact that they were merely stone cuts and bruises. There is hardly a more dangerous and disabling wound than the contusion received from a cobble stone. And when we consider that the troops after being for a long time excited by the most violent and aggravating abuse, stood firm and unresisting until in the company half were disabled, and in another eleven shared the same fate, we must approve of their discipline as much as we admire their courage. One physician told us that he examined twenty five who were thus disabled before orders to defend themselves were asked. Of these one had his skull fractured.

A large proportion, nearly all indeed, of those who lost their lives in this riot, were active participants therein. The accidental deaths of innocent persons were caused by the mistaken order to fire high, on the first volley. One of the wounded, on being brought to the hospital, was vehement in denunciations of the authorities for shooting innocent men,—protesting that he was passing by—a mere spectator, &c. The pockets of his coat, however, were filled with heavy stones.

Another protesting that he had done nothing, was found to have been shot in a direction which necessarily implied that his arm was raised to throw a stone at the moment he received the wound. And another of the killed was struck directly on the top of the head—while stooping, undoubtedly to pick up a stone.

The Boston Transcript contains the following sensible remarks, in reference to the conduct of the military on the occasion of the New York riots. It is worthy of mention that the press generally in New York, agree in supporting the authorities—and in criminating Forrest, and exonerating Macready, the champions of the riot. Macready had to escape from New York in the disguise of a soldier, and is now on his way to England. The Transcript thus defends the military:—

The authorities were finally told that the soldiers would no longer stand their ground unless permitted to defend themselves against the brutal scoundrels who were stoning them. Capt. Pond, in command of the company who had taken possession of the sidewalk next the theatre with extreme difficulty and danger, was hit with a stone and taken off the ground. The next officer in command then said to the sheriff, who was at hand, that if he did not get orders to fire, he and his men would abandon the street. That officer directed the company to fire a round over the heads of the people, which was accordingly done, but without effect. The people continued to pelt them with paving stones as before. An order was then given for the company to fire at the crowd, and it was obeyed.

FREDERICTON.—In another place will be found the particulars of a very destructive fire, which occurred in this city on Tuesday morning last, and destroyed a number of buildings and other property. This calamity will be severely felt at this particular period, when the inhabitants of the Province are suffering from the depression in trade, and repeated failures of crops.

CANADA.—The Gaspé Gazette thus notices the effects which the present Tariff of Canada will have in that district:—

Notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of Mr. Christie, to obtain an exemption of duties on sundry articles for the use of the fisheries, the full amount imposed by the Chancellor of the Canadian Exchequer, and his colleagues, will be, as we understand, imposed on goods imported into this district.

We ask for assistance to save us from starvation—they double the duties on our importations. We ask for money—they require us to pay our share of £100,000 to rebels. We ask for independence—they inflict on us tyranny more galling than that of the Autocrat of the Russians.

As an example of the difference in the amount of duties between this year and the last, Messrs. A. imported goods last year, the duty of which amounted to £76; this year, on a similar importation, they are called upon to pay upwards of £270!! Upon whom will this fall? We answer, the poor unfortunate fisherman, the consumers.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you, through the medium of your journal, please to inform us what the general practice is amongst you, gentlemen of the Press, in copying extracts or other matters of information, from your exchange papers; whether custom or common courtesy has not made it an invariable rule to state from whence such selections are made. My reason for making the inquiry is in having perused a communication on local matters from one of your correspondents in the Gleaner of the 1st inst., which communication afterwards appeared in the St. John Morning News, in such form as to lead to the impression that it was also transmitted to the office of that paper for insertion. We have found you, Sir, very particular in this respect, in quoting your authorities. Whether this is to be attributed to established usage, or remains optional with Editors, is our motive for making this enquiry.

Yours, &c.,

ALIIQUIS.

[We have always considered it a matter of right, as well as of courtesy, to give credit to the different journals to which we are indebted for our extracts. This is a rule generally observed by our contemporaries, though some at times improperly depart from it.]—ED. GLEANER.

SAINT JOHN.—Under the significant head of "Signs of the Times," the Morning News has the following paragraph:—

"The best indication, it is said, of hard times, and no business doing, is when the grass is seen growing in the streets. We have now to notice a very important circumstance—viz: the grass is now growing upon the North Market Wharf, which wharf is allowed to be one of the greatest thoroughfares in the city of Saint John. There is enough grass growing in front of one of the centre stores, to keep a cow in grass for a week, provided she does not eat too fast, and this was never known to be the case before, since St. John has been a commercial city. A flourishing state of things truly."

Bad as the times are in Miramichi—and they are wretched enough—the business streets of our towns do not, as yet, present such an aspect as recorded above. The inhabitants, however, are daily growing more and more dissatisfied with the state of things, for they perceive that the present Commercial policy of Britain if persisted in, will speedily ruin them. We are at too great a distance from the mother country to compete with the foreigner in her market without protection; and in the United States, where we might obtain a market for our timber, fish, and other articles, we are met by high protective duties in favor of their own people. Some change is necessary for our very existence, for between the two we discover that our interests are sacrificed. Annexation, therefore, however much it may be against our feelings as British subjects, and early associations and predilections, is constantly being canvassed, and is now generally admitted as the only apparent scheme likely to relieve us from our present unfortunate position.

COUNTY CARLETON.—The Sheriff of this County, at the request of a numerous signed requisition, has called a