

sent abroad, to aid and superintend the building of ships there, for the carrying trade of Great Britain. The consequence of all this must be to throw a large proportion of our common carpenters, and other workmen connected with the outfitting of ships, out of employment, and it will transfer to these countries a large portion of our capital, our very best workmen, and also depress every interest in this country, while it must raise up foreign countries to rival us; and, besides if foreign tonnage increases under this proposed bill, as that unquestionably will be the case, a large amount of freights will yearly be withdrawn from this country, which otherwise would be expended among our own people; for, after all, the great question that must and will force itself upon the Government of this nation will be—How can we employ the people of this country?

There is one clause in this proposed bill, my lord, though of very grave and serious consideration in a national point of view, we do not consider of the least advantage to us practically as shipowners—and we must complain of it as putting us at very great disadvantage with the foreigner—that is the clause obliging us to have three-fourth British sailors, for it is quite clear we cannot have on board the same ship, for able-bodied seamen, two rates of wages and two scales of provisions; and, though foreigners are free to furnish such food for their crews as they please, we are to be bound to provide for our men as directed by law.

It has been said that the reciprocity treaties with foreign powers, in reference to shipping, have been advantageous to this country. I will not enter on this part further than to say, that I do not admit that, for it is well known that, since they came into force, while our tonnage in the trade with countries generally in the north of Europe and elsewhere, has fallen off, or at all events, not increased in the same ratio as that of foreign tonnage, we find that foreign tonnage has largely increased, which ought to convince every one who will carefully examine and consider the subject, that competition with foreigners is already very severe.

We are told that, unless our navigation laws are repealed, other nations will retaliate upon us, and injure our general trade. This I hardly consider worthy notice, for I ask, 'where is the nation that is not more or as anxious to supply us with their products as we are to have them?' for up to this day no nation in the world can or does pay so well as Great Britain, and we are well assured that as long as we can produce our exports as low or lower than our neighbours, and of equal quality, orders will not fail to be sent us. There is one part of this measure on which I hardly feel myself entitled to express any very decided opinion; but I have no doubt it has received your Lordship's most anxious and respectful consideration—that is the national point of view, as respects the defence of this country, and the support of Her Majesty's navy; but from the best opinion we can form of the information collected before the committee of the House of Commons, and the evidence taken by the House of Lords, we have come to the conclusion that it would be a dangerous and very hazardous experiment to alter in any degree the principles of the existing laws.

Now my lord what I did say is this:—After having heard our members on the subject, as already alluded to, I stated to them and to the meeting, something to this effect, that from the statements made, and explanations given us by our members, I could not understand how they could vote for the third reading of the bill, and with regard to which, rather than such a bill should become the law of the land, I would prefer to have the existing navigation laws swept from the statute books on condition that every burden and restriction on shipping should at the same time be removed.

And among others I enumerate the light dues—the manning and provisioning clauses—stamp duty—and, in fact, everything that could be shown to be a charge in any way on shipping; and even with all these removed, my lord, I am decidedly of opinion that while we have in this country to pay the income tax, assessed taxes, and poor rates of five per cent. on income and property, as we did this past year in Glasgow, in the parish in which I reside, and to pay so much towards payment of interest on the national debt, while foreigners are comparatively free or very lightly burdened, it will even then be next to impossible to compete with or hold our ground with foreigners. I thank you, my lord, for the reception you have given us on this occasion, and I hope and trust you will not press this measure on the country.

The Politician.

The British Press.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

In the course of our comments last week upon Mr Roebuck's plan of Colonial Government, we intimated that Ministers were about to propose a scheme of their own for the same object, the general features of which are already laid before the House of Commons, by Mr Hawes, the Colonial Under Secretary. Without the same pretensions to comprehensiveness as that of Mr Roebuck's, the projected improvements of Mr Hawes are far more practical, and have met with very general concurrence in the House. Instead of aiming at framing some sort of Benthamite constitution, which would thrust upon unwilling colonists organic laws, for which their divergent habits and settled usages render them wholly unadapt-

ed; making a rigid rule for the Colonies, to fetter the varying communities of Australia, or the distinct races of New Zealand, Mr Hawes, under the authority of the Government, has prudently limited his efforts in the first place to our Australian colonies, and proposes to place the vast territory of Australasia upon the following constitutional basis. Instead of altering essentially the present system at New South Wales, which Lord Grey finds would be unacceptable to the colonists, his lordship takes it as the model of his scheme. The present colonial government in that colony, consisting of a governor and legislative council, of which two-thirds are elected by the people, and one-third named by the crown, is to be extended throughout the Australian colonies generally. Port Phillip is to be severed from New South Wales, and made a distinct province, under the name of Victoria, and will enjoy a separate jurisdiction and government similar to that now existing in New South Wales. Van Diemen's Land and South Australia will have similar constitutions conferred upon them, and Western Australia "conditionally," that is, as soon as that province can pay the expense of its own government. These colonies, having separate and distinct legislatures, will elect certain members to a General Assembly of the whole union, federated for certain general purposes; embracing the imposition of duties on imports and exports, and shipping dues; the post-office department; the formation of roads, canals, or railways, traversing any two or more of such colonies; the erection of lighthouses and beacons; the erection of a supreme court, to be either a court of original jurisdiction or a court of appeal from any of the subordinate courts of the separate provinces; with powers to fix the limits and rules of such supreme court; the regulation of weights and measures; and the passing of such laws, affecting all the colonies, as may be required by addresses presented to them by all the colonial legislatures, appropriating the charge incidental from such legislation by an equal per centage on the revenue of all the colonies. The Government bill also decides upon a civil list for the colonies. No present alteration is proposed in the amount applied to this purpose, but the different colonies may reduce the amount by bill, saving always the governor's salary and the salary of the Judges. This would require the sanction of the Crown. The power of reducing the civil list is a new privilege given to the colonists of New South Wales. A redistribution of the funds for the support of public worship has been made, giving a preference and more ample funds to Van Diemen's Land, in consideration of its being a convict colony. The bill also amends the law relating to municipal or district councils, with a view to promote municipal good government. Another very important power conferred upon the colonists is the privilege of altering their constitution so as to establish two Chambers, in accordance with the practice of the United States of America. The trade of the colonies will be placed upon an equal footing, as between colony and colony, so as to make as perfect a free-trade between New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and Victoria, as there is between Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Middlesex. A uniform tariff will be adopted, taking that which now exists in New South Wales as the basis; the General Assembly having the power reserved to make such alterations as time and experience may dictate. The General Assembly will be convoked by the Governor General, who will be created by the crown, the office being intended to be conferred upon one of the present governors. This most important Colonial Reform bill was favorably received by the House. Not a single objection was raised to the measure from any quarter; but Mr Gladstone and others urged the expediency of encouraging the formation of a double Chamber in the provincial legislatures, like the United States; at the same time the mania for constitution making after a pattern did not lead any member so far as to disapprove the course adopted by the Government, that is, of leaving the power to constitute a double Chamber in the hands of the colonists themselves, who at present are exceedingly averse to it. There appears one important point not provided for in the bill, which in committee will be considered, namely, whether the colonial legislature should have the power to fix the arbitrary price of land, which at present is determined by the act of the Imperial Parliament. This is a subject of very great importance, and we should be very glad if it were discussed in an impartial spirit. At any rate the bill is a vast measure of colonial reform, applicable to Australasia, and will, we have no doubt, contribute essentially to the welfare of that vast region, which, at no distant period, is destined to become the seat of a great and flourishing empire.

The Colonial Press.

From the Quebec Gazette.

EXPEDIENCY.

A favorite plea set up by modern politicians in vindication of unpopular measures, is expediency. A callous indifference to all moral distinctions, says an eminent writer, is an all too inseparable effect of the familiar application of this theory. Virtue is no longer contemplated as the object of any particular sentiment or feeling, but solely with regard to its effects on society; it is what it produces, not what it is, that is alone considered. Crimes and virtues are equally candidates for approbation; nor must the heart betray the least preference (which would be to pre-empt the cause), but must maintain a sacred neutrality, till expediency, whose hand never trembles in the midst of the greatest horrors, has weighed in

her impartial balance their consequences and effects. Hence that intrepidity in guilt which has cased the hearts of the greatest adepts in this system as with triple brass. Exemplifications of this infamous doctrine are to be found, turn where we may. It has guided and stimulated the energies of the American Republic, it pervades the councils of European monarchs, it has been of late years the polar star of British statesmanship—and can we wonder?—has been imitated by the dependencies of the empire. With governments as with individuals, no proceeding should be deemed expedient when it runs counter to the golden rule,—and only in so far as the actions of the one or of the other are influenced thereby, is the practice allowable. Viewing dispassionately recent occurrences in Canada, we can see no other plea that can be urged by the advocates of the indemnity bill, than that it was expedient. Were the tables turned, and the one party made to occupy the position of the other, it would be instructive to mark how the principle would operate—what a change of sentiment the change of position would effect. We trust, however, the day is not distant, when there will be such a thing known and practised as political morality—until then, communities will more or less be subject to commotions like those we are now experiencing, and from which it is most earnestly to be desired that we were speedily emancipated.

From the Kingston Argus.

THE LONDON TIMES.

The London Times, acknowledged on all sides to be the most unprincipled of the English press, has taken, it will be observed, a decided stand in favor of the treason-rewarding gentlemen of Canada. It matters little, however, what opinion may be expressed by such a mercenary as the Times. The loyalists of Canada know what is due to themselves. There is as good British blood in Canada as there is in Great Britain itself; and it is not at all likely that the loyalists of this country will yield their opinions, by being bullied from the other side of the Atlantic—whether by a scribbler in a newspaper, or by a 'noble lord.' To tell those in Canada who supported the Crown, with their lives, when called upon to do so, that they must put their hands in their pockets and pay for having performed their duty to their sovereign, is one of the most preposterous demands that could be made—a demand which will, no doubt, be resisted with an energy proportioned to that with which the Crown was supported in time of need. If the British Government consider that they have created a 'just' Rebellion by the mismanagement of this Province, and that those who rebelled should be paid, let them send over some of their spare cash to reward treason; but let not those who supported the Crown in the time of trial, be made to pay those who attempted to trample it under foot. The majority of those who oppose the Rebel-rewarding Bill, have nothing to do with Sir Allan McNab and his party—indeed many of them have always been, and are now opposed to his party. They oppose the Bill as Britons, without reference to party. And if Lord Elgin in this country, or Earl Grey in the mother country, will ignorantly or designedly persist in identifying the great body of those who cry out against the iniquitous Bill, with Sir Allan McNab, or the 'Family Compact,' or with the 'Tories' of Canada, and attribute their opposition to mere disappointment, on their heads be the consequences. England cannot expect active allegiance from those whom the one day asks for support, and the next day assails to grossly insult.

Communications.

MR EDITOR,—Permit me in your paper the insertion of the following lines written by a young friend of mine, a native of Northumberland, now deceased, and oblige,

Yours, AMICUS.

The following lines (a Tyro's attempt at poetry) are presented to Mrs —, by an affectionate son, 1st May, 1843.

ON SPRING.

Welcome, thrice welcome, beauteous Spring,
Nature's kind restorer! diffusing life,
Joy and happiness among all.
Now at the gladdening call
'The sluggish Earth begins successful strife
'Gainst the tyrant—Winter's icy king.

Now flies the snow before the vehement wrath
Of mighty Sol, Earth's auxiliary—
The great Aorta bursting seems,
Fed by the many babbling streams,
Sporting in vengeful raillery
With Winter's snowy throne in their rapid path.

And now behold! the glittering bands
By which the cold Northern king
With his biting blasts, retained
The struggling river enchained,
Are risen and swept on swift wing
From their firm embrace upon the sands.

At last cold Winter's reign is at an end;
His all-benumbing power has ceased,
Nature rejoices at the change;
Exulting, casts off the strange,

The dormant state, to be desired the least;
And now begins her varied hues to lend.

Earth relieved from pressure of the snow
Her bosom heaves and breathes anew,
As one by night-mare oppressed,
With joy awakes from troubled rest—
Warm rains and refreshing dew
Now prepare the soil for men to sow.

But oh! how changed the face of Nature!
Far and wide where'er the eye can look,
All things seem suddenly metamorphosed;
A few short days ago, by snow inclosed,
Now see verdure green, the winding brook
And num'rous trees with leaves almost mature

All are by grateful joy pervaded,
Not only Trees and Plants, but Animals;
These wander about without restraint,
Here pluck the sprouting grass, there whee
faunt

Imbibe the limpid water from the falls,
Or rest their wearied limbs when jaded.

Thus adorned with smiling face,
By vernal flowers, both num'rous and rare,
Is ushered in the first of May—
As in a hall filled with the gay,
A lovely belle, the fairest of the fair
Enters, crowned with every grace.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHA THAM, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 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.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The arrival at Halifax of the steamer America, on the afternoon of Tuesday last, in a short passage of nine days, puts us in possession of British papers to the 9th instant. As the Colonial papers do not furnish any matter of importance, we have devoted a large space to European news, which is important, and will be found under the proper head.

CANADA.—Last week, we reported from information obtained from late papers, that fifteen cases of Cholera had been reported in Kingston, a number of which had proved fatal. The British Whig of the 14th inst, makes the following gratifying announcement:—

We are happy to have it in our power to say that the cholera has almost totally subsided, and that the health of Kingston was never better than it is at present.

CHOLERA.—The following hints with reference to this disease, we copy for the information of our readers.

The New York Commercial Advertiser published an article, on the authority of several medical gentlemen of New York, recommending people exposed to Cholera to take a teaspoonful of sulphur daily as a preventative.

The following correspondence establishes the benefit of the practice both in India and Canada:

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald.

Sir,—Having noticed in your paper of this morning a letter addressed to the Editor of the Chicago Journal, headed, 'a Specific for the cure of Cholera,' and describing the experiments made by Drs. Bird, Blaney, and Herrick, and detailing the beneficial effects resulting from the use of Sulphur and Charcoal, I would beg to state, without, in any way, wish to detract from the merits of these gentlemen, that sulphur has been long been known as a prevention and cure in Cholera, has been used in India with the best results—in corroboration of which I enclose a letter from the Hon. Adam Ferrie, who has had ample opportunities of testing its efficacy, and the publication of which, I think, might be of immense benefit to the public at large.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. URQUHART.

Montreal, June 13, 1849.

MONTREAL, June 13, 1849.

Dear Sir,—I have received yours of this date, and have no hesitation in corroborating what you say as to my having visited the cholera sheds in 1832 and 1834, for the purpose of seeing that the attendants or nurses did their