

Such was the case with Colonel Crofton, Major Griffiths and Major Caldwell. For instance, Colonel Crofton is able to pronounce distinctly that the charge of selling or giving spirits to the Indians is false, and that the company prohibits their manufacture or import; whereas, Major Griffiths takes credit to the company that it had allowed 'some of those very grumblers to import spirits to the colony from America—a system which had a most pernicious effect,' during his command of the station. Major Griffiths contradicts the assertion made by W. Parker, an American missionary, that the population of the tribes has diminished under the company's rule; his statistics are completely exploded by the fact that the more numerous population he enumerates are due to the discovery of at least one half more tribes, during the time referred to, of whose existence the company before knew nothing. As to the 'secrecy' of the company's proceedings, it would be scarcely credited, but the company allows no person to depart out of its territory with a journal—Mr Dunn was compelled to burn his journal at Fort Vancouver before he could leave the country.

This evidence afforded grounds for meeting the proposition to cede Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company, with a direct refusal. Moreover, the company is unfit for the function of colonization. Its capital is nominally £400,000, but it is really only £63,000—two calls of £40,000 paid up, and £13,000 raised on loans. It cannot be meant to turn any of this fund from the lucrative fur trade to the un-lucrative operation of colonizing the island. The only motive they can have in claiming more land, in addition to a territory larger than Europe, must be that of keeping other people out.

Under the 'free constitution' of the colony, the Governor is to be appointed by her Majesty's Government, but selected by the company; the company has selected as its chief factor, Mr Douglass, and has recommended fourteen traders connected with it to be colonial magistrates. Is not this a mere respectable sham?

The grant was made in the teeth of remonstrances from all quarters; and against a division of that House in which the Government escaped defeat by a narrow majority.

In its details the charter has been improvident. The coals and minerals which were to be reserved to the crown have been granted to the company, and the company reserves a royalty of 2s. 6d. per ton on coal, when the best mines in Staffordshire pay but 1s. 6d. For land the company charges £2 10s. per acre, while a few miles of land may be purchased on the English continent for 5s. 3d. per acre, and on the American continent for a dollar and a half an acre. Only one ship is announced to start in July, and one more in September. Are these to take out the 'numerous emigrants' tempted by the prospect of the company's good rule?

From the Saint John Morning News.

THE COLONIES.

In our last we gave the debate in the House of Commons relative to Colonial affairs. The cavalier manner in which our interests are dealt with, is on a par with the ignorance which the people of England display, when the Colonies become the theme of observation in the House of Commons. The people on this side of the Atlantic need not be told, that there never was more discontent shown in Canada and New Brunswick, since the days of the old colonies, than there is at the present moment. Yet Mr Hume tells the House of Commons, and of course it goes down, that the Canadas only are quiet, while all the other Colonies are in a state of disquietude. Mr Hawes again says that Free Trade is going to do us good, raise us out of our difficulties. While Lord John Russell points to the increase of population in Canada in the course of a few years, to show that that Province is advancing! As to poor New Brunswick, we never enter the thoughts of any other Englishmen than those connected with the Colonial Office, and then we are forgotten almost immediately afterwards. What folly then, what an absurdity, for us to ever expect anything to our advantage, from persons about as familiar with our condition and our interests, as we are with those of the Hottentots. We have some idea of what the state of public feeling is in England, from the circumstance that England is the focus that concentrates all the political rays of the world—she being the sun of nations, is observed from every point of the compass. Her light, rather her knowledge, penetrates every portion of the habitable globe. Of course then we know something about England from this field of observation; and if the people there only knew one half as much about us, we should soon learn something to our advantage. But what is the fact? The Colonial Secretary sends us a Governor as a vestal containing the sacred fire of imperial right and imperial wisdom. He is put in connection with the Colonial Office as a sort of telegraphic funnel, through which despatches pass to and fro. The Colonial, or perhaps only the Under Secretary, read those despatches over hastily, when he has nothing else to do, and frames his answers as it suits his whims, and not our interests—These answers come out and are used in the House of Assembly as orthodox standards—the party in power always taking care to construe the language to suit their own interests. In this way then are we only known and cared for in England. Mere puppets to be tossed to and fro, as it suits the imperial policy of the day. The thinking portion of mankind have an idea that the milky way in the Heavens, is made up of innumerable clusters of stars, and nebulae, peopled with beings perhaps like ourselves. With this vague idea we

are satisfied—not caring much how it is, so little does the thing concern us. Now this is just the case with the people of England respecting us. They know, or are told, that there are between forty and fifty colonies—that these colonies are scattered throughout the globe—and in mawkish sentiment, that the sun never sets upon the British Dominions. That's enough for them. It may happen once in a while that some of the free traders, in the course of their speeches, make us out to be intolerable nuisances, real sand bags hanging about their necks, and then we come in for a groan. That's the only consideration we receive. We will venture to swear that Sir Edmund Head never heard of this Province until he received the appointment to come out here and purse £3,500 a year—and that Bishop Medley a year before he left England may have thought the people of his Diocese were so lax in principle, that Posyism from their Bishop would be accepted by us as Gospel from an Apostle. Many persons who come out here wonder how it is that we have got horns, and hoofs, as they were led to suppose, like a ram. Yet, out of this store of ignorance are the people in North America supplied with government—the commissaries being the parvenues in the Colonial Office. We read of the disturbances in Hungary and Rome—of the Germans and Danes meeting in deadly conflict; and we have some slight knowledge of the causes of all these commotions. But suppose it were left to the people of North America to inquire into the troubles, and apply a corrective, what satisfaction could we give either party, since we know nothing about their local feelings, the nature of the people, their predilections, &c. &c. Yet England acts for us through precisely the same sort of ignorance; and we suffer in consequence.

If the English Press takes us up, it is to cast us off.

We hesitate not to say, remarks the London Examiner, that if we and the North American colonies could part in peace and friendship, the separation would undoubtedly be a gain to both parties, but more especially to ourselves. When Lord St. Vincent was informed of the peace concluded with the Americans in 1813, his only reply was 'I hope we have made them a present of the Canadas.' Meanwhile it is our bounden duty to prepare the Canadas for a separation should it be inevitable, and the exercise of responsible government is the proper training for this purpose.

Lower Canada is as populous as Massachusetts, Upper Canada is equal to Indiana, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are, each, on a par with Michigan. The total number of men borne on the rolls of the militia for the seven colonies amounts to very nearly 400,000, which would imply a total population of 2,500,000.

A quarter of a million of emigrants quit the shores of the United Kingdom yearly, but the great majority of them find a place of rest, not in the colonies which England maintains at a heavy cost, but in those which were once hers, and now cost her nothing.

The disposition that actuates the Press towards us, may likewise actuate the leading statesmen of the day, only they dare not, yet awhile, be so bold in their avowments. But we believe if the North American Legislatures would submit their cases to the people of England, instead of colonial grievances being merely glossed over, they would then come in for a share of attention, and the North American colonies would at length be emancipated. Then the British Government would have something to take hold of. Now they have nothing more than the complaint of a party to look at, which only has reference to a local Bill; and not a commercial grievance. Until we begin to move here, and the sooner we begin the better, no Cabinet will take the initiative in preparing the way for a Colonial change. Our case is hopeless. Parliament is about dissolving. The colonies give Lord John Russell no concern, so long as he can command a majority to sustain him in his free trade measures—while Mr Hawes says he opposes all inquiry into colonial matters, because it might lead us to expect more than could be realized. Yet Lord John Russell's government encouraged us to believe that we should have a Railway between Halifax and Quebec—and now, after having drawn us into the feeling, and understanding our propositions, they turn their backs upon us, without even broaching the subject in Parliament. Mr Hawes talk about encouraging hopes never to be realized!

Again, we are told by the same class of men that the West Indies are going to flourish through free trade. From whence they draw their deductions it is hard to tell. Certainly experience, which is the best guide in such cases, does not back them up—for we all know on this side of the Atlantic, if they don't on the other, that the West India Islands are crippled, and fast going to decay. A private letter received in Boston only last week, from Barbadoes, represents the island to be almost in a bankrupt state, and its financial affairs daily getting worse. There is no import or duty bill in force, and the Treasury is a loser to the extent of from \$100 to \$300 per day, or on an average of \$300 per day!

Since we are not cared for in England, the time has now arrived for the people of North America to care for themselves. The people of this Province are bent upon annexation to the United States. We cannot see that this is possible of accomplishment—for England, in her pride, will never allow these colonies to merge into the great Republic. We may talk about annexation, and it may go far to prepare the way for something. The more we talk the better it will be for us. But if we intend to make a stand, it must be done upon more tenable grounds.

INDEPENDENCE is the word that ought to be used now by all who expect to gain any

thing by the asking. Texas first secured her independence before she knocked for admission into the Union; and if Canada and New Brunswick expect to gain any commercial advantages with the neighboring Republic, they must pursue the same course. But this independence must be gained by diplomacy, and not by artillery—by the pen rather than the sword.

How shall we accomplish this end? The people of New Brunswick must ply themselves to the task of thinking; they must begin to work themselves; they must bring all their talents and influence to bear upon the Legislature—and the battle is half accomplished.

A golden and brilliant opportunity now presents itself—which, if suffered to pass over, may never happen again. From the present House of Assembly we can expect nothing. That's settled. But their days are numbered. They sit in mischief but once more. Next session will exhibit the last of their 'sublimities.' What say the people on whom next year must devolve the choice of sending representatives? Are they for things as they are—poverty, distress, bankruptcy, and Colonial vassalage? Or, are they for 'annexation'—if for annexation, they must ask for independence, and if for independence, they must only send such members to represent them, as will pledge themselves to this principle. We have a year to make up our minds; and it is a year that should be well spent, not in idle declamation, and empty vaunting—but in studying the extent of our misery, and informing one another of the necessity for combined action. At all events, if we mean, or intend anything at all, and in earnest in what we say, we must exact a pledge suitable to the occasion, from every candidate that mounts the hustings in 1850.

We conclude this article with making an extract from a London paper called the 'British Army Despatch,' of date June 23d. This is written within hail of the British Government. In a very long article upon Canadian affairs, the Editor thus concludes. We merely copy this to show how far the Press of England ventures to break ground upon our affairs:—

"But have they no hope in themselves? Assuredly a people who have within themselves all elements of which great nations are made, cannot be without hope, because an ingrate mother country seeks to depress and ruin them. Have not the Canadian people wealth, intelligence, courage, all which, if they are true to themselves, cannot fail to bring this question to a satisfactory conclusion."

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 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.

At the request of a Correspondent at Bathurst, we copy the following from the New York Weekly Despatch. Our own sentiments and views upon the subject matter are already before the public.

On the Fourth of July the American Flag was displayed in the streets of Montreal, by the friends of annexation, without molestation. It must be recollected that this is a local quarrel between a portion of British subjects and their Government, in which we seek to take no part, and desire to take none—nor are we exactly well satisfied to be dragged in, and our flag made to play a part in this domestic quarrel.—The British Government has approved the course of Lord Elgin in signing the indemnity bill. The Canadians, if they please, may quarrel and find fault with their Government about it, but it must not be done over our shoulders—nor can they be permitted to shake the tail of the sea serpent at the mother country without our permission. In the war of 1812, forced upon us by unheard-of aggressions, we invited the Canadians to join this country—we placed liberty and independence before them in the most true and agreeable forms—we offered to divide Upper and Lower Canada, and the Province of New Brunswick, into sovereign and independent states, with representatives in Congress, and a joint partnership in the whole Republic. The answer was an indignant, violent, and bold attack from Canadian bayonets whenever an opportunity offered; and when our silly sympathizers joined the outbreak in Upper Canada, they seized and hanged them, and some they sent to Botany Bay. A more violent, inflammatory, devoted, loyal people than the Canadian Great Britain does not possess in any of her Colonies. Now when it pleases these gentlemen to rebel, because they are called upon to put their hands into their pockets and pay part of the fruits of their own outbreak, why, forsooth, they threaten their Government with annexation with the United States, and parade the stars and stripes about the streets of Montreal, as if we had any lot or consent in the matter! Gentlemen Canadians, you must cut up your own pie without our aid. In 1776

you opened your batteries upon us from Quebec, and killed Montgomery; in 1812 you were at the attack on Fort Erie, Landy's Lane, Chippewa and Champlain. When we wanted aid you were absent. You must manage this small emeute without us. Make yourselves independent of Great Britain as we did in 1776, form yourselves into an independent republic, and we will welcome you among the republics of nations. More we have no desire to do. We have no quarrels with Great Britain in relation to our own affairs—why should we seek one in meddling with yours?

ST. JOHN.—We copy the following article from the Saint John Morning News, of the 30th July:—

Another Field Day in the Common Council.—The Council met again on Friday morning at 11 o'clock, to resume the consideration of the address to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting him to forward the petition passed at a former board, by the obstructives, praying her Majesty to disallow the amended charter. Our readers will remember that at two previous meetings the obstructives did their utmost to carry their point; but they were foiled in both instances by Alderman Needham's loquacious powers, as he specified them out of patience, and finally out of the room—so that in neither case could they put the question to the vote. On Friday morning Alderman Needham was seen going up King Street with a blue bag filled with law books, as much as he could carry. It was the Alderman's determination to give the obstructives law, logic, and physic, dating from the days of Julius Cæsar down to the Hephtharchy, and from that down to Queen Victoria. At 11 o'clock the Alderman took the floor, and attempted to obtain a hearing. He was immediately met by Alderman Vanhorne, who proposed that the question of the previous day be taken up as the original question, which motion as we understood, was to prevent Alderman Needham from monopolising the floor for the day. At all events by some process or other, the little Alderman retained possession, not of his seat, but of his feet, and at about half past eleven o'clock he commenced his address. As he began he was frequently interrupted by Alderman Vanhorne, all of which he parried off with much good humor. He appeared determined to be heard in spite of opposition. At length the interruption became too palpable to be let pass, either by the Board, the Mayor, or the Speaker. It was caused thus. Alderman Needham in commenting upon the amended Charter, stated that the office of Stipendiary Magistrate did not affect Carleton at all—that it was applicable to the eastern side of the harbor only, and that the Police Magistrate's jurisdiction did not extend to the western side. Hereupon Alderman Vanhorne jumped up, and called Alderman Needham to order. The Alderman declared he was in order. Alderman Vanhorne insisted that he was not—that he (Needham) was stating an untruth—that the Office of Police Magistrate had as much to do with Carleton as St. John. The storm increased. The loudest speaker was the easiest heard. Two of the Members of the Board jumped up—and we thought at the moment that they intended to have a piquette 'round' or two, on their own account, in order to heighten the scene. But they merely seized their hats, and moved out of the room. His Worship the Mayor was appealed to by Vanhorne and Needham, both at the same time—Your Worship, I insist upon it,' cried the first. 'No, your Worship, I am in order,' insisted the second. The Common Clerk began to think there was trouble brewing, and he scratched his head, at the same time tightly clutching the ruler with his other hand—as much as to say, 'Come on, I'm ready for you if you come near me.' Asst. Keans unbuttoned his vest, and buttoned it up again, both acts accomplished in the space of one moment, as much as to say, 'I can fight as well as any of you if it comes to the worst'—while Assistant Fairweather threw himself back in his chair, apparently determined to fight the biggest man in the room, without getting off his seat. Alderman Bond's chair happened to be vacant—or there is no knowing how the maggot would have bit in that quarter. Alderman Harding put his hand to his head—thereby signifying that his grey hairs would be his protection. Aldermen Smith, Vanhorne and Needham were all on their feet at the same time, each one endeavoring to be heard, and they were heard, but it was in the jargon of Babylon's tower—no one could hear an intelligible expression, unless it was 'your worship.' By and by the steam began to evaporate—and like the echoes of the Lakes of Killarney, after the noise has gone forth, the expressions became a little more distinct. Finally, Alderman Smith stated that he could not see how the Alderman for King's could be out of order because he happened to differ in opinion with the Alderman for Sydney. Surely Alderman Needham had a right to give it as his opinion, that the powers of the Stipendiary Magistrate did not extend to the Western side of the harbor—although in that opinion he (Needham) might be wrong. But his (Smith's) own opinion ran in the same direction, still he did not mean to say that he was not wrong in entertaining that view. His Worship (who we must say acted very impartially throughout the day) finally settled the point of order—when Alderman Needham resumed his speech. He stated as he went on that he hoped Alderman Vanhorne would not interrupt him any more 'until to-night.' Thus intimating to the Board that although it was then only half-past 11 o'clock, a. m., he intended to speak un-