

was not so much mettle in the butt of my horse as in the barrel of the rifle; so I resolved to be on terms with the poor hack, and not to hew my zwanzigers out of him again. Arrived safely at the top of the ladder, I was no longer in Austria, but in Montenegro.

## The Politician.

### The Colonial Press.

Quebec Gazette, August 4.

#### REVIEW OF CONVENTION.

In the whole history of Canada, there is not to be found a more extraordinary and unprecedented event than the recent assemblage of Delegates of the League of Convention at Kingston. It will stand in all probability as one of the first steps overtly made by the people of Canada towards a revolution of their country—to be looked upon with pride if its acts are characterised by wisdom, calmness and firmness—to be a source of regret and shame to the English population, if it compromise or degrade their cause. Emanating from a part of the people only, its executive powers are null; but as the representative of the majority of the energy, enterprise and wealth of the country, its moral influence is great, and, if sage, its suggestions will no doubt be carried into effect. Like other anomalous bodies, called into birth by an extraordinary pressure of the times, and a political and commercial crisis, the task of the League was extremely difficult: with ridicule and hostility surrounding it from the first, on one side, and indifference and discontent on the other, it would have required no little tact and statesmanship to secure for it lasting sympathy or confidence. It was accused by some of being merely an organization to restore the extinct forms of grasping Toryism, and the family compact: others would have it that its designs would be effected by the accession to power of a McNab ministry; by others again it was confidently asserted that the League was to be the means of annexing Canada to the States; and some of the French Canadians, good quiet people, fancied that by some extraordinary magnetic process, it was to extinguish or evaporate them from the soil of their birth. Meanwhile, notwithstanding these obstacles, the League progressed in numbers and resolution: one hundred and fifty delegates were sent to Kingston.

The Convention met a composed of men for the most part quite new to the political arena: merchants, lawyers, tradesmen, &c., who had a large stake in the country, and who were suffering from the effects of a bad constitution and misgovernment. They were little skilled in the finesses of parliamentary debate—accustomed to say their mind openly, without reliance, and without misrepresentation—they had no places to expect, and could have no object in view but the good of the country. They were, besides, with but few exceptions, entire strangers to each other—they had no connected plan, no scheme for the adoption of which they could count upon a majority. Each member held his own particular views, and felt bound to his constituents to express them. When this is recollected, and the debates of convention read, the order and general unanimity which prevailed, may well appear subjects of astonishment.

We shall proceed to review some of their labors.

The first proceeding of any note was Mr. Wilson's proposal for an Elective Legislative Council, which was negatived by a large majority. Its rejection may more truly be attributed to the inopportune season at which it was proposed than to the principle of the motion, it being incumbent on the Convention to turn its immediate attention to more fundamental changes than that of a single branch of the government. We may observe, however, that Mr. Ermatinger, in proposing the amendment which killed the motion, committed the same error which has led so many Canadian Legislators astray—and which, until it be definitely corrected, will continually expose us to trouble and confusion. The amendment says:—

.....Revering the mixed forms of Government established by the British Constitution, the League only desires the enjoyment of the immunities and privileges for which the constitution provides. This would appear to shew that a 'transcript' of the British constitution, and the 'mixed forms of government, &c.' would suit Canada. Now, to Britain, these 'mixed forms' are well adapted, there being two distinct classes of people—lords and commons: but to apply them satisfactorily to Canada, an essential element is wanting; we have no nobility. Our house of Lords is composed of neither nobles nor commons, but as it now happens of 'Sam Milles.' A *mandamus* cannot make a nobleman in Canada; the thing is unknown in these parts. We are essentially a democratic nation. To accommodate, then, the British constitution to Canada, it would be necessary to substitute elective and hereditary rights; and if it be established that a second branch of the legislature is requisite, its powers should be conferred by suffrage, not by birth. This point the convention seem to have overlooked. Mr. Ermatinger's amendment may, however, be considered merely as a gentle mode of getting rid of Mr. Wilson's motion.

Mr. Gowan's resolution next came before the convention; the fourth contains the statement of the grievances which have led to the establishment of a League; it runs as follows:

'Resolved,—That the guidance and direction of the public affairs of this country have not been such as to conduce to public quiet, public prosperity, or to true fealty and allegiance to the Crown and Institutions of the Province; but that, on the contrary, public feeling has been, and now is excited to a state unexampled in this country; social and moral order are shaken to the centre; the Queen's Representative, and the Executive of which he is the head, have been brought into contempt; the Commercial, Agricultural, and all the industrial and productive interests of the country have been paralyzed, and the connection between the colony and the parent state placed in imminent peril.'

The corollaries from the above were two motions, one to set on foot a system of organization, and the other to impeach Lord Elgin. The first gave rise to some useful discussion. Mr. Bockus distinctly laid down the line of conduct which the convention should pursue—he did not wish to see any measure brought forward which had a party character—he desired the convention to confine itself to examining the causes of the depression of trade in the colony, and to devise means to raise us to the pitch of prosperity enjoyed by our neighbors. The Rev. Mr. Green said something on the subject; but in disclaiming any party feeling he declared that he stood by his race alone. Now we have not the honor of being acquainted with Mr. Green; nor are we aware of the way this very reverend gentleman contrived to get into so ungodly a place as a convention of delegates. We have only to remark that the narrow, national prejudice which he thus expressed, contrasts somewhat strangely with his assertion, that he came, 'bound as a philanthropist and a Christian, to devise measures for the good of his country.' If we were of opinion that the petty jealousy of race which seems to animate this christian minister, pervaded the minds of the majority of the members of convention, we should not hesitate to denounce them as a society destined to produce much evil and no good. But we have good reason to hope that, as Mr. Green is the only clergyman in convention, so he is the only propagator of such unchristianlike and injurious doctrines. Finally the resolution was carried.

## Colonial News.

### Canada.

KINGSTON, July 26.—MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE.—Last night the Convention of Delegates of the British American League assembled at the City Hall, in this city, to take into consideration the distressed state of the Province; and having discovered the sources from which the existing evils have sprung, report thereon to their constituents. A larger or more respectable assemblage never met for any public business in the Canadas. All classes and interests are here represented. The veteran politician, the experienced merchant, the honest farmer, the hard-working mechanic, together with the professional man, are here met together, and form an imposing and interesting sight.

The delegates in all amounted to 120. These, of course, are not all the delegates returned. Numbers are expected by the river lines of steamers this evening.

After the delegation had taken their seats, on the motion of Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Scobie, the Hon. George Moffat was appointed chairman to the convention, and W. S. Mack, and W. Brooke, Esquires, appointed joint secretaries. On the motion of Mr. Gowan, Mr. Green, a Baptist minister, and one of the delegates, offered up prayer. The rules for the government of the convention were then read by Mr. Montgomery; they are the same as those adopted by Parliament, with the exception of one, stating that no one should speak disrespectfully of the Queen and her representative in these Provinces. Mr. Powell, of Carlton, then got up and moved, seconded by Mr. McDonald, of Kingston township, that so much of the 13th rule as applied to His Excellency the Governor General be expunged. After this motion had been brought up in various shapes and rejected, the original one was again brought by Mr. Powell, and carried by 51 to 59. The convention then adjourned till to-day. The question to be discussed this afternoon is a motion of Mr. Gamble's:—

'That it is expedient to inquire into the depressed state of the great interests of the Province, the commercial distress that prevails, and the stagnation that pervades every branch of colonial industry. That a committee be appointed for the purpose of making such inquiry, and to report to this convention such remedial measures as to them shall appear best adapted to restore and secure a more prosperous state to the commercial, agricultural, and manufacturing interests of the Province.'

This is at once coming to the pith and marrow of the question for which the present movement was inaugurated, and will no doubt lead to a warm and interesting debate on the subject. From it we will be able to learn the views of the delegates, and through them, those of their constituents. All are, at the time I write, deeply engaged preparing for it, and it is evidently considered of much moment.

Every room in all the hotels here is crowded to excess, and the coming delegates will find it difficult to obtain quarters. Everything in Kingston is exceedingly dull. There is not much talk of cholera, and the movements of the convention occupy all minds.

JULY 27.—The convention was engaged the whole of yesterday, discussing the question of

an elective legislative council with closed doors. After a rather violent discussion, the question was lost, 58 to 19. This morning it was announced that the doors of the convention would be open to the public, and questions of great importance come under the consideration of the delegates. After the journals had been read by the Secretary, Ogle R. Gowan, Esq., rose, and spoke to the following motion:—

'That it is essential to the prosperity of the country that the revenue tariff should be so apportioned and levied, as to afford just and adequate protection to the manufacturing and industrial classes of the country, and to secure to the agricultural population a home market, with fair and remunerating prices for all descriptions of farm produce.'

He emphatically declared he had not come there to build up any particular party, on the ruins of or at the expense of another; but to raise one upon all these, which would be devoted to the interests of the country, and around which all alike might rally.

The delegates again assembled at 3 o'clock, and the chairman having taken his seat, Mr. Gowan brought forward the following motion:—

'Resolved, That the present expenditure of the civil government is disproportioned to the resources of the Province, and that great economy and retrenchment may be safely introduced into the management of the public affairs of the country, without impairing the efficiency of the public service.'

Mr. Gowan then proceeded to rehearse the numerous existing evils in the administration of the government of the Province, with particular reference to the salaries of Provincial Officials, from the Governor General downwards, all which he declared to be extravagantly high, and many of the offices quite useless.

Seconded by Mr. Bronse, and carried unanimously.

Mr. McDonald, of Kingston, supported the motion. Several other delegates spoke on the subject.

MONTREAL, August 1.—The convention has declared itself *en permanence*. The proclamation, calling the Provincial Parliament together is to be the notice for the convention to assemble. The address to the people of Canada has been carried unanimously.

## United States News.

ST. LOUIS, July 30.—Five Steamboats and Cargoes Burnt.—A fire broke out on Sunday morning, on board the steamer Algoma, Capt. Young, just after her arrival from the Missouri river. She was heavily freighted with hemp. The flames soon spread to the steamboats Mary, San Francisco, Dubuque and Phoenix, all of which were destroyed.

The value of the Algoma was ten thousand dollars. Her safe, containing \$12,000, has been saved. One of the passengers lost \$4,000 in specie. Capt. Young jumped overboard and was drowned. William Fitch, a passenger, was burned.

The steamboat Mary, for New Orleans, was heavily freighted with produce, sheep and hogs, of which nothing has been saved.

The steamboat San Francisco had just arrived from the Missouri river, with a cargo of tobacco. She was valued at \$20,000, and insured for \$15,000.

The steamboat Dubuque was from upper part of Missouri, on the Mississippi river. She had discharged most of her cargo before the fire reached her. She was valued at \$12,000 and insured for \$10,000.

The steamer Phoenix, a Cincinnati packet, had on board many passengers, who lost all they possessed.

MELANCHOLY TIDINGS FROM SANDUSKY.—The Cholera has been, and still appears to be, fearfully fatal at Sandusky, Ohio. A despatch under date of Monday, 30th July, reports as follows:—

The condition of this city, at the present time, is most fearful and heart-rending, from the effects of the cholera. For some days past, the epidemic has been making rapid strides, and it has now reached a crisis which threatens to involve the most awful consequences. Of a population of 3000 there are not more than 700 remaining. The deaths for the last two days amount to about 100, and are still on the increase.

Most of the inhabitants who have escaped the dreadful malady have left the city in dismay. Business of every description is entirely suspended, and the various hotels, together with the post office and the public stores are all closed. Many of our physicians have fallen victims to the disease, and those who have escaped its ravages have precipitately fled from the region of death. The sick are suffering in a dreadful manner for the want of medical aid and assistance.

SANDUSKY, (Ohio), July 31.—The state of things in this city continue most deplorable. The hotels, warehouses and stores all remain closed, and no business is doing. The sickness that is prevailing is most distressing in the extreme. The resident physicians have either all fallen victims to the disease, or fled from the city. A number of physicians who arrived to-day from the interior, state that several doctors and nurses were on their way from Cincinnati, in hopes of giving some relief. A few have come on here from Cleveland. It is almost impossible to tell the exact number of deaths which occur daily, as the accounts are very contradictory. The population has become so reduced that there are but few left.

MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths in New York, last week, was 1352; of cholera 692, 434 were natives of Ireland.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 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.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER KESTREL.—The Newfoundland papers furnish the following account of the loss of the Cunard Steam Propeller *Kestrel*, which vessel was employed in carrying the mails from Halifax to Newfoundland:—

The *Kestrel* left Halifax on Thursday the 19th July, at 12 o'clock, p. m., having besides the crew, twelve passengers, three of whom were for Sydney, Cape Breton. Owing to the thick fog encountered immediately after leaving the harbor, she did not reach the latter place until the afternoon of Saturday, where, having landed her passengers and mail for the Admiral's ship (then in port, and taken in coals, she proceeded on her way to this place at five, p. m. On Saturday night the weather was very hazy. The wind blowing fresh from the south west. This continued all day on Sunday, the fog growing more dense as the vessel neared the Newfoundland coast. Captain Meagher was on deck the greater part of the time, exercising the utmost vigilance, and keeping up a good look out on the part of the crew. The course steered was one point more off the shore than he had ever allowed in any of his previous voyages, and one which he imagined would take him clear of every danger.

The ship, after leaving Sydney, averaged about nine and a half knots per hour, and every one on board fully expected to be in Saint John's early on Monday morning. All went on well until half past ten o'clock on Sunday night, when, without the slightest previous intimation of danger, the Captain at the time being on deck, and a sharp look out kept from the fore-castle, the ship, going ten miles an hour, struck against the rocks, which subsequently proved to be inside of the western head of the much dreaded bay of Saint Shotts. At first the shock was not violent, owing probably to the jibboom and bowsprit taking the cliff in succession as the vessel ranged ahead. The engine was instantly stopped and backed, and the engineer, to whom too much praise cannot be given, immediately took all necessary steps for preventing danger from the boilers, by letting off the steam and drawing off the fires. No effect being produced by this, as the packet was under all sail, the captain ordered the foremast to be cut away. The sea at this time was very heavy, and breakers on every side almost prevented the hope of saving the lives of those on board.—Captain Meagher ordered a boat to be lowered, and into this four passengers jumped, two of them being females, and with two of the crew pushed off from the wreck with a lead line attached, to establish a communication with the vessel, should they be able to effect a landing. This, however, was found impracticable, owing to the tremendous surf running, and after a time they cast loose the line, and made out to sea, and next morning at 8 o'clock, ran the boat on shore on the beach at St. Shotts, having suffered dreadfully from cold and exhaustion during the night; the females, having left the wreck as they came from their beds.

All this time the vessel was beating with terrific violence upon the rocks, and threatened every moment to go to pieces. At length a way of escape was made clear, through the goodness of God. The carpenter, Mr. William Espie, to whose exertions, under Providence, the passengers thankfully attribute the preservation of their lives, succeeded in throwing a handspike into the cleft of a perpendicular rock, and by means of a rope attached, climbed up to a place of safety. A hawser was got on shore, and the passengers and crew drawn up from the wreck which immediately filled and fell over. At daylight the horrors of the scene was more clearly revealed; the sea was making a clear breach over the vessel, and several of the oxen, of which there were fourteen on board, besides a horse and several sheep, were seen lying dead in the raging waters.—The captain all this time was doing everything in his power, and was, with the mate the last to leave the wreck. He succeeded, through the exertions of his crew, who, by the delay caused by the act, lost everything save the clothes they had on, in saving the mail bags, which were hauled by another party at the same moment as the passengers. It is to be hoped that this attention to their duty will not be lost sight of by the authorities here, but that some mark of good will may be shown without delay to these poor shipwrecked men by the charitable inhabitants of Saint John's.

Having been kindly received by the two families of Finlay's, living at St. Shotts, several of the passengers crossed overland to Trepassy, from whence a boat was immediately despatched for the conveyance of the people and