

autumn. How eagerly we gathered round the winter's hearth to listen to the wonderful tales of the Arabian Nights, and revelled in the gnomes, the genii, the gem-lit caverns, the blazing cities, and the subterranean kingdoms of oriental fiction. Alas! these are all memories now. Precious, golden memories, indeed, are they; and their subdued and mellow lustre comes streaming ever and anon down the toilsome ways of life, and seems for a time, like moonlight on a rugged landscape, to soften down all that is uneven and inharmonious.

The Politician.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Halifax Nova Scotian.
THE DELEGATION.

It will afford the friends of the Railway much pleasure to learn that private letters were received by the America, from the Hon. Provincial Secretary, and that these are in the highest degree satisfactory. Mr Howe was courteously and kindly received by Earl Grey, who manifested the most lively interest in the object of his mission, and besides the Official interview on the 18th ult. subsequently granted him a meeting of a less formal character. So far, the Cabinet have taken no action on the subject of the Railway, nor will they until Mr Howe has submitted a Memorial to the Government, stating the objects of the Delegation and the claims of Nova Scotia to the required guarantee. The Provincial Secretary was engaged upon this work when the steamer left, and we were delighted to hear that he was in capital spirits, and sanguine of success. We were rejoiced to find that besides the interest manifested in influential circles, the English Press are beginning to wake up to the importance of the Railway. If Mr Howe's mission did no more good than to bring the affairs of British North America prominently before the public, it would be worth all the labor and all the expense that will be incurred. But we hope better things. And we are strengthened in that hope when we find respectable London Journals like the evening Sun, discoursing upon Colonial affairs in general, and Nova Scotia affairs in particular, in a generous and kindly spirit. Our first extract is from the 'Sun' of 22nd Nov., which touches on the general subject of Colonial Government.

"Among the numerous difficulties embarrassing the department of the Colonial Secretary, none are more important in their character than those originated by our possessions in the North American continent. For the diminution of those difficulties we must continue most solicitous, until such time as can be witnessed the revival of a cordial understanding between those colonies and the mother country. Unhappily, this friendly feeling between ourselves and our scattered territories has now, for some considerable period, been dissipated, or at any rate, very materially injured; and this we are bold to say, entirely from the mismanagement of the central Government. Not that we attach the blame in any way exclusively to her Majesty's present advisers, the responsibility of all these unfortunate misunderstandings belonging, more or less, to a long list of past Administrations. In referring to the miserable and anomalous position occupied by the British Cabinet towards the great bulk of our dependencies, we are actuated in no manner by an idle predisposition to rake up old grievances, or to disseminate unnecessarily ideas derogatory to the intelligence of our statesmen. Our intention is to direct public attention, if possible, to the consideration of projects calculated to remove many of the annoyances referred to, and ultimately, if carried out with any degree of enterprise, to place the whole system of colonial government upon a solid and satisfactory foundation."

Here we have the affairs of Nova Scotia and the Railroad brought prominently into the foreground, and the Hon. Provincial Secretary himself introduced to the notice of the British Public:

"Conspicuous, and we might almost say, paramount among these beneficent projects is one affecting the prosperity, and in some measure, even the very stability of Nova Scotia as an important section of our North American possessions."

"Very recently there has arrived in this country, from the dependency last mentioned, a gentleman entrusted with a mission intimately concerning the interests of its active and intelligent population—we allude to the Hon. Joseph Howe, the Provincial Secretary. Himself deeply versed in the labors and responsibilities of the Nova Scotia Government, and acquainted, moreover, with the extraordinary capabilities of the colony, Mr Howe was, perhaps, the fittest person that could have been selected from among the members of the local administration for the purpose of bringing its wishes before the home government, for its acceptance and approbation, as we understand the principal object of the Hon.ble. Provincial Secretary on arriving in the mother country, is to urge individually upon the chief of the Colonial Department, and generally speaking upon the whole of Her Majesty's Government, the advisability of affording every reasonable encouragement to a projected enterprise of considerable magnitude, and one promising not only to Nova Scotia itself, but in a greater or less extent to both hemispheres, a multitude of scarcely calculable advantages. The enterprise we here speak of is no other than a proposed intercolonial and intersectional line of railway,

opening up communication between New York and Halifax. As an evidence that the project is in no respect chimerical, and that its anticipated good consequences are, in their nature, anything but illusory, it is only necessary to transcribe the eulogistic opinion entertained of it by Earl Grey himself, her Majesty's present Colonial Secretary. Upon the scheme of railway extension to the principal town of Nova Scotia, that statesman has thus written:—"I regard the work," says he, "as one calculated to be of the highest service to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and instead of considering it as likely to endanger by competition the still more important scheme which has been proposed for connecting Halifax with Quebec, I believe that it is likely to prepare the way for the execution of the latter, and that it will contribute to the same end, namely, that of rendering Halifax the great port of communication between the two great continents of Europe and America." So much for the estimate formed of the undertaking by the Right Hon.ble the Colonial Secretary—an estimate as earnest as it is, to our thinking, deserved. The Hon.ble Joseph Howe, therefore, the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, is entitled to our congratulations for having arrived in England for the purpose of advocating the claims of that important Province, provided to that end with a proposal of this golden and inestimable character."

Then follows an historical Sketch of the Colony, tracing its growth and expansion—the importance of the Railway as a connecting link between the Old World and the New, and the claims of Nova Scotia to the favorable consideration of the Home Government.

"From all that we have here remarked, it must be sufficiently obvious that the period has at length arrived when Her Majesty's Government may release themselves from the pressure of Colonial difficulties by according a full and cordial support to enterprises like the one here indicated. Out of all which considerations we cannot but regard the arrival of the Hon. Joseph Howe amongst us, on this important mission relating to the affairs of Nova Scotia, as a circumstance inaugurative of a new and happy change in our entire system of Colonial Government."

From the St. John Chronicle.

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT.

We deem it a duty incumbent on us as journalists (albeit not a pleasant one), to give publicity to such part of the Presentment of the Grand Jury, as has caused much excitement throughout the city, as well as having produced a hostile feeling between that body and the Bench of Magistrates. This feeling, it will be found, has had its origin in the Magistrates in Session setting themselves above the Law, and treating with contempt the labors and honest intentions of the Jury to sustain the majesty of the statutes of the land.

The Alms' House, in all its details, exhibits a total want of system and good management. They further state that the waste existing in the establishment having been so often pointed out and commented upon, by this, and other Grand Juries, without producing any effect, that this Grand Jury will, at the present time, simply present the whole as a nuisance.

The Grand Jury found the Lunatic Asylum in a highly creditable state, the cleanliness and comfort of the unfortunate inmates being minutely attended to.

The Marine Hospital is in its usual state of good order.

The Grand Jury proceeded to the Provincial Penitentiary, but were refused admission. If the Sessions, or the public, think it desirable that such institutions should be visited and reported upon by the Grand Jury, it is for them to take the necessary steps to have the object accomplished.

At the December Sessions of last year, the Grand Jury presented to the Court a number of persons, for alleged violations of the Building Act, 3 Victoria cap. 1. Having learned on the first day of sitting at this term, that no indictments had as yet been ordered, a Special Presentment was made, requesting a copy of the motions on which said indictments had been passed over, and asking the Court to prepare indictments. In reply the Grand Jury were requested to attend on Tuesday last, when the question would be discussed.

During the discussion which ensued, it was alleged by Worshipful Magistrates, as a reason why the Indictments should not be proceeded with, that the law itself was "unjust, tyrannical, and absurd," and ought not to be enforced or obeyed—and that it would in all probability be repealed at the first meeting of the Legislature. The question was disposed of by a large majority voting for its delay until this day. The Grand Jury present that such opinions avowed and acted upon are "immoral, dangerous and disgraceful." If the chosen guardians of the law thus tamper with their duties, what can be expected from the people? each man will judge for himself, and render obedience only to such laws as suit his interest or his passions. The Grand Jury trust that measures may be taken to rid the Magisterial bench of those who can so far dishonor it.

But this mode of procedure, noxious as it is, even if this particular law were all that it is said to be, is still more so when applied to an Act which is, in the opinion of this Grand Jury, as salutary and as necessary as any on the Statute Book. Sad experience is every day testifying the danger and the folly of erecting buildings of combustible materials, in large and crowded cities: and it is well known that such is the force of direct prospective interest, such the strength of individ-

ual selfishness, that in no other way can the building up of piles for future conflagration, be prevented, than by penal enactments. The Grand Jury trust that so far from repealing the Building Act, the legislature may extend its provisions to all situations likely to become densely populated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

On the Presentment being read several of the Magistrates rose and opposed in no gentle terms the language in which it was couched, reiterating at the same time, that the Law was "unjust, tyrannical and absurd, and that it should not be obeyed." Alderman Needham, who was "the loudest of the loud," in the opposition, to justify the position taken by the Sessions, stated, as a precedent, that many laws still existing on the British statutes, were wholly disregarded by the Magistrates of that country. That such may be the case we are not prepared to contradict, because in the multiplicity of enactments, the accumulation of centuries of legislation, it is not improbable that some of the wisdom of former days may have fallen into disuse, without being formally abrogated. The law for burning witches, for instance, if we are rightly informed, unblotted from the statutes, still stands in musty grandeur, an integer of British legislation. But this we are prepared to say, that we pity the man who, having taken the Magisterial oath, can have the hardihood to stand forth unblushingly, and advocate the setting at defiance the laws of the land. Our old-fashioned ideas of moral obligations, is this, that while an enactment of the Legislature stands a valid document on the statutes of the country, not only are the Magistrates, whose especial business it is, bound to obey that law, (absurd although it be) but every man, woman and child in the community. For what, we would ask, does our Constitution give us the franchised right? Is it not that we may elect our own law-givers? and having delegated that power into the hands of our Representatives—what right, we ask, have we to set their acts at defiance? Again, how, we would ask, and with what propriety, can a Magistrate punish a less enlightened person, who may be brought before him for a breach of the law, when he himself had set the example. Now we take it that the true philosophy of the matter lies here, that as we by our agents are virtually the law-makers, we become doubly culpable when we strive to annul our own actions. If the law be found to answer the description given of the one in question, and be "unjust, tyrannical, and absurd," still it is the law, and should be acted upon—and the remedy, lying as it does in our hands, we have only to petition the Legislature, and the necessary alteration is readily complied with. In the case above alluded to, we find less firmness of action on the part of the levellers than might have been expected. From the bombastic explosions that accompanied the refusal to comply with the law, we were prepared to see the question met boldly, and settled instantly. But mark the dodge,—a very tremulous and timid member proposed that the responsibility of violating the law of the land, should be shifted off the shoulders of the Magistrates, whose duty alone it was to deal with it, on to that of the Common Council, whose duty it was not—thereby giving the whole thing the go by. Now it strikes us forcibly, that with such rottenness and truckling on the part of the Magistracy, it is quite out of the question to expect that the business of the country can go on fairly, or that this community can prosper. It becomes then the duty, as we trust it will be the inclination of the Executive, to weed this noisome garden, by sweeping off at one fell swoop, that portion of the present Commission, who by their untimely and disloyal opposition to the Law, have lost the confidence of honest men, and permit the people to suggest who shall fill their places. It is only fair to state that there were some few in the Court, who offered an honest opposition to the iniquities perpetrated, and proved themselves on that occasion, firm and unflinching advocates for the conservation of the majesty of the Law.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1850.

REFORM IN CHANCERY.—A late number of the New York Tribune thus speaks of the necessity there exists for a reform in this Court:

"The London Times notices our suppression of the Court of Chancery and the conferring of equity jurisdiction on the law court as a change startling only to ignorance or prejudice, and proper to be adopted by England. And it is expected that a movement for the abolition of the forms of action, and the substitution in that respect of common sense for unintelligible technical lingo will be successful in the coming Session of Parliament.—What the view of some of the most eminent English lawyers is on these questions may be judged from the following extract of a late speech of the Solicitor General delivered in the House of Commons:

"I must warn the house, if they attempt legal reforms, that they must not allow lawyer after lawyer to get up and tell them that they were not capable of understanding the subject. The House may depend upon it, if they could not reduce a legal proposition to the plain principles of common sense, comprehensible to persons of ordinary intelligence the defect was that it was a technical sys-

tem, invented for the creation of costs, and not to promote the due administration of justice."

"—Has anything more decided ever been said by American law reformers?"

THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC.—Crofton Uniacke, Esq., in writing to the Editor of the Halifax Sun, thus speaks of the duties of the people to maintain the Press, and the benefits which must result from its operation, if conducted in an independent manner:—

"Your appeal to your subscribers I trust will not pass without producing an immediate and beneficial effect. I send you the amount of my subscription for the past year, and also in advance for the next, which I hope will be a glorious one for our country; the public should remember that their highest interests are in the hands of the Press, and that it should not only be justly but generously supported."

TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER.—The Scientific American contains the following communication from an eminent Physician of Washington, named Harvey Lindsly, who recommends the following treatment for Scarlet Fever, practised by Dr. Scheemann, Physician to the King of Hanover. It appeared in a recent number of the London Lancet.

"From the first day of the illness, and soon as we are certain of its nature, the patient must be rubbed morning and evening over the whole body with a piece of bacon, in such a manner that, with the exception of the head, a covering of fat is everywhere applied. In order to make this rubbing in some what easier it is best to take a piece of bacon the size of the hand, choosing a part still armed with the rind, that we may have a firm grasp. On the soft side of this piece slits are to be made, in order to allow the oozing out of the fat. The rubbing must be thoroughly performed, and not too quickly, in order that the skin may be regularly saturated with the fat. The beneficial results of this application are soon obvious, with a rapidity bordering on magic, all, even the most painful symptoms of the disease are allayed; quiet, sleep, good humor, appetite return, and there remains only the impatience to quit the sick room."

WILLIAM HOFFMAN, ESQ.—A short time since we announced that this gentleman had been appointed to a highly important situation with a large salary, in California. It will be seen by the annexed paragraph copied from the Novascotian, that he has been taken suddenly from the midst of his friends, by that fell disease, Cholera. We deeply sympathise with his parents and amiable family in this dispensation of Providence.

"It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of this much lamented gentleman, our fellow townsman and friend, who, by Electric Telegraph from New York, is reported to have fallen a victim to the Asiatic cholera in San Francisco, California. We have not learned any further particulars. But most sincerely do we sympathise with his afflicted parents and family, in the untimely decease of one on whom the honors and emoluments of the world were rapidly descending, in his new and distant home. Peace to his memory."

VERY LIBERAL.—The Novascotian contains the following paragraph. Mr Collins's idea is certainly new, and we question if any person will deny that it is also philanthropic. We know there are persons in the world who have "face enough," as the phrase goes, "for anything," but we question much if they will avail themselves of either of the "chances" offered.

"Two Chances.—Mr Collins, who formerly occupied the house, corner of Albermarle and Buckingham streets, and was burned out at the recent fire, requests us to say to the party who is in possession of a valuable stove which was saved, and subsequently stolen, that he will have much pleasure in giving the top of it also, as it is of no use to him. Also, to the parties who stole his carpet, he will be happy to give them the hearth rug to match—the latter being comparatively useless to him. Don't be backward in coming forward."

CANADA.—The Quebec Gazette contains a long article headed "Quebec Trade for the year 1850," with the following remarks, which shew that the Merchants there have during the past season, done a successful business.

"Our business season is over; the ships are all gone, the ice has taken their place, and our merchants have time to add up their balance sheets, compare the results with those of former years, and speculate on the prospects of those to come. We think we may fairly congratulate them on the success which has attended their efforts during the year, and on the still brighter hopes for the future. In every branch of trade, the amount transacted has been larger than before, and we believe that we may say with confidence that all have been highly remunerative to those engaged in them."