

honour given to the memory of Dr. Thomson for a noble example, who volunteered the charge of 700 wounded Russians on the field of the Alma, assisted only by a single servant, as devoted to duty as himself? This hero in the cause of humanity, died of cholera immediately referable to his exertion and exposure amongst putrifying bodies. Had he lived would he have obtained the praise which is bestowed on a staff officer for galloping with a message on the field of battle or for helping the commander-in-chief in doing nothing in a soldier's battle and victory? It is too well proved that our army pines under "the cold shade of the aristocracy."—The smallest services of the men with names and positions are overwhelmingly prized, the noblest services of the unconnected and humble are unnoticed and unhonoured.

From the Morning Chronicle, Feb. 1.  
THE MINISTRY.

The political world was taken by surprise, and the liberals who assisted to break up Lord Aberdeen's government were not a little chagrined and disappointed, on hearing that Lord Derby had been "sent for" at once.—On reflection, however, we are inclined to think that no other course could have been pursued by her Majesty in accordance with the spirit of our constitution. Although a large portion of the votes which helped to swell the majority of Mr Roebuck's motion was given rather in favour of Lord Palmerston than against him, still, as Mr Disraeli observed in the debate, the noble viscount was virtually responsible for the acts of his colleagues, and he formed one of the condemned cabinet. If Lord Derby fails, and gives up the delicate and deeply responsible task entrusted to him, then will be the time for the popular favourite, and (by common consent) the fitting man for the emergency, to try his hand. \* \* \* We remarked, a few days since that it would be a curious coincidence if Lord John Russell should be found to have played over again, unwittingly, the same shortsighted and fatally compromising game which he played when he gave his horse to hold to Lord Derby, who mounted it and rode away upon it. Wonderful to relate, he has again played that game, whether he meditated it or not; and we suspect that he expected the crisis to end in a ministry of his own, rather than in one of Lord Derby's formation. But he has proved a blundering, as well as a shortsighted, politician. His resignation (to borrow Talleyrand's well-known mot) is more than a crime—it is a mistake. He neither obtains the Premiership for himself, or accomplishes the longing wishes of the people, who have set their heart on having Lord Palmerston either as First Lord of the Treasury or War Minister. They do not much care which, but one or the other they insist on having; and if there was any difficulty arising out of whig scruples to act against or without Lord John Russell, these might instantly be removed by Lord Lansdowne's accepting the duty forming a government. Report says that this noble lord, the statesman sans peur et sans reproche, regrets and condemns Lord John Russell's proceedings, and that both he and Lord Palmerston would do all that in them lies to save the country from the consequences of their late colleague's escapade. It is impossible to help admiring the consummate judgment and sagacity with which Her Majesty extricates herself from the trying situations into which she is to frequently hurried by the very councillors who ought to be her chief reliance in her difficulties, and we hope that it may still be possible for her, consistently with constitutional forms, to comply with the wishes and co-operate with the well-understood interests of her people, by entrusting the formation of her government to Lord Lansdowne or Lord Palmerston.

From the Morning Post, Feb. 1.

The public will learn without surprise that the Earl of Derby has declined to form an administration, and that Lord Lansdowne has been summoned to Windsor. It may therefore be safely surmised, that the overwhelming force of public opinion has carried the day, and that a ministry will at once be formed, of which Lord Palmerston's name will be the guarantee to the nation. In this result the country at large will sincerely rejoice, whilst our allies and our enemies will look upon it as the certain indication of a most vigorous and thoroughly English policy. Such an issue was distinctly foreseen by all persons practically acquainted with public affairs. Some indeed, were surprised that the leader of the country party should have been sent for by her Majesty; but a reference to the division list of Monday night will show that it was the large preponderance of the Derby party that gave such exceeding weight and breadth to censure beneath which the Aberdeen ministry fell to the ground. Lord Lansdowne and Lord Palmerston—the only other names that have been canvassed as likely to have been sent for—lay under a technical though not real disability, because they were members of the condemned cabinet. However strongly, therefore, her Majesty might feel that probab-

ilities were against Lord Derby's success, there existed the strongest grounds why the chance, such as it was, should be accorded to him and his followers. He has tried his best and failed. This result materially simplifies the crisis. It leaves the large body of the conservatives at liberty to accord an independent support to the incoming ministry. They will feel that no injustice has been done to their leader or themselves, that they have had their turn, but have not been strong enough to take it, and that, consequently, any attempt to impede the success of the minister who may be able to form a cabinet would be factious, undignified, and unpatriotic.

Communications.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

If Mr. Pierce would put this piece of extraordinary composition in the Gleaner, he would much oblige one of the readers of his paper. It will go among the curiosities.

TO THE BATHURST MILITIA OFFICERS.

Jump up ye lazy officers,  
And harken to the call,  
Jump up ye lazy fellows  
And haste to Sebastopol.

You hear of your fellow officers  
Lying dead upon the field,  
Death before dishonour  
Therefore they will not yield.

Come buckle on your armor  
And to the battle haste,  
Linger not a moment,  
As there's no time to waste.

Come leave your home's like men  
And all your feelings still,  
Come haste to the spot  
Where cracks the Minie rifle.

The time is drawing nigh  
When the great battle must be fought,  
Come right shoulders forward  
And hasten to the spot.

Call all your men together,  
And tell them they must go,  
To fight against the Emperor  
And lay the Russians low.

Such men as you are wanted  
The great victory to decide,  
Sorely you will go  
And no longer here abide.

The brave deeds you would accomplish  
Before Sebastopol,  
Would be the wonder of the age  
And be the talk of all.

What news for your relations  
And your friends one and all,  
That the Bathurst Militia  
Have entered Sebastopol.

BY A GENIUS.

Madisco, 14th February, 1855.

Gloucester, 9th February, 1855.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

In your number of the 3rd inst, it is remarked that in the January Term, ultimo, a very solemn and momentous recommendation is made respecting the Parish Officers in this County. And what is that recommendation? Why no less than the disapprobation and repeal of the present Parish Law appointing Parish Officers as far as regards Gloucester. Ah! this smells the Rat!

These censurers, so recommending, are obviously, a fall nest of the late and defunct faction, who have, until the last Alma-like general encounter (Election) ruled and goaded the people as they pleased.

Since their defeat, and the over-throw of the last Administration of the Province, they feel that their power has been and is no more. But in order to regain their former a noblesse over the people, they grasp at a January Term to disapprove and to recommend with the fallacious expectation that the present Magistrates being of the creation of their Parish, would again appoint to offices in every Parish, such as would serve their purpose.

But the people having tested their strength at the late General Election, and having already since tasted of the sweet fruits of constitutional independence, have been emboldened so much, that they have carried their firm determination of freedom, by selecting in almost every Parish of the County, such Parish Officers as deserve their full confidence.

Before the present year, during the indifference or rather the discouragement of the people, when these anti-liberals were year after year elected Parish Officers under the new act, all was right, good, and sweet, and the present law was admirable, and admired by them, for its wisdom in giving every Parish the management of its local affairs.

But now that the servile servants of the oppressors of the people, are thrown not only out of the People's Legislative Hall, but also out of almost every common place of honor and of confidence by the people themselves, they take themselves to a January Term, in order to disapprove what the people recommend, and to recommend what the people disapprove. What presumption! They want the old parish law adopted, and the people want the present as it is; why, because it is a liberal law, and the public want nothing but liberal laws, and they want (in their application) no all-one-sided-handed jug-laws.

Previous to the last general election, the people weighed down by the long assumed autocracy of the anti-liberals, had become nearly apathetic over their rights and political wants. During their bondage they had welcomed the new Parish Law with heart-felt pleasure and gratitude; and ever since, although they were betimes exposed to the ruggedness of temper of some parish officers, they nevertheless never manifested the least disapprobation with the act itself. It could be asserted with safety, that of all the parishes of the County, not one—at least no more—could be known as being disposed to adopt the old parish law.

Let us hope that no more officious censurers will ever presume dictating to the public for it does

not become them. Let them wait until the people by public meetings, resolve and petitions the Government for the repeal of a y a c already popular, and dear to them, and then only they can, and may recommend or disapprove.

The aim and intent of their disapprobation of the act is so plain, and I would say tangible, that they were afraid of giving the least reason for it.

9th February, 1855.

INKERMAN.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pill and Ointment Establishment, 244, Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Feb. 1.—On motion of Sir G. Grey, the North American Fishery Bill passed a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Jan. 27.—Earl Grey gave notice that he would move the following Resolutions on the 29th.

"That it is the opinion of the house that great evils have arisen from the present division of authority in the administration of the army, and that all the arrangements should be brought under the direct control of a single organized department."

We take the following interesting extract from a speech made by Mr Stafford, in the House of Commons, while it was in Committee on Mr Robuck's motion. Mr S. has just returned from the seat of war.

"Nothing could be more terrible than the present state of the transport service. When he was on shore he first learned the arrival of a transport with sick from seeing the dead bodies washed on shore.—He had crossed over to the other side of the Bosphorus and went to the French hospital; he wished to ascertain whether the evils he had seen at Scutari were unavoidable. He found a very different state of things. He went without any notice, and early in the morning, when every hospital is seen at a great disadvantage. He found the utmost cleanliness, and perfect ventilation. He went without any introduction; but, after he had visited the ward, he introduced himself to the chief officer, to whose kindness he was much indebted. He spent three hours in the hospital, and could not describe it better than in the words of a person who accompanied him: 'it seemed as if the French had been there 10 years, and that we had only got there yesterday.' He would not, however, be doing his duty, after drawing such a gloomy picture, if he did not for his heart congratulate the Secretary of War on the effect of one step he had taken during the present war—he meant of course the sending out the nurses to the hospital—(hear, and cheers.) Nothing could have been more successful than the humane efforts of the right hon. gentleman. He knew of the benefits these nurses had been to the soldiers, but the house could hardly realise it. It would be impossible for him to do justice, not only to the kindness of the heart, but also to the clearness of the head of the ladies to whom that difficult mission had been entrusted.—He would recommend the right hon. gentleman that if he continued in office or his successor, whoever he might be, to consult that lady before he determined on the arrangements for their new hospital, and even to give way to her when their judgments differed. He would take that occasion of saying that during the whole time he was reading to the men in the hospital, he never heard a word against a single officer, but, on the contrary, expressions of gratitude to them as honourable to the men as to the officers. The house would not be displeased to hear that the officer whose name excited most enthusiasm was his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge—(hear, hear, and cheers.) He appears even in the din of battle to have found time to say some kind word, or do some kind act, to his humble comrades, that lived in their recollection. If the men spoke well of the Duke of Cambridge, what attempt could be made to describe their feelings of loyalty to the Queen? He remained in the hospital the whole night after her letter came, and whenever he saw a man restless, or heard two or three men talking, he went and read for them in a low voice, that gracious expression of sympathy. He believed that was the happiest night ever spent within the hospital walls. The enthusiasm of the men would have found vent in three cheers to the Queen, but that the doctor refused to allow it, fearing the effects of the excitement on some of the patients. He heard one man say, 'Here's a health to the Queen, God bless her.' Perceiving that he was drinking one of those draughts of bark or preparations of quinine which were given to the patients, he said to him, 'Why my lad, that is a bitter draught that you are drinking.' 'So bitter,' was his reply, 'that but for these words I could not get it down; with those words I could drink it again.' This was applauded by the men around. Such was the manner in which the poor fellows sweetened their medicine—(cheers.)—Nor did he think that their view of the whole state of affairs differed from that which was entertained in that house. Tidings of the events of the last three months had now reached every cottage in the country, and by all classes the question at issue that night would be understood to be, whether the system which had led to such lamentable results should be abolished—(opposition cheers.) What should he say with regard to the army in the East? A little time ago that house unanimously passed a vote of thanks to them for their gallant conduct. That vote could be deemed invaluable unless their subsequent proceedings tended to prove it a mere mockery, and unless they refused to violate routine in order to save an army. By pursuing a plain straightforward course that evening, the house would give

to the young recruits the greatest encouragement to rally round the flag of their country, for they would thus say, 'Stand by us, and we will stand by you.' They would also pay the only tribute in their power to those who are gone down to untimely graves; they would express their earnest sympathy with sorrowing relatives and survivors; they would tell those who were in alliance with them, as well as those who were hostile to them, that the heart of the land was still bold and buoyant; and to those of their own countrymen who yet survived they would give the best pledge that they were sustained and respected, and that when other armies were sent forth to their aid, it should be to imitate them in all but their misfortunes—(cheers.)"

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

To the kindness of Mr. E. G. Fuller, of the American Book Store, Halifax, we are indebted for the following Magazines:

GODBY'S LADY'S BOOK, for February. This is a highly valuable work for families, as it furnishes each month much information on many subjects of the highest importance to females.

This number contains a steel engraving of the "Little Image Merchant," a wood cut of "The Happy Home," a beautiful coloured plate of the Fashions, Mosaic Tapestry Traveling Bag, Mosaic Sofa Cushing, Shoes, Boots, Plaid Comforters, &c., a piece of Music for the Piano, and a number of poetical and prose articles. Price per year \$3.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, for December, which contains the following articles:

The Story of the Campaign, written in a tent in the Crimea. Zaidee, a Romance, Part I. Education of the Royal Artillery. Influence of Gold upon the Commercial and Social condition of the World. Part II: The Jew, a Tale of Russia. The Twelfth of September, 1854. Prospects of the Modern Drama. Peace and War—Dialogue the Second. A few Personal Reflections of Christopher North.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

We received from our Agent at this port by the last British Mail, a copy of Farnworth and Jardine's Annual Circular of the Timber Trade during the year 1854. In the absence of more important news, we make lengthy extracts below. The information it conveys is well deserving the attention of all persons in the trade.

In our last Annual Circular we had the pleasing duty of referring to a year of unparalleled prosperity to those engaged in the Timber Trade. The season which has just closed presents a striking contrast, having been throughout unprofitable and disastrous. In 1853, from the month of June to the close of the season, prices showed one continued advance; in 1854, it has been the very reverse, for commencing with prices extravagantly high, the tendency was downwards without cessation till the month of November—taking the leading articles of the trade as a criterion. Spruce Deals from £13 10s to £5 per standard, and Quebec Pine from 2s 3d to 15d per foot. Many causes have combined to produce this result. Stocks held over from last season were, on the aggregate, too large, and prices too high. The imports from the open ports in New Brunswick during the winter months, was unprecedented, induced by high prices here, and the idea of some shippers that war would so curtail the import of wood from Europe, that this country would require all the supplies the Colonies could produce; this idea has proved fallacious, the import of foreign wood into the United Kingdom being about the usual average quantity. The war also, has had its influence, not so much hitherto, in checking the consumption as inducing caution on the part of purchasers.

"The importation promised, at one period, to far exceed all previous years, but fortunately was checked in the latter months, and now shows a reduction in the aggregate compared with last year, but is still in excess of all former years. The extensive trade in Wood for the few past years had increased its value abroad very considerably, and this season the cost of importation was much enhanced by the enormous freights paid on the greater portion of the import. The consumption for the year, showing an increase, is larger than was anticipated, as the demand throughout was apparently dull and languid; latterly it has been much stimulated by low prices—and as the prices ruling here for some months past have been less than in most of the leading markets with which we have to compete, the area of our consumption has been extended. Australia has again taken large quantities of wood from this market, both Timber and Deals. The aggregate stock of Colonial and Foreign Timber and Deals is only just less than last year's heavy stock, yet much in excess of any former year. Quebec Yellow Pine and Pitch Pine are the articles most in excess.

"We have now had several months of war, which has more or less effected every article of commerce and manufacture. So far the consumption of Timber has not received any material check, but we must not forget that the Timber trade is usually the last to feel, as well as the last to recover, from depression. With a prospect of peace we might fairly look for a continuance of our extensive consumption and for a satisfactory trade, but with war we must prepare for its usual accompaniments as regards trade, viz., increased taxation, dear money, and much distrust,—all tending to curtail business. The future must, therefore, be viewed with much caution, and looking at our ample stock, we would hope that imports will be on a moderate scale.

"Colonial Timber.—Lower Port Pine.—From the lower ports the quantity brought forward has been 373,000 feet, which is much in excess of former years. The consumption shows a considerable increase, and the stock is equal to twelve months' consumption. The first arrivals from Miramichi sold at 18d to 18½d per foot, but lately sales have been made at 12d to 13½d per foot. The fall in freights during the year has been very great, viz., in Quebec, from the spring extreme rate of 51s per load to 20s in the fall, and in St. John from 42s 6d to 18s 4d.