

of the rebellion, and that Lord John had endeavoured to mould it into shape; but it was exceedingly imperfect, and politicians in consequence, had put different constructions on it.—We replied—we saw no ambiguity in it—it was plain and simple, easily to be understood by an unprejudiced mind, and that it so appeared to the Canadian Legislature, for they at once embraced it, and carried out the whole of its provisions.

This was true—they did adopt it WITHOUT ABRIDGEMENT, and are now reaping the advantages of its wise provisions. We have accepted it IN PART, and have suffered, and are every year more sensibly feeling the effects of the folly—and we might justly use a much stronger expression—of our Statesmen.

In speaking of the advantages of Municipal Corporations, we cannot do better than quote from a Lecture we delivered in our Mechanics' Institute a few years ago:

"That celebrated man Kossuth in all his addresses to the people of Britain, in speaking of their greatness as a nation, did he point to their deeds as warriors on the tented field, or on the briny ocean? No.—He spoke of her trade, her commercial marine, her extensive colonies, her wealth; and all these he attributed to her MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS, as they engendered and kept alive the great spirit of Liberty, Order, and Enterprise. In America, he also held the same language—attributing her rapid advancement as a nation, to her self-government, and the self-reliant predilections of her people.

"What did Lord John Russell say in Parliament a few days ago of Canada, that no colony had made such rapid strides during the last ten years as that Province—What did he attribute it to? Why, to her having assumed the duties of Legislating for herself, which engendered a feeling of self-reliance.

"And do you not think, Mr Chairman that if similar institutions were introduced among us that similar results would follow? I do not care what name or nomenclature they may bear—Municipal Corporations—Municipal Institutions, or the Right of Self Government in all Local matters. This rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

"We are of the same Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Hibernian races as our fathers in the old world, and our brothers in Canada, and in the neighbouring Republic. Does not the same blood course through our veins. Do you suppose that if we had had the sole management of our local affairs, that matters would not have been in a better state than they are at present? Do you suppose that if we had had the privilege which they have long possessed, of choosing the best men among us—the men of talent, of mind and of energy, to attend to all our public matters, delegated with powers to make laws and regulations for our government—to tax us for all necessary improvements, that we would not have been further advanced than we are at present?

"Do you suppose Sir, if we had those institutions, that throughout the length and breadth of the County, that our Schoolhouses would be as many of them as at present—small delapidated buildings, neither wind or water-tight, with shingles, old hats, or a bundle of rags substituted for panes of glass, their furniture, a stove cracked on all sides and on the top, a few rickety benches or stools, and perhaps a writing desk? Do you suppose Sir, that there would not have been a more improved system of Education introduced among us? That the poor Schoolmaster would not have been better provided for in salary, and consequently that a more able class would be employed as masters (generally speaking) than at present fills the honorable, but onerous duty of teaching the rising generation.

"Do you not suppose Sir, with the improved feelings towards the prosperity of our county, and the confidence it would inspire in the acts of our public men, that the people would not more cheerfully submit to TAXATION, seeing that their money was judiciously expended and in such a way, that they would be made to feel the benefits flowing therefrom, and imbibe self-reliant feelings; that it would not stimulate us to compete, if not excel our neighbours in every good work, and to take a deeper interest, and a pride, in all our Literary Institutions, and every other matter calculated to improve us as a people, morally, socially, and politically.

"These Sir, have been the fruits reaped from Municipal Institutions in other countries, and I feel convinced they would produce the same results among us."

Several reasons have been assigned why the Legislature have not made the adoption of Municipal Corporations a Law of the Province. One—that the people are not prepared for them. Another—that it would be impossible to procure persons capable to fill the Offices. To the first we reply—we never will be prepared for their adoption while the people sit quietly down, take no interest in the matter, and believe all the silly reports that interested individuals opposed to them circulate against them. To the second we answer—it is anything but complimentary to the people to hear it flippantly remarked by their Representatives on the floors of the Legislature, and by men at home

who rule, that there are not a sufficient number of men to be found in the respective Parishes of the County, of sagacity and intelligence to conduct the business of the County. Singular to say—that while this language is used, and the principle acted out—the Constituency are considered wise and sagacious enough to select from their midst, men capable to conduct the affairs of the WHOLE PROVINCE; and while the People have not discernment enough to select from themselves men capable to attend to the LOCAL business of the County, for a LIMITED PERIOD, the Government are considered competent to make that selection, and choose men for LIFE, to sit in Sessions, and perform the major part of the duty which would devolve on the Corporations.

We shall continue this subject in our next paper, as we have not room for further remarks to-day.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE Courier was very properly detained at the Bend until the British mail came up, and we obtained our portion of it on Monday morning instead of Wednesday, as would have been the case had the Courier left at his stated time.

The papers thus put in our possession, are to the 15th March, and we have made numerous selections. It is gratifying to perceive that the Persian difficulty is satisfactorily adjusted, but matters in China are daily growing worse. We refer our readers to the extracts given in another page, for a detailed account of the news, which is of a most fearful character.

The people of Britain, like ourselves, are preparing for a general election, the Ministry having been defeated on the China question. Knowing the deep interest the readers of our Journal take in all matters connected with the old country, we copy from the Halifax Sun a review of an article which appeared in the Liverpool Journal of the 14th ult, bearing the title—"The way in which the General Election is shaping itself." It contains much valuable information relating to Parliament, the leading views of the nation, and the organization of parties, and is well worthy of a perusal.

"The great want of the age is competent public men. Out of the six hundred and fifty eight members of the British Parliament there are not half-a-dozen who make any pretensions to leadership. With the exception of the Earl of Derby, there is hardly a man to whom the Queen would send for the purpose of ordering him to form a ministry. Lord John Russell is out of the question; Mr Gladstone, although the ablest man in the kingdom, is cursed with too much intellectual refinement for the rough labour of managing the State. The party who placed Lord Palmerston in a minority on the Chinese motion are constrained to confess that he is the only man in the country who could form a ministry out of the Liberal party. Possibly the "coming men" may be concealed in the obscurity of local distinction; but, either he does not exist, or the circumstances surrounding him are such as to forbid his attempts at office.

"The canvass now in progress, pending the general election, bears melancholy evidence to the paucity of men of mark and likelihood. Numerous places, impatient for change or desirous for a contest, have carefully enumerated the persons they would wish as candidates; but, amongst them all, there are not twenty names for popular recognition. No doubt there are many men well qualified for the ordinary duties of legislation who shrink from the turmoil of a canvass, or who prefer private ease to public strife—while many others surrender to the obligations of business the small ambition which actuates them. Apprehension of failure keeps many out of the field, and dread of expense deters still more; and, in consequence of all these things, nothing is so difficult to obtain at this moment as a man fit and willing to represent a large constituency.

"Manchester is constrained to make this admission; for, although the leading commercial men among them would willingly prevent the return of Messrs. Bright and Gibson, they have, up to this moment, sought in vain for suitable persons to represent them.

"London seems to be as badly off for candidates as Manchester; for although it was stated that Lord John Russell intended to go to Tavistock, and Mr Masterson had intimated his intention not to stand again, the only candidate who has yet appeared is Mr Crawford. Lord John, if he ever intended to retire, has abandoned that intention; for he has, in a very elaborate address, declared that he will again appear to ask the support of the citizens. In his address, he enumerates his services, and adds—"I have laboured earnestly with your concurrence, though without success, for the removal of the disabilities affecting the Jews. Equal favour has not attended the course which I have recently pursued." "I will," he continues, "not venture to say that I may not have been frequently in error. All I can pretend to is a laborious study of the questions in agitation, and an honest desire to promote the

honor and welfare of the country." Feeling that his conduct at Vienna, and his recent opposition to Ministers, needed a vindication, he applies himself, with considerable tact, to the defence of both. The error of Lord John Russell, however, was one which he does not acknowledge,—that of speaking in the House of Commons violently in favor of continuing the war, when at the moment the conviction of his mind was that the war ought to terminate.—The cries of Reform, he confesses, have lost their force; but he retains his old creed, and, if again elected, will devote himself to the subject with which his political life has been associated.

"Mr Cobden retires from the West Reding of Yorkshire, and has not yet, although he carries the olive branch of peace, found a resting place.

"Exciting topics are wanted. No great question occupies the public mind; for the Chinese affair, after all, has not possessed itself very much of the popular feeling.

"Edinburgh is not threatened with a contest; and the recent election at Glasgow seems to promise that the present members will be returned without opposition.

"Here are a list of questions now in hand;—The Ballot; the Extension of the Suffrage; the Bank Monopoly; Church Rate; Abolition of Purchase in the Army, and Promotion by merit; a graduated Income Tax."

TO OUR READERS.

LAST week we refused to publish a Communication sent us, bearing the signature of "Prompter" reflecting on the erratic course which the Editor of the Colonial Times has pursued during the brief period he has had command of a Public Journal. The reasons we assigned were these—we did not wish to interfere in any way with him—that the writer had better send his communication to that paper, and give the Editor an opportunity to rebut or answer the charges he had brought against him, thus enabling him to show a spirit of independence and fair play. But should he refuse, and not allow a free expression of his conduct, or enable the public to criticise his acts as a public Journalist, we should allow the writer, or any other person similarly situated, to use our columns for that purpose.

We have never shrunk from opening our columns when attacked in our public capacity, and such of our patrons who have taken our paper any length of time—and we feel proud to say there are many such—well know that we have inserted many bitter things against ourselves. These we answered, and left the public to judge between us, contented to abide by their verdict—guilty or not guilty.

In pursuing the course we have done on the present occasion, we acted according to the ETIQUETTE observed by Editors which the Press we feel persuaded, will bear us out in. There was another reason for our pursuing the course we did. Suppose we had concluded to close our columns against all expression of opinion in reference to the public conduct or acts of the proprietor of the Colonial Times, and that individual should, (as in the present case) refuse to publish any comment or censure on his acts, would the public receive even handed justice from the Press? We think not, and rest satisfied the people will bear us out in our position.

For the courteous manner in which we have acted towards the Editor of the Colonial Times we have reaped a requital in his issue of Thursday last. Just such a one as we were prepared to receive, judging from his antecedents; for, ever since he has succeeded in procuring the control of a Press, he has—cur-like—been biting and yelping at our heels. We have not thought it worth our while to notice these futile efforts to assail our public character, or to injure the reputation of our Journal, and we only notice his attack now to place the matter fairly before the public.

We give below the articles we have reference to, as many of our readers will not have an opportunity of seeing the Times. The Editor in refusing the insertion of "Prompter's" letter assigns as his reason for so doing—"its length prohibits our publishing it, besides the low meaningless scurrility of which it is composed, is only fit for the Gleaner for which it was originally intended." This letter will be found in another page—the reader therefore will be able to form his own conclusion if its contents are such as stated by the Editor of the Colonial Times.

It appears the writer placing implicit confidence in the integrity and honor of the Editor, gave him his name. How he kept faith, the public know. He refused to insert his letter, but divulged his name, accompanied with a remark reflecting on the character and standing of the writer. We have expunged the name, not feeling at liberty to give it further publicity than it will obtain through the Times.

"We are glad to perceive that our contemporary of the Gleaner, hesitates, now not only to publish anonymous scurrility on others, but declines giving publicity to the article of Prompter, having reference to ourselves. How much of this is pure and disinterested love for us we easily understand. He well knows that our respectable correspondent "Fidelity," from Resougonche, has now got his eye-sight, and is always ready and willing to protect us from any anonymous slang which may appear in the Gleaner, by immediately commencing a cross fire on the editor himself. In this our safety lies, and he knows it. However, to allay our

contemporary's fears in the present instance, we tell him that as the writer has given us his name, he is at perfect liberty to publish the article referred to, and that not one word from "Fidelity" shall be allowed to appear in answer. We have had an offer of the precious document, but its length prohibits or publishing it, besides the low meaningless scurrility of which it is composed is only fit for the Gleaner for which it was originally intended. If the Tories can select no better champion than Mr—writer of the article "Prompter," to advocate their principles, we only say, Heaven help them!"

The Editor in another paragraph acknowledging the receipt of a Letter, and assigning his reasons for not giving it insertion, embraces the opportunity to give us one of his characteristic stabs.

"We intend giving the Miramichi press a new and respectable tone, and persons who are attacked a fair opportunity of replying."

The italics are our own.—Yes—he has certainly performed his first promise—he has given the Press a NEW tone, but whether he has fulfilled his second one of making it more RESPECTABLE, we leave the public to decide. He will permit persons to attack one another, but he will not allow any writer to assail him. Well, if the public are satisfied we have no cause to complain. We shall be at all times prepared to defend ourselves when we consider it necessary to act on the defensive, without calling to our aid an anonymous champion.

We have to apologise for the space taken—but our reader we know will excuse us—it is not often we trouble them with matters of a personal nature.

NOVA SCOTIA.

ALL the Government members have been elected in this Province by respectable majorities.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

FROM A. F. & D. McKay's Timber Circular of March 13, we take the following extracts:

"As at the date of our last, the consumption still continues large, but it has not yet been such as materially as to enhance cost to the consumer. The Import since the 1st of February up to the present time, although greatly in excess of that for the same period of last year, does not equal in amount that for the same periods of 1854 and 1855, during the former of which the tonnage employed in the trade from North America was 20,600, and during the latter 17,800 tons. The effect, however, of the seemingly large arrivals, has been adverse to an improvement in the money value of stocks, and many articles which would otherwise have risen in price, have remained stationary. The condition of our domestic and foreign politics has also without doubt exercised a prejudicial influence upon most of our home markets, an influence from which the trade in timber has not wholly escaped. The bad faith and unscrupulous policy of the Chinese have drawn upon that people the castigation which any insult inflicted on the British flag never fails to insure; but the proceedings on the part of our representatives and forces in the Chinese territory have met with so sharp a rebuke from Parliament and the country, as to jeopardise the existence of Lord Palmerston's administration, to prevent the overthrow of which the Premier has resolved on an appeal to the constituencies. It has accordingly been resolved to dissolve Parliament at the earliest period consistent with a provision for carrying on the indispensable business of the nation; the 26th of the present month has been named as the day on which Parliament will in all probability be dissolved. In these circumstances, the turmoil and unsettled state of the country and of general feeling during a Parliamentary Election, will be added to the other agencies which tend to depress trade, so that any important improvement in prices or demand need hardly be looked for for some time to come.

Pine Timber.—From Quebec, no sales in cargo have been reported; such transactions as have taken place having been entirely of a retail character. From St John and other ports there have been no sales during the fortnight, in cargo. Quebec may be quoted at 18d to 19d for an average of 70 feet; St. John, 18 inches average at 21d., and other ports at 16d to 17d per foot.

N. B. and N. S Pine and Spruce Deals.—Of these the arrivals have been considerable, amounting to 221,585 pieces, against 43,754 up to the corresponding period of 1856; this, in combination with the other causes alluded to in our general remarks, has had the effect of limiting the anticipated improvement expected by sanguine holders, and the larger proportion of deals held in store still remains unsold. Under these circumstances we cannot alter quotations, but again report St. John at 28 to 28 5s per standard as in quality, and other kinds in proportion.—A. F. & D. McKay's Timber Circular, March 13.

SOUTHERN MAIL.—This mail did not arrive until late last evening. We have glanced over the papers this morning, but find little news of interest. We have copied two or three paragraphs.

For continuation of Editorial department see third page.