

to inquire into the distress of the country, terminated, after a five nights' debate, in the defeat of his lordship. The voting showed 306 against, and only 191 for the motion. The discussion was little better than a Corn-law debate, a subject which has been worn threadbare by endless declamation, and on which nothing new can be advanced. The distress of the country was admitted on all hands, and Ministers also admitted that the principles of free trade were correct in the abstract; that they were the principles of common sense; but they contended that in a country like England, the social condition of which is so complicated, their application must be gradual. The debate was dull, but it ended with a scene which will long be memorable in the annals of Parliament. Mr. Cobden delivered a slashing speech, which he terminated by asking Sir Robert Peel what he meant to do, with capital melting away, trade declining, and pauperism increasing. It was the duty of every independent member to throw on him the *individual and personal responsibility* of the existing state of things. In a state of great excitement, Sir Robert Peel rose to reply, and after alluding to Mr. Cobden having stated at the conference of the Anti-Corn-Law League that he held him (the Premier) individually and personally responsible for the distress of the country, Sir Robert Peel added with peculiar emphasis,—

"Be the consequences of these insinuations what they may—(a long burst of cheers)—never will I be influenced by menaces such as these—(another burst)—to hold language or adopt a course which I consider in the slightest degree inconsistent with my public duty." (Much cheering.) Mr. Cobden said, he did not say *personally*. Sir Robert Peel said, "you did, you did." (Loud cheers: Sir James Graham handed a paper to Sir Robert.) He admitted that he was not sure of *that* phrase; but Mr. Cobden held him *individually* responsible: "the honorable gentleman may do so, and he may induce others to hold me individually responsible—(a fresh burst of cheers)—but it shall in no way influence me in the discharge of my public duty." (Renewed cheering.)

A long debate, arising out of Mr. Roebuck's motion for inquiring into the Affghan war, which was made the vehicle of a bitter attack on the late government; Lord Ashley's motion relative to the state of the labouring classes, which elicited some horrid details respecting the social condition of the poor in the manufacturing towns; and Lord Brougham's motion in the upper house, arising out of the anomalous state of the Corporation of London—these form the only topics of interest in the Parliamentary proceedings. Lord Ashley's motion developed a comprehensive scheme of popular education about to be introduced by the government—a subject which has hitherto proved embarrassing from the diversity of feeling arising out of a difference of religious and other opinions.

Sir Charles Metcalfe, who crosses the Atlantic in the same packet which conveys this sheet, carries with him a deservedly high reputation. He enters upon the government of Canada under circumstances more favorable than any of his predecessors of late years.

The resources of that important adjunct to the British Crown can hardly fail to be developed by the new measure for the importation of Canadian Wheat and Flour into this country, to an extent of great, it may be, astounding magnitude, and Sir Charles is the sort of man, we take it, to foster the new trade, and extend to it the benefit of sound advice and comprehensive experience. In England he stands well with all parties—Liberals and Conservatives, and the hope is, that the ground which has been won by his excellent predecessor, as far as the French population is concerned, will not be lost by him. In another column appears an account of the farewell dinner given by the Colonial Society to Sir Charles, and the union of all parties in his favor is complimentary to the man. The *Times*, in its observations on this dinner, passes the following eloquent panegyric on the new Governor:—

"Whatever difficulties Canada may throw in the way of its new Governor, there is no small comfort in the reflection that the same strength of judgment and promptitude of decision which attracted the notice of Lord Wellesley—the same vigour of action and courtesy of demeanour which not only won the esteem, but relieved the embarrassments, of Lord William Bentinck—the same impartiality, discretion, and good temper, which overcame the most formidable opposition in Jamaica—still remain unenfeebled and powerful to resist the menaces of license and to smoothe the asperities of faction in Canada. In a word, if Canada is to be preserved, in no hands could it be more secure than in those of Sir C. Metcalfe; and we are thankful to the present Government for making such an appointment."

Money is abundant; immense sums of it are lying comparatively idle, and for anything like good security, it may be obtained to any extent, at a low rate of interest. England, indeed, exhibits the singular anomaly of being at once the richest and the poorest country in the world, possessing the greatest amount of aggregate wealth with the most frightful mass of positive destitution and misery.

The continental news, since the sailing of the Great Western, possesses no prominent feature. In Paris, they talk of another ministerial crisis—they are constantly having ministerial crises in France. The opposition are making a great effort for the overthrow of M. Guizot. Considering how much that distinguished man has recently lost caste with his fickle countrymen, it is not improbable the efforts to oust him may succeed, if not on the coming occasion, at no remote day.—As regards Spain, Espartero has been obliged to "knuckle down" to Louis Philippe, by retracting

the charges made against the French consul at Barcelona, for unwarrantable interference during the recent troubles. Spain is busy with her elections, pending which, the treaty with England is in abeyance.—As to the Portuguese, all hopes of arranging a commercial treaty with them are nearly given up.—A slight disturbance at Geneva, which was soon quelled, has been the only ripple of late on the smooth surface of continental politics.

The present made by Queen Victoria to the Prince Royal of Hanover on his marriage will probably be the richest of any presented on the occasion. It is a silver service for a dinner, of six courses, for 36 persons.

Sir Charles Metcalfe had the honour of dining with Her Majesty and Prince Albert, at Buckingham Palace, on the first inst.

The Liverpool Shipmasters' Association has been discontinued from want of support.

The distress at Stourbridge is stated to be so alarming that numbers are subsisting on turnips alone.

The Railway between Paris and Orleans will be opened on the 25th of April.

Sir Francis Bond Head, it is said, is to be appointed Governor of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Queen's ship *Modeste*, which left Hong-kong on the 23d of October, with 1,000,000 dollars on board, arrived at Devonport on Sunday.

An order has been issued from the Horse Guards that nearly sixty regiments of the line be reduced to their original establishment, 740 rank and file.

Mr. Robert Alexander, many years leader of the Northern Circuit, died in London a few days back in his 48th year.

It is understood in military circles that Sir Robert Sale will be appointed to the vacant Colonelcy in the forty-fourth Regiment.

The *Hampshire Telegraph* notices that the half-pay of Purser in the Navy is to be raised; some are to have 8s. 6d. per diem.

The *Morning Chronicle* reports, on the authority of "those who are supposed to be well-informed," that the Income tax will produce a sum nearer seven than six millions.

The twenty six colleges of Oxford University contained, at the commencement of the present year, 5,657 members of colleges, and 2,898 members of convocation.

In the event of Lord Abinger's retirement from the Bench, which is daily expected, it is supposed that Lord Brougham will renew his application to Lord Lyndhurst for the vacant chiefship.

The Trinity house yacht and steamer has been employed for some time in taking soundings along the French coast where the *Reliance* and the *Conqueror* were lost.

During the gale of the 13th and 14th of January, 214 vessels were lost on the coast of these isles, with 170 lives, and very nearly £1,000,000 in value, including ships and cargoes.

Captain Ross's expedition to the South Pole is expected home in May. Only four men have been lost during the voyage. Captain Ross has penetrated the Antarctic Circle to 71° 40'.

Lady Peel, it is said, has been suffering from a severe nervous affection ever since it was ascertained, by the admission of the murderer, M'Naughten, that Sir Robert Peel was the personage the assassin intended to have shot, instead of the unfortunate Mr. Drummond.

It was stated by Sir Robert Peel in the House of Commons that the annual estimates for the army, navy, and ordnance would be £850,000 below those of last year, owing to the peace with China, the treaty with the United States, and the reduction of 100,000 men in the French army.

The system of transportation, from the time of its commencement up to 1841, cost this country eight millions. In 1836, the cost of transporting 46,000 convicts amounted to an expense of £81 per head; while, in 1842, the police in the penal colonies cost £92,000, and other judicial establishments £400,000 more.

The easterly winds, which have prevailed nearly a month, have prevented the arrival of a large number of vessels from foreign ports. Amongst the vessels now due are eighty five from America, laden with cotton, the united cargoes of which cannot be much less than 140,000 bales.

[From the Antigua Weekly Register.]

SAINT JOHN'S, February 14, 1843.

## THE EARTHQUAKE.

FURTHER AND LATEST PARTICULARS.

The Legislature met at Government House on Monday the 13th instant, by special summons.

The Speaker read the following Message from His Excellency, The Governor in Chief,

To the Honorable the President and Board of Council, and The Honorable the Speaker and House of Assembly,

GENTLEMEN,—The heavy and most afflicting dispensation with which it pleased the Almighty to visit this Island on Wednesday last, has compelled me to call you specially together to-day in the hope that as far as human aid can be made available, your judgment