

ENGLAND.

COURIER.—The proceedings of the committee on the bank charter continue to be conducted in the same spirit of calm and deliberate, yet active investigation, by which, from their commencement, they have been eminently distinguished. The members of the committee appear to be fully sensible of the importance of the duties they are called on to discharge; and the regularity with which they all attend every meeting of the committee, affords the strongest evidence of the judicious consideration with which they have been selected. It is understood that the labours of the committee, hitherto, have been exclusively directed to the investigation of the system of the Bank of England. This is, indeed, the most important branch of the subject submitted to the committee. It is on the circulation of the Bank of England that the issues of the country bankers, and the whole credit system of the empire, are founded; and, if that circulation be not placed on a sound, a firm, and a perfect basis, the commerce of the country will be exposed to the continuance of the constant fluctuations in the value of money from which the productive interests have so often and so severely suffered. Those extensive and necessarily ruinous fluctuations have introduced derangement and disorder into all our commercial transactions; they have rendered every agree-

LONDON, JULY 4.

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From the London Courier, July 5.

In the Customs there will be a deficiency as compared with the corresponding quarter last year, of about £200,000—Stamps, £50,000.—Assessed Taxes, £100,000.—Post Office, £75,000.—Miscellaneous, £75,000.—Making a total decrease of £460,000.

It should be observed with respect to the Customs, that in the corresponding quarter of the last year a considerable sum had been received for duty on Foreign Corn. The absence of a similar source of revenue, and the restrictions upon commerce caused by the Cholera, in the quarter just ending, will sufficiently account for the present deficiency.

M'GREGOR'S BRITISH AMERICA*

From Blackwood's Magazine.

We are summoned by the important labours of Mr. McGregor, to a duty which has something of a patriotic value at all times, and at this time for many parts of our domestic empire, something of a local interest—the duty of exposing to British eyes the great field of enterprise which is annually expanded before us in our British American dependencies so little known in any national sense, or so inadequately valued. System we call them, meaning that as their national advantages are gradually coming forward to our knowledge they betray such several and partial endowments of wealth and situation, as prove them to have been designed for mutual dependence and co-operation; singly, they are all weak; jointly, they comprise the framework of a strong empire. Were it, indeed, possible (we abominate so sad an imagery) that the mixed policy of our glorious country should ever be dissolved by the efforts of anarchy taking the shape of reformation, or

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The aggregate register tonnage of all the shipping employed to and from, or in any way on account of, these North American colonies is not less than 780,000 tons; and the number of sailors and fishermen employed, at least 65,000. The estimated value (considerably below the *real* value) of the British exports to these colonies, is annually about two millions and a half sterling; and the fixed capital (including the cattle) which they possess, is esti-

ated at forty two millions and a half sterling. Of a colonial empire, thus far developed already, and potentially so unspeakably magnificent, we might presume that some knowledge would be pretty generally diffused in this country. Yet so far otherwise is this, that Mr. McGregor is obliged to tax even our government with the most scandalous ignorance of everything relative to those colonies, their interests and their most notorious characteristics. Our own British Cabinet, at all times the most honourable and the best educated in Europe, has the least benefit of what we may call a professional apprenticeship. No where will you find ministers with one half of their general knowledge. But the specific knowledge of their stations—where should they gain it? At the universities they learn what gives expansion and elevation to their minds, but nothing which presupposes any particular destination of their

Continent the case is otherwise. There the education of statesmen is purely diplomatic and, having little to do with transatlantic politics or generally with colonial policies, they have by comparison with British statesmen, two great advantages:—the professional knowledge regularly taught of them is less; and secondly, it is regularly required by them, in early youth. Continental statesmen receive a professional education. But with us, education is in the widest and vaguest sense general; and practical life, upon which is developed, in England

tical life, but which is devoted, not to the whole burden of tuition as regards the duties of a statesman, brings with it two main distractions of its own to allow of any tranquil studies. Moreover, in candour, it ought not to be forgotten (that a British statesman has a much wider circle of duties, and a catchword of political knowledge, catchword ampler to traverse than his brother statesman on the Rhine or the Elbe. One half of his energies is spent up on the management of a popular assembly; this, in the first place. And a second, he has a colonial duty to deal, and a colonial interest to administer, which to his continental brother (if we except a very few of the Southern European states) have no sort of existence. Our Oriental colonies, it is true, do not make an large demands on the time of ministers at home; but distance forbids that. But all those of this side of the Cape of Good Hope, and especially the West Indies, have, in our days, occupied and harassed our domestic government more than our domestic affairs.

This palliation however, from another view, is but an aggravation of the blame in another, for the Colonial affairs are amongst the burdens which oppress them, they must be imperatively shouldered upon their consciences to make them selves acquainted with the relations of those colonies to European politics and their real interests. Yet, as Mr. McGregor's work, we collect every where that there policy has been at the best wavering and undecided, and, in some instances, fatally blind; of which we cannot state a better evidence than the fact of the having, by express treaty, cooperated in the re-establishment of the French at the entrance of the St. Lawrence; thus willfully restoring a baleful influence, whose explosion from those regions makes so memorable a page in our British Colonial history.

Such being the darkness which prevails everywhere in the higher quarters upon these great interests, we have all reason for particular gratitude to any writer who labours effectually to disperse it. That task is neither easy nor pleasant; it can rest securely only upon strong arguments supported by numerous facts, and upon facts in the largest extent improved in their true bearing by arguments the stronger. A book of mere statistics is blind; a book of mere reasoning is weak. In the first, few readers can find their road; in the second, where the road is officially pointed out, the reader distrusts his guide. Mr. M'Gregor's book is, in this respect, constructed on a right plan. It is not, as might perhaps have

one should be collected so laboriously, a book should surely be written by the hands of statisticians. Yet, on the other hand, the opinions and leading doctrines of the writer are every where abundantly supported by mass facts and numerical calculations—giving a basis to what otherwise were pure hypotheses, and bringing within the light of palpable evidence what might else have appeared mere conjectural speculation. Coming at this time, such a book discharges a critical service. For the colonies of British America are now making gigantic strides, such as will soon antiquate and superannuate the feeble and indeterminate policy which has hitherto conducted their affairs in the British Cabinet; and it is only in the interval between wars, that any powerful efforts can be made at home for breathing a new life into the counsels of what should watch over their development.

It is more for her own sake than for any danger which her influence, howsoever abused, can ultimately menace these colonies, that we have reason to pray for the triumph of sound counsels in this chapter of our British policy. The loss of so important a limb as her Northern American provinces, would inflict a heavy wound upon the reputation of England, and the European estimate of her power. She would suffer; but on *them* such a separation would fall lightly. They would soon manifest their self-sufficing powers for repelling aggression and for exercising all the functions of an independent state. To them no power could be really formidable in a military sense, except the great Republic on their frontiers. But as her purpose could be of no other than that of incorporation into her own federal system, there would be no reason for apprehending a sanguinary war of devastation. France from the advantages of her position amongst the parties concerned, might sow momentary dissensions by means of intrigues. But eventually it would be the great domineering interests of each side which would determine the result; and both parties would make their final election with the dignity of an independent choice, and according to the pure balance of political interest. England, therefore, apart from it is not much to cheer the prospects, or to throw gloom upon the external relations of these provinces. It is, therefore, by a double obligation the duty of a power which stands in this predicament, and holds its influence by a sort of civil suzerainty and prescriptive reverence, to wield it for none but the most benevolent purposes, and in a spirit of parental tenderness. Towards this (as indeed towards any consistent end), the first step is—to make ourselves well acquainted with the real interests of the provinces which we are undertaking to benefit and foster. Without us they have sufficient internal prosperity; let us be cautious on our guard that they lose none through

On such a line of policy, perhaps no book before Mr. McGreggor's, could furnish us with any adequate assistance. His challenges our especial notice from this cause—that it is thoroughly comprehensive. Any former writer that we know of, supposing even that his information were sufficiently recent, is liable to the great objection—that, by confining itself to one province or two at the most, it foregoes the possibility of raising to a general survey of the foreign relations which connect the whole of these provinces with Great Britain and Europe. Viewed as an aggregate, our North American colonies present a character and a political position which cannot be ascribed to any one of them individually. And it is necessary that they should be considered collectively, in order to appreciate the importance which even each singly may attain. Nova Scotia, for instance, taken separately, and resting on her own resources, will hardly be supposed entitled to any very magnifcent prospects; yet, as Mr. McGreggor observes, so great is her capacity for a higher degree in combination with a state already powerful—that she alone, by supplying one capital vantage, would render the great American Republic independent of Europe. All of these provinces in fact have some natural adaptation to the imperfection of each other. And this it is which makes a comprehensive view, like that before us, no less essential to the truth and accuracy of the several parts than of the total result. In point of correctness also, as respects the great mass of the information furnished, we may presume Mr. McGreggor to have had one advantage peculiar to himself—that much of it has been obtained from the records of the Chamber of Commerce in Halifax, an authentic source of such details not previously laid open to any traveller.

In the first, or Introductory Book, Mr. M. Gregor gives a general sketch of American History, from the period of its discovery. This was perhaps necessary to impress an air of completeness and totundity on his plan; yet in this part of his work, he travels over ground which has been trodden by so many predecessors, that it was scarcely possible within the limits to bring forward much absolute novelty. In one point, however, the spirit of reciprocal feeling between this country and America is general, we are glad to find him taking a tone which has unfortunately been too little familiar to our printed works on America, though tallies with all that we have heard in conversation from grave and temperate travellers: "It is common to believe," says he "that the Americans cherish a bitter hatred to the people of England. Many circumstances have certainly planted sentiment of dislike to England, or more properly to the government, pretty generally among the citizens of the United States: but they are, notwithstanding, more kind to Englishmen individually than to the people of any other country. I may all observe further, that the ^{re} is much truth in the reply made to me by a member of the Legislature of Maine, when conversing with him on the subject:—'Sir,' he said, 'if I were to punish men for abusing countries, I would first knock down the person who stigmatized our own, and immediately after the one that abused yours; and you may depend upon it, such a man, that the feeling is more general amongst us than even we ourselves think.'" Mr. M. Gregor justly goes on to account for this leaning towards England: from the common literature—the common language—and, especially, the common history—which connects them with the country.

In the Second Book it is that Mr. M-Gregor properly speaking, opens his subject. The British possessions in North America are the Islands of Newfoundland, Cape Breton; and Prince Edward; together with the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick; and the Canadas. Three less considerable possessions we omit—viz. Anticosti, Labrador; and the territory west of Hudson's Bay, the first as deficient in extent, and all as deficient in population. To each of the more important possessions Mr. M-Gregor dedicated a book: we shall follow him according to the order of his own arrangement.

At the outset of the subject, it is painful to find that the very beau air line which se-

rates us from the United States, has been left open to endless discussions, by the mere ignorance and carelessness of British Commissioners. The question was—to determine what river had originally been designated by the name of the St. Croix. A short investigation would have cleared up that point in a sense favourable to this country. But to save a little personal trouble, this was resigned to the interpretation of the American party; and thus, to evade a day's litigation, matter has been left for future wars, the territory to dispute being of first rate importance to either side of the frontier; for, in extent, it is not less than seven millions of acres, and in fertility it is almost unrivalled.

In characterizing the general aspect of American scenery in these northern regions, Mr. McGreggor notices, with the surprise which belongs to such a feature of disproporcion, the dwarfish size of the mountains, few of which are so high as some in Great Britain.—The White Mountains in Hampshire, it is true, ascend to an elevation of 6,800 feet, and the Rocky Mountains to nine or even eleven thousand feet—a pyrenean altitude: but they constitute a solitary exemption. The highest part of the Alleghanies is but 2,958 feet above the level of the sea; and no mountain to the north of the St. Lawrence, not even the Allegonquin, is reputed much above 2,000 feet high. Dr. Johnston said of Miss Knight, the author of *Dinarbas*, upon hearing of her intention to settle in France, that she was in the right; for that “she was two big for an island.” And, seriously, such puny hills as these seem too little for a continent. In reality, it is the lakes (and rivers?) and the forests which compose the noble part of the American scenery. With respect to these last, Mr. McGreggor affirms—“that it is impossible to exaggerate their autumnal beauties; nothing under heaven can be compared to its effulgent grandeur.—Two or three frosty nights, a decline of autumn, transform the verdure of a whole empire, every possible tint of scarlet, red, orange, every shade of blue and brown, every crimson, and glittering yellow. The stern invulnerable fir tribes alone maintain their external sombre green. All others, in mountains or in valleys, burst into the most glorious vegetable beauty, and exhibit the most splendid and most enchanting panorama on earth.”

Mr. McGreggor's sketch of the zoology of these regions, is executed with a happy selection of circumstances. But he is mistaken in supposing it not to be generally known, that the characteristic superiority of American birds is in the splendour of their plumage whilst those of Europe find natural compensation in the beauty of their song; this distinction is familiar to most people and, in fact, is noticed in as common and as early a book as Thomson's Seasons.

In the Chapter on the Climatology of North America, we find it remarked, that the winter is commonly supposed to be shorter and milder than a century or two ago. And this effect is supposed to have a real existence, is ascribed to the progress made in throwing open and clearing away the woods. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the American traveller, to whom no man was more competent to speak on the question, denied the tendency of such changes to produce any result of the kind; and the result itself, as a mere fact, is made very questionable by Mr. McGregor, who cites some anecdotes, which do certainly throw much doubt on the statements commonly received.

"It is truly distressing," says the author, "to see a blooming maid of eighteen, or a young wife, either without front teeth, or with such as are black and decayed."

The first of our North American possessions, which Mr. McGregor treats of circumstantially, is Newfoundland. To this he assigns his Third Book. It seems strange that this island, though the first discovered of our possessions, should be the least known; and it is still stranger to add, that, until a very few years since, the interior had never been explored by Euro-

The two points most notoriously interesting in the circumstances of Newfoundland are the dogs, and its fishing bank. With regard to the former, it appears to be true (as we have often heard) that the dogs, valued as the Newfoundland breed in this country, are not of the genuine race. Though cross, however, they are admitted to be in the highest degree valuable.

The Great Bank is in every view one of the most astonishing phenomena on our planet. Its length is 600 miles, in breadth about 20 miles. Some have imagined that it was originally a low island, whose pillars had been shaken by an earthquake, and had in consequence given way. Others suppose that it has been formed by the accumulations of sand carried along by the gulph stream, and arrested by the currents of the north. It appears, however, to be one mass of solid rock. The Gulph-stream, by the way, is itself a very interesting feature of these seas. The current is so powerful as to retard a voyage to its outward voyage from Europe from forty to sixty miles a day; whilst on a homeward voyage it increases the rate of sailing much, so that the sailors say they are "going down hill" when they are returning to Europe. [*To be continued.*]

FRANCE.

From *Le Temps* of July 2.

The charter, the tribunals, the legal guarantees, and all which constitutes society an apparent order, have been stored to us. The frame is replaced, but the power is not within it. We possess ministerial individualities, but we have no ministry. The article of the charter which consecrates the responsibility of government, has received no application since the death of M. Perier. The cabinet crawls on without a President, and without a system. Royalty is exposed to attacks from all parties. This unconstitutional situation has produced the days of June; it may serve as a pretext or occasion for far more serious disorders. When the chief of government is a minister who depends on the oscillations of the majority, to the majority is left the care of supporting or upsetting its work; but if the King preside, or be reputed to preside, over the actions of the ministry, every mind is turned towards the thought of a revolution. The ardent and the bold descend into the streets, build up barricades and rustle civil war. Men of sense and foresight take a surer direction, and make a way for ideas, demolishing the throne bit by bit, till the people, converted to the republic, suddenly see it crumble away. All this

* *British America.* By John M'Gregor, Esq.
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