

GREAT-BRITAIN, &c.

SUMMARY.

There is a rumor in circulation that the Ministry have again made overtures to Mr. O'Connell to take office under it. We have taken some pains to ascertain how far this rumor is well founded, and can state, that although it is not true that any offer has been made, a gentleman connected with the government, last week requested a member of the House of Commons, who has great influence on the liberal side, to ascertain how Mr. O'Connell felt as to taking office, provided he should be satisfied of the sincerity of the offer, with regard to Ireland. Mr. O'Connell's answer has not transpired, but it is said by his friends that there cannot be a doubt of his willingness to forego opposition to the government, or even of his readiness to join it, with the view of giving it strength against the Tory faction, provided he could receive such pledges as to Ireland as would enable him to take office without exposing himself to a reproach of having betrayed the interests of his country. — *Star*.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland is now at the head of the Conservative party. His meetings are frequently held at his Royal Highness's rooms, instead of the Duke of Wellington's.

Dr. Collins, of London, has written over to Galway, an account of the conversion of the Earl of Bristol to the Roman Catholic communion. We understand that Lord Hilditch intends to bring the case of the old Subalterns before the Legislature, whose pretensions to a respectable settlement on the Unattached List, will, we are confident, meet the cordial support of the representatives of a grateful people.

GOVERNMENT OFFICES.—The expense of the undermentioned establishments for 1832, appears to be as follows:—Treasury, £64,752 11s. 2d.; Home Department, £26,746 6s. 5d.; Foreign Office, £61,686 13s. 5d.; Colonial Office, £28,314 13s. 7d.; Privy Council Office, £12,238 10s. 10d.; Board of Trade, £12,551 15s. 8d.

Retrenchment.—According to the statement read in the House of Commons by Mr. Spring Rice, of the number of places abolished since the 5th of January, it appears that upwards of fourscore have been actually abolished, and very nearly the same number reduced in salary;—to the reduction of £294,368 out of £494,040, annually, being about 40 per cent.

ATTORNEY TAX.—The annual sum paid by attorneys practising in England for the license to exercise their profession, has amounted, during the last few years to no less than £70,000 per annum; added to this about 1,000 young men are articled annually to attorneys, paying each a stamp duty of £120 on their indentures, or £120,000 per annum; of these, about 800, probably, are admitted to practice, on payment of a further stamp duty of £25 each, or £20,000 per annum; so that on the whole government receives from this profession alone an annual revenue of upwards of £200,000.

POOR RATES.—Returns are published in the English papers, shewing the amount of poor rates levied in England and Wales for the year ending March 25, 1832. From these it appears that the whole sum levied in England, was 3,255,315 12s. From this 1,555,920 4s. were paid out for other purposes than the relief of the poor, and 6,731,136 10s. for that purpose; so that the whole amount expended was 8,316,651 14s. This sum was greater by three per cent. than that of the preceding year. The number of paupers who were employed in the repair of roads was 51,705, and of those employed in other parish work, 17,990. To the former there was paid from the poor rates, for work upon the roads, 204,802 5s. and to the latter for other work, 88,257 7s. The amount levied in Wales during the same period was 367,044 12s. Of this, 505,837 were paid for the relief of the poor, and 60,972 13s. for other purposes, the whole amount expended being 366,809 13s.; a sum greater by six per cent. than the expenditure of the preceding year. The whole amount therefore, expended in England and Wales for the purposes above mentioned and during the period in question, was 8,688,461 7s.

IRISH TITHES ARREAR.—The following is the resolution agreed to by the House of Commons:—"That His Majesty be enabled to direct Exchequer Bills to an amount not exceeding £1,000,000, to be issued for the purpose of advancing, under certain regulations, the arrears due for tithes and compositions for tithes in Ireland, during the years 1831 and 1832, subject to a deduction of 25 per cent., and the value of such tithes and compositions for tithes of 1833, subject to a deduction of 15 per cent. to such persons as may be entitled to such arrears, or to such tithes or compositions for tithes, and as may desire to receive such advances:—And that the amount so advanced shall be added to the tithes and compositions payable in the next five years, one fifth in each year, and be repaid by half-yearly instalments, as such compositions shall fall due."

THE ROYAL YACHT CLUB of England is much more important and numerous than is generally considered to be. At the present time, says the Court Journal, it has about five hundred and eighty-eight persons on its lists, of which one hundred and thirty-six are members, and four hundred and fifty-two are honorary members. The number of yachts is one hundred and nine—of which eighty-seven are cutters, ten schooners, three brigs, four yaws, two ships, two ketches, and one lugger. The greater part of these vessels belong to Cowes and Southampton, the rest being distributed among the different parts of the three kingdoms. The shipping belonging to the Club amounts to 7,260 tons. Now, at a moderate computation, each vessel carries ten men on an average;—this gives us the total number employed by the Club, one thousand and sixty.—During the summer months, then, while regattas are celebrated, we may say that the Royal Yacht Club alone supports more than eleven hundred men. These, with some few exceptions, are discharged on the approach of winter, and the yachts are laid up for the season, retaining the master and one man in pay. The crews thus discharged, obtain employment in merchant vessels, or otherwise during the winter, and in the middle of spring are generally re-shiped in the yachts in which they had previously served.

It has been already remarked that the shipping of the Club amounts to 7,260 tons.—Now, we believe, stands the owner in less than from five to six thousand pounds, varying, of course, from that to ten, according to the ornamental parts, the interior fittings, and other contingencies. At this rate, the shipping of the Club would have cost more than three millions and a half of pounds sterling!—Handsome capital for a pleasure club.—*Boston Statesman*.

ENGLAND.—It is obvious that a revolution is now in progress in England, which, owing to certain peculiar circumstances, has thus far proved, as it bids fair to be, for some time to come, unattended with bloodshed or violent convulsion. Heretofore, the Crown and the Peers have been in alliance against the people; now, the people and the Crown are allied against the Peers. Within a few years, the popular sentiment has acquired a prodigious ascendancy; this has doubtless been increased by the sympathy with which it has been met on the part of the King; a sympathy which would not have been found in any former sovereign; and owing to this incident, the popular principle has not only acquired unexpected strength, but has continued in progress almost without interruption. Neither George IV. nor his father, would have set his hand to the bill for the Reform of the Constitution of the House. They would have resisted such a measure to the last; they might doubtless for a season have prevented it, and the consequence would have been, that with power, augmented by resistance, it would eventually have swept like a hurricane over all the institutions of the country. Owing to the difference between the disposition of the present King, and that of his immediate predecessors, that, which might otherwise have sudden revolution, has assumed the form of gradual change, but still so powerful, that the House of Lords, with all its wealth and influence, is wholly unable to resist it. They might perhaps have resisted it on the question of the passage of the Reform Bill; but as the Crown was no longer in alliance with them, the effect of their opposition would have been but temporary, while they have become the object of the inextinguishable hatred of the people. Under the circumstances, they withdrew their opposition, and suffered the bill to pass; and thus lost the only opportunity, a poor one it is true, of asserting their prescriptive right, as an independent branch of the Government. The changes which have since occurred are but the natural results, which they among the rest foresaw, of the passage of that bill. They might have struggled with the catarrh, before it had rolled to the very brink of the precipice, but it is idle to talk of arresting it, when it dashes from the height, and is thundering on the rock below. We see, therefore, that even when they hang out the signals of close action, and are aiming for the battle, the same causes which have operated heretofore, resume their power, and even the conqueror of Waterloo sees safety only in retreat. We regard the withdrawal of opposition to the second reading of the Irish Church reform bill, as an ominous sign, that the leaders of the Tory party are at length convinced, that they must give way to the tide, and do their best to maintain themselves upon its surface. The House of Commons, or in other words, the people, are the government, and may exercise their power as they will. Within a period of three years, a change has been produced in the political state of England, which, twenty years ago, it would have been deemed idle to anticipate, at least within the present century.—*Boston Daily Advertiser*.

COLONIAL.

THE CANADAS.—It is now several months since the contending parties, in both Provinces, have gone a begging, scolding, and muttering threats to the British government, praying its interference in such way as they supposed would promote their particular views. Up to the present time it does not appear that either party is aware of what steps the British government may deem proper to take on the reference made to it.

Independently of the pressure of other business, it is probable that the Home Government, having signified by dispatches laid before both of the Colonial Legislatures its acquiescence in nearly all that had been heretofore asked, will be in no great haste to decide upon new demands. It will rather be disposed to wait till the Colonial Legislatures have given some proofs by acts, that the powers of which the Home Government divested itself in their favor, is used for the peace, welfare, and good government of the Provinces.

The discordance of the parties is so great, their temper is so violent, that eventually some decisive steps will probably be forced on the British Government.

A change has evidently occurred of late in the opinion of the Colonial Office. Whatever steps may be taken, it is to be hoped they will be consistent with the principles of the British Constitution, and equal rights and protection to all the subjects, in the Colonies.

We have too high an opinion of the British government, whether it may be Whig or Tory, or of any other denomination, to believe that it will ever yield to the prejudices and animosities which must inevitably prevail for a time in populations so mixed as those of the Canadas, or fall in with more personal views which are inseparable from the introduction of free government in every country.

It will certainly disregard the public threats of violence, and insinuations of danger from disaffection. It has too much experience not to know that men of resolution never retreat, and that there is no affection to be lost with those who urge it as a consequence of not complying with all their demands.—*Wellington Gazette*.

QUEBEC, September 9.—There was a frost on Tuesday last sufficient to freeze the tops of potatoes pretty generally, and to change the color of the leaves of several kinds of forest trees. Tender vegetables were also frosted. In some settlements, the growth of the potatoe crop is arrested, and it must be less productive in consequence. In a few positions, late oats have also been slightly affected.—*Wellington Gazette*.

The arrivals at the port of Quebec to the present date show an access of 54 vessels over the corresponding period of last year. In both seasons, numerous schooners from within the Gulf are included.

Last year, the total number of arrivals on the Exchange books, amounted to 901; this season, up to the present date, we have 302; but it will be observed that we have already 35 vessels from Europe, on their second voyage, whilst on the 9th of last September only three had arrived.

We question if the difference between the two years will exceed 20, at the close of November. Among the number yet to arrive are many large vessels:—a hundred and of a last of dozen which will average 500 tons.

As respects the fleet, various reasons may be given showing the improbability of our having a numerous one. We shall state two:—the long passages made by the vessels which sailed hence after the 19th June, (few having reached their destination before the 4th of August, and from the winds known to have prevailed, were not likely to get in before the 10th), and the probable high rate of insurance. We have heard of six guineas per cent. having been paid in July, from Liverpool to Quebec. What may have been demanded the latter end of August and beginning of September we have yet to learn; but have little doubt it was unusually heavy.—*Ibid*.

EARTHQUAKE IN CANADA.—The last *Milner* contains a strange account of an earthquake, which is said to have occurred at St. Leon, in the district of Three Rivers which, if true, is well worthy of attention and public notice. About five in the morning a general convulsion was felt throughout an extent of about fifteen acres at the least. It is said to be impossible to describe the scene of desolation which that place now presents; all is overturned and fallen to the banks of the river.—The house and barn of Isaac Lesage have sunk in, as also the house and barn of Augustin Ferron. Isaac Lesage is now dead, from having been crushed under the ruins of his house. His wife who had gone out to milk the cows, saw the house sinking in. An old man saved himself, with several children, by getting out by the roof. The body of Lesage has been found, all dreadfully mangled. The house has so sunk into the earth, that nothing but the head of the chimney is visible. The barn has entirely disappeared. The family of Lesage, who have also lost all their provisions and most of their property, are in great privation. It is said that a large cross erected on the road side, as is customary, through the devotion of the inhabitants, was conveyed to a great distance without falling and is now more perpendicular than it was before. The whole of the accident occurred within a short distance of the Church of St. Leon.—*Montreal Gazette*.

We are happy to perceive by the debate on the East India Company's Charter, on the 19th July, that Colonel Leith Hay, Member for Elgin, in order that there might be no doubt as to the recognition of the Church of Scotland in India, moved that two of the established Chaplains at each Presidency should be Presbyterians, and succeeded in his motion by a majority of 63 to 35. These Gentlemen are to enjoy such salaries as are usually paid to Military Chaplains, provided always that the Ministers of the Church of Scotland so appointed and paid should have been ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, according to the forms of the Church of Scotland, and that they should be subject to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, subject to an appeal to the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The opposition to the vote proceeded from Messrs. Hume and Warburton, the ground being their dislike to the establishment of any sect of religion in India, at the expense of the natives. This recognition of the Scotch Church in India, we trust, will prove the forerunner to a Legislative acknowledgment of its establishment in the British Provinces.—*Ibid*.

THE SLAVE INSURRECTION IN CUBA.—The Editors of the New-York Journal of Commerce have received additional information in regard to this rebellion. It appears 500 or 600 slaves had been smuggled in Africa and landed at a place about 30 miles west of Havana. Some communication took place between them and the slaves on the neighboring plantations, in which the former were given to understand that a grievous mortality was prevailing among the blacks on the island, (Cholera), and that it was occasioned by poison administered by the whites. This drove the new comers to desperation, and thinking that they might as well die in one way as another, they rose upon their keepers and murdered them. On this intelligence, two other persons, proceeded to the landing, in order to do away the impression prevailing among the insurgents, and bring them to subordination. These men were also killed. A troop of cavalry consisting of about 30 men, was then sent against the insurgents, who by this time had been joined by some of the slaves on the neighboring plantations, and a battle ensued, in which a number of the blacks were killed, and also two officers and several privates of the troops. The remainder finding their force insufficient to suppress the insurrection, retreated. A large body was then sent, and poured a terrible fire upon the insurgents, which killed from 400 to 500. The whole loss of the whites is stated at 30 or 40. At the date of the last accounts, the rebellion was considered at an end. The negroes had no weapons but clubs and stones.

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avored his preference for the system of espionage, and throughout Europe the secret spy is reckoned among the surest props of monarchy.

In a letter from Mr. Hall of Sydney, New South Wales, to Lord Howick, he says:—"And among other persons, to whose influence over your Lordship's mind the colonists attribute no small portion of your (unfavorable) sentiments towards our community, they are impressed with an opinion that there is none so unhappily imbued with erroneous prejudices concerning them as your Lordship's secretary, Hay." This is the Mr. R. W. Hay, who has stuck to office under all changes of ministers, whether Whig or Tory. For the sins of the North American colonists he has been transferred to the under-secretaryship of their affairs, by Mr. Stanley.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Viger.—By letters received last Tuesday, from England, we learn that up to the 5th of July last the Hon. D. B. Viger, Agent for the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada had not been able to obtain an interview with Mr. Stanley, although the latter had been three or four months in office. This is as quiet and civil a way of insulting the Canadians and wounding their feelings as could well be devised. A few more scenes like that of the 21st of May would perhaps induce the gentle and patient dwellers on the banks of the St. Lawrence to show the right honorable secretary that they felt and knew how to resent such treatment given to the representative of their choice.

The Rev. Egerton Ryerson, Agent for the Canadian Wesleyan Methodists in England, has had several interviews with Mr. Stanley, at the Colonial Office, as also with others of the ministers. Mr. Ellice's letter of £50 to the Cobourg College on the day Mr. Mackenzie left London, is a proof that the dissenters have some friends in the Ministry. We imagine that the subject of Mr. R.'s discussion with the government has relation to the question of the clergy reserves.

PRIESTLY HYPOCRISY.—"What good" exclaims the London Times, "have these pampered instruments of corruption (the Bishops) ever done as legislators? They are aliens to the spirit of the times and the wants and wishes of a free people. Eject them from the House of Lords—relegate them to their seats—enforce their perpetual residence there, as you would that of the starved curate—and, by removing the demoralizing temptation to venality in the hope of translation to more lucrative bishoprics, you are likely to make them better men and better Christians."

Such is the language of the ablest of the English daily journals concerning the lords Spiritual of Great Britain; and such must be the conduct of Upper Canada towards these busy meddling priests who in defiance of the advice of a Minister of the British Crown continue to presume to tread themselves as legislators and stirrers up of religious animosity and intolerance in the councils of the country. Either the Legislative Council must be made to walk with public opinion, or a vote of the representative branch will (we think) forever abolish it altogether. We see England selling 30 millions of persons for the next 40 years to a company of traders at Leadenhall Street, as if they were so many head of cattle. Upper Canada has neither the ignorance nor the corruption in its body politic which would render such a bargain safe concerning its 300,000 inhabitants.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—I have long been of opinion that one way by which to unite two countries together, where the people or a majority of them speak one language, and carry on an extensive trade with each other, is by a safe, cheap, and expeditious post communication, and lines of post roads judiciously laid down.

To very obvious method of connecting the Canadas with England has hitherto been greatly neglected, or rather prohibited, for the restrictions have amounted to a virtual prohibition. But the present is a good time to change these things for the better, and if we would even now take the hint from our republican descendants of the American Union, we might soon be passing from the most distant parts of Ireland or Scotland, to the westernmost corner of Upper Canada for a postage of only a shilling or fifteen pence, and newspapers that have been stamped, duty free, if it can be done, or if a better means of conveyance is not suggested, a line of packets should be made to run twice a week between Halifax and Liverpool; the swiftest sailing ships that can be built and the safest and most obliging captains. From Halifax the post-road should be improved, no matter at what expense, to Quebec, and settlements encouraged at every point where they can be begun with advantage.

When you talk to a people at St. Martin's in Grand, about reduced post-office rates, and a clear well-defined law, they tell you a long story of the magnitude of the national debt. What has that to do with the matter? Here we are, a first-rate commercial nation, the first naval power in the world, justly proud to keep our influence beyond the Atlantic, yet with excellent means in our hands arising out of the control of the post-office, we employ a code of laws which drives the whole of the colonial correspondence into the hands of the United States, to enrich their treasury, while the British monthly packets capture once or twice a year, and charge such a price for the letters they carry, that it would seem as if their owners wished the Canadas beyond the Rocky Mountains. Why expend millions on wars and canals, and defences, and be pennywise about the postage of letters, pamphlets, and newspapers? If the Colonies were wanted to be kept together, the more they know of England and English affairs—the better for the connexion. The post-office is one of a very few monopolies that may be turned to great national advantage, if the rulers of the nation are not too busy to attend to such matters.

But, as I have already stated, it is made a scandalous job; and until Viscount Howick took the matter up in earnest, there was really very little prospect of a change for the better. The first address to the King from Upper Canada, on the subject of the post-office, was a petition of mine to the Assembly. Neither the Postmaster-General nor Earl Bathurst so much as condescended even to acknowledge the receipt of this address.

In 1829, I moved the House for another select committee, and obtained it; we went fully into an inquiry, and reported at great length.—But the Deputy Postmaster-General at Quebec (Mr. Stanley) evaded giving us information of the revenue raised, or of his own income. He either had or pretended to have an order from the government to keep the amount of the revenue a perfect secret from the country.—Our report and the evidence were printed, and duly forwarded to the general post-office and colonial department, but they remained unnoticed and unacknowledged.

Soon after this, Lower Canada took the question up, and a select committee of the House of Assembly made a very sensible report, in which, among other things, they state that Mr. Stanley gave vague and unsatisfactory answers of revenue questions, on injunction of secrecy from London. Lower Canada addressed the King, but there was no answer. Again there was a committee, and a report, and an address, but no answer from London. At length a third address has been dispatched to London, and I believe that the post-office will be reformed.

Nor has Upper Canada been idle; there has been a plentiful supply of additional reports, bills, and addresses from that quarter also. When in the library of the House of Commons one day last July, I found, on examining the official system of Ministers, induced to require the attendance, in London, of Mr. STANLEY, the Deputy Postmaster-General at Quebec. He, however, did not arrive in time to meet Mr. Mackenzie, but that gentleman having complied with the request of the Colonial Secretary, and furnished his opinions in writing, some plan will probably be adopted, to obviate, in a degree, the many grievances complained of in Canada.

TIMBER DUTIES.—From the subjoined paragraph, which comes to us through the *Montreal Vindicator*, it will be seen that the alteration in the Timber Duties, favourable to Foreign interests, is still confidently contemplated by the anti-Colonial party in Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, July 26.—Mr. Poulet Thomson, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, in reply to a question from Lord Louthier, said that he had no hesitation in informing the Noble Lord that the duty on timber would be altered in the shortest possible period, and would not be delayed beyond next year.—(Cheers.) Of this the parties interested had received an early intimation.

In compliance with a request of the Committee of the New-Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society, made to us through its Secretary, we have cheerfully agreed to devote one or two columns of our paper to the insertion of extracts from the Monthly correspondence of the Parent Institution. We trust, this will meet with the approval of all our subscribers, both in town and country. Indeed, we are sure that the Bible Society is now considered as identified with the best interests of our species, and that the measures now adopted, to put the Bible into the hands of the poor, and to give it the means of causing its importance to bear with more emphasis upon the feelings of the people.—Our present number contains the Extracts of correspondence for June.

We learn that the printer of a late application of the Corporation of St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, to H. M.'s Government, and recommended by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, for a grant of 1000 acres of land for the use of the Church, and for a glebe lot, has been granted by His Majesty.—This circumstance decides the long mooted question of the Corporation of St. Paul's Church, New-Brunswick; by thus endorsing a Presbyterian Church and Clergymen with Crown Lands, a boon usually granted only to Episcopalians.—His Majesty, in effect, declares that within his Colonies the National Church of England and the National Church of Scotland are but two sisters, entitled to equal privileges and ought to be equally interested in the laws of primogeniture. We trust that hereafter we shall hear less of the contemptuous term *Dissenter*; and that the special care of every man be rather to deport himself as becomes a true Christian, than to caricature the use of distinctive sectarian appellations.—*Communicated*.

We are informed that John Gregory, who was committed to Gaol at Annapolis, in July last, charged with the murder of Catharine Inglis, at the Baltimore Court, was lately brought before the Supreme Court for trial; and having been found guilty, was sentenced to death. This we are told, is the first instance, in which the extreme severity of the law has been resorted to, in Annapolis County, for the last forty years.

At the same Court, the four ladies who had been committed on a charge of causing the death of a French lad named Doucet, at Digby, about three weeks since, were arraigned for trial, and having been found guilty, were sentenced to be hanged, for want of sufficient evidence against them.

MILITIA INSPECTIONS.—On Saturday, the 1st Battalion City Militia, under the command of Colonel Turner, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia, in the manner in which the Battalion went through their various evolutions reflected great credit on Colonel Peters and the Officers under his command, and which received the most cordial acknowledgments from Colonel Turner.

On Monday, the 3rd Battalion City Militia, under the command of Captain Van Horne, was inspected by Colonel Turner, accompanied by the Quarter Master General. The Colonel expressed himself highly pleased with the appearance of the Corps, and the manner in which they went through their different evolutions, which reflected great credit on the Officers under his command, and which received the most cordial acknowledgments from Colonel Turner.

THE COURIER.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1833.

We have no later advices from Europe since our last number. Our columns of to-day are therefore occupied with extracts from the Colonial papers received during the week.

The *Colonial Advocate*, printed at York, U. C. (from which we have made our selections), is principally filled with an account of the proceedings of Mr. MACKENZIE, as Agent for the Upper Canada petitioners, in London; together with his opinions upon several matters of Colonial policy. Upon his repeated remonstrances to the many defects in the Colonial Post-Office system, Ministers are induced to require the attendance, in London, of Mr. STANLEY, the Deputy Postmaster-General at Quebec. He, however, did not arrive in time to meet Mr. Mackenzie, but that gentleman having complied with the request of the Colonial Secretary, and furnished his opinions in writing, some plan will probably be adopted, to obviate, in a degree, the many grievances complained of in Canada.

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