

(From the Athenæum.)

UNIVERSAL SEA LANGUAGE.—The following is a copy of a paper presented to the British Association by Sir John Ross, but which could not be entered in the proceeding, according to the existing regulation, as referring to a printed work:

"The Universal Sea Language is a complete system of communications between the crews of ships of different nations, without any knowledge of each other's language. This ingenious and simple code of signals was first communicated to me by the gallant inventor, Captain Rhade, of the Royal Danish Navy, at Copenhagen, in July, 1854; and, in September last, I had the honour of submitting the English MSS. to our excellent King, who, having perused it with attention, commanded me to transmit it to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, at the same time expressing his high approbation of the system. Here, however, it met with some delay, probably from the changes which took place in that board, and from the circumstance that no less than three codes of signals were at the same time under the consideration of their Lordships; and it was not until April last, when I had an interview with Lord Auckland, that their report on this interesting subject was obtained;—this could not be but favourable, and the usual number of copies were subscribed for, as also by the Hon. E. I. Company, the Committee of Lloyd's, Corporation of the Trinity House, &c.; and at length the English edition is in progress. The French edition, which is also a translation from the original Danish, has been already published, and no less than two hundred copies. The German and Spanish translations are soon to follow.

"The advantages of this method of communication by signal, over every other, are briefly these:—In the first place, it will be found by far the cheapest, the whole expense being the price of the book, which is only sixteen shillings—the purchase of flags or other symbols being unnecessary. Secondly, the only materials required on board any ship, are the flags under which she sails, jack, ensign and pendant, (the colour being immaterial,) and two white flags, for which two table cloths, or if there is none on board, two shirts or any thing that will represent a flag will suffice; so that every thing required to be to be found even in the smallest craft. By these simple and ready means, communications of any and every kind may be made by an English vessel to a foreign one, and *vice versa*, without the least knowledge of each other's language, and under circumstances of peril and distress which have rendered every other mode impracticable. Again, those on the sea coast, who would wish to save their fellow creatures from a watery grave, might point out to the stranger an unknown harbour or creek, or the best place to run on shore, and by these invaluable signals convey to a perishing crew of any nation every information required to assist their humane endeavours; while, on the other hand, the crew of a stranded ship might convey to the spectators of their perilous situation every thing that is requisite—even the perishing foreigner's last farewell to relations and friends.

"I can safely assure the section, that during my services in His Majesty's navy, of above forty years, had I been in possession of these signals, and had they been generally distributed and published in different languages, as they are now intended to be, I should have witnessed the saving of hundreds of lives, and thousands of pounds in valuable property."

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.—By an Act passed in the present session of parliament, intitled, "An Act to extend the accommodation by the post to and from foreign parts, and for other purposes relating to the post office," it is enacted, that the rates of postage of letters sent by private ships to the United Kingdom, for places beyond the seas, are repealed, and in lieu thereof, letters posted at the port from which the ship shall sail, are made liable to the reduced rate of eight-pence, single, if posted at any other part of the United Kingdom, one shilling, single; and, so in proportion, to be paid at the time of posting the same. Letters may be sent from any part of the post office, to any place out of the United Kingdom, otherwise than through the post office, except by vessels carrying mails. The ship-letters laws in Britain and Ireland are assimilated. Letters to and from Britain and Ireland by private ships, are liable to a sea postage of eight-pence. There is no alteration in the law with respect to letters brought into Great Britain by private ships, nor those sent to the Cape of Good Hope, the East Indies, and New South Wales. With respect to newspapers, the postage of three-pence on each newspaper brought by private ships from His Majesty's colonies and possessions beyond the seas, is repealed. Newspapers to and from His Majesty's colonies by private ships are liable to a postage of one penny each. Newspapers to and from His Majesty's colonies and possessions beyond the seas by packet, are not liable to any postage. Newspapers, if to and from those countries which have agreed to circulate newspapers to and from Great Britain free, are liable to a postage of one penny only. But to or from those countries with which there is no such agreement, are liable to a postage of two-pence each. Newspapers from foreign countries, to be conveyed at the rates above-mentioned, must be printed in the language of such countries. No newspaper must contain any enclosure whatever, or any writing or marks on the papers or covers other than the address. There will also be new regulations respecting the transmission of letters to foreign parts, which will be announced as soon as arrangements have been made with the post offices of foreign countries.

NEGOTIATIONS pending for a marriage between the Duke of Orleans, eldest son of Louis Philippe, and the eldest daughter of the Emperor of Russia. We are not sorry for this, as it will open the eyes of the French people. A family alliance between the Citizen King and the Destroyer of Poland! But the nuptials are not yet celebrated.—*London Sun*, Sept. 24.

It is understood that Ministers will not allow the military to collect tithes in Ireland this year.—*Freeman's Journal*. The commissioners of the Board of Excise have received instructions from the Lords of the Treasury that for the future the Excise officers are not to survey wines, the trade being now thrown open to the public.

A writer in the New Monthly Magazine, estimates that if every body in Great Britain were to drink nothing but water, the effect would be to strike off at least one fourth of the commerce and employment of the whole Kingdom.

In the certificate list of shooters in the county of Derby, there are thirty with the word *Reverend* attached to their names. In the Yorkshire list there are ninety-three! In the Lancashire list there are only eleven.

NORTHERN RAILWAY FROM LONDON.—The London papers announce a project for a great Northern Railway, to commence at Whitehaven, and proceed through Cambridge, Lincoln, and Selby, to York and Norwich. The line from London to York is estimated, on the basis of accurate surveys, to cost £2,226,921, and the line to Norwich £727,005, making a total of £2,953,926.

The Empress of Russia has within these few days presented to Sir John Ross, through the Russian Ambassadors, a gold snuff-box, set with diamonds, valued at 1000 guineas.

The Rev. Joseph Wolfe, who has already traversed so great a portion of Asia, is about to proceed to Timbuctoo. He will take his departure from Falmouth on the 1st October.

In 1833 there were in France 4501 accidental deaths, 1973 suicides, and 90 duels, from which latter there were 32 deaths.

## COLONIAL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
Quebec, 27th October. }

This day, at one o'clock, His Excellency the Governor in Chief came down in state to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent down to the House of Assembly to inform His Excellency that the House being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to open the Second Session of the Fifteenth Provincial Parliament with the following Speech:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: It is in no ordinary circumstances that I meet you, and consequences of vast importance depend upon the measures which I am about to propose. Dissensions have almost arrested the course of Government. The supplies required for carrying into execution the laws by which society is held together, have now for a considerable period been withheld. The most urgent and conflicting interests of the colony are in a state of anarchy, have been borne in the throne of His Majesty; but accompanied with expressions of an apprehension that the Ministers of the Crown might not have that practical and local knowledge of the Province, which is necessary for the discharge of the duties of the office. I am, therefore, anent amongst you, therefore, not only as your Governor, but as the head of a Commission upon which the task is imposed, of inquiring fully, and upon the spot, into the complaints which have been made; and of offering to the King and to the House of Commons, by the Throne and the Throne, the deliberative conclusions of the Commissioners. There are some cases in which the Executive power of the Government will of itself be sufficient to apply a remedy; in others, though I cannot act by myself, yet with the help of one or more of the members of the Legislative Council, I will effectually accomplish what is required; and in others, in which the Laws and Institutions of the United Kingdom make it impossible for us, without the enactment or sanction of the authorities in England, to effect what is asked; so that we were to act, we should be acting unlawfully, if we were to make Laws, they would be binding upon no one.

If these distinctions are borne in mind, whilst I state to you the commands I have received from His Majesty, and the policy to which I shall adhere, I am confident that I shall satisfy all impartial minds of the magnanimity and wisdom with which His Majesty has listened to your complaints; of the resolution which has been taken to redress every grievance under which any class of His Majesty's Canadian subjects may labour, and of my own determination to do all of which I am capable, in order to give effect to these generous and wise intentions. As Governor, I will execute with alacrity, impartiality, and firmness, whatever I am competent to do of myself; as head of the Provincial Legislature, I will zealously co-operate with its other members in the redress of every evil which may find occasion to correct; as Commissioner, I pledge myself that a prompt but careful examination will be made of those still weightier matters which depend upon the highest powers of the Empire; and that having with the most anxious thought and solemn deliberation arrived at conclusions, the Commissioners will state them with an earnestness of purpose, calculated to give additional force to the authority which they ought to derive from having been deemed worthy of so grave a charge.

It is not my design, however, to speak of the state of political inferiority. I disclaim on the part of His Majesty and of the British people, any ungenerous motive. Having long ago become a part of the family of British subjects, our country requires no such a mark for disfavor, and we are not to be treated as the vassals of a former century. It regards not the present generation as demerit, save misconduct. The circumstances which first united this country with the British Empire, must necessarily be the cause of the degradation of their exclusion of their prior inhabitants from offices of government, and the bias thus unwisely received in some degree have influenced, even to the present day, the course of affairs. Neither is it possible, in the distribution of political offices at any time, or in any circumstances, to be guided entirely by a reference to the numbers of individuals who may be comprised in this, or in that class. But I assure you that in this respect, my instructions enjoin upon me the utmost impartiality, and an entire disregard of distinctions derived from difference of origin. Fitness for the trust is the criterion to which, mainly, if not entirely, I am to look;—and I do not hesitate to avow the opinion, that in every country, to be acceptable to the great body of the people is one of the most essential elements of fitness for public station.

So great is the solicitude of His Majesty to take the most effectual security against the occurrence of any abuse in the distribution of his patronage, that he has commanded the adoption of arrangements designed to elicit the exercise of that part of his delegated authority in Lower Canada; and he has been further pleased to direct that all offices in his gift, of which the emoluments exceed £500 per annum, shall not be granted, except under the Public Seal, and that the exercise of the power of warrants to be issued for that purpose by His Majesty.

Complaint is also made that incompatible offices are in some cases held by the same person. In whatever degree this circumstance may be found to exist, His Majesty has signified to me his expectation that it should be completely remedied.

Commencing with the highest, I have formed the opinion that it is neither right nor expedient to withhold the whole separation and independence of the principal bodies of the Government, and with the dignity of their members, that out of the limited number of Executive Councillors in this Province, several should hold offices under the Legislative Council and House of Assembly. I desire, however, that it may be understood that no dissatisfaction with the conduct of the members of the Executive Council, nor any mark whatever of His Majesty's displeasure is intended to be conveyed. The immediate retirement of those gentlemen who prefer to retain their appointments under the Legislative body, might embarrass or interrupt the proceedings of the Court of Appeals, but I felt it my duty to impart to them the conclusion to which my mind had arrived, and to inform them that I entertain no doubt that as soon as their places can be supplied, according to the forms prescribed by law, effect will be given to the wish they have expressed to resign their seats in the Executive Council. My views are not limited to these cases. No union of incompatible or incongruous offices will be willingly acquiesced in by me; but I wish to be understood as speaking of offices of which the duties cannot conveniently or properly be discharged by the same person. In some instances, the division of offices is merely nominal, and the duties are more conveniently discharged by one person, than they could be by two. In other instances, the salary of the office is so small, or the duties so onerous, that it is expedient to divide the office between two persons, and to make acceptable to a competent person by an increase of emolument.

It is stated as a grievance that the Government has at various times refused to give the Legislature the means of obtaining information, and that the Executive has not in all cases, communicated when requested, the dispatches which have passed between the Colonial Department and the House of Assembly. His Majesty's Government feels that the Assembly may have been exposed to some inconvenience from this source. The rule which I am instructed to follow, is a freedom from all unnecessary reserve; I am commanded to withhold no information from the Legislature, and to give full and complete satisfaction to the Legislature in every respect. I am, therefore, in every respect, at the disposal of the Legislature, and I am prepared to give full and complete satisfaction to the Legislature in every respect.

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Government of which constancy and good faith are the main elements of power, will not fail to sustain in this portion of the empire the spirit of that Constitution which has so long been held out to its subjects as a model of good government.

I have desired that the accounts which are necessary to show the financial state of the Province, should be submitted to you as soon as possible, and every explanation respecting them, which it may be in my power to afford, shall be furnished without reserve. The accounts show large arrears that are now due for salaries to public officers, and for the other ordinary expenditure of the government, and I earnestly request of you to pass such votes as may effect the liquidation of these arrears, and provide for the maintenance of Public Servants, pending the enquiry by the Commissioners into the accounts of the year 1835.

Should you place the government in this position, I am authorized to engage that no part of the surplus proceeds of the Crown Revenues which may accrue beyond the charges to be met at the present time, shall be applied to any purpose whatever, unless with your assent.

As connected with the subject of Arrears, I am further commanded to ask of you the repayment to the Military Chest, of the sum advanced under the sanction of His Majesty's Government, to meet the pressing exigencies of the Public Service. This advance was exclusively made from British Funds for the purpose of filling out the contract of the Revenue falling due at the close of the year, and with a strong persuasion that it would not prejudice the satisfactory adjustment of any of the questions at issue between His Majesty's Government and the House of Assembly. I have, however, to inform you, that the sum advanced, which was the subject of the message, was not repaid, and that the sum advanced, which was the subject of the message, was not repaid, and that the sum advanced, which was the subject of the message, was not repaid.

I am happy to state that the Establishment was closed at an earlier period than usual, in consequence of there having been, for several weeks previously, no sick of any description in the Hospital. I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, that the health of the troops, who are the property of the Island for its past occupation in the public service, and of enabling the Government to obtain possession of it, should the continuance, there, of a Quarantine Station be deemed advisable.

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## The Courier.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1836.

By the Ship Wakefield, at this port, we have received Liverpool papers of the 26th September, and the Packet ship London papers of the same date.

Of the new Ministry formed in Spain under Mendizabal, Gen. Alana is Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Council; Mariano Quero, Minister of War *ad interim*; J. A. Mendizabal, Minister of the Marine *ad interim*; and Ramon de la Cuadra, Minister of the Interior.—A London paper of the 26th, says:—"We have just received Madrid papers to the 18th, together with a letter of the same date. It states that M. Mendizabal had already found mysterious obstacles removed, and that confidence in his Government is greater than he could have expected. Cadiz, it was positively asserted, had already sent in its adhesion to any government of which M. Mendizabal represented the spirit. Andalusia, it was said, would make even less extraordinary demands than Catalonia. A decree had been issued, declaring Madrid no longer in a state of siege."

It is announced officially in the London papers that American vessels have a right to trade directly to Singapore.—The Ship Champlain, of New York, sailed from Liverpool for Canton, on the 27th September.

The cholera in Italy appears to be subsiding. The aggregate number of deaths in Genoa is stated at between three and four thousand—one-third of which occurred in a single week.

Advices from Greece to the 15th August state that Col. Gordon, at the head of a movable column, had succeeded in destroying, near Corinth, the band of robbers who murdered Captain Kraus and fifty Germans.

Lord Durban, in the Barham frigate, arrived on the 2d Sept. in the outer harbour of Constantinople.

We have much satisfaction in laying before our readers, to-day, the speech of Lord Gosford, on meeting the Legislature of Lower Canada, for the first time, on the 27th ult.—The very conciliatory spirit of this important document cannot but have a beneficial effect in allaying the difficulties that have so long agitated and perplexed the Province of Lower Canada. It will be seen that numerous and very important concessions are to be made in favour of the claims of the popular party in the Assembly—more extensive and essential, indeed, than we believe any of the "Papeau faction," as they have been termed, had reason to expect at the outset of His Lordship's career.

The number of vessels from sea, which have arrived since Saturday night, is twenty-six. Several are still due.

YARMOUTH, (N. S.) Oct. 30.

Our coasting traders are doing a poor business this season; the Americans being able to afford a large price for fish, and to dispose of their dutiable articles *free of duty*, have well nigh secured the whole trade to themselves. The consequence is, that although fish are unusually plenty, scarcely one of our vessels can procure a cargo at what used to be considered a great price. By the existing Treaty, Americans are not allowed to fish within three miles of our shores, nor to put into our harbours except in stress of weather, or for necessary supplies; nevertheless they throng into the harbours, for the purchase of fish, even within a dozen miles of the Capital! Surely it is time that something were done to check this nefarious practice of our neighbours; and we trust that ere another year passes an armed vessel will be stationed on our coast for that purpose.—*Yarmouth Her.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

MR. EDITOR.—As the great Land Speculation so much talked of some months ago seems lately to have subsided, many opinions are now advanced respecting the probable consequence, or rather the general benefit resulting to the Province, by the late sale of wilderness and other lands; and many are led to doubt whether any good has been effected.

For my own part, Sir, I am confident that the year 1835 will hereafter be spoken of as a year fraught with important consequences to the commerce of New Brunswick, and as having given an important stimulus to the various interests and pursuits of the Province. The ensuing year will hardly realize any benefit, as it will take some time to settle the new purchasers, and it will be some time doubtful who will be the future occupants, since many important negotiations are now pending. Many saw-mills will be put down, and many will be replaced with others more effective, which will require the next summer to complete; consequently, there will be less logs cut next winter and less deals made next summer. But these considerations should stimulate to greater exertions those who are in possession of their property, and are seeking to occupy, as there is a fine prospect of their becoming better paid for their labour than usual. But, Sir, when we consider the many important estates in this country which have hardly been occupied—the many valuable resources which have not been developed—the immense mines of coal, gypsum, marble, lime, &c.; and when we consider the former important state of our machinery and manufactures, and contrast them with the great improvement likely to be introduced by our western neighbours; and also when we consider the vast quantities of land of value of land, was the sum which their rent would amount to the interest of, when more than three-fourths of the land was unoccupied, we may well conclude that land in New-Brunswick has not arrived at half its value.

The time will come when the farmer will adopt a more improved method of cultivating the fields, and esteem his forest by far the most valuable property. We need care but little about Mr. Thompson's threatened alteration of the Timber duties, while there is a better market for our wood than at the present time of St. John.

Aware, Sir, that these remarks or considerations have been dwelt upon in the minds of some understanding capitalists, I will almost venture to predict that the rise of property and increase of purchasers in 1836 will far exceed that of 1837 will far exceed either.

I remain, Sir, your respectfully,

H. CHUBB.

MR. CHUBB, SIR.—Observing by the papers that an auction would take place on the 11th instant, for the purpose of Leasing some vacant Corporation Lots, and being aware that the city possessed some other lands not enumerated—and particularly five or six lots in the neighbourhood of *Tilbe's*, which, it is said, have recently been inclosed by the Alderman of Sidney Ward,—I have to ask the Committee for leasing Corporation property, to be so good as to inform me, through the medium of the Courier, whether the said Lots have been leased to the *worthy Alderman* at private sale; and if not, why has he been allowed to take possession thereof.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

7th November.