

TERMS.—ONE POUND PER ANNUM. No paper is sent out until arrears are paid up, unless at the option of the publisher.

LETTER-PRESS PRINTING. Orders executed in the best style, on reasonable terms.

D. S. GOLDEY. I now act at the Lambton House, and prepared to attend to professional calls.

DR. HOWARD, PRINCESS STREET, (Directly opposite Mr. Oleski's Boarding House), KINGSTON.

DR. A. C. ROBINSON HAS removed to the Residence over Urquhart & MacIver's Store, West side of King Street, between Brock and Princess Streets, where he may be consulted as usual.

Messrs. MACDONALD & CAMPBELL, Barristers & Attorneys at Law, PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON.

MR. KENNETH MACKENZIE, Barrister at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, &c. &c. CLARENCE STREET, KINGSTON.

DOUGLAS FRASER, BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY AT LAW, Solicitor in Chancery &c., Office in Mr. James Fraser's Dwellings, Ontario Street, Kingston, 29th Nov., 1842.

M. T. HUNTER, SHIP CHANDLER, No. 4, Herby's Buildings, Ontario Street, KINGSTON.

NAVAL STORES. Of every description. Boiled Lined Oil, and Paints. Kingston, March 25, 1843.

PAINTING. DAVID MARTIN, (From Scotland) PAINTER, GLAZIER, & PAPER HANGER.

CITY STORE. J. CARRUTHERS begs leave to inform the public that he has bought the CHEESE DAIRY of Mr. DAVID HAVEN, of Gananoque, well known as the best in the country.

H. GILLESPIE & CO. HAVE Received this day, their Superior Stock of English and French Merinoes, Coburg and Princetta Lotis, Jellalabab Figures, Versailles Stripes, Single and two Colors, Persian Cloths, and China Clousan Dresses, all at very low prices.

JUST OPENED. A. H. GILLESPIE & CO'S, Lambton Building, Corner of Princess and Bagot Streets, their Rich Stock of Bonnet Ribbons, French Bonnet and Cap Flowers, Black and Colored Austrian Feathers, Evening Gowns, Evening Flowers, and Head Dresses.

NOTICE. The Subscriber having leased the premises at the Foot of Princess Street, lately occupied by Mr. Hugh Calder, will have constantly on hand a general Assortment of Groceries which he will sell on as reasonable terms as any in the trade.

FOR SALE. LOTS No. 18 & 19, in the 10th Con. Township of Rawdon, Victoria District.

WHITE FISH. A FEW Barrels of this very Superior Article on hand.

WHISKEY. FOR SALE by the Subscriber, 20 Barrels Port Hope Whiskey, of a superior quality.

THOMAS HENDRY, King Street, Kingston, 9th January, 1844.

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The British Whig, AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR CANADA WEST. VOL. XIII. KINGSTON, CANADA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1844. NO. 11.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT. THE STUDY OF MANY YEARS REDUCED TO A FEW HOURS. MR. ALEXANDER, FROM LONDON.

RESPECTFULLY announces his arrival in Town, and will for a short period, give instructions in Fashionable and Mercantile Penmanship, on his newly discovered principles, which have the most possible advantage of enabling the poorest possible Scribbler to write a beautifully free, expeditious and legible Hand, in Six easy Lessons, otherwise to charge made: no practice required between the Lessons. Ladies will readily appreciate this opportunity of acquiring under such rare advantages, this truly elegant Accomplishment; the want of which invariably implies a very imperfect education, and certainly detracts a lustre from every other attainment.

Terms moderate. Hundreds of specimens to be seen, by Quebec and Montreal Pupils, at Mr. A's apartments, at J. DREW'S, Princess Street.

This system differs in every respect from any that has ever been offered in America, as the systematic expression invented by Mr. Alexander, simplifies the whole process to four plain movements of the Pen; and these produce that uniformity, finish and freedom in execution, which characterise the performance of his Pupils. It is attainable at any age from seven to seventy.

Elastic Pen Making taught in One Lesson. Short hand taught in Six Lessons, on a principle that will enable Pupils to write and read their notes with ease. Book-keeping by double entry, taught in twelve Lessons, in which course the Pupil will open, post and balance a complete set of books, and be made fully qualified to act as a book-keeper in any mercantile establishment, however complicated and extensive its operations may be.

Separate apartments for the Ladies. Kingston, January 19th, 1844.

TO AGRICULTURISTS. 250,000 BUSHELS OF COARSE GRAIN WANTED ANNUALLY.

The Subscriber having now completed, and ready for operation, his new and extensive Distilling Establishment, which is intended to consume FIVE HUNDRED Bushels of Grain daily—together in connection with his Brewing Establishment, will require TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND Bushels of Grain annually, and wishes to acquaint the Farmers generally, that they can now depend on at all times a steady market for the Sale of Coarse Grain of every description, at the highest Cash prices, and trusts that this new and extensive opening for the consumption of Produce, which has hitherto been limited, will meet with a spirit of enterprise on the part of each Farmer to supply the desired quantity, thereby securing to the Country the circulation of a large amount of Cash, which no doubt our American neighbours would like very well to pocket.

JAMES MORTON, Kingston Brewery & Distillery, January 30, 1844.

SUPERIOR ALE & BEER AT THE CITY BREWERY. THE CITY BREWERY COMPANY have now in their Cellars a large Stock of BOTTLED ALE, which they recommend to Innkeepers and Private Families, for its quality and cheapness. The quality being nothing inferior to that of Allowa or Edinburgh Ale, and the price but 6s. 3d. per dozen, exclusive of Bottles. A discount of 10 per cent. being allowed on purchases exceeding 3 dozen.

Their BEER is so generally and favorably received, that they deem it unnecessary to say anything in commendation of it, and any quantity over 5 gallons is now sold by them at the reduced price of 10d. per gallon; the 5 gallon Cask held at the usual price of 1s.

Kingston, 20th January, 1844.

THE new City Brewery well deserves notice. They are following hard, this Establishment, on our Celebrated Albany Brewery in the manufacture of a very superior article of Ale.

TO LET, AND IMMEDIATE POSSESSION GIVEN. FINE APARTMENTS situated over the Auction Rooms of THOMAS GREEN, Esq., King Street, together with the privilege of the Yard in rear.—The whole is well adapted for the Residence of a Private Family.

For particulars, apply to THOMAS GREEN Esq., on the Premises, or to the Proprietor.

JAMES MORTON, Kingston, 21st Nov., 1843.

THOMAS HENDRY, King Street, Kingston, 9th January, 1844.

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT. THE COMMON COUNCIL OF KINGSTON, HAVING decided, at the request of the General Committee on the Seat of Government question, to call upon the Inhabitants of Kingston and its vicinity to send in written statements, on oath of the sums they have expended in PURCHASES and IMPROVEMENTS, in consequence of the Seat of Government having been brought to Kingston, and estimates of the Losses which will be sustained by the proposed removal, in order that these STATEMENTS and ESTIMATES may be laid at the foot of the Throne.

The undersigned solicits, on behalf of the Common Council, that the Inhabitants generally will comply with the above request, and that such written statements and estimates, on oath may be left at the Town Hall, addressed to the Clerk of the Common Council on or before the Fifteenth day of February next.

Parties making the statements are requested to observe that the said amount of expenses is to be ascertained from the disbursements really made for improvements since the first day of March, 1841, on the faith of the British Government having fixed the Seat of Government at Kingston; and the losses to be estimated as such as are likely to occur to each party, provided the Seat of Government is removed.

The estimate of expenditure, and the estimate of Loss, are to be distinctly separated in the statements.

It is suggested, for the sake of convenience, that parties living near each other may join in the same statement, supporting the claim of each individual.

J. COUNTER, Mayor. Town Hall, Kingston, Jan. 19, 1844.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE. THE Fourth Annual Public Examination of the Candidates for the Exhibitions founded by the Council of King's College, will commence on Thursday, September 26th, 1844.

Four: tenable for three years—to two of which (3d & 4th) is attached exemption from College dues for tuition—to one (2nd) in addition to the above, the annual stipend of £10—and to one (1st) exemption from College dues for both board and tuition, with liberty to commute the privilege of boarding for an annual stipend of £20.

Subjects of Examination, September 26, 1844. Greek.—Valpy's Delectus. Latin.—Extracts from Tibullus in 'Electa ex Ovidio et Tibullo.' Eton, 1840—between p. 60 and p. 216. These are to be considered as text-books, on which questions in Grammar, Prosody, History, &c., will be founded.

Euclid's Elements.—Book I. Algebra—to Simple Equations inclusive (Bridge.) Arithmetic.

Extract from the Regulations. 1. All candidates to be eligible who shall produce testimonials of good conduct and qualifications from the Principal or Head Master of any Institution for Education in Canada.

2. The above testimonials to be lodged with the Collector of U. C. College, one month before the first day of Examination.

3. The names of the successful candidates to be published, specifying the Schools at which they were educated.

F. W. BARRON, Principal U. C. Col. The Church, the Patriot, the Colonist, the Niagara Chronicle, the Cobourg Star, the Kingston Chronicle, and the British Whig, the Montreal Courier, the Gazette, the Herald, the Quebec Mercury, the London Enquirer, and the Hamilton Gazette.

TEAS! TEAS! TEAS!!! THE Subscriber respectfully notifies Families, who are in the habit of using the best Teas, that he has now on hand, an assortment of Black and Green Teas imported direct from China, not to be equalled in the Province for strength and flavor; as sold for Cash, on moderate terms.

JAMES WILLIAMSON. N. B. The Subscriber having made his arrangements is now able to supply Country Merchants with the Chest or Half Chest, at Montreal prices.

Princess Street, Jan., 1844.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE. STEAMBOAT TRANSPORT ON LAKE ONTARIO. FOR THE YEAR 1844. SEALED TENDERS will be received at the Commissariat Office, Kingston, until noon on MONDAY the 11th March, next, from any person desirous of entering into Contracts for the following services, namely: For the Transport of Troops, Baggage, and Government Stores from and to the various stations on Lake Ontario, from Kingston upwards, during the season of navigation of 1844.

For the Transport of do, do, do, from and to the various stations on the Bay of Quinte during do.

Unexceptionable security, subject to the approval of the Commissariat, will be required, and the real Signatures of two responsible persons willing to enter into a bond with the principal, for the faithful performance of the contract, must be given in the Tender.

Payment will be made in Mexican or United States Dollars, at 5s. 1d. currency each, or by Check on a Chartered Bank, at the option of the Senior Commissariat Officer.

Forms of Tender may be obtained on application at the Commissariat Office, where any further information may be obtained. Commissariat, Kingston, 22d January, 1844.

SIMMOND'S COLONIAL MAGAZINE. ON the 1st of January was published No. 1 price 2s, 6d., to be continued monthly of SIMMOND'S Colonial Magazine & Foreign Miscellany.

CONTENTS: 1. Our Colonies, which and where are they? 2. The Navies of the World. 3. Schomburgk's Expedition in British Guiana. 4. Lord Elgin's Prize Essay on Agriculture in the West Indies. 5. Van Dieman's Land in 1842-3. 6. Recollections of Algiers. 7. The Oregon Territory. 8. Our Note Book. 9. Reviews, Colonial, Home and Foreign Intelligence.

P. L. SIMMOND'S, Publisher, 18 Cornhill, London where the Colonial papers for the Editor are requested to be addressed.

NOTICE. ACCORDING to a Bond passed before E. Glauchmeyer, Notary Public at Quebec, bearing date the 21st of November last, John Counter, Esquire, of Kingston, retired from the Firm of CALVIN, COOK & COUNTER, here, and that of D. D. CALVIN & Co., Quebec.

The whole of the property, assets and effects of the said Copartnership reverting to Delina Dexter Calvin, Hiram Cook, and Charles Edward Dunn, who are duly authorized to receive, receive and settle all debts and claims due to and by the late Firm.

D. D. CALVIN, HIRAM COOK, J. COUNTER, CHAS. E. DUNN. Kingston, 19th Jan., 1844.

NOTICE. THE Business heretofore carried on at Kingston by CALVIN, COOK & COUNTER, and at Quebec by D. D. CALVIN & Co., will from this date be continued by the undersigned under the firm of CALVIN, COOK & Co., Kingston, and DUNN, CALVIN & Co., Quebec.

D. D. CALVIN, HIRAM COOK, CHAS. E. DUNN. Kingston, 19th Jan., 1844.

BY PRIVATE SALE, STRATTON STOVES, 20 to 36 inch. Shovels, Spades, Frying Pans, Spikes 4 1/2 inch, I. C. Tin, "putpad" and One Cask Fluted Tumblers, One do Fluted Wine Glasses.

WILLIAM WARE, Agent. Kingston, 16th January, 1844.

STORE TO LET. THE Retail part of the premises lately occupied by Mr. GEORGE ROSS, Corner of Bagot and Princess Streets, and directly opposite the Lambton House, being a first class Stand for any Retail Business. Rent moderate, enquire of ROSS, Ross, Kingston, 19th Dec., 1843.

TO LET, A STONE DWELLING HOUSE, IN Wellington Street, lately occupied by the Honourable Mr. Baldwin. Enquire of S. SCOBELL, Kingston, January 6th, 1844.

FOR SALE, COAL TAR, Liverpool Salt, and Newcastle grate Coals, at the Marine Railway Store. Kingston, January 19th, 1844.

Selected Poetry. THE PRINTER. He stood there alone at that shadowy hour, By the swinging Lamp daily burning; All about within save the ticking type, All without, save the night-walk turning; And heavily echoed the solemn sound As slowly he paced o'er the frozen ground.

And dark were the mansions so lately that shone With the joys of festivity gleaming; And hearts that were beating in sympathy then Were now living it o'er in their dreaming: Yet the Printer still worked at his lonely post, As slowly he galloped his mighty host.

And there lay the merchant all pillowed in down, And building bright hopes for the morrow, Nor dreamed he that fate was then weaving a wand That would bring to him fear and sorrow; Yet the Printer was there in his shadowy room, And he set in his frame-work that rich man's doom.

The young wife was sleeping, whom lately had bodied The ties that death only can sever; And, dreaming, she started, yet woke with a smile, For so thought they were parted for ever! But the Printer was clicking the types that would tell On the morrow, the truth of that midnight spell.

And there lay the statesman, whose feverish brow, All restless, the pillow was pressing, For he felt, through the shadowy mist of his dream, His loftiest hopes now possessing; Yet the Printer worked on 'mid silence and gloom, And dug for ambition its lowliest tomb.

And slowly that workman went gathering up His budget of grief and of gladness, A wreath for the noble, a grave for the low, For the happy a cup full of adonies: Strange stories of wonder, to enchant the ear, And dark ones of terror, to curdle with fear.

Full strange are the tales which that dark host shall bear To palace and cot on the morrow; Oh! welcome, thrice welcome, to many a heart! To many a beaver of sorrow: It shall go like the wind and wandering air, For life and its changes are impressed there.

Miscellaneous Extracts. BY JOHN POOLE, ESQ. "My bear danced to some but the greatest of us," Goldsmith.

"From the sublime to the ridiculous is but one step," said Napoleon. But he said it in French; and had we also said it in that polite language it might by some persons have been considered vastly more genteel. For our own part, however, we confess that English, provided it be tolerably good English, is good enough for us; for which confession we may be set down, by those very same persons, as being vulgar. Be it so; it cannot be helped; to borrow the sailor's phrase, we must 'grin and bear it.' That's genteel, at any rate.

As of the sublime and the ridiculous, so may it be said of the genteel and the vulgar. And here we wish it to be understood that we use those terms, not in their strictly defined sense, representing, as closely as they can, certain positive qualities; but as they are used, vulgar by the (would be thought) genteel, and genteel by the (would not be thought) vulgar. So taken, even 'one step' is far too liberal an allowance of space; while Dryden's 'thin partitions,' so falsely and unphilosophically placed between 'great wits and madness,' would denote a separation infinitely too wide between them. There is, in fact, no palpable line of demarcation: like the colors of the rainbow, they glide into each other.

Now, of the bear mentioned in the line which we have quoted, we know nothing; but if he would dance to none but the gentlest of tunes, he was unquestionably a very vulgar bear, without a spark of true gentility in his composition. His stipulating for none but genteel tunes to dance to, such, for instance, as the minuet in 'Ariadne,' is clear proof of this. Had he been a real gentleman of a bear, confident in the soundness of his gentility, he would have stripped it on his 'light, fantastic toe,' to any tune whatever, from 'Nancy Dawson,' to the 'Devil among the Tailors'; the innate gentility of such a bear would have manifested itself in his free unconstrained deportment, in the unforced grace of his mien, no matter for the tune he danced to.

But we must lay this particular bear's pardon. We have no proof of the vulgar fastidiousness of his habits, beyond his keeper's word for it, and that we are disinclined to take. For whatever may have been the case with regard to the eminent artist, there can be no doubt that his keeper, manager, or lessee, was himself an essentially vulgar fellow; by praising what he considered to be the gentility of Mr. Bruin, he was doing, in fact, what the essentially vulgar are prone to do—he was apprehensively insinuating to his companions his claim to the same quality for himself.

As with bears and bearesses, so with men and women. The vulgar among them are the most sensitive to the quality of the tune. The pretension of gentility takes strange forms, and exhibits itself in odd ways. We were one day riding in an Omnibus. There! two letters more and we had irretrievably compromised ourselves with

the whole community of bears who will dance to none but genteel tunes; for, with them, riding in such a vehicle, is the height, or depth, of vulgarity. Having, however, gone so far, we will risk the rest; embracing, at the same time, to render our fall in their opinion as easy as possible, by pulling down along with us two others who both plead guilty to the same enormity.

Sir W.—(not a knighted chess-player or apothecary, who would neither of them so compromise his position; but a baronet of the oldest standing) was coming to town in a Hammer-smith omnibus. Presently it stopped, and the vacant seat next to him was taken by Lord—, a nobleman who had been employed as an ambassador at more than one of the European courts.

"Bless my soul whispered the latter, and affecting astonishment, 'bless my soul! my dear—, do you ever ride in an omnibus?'" "Never, Lord—," gravely replied Sir W.—, "do you?"

No, then. "We were riding in an omnibus. Opposite to us sat two very 'genteel' women. One of them, indeed, evidently thought herself, 'uncommon genteel'; she was slowly dressed; she looked at every one about her (except her companion) with an air of disdain, and seeming wondering how she came to be where she found herself: every now and then she put her nose a handkerchief overpoweringly scented with bergamot; and this she did in a manner to make it clear to everybody that the operation was indispensable to her comfort—under the circumstances. She made it distinctly intelligible that she was unused to omnibuses and their disagreeable concomitants.

The two ladies talked to each other in a half-whisper, the word 'genteel' being used by her of the bergamot once, at least, in every three sentences. In the course of their conversation two infallible tests of the 'genteel,' of both person and place, were adduced.

"Well!" said the companion, "I do wonder that you visit that Mrs. Edwards, considering."

"Considering what?" inquired the other; "I never heard anything against her."

"No; I don't mean to say there's anything against her, only she is so very vulgar,—and you are so very particular about that."

"Why, I am particular upon that point, in course. But you are quite mistaken about her, I do assure you: on the contrary, she's quite the lady, and uncommonly so; she has done ever since I've known her;—but in course, I won't undertake to say what she might have done before then."

The next was— "But said the companion, 'I wonder you should think of leaving the Crescent'—[some suburban parlance]—it is so very pleasant."

"Very true," replied the vastly genteel lady, "but we must. It is no longer the genteel place it was. Why when we went to it almost every house had a pe-a-ry—[piano-forte]—whereas, now! two shops has come to the Upper end of it; as true as I'm sitting here."

We were not personally acquainted with Brummel; but of many of the sayings which are attributed to him were uttered in sober seriousness, we should set that 'glass of fashion' as an essentially vulgar man. We incline, however, to consider him as a humorist, who was silly laughing at those who had chosen him as their model for conduct, and can imagine him chuckling, upon seeing some fool refusing the piece of cauliflower he longed for, because Brummel had said, 'No gentleman eats vegetables—' I did once pick a pea; and at another for rejecting a second plate of turtle, because, upon Brummel's authority, it was established 'that no gentleman takes soup twice.'

The vulgar-genteel are nervously cautious concerning every thing they say or do: they are ever alive to the dread of compromising their 'gentility.' At a ball—it was a charity-ball—given at a fashionable watering-place, a pretty young woman, who was sitting by her mother, was invited by a gentleman to dance. He led her to a set; when, instantly, two young ladies who wore of it, haughtily withdrew to their seats. 'They had no notion of dancing in such company,'—and with good reason. The young person was nothing more than the daughter of a wealthy and respectable tradesman of the place; whilst they—the two Misses Knibbles—were members of its resident small 'aristocracy.' The places they had vacated were good-naturedly filled by two ladies who had witnessed the proceeding, one of whom was the daughter, the other the niece, of a nobleman. Their position was too well established to be compromised by dancing for a quarter of an hour in the same set with a respectable tradesman's daughter; but the two Miss Knibbles were the daughters of a retired soap-boiler from Bernersdown.

A lady of rank and high breeding, being asked if she had been to the last Polish ball? "No, indeed," replied she; "for upon my word I declined to consider the Polomania a hunting."

Our 'vastly genteel' woman in the omnibus, or the Misses Knibbles, would have shriggered at the sound of such a word.

We were led to reflect upon this subject by an anecdote which was related to us, not a long time ago, by an old man-of-war's man. It was concerning two parrots—an

"Are you the box-keeper?" drawled a puppy to a gentleman who was looking through a box-door at the late Covent-Garden Theatre. "No," quietly retorted the gentleman; "are you?"

'uncommon genteel' parrot, and a parrot of somewhat oasier habits. We were standing on the pier at Ramsgate, when a man came up and offered for sale a member of that entertaining community. Much he said in praise of its conversational powers. What might have ensued had the bird exerted its own eloquence, we know not; but, certain it is, its owner's was powerless to persuade us to the purchase. Well, however, had not made the slightest remark: it kept a tight tongue in its head; not a word, not a syllable did it utter: so its proprietor's motion not being seconded by the honorable member in the cage, he withdrew it, and went away. We will relate the anecdote or story, as nearly as we remember, in the old sailor's words, running the chances as to whether it shall be thought genteel or otherwise.

"That parrot can't talk, sir; and never will talk as long as it's a parrot," said the old sailor.

"How can you tell that?" "Lord love you, sir, I can tell it by the look on 'em; I've had hundreds o' parrots in my time. I'll tell you how it were. You must know that in a ship I was in, the skipper couldn't abide a monkey, and wouldn't allow a single one aboard—one of the wonders o' Natur' not to like a monkey, but so it were. Well—in revenge for not allowing us to have monkeys, he let us have as many parrots as ever we liked. I had got five to my own share, meaning to bring 'em home,—for you see I cultivated 'em to sell. Well—three o' 'em died; of the other two, I got one in Afriky and 'o'her on the Spanish Main. I got that in change for two pounds o' lacey—that were his origin. Ah! that were the bird! There warn't a man aboard as had got more brains in his head than that parrot,—as true as I'm telling you sir. But the birds as come from the Spanish Main beats all the others clean. Why, he'd sing out 'Pipe down hammocks,' 'Pipe up for grog.' 'Turn up the hands,'—'I'm blest if I haven't seen the chaps come scamping up the hatchways at that. But that warn't it: there warn't an order that he had heard gub by the officers, from the first lieutenant down'ards, that he couldn't repeat it; he were more like a human creature than a bird, and I've sometimes thought, if they had but tried him, he would ha' sailed the ship—however that wouldn't ha' been quite according to the Articles of War, and so they didn't. To be sure, besides all that, he would now and then say something that warn't very polite; but then he meant no harm, and that's how I look at it. As to 'o'her parrot—that's to say the Afriky parrot—never an improper word com'd out of his mouth; he were polite, and uncommon genteel into the bargain; but then he were precious stupid! He could only say one thing—only one, that's the blessed truth—he had only one speech to his back, like. Whatever spanish Main used to say, if it were only 'Holm a-port,' or 'Beef topsails,' Afriky would sing out, 'Don't be so vulgar,—I'm shocked at you!' Well—now only so the upshot on it.—When we came into Plymouth to be paid off, the skipper gub me fifteen guineas for the clever bird, while nobody would'n buy the genteel parrot at no price. So I couldn't get nothing for it, and moreover, had promised to bring my old mother home with me."

Now had the African parrot thought less of the gentility of the tunes he should dance to, not only would he have been a much more agreeable member of society, but he would have added considerably to his own personal comfort; whilst also he might possibly have attained a much more respectable station in life than that to which he was ultimately consigned.

CHINA.—PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION. We place before our readers to-day one of the most extraordinary documents recorded in modern history. It is the reply of Keying, the Chinese High Commissioner, to Mr. Lay, the newly appointed British Consul at Canton. It appears that this gentleman had made some application to the Commissioner in behalf of Mr. Colidge, an American merchant, who is also the agent to a British firm at Canton. The subject of Mr. Lay's application related to the removal of some obstacles at present existing in matters of trade; and although the Commissioner's answer does not immediately remove the obstacles to trade of which Mr. Colidge had complained, it distinctly admits that the late Hong Merchants are no longer the servants of, or under the dictation of the Chinese Government; and could the pecuniary demand which is hanging over these individuals on behalf of the Imperial government only be adjusted to their satisfaction, or altogether removed, they would stand as merchants, in a position of independence and stability, which they have never before enjoyed at any period of our connection with China.

We consider the document referred to as an extraordinary production because it exhibits such an entire change in Chinese policy—such a departure from all its old jealousy and exclusiveness, that we can scarcely give credit to our senses whilst reading the letter before us.

We hail this bright beginning of an enlightened and liberal feeling on the part of the Celestials; indeed, this mighty portal of eastern commerce has never before been so widely opened as it has by this declaration. And by whom, we would ask, has this salutary change been effected? By what means have the pentrales of Chinese prejudice and exclusiveness been invaded and shaken? By English statesmen, and British arms? Who is to reap the benefit? Not England alone, but the whole world! Keying very truly says in his letter that the principle of trading depends entirely upon a mutual willingness.

"If a field of profit is to be reaped, there is no occasion to beg people to reap it; they will certainly reap it of their own accord." The conclusion of this letter is also well worthy of remark, "I do really night and day indulge in the fervent hope of an improved commercial intercourse, beneficial to all parties."

If this expression deserves the credit of sincerity what may we not anticipate for our commercial relations?

The present state of the political world is exactly favorable for the reception of this important news. When we consider the friendly relations at present subsisting between England and France, and between

France and America, and the prospect of a similar understanding between England and America, we are enabled to see that the time is not far distant when the

beneficial effects of a more liberal and extensive intercourse will be felt by all nations.

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