SMITH O'BRIEN.

At the present moment the following account of Mr. O'Brien and his family may be read with interest. He was born at Dromoland, County of Clare, on the 17th of October, 1803, being the second son of Sir Edward O'Brien, fourth baronet (who died in 1837,) by the daughter and coheiress of W. Smith, Esq., of Cahirmoyle, County of Limerick. The latter lady was a very rich heiress. The issue of the marriage, in addition to the subject of our notice, consisted of eight other children, including Sir Lucius the eldest son; Edward, born in 1806, and married to the daughter of Massy Dawson, Esq., late M. P., a scion of the house of Cremorne; Robert, born in 1809, married to the daughter of Sir Aubrey de Vere; Rev. H. O'Brien, married to the daughter of J. Godly, Esq.; Grace, unmarried; Anne, married to Rev. A Mattineau; Harriet, married to Rev. C. Monsell, a relative of Mr. Monsell, M. P., the colleague of Mr. Smith O'Brien, in the representation of Limerick County; Katherine Lucia, married to Hon. and Rev. Aungard Harris, brother of the Earl of Malmesbury, one of the Prebendaries of Salisbury, and Rector of Wilton.

The present head of the house of O'Brien, or Bryen, is the Marquis of Thomond, who adopts the latter form of orthography, and he deduces his descent from the royal line of Thomond, a race of princes which sprang from the celebrated Hibernian monarch, Brian Borosihme, or Boru, who commenced his reign in 1002, terminated it with his life near Clontarf, 1011. Should the present Marquis die without male issue, Sir Lucius O'Brien will succeed him as Baron Inchiquin, but not to the higher titles, which will become extinct. In reference to the existence of these titles, it may be added that in 1543 Murrough O'Brien, the then head of the house, repaired to England and resigned his sovereignty to Edward VI, and was, in recompense, created Earl of Thomond for life and Baron Inchiquin. The second holder of the baronetcy, Sir Edward O'Brien, was son of Right Hon. Lucius O'Brien, who died during the lifetime of his father, by Catherine, daughter of Thomas Keightley, Esq., of Harlingford, county of Herts, grand-daughter of the first Earl of Clarendon, and first cousin of Queen Mary and Anne.

In the latter points the records of the several families agree. Mr. O'Brien married, about 12 years since, the daughter of Joseph Gubbett, Esq., of Limerick, by whom he has had issue either six or seven children. Mr. O'Brien is a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge; was first returned for the family borough of Ennis, in 1828. Mr. O'Brien was a tory, and as such opposed Mr. O'Connell in the case of the memorable Clare election. He subsequently became a whig, then a radical, and in 1843, he first joined the repeal ranks. Since 1835 he has represented the County of Limerick. On the last occasion he succeeded in defeating Mr. Caleb Powell, the Old Ireland candidate, by 24 votes. Mr. O'Brien fought a duel with the late Mr. Thomas Steele, having exchanged two shots with that gentleman. Sir Lucius O'Brien, elder brother, is Lord Lieutenant of the County of Clare. The dowager Lady O'Brien is still living, and possesses a property of about £7,000 per annum, to which her second son, was always considered to be heir, but in other respect than as heir in prospect, Mr. O'Brien never was wealthy. He has, when in Ireland, taken up his residence at the seat of his mother.

TOTAL WRECK OF AN EMIGRANT SHIP.—A most shocking loss of an emigrant ship with upwards of 100 persons on board, was reported at Lloyd's on Saturday. The vessel that met with the sad disaster was the Sark Commerce, belonging to Limerick, 307 tons burden, Captain Halliday master. She sailed, it appears, from Galway, in the early part of the spring for St. Johns New Brunswick; and was perfectly fit for the voyage. About 70 families, principally women and children, embarked on board at Galway, taking with them everything they possessed in the world. The deplorable catastrophe happened on the 24th of May. The master was aware that they were near the Nova Scotia coast, but the prevalence of foggy weather and drizzling rain prevented the exact position of the ship being known. A good look-out is stated to have been kept.—Be that as it may, however, she ran ashore, the first intimation of the fact being her striking heavily on a rock. A strong effort was made to back her, but a strong current carried her over the rock, and she was swept with violence onto a bold rocky shore. The emigrants mustered on deck in great confusion; the whole of them were in their bed-clothes, and their horror on discovering the awful situation of the ship may be easily conceived. For a few hours the ship remained in an upright position. As the tide rose, however, a gale sprang up, the sea from which swept the decks. The boats had been lowered, and some of the crew succeeded in ascertaining that the shore was accessible to land the passengers. They returned and made two trips between the ship and the land with passengers, but on attempting the third they were driven against the rocks, and many of the poor creatures met with a watery grave. The vessel, by the continued beating on the rocks, soon filled. The masts were cut away, and other means to save her from destruction were adopted, but of no avail, as her loss was complete. In the meantime the remainder of the crew continued to effect a communication with the shore by a line. One after another of the emigrants were dragged through the surf to the shore in a most pitiable condition. Many, we regret to say, were drowned, particularly the children. Between 20 and 30 were saved; as also the crew. The following are the names of some of the sufferers:—Mrs. Mary Burke and child, Mrs. Coyce and infant, Patrick Corcoran, aged 21, a boy named Fogant, and a lad, John Leyden. A large number of the passengers had nothing on but their night clothes when they landed, some even perfectly naked. They were unable to save anything of their little property from the wreck. Captain Halliday acted with great firmness throughout the trying period. The wreck quickly broke up with all she contained. She was partly insured.

THE CANADAS AND THE HOME GOVERNMENT.

In the House of Commons, on the 26th of July, Sir William Molesworth delivered a long elaborate speech on the subject of the the Colonial system of Great Britain, and the enormous burthens which it imposed upon the revenue of the empire. It appears that the expense of maintaining the government and defence of the British colonies amounts to eight millions sterling a year, one half of which is defrayed by the Colonists themselves and the other half paid out of the National treasury. Sir William endeavored to show that the utter inutility of many of these expensive colonial establishments could not be denied, and that the whole colonial system was both ruinous to the mother country and oppressive to the colonists.

A contemplated revolution in the Canadas, and their separation from Great Britain, is alluded to with a very calm and philosophical estimate of the ultimate effects of such an event.

For what purpose do we keep 9,000 troops in North America? Is it to protect the Colonists against the United States? But if they are loyal at heart they are strong enough to protect themselves; if they are disloyal, the 9,000 men will keep them down. But suppose they were to separate from us, and to form independent States, or even to join the United States, would they not become more profitable as colonies than they are at present. The United States of America are, in the strict signification of the word, still colonies of Great Britain, as Carthage was a colony of Tyre, and the cities Ionia and Sicily were colonies of Greece: for the word colony does not necessarily imply dependency, but merely a community composed of persons who removed from one country and settled in another, for the purpose of cultivating it. Now colonies (as I will term them) of the United States of America are in every point of view more useful to us than all our other colonies put together. In 1844 we exported to the United States produce and manufactures to the value of £3,000,000—an amount equal to the whole of our total export trade to all our colonial dominions, which we govern at a cost of £4,000,000 a year; while the United States costs us for consular and diplomatic services not more than £15,000 a year, and not one ship of war is required to protect our trade with the United States.

THE "SEA LIONESS."—A fine specimen of this animal, the only living one ever brought into this country or to Europe, is now exhibited at the Coffee-room rooms, Regent street. It is one of the species of marine animals mentioned in *Anson's Voyage around the World*, and was taken in latitude 50 South, upon an iceberg near the Crozet islands, whence it was brought to the Cape of Good Hope, where it remained for several months, and thence to this country, where it arrived a few days ago. It differs from the common seal by its broad flat head and blunt nose. The skull shows many peculiarities, but the chief character is presented by the teeth. This animal has only four conical cutting teeth in each jaw, which are far apart and nearly similar to the canine teeth. The molar teeth, or grinders, are small, with large simple cylindrical roots, whereas in the common seal the roots are divided. Captain Mowatt of the Mathesis, who brought this extraordinary creature to England, describes it as being remarkably good tempered and of playing comfortable antics in reference to the recognition of persons. It is kept in a tank of sea water, beneath which it occasionally conceals itself, but more frequently it emerges from the water and reposes its head on the edge of the tank, the whole body being nearly above the water, and, being completely amphibious, it can exist on land as well as in the sea. The surface of his body is covered with smooth hair, of a brownish black tint, it has long whiskers like a tiger, and very large round bright eyes. When disturbed or irritated it utters a sort of growl. There are two fins where the fore legs would be in a land animal, the fins if so they can be called, being terminated by hands almost similar to the human hand, but having longer nails, and claws. The body ends in a tail with broad fins, upon which the animal can sit nearly upright. It feeds upon fish and other animals, which it appears to be very fond of. This lioness is well worth the visits of the curious, indeed every body should go to see it. It supplies one of the most extraordinary links in the genera of animals and in this country is a very interesting phenomena.

The Jamaica Despatch, of June 21, says:—A whig government will have all the glory which the ruin of England's colonies can entail on them upon the pages of history. It has been the evil genius of those colonies for 50 years; and, in spite of the professions of Lord John Russell in May last, it has now consummated their ruin. Not only is cultivation on the brink of abandonment, and every individual in this colony reduced to a condition little short of positive beggary, but the public revenue, necessarily operated upon by the bankruptcy of our population, has all but entirely ceased; and it is now an ascertained but painful fact that the civil and religious institutions of the colony can no longer be supported out of the island treasury. There are not means in the public chest to pay even 50 per cent upon the contingencies of the island for the present quarter.

"ROBERT EMMET" AT PARIS.—The following letter has been addressed to the office of the *Reformer*:—

MONSIEUR,—*La Reforme* of the 24th of last June contains an article announcing the arrival in London, and stating that I had sent to Paris an enormous quantity of gold coin. The journal adds that there is no need for it to launch into conjectures in order to divine the cause of so large a quantity of Russian gold being sent to Paris. Under any other circumstances, Monsieur, I should have abstained from all notice of this kind to pay attention but the moment of this kind to pay attention but the moment when crises of blood flowed in your unhappy city, it is impossible for me to keep silence. I, therefore, protest, with the whole strength of my indignation, against this odious calumny. For the last eight months I have never quitted Torquay, where I still am. I, consequently, could not have been in London with gold for the subscription should have been received. Public opinion should have been appealed to on your colleagues or elsewhere. I openly, and unconditionally, and energetically, give it the lie. I pray you, Monsieur, if it needs be, I require you to insert this letter in your next number.

Agréez, &c.

"DEMPSTER."

"San Donato, near Florence, July 4, 1848"

The intelligence from Dublin represents Mr. Smith O'Brien's position in a more favorable light than might naturally be expected, when the serious nature of the offence with which he stands charged is taken into consideration. He occupies the most comfortable apartments in the prison; they are situated over the chapel and directly opposite to the governor's rooms. He is permitted to take air and exercise with all restriction in the yards, and to receive visits from the members of his family. His spirits are good and he does not appear depressed. The privilege of visiting Mr. O'Brien is confined to his family and connexions. An application was made by Sir Colman O'Loughlen to see him, and he received a letter in reply from Mr Redington, the under secretary, refusing to grant the permission sought for.

CANADA AND IRELAND.

The following Speech was made in New York, by a Mr. Devlin, of Montreal. Such absurd tirades may serve to gull the Yankees and Yankee-Irish, out of their dollars, but can never serve any legitimate purpose. There is no Irishman in Canada, be he Protestant, or be he Catholic, but what feels he is in a land of perfect liberty, both in thought and action; in religion and government. Whatever they may be at Home, Irishmen in Canada are among the best subjects the Queen reigns over.

GENTLEMEN,—I present myself before you with feelings of indescribable pleasure, unalloyed with the patriotic enthusiasm which swells up from the heart of this vast assemblage. The emotions of the lover of Liberty on beholding this scene must give him an earnest of hope for the future. Now is the time to demonstrate to the world that we will not be fame spectators of the contest for freedom in Ireland. Now is the time to express our indignation at the efforts of a despotic Government, to stifle the voice of the patriot and suppress the spirit of Liberty.—Now is the time to "strike" in the face of the world, that we will stand or fall by our own native isle—with that justice, which a long endurance of injuries and oppression, has leagued to our holy cause, to nerve the arm of the patriot in the battle for the emancipation of Fatherland; we must deceitfully be successful. Believe me when I say that the day is not far distant when we shall celebrate the liberty of Ireland. The injustice of England has succeeded in evoking the vengeance and retribution which her long career of tyranny and oppression has at length entailed on her. The unfulfilled pledges of the government to the governed have absolved her subjects from all allegiance, and her authority for centuries has been upheld only by the strong hand of power. She has released Canada from all fealty to her, and now may the God of Battle aid the cause of the just, when having consumed their other acts of forbearance by patience, they have at length grasped the sword with the determination to cut the chain which still joins them to England. Her much boasted civilization, and her adherance to the principles of civil and religious liberty, have become a mockery.—Take up the map of the civilized world and you will not find on it another country in which the laws have not been administered with more justice and impartiality than in Ireland. Is there in the recollection of man one bright spot in the history of our country where patriotism might find repose. Blessed beyond the common lot of nations with a soil the fertility of which has been the theme of the author in every age, her sons have been swept in hundreds, aye thousands, uncoffined to the grave; in a nation where God has lavished his bounties to man with an unsparing hand, they have touched it with their infectious influence and turned everything into gall, and then say that it was a visitation of the Omnipotent. Was this a fair and honorable recompense to those who have fought her battles—who have been her right arm in the fight? What have been the rewards of centuries of unwavering devotion? Death and transportation! I would say much more but the fear of encroaching on your valuable time delays me from proceeding, since it has been decreed that the time for remonstrance has gone by. (Cries of go on!) Hence it is that my country looking upon the oppression and acts of crime her history contains, has determined no longer to bow to the Government of England. They have willed it, that Lord Clarendon shall be the last representative of England in Ireland, and his throne is tottering beneath him. He must dismiss those sycophants who have been fattened on the miseries of an oppressed country.

I am a subject of Great Britain, and, you are no doubt aware of it before this, a very loyal subject. (Laughter.) I am a resident of Montreal, and I have not, the slightest hesitation in telling you that in Montreal the Irish are not afraid nor ashamed to acknowledge themselves Republicans. On last Monday upward of 10,000 brave and patriotic men cheered for the noble and generous sons of America who are transmitting their thousands of dollars to the aid of the glorious cause for which Irishmen are struggling, and they have pledged themselves to use every means by which they may hurl from power the despots of England. Now, gentlemen, I have the honor to be Vice-President of the Irish League in Montreal; the President of that League is an Irish Protestant—a man after Smith O'Brien's own heart. He comes forward and says: "Religion will not separate us: we will join hands for the sake of our common country." That man stands at our head. Louis Joseph Papineau is first Vice-President of the League, and he will assist in this good work. A very short time ago we had a visit from Mr. O'Connor, and I believe he will tell you that he received a glorious welcome. He heard them express their willingness if necessary to shed their blood in the cause of Ireland. You must not believe the accounts copied in the New York papers, as they are all extracted from Canadian journals hostile to our cause; all the papers of Montreal join in unsparing abuse of the friends of Ireland. They are afraid you will pay us a visit, which in the present dilapidated state of their affairs would prove a very unwelcome one; for they know that we would receive you with a *cead mille failte*. (Loud cheers.)

You will judge from what I have said, that I am a very loyal subject of her gracious majesty. I speak rather boldly it is true. I have no concealment of my own thoughts, and that is a reason when they are sincere, that they should have their just weight with you. I know the government of Canada date not seize a single man for the bold expression of his condemnation of English tyranny, lest they might provoke the anger of our friends, in the United States (cheers.) They know we would not look in vain to you for assistance, and I am certain from the demonstration I have been the witness of they would not be mistaken.

The meeting of which I have already spoken, was convened by one of the English officials in Canada, and in view of the present disturbed state of the country, their former governor has been replaced by a military man. The mayor of the city having heard of an intention to hold a meeting, told us the market-place was at our service; but when he heard that it was for the purpose of an *Irish Republican* meeting, he became stricken with terror at the very sound of the words, and changing his mind and breaking his word, he locked the doors, and said there should be no meeting held there for that purpose. On a little calm reflection, however, he again changed his mind, and said it was illegal, there should be no meeting held there, and to prevent us from assembling, a policeman guarded the entrance of the market. We had resolved, however, to set all authority at defiance, and having erected a platform—a cart being the only thing convenient—we raised a tricolored flag on the end of a pike, and in half an hour after the appointed time for meeting, at 8½ o'clock, we had at least three thousand men assembled around us all guided by the same spirit which actuated us. They swore that they would fight if you only sent some of your brave champions to help them. (Loud cries of "We will go; raise volunteers.") This is the feeling which pervades the men of Canada, and I repeat it again, they expect a visit from you. Mind I do not tell you in unequivocal terms to come and conquer—(in accordance with the allegiance I owe Great Britain I could not advise you to do so)—I merely give you an invitation to visit us, and let it be a general visit, as one portion of Canada may be jealous of the other.

At last Monday's meeting we determined that the money collected would be sent here; but that was over-ruled as we wanted arms for our own cause, and by striking in Canada, we had an ulterior object in view: to aid Ireland indirectly by distracting the attention of the Government. We have entered on our duties already. (Loud cheers.) I would not state that the authenticity of which I even doubted; this is true, and numbers of my countrymen can corroborate what I say. I say it and repeat it: If 10,000 men invaded Canada they could walk through it in a week, and the Irish soldiers, of whom there are thousands, would turn out to a man with us. I think this is an evidence of something; and with the soldiers to join us in the march to freedom we will not need much assistance to accomplish the object of our present undertaking; still you may pay us a visit.

When I go back to Montreal we are to have another monster meeting, at which we will do yet more. We have been stimulated by the noble example which you have set us. You know nothing of the terror which the sound of Vauxhall causes to the Government of Canada; they cannot abide the name.—When they ask us: What do you mean by these meetings? we say "Vauxhall"—which has a very significant meaning to them. The gentleman sat down amid laughter and loud cheers.

We were shown yesterday a curious, and, we believe, unique, relic of the olden time in the history of Canada, in the shape of a sacred implement, of the technical name of which we are ignorant, the use of which is to stamp the consecrated wafer, used according to the ceremonial of the Roman Catholic Church, in the sacrifice of the Mass. In the earlier times, the adventurous Jesuits had a fort, and a missionary establishment, on an Island called Christy Island, one of a groupe of three in Thunder Bay, at the foot of Georgian Bay, near Penitanguishine. It was destroyed about the year 1630, in a great massacre, by the then brethren Iroquois, of the Algonquin Indians, converted by the reverend fathers. In that massacre, it is supposed that 10,000 persons perished, including several of the brotherhood. The implement referred to was recently disinterred from the rubbish of the ancient fort, which has been of considerable extent and strength. It is about two feet long, of iron, something in the form of a pair of pincers, but with the head of two pieces of flat iron, on one of which is engraved the true cross and monogram, and other sacred symbols, the paste being pressed between the two, as in a die. The engraved plate is very perfect, probably from its having been covered with wax; and the engraving is of a very good style of art. In some places the other parts of the instrument are wonderfully perfect; in others nearly destroyed by rust. For portability, the handles are each in two pieces, screwed together. This curious relic is in the possession of William Hoffwell, Esq. of the Ordnance department, Toronto, who, we believe, means to send it to England.—The same gentleman has also in his possession several curious remnants of Indian antiquity, found in the same place, including a pair of copper bracelets, and a number of beads of the celebrated wampum.—*Gazette.*

THE NEW JUDGE.—The Hon. R. B. Sullivan is to fill the seat in the Court of Queen's Bench, rendered vacant by the demise of the late Mr. Justice Jones.

We are not disposed to quarrel with the appointment, the more particularly, as had Mr. Sullivan not been promoted to the Court of Queen's Bench, he would have been placed in the Court of Chancery, for which he is admitted to be not nearly so well qualified as Mr. Eston or Mr. Blake. As one of five judges in a Court of Common Law, there is nothing to prevent the new incumbent filling his seat with credit and usefulness. His talents are of a superior order, and his legal attainments, although not to be compared with those of the judges with whom he will sit, are very considerable. He is yet a young man too, and with a mind sufficiently active to acquire additional learning.

The fact most remarkable about the appointment is, that Mr. Sullivan is not to take his seat on the Bench until after the ensuing session of Parliament. A judge of the Land he yet cannot be spared from the leadership of The Upper House, until he has been permitted to experience all "the joys of the next campaign." There was an immense outcry in the Radical camp when that party was in opposition, because Mr. Draper sat for some two days, was actually guilty of recording a vote upon one measure—no more if we recollect right—after it was determined to promote him to the Bench. The Radicals, now in power, will reconcile the legislative career of Mr. Sullivan during next session with the complaints they made on the above mentioned occasion, on some principle best known to themselves, no doubt. The Attorney General had better look up to his darling "British Practice."—*British Canadian.*

IMPROVEMENT IN LUNATIC DISCIPLINE.—Our readers are aware that the female patients of the Lunatic Asylum are frequently indulged in a carriage drive around the City. On Wednesday we had the pleasure of witnessing the entire body, both male and female, enjoying themselves in a promenade down King Street. We believe that this is the first instance on record of such an indulgence being granted to this unfortunate class of our fellow beings. The inhabitants of some of the parties were objects of much curiosity and amusement to those who witnessed the procession. We were not a little surprised to see one *old chap* dressed up in Ex-Mayor or Boulton's *red gown*. The white rabbit skins had, however, been taken out, probably by the assignees. Several of the party carried pictures, in frames, and a good many had lillies in their hands; others carried long poles, with yellow petticoats and auctioneer's flags mounted on them; one we observed, carried O'Neill's horse and groom; a funny looking coon swaggering along with one of Platt's beer barrels swung before him, which he thumped for all the world as if it had been a big drum. We were not before aware that the Asylum contained so many inmates, nor was it without regret that we observed among the afflicted throng several individuals whose mental derangement we had not before learned. We were particularly struck with the appearance of one young man, whose name we were told is Dempster. All the rest held up their heads and looked quite merry; but he held his down, and appeared to feel aware of his painful situation. This, we are informed, is a sure symptom of returning reason.

Doctor Parke deserves much praise for the discipline which he has already established in this institution. It would have been better, however, that he had selected some other day for the exhibition, as many persons, unacquainted with its nature, were disposed to regard it as a twelfth of July procession.

BRITISH WHIG.

"Optimi par Orbem Dicor."

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT 2.

THE Irish Rebellion is over, but the cause which led to it. That remains in an ugly sore, to fester and gangrene; again to break out, and again to be temporarily subdued. Without arms, without leaders, without provisions, what can insurgent peasants do? absolutely nothing. It is therefore the mercy of Providence which has enabled Government to put down, almost without bloodshed, this long threatened insurrection.

When the people are rebellious, it is the time for the Government to listen to their complaints, even if they be well founded.—Good order must be maintained, and all redress of grievances, to be real and substantial, must proceed from consideration and reflection. It is not therefore to be expected, that any immediate steps will be taken by British Statesmen, to allay the angry passions of the Irish people; though doubtless, that object must be the hourly subject of their daymeditations, and the vision which haunts their nightly slumbers. The Repeal of the Union is not what the Irish People want—that is merely the cover to conceal the teal object of their solicitude. It is the destruction of the Established Church of Ireland, which is aimed at. This is the Plague Spot of Ireland; and until that is removed, the Irish People will not be contented, however governed.—Immense difficulties beset this question. The Supremacy of the Protestant Religion, the principle of vested rights, the opposition of two millions of the Irish people themselves, the clamor of ten times that number in England and Scotland, and the belief that the Established Church of Ireland is the main bulwark of the Established church of England, are all serious obstacles to a speedy settlement of this great question; but serious as they are it is our opinion, that the day is fast approaching when the matter must be taken up, discussed, and satisfactorily arranged. Things cannot go on in this fearful and most expensive manner. An army of 60,000 men cannot always be maintained in that most unhappy country; and if there be but one mode of pacifying the people, however unpalatable that mode may be, it must of necessity be adopted. There is no alternative.

THE CONCERT OF TO-NIGHT.

"It never rains but it pours." For upwards of eight months Kingston was without public entertainment of any kind whatsoever, and lo! within the last few weeks the town is absolutely deluged with Concerts of the highest quality. First the Seguins, then Messrs. Burke and Hoffman, now Mr. Dempster; to be followed, next week, by the great Anna Bishop; to say nothing at all of the Viennese Children, who, not being Singers, only danced. This crowding of the celebrated artist upon another is to be regretted, more particularly in these hard times, since it prevents that fair share of patronage being extended to those who visit the good city, and for which it has been so noted.

Mr. Dempster, who gives a Concert, or to use his own language, "a Ballad Soirée," at the City Hall to-night, is a Scotch Vocalist of much celebrity, and whose fame as a composer is equally great. Like Samuel Lover and Henry Russell, he composes most all the Songs he sings—the May Queen for instance—and, though not pretending to the vocal powers of a Braham, he, nevertheless, sings with much taste and great feeling. One pathetic ballad, "I'm sitting on the stile Mary," is so much his own, that no other living artist presumes to sing it. Like Incledon's "Lads of the Village," it will live and die with Dempster. That Mr. Dempster will be patronised to-night, to the extent his merits, is scarcely to be expected, considering what has come before him, and what is to follow; but as his Songs and ballads are of the domestic kind, winning their way to every bosom; and as he has a power of warm hearted countrymen in town, we heartily trust, he may have no reason to regret that he has stopped one night in Kingston.

Of Madame Anna Bishop, who gives a Concert next week, we need not say many words. Her fame is European, and go where she will, and sing as often as she please, she is sure to attract crowded audiences. The far-famed Bochsa, her Musical Director, who travels with Madame on the present tour, is almost equally an object of attraction, on account of his Harp playing; an instrument in the hands of every other musician of the most vapid description. In Bochsa's hands alone is it heard and known. A Mons. Vattellina who accompanies Madame Bishop and Signor Bochsa, is a Bass Singer of some notoriety.

Speaking of musical matters, it reminds us of a public duty too long neglected. It is to return thanks to Major Crofton, of the 20th Regt., for the extreme kindness and consideration manifested by him on all occasions when the services of his regimental band have been in requisition. Other regiments and other bands have been garrisoned in our good city, and much is due to the kindness of other commanding officers; but nothing can exceed the willingness to oblige the inhabitants of Kingston which Major Crofton has evinced, whenever he has been asked to loan his band. What enhances this merit, is the real excellence of the band itself, than which nothing (at least in Canada) can be more exquisitely delightful. Without any exception it is the very best band that has ever been heard in Kingston, and many years may pass away ere such another be heard again. This, in a great measure, is owing to the long possession of a Band Master—Mr. Oliver, of no ordinary merit. The men seem as willing to give their services, as their Major is to oblige the town. Neither are they greedy, in the point of remuneration. For four continuous days, at rehearsals and during performances, they gave their services to Mr. Skerrett, to enable the Viennoise children to be seen here; and when that gentleman offered to remunerate them, they with one accord, finding he had lost money, generously refused to accept one farthing.

We can assure Major Crofton, though little be said loudly about the matter, that the inhabitants of Kingston duly appreciate his liberality, and will ever bear a grateful recollection thereof.

THE KINGSTON CUSTOMS HOUSE.

The following able refutation of the scandal of the *Kingston Herald*, is very handsome on the part of the *Pilot*. Most of the facts of the case were known to us, but we abstained from saying aught on the subject, partly because the *Herald* overshot his mark, and rendered any serious refutation unnecessary; and partly because any defence of men in office is always looked upon by the world, as suspicious of toadyism.:—

For some time back, articles have appeared from time to time in the Kingston *Herald* imputing blame to the Collector of Kingston with reference to the improper seizure and sale of a horse alleged to have been stolen from an inhabitant of the United States named Brennan. We are well convinced that the *Herald* believes this is a case of grievance. We shall state the grounds on which we have arrived at a contrary opinion. First of all we shall copy the petition together with the answer thereto:—

THE PETITION OF THOMAS BRENNAN.

To His Excellency the Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—That on the 15th Sept. 1847, had a horse stolen from him, which horse was traced to Wolfe Island, in the Midland District, in the possession of John and Patrick Dawson; and on your petitioner claiming the same, and also tendering proof of property, they yet refused to deliver up the same, and even dared me to touch the mare. Your petitioner then proceeded to Kingston, and found there was no way of getting the property but by an action of law. In the mean time, and during the temporary absence of your petitioner, information was lodged with the Custom House that a horse was in possession of the Dawsons, on which the duties were not paid. The Officers proceeded immediately to Wolfe Island and seized the horse as forfeited to the Crown for non-payment of duties, and after a short time they did sell the horse at Public Auction; and the very parties in whose hands the horse was first found, bought at this sale the horse at a nominal price, and these same parties are yet in possession.

Your Excellency will easily perceive that had not the officer of Her Majesty's Customs seized and sold the horse that your memorialist could have recovered the same, and also could have punished the Dawsons for receiving the stolen property and retaining it after being demanded. And your petitioner most humbly calls upon your Excellency to see that justice shall be done in the premises.

And as in duty bound your Memorialist will ever pray.

(Signed) THOS. BRENNAN.

{ I. C. O., Customs Department, Montreal, July 24, 1848.

SIR,—I am to acknowledge the receipt of your memorial for the release of a horse seized by the Customs authorities at Kingston, and am to acquaint you, in reply, that full inquiry having been made into the circumstances attending the said seizure, the Inspector general feels constrained to decline recommending your memorial for His Excellency's favorable consideration.

I am, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. W. DESCOMB.

Mr. Thos. Brennan,
Clayton, Jefferson Co., New York.

The first point studiously concealed in the memorial, and by the *Herald*, is, that the alledged thief was brother-in-law to Brennan, the alleged owner, and in the habit of trading in the article of horses with the said Brennan. The alleged theft took place in September, 1847, about nine months before the complaint. Mr. Dawson so far as is known, was an innocent purchaser, although he probably knew that the horse had been smuggled. However, the Seizure Officers did not get their information from Dawson, but from other parties, and no proof whatever has been brought to show that there was any collusion between them and Mr. Dawson. The horse was properly seized for non-payment of duties and was sold, as usual, immediately to save the expense. It is not correct that it brought a nominal price. It brought £11 7s 6d, and it was shown that it had been bought for £10. However, when the Collector was applied to by the alleged owners he told them that if they could prove that the horse was stolen, he would recommend that the value be refunded. What more could be done? The parties declined giving the Collector their names, or information of any kind; they lodged no claim in time as they ought to have done, but allowed months to elapse, and then when the seizure had been distributed they applied for redress.

It is to be observed that Brennan brought an action against Dawson, and summoned the Collector and other Customs Officers as witnesses, but never called them. No attempt was made to establish the charge of collusion between Dawson and the seizing officers, although such has been alleged. We confess that we cannot see what the Collector of Customs could have done more than he did. It is not denied by any one that the horse was smuggled. It was, therefore, properly seized. We assume, in absence of proof to the contrary, that there was no collusion between the seizing officer and Dawson, nor even between the latter and the alleged thief. The Collector was not wrong in selling the horse. When applied to by the alleged owner, he offered him all the redress in his power or his making out his case. Mr. Brennan neglected making his application in time, and the seizure was distributed in the ordinary way. Such is a plain statement of facts.—We shall be glad that the *Herald* would point out what redress could have been afforded in the matter. The inquiry has been conducted in the ordinary way. Surely the *Herald* would not advocate sending a Commission of Inquiry in every case of complaint of Custom seizures. If so the entire revenue would hardly pay the cost. The character of the Collector at Kingston stands sufficiently high to warrant us in disbelieving any imputation on his veracity. Mr. Brennan may have suffered loss, but really he has himself to blame for not lodging a formal complaint in the proper quarter immediately on the seizure being made.

MADAM BISHOP'S CONCERT.

We extract the following notice of this great Singer's concert in Montreal.

This gifted vocalist, with the equally wonderfully endowed Bochsa, will give a concert in this city on *Saturday evening next*, and not on Monday, as previously announced.

In addition to the notice already given, we publish the following from the Montreal Herald.

This musical event, so impatiently looked forward to by all the lovers of the divine art, came off, on Friday night, in Donegana's Hotel. As we mentioned on Saturday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, this great "Queen of Song" was greeted by a full and fashionable audience, who manifested throughout the evening's entertainment, the utmost enthusiasm. It is praise indeed, to say that the high-wrought expectations, founded on the accounts which had preceded Madame Bishop's arrival, of her enchanting powers, were fully amply realized. Madame Bishop's voice is one of the most brilliant and thrilling *Sopranos*, it has ever been our good fortune to listen to, she reminds us somewhat of Sontag—it is under perfect control, and the clear flute-like trillings of her high notes, we cert inly never heard surpassed,—they are, indeed, most exquisite. She was rapturously encored, we think, with one exception only, in all her songs, and with so much ease and grace did she comply with the not altogether reasonable, however complimentary, exactions of the audience, that we really could not afford to pity the fair favorite. Her powers of execution are really extraordinary, and can only be compared to the sweet notes of the lark, when poised in air, she flutters over her lowly nest, and warbles forth her "fond complainings." 'Twas thus she sung Moor's melancholy ditty, "The last rose of summer." The piece of the evening, was, however, the charming air from Mayerbeer's "Robert"—"Robert, toi que j'aime"—which is beautifully adapted to show the perfect ease and clearness with which Madame Bishop brings forth the most difficult and intricate notes. Bochsa's delicious little gem, "Je suis la Bayadere," was inimitably sung and acted with surprising grace. In short, to say the audience was delighted, would be tame; indeed they seemed intranced, electrified with "sweet sounds."

But we must not forget Bochsa—nor is any one, who heard him bring such heavenly sounds from his difficult and usually barren instrument, likely to do so. It would be vain to attempt to express in words the crashes, the martial strains, the soft melodian breathings, he drew from the harp. One of his most striking perfections is his power of improvising on any theme which may be suggested. This he did, on Friday, completely carrying the audience along with him, so that he was several times interrupted by the overwhelming applause.

Signor Vattelina has a powerful bass voice, and sung his pieces, we thought, with good taste and feeling.

We also subjoin extracts from the Montreal Gazette of yesterday:—

Madame Anna Bishop's second grand concert we are happy to say, met with the success it deserved, on Monday evening last. This gifted vocalist as we before remarked, has a voice of uncommon compass and sweetness, and her musical education, we should say, has been most perfect. Nature has done much for her, and intense and well directed study has ingrafted upon nature's gifts a power of execution, that must be heard to be appreciated.

We may say, that Madame Bishop took her audience by storm, in her opening effort, the grand recitative "Sinfonia Voci," from Norma, followed by "Casta Diva." Her most effective performances, however, before an audience not strictly or highly musical, are her ballads, which she executes with a sweetness and purity that is most fascinating. "The harp that o'er us though Tara's Halls," and John Anderson my jo," are of this character as all the world knows, and they were received by the audience with a degree of enthusiasm unequalled in this country since Braham sang them here some seven years ago. In the cavatina from Linda, "O light of all my love," Madame Bishop excelled herself. We have seldom heard such correctness and brilliancy as she displayed in her *roulades* in this song. No instrument could have executed them with greater precision or exactness of tone, and the upper notes were as soft and silvery as the harmonic tones of a violin. The French song, "Je suis la Bayadere," was delightfully sung and rapturously received.

Of Mr. Bochsa's qualifications as a performer on the harp, we need say nothing—our humble praise will add nothing to the fame he has justly earned—but those who have not heard him can have no conception of the powers of the instrument. As a composer and musician Mr. Bochsa enjoys a high reputation and as a performer on the harp he is acknowledged to be unrivalled. His arrange of popular airs with improvised variations, excited universal admiration, and the quaint introduction of "Yankee doodle," produced much amusement. The "march from Norma," which consisted indeed of more than the march in Norma was rapturously received.

A TRAGEDY.

On last Saturday night, at Mandeville, on the other side of the Lake Pontchartrain, an Indian murdered an Indian, by stabbing him with a large knife. A son of the murdered man immediately gave information to two of the tribe, and they took the offender into custody. On Sunday morning a court, composed of ten Indians, was formed, to hear the case and pass sentence. The proofs were most conclusive, and the prisoner was at once condemned to death. Whereupon he was measured; his grave marked out, and the himself set to work digging it. When the grave was finished, a rifle was placed in the hands of the murdered Indian's son for the purpose of doing the execution.

At the first shot death was not produced; the second shot also took effect, but did not kill, and the stoical violator of innocent life fell into his grave, and was there finally killed, and covered with earth as he lay. The court that had condemned him then took their own instrument of justice in custody, and started off for the purpose of delivering him to the civil authorities of Covington, to obtain his final discharge as an innocent man. This relation we personally received from two gentlemen of this city, who were at Mandeville at the time, and who although they did not see the whole of the drama, obtained all the particulars from persons present during the trial and execution.

The trial and execution were held in the most rigid conformity with the customs of the tribe to which all the parties belonged.—there was nothing hurried—no violence of any description. Nor would the culprit escape which he might have done, for he was not confined in any way. Among these Indians, when one had forfeited his life, it has been customary to sell the condemned man to any man who would buy, and so restore him to it were to life; in the present instance, three hundred dollars were offered to the tribe for the criminal's life, which was refused. The delivery of the executioner up to the State is an imitation of their moral civilized brethren, who, when they kill in self defence, surrender themselves for legal discharge from censure. While we lament the condition of these wild men of the forest, we must admire the promptness with which their justice was administered.

REBELLION LOSSES.—The *Official Gazette* contains a notification to claimants for rebellion losses, that arrangements have been with the Bank of Montreal to pay at their several Agencies in Upper Canada, the remaining 8 per cent. due. Claimants applying personally will have to satisfy the agents of the Bank of their personal identity; and parties claiming for others by power of Attorney, must produce sufficient power in duplicate.

By Magnetic Telegraph.

Reported Expressly for the British Whig.

WEDNESDAY'S NIGHT'S REPORT.

MONTREAL, Aug. 30, 7½ P. M.

Flour dull at the following rates:—Fine 25s a 26s 3d; superfine 26s 9d a 27s; extra superfine 27s a 27s 3d. We hear of sales today of 500 bbls superfine at 26s 9d.

No Wheat in Market.

Pease from 61½ a 71. Ashes 25s 6d a 25s 9d, and 27s 6d a 27s 9d, with limited transactions. Provisions.—Mess Pork 72s 6d a 75s; Prime Mess, 60s a 62s 6d; Prime, 50s a 52s 6d.

Exchange.—Bank on London, 60 days, 11 per cent.; Private, 10 per cent., but little doing.

FREIGHTS.—Engagements made for the Clyde