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AND
General Advertiser for Canada West
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Every Friday Afternoon, at 4 o'clock,
BY EDWARD JOHN BARKER, M. D.
Bagot Street, near the Landdon House

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

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The British Whig,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR CANADA WEST.

"OPIFER PER ORBEM DICOR."

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THE BRITISH WHIG
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Provincial Parliament.

Legislative Assembly.

BILL TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONARIES.

April 9th, 1849.

Mr. Boulton (Norfolk), moved the second reading of this Bill. He wished to direct the attention of the House to three points. The first was to reduce the number of Executive Functionaries. The Executive Council at present consisted of ten members, the Cabinet in England consisted of sixteen members. In the States the Cabinet consisted of six members, and he thought it would be a well to limit the number of the Council in this Province by law, instead of leaving it discretional, and he thought that six Cabinet counsellors were quite sufficient to manage the Government of the Colony. It appeared to him that the President of the Council should also be the Speaker of the Legislative Council, as the Chancellor in England occupied the Chair in the House of Lords. In his opinion it was time that some standard should be fixed by law, as the Colony had at length obtained a position among the nations of the earth as a practically independent country, and it became doubly necessary to establish on every thing upon firm basis. The second point to which he would call attention, was the change of the title of Solicitor General, to that of Advocate General. The third, was that no pensions should be granted to any person, and that the salaries of no officials should be paid till the same had been assented to by Parliament. The hon gentleman said that he thought the passing of such a resolution would be a real kindness to any government, for it was notorious that every Government was pestered with applications for pensions and places. He wished to know what was the practical utility of that clause of the Union Act which directed that no appropriation of public monies should be made without the consent of Parliament, when it was notorious that places were frequently created for friends, without the sanction of Parliament and that those places were so frequently no benefit to the country? These different questions had engaged his attention for some time past, and he hoped that the Bill would be read a second time, and in committee he would be ready to make any alteration that the House should think necessary.

Sir Allan McNab said he had always supported the cabinet was formed by the will of the sovereign: now he understood we had what was called responsible government, or the British Constitution in this country. As did not know that there was any difference of the prerogative of the crown in England; and did he think the House could limit the prerogative of the crown. He hope the hon member would show some precedent for this course.

Mr Baldwin thought the points or facts in question were resolved into a limitation of the number of cabinet, and a change of some high officers, which were usually supposed to form the Cabinet, this attempt was certainly one to limit the prerogative. The word Cabinet was not known in the constitution: it was a mere committee of the Privy Council, consisting of the holders of certain high offices. The hon. member, however, did not provide for the limiting the number of those officers; but for limiting the number who should actually sit to decide on affairs of state.—He had a constitutional objection to this course: and besides this he thought the limitation undesirable. Now it would not do to compare Canada with the United States in this respect. He thought our system was the best, because it gave a more regular and constant control to the popular will: but leaving it at out of the question, it was clear that our government was not proper to be compared to the United States, but with England, the sister Provinces, or the new constitutional monarchies of Europe. Now if these were examined it would be found that it had never been found possible to limit the number of the cabinet. It was often necessary to increase the numbers in order to include some particular name of great weight. This the master of the mint and commissioner of woods and forests was sometimes in and sometimes out of the cabinet—which was more a person holding no specific office was included. It was not to be supposed that the same necessity would not be felt here, where useful public men were fewer than in England. As to changing the title of Attorney General East it was a matter of no consequence, but if desirable it should be proposed by the Government. He was quite ready to give his assent to the propriety of retrenchment: of course the Government could only get money by coming down to that House to ask for it; but was it to be said that the Government was to come down there to obtain the assent of the House to the appointment of every lock tender. Such a thing would give the Government of all power whatever, which though liable to abuse, was in proper limits, necessary to the proper carrying on of the public service. With regard to the entire reorganization of the public service it was a large subject, and it was not to be considered at that present. Government had not yet had time to attend to it. They had conscientiously and every moment of their time for the public service, and he believed, whatever were their faults, could not be accused of idleness. They had done all that human nature could do and no more could be expected.

Mr. Christie quite agreed with the opinions expressed by the hon. Attorney General West. He considered the present system of Government better than that which prevailed previous to the introduction of what was called Responsible Government. (Hear, hear!) Believe that period the government was carried on by men who were not responsible and could not be made responsible for their acts to the House and the Country. (hear.) He (Mr. Christie) was of opinion that the salaries of the Cabinet were more numerous than was necessary or advisable, but he was not prepared to reduce them by an act; he thought the more prudent way would be by an address. For instance there were two departments, the Head at which ought not in his opinion to hold seats in the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Crown Lands might be excepted, as the duties he had to perform were very extensive and onerous. Then there were the Commissioners of the Board of Works: the Cabinet had to a certain extent to appropriate money for carrying the public works and he thought it absurd that the commissioners should be voting and auditing at the same time. He would wish to see these portfolios separated from the Cabinet but he was not prepared to take the step of limiting the emoluments of the Crown. (Hear, hear.) In the meantime the system of salaries could be tried a little longer. If the beautiful system he tried a little longer. If had been occasions sometimes to speak against Responsible Government, but he must admit that notwithstanding the bad administration of the government was better now than it was some ten years ago. (Hear, hear.—Things were certainly more easy, although there was still great field for improvement (Hear, hear.

Mr. Papineau did not object to the bill because it restrained the prerogative, because the prerogative was restrained every day. He condemned it because it sanctioned the principle that the Crown should interfere by its ministers in the deliberations of the House. The idea of Lord Durham and Sydenham that the heads of departments should form the Cabinet, had appeared plausible, and had been approved, but this undivided of principle had brought about this inconvenience, that the Attorney General were chief Ministers of the Crown, and were mixed up in politics, instead of attending to the correct administration of justice. In another country did it happen that men performing such functions, were promoted to the Bench, there to carry their political prejudices. In England it was not so; the law officers there were chosen for their reputation as lawyers; not for their political value. The hon member, however, in adopting the example of the United States in giving the Government of all power whatever, in the shape of power, passed a system which was exceedingly contrary to ours. In the United States, it was not known that the Ministry had no seats in the Houses of Congress; it was an advantage to this system, which attempted to provide for the independence of the House by limiting the influence of the Executive. A reform bill would seek to diminish the influence of administration by diminishing the direct influence in the House—by limiting, for example, the number of chiefs of departments who might sit in the House, to the number of three. It is alleged—the idea of Lord Durham, that the heads of departments ought to be in the House, for many men well fitted for the management of these departments were not at all fitted for the House. In fact it was all a chance which gave responsible government to Canada, and it was this which the hon member desired to sanction. The hon member who had none of the responsibility of the ministry, should certainly not take such a measure as this out of the hands of the government, to whom he professed to have confidence, and if he were about to make any change of this kind, he should certainly begin with the Upper House, which all agreed in desiring to reform. The attempts to restrain the expenditure of the government were a good; but it could only be effectual when the entire house would act as effectually to effect it. The hon member for the North Riding who spoke of popular control, forgot that the Governor General had been able for four years to oppose the will of the people, while in the United States the representatives were chosen every two years. He was very glad however, to see the independence of the hon members for Norfolk, and of the ministry on the present occasion. On former one the hon member had acted part of than moderate to one of their measures (Rebellion losses) and what pronounced to be an abortion, was safely delivered as a fair, lively, healthy bantling.

Mr Hincks said, that his hon. friend the Attorney General, had treated the constitution I objection to the bill so satisfactorily and conclusively, that he (Mr. Hincks) did not deem it necessary to refer to that branch of the subject; he would merely offer a few remarks, from his own experience as a member of the Government, in reply to the objections to the composition of the cabinet, urged by the hon. member for Norfolk and Gaspe. He would refer especially to the objections made to the Commissioners of the Board of Works holding seats in the Cabinet. He did not mean to say that it was absolutely necessary they should have seats in the Cabinet—it was one of those matters to be regulated by convenience; but he contended for the absolute necessity, in order for the Government to be properly administrated, that there should be one gentleman connected with the Board of Works in the Administration. From his experience, he should say it was absolutely necessary. Indeed, he could not see how the Government could be carried on without it. He could not understand the objections made by the hon members for Norfolk and Gaspe, respecting the Commissioners of Public Works having the expenditure of large sums of money. It was precisely not the Commissioners of Public Works who expended the money; they directed the expenditure, it was true, but they did it with the exception of the Executive Council Members who formed a moment in the subject, under see the necessity of the minister who recommended a particular appropriation, being present when the matter was being discussed by his colleagues. And so it was with the Crown Lands Commissioners. It was impossible to take up subjects connected with his department in his absence. With regard to American practice, it had been pointed out by the hon member for N. Riding, that in the United States Cabinet there were only six members, whilst there was a larger number here. It must be quite obvious that the system was difficult materially. One important branch of the duty of the administration here, was to prepare measures to be submitted to the Parliament, but in the United States the Heads of the Departments only submitted annual messages to Congress, and the bills were prepared by Committees so that the Chairmen of these Committees actually discharged in the two Houses of Congress the functions of the Heads of the Department. It was unnecessary to discuss the advantage of the two systems, he merely stated the fact. There was another reason why it was necessary to have a larger Cabinet here, than in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. These Provinces had been recently united, they had different systems of law and the people were of different races; it was therefore utterly impossible to conduct the affairs of the Government, with as small a Cabinet as sufficed in countries where the same laws prevailed and the people were all of one race. It was desirable also that there should be people in the Administration acquainted with the state of public feeling in the different districts of the Province. He (Mr H.) had had great objection to the presence of the Attorney General in the Cabinet, and it certainly was not the practice in England, but hon members must look at the composition of the House, and remember of the legal profession in it; he was not one of those who would disparage the gentlemen of the legal profession, they were in his opinion more competent that the generality of men, to conduct the public affairs of the country. The Inspector and Receiver Generalships were those more fitted to be filled by those accustomed to commercial pursuits, than by members of the legal profession and the same thing might be said of the Board of Works' Department. The only offices to the Cabinet they, entered for members of the legal profession were the Attorney Generalship and the Solicitorship; to exclude the Attorney General therefore would cause great practical injury to the business of the country, as the leaders of both parties were lawyers. The hon member concluded by saying that he entirely concurred in what had fallen from his colleague, and should oppose the bill.

Mr Wilson was surprised that the time of the House had been occupied in uselessly discussing this measure, about which the hon. member for Norfolk urged to have been the last to say a word, since if public rumour had any truth in it, the principal fault he found with the cabinet originally was that it was too big one—(laughter.) All this time was wasted for nothing, while there were 24 motions on the order of the day.

Mr. Boulton said he did not mind these allusions and replied to the arguments of preceding speakers.

Upon the Speaker putting the motion on the amendment, there were cries of yea throughout the House without any no; whereupon Sir A McNab asked for the names.

Mr. Speaker—No use calls for them. (Laughter.)

Sir A. McNab then we are unanimous. (Laughter)—but we must have the names.

Mr Boulton, well then I shall vote in the nays. Accordingly the whole House rose and it was supposed that the hon member for Norfolk would be the only person on his own side of the question; but when the names were taken Mr. Flint came to the rescue, and subsequently Mr. Mallock obtained leave of the House to change his vote.

THE PILLAR OF SALT—LOT'S WIFE

(From the National Intelligencer.)

It was lately mentioned in this paper that there might be seen in the library of Congress, a specimen of rock salt taken from a pillar of salt in the dead sea, fanciffully called Lot's Wife. For an account of this curiosity and other objects of interest in Palestine and the remote East, we are indebted to a work about to be published by Carey and Hart, of Philadelphia, entitled "*A narrative of the late expedition to the Dead Sea, from a diary by one of the party*—Edited by Edward F. Montague." We quote from the diary the following description:

Wednesday, April 26, 1848.—This morning we are examining the hills of Sodom, and rocking with a good deal of curiosity the ever famous "Pillar of Salt," which marks the judgment of God on Lot's wife. On pulling round the sho es of the sea we saw an immense column, rounded at the sea we saw an immense column, rounded and untouched, facing towards the southwest. This, we were told by our Arabs, was the pillar of Salt in which Lot's wife was changed at the overthrow of Sodom. With some difficulty we landed here, and our esteemed companion and Dr. Anderson obtained specimens upon it, and Mr. Dale took a sketch of it. Our boat's crew landed also, and their curiosity was gratified by their adhering specimens, some from the summit and others from its base. It was measured, and found to be sixty feet in height and forty feet in circumference.—We cannot suppose that Lot's wife was a person so large that her dimensions equalled those of this column. Many think the statue of Lot's wife was equal to the pillar of salt which the Bible speaks of. Let that pillar be where it may, and whatever be its size, they will not probably credit that this is the pillar.—Their preconceived notions having much to do with the matter, they would have every one think that she was at once transformed into a column of very fine grained beautiful white salt, about five feet or a few inches more in height, and in circumference that of a commonsized person of the nineteenth century. Be that as it may, no two minds have, perhaps formed exactly the same opinion on this matter who have not visited this spot. But here we are around this monument, and we find that it is really of solid rock salt—one mass of crystallization. It is in the velocity which is pointed out in the Bible in relation to the matter in question, and it appears to be the only one of its kind here. And the Arabs of the district to whom this pillar is pointed out, declare it to be that of Lot's wife—the identical pillar of salt to which the Bible had reference—the tradition having been handed down from each succeeding generation to their children. My own opinion of the matter is, that Lot's wife having lingered behind, in disobedience to the divine command of God—given in order to insure her safety—that while so lingering she became overwhelmed in the descending flood, and formed the model or foundation of this extraordinary column. If it has been produced by common, or natural causes, it is but right to suppose that there might be found others of a similar description. One is scarcely able to abandon the idea that it stands here as a lasting memorial of God's punishing a most delibrate act of disobedience, committed at a time when he was about to show distinguishing regard for the very person.

We carefully brought away our specimens, intending to show them to our friends in America, when we shall have the good fortune to arrive there and talk with them on the subject. This end of the sea is very shallow, and its waters more dense, more salt than where they are of greater depth; here it is from one to five feet in depth. We now leave this "Pillar of Salt," and return to our boats richly laden with specimens from it. We cook the sea, and obtain soundings on our way. We had nearly reached the opposite side when a new danger assailed us. We had braved all the dangers of the Jordan, in its streams and its banks, and the peculiar storms on the Dead Sea, and now a specimen of the dangers to which man is subject visited us. The fearful scorching simoom raged around, threatening us with suffocation and blindness, an enemy almost insupportable thi ed. The "fiery atmosphere" seemed as though it would doom us to the very fate of the unfortunate citizens who now lie engulphed below our boats; but we fearlessly pulled away until, coming to a place called Mesrah, we landed amidst the raging heat of the wind, and there encamp for the night."

FROM THE MONTREAL BROKERS' CIRCULAR.

The next table to which we would draw your attention is that which shows the declared value of the imports and Exports at Montreal and Quebec above. The decline in the trade of both points in money value, is very striking. For example:

MONTREAL.

Imports, 1847	£2,073,411
1848	1,461,119
Decrease in 1848	£ 612,022
Exports, 1847	£ 848,953
1848	391,841
Decrease in 1848	£ 457,142

QUEBEC.

Imports 1847	£ 795,917
1848	625,845
Decrease in 1848	£ 171,072
Exports, 1847	£1,831,400
1848	1,357,326
Decrease in 1848	£ 474,074

We would also draw your attention to our Tables of prices for a series of years, and of the rates of freight from the port of Montreal to Liverpool for the years 1843 to 1848, inclusive. The space will not allow us to do more here than submit the following extracts from them:

Average price of Flour for sundry years—

FLOUR.

1843	26s. 7d. currency, per bb'l.	
1844	25s. 2d.	" "
1845	27s. 1d.	" "
1846	26s. 2½d.	" "
1847	30s. 5d.	" "
1848	26s. 3d.	" "

FREIGHTS.

Average rate of Freight to Liverpool, for sundry years:—

1843	3s. 5d. sterling, per barrel.	
1844	4s. 6d.	" "
1845	4s. 10½d.	" "
1846	5s. 2d.	" "
1847	5s. 4d.	" "
1848	4s. 2d.	" "

TIMBER.

Average price of White Pine, at Quebec, for sundry years:

1845	7½d currency per foot.
1846	5d. " "
1847	4½d. " "
1848	4½d. " "

Our Table of the prices of Bank Stocks, (to which please refer,) shows how greatly our monetary institutions have been affected by the depressed state of the trade and commerce of the country. As a contrast, we may mention that in 1845, and for many years before it, the stock of nearly every Canadian bank in the province stood at or above par. That of the Bank of Montreal for instance, was as high as 14 per cent premium, in 1846. But the losses which they all suffered in 1847, were very heavy, and business has since then been too depressed, to admit of their making such large profits to re-establish the value of their stocks at par.

The Bank of British North America, not being a Canadian Bank, requires a separate notice. Its Stock, also, has been much depressed as our table shows, but the transactions in it here are at all times very limited, the stock being chiefly owned out of the province.

WOODEN BARN FLOORS AND RATS.—Barn floors may be made impervious to rats by the following cheap method:—Dig around the building that has the foundation in the ground (in contemporation to those supported on stones or brick piers) a dry ditch, say by 14 inches wide by 9 inches deep, pave the bottom with brick flags, the side facing from the building to have 4½-inch work, whilst the other has a course of plan tiles or slates nailed on the outside surface of the building. As this is finished, fill in the area with the earth dug out. The rats will endeavor to make their entrance by burrowing, but they will invariably work themselves out at the surface, as they cannot effect their object, by low or where they will, and, continuing as they do, they never commence burrowing away from the building, but close around it—the plan has never failed. Rid yourself of the inside members, and no outsiders can enter. The doorways may be similarly secured by carrying up a draft wall along the opening.—*Builder*.

Correction.—In the article sent by me to the *Builder*, and inserted in your widely circulated paper of the day, you have copied an error by stating that the dry area was to be paved with brick, instead of bricks flat. You have also omitted to state that the side farthest from the building was to have two courses of 4½ work; both these points being very material. I am sure you will desire to give your numerous readers the benefit of these corrections.

☞ COMMERCIAL BANK.—The state of the affairs of this institution on the 28th Feb., 1849, was as follows:—*Liabilities*: promissory notes in circulation not bearing interest, £178,690; balances due to other banks and foreign agts, £27,255 17 7; cash deposited not bearing interest, £89,252 1 5; cash deposited bearing interest, £19,610 0 8; total liabilities, £313,804 19 8. *Assets*: coin and bullion, £45,643 2 11; landed and other property, £24,246 7 7; promissory notes of other banks, £13,928 6 5; balance due by other banks and foreign agents, £12,478 15 1; notes and bills discounted and other debts due to the bank, £617,259 18 1; total assets, £733,537 10 1. On the 30th Sept., 1848, the total liabilities were £304,288 12 1; and the total assets £719,699 15 3.

CANADIAN STATISTICS.

One of the greatest improvements of modern times is the periodical publication of statistics. These form the most solid groundwork for the measures of governments, while to every individual interested in the welfare of his country, they can never fail to possess the highest interest. The large volume lately published contains most satisfactory evidence that in the face of many discouragements, the Province is advancing in wealth, as it is in population. We shall notice a few of the leading features of this interesting volume—

POPULATION OF UPPER CANADA.

Previous to the year 1770, the only white settlers in Upper Canada, were a few French emigrants settled in the immediate vicinities of Kingston and Detroit. After the American Revolution, the number of United Empire Loyalists who fled from the United States, made a considerable accession to the population—but it was not believed that the whole population, so late as in 1790, exceeded 50,000. In the next twenty-one years, very slow progress was made, for in 1811, Bouchette calculates that there were not above 77,000. A regular census were first taken up in 1824.

PROGRESS OF POPULATION FROM 1811 TO 1848.

		Increase per Annum.
The population in 1811 was	77 000	
" " 1824 "	151 097	7.40 per cent.
" " 1825 "	156,027	4.53 "
" " 1826 "	163,702	3.60 "
" " 1827 "	176,035	7.54 "
" " 1828 "	165,526	5.37 "
" " 1829 "	261,060	10.18 "
" " 1831 "	320,693	11.42 "
" " 1835 "	336,460	4.91 "
" " 1836 "	385,824	4.88 "
" " 1839 "	407,515	5.62 "
" " 1840 "	437,441	4.88 "
" " 1841 "	465,357	88.7 "
" " 1842 "	486,055	4.45 "
" " 1848 "	720,293	bring an increase or above 11 per cent. per annum

The returns in regard to employment were not complete—but of 616,514 actually returned—comprising above 100,000 heads of families, it appears that there are engaged in professions, 8,000. In domestic commerce, including handicrafts, 19,173. In Agriculture, 68,117; Labourers, 11,135. In Factories, 3,866. Teachers must not be included in those engaged in professions, as they alone are not much below 3,000. But as few of them are heads of families—they must have been left out in this account. More than two-thirds of the whole families, it then appears, are supported by agriculture.

The progress which has been made in education within the last few years, is one of the most gratifying results shown by the census. In 1842, the number of Colleges and High Schools was 44, and of Elementary Schools, 927. In 1848, the number of High Schools was 39. We suppose this decline has arisen from the drawing of many pupils to larger Institutions which have lately sprung up. The Common Schools have increased from 927 to 2,464. The children attending School have increased in proportion.

In 1842—the number of Boys under 11, attending school, was	16,145.
In 1848—the number was	46,321.
In 1842, the attendance of girls was	13,478.
In 1847, the number was	34,030.

The ages of children attending school are generally from 5 to 15. In 1842—22 per cent. of the children within those bounds were at school—in 1848—42 per cent. This is a great and gratifying improvement—but it is yet but an approach to general education and it is to be hoped that every succeeding year will bring us nearer to that desirable end.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS.

Under that head we have the following:

Church of England		146,3
Church of Scotland Presbyterians	65,702	
Free Church Presbyterians	62,899	
Other Presbyterians	19,730	
		148,1
Wesleyan Methodists	87,816	
Episcopal Methodists	35,731	
Other Methodists	13,565	
		137,3
Church of Rome		199,[illegible]
Baptists		32,[illegible]
Lutherans		[illegible]
		637,3
Deficiency		115,[illegible]

This enormous deficiency of nearly a sixth of the whole population is partly accounted for in the Remarks accompanying the census—25,000 not being returned at all in the religious head, and 80,000 declared under the head of "no creed denomination." In 1842 the deficiency was only 80,000. Certain denominations are left out of this enumeration, which it has been customary to include—such as the Congregationalists, Mennonites, Quakers, &c. The difficulties of getting such a statement in a country where the sects are so deficient, must be great—but there is no reason why a nearer approximation to exactness might not have been made.

In our next we shall notice the returns, which show the great addition of late years, and how wealth rents round the country.—*Globe*.

INDIAN FANATICISM—*Juggernaut Sacrifice*.—The great procession of Juggernaut, has this year been characterized by the renewal of bloody sacrifices, which it was believed, had been the final step to by the English. Five domestics—known to the agents of government, raised upon elevated cushions near the pagoda of Balkesh themselves under the wheels of the gigantic car carrying the idol, and were literally crushed to pieces! The enthusiasm of the multitude was so much excited by the fervour of the devotees, that but for the intervention of an armed force, hundreds of victims would have shared a similar fate. The government may suppress the procession, but Christianity alone can root out the superstition.

NEW APPLICATION OF CHLOROFORM.—M. C. Spencer Bate, a dentist, writing in the *Lancet*, recommends a new way of employing chloroform to abate the horrors of tooth-pulling; which, if his account be well founded, as we suppose it must be, will supersede the ordinary mind of using it by narcotizing the patient. In ad of being exhaled, the chloroform is to be applied directly to the nerve of the tooth which thus renders accessible for the purpose without cutting. It is applied on lint or cotton. It "produces the most violent pain in subside," says Mr. Bate, "a soon after which the tooth may be removed with comparatively no pain." Have the plans to stupify the nerve of the tooth, instead of the whole patient—a great improvement merely, which by removing the danger of the ordinary method of administration, may render the use of chloroform by dentists much more commonplace it now is."

GOOD PAY FOR A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT.—The French constitution fixes the salary, the President of the Republic at 600,000 francs per annum or about $110,000 per month. Being impossible to propose an increase of salary in the face of that constitutional provision, a law has been passed allowing an additional sum of $10,000 per month for "expenses of representation," or for balls, entertainments, &c. &c. By this arrangement the President is made to touch the pretty little sum of $660 per day!

BLOCK'S MONUMENT.—A correspondent of the *Niagara Chronicle* states that, "by some means, the Brock Monument Fund has sustained a loss of about £1150, and, "in 1844 £7800 of this fund was invested in Government Debentures, bearing 6 per cent interest—why was this investment changed into depreciated stock? Who has benefitted by this spoliation of the dead? There appears a foul job somewhere."

BRITISH WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 17, 1849.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

In order to meet the Montreal Weekly Newspapers more fairly in the Upper Canada Country Market, the price of the *Weekly British Whig* is materially reduced, and the system of clubbing adopted. (*See Advertisement.*)

THE MILITARY AT FIRES.

Some few months ago, the *British Whig* fell into great disgrace with a portion of its numerous readers, because it allowed a member of the Hook & Ladder Company to state, through its columns, the treatment which the Hook & Ladder Company met with at the hands of a military gentleman, in command of a party sent out to assist at the Penitentiary fire. We acknowledge, and ever have acknowledged, the inestimable services which the Military render at the great fires so constantly occurring in these provinces; but while we do them this have justice, we see no reason why these important services should be deteriorated by unnecessary impertinence. The error committed by the *British Whig* at the time alluded to, was in allowing a member of the Fire Company to state the grievances, unauthorized by the Chief Engineers, whose duty it was to have taken up the matter, and communicate the facts to the Mayor.

At the recent great Fire in Toronto, an occurrence took place, somewhat similar in its circumstances to that at Kingston; but in this case the Chief took the matter up properly, and addressed the following letter to the Mayor, which we re-publish, for the express purpose of attracting thereto the attention of Major Gen. Rowan. The citizens of Kingston, and of every other Garrison Town in Canada, are always thankful and grateful to the Military for their prompt assistance at Fires; nevertheless they see no occasion for the exhibition of petulance or impertinence on the part of those sent out to aid them; and what is more, will not patiently put up with it.

Engineer's Office, Toronto Fire Brigade,
TORONTO, April 9th, 1849.

SIR,—An occurrence of an unpleasant nature, which took place at the calamitous fire, on the morning of Saturday last, between Co. 5, Hamilton, of the Royal Canadian Rifle Corps, and myself, renders it necessary for me to forward to you a plain statement of the affair. I do so because, as the chief officer of the Toronto Fire Brigade, receiving my appointment from the Common Council of the City of Toronto, I held myself amenable to the Council to the proper discharge of my duty as Chief Engineer, and I do so because I feel I owe it to myself, and to Mr. Councillman Edwin Bell, Assistant Engineer, acting under my orders, who being present participated in the occasion, to vindicate from misrepresentation our conduct as Engineers of the Toronto Fire Brigade.

The fire-alarm was given about half-past one o'clock in the morning. Our men were soon upon the ground—and, I trust, I may be allowed to say, used every exertion to limit the extent of the fire—the flames had been for several hours contending with the most appalling fire that has ever occurred in Toronto, when E. G. O'Brien, Esq. announced to me that a strong party of the military from the garrison were upon the ground awaiting my orders. It was but a short time before they were dispersed of—some on guards upon the property which had been saved from the fire, and a large portion of them were dispatched to the relief of the firemen and citizens, who were exhausted in working the engines.

I should not do justice to the military, be it officers and men, who with promptitude and energy, which will ever live in my remembrance with deep feelings of gratitude, for hours so nobly shared with them the conflict of that terrible night, did I not mention to you in the strongest terms of praise their conduct, and assure you how deeply our energy is indebted to them for their generous and valuable services.

After five o'clock I found it necessary to withdraw No. 3 Engine Company from the vicinity of the Market, and place it on Colborne street, in the rear of Joseph Rogers' and M. J. O'Brien, Esq.'s premises, which were on fire. In proceeding down Church street, I saw about thirty of the Royal Canadian Rifles standing in line upon the street. I asked the person standing in their front if they were under his orders—he said they were. I told him who I was and requested twenty of the men to assist in working No. 3 Engine. At this moment, Assistant Engineer Bell came upon the person in command was ordering the men to proceed, when an officer, who, I was told, is Captain Hamilton, came up and asked where the men were going. I told him they were going to assist at one of the engines. He bade the men stand and they should not work at the engines; that they came to protect property, and that he should not under the orders of the Mayor. I told him that I was the person in command of the fire brigade,—showing him my official cap—and that I was also a magistrate; and I again requested the services of the men; but he refused. At the time the other engines were either partially or wholly worked by the military. I told him so, and said it was the first time I had seen Brunswick soldiers prevented from assisting in extinguishing a Fire. He called me a contemptible coat. Engineer Bell and—the Chief as he more or coat than you; he refused and said we were a pair of cuts, and that he (Bell) was both of us were drunk. Bell replied it was false; and added, if those words were repeated, he would strike him, and was advancing to do so, when he was restrained. A crowd gathered—the road was blocked up. I ordered the engineer to make room for the carriage to pass. I also required Captain Hamilton to remove his men from the middle of the street, and leave the road open; this he refused to do, and ordered me to leave the ground, which order I did not obey. I afterwards saw the military working No. 3, but whether they were the men removed by Captain Hamilton, or by whose order they were placed there, I do not know.

I have asserted that two parties were sent from the Garrison to our relief, armed under arms, for the protection of property—the other for generosity; the men whose services I requested of Captain Hamilton were not under arms. I have to add, I do not hesitate to say that the conduct of Mr Bell and myself was decorous and proper, and that Bell and myself was drunk in any sense of the word.

I admit that after Captain Hamilton's repeated refusal of my request for the men under his command, and his general conduct towards us, I expressed myself in strong terms of displeasure; Mr Bell was also, justly I feel very indignant. There were many of a respectable class to whom I only gave a contemporaneous of this statement; I will only mention but one.—Mr George M. Hooke, of Sta[illegible] Law, and brother of E. Hooke, Esq.) who was present from first to last, and whose name I am kindly allowed to use as supporting of my conduct towards Captain Hamilton, in every respect.

I am, with respect,
Your obedient Servant,
ROBERT BEARD,
Chief Engineer, Toronto Fire Brigade.

To GEORGE GURNETT, Esquire,
Mayor of the City of Toronto,
&c. &c. &c.

THE APOLOGY OF THE MONTREAL HERALD.

The *Montreal Herald* says, that it is "a scurrilous falsehood" to say that it made "a most abject apology" and was guilty of "self abasement," and submitted to "a vile atonement." Whatever the *Herald* may think of its own conduct, our other have an equal right to think, and to enable the public to judge properly, we hereto annex the said "apology" as it appears in the *Herald's* own columns:—

Having ascertained that Col Gugy's object in bringing an action for libel against the proprietors of this paper, was not to obtain damages, but to clear his character from certain charges, which he believed had been brought against him, we make the following declaration, viz:—

That the article mentioned in Colonel Gugy's declaration, in the said action, published in the *Herald*, respectively on the 29th of July and the 21st of August last, on the subject of the invasion of Canada by a person named O'Connor, were written by us; but that we did not intend to convey, at the time we did so then, nor do we now believe, that Col Gugy had afforded Mr O'Connor any encouragement in his design. On the contrary, we believed and believe the whole statement of O'Connor to have been false. We had, therefore, no intention to accuse Colonel Gugy of giving any aid to O'Connor, nor do we believe that the words of the articles complained of, contain such an accusation; but on the contrary, cast ridiculum Mr. O'Connor's pretensions.

In the manner, we declare that the other article which is complained of in Colonel Gugy's declaration, and which was published in this paper on the 4th of August last, was not intended to [illegible] Colonel Gugy, nor was it so intended, nor to allude to the professional character of Colonel Gugy; it was not intended to contain, and in our judgment did not contain any allegation against Colonel Gugy's legal abilities or knowledge; and that, in so far as it relates to the action brought by Colonel Gugy, against the Hon. Francis Hincks, it was not intended to convey the impression, mentioned in Colonel Gugy's declaration, that that gentleman was influenced by unworthy motives.

These avowals, we have always been ready to make, and they form the entire ground of our mistaken disclaimer to recover the whole ground occupied by Colonel Gugy's declarations, in his suit against us.

☞ BAD NEWS FOR THE BAY OF QUINTE.—The *Eclipse* has not come down from Hamilton to run on the Bay of Quinte. The advertisement has turned out to be a mere steamboat hoax, as we suspected. The authority to advertise, nevertheless, was first rate.—The Bay of Quinte folks will have to put up with the present wretched steamboat accommodation, and allow some other half-dozen steamers to be built out of the profits of their noble Bay, without possessing a vessel big enough to swing a cat in. They deserve to be so humbugged, since they have not spunk enough among themselves to buy or build a proper steamer. The *Commodore Barrie*, the *Henry Gildersleeve*, and the *New Era* have been built out of the profits of the *Sir James Kempt* and *Prince of Wales*, and what was the first?—and what is the second? Tenth rate boats, but good enough for the Bay of Quinte, it would appear.

☞ THE ASSIZES.—The business before the Court of Queen's Bench is only partially got through with; and in all probability the whole of next week will be occupied. Two important cases have been decided. Hunter vs. the Sheriff (indemnified by the estate of Hastings,) damages £215; and Holditch vs. the Sheriff, (indemnified by Mr. Prentiss,) in the case of the Messrs. Grundy, at Sydenham, damages £275. The result of these actions may prove of service to the community, by settling the question, whether the Sheriff has a legal right to sell goods upon executions, when creditors have prior claims upon those goods, though not in the form of an execution. There is but little business before the Grand Jury, which is composed of the following gentlemen, viz:—Dr. Robison, Foreman, Messrs. J. Mowat, Bruce, Prentiss, H. Fraser, J. Williamson, Deykes, F. Henderson, N. Palmer, J. Cummins, E. H. Hardy, F. A. Harper, T. Briggs, J. Muckleston, Dr. Baker, and Dr. Yates.

☞ A COLD SPELL.—The weather has been remarkably cold for the past few days, with hard black frosts at night, shutting up all the small creeks, and retarding the ploughing which was becoming general in these parts. A good deal of snow has fallen between Cobourg and Napanee, and the country there has the appearance of a young winter. No snow has fallen about Kingston.

THE TARIFF.

The Inspector General, having been badgered out of his extreme notions, has consented to modify the intended Tariff. The extract we have annexed is the conclusion of a very long debate in the House of Assembly, on the 10th inst.

Mr. Hincks said he had, in introducing his tariff, expressed his belief that he would have to make some concession to the opinions of others. The time had now come to state what he was prepared to do. He would appeal to gentlemen to proceed to support the Ministry, to meet him, by giving up their extreme opinions as he did on his part. He had already stated to the honorable member for Drummond that he was ready to put upon Cattle a duty of 20 per cent, which was the duty in the United States, and there would thus be reciprocity so far. He was also ready to yield on the point relating to the valuation of goods for ad valorem duty, as he found the general opinion was against the method he proposed, though, notwithstanding he was obliged to allow the force of the remarks by the honorable member for Simcoe that night, he still adhered to the opinion he had entertained on the subject. This would oblige him to continue the duty of adding to the revenue, and he could not see how to adjust the views of many hon. gentlemen by raising the duty on all unmanufactured articles to 12½ per cent. He was also ready to have the views of the hon. member for Quebec as to the admission of pig and other kinds of iron at a low duty.

After a few words from Dr. Nelson, these propositions were accepted by the House as the basis of the Tariff, the committee past several items, and reported progress.

☞ THE PILOT'S INCONSISTENCY.—If the *British Whig* be "the most miserable rag which ever emanated from a Printing Office," why does the *Pilot* quote it so much?

For the British Whig.

LETTER ON THE TORONTO UNIVERSITY BILL, &c.,

BY AN UPPER CANADIAN CATHOLIC.

*To the Rev. E.