Letters and Telegrams.

W. La Salle, Ill.; V. O. & Co., York; G. T. R., Montreal; R. H. G., York; H. & B., George Town.

The Post Master General.

It is a singular fact, though a true one, that the Post Masters General of Canada have been popular men.—First Mr. Francis Morris, then Mr. Malcolm Cameron, afterwards Mr. Spence and now Mr. Sidney Smith. Whatever political peccadilloes they may have committed, they were always judged leniently by the Press, and if not wholly exonerated, yet very slightly condemned. And this from the Press of both parties. Why? Because all these Post Masters General have been good office men of business, and while they studied the good of the country, managed to alleviate the burdens of the Press. When Mr. Spence left the Department, the Press was in bondage with impositions to be strictly on a state of slavery. Gradually a change in the latter took place, until at length the Press became wholly free; the people were satisfied, and the Press was content. But, it would appear, that Mr. Sidney Smith, like a cow who has given a good pail of milk and then kicks it over, is about to destroy his popularity by re-imposing upon the Press the burdens which his predecessors alleviated. He intends to re-establish Newspaper Postage. We shall say no more—let him look to it.

Ocean Mail Steamers.

We have received a copy of the correspondence had by twice the Canadian and Imperial authorities on the subject of the Ocean Mail Service. In this matter we hold the Imperial Government to have been guilty of a gross injustice, and the Postal Department, represented, we suppose, by Mr. Rowland Hill, of an attempted meanness as well.

Our readers will remember that when our steamers were first chartered, the Hon. Mr. Young urged on the British public and Government, through the columns of the Times, the propriety of granting a subsidy to that line, pointing out the injustice of subsidizing a line between Liverpool and the United States, in direct antagonism to the commercial interests of its great North American Colony. The Times took the ground, and it was distinctly understood that the Government held the opinion which it propounded, that while there might be an injustice in the claim, yet that Government subsidies were bad altogether, opposed to the principle of free trade, on which the commercial policy of England is now based; and that on the expiry of the existing contract with the Cunard Company the whole thing must be revised, and if possible, subsidies altogether done away with.—We were given to understand at the time, that a pledge was given by the Imperial Government, that when that contract came up for revision or extension the claims of Canada should have due consideration.—Year after year Canadians were lulled to sleep. One Ministry went out and another came in; some further correspondence took place upon the subject of ocean rates, &c.; nothing about new contracts is said; yet ere the expiry of the old contract a new one is entered into with the Cunard Company on the 24th June last and the fair claims of Canada again lost sight of. Nay, this act would seem to be furtively done. The Imperial authorities were bound in honor to have informed Canada of the matter. We understand the new Ministry protest, merely to have carried out a pledge given to Mr. Cunard and preliminaries entered into by the old. The new larger subsidy is granted, and the Times is silent. Its free trade principles are pocketed, since it is not Canada but Mr. Cunard who reaps the benefit of the infringement. But this is not all, nor the worst. Rumor says the Imperial authorities are about to grant a very large subsidy to the Galway line of steamers, and so enter into an increased and still more direct competition with the Canadian line. Now this is a sort of purse-proud unfairness, of which Britain ought not to be guilty.—For long years she did us damage by diverting trade from our ports to the United States by means of the Cunard subsidy, and now when we have pluckily set to work to put ourselves right she intervenes to crush our enterprise. More rank injustice could not be perpetrated, and we hope that no effort will be spared on the part of the Provincial Government to obtain justice. We do not quite certain they have done all in their power which they might have done to bring this matter on the attention of the Imperial authorities. We do not remember to have any published correspondence.—We can only hope that, if remiss in the past, they will make up by ordinary diligence. Mr. Post Master General Smith's remarks should be passed without a day's delay, unless it is the intention and desire of our Canadian line crushed by a transatlantic rival. Mr. Galt entered an energetic and spirited protest when in London, but it came four months too late. Shall we have another energetic protest from the Canadian Parliament just four or five weeks too late to do any good?

But we come now to the act of meanness of which the Imperial Post Office authorities tried to be guilty. Negotiations have been going on for some time between the Provincial and Imperial authorities and those of the United States between Liverpool and Portland and Quebec by our steamers. Our readers are aware that the issue of the negotiations was that in the recent postal treaty between Britain and the United States these steamers were made carriers of letters during the winter months while plying to Portland, but were refused the carriage of U. S. mails while plying to the St. Lawrence. It remained for the British Post Master General, or rather for that very cantankerous gentleman, Mr. Rowland Hill, in his name, to decide how the postage was to be divided. He proposed this:—

British inland rate	1½d.
Canadian sea rate	4 d.
U. S. inland rate	2½d.
	8d.

But he was unwilling that the Canadian line should cheaper rates, which might operate disadvantageously to the pet Cunarders, who can get whatever they want from honest and intelligent Mr. Rowland Hill. Therefore he demanded that 1s a letter should be charged, as on letters sent by other lines, and that the extra 4d. should be divided in equal proportions between Great Britain, the United States and Canada!—Postmaster General Smith was too cute a man to be done by Mr. Hill quite so cheaply as that. He had not practised law in Upper Canada so long and remained so green as that. He answered he should much prefer to carry the letters for the United States on the same terms as the Canadian, and if they insisted on making the charges equal to those by the other lines, Canada, who furnished the ocean conveyance entirely at her own expense, would expect to pocket the balance. Mr. Row and Hill, on to Lord Colchester copy that he must adhere to his nervous views. Mr. Galt and his two colleagues went to London, at their own and their bench, saw Mr. Rowland Hill, and precious little satisfaction he seems to have got; for after leaving him he writes to him a letter summing up the case, and concluding thus:—"Under these circumstances I conceive it my duty to request you that it is our intention to bring the subject of these postal arrangements again before the Imperial Government, through the official channel of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the strong hope that the decision thereof may be modified." The Canadian Ministers were as good as their word. Mr. Galt's letter was made to an humble petitioner to the Lord Keeper to the Privy Seal for the Colonies:—"Though the Postmaster sees no reason to change the opinion which was conveyed, &c., he desires me to state that, as he understands that it is the wish of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton that the claim of the Canadian Government to receive the whole of the sea rate of eight-pence per half-ounce letter should be conceded, he will offer no further objection to the arrangement, which, however, must be subject to the acquiescence of the P.M.G. of the United States." The letter from the Colonial Office transmitting this decision closes the correspondence now laid before the Canadian Parliament. When the American newspapers complained of the greediness and unfairness of the British postal authorities and their utter subservience to the Cunard interest; when Sir Cusack Roney had to bully Mr. Hill for his stupidity, we were hardly prepared to believe they were not guilty of exaggeration. We now believe them to have been quite right. Experientia docet. Mr. Rowland Hill, the champion and apostle of cheap postage, stickling for higher ocean rates, lest the dear Cunarders should be injured! What next? How unworthy a representative of rich and generous Britain is this man? Not content with attempts to harass us by heavy subsidies, he drives a higg ing and huckstering usurer's game about postage with a poor colony striving at a disadvantage to gain its normal commercial position.—Spectator.

The Editor's Table.—No. 114

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS for 1858. Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. John Lovell, Toronto. 8vo. pp. 56.

REPORT OF THE POST MASTER GENERAL for the year ending September, 1858. Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. John Lovell, Toronto. 8vo. pp. 186.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. John Lovell, Toronto. 8vo. pp. 114.

The above are three Parliamentary Blue Books, extremely useful to all, but more especially to the legislator. These Reports are simple in the extreme, and every connection with the Departments is fully divulged and made public. The subjects of these Reports have been stated at large in our columns when they were first laid upon the Table of the House of Assembly, which precludes any further notice now.

THE KNICKERBOCKER for March. John A. Gray, New York. $3.

Old Knick comes to us this month, gaily and lively as ever, for this March number is more than usually filled with good articles. That on Feejee Islanders is capitally written, and that on 'Patlocks Disregarded' is very good. Among the great rivalry for excellence among the American Magazines it is quite pleasant and refreshing to see The Knickerbocker maintain its old ground, in spite of the want of illustrations or Embellishments.

THE GREAT REPUBLICAN for March. Oakman & Co., New York. $3.

'Onward' is the motto of this ambitious Monthly, and onward is its progress. The present No. fully maintains the reputation which the January and February numbers obtained for it. The Articles are 31, and many of them are really excellent. The illustrations are many, and also good, particularly the illustration of Wm. Hogarth. 'The Great Republic' is an extremely pretentious Monthly, is of the largest size, its articles by the best writers that can be procured, and the whole Magazine is got up in the finest style.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, Feb. 26, 1859. Messrs. Jones, Thorpe, & Hayes, New York.

This excellent sporting newspaper has now three editors and proprietors in lieu of the late Mr. Richards, but numerous as the staff is, the newspaper sadly wants a good proof reader, that sine qua non of a literary publication. Such expressions as 'Vive a editor and proprietors,' 'un pate faux gras,' and there are many of the like, are enough to drive the best publications extant.

HARPERS' MAGAZINE for March. John Creighton et John Dull, Kingston. $3.

Something has delayed the issue of this number, for we only got it just as we were going to press. It appears a very brilliant number in the way of illustration.

A Retrograde Movement.

From the Spectator.

In common with many of our contemporaries, we cannot but regret that the Government should have decided to impose a postage rate on newspapers. Such a step, however desirable it may be to make up the deficiency in the Provincial Post Office Department, cannot be otherwise regarded than as one of the most unpopular any Government ever attempted to take. The abolition of postage on newspapers was justly hailed as a vast benefit to the country, and there can be no doubt that it contributed largely to the spread of intelligence, evidence of which is afforded by the fact of the circulation of newspapers having been largely increased thereby. We cannot doubt that the Government could not by a sufficient justification by taking this backward step, but trust the necessity for doing so is not such as to compel them to carry out the proposed imposition of tax. The Montreal Advertiser very aptly remarks:

'Supposing the postage to be only a half a cent, it will amount to a fourth of the price paid for a weekly newspaper; and as to be practical as a source of revenue, the postage would have to be paid, the burden would fall on the greatest degree on the publisher, taking the postal circulation of all the newspapers in Canada, we are satisfied that it does not now pay much more than the cost of what paper; and payment for postage would make it a dead loss. New paper proprietors would be obliged to insist upon subscribers paying postage in advance in addition to the present price of subscription, and the consequence would be a permanent loss of subscribers. As a class we have already suffered severely from the establishment of Reading Rooms supported by the Government in almost every village of note in the Province, where the inhabitants for a nominal annual payment read the journals, instead of as form rly each man taking his own paper, reading it at his own fireside, and letting his family get the benefit of it also.

'Every publisher in the country will cordially endorse the opinions expressed in the above; but our contemporary rather underrates the loss likely to accrue from the unwise course said to have been decided upon, for we find, by the Colonist of yesterday, that the rate of postage is to be one cent on each paper, a sum which will have the effect of entailing a serious injury upon newspaper proprietors. It is true that the price of newspapers may be raised to meet the enjoined demand, for unjust it is after four years, exemption from the tax; but any one must perceive, that an augmentation in the subscription price will necessarily have the effect of diminishing the circulation of newspapers. Such being the case, then, it naturally follows that the newspaper proprietors must be the sufferers. Had the postage never been taken off, the matter would have been different, but to re-impose it now cannot fail to produce the most disastrous effect on newspaper enterprise.—The Colonist, we are sorry to perceive, approves of the action about to be taken, and thinks there is no reasonable ground for dissatisfaction, inasmuch as the boon of free delivery was granted at a time when the finances of the Province were in a highly prosperous condition. Admitting this to be partially correct, we cannot see why the newspapers should have been taken back upon as the only possible source for raising a revenue. Surely something else might be resorted to than this. Why not lessen the public grants, which have already swelled to such an enormous amount?—Economy might be practised in various ways, without resorting to such a miserable expedient as the reimposition of postage on newspapers. The members of the Assembly have refused to forego the $2 a day extra which they are now receiving, but they will have no hesitation in voting to re-impose postage on newspapers. They might get off comfortably enough with $4, and thus save nearly sufficient to make up the deficiency in the Postal department. But they would rather impose a tax upon newspapers than accept a reasonable seasonal allowance. We shall not fair to watch their votes when the Postmaster General brings forward his proposal to re-impose a newspaper postage rate.

Patents of Invention.

Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, Toronto, 24th February, 1859.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant Letters Patent of Invention for a period of fourteen years, from the dates thereof, to the following persons, viz:

William Ivory, of the Township of Clarke and Village of Newcastle, County of Durham, Cabinet, for 'a Revolving Box Cylinder Churn.'—Dated 3rd December, 1858.

Abel Merrill, of the Township of Houghton, County of Norfolk, Farmer and Mechanic, for 'a Platform Pump.'—Dated 3rd December, 1858.

William John Huckett, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Gentleman, for 'a self-acting Waggon Break.'—Dated 16th December, 1858.

Samuel Sherman Hickok, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Music Master, for 'an improved self-acting safety-catch or fastener for Railway Car Seats.'—Dated 16th December, 1858.

Thomas Walter Notter, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Gentleman, for a 'Gas Safety Burner.'—Dated 17th December, 1858.

George Garth, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Pneumatic and Hydraulic Engineer, for Preservative Vessels and Hermetic Covers.'—Dated 20th December, 1858.

James Armstrong, of the Township of Bathurst, County of Lanark, Blacksmith, for 'a new and improved Churn.'—Dated 30th December, 1858.

Edward Eleusippe Alethot, of the Parish of Lotbinière, Brass and Iron Founder, for 'a new and improved double-oven family Stove.'—Dated 5th January, 1859.

William Polyblank, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Coppersmith, for 'a useful machine called a Washing Jenny.'—Dated 10th January, 1859.

David Cash, of the Village of Markham, County of York, Pump Maker, for 'a new article, called Cash's self-closing Farmer's Valve.'—Dated 14th January, 1859.

Ebenezer Edwin Gilbert, of the City of Montreal, for 'an improved Steam Boiler.'—Dated 24th January, 1859.

Joseph Armour, of the Township of York, County of York, Farmer, for 'an improved Hydraulic portable or permanent Fence and Gate Post.'—Dated 3rd February, 1859.

William Mathews, of the City of Toronto, County of York, Piano-Forte Manufacturer, or 'metallic equal tension Plate for Cottage Piano-Fortes.'—Dated 9th February, 1859.

James Hilborn, of the Township of Reach, County of Ontario, Millwright, for 'an improved Washing Machine.'—Dated 9th February, 1859.

William Baker, of the Township of Whitby, County of Ontario, Yeoman, for 'a Fuel Saver and Hot-Air Conductor.'—Dated 9th February, 1859.

John Worthington, Builder, and John Brown, Modeler, both of the City of Toronto, County of York, for 'the discovery of a seam of Clay, &c., for the manufacture of Drainage and Sewerage Tile or Pipe, also, Stone Crockeryware or common yellow Earthenware.'—Dated 9th February, 1859.

James Henry Sampson, of the City of Montreal, Boot-Tree Maker, for 'an improvement in Boot-Trees.'—Dated 14th February, 1859.

James Hamilton Walker, of the City of Hamilton, County of Wentworth, Gas Fitter, for 'a smoke-consuming Lantern and Lamp to burn Coal and other Oils.'—Dated 14th February, 1859.

PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES.—The Italians of New York are making preparations on a great, and unprecedented scale, for the reception of the nine noble men, now on their way to this port from the dungeons of King Bomba, of Naples. It will be a warm and general expression of the feelings of Italian patriots on receiving these distinguished statesmen, scholars, and civilians, upon the soil of freedom, with the marks of long imprisonment, privations, and tortures upon their forms and faces, and of chains and letters upon their dush.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 26th February, 1859.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint Joseph Trefil Caya of Drummondville, Esquire, Clerk of the Circuit Court, in and for the County of Drummond, in the room and stead of Robert James Millar.

Thomas Hawkins, to be Inspector of Sole Leather for the city of Montreal, under the provisions of the 2nd clause of the 22nd Vict. cap. 26.

James Peter Lynn, Esquire, M. D., Associate Coroner for the United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock. After the routine business Mr. Vankoughnet stated in reply to Mr. De Blaquiere that the Government had taken steps to provide for the accommodation of lunatics, who from want of it are now excluded from the benefits of the provincial asylum.

Mr. Patton's Municipal Debentures Registration bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Toronto, Feb. 28.

After the routine business Mr. Jobin moved the concurrence of the House in the third report of the Committee on Contingencies, which recommends the addition of $2 a day to the $4 provided by the Statute, as the pay of members. On a division the motion was carried by 43 to 26. The yeas were:

Messrs. Alleyn, Archambeault, Baby, Beaubien, Caron, Cattier, Cimon, Coutlee, Daoust, Dawson, Desaulniers, Dorion, Debeul, Ferres, Fortier, Fournier, Gill, Harwood, Hebert, Jobin, Lacoste, Langevin, Attorney General Macdonald, J. A. Macdonald, McCann, Meagher, Morrison, Olivier, Panet, Papineau, Piche, Playfair, Robinson, Rose, Rymal, Sherwood, Simard, S. Smith, Somerville, Taibot, Tasse, Thibaudeau, and Webb.

NAYS.—Messrs. Aikens, Bell, Bourassa, Brown, Burrill, Cayley, Dorion, Dunkin, Harcourt, Hartman, Holmes, Howland, J. S. Macdonald, Mattice, McDougall, McGee, McMicken, Merrill, Mowat, Notman, Patrick, R. W. Scott, W. Scott, Station, Tett, and Wright.

Bills were introduced to divide the municipality of Bagot into two municipalities; ditto in regard to the municipality of Vespra and Sunnidale; To incorporate the National Bank; To incorporate the Beaver Fire Insurance Association; To amend divers Acts affecting the city of Quebec; To extend the provisions of the limited partnership Act; To incorporate the Union Forwarding and Railway Company; To amend the McGill College Act; To incorporate the Rockton Academy; To authorize the rector of the Parish Church of Montreal to raise a loan for the purpose of finishing the church.

In reply to Mr. Talbot the Attorney General West was understood to say that the Government intended providing temporary accommodation for lunatics until such time as more extended provisions could be made.

Mr. Hebert moved the second reading of his bill for the protection of settler squatters in Lower Canada, stating that the possession of lands by large proprietors who allowed squatters to improve their lands, and by the impression that they were Crown Lands, was detrimental to the interests of the country, especially as they often turned off the squatter without remuneration for their improvements.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald opposed the bill.

Mr. Dorion and Mr. Dunkin supported it as it was similar to the one passed by this House last year, but rejected by the Assembly.

CANADA MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, KINGSTON.—The city readers of the News will perceive, with pleasure we are sure, by reference to the card of Mr. Wanless in a proper place, the promptitude with which this young company discharge their obligations to their customers. It is gratifying to state, that since the company commenced operations it has done a large and steadily progressing business, notwithstanding the depression of the times and the great competition it has had to contend with.—Under its present intelligent and spirited Board of management, assisted by the active and energetic exertions of Mr. James Burleigh their Inspector, this home institution will without doubt soon attain a high rank among the companies in the Province.—News.

*** To all which the British Whig says ditto.

The Original John Anderson.

ROBIN CAMPBELL, of Kingston and Storrington, Poet, on a recent visit to the city, received a compound fracture of one of his best boots, damaging his leather and pocket to the full value of a bushel of excellent Dog Lake potatoes. Here was a chance for a withering diatribe on the enormity of board pavements and splinter-built mosaic sidewalks. But lo! when the consuming fiery furnace of the poet's brain burned hottest, chance put into his hand the very weapon of all others that was to be his Club of Hercules for the occasion. It is well known that Robin is a bit of an Old Mortality in a literary way. For many generations the Campbell family have been in possession of certain antiquated folios that Sir Ballad Percy would have given his 'twa een' for. In one of these volumes, 'The Antiquated Antiquities of Ancient Scottish Song,' is the original John Anderson, written by a worthy ancestor of Robin's, which we give below, slightly modernised. It at once demolishes the originality of Burns, and establishes the position lately assumed by the Editor of the British Whig in his famous epistle on the same subject addressed to the *very* Gallant Brave.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
If ever you get drunk,
Do not trust for a moment, John,
In pavements made o' plank;
For though Frank Weyms and Brownley
Nailed *down* those planks in row,
You'll find they soon will trip you *up*,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
The middle o' the street
Is aye the surest road, John,
To hand you on your feet.
Besides there's sea-room there, John,
That's requisite, you know,
To let a body steer his course,
As he rolls to and fro.

I always find it aids me, John,
When on some wi' I prate,
To keep a steady ee, John,
Upon a distant mot;
A smaller object may deceive,
And misdirect your toe,
As you bend along unequal steps,
John Anderson, my jo.

And tak a freend's advice, John,
Which I maun offer you,
Baith bawling loud and singing loud,
Entirely to eschew;
For should the police hear you, John,
Thus indiscreetly blow,
They'll lug you to the Station-house,
John Anderson, my jo.

ROBIN CAMPBELL,
POET.

Dog Lake, Storrington,
February, 1859.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. This Company, favorably known throughout Canada, insures Farm Property for three or five years at rates much below those of any other Company, and other property on equally favorable terms.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1859.

Letters and Telegrams Received.

D. R. et S. S., Toronto; J. F. W., New York, with rem.; G. O., Toronto.

LONDON, Feb. 9th.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News says:—'A law-suit of no ordinary interest is expected to occupy the attention of one of the civil courts next week. All money-lenders of London will remember that some twelve years ago Prince Louis Napoleon, when desperately hard up, was continually endeavoring to raise the wind upon a mortgage of alleged claims upon the French Government in respect of the property of his mother, Queen Hortense. Prospectuses, setting forth his title to countless millions, which he offered to the public in shares of convenient amount, were profusely circulated, but met with small favor from the moneyed interest, either in Houndsditch or elsewhere. It is, however, now stated by MM. de Cock and Terwangne, bankers, of Antwerp, plaintiffs in an action brought against His Majesty Napoleon III., in his courts, that, in 1847, one M. Achille Ferrere obtained from Louis Napoleon, for valuable consideration, an assignment of all his (the prince's) rights and credits against the French Government, as the representative of Queen Hortense, his mother. Pursuant to this assignment, three deeds valued at 10,000 francs were deposited with M. de Prima, a French notary in London. M. A. Ferrere, in order to render his security readily negotiable, divided the ten millions in 100 shares, of 100,000 francs each. Two of these shares were deposited with the plaintiffs by way of mortgage, for money owing to them by Ferrere. Ferrere has never paid his debt, and now Messrs. Cock and Terwangne, availing themselves of the French law, which allows the sovereign to be sued in the civil courts, like any other citizen, bring their action. One difficulty in their way is that, in 1852, the Prince President, when he confiscated the property of the Orleans family, declared in the Moniteur, that he would release the State from all his claims to his mother's fortune. The plaintiffs contended that this release cannot be binding upon them as purchasers for a valuable consideration; but that, at all events, the Emperor, having cancelled the shares which were negotiated with his sanction and privity, is personally liable to them. On the other hand, the validity of the assignment to Ferrere is contested by the Emperor.'

For the British Whig.

Mr. Brown Confesses his Intention to Destroy our Constitution.

There are few people in the Province who appear to be aware of the danger of the political crisis through which Canada passed last summer, of the revolution intended, of the overthrow of our constitutional liberties, meditated in the midst of apparent safety, and almost universal contentment. The principle upon which Mr. Brown formed his government was not known at the time, and he and his colleagues have embraced the first opportunity in their power to unfold it. The debate upon the Address gave the opportunity desired and the country, Eastern and West, can form its judgment upon the principle and policy which gave unity and life to the Brown-Dorion Cabinet.

The writer has often spoken a friendly word for Mr. Brown, when unfairly treated, and now on a question of essence he can do Canada. But he may do Mr. Brown the fullest justice, he will quote his own words as reported in his own paper, the Globe. In Mr. Brown's great speech, in many respects a masterly one, he says: 'I explained to my honorable friend from Montreal that in abolishing the present constitution and framing another, one in its room, I was quite prepared to apply checks and protections for the local institutions of each section of the Province.'

Here are two things to be distinctly noticed: First—Mr. Brown declares that he intended the 'abolition of the present constitution;' and secondly, that he intended 'to frame another in its room.'

There are Mr. Brown's own words, in a speech prepared during twelve days of debate in the House, and delivered with more than ignominious solemnity and energy, in which he informs Her Majesty's Canadian Parliament, the whole country, and even the Empire at large, that his government was formed with the intention of abolishing the present constitution of Canada, and of 'framing another in its room.'

But lest it might be said that this was a lapsus linguæ; an accidental expression, but not intended to exhibit the deliberate policy of his government, it may justly be remarked, that Mr. Brown has great command of language and knows well the meaning of the words he used. However, had it been a single expression, some allowance might have been made; but a little further on in his speech, he reiterates and affirms the same solemn statement again. He says,—'the Attorney General knows well that under our present constitution, checks and protections do exist—we proposed to repeal that constitution and frame another in its room!'

Thus it appears that 'the present constitution' which is the pride and glory of Canada, a transcript of the British constitution, under which the liberty of every man is sacredly secured, his rights protected and his property safe, was on the verge of destruction—that constitution which guarantees to every subject, whatever his origin, British liberty, and to all, free British government, was on the point of a fatal overthrow.—Thus it is manifest, that the people of Canada have narrowly escaped a convulsion, a premeditated convulsion, which might have ended in the ruin of their country, at a time too when they were perfectly at ease, and dreamed not of the earthquake that was rumbling beneath their feet. And thus it appears, that Mr. Brown's government was not a league or combination for ruling according to law; not an alliance or coalition to carry on the government of the country; but a conspiracy in his own words often repeated, 'to abolish the present constitution and frame another in its room!'

Had Mr. Brown's opponents declared that he meditated the abolition of our constitution, it would have been set down as a malicious slander; had his friends made the statement, it would have been ascribed to some misunderstanding; but now it is clear as light, for the cool, calculating world-weighing George Brown himself repeated by declares in his own chosen phraseology in the House that his government was a premeditated coup d'état 'to abolish the present constitution of Canada, and place another in its room!'

JUNIUS JUNIOR.

March 1, 1859.

MEMBERS' INDEMNITY.

Toronto, Feb. 28.

Our reporter omitted to state on Saturday, that on the preceding evening, Mr. Jobin brought in the third report of the Committee on Contingencies recommending the payment of the extra $2, over and above the $4 per diem, legally payable to members of the Assembly, as indemnity for their personal expenses while in attendance upon the legislature. As the Upper House has taken no action upon the same subject until it is seen what course the Commons will take, it follows that the acceptance of this third report would have involved the whole amount of indemnity for both Houses. There was a cry from both sides of the House of Assembly of 'carried, carried,' but the Government very properly objected to the report being adopted without discussion, and it was postponed until this day accordingly.

We believe that the country generally will be rather disgusted, if the old system is allowed to continue. In the first place, it is an absurd farce, calculated to bring all legislation into contempt, that the House should vote itself an extra sum not provided for by law. If the law wants altering, let it be altered, but let not the two Houses of Parliament set the example of disobedience to their own enactments, or if not of actual disobedience, at least of supercilious indifference.

Secondly, we think that the amount of indemnity should be reduced in some way, either by leaving it at $4, or by limiting the period of payment to a hundred days, as suggested by Mr. Cartier the other evening. It never was intended that members should be paid in proportion to the value of their services or their time; otherwise some of the members would get little enough, and we submit that their constituents ought in that case to make their own bargain as to how much they were willing to give, or how little the candidate would accept. We have our eye upon some of the members, to whom even two dollars a day would be an irresistible temptation to enter Parliament, if they could not get more.

Far be it from us to suppose, that the six dollars per diem had anything to do with the length of last session, but some people out of doors fancy it had, and it would be as well to disabuse their minds. Nobody will give the House credit for any desire for economy, so long as the members make use of their power to override the law in their own favor. We think the $4 quite enough in such times of distress as these; but if our legislators have not virtue enough to be satisfied with that, at least let them pass a law to fix a limit, and expect it when enacted.—Colonist.

Toronto, Feb. 28.

The House has shown itself a transparent humbug. Soulless is the Lower House, like all other corporations; selfish is the Commons' House, like most individuals, and not at all of a superior or self-denying character. The Leader says that some of its members sleep two in a bed to save expense. I am aware that many will biggre an hour about a dollar a week more or less in their hotel bills. And it would seem, by the vote of last night, that the majority sympathize with these niggardly beings; for Major Campbell's bill to limit the rate of pay was hooted for six months, on motion of Mr. Cauchon, by a majority of 90 to 42. The Ministry, I am happy to tell you were in the minority; so was Mr. Brown. The silent members generally were in the majority. Perhaps they thought the labor of listening to their more garrulous friends was so severe as to entitle them to $6. I shall be considerably surprised, however, if another attempt be not made to restrict the amount of wages; for $4 is all the law allows, and the $2 extra have to be granted by resolution towards the end of the session. And Major Campbell should be encouraged to make a manful stand against this motion.

Toronto, Feb. 26.

The Inspector General's Department is very busy just now. The Public Accounts are to be brought down in such a comprehensive and novel form that a great deal of extra labor has been entailed on the clerks. Up until one and two o'clock in the morning copying, adding, subtracting, there has been no rest for them. The accounts will be submitted to Parliament in the beginning of next week—an earlier period than ever heretofore.

The Crown Lands people, too, have been busy. Instructions connected with the working of the Fishery Act have been issued, and from about this time until November next, there will be little peace for Mr. McCraig, the Superintendent of Fisheries for Upper Canada. From near Montreal to Fort William, he will be kept in a state of constant oscillation.—Spectator.

The Three Murderers.

As the day appointed for their execution approaches, the anxiety of the three men, O'Leary, Fleming and Hughey, now lying under sentence of death in our city gaol increases, and their spiritual advisers are unceasing in their exhortations to induce the unfortunate criminals to banish all hope of mercy this side of the grave, and to look for comfort beyond this world. The murders of which O'Leary and Fleming have been convicted were perpetrated under circumstances which leaves we fear but little hope that the Executive clemency will be exercised in their favour. Hughey's case is somewhat different. The mother of his children, herself advanced in time, became the paramour of her husband's brother-in-law, and carried on her shameless intercourse in the most unblushing manner. This being reported to the unhappy man, he, in a fit of momentary madness, (this he hints, in addition to the great wrong done him, being goaded on by drink) seized an axe and murdered the destroyer of his home in cold blood. As to O'Leary, it may be remembered that his ranger was excited against his victim, whose evidence at one of the country courts prevented his recovery of a balance of wages which he alleged was due him. Probably the worst feature in his case is, that he was heard some hours before the fatal occurrence threatening that he would murder Kelly, and he too effectually carried his vengeance into effect. Our readers are familiar with the Wellington street tragedy, for which Fleming's life is now in jeopardy. The fate of the criminal as yet scarcely out of his teens, is greatly commiserated.

On Saturday, our reporter was permitted by Mr. Allan, the governor of the gaol, to see the criminals. Fleming smiled sadly and sickly, and enquired with great earnestness, what chances there were of a reprieve. A gentleman who was present told him that the general belief was that his sentence would be carried into effect, and that he ought to lose no time in preparing for the worst. He received the announcement with sorrow, and a shade of disappointment passed over his pale, thoughtful countenance. He said he deeply regretted the death of Mr. Bittemore, who had been exerting himself to get his sentence commuted; but he was glad to know that Mr. Manning and other influential gentlemen, were getting up a petition in his favour. He shook hands with his visitors, and then slowly returned to his cell to listen to the spiritual admonition of a clergyman of the Church of England, who had called to see him. We next saw O'Leary. He was in irons, in consequence of his having made an attack that morning on two of the keepers of the prison. O'Leary looks considerably altered, mental anxiety and long confinement telling fearfully on his constitution. He was lying on the floor, his manacles being attached to a large iron ring in the wall. He spoke in a low, husky voice, the sound of which could scarcely be heard at a distance of a few yards. His words were indistinct. The expressions, 'I can't speak—I can't speak,' were all that could be distinguished, and he kept muttering these words in a rapid manner. Attempts he said, in a little louder tone, 'I have got my voice,' and went on his knees and asked pardon from Mr. McKenna, one of the officers whom he had assaulted. He also requested that the clergyman who had refused to see him that morning in consequence of his violence, might be sent for. This was promised him, and we left. Hughey came into the corridor, his spiritual adviser having just left him. He looks careworn and pale. He seldom converses about the murder, but said he is prepared for the worst, and calmly smoked his pipe, that indulgence being extended to him and the other convicts by the medical attendant of the gaol.

In the meantime, the necessary preparations are being made for the carrying out of the sentence, and the scaffold is being enlarged and repaired. Should its hideous offices be required, it will be erected about the centre of the stone wall on the west side of the prison, near the spot where Kehoe was executed a few years ago, for the murder of his wife.—[Globe.

It is with much pleasure we make public the Report of the City Auditors. It will be seen that they pay the highest compliment in their power to the City Treasurer, both as to the accuracy of his accounts and the manner in which they are kept. No man of sense acquainted with City matters doubted either; but there have been of late a pack of small people returned into the City Council, who maintained a scurvy popularity with their constituents by denying the efficacy and doubting the integrity of the City Officials. These are now silenced by this Report, and it is to hoped hereafter, that while the City is served by honest men, their good conduct will be duly appreciated by all.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY AUDITORS.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Kingston:—

The Auditors appointed to examine the City Accounts for the year 1858, beg leave to Report that they have carefully examined, checked and balanced the Books of Account of the City Chamberlain, which they find to have been well and accurately kept, and in accordance therewith hereby submit the following statements of the Finance Accounts of the year, viz:—

No. 1. Abstract Statement of the estimated revenue and expenditure for the year 1858.

No. 2. Financial Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the City of Kingston during the year 1858.

No. 3. Balance Sheet, shewing the Assets and Liabilities of the City of Kingston on the 31st day of December, 1858.

In checking the various entries in the Books of Account of the City Chamberlain, the same were duly compared with the Minutes of the Council and Warrant Book of the City Clerk, authorising the disbursements, along with vouchers of receipt, and have found them to correspond in every particular.

With the addition made to the 'Sinking Fund' for the past year, amounting to nine thousand, eight hundred and eighty-two dollars and six cents ($9,882,06), the City Chamberlain has produced to them the authority of the Governor General, under which he invested the same in Debentures of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

It is not for them to say how far the investments made under certain of the City debentures were well or wisely made.—Still it will have to be borne in mind, that seven-tenths of the gross Taxes of the past year were required to meet the annual interest on the Debentures generally, thus leaving only about three-tenths for the requirements of the City otherwise.

During their Audit there has been returned to the City Chamberlain, by the Commercial Bank, forty-four old Debentures of £100 sterling each, and they have been duly marked cancelled by them.

An examination of the Assessment Rolls of the City has shown them that the assessments have not, in some instances, been equally laid on, and they think it would be well that the Assessment Returns were subject to revision before the Rolls were finally completed, and not afterwards altered.

They have suggested to the City Clerk to make a slight alteration in the heading of the Collector's Roll, by which the correctness of the detailed extentions of each individual's Taxes can be readily checked by the sum total of the Assessment, and by this means the Auditors of coming years will be saved a great amount of labor.

They would also recommend that in addition to Nos. 1 and 2 that the detailed statement No. 3 should also be published, showing the Assets and Liabilities of the City, as a means of more readily checking the accounts of after years. And although it might be attended with a trifling additional expense, would yet be more satisfactory to the public generally.

A detailed statement of each of the following outstanding accounts will be found at the City Chamberlain's office, namely, Annual Rents, Interest, Bills Receivable and Bills Payable. All which is respectfully submitted by

[Signed]

WILLIAM CRAIG } Auditors.
N. M. FINLAY }

PARLIAMENTARY.

From the Globe.

Toronto, March 1.

To the shame of the Government and the House, the extra allowance of $2 a day was carried by a considerable majority. We fear that there is but little hope of obtaining even ordinary retrenchment from the present House, when they begin thus. It will be difficult for them to cut down the allowances of other people when they keep up their own at the old rate.

Considerable discussion took place on a Bill of Mr. Gebert to provide for the payment of the improvements of squatters. There are hundreds of thousands of acres in Lower Canada, of merely a mina value, which are held by non-resident speculators. Totally neglected by their owners, these lands have been settled by emigrants, some of whom have been under the impression that the property belonged to the Crown, there being neither municipal taxes nor registration of deeds in Lower Canada, to afford them correct information. After many years, the owners, finding that the land has grown valuable by the work bestowed upon it, have endeavoured to dispossess the settler, and entirely deprive him of the fruits of his labours. It was to prevent this that the Bill was framed. It met with a good deal of opposition, and with some reason. It is not according to Upper Canadian ideas of propriety, at all events, that a squatter should settle upon land without leave or license, and compel the owner to enter upon an arbitration with him as to the value of the improvements which it may please him to make. Still, however, there are cases of hardship in Lower Canada, growing out of the circumstances we have stated, and, under very close restrictions, we presume that good may be accomplished by the passage of the Bill.

Mr. Notman's Bill to rescind the absurd Act of last session for the registration of debentures was carried through a second reading. The ministry denied that they were responsible for the passage of the Act, but with very little effect. There is nothing more clear than that, under our system, of government, the cabinet are answerable for every piece of legislation.