

on any terms to purchase their liberty. Some of the serfs engaged in trade, especially in the Baltic provinces, are rich, their families highly accomplished, and yet at the beck of their masters they may at any moment be torn from their parents, and themselves reduced to the most abject slavery and misery.

The pride of a Russian Noble is to have as many serfs as possible, and the more he has the greater is the consideration which he holds by his country. To diminish the power of the Nobles is the main object of the Emperor's attempt to emancipate the serfs. While serfage exists he remains by the sufferance of the Nobles, and he wants to be absolute. Now that the abolition of serfage is one of the greatest boons required to be done with great caution, and to be accompanied by measures making the letting of land compulsory on the part of the great proprietors. The omission of such measures, and the Imperial Government, completely neutralized the benefits which might have been expected from the abolition of serfage, a few years ago, in some of the Baltic provinces.

The former masters of the emancipated serfs united in refusing to let them on any terms, in consequence of which they were reduced to such misery as to implore the authorities to allow them to return to their former condition. The fact was seized upon at the time by the nobles, as demonstrating how much the Russians are in consequence of their serfage. It is indeed a most awful thing to think of. Gonaves has also suffered tremendously, and to add to the misery of the earthquake, a large square of houses was burned down, and little of their contents so violent as to cause the ignition of lucifer matches.

Just before despatching this letter, news has reached us that only one person at Cape Haytien has been saved—Mr. Dupuy—all the others being either drowned by the sea, or crushed to death. The Cape itself is one mass of ruins.

Mr. PITCH ASSASSINATED.—This talented sculptor's studio was entered last evening, at about ten o'clock, by two men with blackened faces, who, after a short struggle, succeeded in inflicting upon him three dangerous wounds—two of which were near the region of the heart. He calls for assistance, was leaving his bed, but the assassins retreated, leaving him bathed in his own blood, while relief came in the shape of a physician. He lies in a most critical state. Neither from him, nor any other source, can the most ingenious speculation devise even a remotely possible cause for an act of once so dastardly and nefarious. Mr. Pitch has been in the employment of the Government, in his capacity as sculptor, for many years. He has been engaged on the Treasury, Patent-office, and Post-office structures, in designing and executing the ornamental parts thereof. His last work was the designing of four bas-relief panels for the base of Greenough's statue of Washington.

It is said that an affair of gallantry was the cause of this outrage. Mr. Pitch at the last accounts was expected to recover.

THE ROYAL FAMILY.—The following were the Annuitants to the Royal Family in the year ending 5th of January, 1841:—  
The Duke of Sussex. £21,000  
The Duke of Cambridge. 27,000  
The Princess Mary, now Duchess of Gloucester. 15,958  
The Princess Sophia. 15,958  
The Princess Augusta. 11,216  
The Princess Sophia of Gloucester. 7,000  
Her Majesty Adelaide the Queen Dowager. 100,000  
The Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. 20,000  
The trustees of Prince Leopold now King of the Belgians (a part repaid) 50,000  
The Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover. 21,000  
The servants of King George III., Queen Charlotte, and Queen Caroline. 14,065

Charge for the Royal Family, exclusive of the Queen and Prince Albert. £313,197

BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS.—The Government and Council of Massachusetts have appointed the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, John Mills and John Allen, Esqs., to be commissioners on the part of the Province, to full powers to assist to such arrangement of the North-Eastern boundary as may be negotiated by the General Government, provided the same shall, in their opinion, be consistent with the rights and interests of the Province.

The Legislature of Maine has appointed the Hon. Edward Keen, William P. Preble, E. Kavanagh and John Otis, Esqs., to be commissioners, with like authority on the part of that State.—[N. Y. Com. Adv.]

UNITED STATES WHEAT AND FLOUR.—The following communication is worthy of attention, coming as it does from a gentleman of much experience, and well known to the public, as being extensively engaged in the trade of flour, and the communication, and weighs publicly for the truth of the statements he has advanced. By Sir Robert Peel's new Tariff, it is proposed to put a duty of 2s. sterling per barrel on United States flour, and to continue to be a duty of 1s. on the Western States flour. The object of Mr. Phelps appears to be, to show that the Province, will be materially benefited by the new arrangement.

To the Editor of the British Colonist.  
Sir,—Permit me to give publicity to a few statements of facts, which have long been known to you, and which will show the wide difference in effect, between the free admission of wheat, and the free admission of flour, from the United States into Canada. With this view I shall first refer to what is done every year, by myself and others, for the importation of wheat into the Western States flour. On arrival at Fort Colborne, I pay \$100 cash, and at St. Catharines I pay \$200 freight, and \$400 for the mill, besides the milling expenses. I afterwards pay \$500, or perhaps, \$600, freight to Montreal, and \$200 or \$300 commission and charges at Montreal or Quebec. The flour is sold for exportation for \$6,000. So that from these sources I receive \$2,000.

We find that in the Province by the operation of the new Tariff, when I purchase wheat at the commencement of the year, to the amount of from \$80,000, and the flour is shipped and sold before harvest; and when I make a similar investment after harvest, there is circulated in the Province 50 per cent on each operation, or 100 per cent on the year. That is, by laying out at the beginning of the year, in the purchase of wheat and \$50,000 more after harvest, I receive \$100,000 making in total \$150,000.

There is thus left in the Province \$50,000 which are distributed over the whole length of the country from Port Colborne to Quebec. It consists with my knowledge, that during the last two years, upwards of \$200,000 have, in this manner, been left in the Province by one milling establishment in St. Catharines. These operations have produced a free circulation of money, filling the pockets of all classes, from the gentleman farmer, to the cooper employed to hoop the barrels; while the States have been groaning and bleeding at every pore.

I would now take some notice of the effect produced, by the free admission of United States flour into Canada. For instance, it is brought in from Buffalo to Chippewa, Drummondville, and Niagara; and just as many dollars in specie or its equivalent, are sent out of the Province, as there are dollars worth of flour brought in. In like manner, United States flour is brought in

in all probability be the ruling price. American fine sells freely at 32s. 6d. a cask, according to quality. The stock in hand is not heavy.

WHEAT.—At 6s. 6d. would obtain ready purchasers. A rather better feeling prevails in the market. American Prime has been sold at \$7, and a proportionate advance obtained on other qualities. Some transactions, though not of importance, have taken place in Canada Park, Prime at about \$5. Large holders, however, continue to offer more. We know of 800 casks having been offered, but declined, for \$500 each.

BEER.—Nothing has transpired in this article, a moderate demand exists at our quotation, \$10 per bar. Messrs. T. & C. admits of a quotation. At the present period, there has been nothing to record.

At Auction, a business is going on in Groceries, at prices, in general, unremunerating. Exchange on London continues at 10 per cent, on New York 2 1/2 per cent.—[Royal Standard.]

Comparative statement of arrivals, tonnage and passengers, at the port of Quebec, from sea, in the years 1841 and 1842:

Table with 3 columns: Vessels, Tonnage, Pass. for years 1841, 1842, and 1843.

Less this year, 343 120,649 2,947 Schooners from the Lower Port, not included in the above statement.

Kingston Herald.

KINGSTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1842.

THE CURRENCY.—The pressure in the money market continues with very little abatement. The new Currency Act has lowered exchange to a reasonable rate; but the banks want money, and where to get it nobody knows. If a mine of gold were opened under our feet, another of silver at our right hand, and another of jewels at our left, they would hardly satisfy that voracious appetite for money which, like the horse leech, is continually crying 'give! give! give!' This spiteful grudge by what it feeds on, but it seems just now as if it were likely to be starved to death, for no one answers to its call. It would be easier to summon 'spirits from the vasty deep,' than to charm the golden god from his lair, nothing for it but to sit 'like Patience on a monument, smiling' at vacancy. It may be as well, however, to say a word or two on the causes of this monetary famine, which, if it is not equal to a famine of bread, is own cousin to it; and a more favored variety too.

The blame of the present dearth of money should be equally divided between the Legislature, the Banks and the Public. There is an absurd and mischievous anomaly in the Currency Act, which has partly produced the present scarcity of money. It makes British silver a legal tender to the amount of ten dollars only, and restrains the Banks from paying more than five pounds in British silver. Now, in the name of common sense, is not British silver as good as any other silver? Is it not good enough for Britons, and therefore for any body? Is there a man in Canada who would not be glad to sell all his goods or produce, and receive pay for it all in British silver? Who would have thought that a British Legislature would place a value on British silver, not in the habit of British silver coin is treated as counterfeits, or at least as inferior; for while dollars and half dollars are made a legal tender to any amount, a tender in British silver coin, is limited to five pounds. British institutions, when we speak inferiorly on British coin because it is British, and give preference to the coin of every foreign nation, or ghost of a state, can justly style its name 'mischievous,' because it prevents our banks from availing themselves of the natural advantages which the banks at the public have conferred, favors on the banks at the expense of the public. The undue value given to British silver by the former Act armed the Upper Canada banks with a power which they used unmercifully to their own advantage. But all that was necessary to correct this was to give value to any amount of British silver, and to let the banks issue notes for the Province. But not content with this, the Legislature have converted the banks into agencies for supplying Americans with dollars, and have thereby weakened their chief strength, and rendered them more servile to foreigners than to their own countrymen. The emigrants who arrive from the Mother Country, bring hither a large supply of British coin, of which a good proportion is silver. Much of this, in the natural course of trade, finds its way to the banks, and is placed in the hands of the public, and notes when required. But all at once they are forbidden to use this fund, only to the paltry amount stated, and are compelled to redeem their issues in dollars and sovereigns. Never was there a more palpable and unfeeling violation of the laws of trade. A large amount of British silver comes into the country by the natural course of business, but the banks are forbidden to use it; the dollars that come into the country by trade are not worth mentioning. Thus they are placed in a singular position, fully obtain, they are prevented from using; while that which is most difficult to obtain they are compelled to provide. This is the suicide of an idiot. We have not so many advantages, either of money or trade, that we may not be able to do our own business. On the contrary, we must husband them all, and give every natural advantage full development.

The Act must be amended so as to render British currency and half crowns, at least, a legal tender to any amount, and thus let British silver be placed on a level with that of other nations. It is a disgrace to the Legislature that it was ever placed lower.

It is said that this would render our bank notes less current in the States? What have we to do with that? Our banks were not chartered to furnish a currency for the Americans. It is enough if they redeem their notes in the legal currency of the Province, and that currency should be adapted to our own circumstances, not to the wants or wishes of our neighbors. The banks are also in fault. They are at loggerheads—'at daggers drawn.' Instead of considering how they may assist the people for whose benefit they were chartered, some of them are only considering how they may most advantageously get rid of their notes, and they are not speedily amended, the banks will one and all be swallowed up by the Government Bank of Issue, which, of all banking profits, will assuredly take the lion's share.

Besides the fact that we have all along been too ready to lend ourselves to the speculators in American produce. We copied a short time ago an extract from an American paper describing the exertions made by Canadians to control the market in wheat and flour. In these transactions the banks are the chief agents. The Bank of Upper Canada especially has long been noted for its dealings in this way. Not only Canadian, but American speculators have had their noses plunged into the market, when the home business of the country could not obtain a shilling. The ill effect of this system is not only that the improvement of the country is stopped, or retarded, by the want of due assistance from the institutions that have been created for that express purpose, but also, the notes paid out for buying American grain and flour soon return to the banks for specie, particularly since they have

been compelled to redeem their notes in dollars or sovereigns—that is, in coin current in the States; not in Canadian currency. Thus the banks have been helping a trade by which their notes are soon sent back for specie; whereas if they had confined themselves to the home business of the country, their notes would have remained out, and the banks well able to assist the regular trade.

But the public are also in fault, in grasping at wealth and expensive establishments faster than the natural course of trade will allow. If the pressure had been confined to Kingston, we might have supposed it only the exhaustion consequent upon the extraordinary efforts that were made last year to meet the altered circumstances of the town. But the pressure is felt throughout the country more or less, and therefore has a general, not a local cause; and in this the public have a share. They who make haste to be rich fall into temptation, and a snare, says an old book which people sometimes read. And this folly prevails extensively in town and country—the folly of spending more than they receive—anticipating the revenue of other years by borrowing, thus bringing upon themselves burdens which they stagger, and may eventually be crushed. The passion for display, and for sudden riches as the means of display, is a kind of intoxication which renders a man unable to make a sober calculation of his true condition, and to see how long he can continue in his present state, or to take any measures to increase his expenses and liabilities far beyond what is proper or reasonable. This passion must be sobered—these expensive habits must be corrected, or those who complain of a want of money will long continue their melancholy drudge. There is more money in the country than they imagine, as they would soon find out if they would only be content with their share of it; but by grasping at all, they lose that which they might otherwise have had. Economy must be the order of the day, and then the difficulties complained of will disappear. Instead of railing at fortune, or the banks, or the Legislature, let every man bring his expenses within his income, abandon rash and chimerical speculations, be content to plod onward in the sober paths of regular business, any sense being captivated by bags of moonshine and castles in the air.

PROSECUTIONS FOR LIBEL are multiplying. Besides the recent case of the Editor of the Examiner, at the Assizes of the Johnstown District last week Messrs. Ogilvie Gowan and Wm. Harris of the Statesman, were found guilty of a libel on Joshua Bates, Esq., damages £10, which, with the costs, will abstract about £100 from the defendants.

And at the Assizes for the Eastern District, Mr. John Carter, Editor of the Cornwall Observer, was fined £20 for a libel of which he had been convicted the previous Assizes.

A question has arisen in the District Councils as to whether they had power to regulate the fees and salaries of the Clerk of the Peace, Sheriff, and Gaoler, and control all matters connected with the administration of justice. The Niagara Chronicle states that the Attorney General has given a written opinion to the Treasurer of the Home District, stating that all matters connected with the administration of justice remain under the control of the magistrates. This is contrary to the understanding in this quarter.

The schooner "Prince of Wales" was capsized last Wednesday going up light without ballast, but no life was lost. Assistance was given by boats, and the City of Toronto steamer went out, and towed the schooner into the harbor, where she was righted.

The London GAZETTE (Tory) was lately discontinued, and its materials purchased by the Inquirer, which comes to us now enlarged by a column, and otherwise improved by new type. The Inquirer says that one of the prisoners found guilty at the late Assizes there, when the Judge was passing sentence on him, of imprisonment in the London goal one year, addressed the Court in tones of anguish, and said, "If you please, my Lord, if you can do so, I had rather be sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, had as it is called, than be confined one year in this goal." The Judge informed him that he had no power to grant his request, for if sent to the penitentiary for three years, he would be confined one year in this goal.

By the way, at the Gore District Assizes, several prisoners were sentenced to the penitentiary for different periods less than seven years. How is this?

NEW APPOINTMENTS.—The following notice of some legal appointments in Canada East we copy from the Montreal Times and Commercial Advertiser. We doubt the elevation of Mr. Day to the Bench, for there are others with prior claims.

In the number of our journal preceding the last, we announced the appointment of Mr. Justice Vallentyne de St. Real, to the Chief Justiceship of the Court of King's Bench for this District—a selection almost universally approved of.

At the close of the present term, assume the duties of the Bench now filled by Mr. Justice Puckey, who retires, after twenty-five years of valuable service.

We are glad to learn that the office of Solicitor General for Canada East will be conferred upon C. S. Charrier, Esq., an eloquent and talented Jurisconsult, and an amiable and honorable man.

We have reason to believe that Parliament will be speedily dissolved; with a view of testing public opinion by means of a general election. An amendment of the present law, which is proclaimed at no distant day. From its benefit none will be excluded.

The rumored nomination of C. S. Charrier, Esq., Q. C., to the post of Solicitor General, in the event of the Hon. C. D. Day to the Bench—has created a lively feeling of satisfaction, and elicited expressions of confidence and respect from the French Canadian population.

The rumors of a dissolution and an amnesty to include all, are mere rumors. Several papers insist that Mr. Hincks has been appointed Inspector General. It would be improper to appoint any new man to that office, leaving its late incumbents to be pensioned. The country is not in a state to pay any pensions that are not absolutely necessary; and as both of the late Inspectors General are quite competent to fill the office for the United Province, one of them should be appointed to it, thereby saving the country.

A writ De Locato Inquirendo was yesterday issued from the Court of Chancery in the case of Allan McDowell, Esq., Sheriff of this District, directed to J. S. Cartwright, Esq., and others, Commissioners, and under the same an Inquisition was held. The Jury found that Allan McDowell, Esq., Sheriff, was a Lunatic—incapable of managing his own affairs. The unfortunate gentleman was taken last evening by his friends to an Asylum at Hudson, on the north River, where he sincerely hopes, under judicious treatment, he will soon be restored to his usual health.—Chronicle.

the paper exchange has been saved, though weather on the whole continues cold and seasonable, white frosts nearly every night. Fires are still necessary.

The annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada will convene to-morrow at Pictou. All the returns of members are not yet in, but it appears from those that have come to hand, that the increase of members this year will be between two and three thousand.

The Canada Gazette contains a proclamation announcing the Royal Assent to the disposal of public Lands, of which an account is given in the Montreal Gazette into our paper to-day.

NOTICE.—Her Majesty has been pleased to direct that those Gentlemen who were Members of the Executive Councils of Upper and Lower Canada respectively, at the date of the Union of the two Provinces, should retain the title distinction usually accorded to them, and should take precedence in the Province of Canada, according to the dates of their appointments, immediately after the Members of the Executive Council of the Province for the time being.

By Command, T. W. C. MURDOCH, Chief Secretary, Montreal, 27th May, 1842.

Arrival of the Columbia and the Great Western. By the mail of last night we have news from London to the 19th ult. by the Columbia, and to the 21st by the Great Western, in which vessel, John A. Macdonald, Esq., came passenger to New York. He arrived in Kingston last night.

A terrible fire occurred at the City of Hamilton, on the 31st of May, destroying about 2000 houses, one fourth of the city, and causing a loss of life, 50 having been found killed, and 120 wounded. The loss of property is estimated at from four to five millions of pounds. About 200,000 persons have been made homeless. The Kings of Prussia and Hanover had sent supplies of money to the poor, and troops to assist in clearing the ruins, and of course aid was given from England and other places.

A graphic account of the details is given in the annexed extracts from a letter written by the young lady to her parents in England.—The lady is Miss Mary, daughter of the late Mr. Robert Peel, and is now residing in the French Chancery. Frederick, who was the breakfast table that night eight or nine o'clock a terrible fire had been raging in the House of Commons, and had destroyed the House of Commons, and had destroyed the House of Commons, and had destroyed the House of Commons.

Robert Peel brought in his tariff bill to the extent of four columns. He said that with a brief but emphatic declaration of his motives, he had introduced the bill, and that other nations would follow the example of England in adopting that principle. He laboured followed, declaring that his political friends would have great satisfaction in supporting the bill, claiming it as a measure of the late Mr. Peel's Ministry. A few hours afterwards came the news that the House of Mr. Parish was no more, and that the flames were spreading every instant.

The whole city now began to shiver, and a lively alarm. The bells, the firing of cannon, the cries and confusion in the streets, all seemed a night of anguish and terror. It was, however, till night had spread her wings, that we were able to see the extent of the destruction which attended the fire. The heavens became red as blood, and the streets were filled with the flames of the burning houses. At half past 12 I went to bed, but the noise of the fire, the shouting of the people, and the sight of the flames, prevented me from sleeping.

Before 3 o'clock had struck, I found myself again with my sister, who, like me, was kept awake by the dreadful noise caused by the blowing up of the Rathfarnham. An order of the police was announced, to us the roof of our house, and to cause the roof to fall in gutters. Frederick had the assistance of his brothers. We were alone, and mounting on the roof, and our own lives were in danger. We were all crowded together, and were all crowded together, and were all crowded together.

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