

COLONIAL.

Colonial Addresses.—Colonial Office.

We have often wondered at the effects of that state of society in the mother country, which induces men endowed with all the gifts of fortune, and the advantages of a finished education and cultivated society, to abandon the enjoyments to which they bestow, and throw themselves into the arena of public life, and unceasing contention. Be it a sense of duty, patriotism, a love of distinction, or ambition, it is still admirable, as a denial of self, or that passion by which providence often effects beneficent ends, through means which to us are incomprehensible.

We think that there must be few public situations more exposed to the vexations of office than that of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the colonies; no one in which a mild, well-educated, sensible, and benevolent English Gentleman, can be more shocked in his feelings and counteracted in his views.

We think that the address of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada is as good a thing in the way of Colonial addresses as any we have seen. It is in the right slaveholding spirit,—minds corrupted with the long enjoyment of unbridled power over their fellow-men, which the Colonial Minister has endeavored to bring within the limits of justice and unconstitutionality right. How their dignity is offended at Lord Goderich having even listened to any complaints against them!

But we have addresses nearer home. My Lord Goderich, if, as it must be supposed, he is acquainted with the contents of addresses and petitions of record in his office, must rub his eyes when he comes to read the last address of our Assembly, which was manufactured at the close of a session, out of a Report of a Committee which had kept its labors to itself for two months, and then concocted, digested, and finally disgorged—a new Constitution for Lower Canada! which the majority swallowed without any extraordinary wry faces, although they had never tasted any thing of the kind before.

And then we have the counter address of our Legislative Council. Here my Lord Goderich will learn that it is all over with the Colony. In looking through this glass, he may see something as horrible as what the astronomer discovered in the moon, but which fortunately happened to be in the glass. Here his Lordship will see the 'alarming posture' of our affairs,—'the 'cabals of party,'—'combined faction,'—'wicked intention,'—'a 'crisis,'—'a violent and reckless party,'—'denrich the country with blood,'—'and a French Republic.'

His Lordship on reading this address, will no doubt be convinced that the prayer of the address, for "such measures as in your wisdom will tend to tranquilize the minds" is well founded; and we dare say will think that the operation ought to commence with the minds of the addressers.

We fancy there is a large library connected with the Offices in Downing street; but really we are afraid the gentlemen of the Colonial Office have no time to read any thing but addresses, petitions, and remonstrances. There is, however, one book, which besides being the united labors of Swift and Pope, has the unusual merit of being short. It ought to be on every desk: a sort of *vade mecum*, or *guide*, (as the French call it) on Colonial affairs. We think it is entitled, "Memoirs of P. P., Clerk of this Parish; or, the importance of a man to himself."—*Neilson's Gazette*.

Legislative Council.—Provincial Politics.

There are few persons, we believe, who are aware of the change which has taken place in the composition of the Legislative Council, since the Report of the Canada Committee of the House of Commons, in 1823.

In 1827, the majority of the inhabitants of Lower Canada complained to the King and Parliament of the Legislative Council:

These complaints were referred by order of His Majesty, to the House of Commons, who, on motion of the Colonial Minister, appointed a Committee to make the enquiry prayed for: this Committee diligently pursued the enquiry from the 8th May to the 23rd July, 1828, when it reported its opinions and observations, after, in reality, hearing all parties in the country or connected with it, by their agents or representatives.

In respect to the Legislative Council; the Committee recommended:

1. That a more independent character should be given it, particularly that the majority should not be composed of placemen.
2. That it ought to have a closer connexion of interest, with the country.
3. That the Judges, with the exception of the Chief Justice, ought to take no part in the political business of the Council.

Let us now see what has been done since:—Almost every one of the Bills upon the failure of which objections were taken to the composition of the Council, have been passed by it.

The Judges have withdrawn altogether, from the Legislative Council, excepting the Chief Justice, and all of them from the Executive Council.

The following statement which may be depended upon, shows how far the recommendations of the Committee have been complied with that there should not be a majority of Placemen in the Council, and that it should have a closer connexion of interest with the country. If preference be had to the native country, national origin and religion of members, the blame and the shame must fall upon those who have raised objections, appealed to prejudices, and endeavored to establish political parties, on these most unjustifiable and illiberal grounds, at a time when every pretext for such conduct was fast diminishing.

In 1833, the independent members have a majority of twenty, while in 1828 they were in a minority of six. In respect to natural origin and place of birth, those of the British Isles are in a minority in 1833, of twenty-one: they were equal in 1828. In respect to religion, the Clergy of England which had formed a majority of the whole House, is fallen into a minority, being only two more than the Catholics. There being however six Presbyterians—as Protestants and Catholics, the Protestants have still a majority of eight. In 1828, it was 12. It ought to be observed, however, that the Colonial Legislature can pass no enactment, in any way concerning the free exercise of religion, and the rights thereunto appertaining, without its being first submitted to the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

It would be curious to compare the composition of the assembly, under the same heads, with the present composition of the Legislative Council, as shewing the comparative liberality of the recent exercise of the Royal Prerogative, and the right of popular election.

At present we can state for certain, that of eighty-eight members of the Assembly, [2 vac.] there are twenty of all the Protestant denominations, giving the Catholics a majority of 68 in that body.

Only seven members of the Assembly are na-

tives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, all of them, persons residing in the country from 10 to 40 years. There is but one person who receives a salary out of the public money. There are 65 members of French extraction, and 71 natives of Canada.

The population may be estimated as follows on the Census of 1831, viz:—natives of French extraction, about 420,000
Natives of all other extractions 80,000
Natives of all other countries, 50,000

Catholics, 450,000—all other denominations, 100,000.—*Id.*

Captain Buck.—This gentleman was entertained at a public dinner at the British American Hotel, on the 23rd inst. which was attended by 160 of the most respectable citizens. On the 25th inst. he took his departure from this city on his hazardous expedition, and carries with him the earnest wishes of all for ultimate success.—*Montreal Courier.*

Rise of Lake Erie.—For the last several years, says the Atlas, the rise of water in the Lake, has made serious encroachments on its southern shores. For a considerable distance above the mouth of Black River, the bank of the Lake is low, without rocks. Twelve years ago, the bank was generally sloping, with a wide breach. Now the waves beat against a perpendicular bank, which, from continual abrasion, is frequently falling off. From one to three rods in width are worn away annually. The phenomenon of this rise of water remain unexplained.

From the St. Andrews' Courier, May 6.

THE WANDERING PIPER.—The streets of our small town were enlivened during two days of the last week by the perambulations of this eccentric character, of whom and of his extraordinary wagger, several notices have of late been copied from English papers.

On his arrival here from St. John last Tuesday evening, he applied, [as is his custom] to the senior resident Magistrate for a written permission to follow his mendicant avocation on the two succeeding days, which was readily granted, and he was each day accompanied in his walk, by a crowd of children of all sizes and ages, for whom he exerted his musical talents to the utmost, (and he certainly plays well), to win, not golden opinions, but silver and copper coins, for which he tendered his thanks in the most humble and characteristic style; intimating frequently, less by words than action, "that the smallest favors would be gratefully received and thankfully acknowledged." We cannot state exactly the amount of his receipts, but know that he disbursed as follows: To a widow in very indigent and distressed circumstances, 2l.; to the Sunday School Fund, 1l.; Lending Library, 10s.; Roman Catholic Chapel's poor box, 1l.; and to four other poor widows, 2l.;—making in all 6l. 10s. As it