

finances, in allying to the Isle of France, respectively called it out of the West Indian Islands, and commented upon its revenue as being such. Strange as it may appear, not one of the Honourable and enlightened members present corrected the mistake, and the Isle of France stands on the printed records of the House of Commons as one of the West Indian islands. Many of our readers are aware that the first cause of difference between the formerly British Colonies and the United States of America and the mother country was, and always has been, attributed to the contempt and ignorance the latter showed to the affairs of the then pressing British settlements.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN;

August 18, 1832.

We have received London papers by Packet via Halifax, up to the 6th ult. furnishing us with intelligence of two days later than our last No. contained the contents of which, are not of that importance as we might have expected, considering the existing state of affairs.

The London journals teem with disgust and indignation at the raffian attacks of the mob towards the Duke of Wellington, and the reasonable and rash attempt on the person of his Majesty, at Ascot Races, by Collins the Chelsea pensioner.

It is gratifying says the *Globe*, to learn that this execrable act of malevolence produced that spontaneous sensation upon the spot, which must have been terrifying to a King who has shown so evident a disposition to live in the hearts of his people.

The German papers communicate no intelligence, except that the Duke of Reichstadt is dying.

The Bill for Parliamentary Reform in Scotland passed the second reading in the House of Lords.

It is remarkable that this Bill attracts but little notice, and is but slightly opposed by the Anti-reformers; yet the change will be produced by Reform in Scotland will be a complete revolution compared with that of England. In England the faculty of electors has always been kept up: and it was necessary to do little more than to correct the corruption of the practice; but in Scotland, the representative system itself is to be created.

The Lord Chancellor, in his unanswerable speech last night, said, "he believed, that in the whole history of the parliamentary constitution of Scotland, there was never, or scarcely ever, anything like the trace of a popular election to be found."

Indeed, to so high a point of perfection is the abuse in boroughs and corporations carried in the north, that to guard against all possible danger, from the interference of the existing system, the power of choosing their representatives only at second hand; their business is to select four delegates, who, in the form or essence of boroughmen, concentrate their monopoly in the hands of the aristocrats, distinguished only by their patriotic approbation! So much for Scotch Boroughs.

With respect to the representation of counties in Scotland, the art of the few to mystify the many, and to reduce the force of county elections to the lowest possible degree of absurdity, has been equally ingenious and not less successful. To this end a system of "Superiorities" has been felicitously invented. The effect of this curious contrivance is, that purchasers of these "Superiorities," who may never have set foot in Scotland, acquire the power of nominating Members for Scotch counties. The real proprietor—the resident—the native born Scot, who *bona fide* possesses the land, has no vote in the choice of his representative. The proprietor of a Superiority, supercedes the proprietor of the soil. The man who has the greatest right, and who is most interested in the matter, is literally blotted from the political map.

But a change has come at last.—And now that the beneficial improvement which it is the object of the Scotch Reform Bill to establish, is about to take place, the wonder is how the deep-feeling inhabitants of Scotland have been so long patient under this insulting deprivation of their constitutional rights. Let us hope that, as they have won them hardily, they will use them well.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the British American.

Sir,

As the question of Escheat, has been, and still continues, a subject of general opinion and discussion, not only with persons possessing property and influence upon this Island, but with all men of sense, in the most happy sphere of life, and to whom as regards the latter, the result may be of the most vital importance, I feel desirous of giving the subject an impartial, but at the same time a fair and candid examination; and I trust the remarks which I may make thereon, will be considered as founded on just and equitable terms; and as it is my intention not only to pursue this enquiry, but also various other subjects, which as they regard the general welfare, and I hope will ultimately lead to the prosperity of this Island. This article will be continued, until the whole subject matter, has been fully investigated. It may be in the recollection of many of the advocates for the Escheat Bill, that in the month of September, 1818, during the time of Governor Smith, a Proclamation was issued, which, after referring to his Excellency's Proclamation of the first day of April 1816, relative to a new scale of quit-rents, his Excellency stated that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, had been bountifully and graciously pleased to alter the rate of quit-rents, heretofore payable by the landed proprietors, to 2s. per 100 acres, as related to Townships, but in giving so great an advantage to the proprietors, felt it just at the same time to express his intention, of rigidly enforcing the future payment of such quit-rent. It was the further pleasure of his Royal Highness, that an additional indulgence should be granted, to such proprietors as should have, previous to the year 1816, more or less regularly paid the quit-rent on their respective grants. But it was clearly to be understood, that no alteration was to take place, relative to the tenure of estates, or of purchase lots in Escheat towns and royalties, those were to continue under the terms of their original grants, with the exception of remitting the arrears of quit-rent. And it was the further pleasure of his Royal Highness, that the proprietors of township lands, should be released from the obligations imposed by their original grants, of settling them with Foreign Protestants, provided that within 10 years from the year 1816, the lands should have been settled with other persons, in the proportions specified in their original grants. Now on reference to the above proclamation it will be seen, that certain indulgencies have been granted from time to time, and that as far as regards town and pasture lots, those will not at all be subject or liable to forfeiture, provided the grantees have duly and regularly paid their quit-rents. But with reference to the township lands, those proprietors will stand on a very different footing, for should it appear, that within the period of ten years, that is to say, from the month of December 1816, or even taking it up to the present time, those lands have not been settled with other persons, in the proportions specified in their original grants, those lands must and will be subject to Escheat. Having now fixed a date, from which a Court of Escheat may legally act, the next consideration is, how far the enforcement of such a law, ought in justice to be carried into execution. I am by no means an advocate for general Escheat, but would rather be considered as meeting the question mid-way, because a general Escheat (although strongly advocated by many) would tend to create confusion, and from what I

know of many of the titles, of landed proprietors upon this Island, be unjust and oppressive; and therefore, in viewing the question with a liberal eye, it may be necessary to consider, who are the persons most likely to be injured or benefited, should the court of Escheat eventually be established. As regards the absent proprietors of township lots, who with his eyes open, with warnings so repeatedly given, and indulgencies afforded, if he were to be made to feel the effects of such a court, can he complain? No! he might have averted the impending consequences; but as to the innocent lessee, and tenants generally, holding under such a proprietor, they stand in a very different situation, and have claims on Government, for a fair and equitable decision, particularly when it is considered, that upon the faith of their landlord's title, they have embarked their whole in making considerable improvements upon the estate. Many persons seem to think, that a general Escheat would be attended with beneficial effects, and I am sorry to find, that in the West, there are several men, standing rather high as regards their official situations, who have strongly advocated such a measure, and have been partially instrumental in leading the ignorant astray; and who from such advice, have in many instances, refused to pay rent, where rents have been hitherto regularly paid for more than 20 years; to such men, I will candidly say, they are lending themselves to that which is unconstitutional, and unjust; it will be quite time enough for such persons to seek redress, when the Escheat Court shall have passed its final judgment. If there are large tracts of land, and that there are such, no one can doubt it, which upon investigation, should be proved to fall within the pale of the Escheat Law, then let the absent proprietors of such lots, suffer for their disregard to the terms, indulgencies and warnings which have been so repeatedly heaped upon them. What I should recommend is, this, let the legislature first take the matter into consideration, let a survey be made, and a report thereon, shewing what number of lots are clearly liable to forfeiture, and then and not before, let the Escheat Law come fully into effect.

I am, Sir,

Yours

VERITAS.

Charlotte-Town, August 7, 1832.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the British American.

Sir,

Having found it absolutely necessary to take up my residence in Charlotte Town, I beg through the medium of your paper, to inform the Inhabitants of the town and its vicinity, as also the public in general, I have engaged an Office at Mr. Mitchell's, near the Custom-House, where I intend to conduct my professional Business. For the convenience of those Clients and Friends residing towards the Western district of the Island, who have hitherto favoured me with their confidence, I intend during the Summer months, to visit Saint Eleanors, Bedouque, and Malpeque, once a fortnight; and shall remain at the two former places the whole of Monday, and the latter part of Tuesday, when I shall return to town, unless unavoidably detained.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Wm. JUMFORD.

Charlotte-Town, 15th August, 1832.