

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

"How the devil did you come to know that?" I cried, in astonishment.

"What does it signify? What can be the value of thieves' logic?" he answered, derisively. "I am sure you can have no ambition to be informed."

"Pray tell," I entreated, "pray tell; I humbly apologise; I had very nearly robbed myself of a most interesting conversation through my own ill-humour. It is very true that I have a number of Scotch notes in the place you mention, which my purse would not hold; but what on earth made you discover it?"

"It was very simple reasoning," he replied, "and scarcely needs explanation; stiffeners are seldom worn now, and yet your neckerchief had something in it; you were anxious about that something, and put your fingers to it involuntarily a dozen times; it was not through solicitude for your neat appearance, for you never touched the bow of it; nor did the thing tickle you, or tickle your neck, because instead of scratching, you simply tapped it, as a man taps his fob to be assured—there, you're doing it now—of the safety of his watch."

"What a fool I am!" I exclaimed, testily.

"Nay," said he, "it would be more civil to compliment me upon my powers of observation."

"I do compliment you," I replied, with candour. "I think you an exceedingly clever fellow."

"Well," said he, "it is not for me to speak about that; I know a thing or two, doubtless, that may be out of your respectable boat, and I daresay I could put you up to the time of day in several matters."

"Put me up to it," I cried, with enthusiasm, and parting with my last ray of superciliousness; "I am as ignorant as a peacock, I feel; do, I entreat you, put me up to it."

Whereupon I am bound to say that my companion communicated to me such an array of interesting facts regarding his calling as would have shamed a parliamentary blue book, and beguiled the way for hours with conversation, or rather monologue, of the most exciting kind. Lord Byron states that one of the pleasantest persons he ever met in his life was a pickpocket, and I hasten to endorse his lordship's opinion with my own. I felt all that satisfaction in listening to my notorious acquaintance which belongs to an intercourse with an enemy during a temporary truce; the delight which a school-boy feels in playing at cricket with his pedagogue; or the pleasure which is experienced when a bishop happens to join, for once, in the chorus of one's own comic song. So affable, so almost friendly, an air pervaded his remarks that the most perfect sense of security was engendered within me. I could scarcely imagine that my agreeable companion could ever have been in reality concerned in a fraudulent transaction and far less in any deed of violence.

We had just left Preston, and he was enacting a highly interesting account of how bad money was circulated in the provinces, when a sudden thought struck me, to which nevertheless I scarcely liked to give utterance. I felt exceedingly desirous to know exactly how garrotting was effected, yet how was I to put such a question to so inoffensive and gentlemanlike a scoundrel? At last I mustered resolution enough. Did he happen to have heard from any acquaintance who, through misfortune or otherwise, had failed in the intellectual branches of his profession, how the garrotte was effected? I trembled for his answer, and half-repent of having said anything so rude as soon as the question had left my lips. He, however, did but blush slightly and becomingly, smiled with the confidence of a master in some art who is ignorantly interrogated as to his knowledge of its first principles, pulled up his false collar with his real hands, and thus delivered himself:

"Why, singularly enough, sir, the garrotte is my particular line."

My satisfaction at this avowal was, as may be imagined, complete. It was like the question about Hazoumont mooted among the omnibus passengers, being referred to the strange gentleman in the corner with a Roman nose, who turned out to be the Duke of Wellington.

How eloquent did my fraudulent friend become about this his favourite topic! What spirit he threw into his descriptions! What hairbreadth escapes from the police and other intrusive persons, interrupting him in the pursuit of his vocation, he had at various times experienced! Left alone with his man, he had rarely indeed been unsuccessful. Once, however, with a gymnastic gentleman—a harlequin, in plain clothes, returning home from the theatre—who had thrown a summersault clean over his head; and once with a stout party from a city dinner, who had no neck—positively none—to afford the operator a chance, and who bit my poor friend's arm in such a manner that it was useless for weeks afterwards.

"And you did these feats of yourself and without any assistance?" I inquired, with some incredulity.

"Quite alone, sir," replied he, "but, in all cases, the garrottes were several inches shorter than myself; with a man of your size, for instance," and he laughed good-humouredly, "it would be almost an impossibility."

I laughed very heartily at this notion too. Would he be so good as to show me, just to give me an example how the thing was done?

"I throw my arm from the back of your neck, like this," said he, sitting the action to the word, but with the very greatest delicacy of touch. "You are sure I am not inconveniencing you?"

"Not at all," said I. "Go on."

"I then close the fore arm tightly. Stoop a little lower, please; thank you, and compress the windpipe with"

Where was I? Why I was lying on the floor of the carriage instead of sitting on the outer seat? Why was my neckcloth unfastened, and where were the bank notes which it had contained? These questions, in company with many others, presented themselves to my mind as the train glided into Carlisle station. Above all, where was my agreeable companion? I knew by the unerring Bradshaw that the train stopped nowhere between Preston and —. Yes, but it did stop, just for one minute, at the junction of the Windermere line, to drop passengers, although not to take them up.

"Guard! guard!"

"Yes, sir; Carlisle, sir. A quarter of an hour allowed for refreshments."

"Don't talk to me of refreshments," I cried hoarsely. "Did a man from this carriage get out at Oxenholme?"

"Yes, sir; very gentlemanly young man with fishing rod and a landing-net. A lake tourist. Asked whether there was a trout stream in that neighbourhood."

I have not quite settled yet, in my own mind, whether the thing was planned from the very first, and the lost hat itself—which was not claimed—a portion of the diabolical plot; or whether the intentions of my companion had been really honourable until I was too good enough to put a temptation in his way, which he could not resist. It was like placing the Bloomer suit of armour in the chamber of Joan of Arc, and expecting that she would keep to Crinolines and the small bonnet in preference to that martial costume to which she has been so long accustomed, and in which she looked so becoming. Previous to the outrage, the man's conduct had been certainly quite irreproachable. He reasoned too, perhaps, that since he had so fully put me up to the time of day, I should have no further occasion for my gold repeater. At all events, my travelling acquaintance had taken that away with him.

Mr. Jones, N. P.—A man by the name of Langril, employed about the Post Office in the above named city, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for five years, for a robbery committed by him in that Office.

J. B. Cooper has been displaying his superior sagacity and learning by informing his readers in the last No. of the *Monitor*, that R. B. Irving, the recently appointed School Visitor, is totally unfit for that office. The reason assigned for this assertion is, that he (Mr. I.) has never yet qualified even as a Second Class Teacher. J. B. Cooper, fully convinced of his own transcendent abilities, considers himself, no doubt, perfectly competent to judge of the attainments of every public man in the Colony. Others, however, are not yet prepared to acknowledge him a literary censor. And I can only inform J. B. C., that I feel rather disposed to question his competency to judge of Mr. Irving's attainments, than Mr. Irving's competency for the School Visitorship. Strange indeed, if after having taught Mathematics and the classics for a good part of his life in this city, he should now prove incapable of examining any District School in this Island! Although there are a few second class teachers throughout the country, the art of imparting knowledge has not yet arrived at such perfection as to lead to the result that all the pupils under their tuition are either Mathematicians or Classical scholars. Mr. Cooper, and those who agree with him, must be first able to prove that Mr. Irving does not know how to demonstrate a proposition in the 1st or 21 book of Euclid, and to solve an equation in algebra—which is about the amount of mathematical knowledge required—before their bare assertion is entitled to any consideration.

If it would not be out of place here, I would remark that I consider the tuition of Mathematics in the District Schools as almost useless. My reason for thinking so is, that it is taught in theory only. Of what use is it to a boy to be able to solve an algebraic equation or demonstrate a problem in Euclid? It does not in any way tend to qualify him for a calling in life. Every one will admit that it has been little better than a waste of time in acquiring branches which require to be practically illustrated before they can be of any service. Learning theoretically is like a man going to study Greek and Latin instead of Hindoo, to qualify himself as a missionary for India. Even in the higher schools in this Island, if a boy wishes to learn Land Surveying—a very useful branch of Mathematics—he is kept plodding at Geometry, Analytical Trigonometry, &c., until the mind becomes wearied, and finally learns it but in theory. Consequently, when he leaves school, he is as perfectly incapable of surveying a piece of ground as a child. Whereas, if the necessary instruments had been procured, and an hour devoted two or three times a week to practising with them, he would have learned it practically and in reality in a short time. And so on with the other parts of Mathematics.

In conclusion, I hope to hear no more from Mr. Cooper about Mr. Irving's educational incompetency. Neither do I agree with his other reason. If the whole of us had our faults branded on our foreheads, we would have occasion to be less arrogant. If a man has at one period of his life been addicted to intemperance, that is no reason he should be debarred from a situation forever after. I therefore consider Mr. Irving perfectly qualified for the office to which he has been appointed, and will continue to do so until Mr. Cooper gives a better reason than he has yet assigned to the contrary.

October 16. FAIR-PLAY.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., OCTOBER 18, 1858. CANADIAN POLITICS.

The last *Islander* devotes nearly a column to a review of some of the difficulties which lately arose in Canada between the Governor General and Mr. Brown, leader of the present Opposition, and who was entrusted with the formation of a new Ministry when the McDonald Cabinet was defeated on the Seat of Government Question. Our contemporary has grossly misstated the whole case, and has, most unnecessarily, interlarded his narrative with remarks in reference to local affairs, which have no connection whatever. We are spared, however, the trouble of correcting the misstatements, by having at hand an admirable article from the *London Times*, of the 15th ult., which we readily transfer to our columns. We commend to the serious attention of the *Islander* the passages we have italicised in the article given below. Scarcely a week passes but the editor of that paper assures us that the practice which obtains in the United States of excluding responsible ministers from the Legislature, is infinitely superior to the opposite British practice which requires that all such functionaries should hold seats in either branch of the Legislature. For eight years we have been almost constantly told that the Colonies, one after another, were hastening to adopt the republican principle; but not one of them has done so yet, nor is likely to do it. In fact, it did not require the greatest newspaper authority in the world to inform British Americans, that they are mainly indebted for the freedom they enjoy to "the distinguishing characteristic of the Constitution of England" which consists in "the responsibility of Ministers to the Legislature;" and the only ground on which we can account for the opposition of the petty Tory press to this glorious principle, is, that its patrons and masters hate freedom, for the experience of long years of misrule teaches them, that they can only prosper while the rest of the community is in bondage.

But to return to the dispute between the Governor General and the Brown Ministry. The *Islander* says:—"The Governor General, Sir Edmund Head, sent for Mr. Brown to form a new Ministry, but cautioned him, in writing, that he would dissolve the Assembly. But Brown, elated with his position, and nothing daunted by His Excellency's intimation, accepted of office, determined to try his hand at Cabinet making." This is altogether incorrect. Sir Edmund Head gave no such caution as that referred to. When he sent for Mr. Brown to form a new Cabinet he imposed no conditions, and administered no caution; but as soon as the new Ministry were sworn in, the Premier, instead of being "daunted" by the threat of a dissolution, pressed the necessity of this measure upon the Governor General, and it was because His Excellency would not dissolve the Parliament in conformity with the advice of his new Ministers that Mr. Brown and his colleagues resigned office. The *Times* very correctly states this fact in the following short sentence:—"The Cabinet waited on the Governor General and requested him to dissolve Parliament; he refused to do so, and the Government resigned."

It would be waste of time to point out all the blunders and exaggerated statements of the *Islander*. We shall give at once the able article from the *Times*, as being the most correct and concise version of the Canadian dispute:—

THE "TIMES" ON CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

The British Constitution is no longer the solitary wonder of the world. It has many dupliques throughout our colonial empire, and there have not been wanting those who have

undertaken to improve on the ancient model. We cannot help suspecting, however, that those States are likely to succeed best which adhere most closely to the original. The distinguishing characteristic of the Constitution of England we take to be the responsibility of Ministers to the Legislature. It is on this that the freedom we enjoy mainly hinges, and the example of the United States warrants us in predicting that it will be on that side that the fabric will be finally overthrown. America has been unable to preserve it, and has in consequence often been obliged to submit to a Government possessing the confidence of neither branch of the Legislature. In this respect our North American Colonies possess and feel a marked superiority over their Republican rivals—a superiority which we sincerely hope their own moderation and good sense and the wisdom of their Governors will enable them to preserve. Recent events in Canada render it more than ever necessary for our fellow-subjects to consider these things—to remember that the half is often more than the whole, and that when a country is so democratically governed that it is obliged to effect a final separation between the Legislature and the Executive, it has lost one of the most valuable attributes of freedom. The recent change of Ministry in Canada has called our attention to some matters in which the precedents of the mother country have been departed from, but certainly, as we think, without improving upon them. The Ministry of Mr. Macdonald, being defeated in the House of Assembly on the question of the choice of a capital, tendered their resignations to the Governor-General, which he accepted, and announced that they held office only till their successors were appointed. Mr. Brown was sent for and commissioned to form a new Government; he undertook the task, and succeeded in filling up the offices of his Cabinet. Mr. Brown did not possess the confidence of the Legislature. Matters being in this state, the Governor-General sent a memorandum to Mr. Brown, in which he expressed, in substance, that he would reserve his opinion as to exercising the prerogative of dissolution until the advice to dissolve was formally tendered to him by the Cabinet; that he was ready to prorogue Parliament if the Ministry wished; but thought the prorogation should only be till November next, or at latest until December, and that there should be an express understanding to that effect; that the business in the meanwhile ought to be confined to matters necessary for the ordinary administration of the province; that the Bill for the Registration of Voters and the Bill for the Prohibition of Fraudulent Assignments by Traders should be proceeded with; that a vote of credit should be taken for necessary supply, and money for the repairs of the canals, which could not be deferred, should be voted.

We do not at all question the wisdom of any of these recommendations, or doubt that the course suggested by the able and upright Governor-General of Canada was one best calculated to serve the public interest, but we confess we do lament that he should have thought it his duty in this instance to deviate from the course which would undoubtedly have been pursued by his Imperial Mistress under similar circumstances. Nothing has been more deserving of admiration in the present reign than the fairness and impartiality with which the Queen has treated each successive Government, from whatever political party it may have been formed. The Queen has made no conditions or capitulations with her ministers; she has unreservedly placed herself in their hands, and followed the advice they have tendered to her. By so doing she has both strengthened the foundations of her throne and obtained the esteem and respect of all who have been brought in contact with her. Surely it would have been better for the Governor-General of Canada to have followed a similar course to have imposed no conditions on his Cabinet, to have left the initiative to them, and either to have accepted of their advice, or, if his sense of duty did not permit him to do so, to have dismissed them from their offices, and sent for another leader to form the Government? Mr. Brown formed a Government, but it was immediately defeated by a vote of want of confidence in the Assembly, which was tacked adroitly enough to the motion for new writs for the seats vacated by the incoming Cabinet. The Cabinet waited on the Governor-General and requested him to dissolve Parliament; he refused to do so, and the Government resigned.

In all this we see nothing to object to, but what followed is by no means equally unexceptionable. There is, it appears, a Canadian Act by which a minister resigning one office and accepting another is saved from the necessity of seeking a re-election from his constituents. This Act is obviously framed with the intention of facilitating more internal changes in the Government, and was not intended to exempt a new Ministry from the necessity of seeking a re-election. By means of this law, however, or rather, we are inclined to think, by a superabundant interpretation of it, the incoming Ministry of Mr. Cartier, which was a mere re-adjustment of that of Mr. McDonald, contrived to keep their seats, while the discarded Ministry of Mr. Brown lost theirs. The matter was managed in this way: Each Minister was appointed to an office different from that which he held before the dissolution of the Ministry; that office held for a single day, and then resigned, in order to be re-appointed to his original office. We think there is much to regret in this proceeding. We do not presume to offer an opinion on the legality of the transaction, which is, it appears, likely to be contested in a court of law, though it is difficult to understand how Mr. McDonald and his friends could have so far vacated their offices as to oblige Mr. Brown and his friends to give up their seats in order to succeed them, and yet all the while have so far retained their offices as to render them capable of accepting others within the meaning of the Act, which applies to transfers from one place to another. Be the law, however, what it may, there can be no doubt that such a transaction was directly contrary to the spirit of the Act, was an indirect means of depriving constituents of their right to be consulted on the accession of their members to office, and when compared with the hard measure dealt out to Mr. Brown and his friends, whose seats were vacated on their acceptance of office by the same vote which rendered their retention of office impossible, did not altogether preserve the appearance of a diffused impartiality. Whether the transaction was legal or not, it certainly was not compulsory, and we should have been better pleased to have seen the Governor-General refuse to take any part in it than allow himself to be enlisted in a proceeding which has not unnaturally excited much ill-feeling in the colony. Nobody can deny the dexterity of the tactics by which the victory of Mr. Macdonald and his friends has been obtained and improved, but such successes, obtained by such means, are seldom durable, and the time is probably not far distant when it will be seen that the Ministry has lost both in popularity and power, and when it will have ample reason to regret that it did not follow that which, in the affairs of State as in other matters, uniformly turns out to be the best policy.—*London Times*, Sept. 15.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

In connection with the subject of Canadian politics, the *Islander* travels out of its way to make the following astounding assertion:—

"The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, and some others, have all taken solemn oaths on the Evangelists' to discharge faithfully the duties of their respective offices, perfectly aware of their own incompetency. Indeed, Coles the Secretary—or public Clerk—is reported to have said in the Assembly that such officials were not expected to write."

With respect to the alleged "incompetency" of the officials named, or any others that could be named, their predecessors cannot boast of superiority in any respect. Because a considerable portion of the work of the public departments is performed by Deputies, is no proof of the incompetency of the principals themselves. It is a part of the responsible system of Government, in England as well as in the Colonies, to confine the discharge of routine duties chiefly to persons who are supposed not to be affected by political changes. In fact, it would be impossible for the heads of departments—however competent they might be—to administer the details of their several offices, because their position requires them to be for a great part of their time engaged in the business of legislation, and in Council, as well as in the discharge of multifarious duties which grow out of proceedings in Council. In all the other Provinces the salaries of the principal officials—whose work is chiefly done there as well as here by Deputies—are just as high as if their recipients were all the time engaged in

the routine of their offices, for the reason we have stated—that the heads of departments have administrative duties to perform, apart from their offices, sufficient to occupy all their time and attention. But when the Legislature of this Colony fixed the scale of salaries, the fact just noticed was either overlooked or not duly considered, for in providing for the Assistants a considerable sum was taken from the salary heretofore assigned to each Principal; and the allowances now established are on a scale of the most rigid economy. The head of a mercantile establishment of any pretensions, in some of the larger cities of England or the United States, would be ashamed to offer to an inferior clerk the miserable pittance which is paid to some of our principal officials.

When the *Islander's* friends and patrons were in office in 1854, the duties of the public employments were discharged by Assistants as well as now. Not a word of complaint was then uttered against the practice, but now it is a grievance of the first magnitude.

The *Islander* would fain impress upon its readers that when a man swears to perform certain duties he should not delegate them to others. But, to take one example out of many that might be adduced, how has the office of High Sheriff been administered in all parts of the British dominions, from time immemorial? In most cases, this officer knows nothing of the duties, and performs none of them, to the faithful discharge of which he has bound himself by the solemnity of an oath; but he is nevertheless responsible for any malversation or neglect. And so it is with our political departments: should wrong-doing be practised in any of them, the parliament and people will not be slow in visiting the consequences of it on the head of the principal.

With regard to the remark attributed to Mr. Coles, it is almost too absurdly false for notice. But the editor of the *Islander* has frequently told us that he is always prepared to substantiate every statement he makes. Now, we will help him to give as wide publicity as possible to proof so damning. Let him produce the exact words uttered by Mr. Coles—the date and occasion of their utterance—and if they convey any thing like the meaning of the passage we have quoted from the *Islander*, we shall re-publish them in our most conspicuous type, and join heartily with our contemporary in condemnation of the sentiment. The unscrupulous calumniator is, however, well aware that his assertion is a gross and deliberate falsehood—almost too vile to challenge serious attention. The object of the *Islander's* false assertion seems to be to disparage Mr. Coles's attainments in caligraphy. Now, we are quite sure that there are not many men in the community who write a finer or better hand than the gentleman alluded to; and it would be an immense saving of labour and eye-sight to the compositors of the *Islander* office, if the editor of that paper could write one twentieth part as clearly and intelligibly. About thirteen or fourteen years ago, before he became a literary hack for the *Forbes* and *Obstrucives*, and while he was bidding high for popularity as a Liberal, he overwhelmed us with innumerable lucubrations, but so abominable was the scrawl, that in nine cases out of ten his manuscript required to be transcribed before it could be sent to the compositor. We do not suppose that lapse of years has much improved the old gentleman's penmanship; and we certainly should offer no remark on the subject, if he had abstained from his unbecomingly sneer with regard to the writing of others. It is no unusual thing for a man to write a very bad hand, and yet communicate his thoughts correctly. Mr. Maclean can do the latter, but he is an adept in the former line; and while such is the case he ought to have desecy enough to abstain from ungracious allusions to the penmanship of others.

(From the Halifax Morning Sun, October 13.)

LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The Galway Steamer, *India Empire*, which arrived on Sunday last, in 194 days from Galway, brought papers to the 27th ult., several days later than previously received. We subjoin the most important items thus furnished:

The Chinese Treaty is published in the London papers of the 27th, but the items of it have been given in our last issue, taken from the *North China Herald*, which are substantially correct. It did not, however, contain the provision for the indemnity to be paid by the Chinese Government, inasmuch as that is secured by a separate article, and is not contained in the treaty itself. The amount is fixed at two millions of taels, between £600,000 and £700,000. This is to be paid as an indemnity for the losses entailed on British subjects by the hostilities at Canton, together with a like sum of two million taels on account of the war expenses. Until this sum is paid in full the British troops will continue in occupation of Canton.

The marriage of the Duke of Malakoff will take place after the return of the Emperor from the Camp of Chalons. It is said that several of the Marshal's old companions in arms in Sardinia and England will be present at the ceremony.

Orders had been received at Woolwich, from the War Office, for the immediate transmission of the funeral car of Napoleon I. to Paris. The car, with its drapery, feathers, &c., will be encased, and accompanied to Paris by Sir J. T. Burgoyne, who is commanded to deliver the vehicle as a present from Her Majesty to the French Empire.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Standard* denies that there had been any conflict between Roman and French soldiers; also denies that the French garrison is to be withdrawn from Rome. On the other hand, it is said that the garrison will be reinforced by a detachment of cavalry and a battalion of chasseurs. The measure, writes the correspondent of a contemporary, cannot have been adopted from an apprehension of an outbreak at Rome. It can only have reference to eventual complications with States whose territory borders on the Papal States—say Austria or Naples. That the relations between France and Austria have not improved of late, is a well-known fact. The Danubian Principalities have already proved too tempting for their rival diplomacy, and, for aught we know, Italy may prove the same in a short time. But who, in these bickerings, is the actual aggressor? It is thus the question shapes itself for the rest of Europe. France says she is not, and Austria says she is not. Each says that it merely acts from apprehension of the other, and with no other purpose than to keep what it has.

A grand meeting of French refugees is about to be held in Brussels, provided the government give permission. The meeting is said to be convened merely with a view to consult as to what steps may be taken to procure work of some kind, for the great majority of the refugees are now in great distress, having no means of employment, and no means of subsistence without it. Nevertheless, charity covering many sins, may be suspected in France at least of furnishing a cloak for conspiracy.

Double wages are to be paid to seamen belonging to Her Majesty's service employed on the shores of British Columbia.

The total force despatched to India since the beginning of the year amounts to 56,414 officers and men, consisting of 1,205 artillery; 2,037 cavalry; 19,238 infantry; and 3,954 recruits of the Indian army.

The Bank of England has declared a dividend of 4½ per cent. for the half year.

The troops in India will shortly be supplied with an improved description of ammunition for the Enfield rifle.

Twenty-two Additional Survivors of the AUSTRIA SAVED.—*Quebec*, Oct. 4.—The Norwegian ship *Catarina*, Capt. Fannormark, from Forney, forty-three days out, arrived yesterday. She reports on the 14th September at 2 o'clock A. M., in lon. 41 40, lat. 41 39, the *Catarina* fell in with the