

whose travelling fee was three-pence a mile, there would be reason to expect that, should the travelling fee be reduced to two-pence, the characters of such men as would then come forward to act as Constables, would be much below that of those who at present acted in that capacity; for the pay would induce none but the lowest characters to look after it. With respect to Commissioners having frequently trumped up business for their own benefit, as Mr. Mooney had accused some of doing, he (Hon. Mr. Thornton) was not aware that any such practices had prevailed, except in a Court not far from the Ten Mile House, but which was then happily defunct. [Mr. Mooney here said—that was not the only one.] Hon. Mr. Thornton resumed: if there was another, it might, perhaps, be at St. Eleanor's; for he was aware that many complaints had been made against the Small Debts Court there. He was of opinion that the number of Courts might be advantageously diminished. A man, being a creditor, and having cause to be dissatisfied with his debtor, finding a Court just at his door, in the heat of passion took out a summons for a few shillings perhaps; when, most probably, had the Court been distant some miles, he would have taken time for cool reflection, and have altogether forborne the litigant proceeding. He (the hon. gentleman) understood that petitions from the Eastern parts of King's County would be sent to the House, praying for diminution of the number of Small Debts Courts therein.

[To be continued.]

MISCELLANY.

HORACE MAN'S NEW BOOK—It is one of the most eloquent collection of "Thoughts for a Young Man" ever penned, and we have no doubt of its great popularity:

Appetite is Nicholas the First, and the noble faculties of mind and heart are Hungarian captives. Were we to see a rich banker exchanging eagles for coppers by tale, or a rich merchant bartering silk for serge by the pound, we should deem them worthy of an epithet in the vocabulary of folly. Yet the same men buy pains whose prime cost is greater than the amplest fund of natural enjoyments. Their purveyor and market-man bring them home headaches, and indigestion, and neuralgia, by hamper fulls. Their butler bottles up stone, and gout, and the liver complaint, falsely labelling them sherry, or maderia, or port, and the stultified masters have not wit enough to see through the cheat. The mass of society look with envy upon the epicure who, day by day, for four hours of luxurious eating, suffers twenty hours of sharp aching; who pays a full price for hot supper, and is so pleased with the bargain that he throws in a sleepless and tempestuous night, as a gratuity.

English factory children have received the commiseration of the world, because they were scourged to work eighteen hours out of the twenty-four; but there is many a theoretic republican who is a harsher Pharaoh to his stomach than this:—who allows it no more resting time than he does his watch; who gives it no Sunday, no holiday, no vacation in any sense. Our pious ancestors enacted a law that suicides should be buried where four roads meet, and that a cart load of stones should be thrown upon the body. Yet, when gentlemen or ladies commit suicide, not by cord or steel, but by turtle soup or lobster-salad, they may be buried in consecrated ground, and under the auspices of the church, and the public are not ashamed to read an epitaph upon their tombstones false enough to make the marble blush. Were the barbarous old law now in force that punished the body of the suicide for the offence which his soul had committed, we should find many a Mount Auburn at the cross-roads.

A PALPABLE HIT.—James Russell Lowell, in his "Conversations on some of the Old Poets," says:—
"The world goes to church to be quiet, and takes it amiss to be interrupted in a calculation of the price of cotton by a personal reference to any of its own bosoms; the world has engaged the preacher to abuse the Scribes and Pharisees, and not to be looking too nicely after its own conscience. The world believes firmly that the whole race of Scribes and Pharisees was dead and buried two thousand years ago, and sees no harm in being a little severe upon their follies, especially as there are no surviving relatives whose feelings can be set on edge by it."

A STARKING THOUGHT.—"The death of an old man's wife," says Lamartine, "is like cutting down an ancient oak that has long shaded the family mansion. Henceforth the glare of the world, with its cares and vicissitudes, fall upon the old widower's heart, and there is nothing to break their force, or shield him from the weight of misfortune. It is as if his right hand was withered—one wing of his eagle broken, and every movement that he made only brought him to the ground. His eyes are dim and glassy, and when the film of death falls over him, he misses those accustomed tones which might have smoothed his passage to the grave."

A clergyman lecturing one afternoon to his female parishioners, said: "Be not proud that our Lord paid your sex the distinguished honor of appearing first to a female after the resurrection, for it was only done that we glad news might spread the sooner."

"A lawyer," said Lord Brougham, in a facetious mood, "is a learned gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies, and keeps it himself."

The word "Boh," still used to frighten children, was the name of a fierce barbarian general, son of Odin, who was the terror of all his enemies.

There is a tradition of a "Fair Maid of Doncaster," named Betty Maddox, who when a hundred horsemen wooed her, stipulated that him who could dance her down she would marry; but she wearied them all, and they left her.

The following curious advertisement lately appeared in a provincial print:—"To be sold by private contract, a beautiful monkey, a parrot, two spaniels, and a tortoise-shell tom cat, the property of a lady, just married, who has no further occasion for the same."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE CONFERENCE" AND ITS RESULTS FAIRLY CONSIDERED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR.—In the *Gazette* of the 2nd. inst., a letter appears signed "Moderatus," which, like all other sayings and productions of the Obstructives, is full of misrepresentations and mistifications.

In the third paragraph of this letter, the writer says the conditions precedent to the establishment of Responsible Government in the Colony, are—"Pensions of £200 per annum each to the following officers—viz. the Provincial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Attorney General."

Now, I should like "Moderatus" to shew any Despatch made public, wherein Lord Grey hints at the propriety, or makes any allusion to the necessity of making any retiring allowances to those Officers; and I should also wish to know, whether he will venture to assert, that His Excellency requested a pension of £200 a year for the Attorney General, from the gentlemen who conducted the conference with him relative to a change in the Government. Is he prepared to rebut or disprove the statements, (made with reference to that conference, as respects those officers), which were made by Messrs. Coles and Warburton in the Assembly?

I was present in the House when those gentlemen stated that, at their first interview, His Excellency had stated himself to be perfectly satisfied with the offer which had been made to the Attorney General, and had struck out his name from the list of Officials for whom he meant to require a legislative provision, as well as those of all the others, except those of the Treasurer and Colonial Secretary, who, as he agreed, were to be satisfied with appointments to minor offices, or to receive nothing. At the second interview, they stated His Excellency merely said, with respect to the Treasurer and the Colonial Secretary, that he would send for them and explain to them what it was purposed to offer them, under the contemplated new arrangement, on their vacating of their present offices; adding that he thought they could not do better.

Now, Sir, as the only preliminary arrangements required by His Excellency, with a view to a change in the Government, were a reasonable provision for the Treasurer and the Colonial Secretary, and a written assurance from the Chief Justice of his satisfaction with the proposed consideration of his claims; and as the three gentlemen who held the conference with His Excellency touching those matters, took the precaution, immediately after their retirement from Government House, on the occasion of their second interview with His Excellency, to commit to paper and attach their signatures to a statement of all that had passed between them and His Excellency touching a new arrangement; it seems very probable that any "discrepancy" between that statement, as read by Mr. Warburton in his place in the Assembly, and that of His Excellency—if any such discrepancy does exist—must have arisen from an imperfect recollection of the facts by His Excellency, owing to some distraction of mind, caused by the bodily indisposition under which he laboured during the conference; for, at the time of his reading the statement in the Assembly, Mr. Warburton stated that His Excellency was not, in his opinion, fully capable of transacting business of so much importance, as, from the effects and pressure of illness, he was not even able to raise himself from his couch.

Again "Moderatus" seems to think that it is nothing less than "a crime to offer those gentlemen minor offices." Are those gentlemen, let me ask, of rank or standing superior to that of Sir Rupert D. George of Nova Scotia, who, when the change in Government took place in that Province, held the office of Registrar, whilst Mr. Howe was appointed Colonial Secretary in his stead?

It is also a crime, in the estimation of "Moderatus," to propose to continue in office men who have been repeatedly denounced for mal-practices in their public capacities. With respect to this, I observe that it would indeed be a crime in Government to continue them, whilst lying under such imputations, in the very important and responsible situations which they now fill. But to propose to place two out of three of the present public officers, in places of minor emolument; and to continue the third in the office which he at present fills; that is, out of the five offices of emolument to reserve only two for their own party, shows that the Liberals are not

such "Snatchers" as the "Snarlors" would have them to appear. This proposed arrangement has, however, afforded "Moderatus" an opportunity to accuse the leaders of the Liberal Party in the Assembly of inconsistency, because one of those officers was charged, by a former House, with malversation in his office. The accusation, however, should not have been so much for inconsistency, as for undue leniency and generosity; and to that the liberal leaders might well have pleaded guilty. But the majority of the present House will not rest satisfied—unless I much mistake their intentions with regard to official reforms,—without denouncing two of the three as soon as the formation of an honest Government shall give them an opportunity to procure the information hitherto withheld by a corrupt one—necessary to sustain their impeachment.

The attempt to justify His Excellency's refusal to reconstruct his Council entirely, without the sanction of Earl Grey, is quite futile; in the first place because of the admission that His Excellency might have reconstructed it in part, by the expulsion of three of its members and the admission of three Liberals in their stead, independent of the authority of Earl Grey,—it being quite evident that he was as much at liberty to make a complete change as to make a partial one; in the second, because he had the resignations of the whole body in his possession; and, in the third, because all would have been merely *provisional*, and reversible at the pleasure of Earl Grey. Besides, if His Excellency did not intend entirely to remodel his Council, why did he call upon the members of the present Board to resign?

In my opinion, it is almost to be regretted that Messrs. Coles, Warburton, and Swabey did not accept of the seats in the Executive Council offered to them by his Excellency; because, I think, that had they accepted them, His Excellency would not have come publicly forward to support the demand of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Attorney General for retiring pensions; but, on the contrary, he would, if he wished to befriend those officials, have earnestly and urgently advised them to accept at once of the appointments offered to them.

Those three liberals (Messrs. Coles, Warburton, and Swabey,) have, however, by their observance of correct principles and true independence, succeeded in their endeavours to overthrow the old corrupt system of Government, for at least four years to come; and all who sincerely desire the establishment of a truly constitutional Administration, must applaud the conduct of the majority of the Assembly for the noble stand which they have made for the realization of the well-directed wishes of the people.

As for His Excellency, I cannot think how he can avoid feeling himself covered with shame and confusion when he reflects upon the opportunity which he has lost of placing himself at the head of a Government which would have been as popular as any in these Provinces; and I almost pity him, when I think how tormenting his anticipation of his forced submission to the representatives of the People must be: for the time, he must feel assured, for his experiencing that mortification, is certainly fast approaching, and cannot be retarded either by his own obstinate devices, or by all the power and ability of *Moderatus* and his party.

I am, Sir,

A Friend to Constitutional Reform, and
A LOOKER-ON.

April 5, 1850.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I have read an editorial in the "Examiner" of the 3rd inst., in which I have been much pleased to trace a very close coincidence of opinion with my own as above expressed.

A LOOKER-ON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR.—

It cannot escape the most superficial observer that an experiment is in process, the object of which is to try whether or not the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island are disposed to retract the verdict, pronounced distinctly at the Hustings, in favour of Responsible Government. In plain words, feelers are put forth daily to see if the expiring faction can in any way regain their fancied ascendancy; and it is even rumoured—I cannot conceive on any plausible grounds—that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will send the stubborn Representatives of the People again before their constituents. It is not, Sir, because I give credence even to the bare possibility that His Excellency can contemplate a measure so hopeless, involving—immediately after the sentiments of the constituency have been so decisively pronounced—an expense of time and money so unwarrantable, and which would so certainly involve him in circumstances of the most painful nature, that I call your attention to this matter; but because I know the arts of the people's enemies to be profound, and their vigilance untiring, that I would warn them to be as alert as if the step had actually been taken. That the expiring faction has such a wish—whatever His Excellency's resolves may be—is plainly indicated by the language of those whom they pay to be their scribes. The *Islander* is furnished once again with "the highest available talent"—(a phrase which was used by that print when it hired the late Collard to be its editor, and which phrase may be properly enough used in reference to a successor every way worthy of Collard); and "the highest available talent." However repugnant the