

evidences of the efficiency of their Government, and of its adaptation to their inclinations and opinions. Why are British Colonists in America so far behind their republican neighbours in the scale of social and political importance? In their mental and physical organizations they are not inferior—and the natural resources of the countries they inhabit are superior to those of some of the American States. The reason of their social and political inferiority is obvious. Had the Colonists been permitted to manage their own affairs as well as the Americans, without entirely severing the connexion with the mother country—had they been freed from the blighting incubus of a Downing Street cabal, swayed by the secret interference and influence of officials in the Colonies, who deem, from long possession of power, that they have, or should have, "a right divine to govern wrong"—the prosperity of the Colonies would be commensurate with that of the United States. But we have no need to confine ourselves to the United States for proof of the fact, that the cause of public liberty is not dependent upon any favoured class in the community, or that its greatest triumphs have been co-existent with eras of mental enlightenment. The structure of British freedom is not the work of aristocratic hands; and although the "bold barons"—many, if not most of whom were unable to write their names—have received from history the credit of winning the Great Charter on the field of Runnymede; yet, it is well known that the tyrant John would never have been awed into submission but for the co-operation of the commons. In every subsequent period of England's annals, where ever we trace the encroachments of arbitrary and aristocratic power upon the rights and privileges of the people, there do we behold the humbler classes of society—the men of small means and of limited education—battling for the right, and successfully establishing those principles which have been formed into a system of polity that has become the boast of Britons in every quarter of the world, and which free and civilized countries have rejoiced to copy. In this Island, however, "the glorious British Constitution" could never properly have been made the subject of panegyric—its inhabitants could not boast of the enjoyment of a right which has been practically denied to them; for while every other dependency of the Crown on this side of the Atlantic, with the exception of Newfoundland, has successfully won its way to freedom, the loyal people of this Colony have been forced to bend beneath the sway of a faction who seem to think they have an especial right from Heaven to monopolize to themselves all the honors and profits of Government—to howl into disgrace, as disgraced subjects of their Sovereign, and ignorant and mercenary agitators, any class of men who might be found bold enough to scrutinize their acts, and render them accountable to the public for the faithful discharge of their duties. Yes, here, indeed, may we find an exact copy of the picture in miniature, which the Poet has given of another oppressed land:—

"— in this humbled Isle,  
Where honor mourns, and freedom fears to smile,  
Where the bright light of England's fame is known  
But by the baleful shadow that is thrown  
On all our fate—where, doomed to wrongs and slights,  
We hear men talk of Britain's glorious rights,  
As weeping slaves that under hatches lie,  
Hear those on deck extol the sun and sky!"

The Representatives of the people have determined that this shall be the case no longer: Her Majesty's Government in England does not insist that it shall; and if the House of Assembly be forced to adopt the alternative, which the Resolution now before the Committee contemplates, of withholding the Supplies, until the well understood wishes of the people be complied with, the Lieutenant Governor and his advisers will, and ought to be, held responsible for that proceeding. We have been told by a member of Government, that, if we pass a Revenue Bill and grant no supply, we shall next year be required to raise a two year's Revenue, and grant a two year's Supply. This, I trust, will prove to be a mistaken notion. I should be sorry to make the public pay for the folly of the Government; and if the officials receive their salaries for the present year, most certainly they will not be indebted to me for a vote. The Revenue being lost through the obstinacy of Government, I will never consent to tax my constituents to make up the deficiency.

Mr. Coles replied particularly to Mr. Thornton, whose defence of himself and the Government he pronounced to be of the very feeblest character. He commented, with considerable severity, upon his (Hon. Mr. Thornton's) regard for his seat at the Executive Council Board; as evidenced by his retaining it, not only after he had pledged himself to his constituents to oppose the views of the Government with respect to Responsible Government, and to advocate its adoption with all his power,—but after the House had passed an almost unanimous vote of want of confidence in the Government. With respect to the communication made by him (Hon. Mr. T.) to the Lieutenant Governor, that he had changed his opinions with respect to the question of Responsible Government, or at least that his constituents had done so, and to the liberty given to him to retain his seat in the Council, and, at the same time, to vote as he pleased on that question in the Assembly, the honorable member ironically observed, that His Excellency well knew in whom he trusted, and would be exceedingly loth to miss at the Council Board so accomplished and supple a gentleman as the

honorable member from Murray Harbour. But, continued the honorable member, if his (Hon. Mr. T.'s) opinions touching Responsible Government were changed indeed, and if he had not misled his constituents by a deceitful declaration on that score, why, after the vote of no confidence in the Government, did he continue a member of the Government, and refuse to give his support to the only constitutional means by which the Legislature could hope to bring about its immediate concession by the Imperial Government? Why? Only because, like the rest of the public functionaries, he was determined to hold on so long as the most distant hope remained of prolonging the days of their expiring power. He (Hon. Mr. T.) was no doubt deliberating in his own mind as to the prudence of decidedly acting with the majority; but could not reconcile himself to the immediate loss of power, (which would be consequent upon his adhesion to the liberal party,) and the very uncertain prospect of a distant equivalent. That no change, however, had taken place in the honorable member's opinions on the question of Responsible Government, was fairly to be inferred from the fact that His Excellency had, of late, held a daily Council; and that, as no change had taken place in the policy of the Government, and none of the members had resigned their seats in the Council, the honorable gentleman (Mr. T.) and the other Executive Councillors must still support His Excellency in his refusal to comply with the wishes of the people on the subject of Responsible Government. With respect to the unauthorized appropriations of public moneys by the Government, the honorable gentleman (Mr. T.) had declared that he knew of none such having been made since he had been a member of the Executive. This he (Mr. Coles) thought very singular. Was that hon. gentleman prepared to tell the House that he knew nothing of the unauthorized appropriation of £100 a year for the night-watch placed upon the Colonial Building, when, at the same time, Her Majesty would have provided troops to perform the duty. He was aware that the reason assigned for the withdrawal from the Colony of a portion of the troops stationed here, was the encouragement given by the people to deserters; but this he regarded as an unfounded calumny upon the inhabitants. He would presume His Excellency had not made this appropriation without the advice of his Council. How then came the honorable gentleman (Mr. T.) to be ignorant of it? Again, he (Mr. C.) would ask him (hon. Mr. T.) whether the money drawn from the public Treasury to pay the Delegates to Halifax, was not an unauthorized appropriation; and whether he was not cognizant of it? He (Hon. Mr. T.) had said that the adoption of the measure would be productive of very serious loss to the country. That it would cause considerable public, and even much private, inconvenience, he (Mr. C.) and his friends were very well aware; but they were aware also, and so were the people, that, in the course of public reformation, conjunctures frequently arose in which it became necessary to make sacrifice of some minor good, for the attainment of a much greater.

At such a conjuncture they had arrived in Prince Edward Island, and the majority of the Assembly, intent upon the realization of the wishes of the People, were determined to have recourse to the extreme measure indicated by the resolution submitted by his hon. friend (Mr. Warburton); well assured that the people, rightly appreciating their motives, would cheerfully submit to any inconvenience it might draw down upon them; and that under the guidance of right judgment, they would know whom to censure, and would justly lay the entire blame upon His Excellency and his advisers. But, when endeavouring to anticipate the loss which would accrue to the people by the withholding of the Supplies, and unsparingly denouncing the majority of the Assembly for the determination to adopt such a measure, when the Colony was weighed down by a heavy public debt; the hon. gentleman (Mr. T.) appeared to have quite forgotten how materially he and his political party-friends in the Legislature had contributed to the increase of the public debt, by their grant of £500 a year, as an addition to the Lieut. Governor's Salary, and the appointment of an Assistant Judge, with a Salary of £500 a year: not to purchase or procure any immediate or prospective benefits to the people; but to buy over the head of the Government. The public movement and desire for Responsible Government, continued the hon. member, were not confined to any particular section of the Island or portion of the people. The movement was felt, acknowledged, and encouraged throughout the entire length and breadth of the country; and the great majority of almost every constituency had shown themselves to be decidedly in favour of it. Even in Charlottetown and Georgetown, in the event of another dissolution, it would, he believed, be found that the people were in favor of Responsible Government. All that we have to do to-day, concluded the hon. member, is to appoint an Agent in London, and to forward communications to him, fully explaining the condition, grievances, and desires of the people; and, before the expiration of three months, Sir Donald Campbell will again summon the Legislature, and communicate to them, that he has been commanded by Her Majesty to accede to the wishes of the People respecting a change in the mode of their Government, and instructed to facilitate, by every means in his power, the effecting and the establishing of that change upon the principles of Responsibility, as now in operation in the neighbouring British Provinces. Never before was there a period in

the history of the Colony, in which circumstances, both here and in the Mother Country, worked so harmoniously for the general good of the people: never before were their prospects of efficient and substantial reform so near, so bright, and so inviting. All that is now necessary to ensure complete success to the measures of the Legislature, in favour of the legitimate, the constitutional authority of the people; is that they should steadily adhere to their present plan of operations, and prudently avail themselves of every auxiliary aid that may be tendered them for the accomplishment of their views. [Mr. Coles concluded his speech by directing the attention of the Committee to the Society lately formed in London for the Reform of Colonial Government, the prospectus of which was copied into a late No. of THE EXAMINER.]

## The Examiner.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1850.

### Latest Intelligence from Europe.

The Courier arrived with the English, Colonial and Foreign Mails at an early hour on Monday evening. Latest dates from London and Liverpool are to the 24th March. We give below such items of British and foreign intelligence as appear to possess the most interest.

**GRAND BANQUET AT THE MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, IN HONOUR OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.**—The Lord Mayor of London gave a magnificent Banquet on the 21st March in honour of the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, which it is understood will take place in 1851. The *European Times* makes the following remarks in reference to it:—

One of our national characteristics is an adherence to the popular faith that no undertaking, great or small, can commence or terminate prosperously, without that essential concomitant—a good dinner. The Lord Mayor of London, in obedience to this belief, invited all the heads of the municipal bodies throughout the empire to meet him at the Egyptian Hall, on the evening of Thursday, where he provided an entertainment of the most *recherche* kind, the object being to enlist all their sympathies in favour of the great Industrial Exhibition of next year. The Crown was represented by Prince Albert, the Church in the person of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Government by the principal Ministers of State, while all the Foreign Ambassadors, and a sprinkling of the leading nobility, did honour to the forthcoming display of inventive genius of the age.

The oratory on these occasions is too limited to admit of display, but the Royal Consort, in the course of a short speech, contrived to throw much good sense and excellent feeling into his address. Coming from such a source, there is something gratifying, if not noble in such sentiments as the following:—"I confidently hope that the first impression which the view of the vast collection will produce upon the spectator will be that of deep thankfulness to the Almighty for the blessings which he has bestowed upon us here below; and the second, the conviction that they can only be realised in proportion to the help we are prepared to render to each other; only by peace, love, and ready assistance, not not only between individuals, but between the nations of the earth." Time was when pacific and philanthropic strains like the sentence we have quoted would have been regarded as effeminate, perhaps cowardly, dropping from the lips of one so immediately connected with the ruling power in the state. But we live in an age when, as a popular author expresses it, the "pen is mightier than the sword"—when intellect, not the strong arm, rules, and greatness is achieved by the head, not the hands.

With regard to the exhibition itself, everything seems to promise a successful realisation. There will be no lack of funds to carry out the scheme on the greatest scale, for the spirit of the country is being aroused, and the guests at the Lord Mayor's table, who represent the wealth and intelligence of the towns and cities, will be found excellent aids in carrying out the good work.

**THREATENED RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.**—A meeting of members of Parliament, supporters of the present government, took place on Tuesday at Downing street. About 100 were present. Lord John Russell addressed the meeting. He told them that if Mr. Hutt's motion for that evening, relative to the slave trade, were carried, he would certainly resign the office he held. Mr. Hume did not see the necessity of Lord John Russell giving up office, even if Mr. Hutt carried his motion. Lord Palmerston repeated what Lord John Russell had stated as the course he should himself follow. Lord Harry Vane and Mr. Denison both spoke in favour of Mr. Hutt's motion. The meeting then separated. The Ministers had a majority in the evening on Mr. Hutt's motion of 78.

**LOVE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.**—An extraordinary circumstance, which had nearly been attended with loss of life, occurred on Friday evening, at the house of Mr. Grindall, the Bell, in Suffolk street, Birmingham. For