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The Examiner.

Ch'town, March 2, 1874.

THE SECOND CHAMBER.

LONG before the union of this Island with the Dominion of Canada many persons strongly urged the abolition of the Legislative Council. They argued that the popular branch of the Legislature was sufficiently checked on the one hand by the press and the people, and on the other by the Imperial Government. Few could either understand why the Legislative Council was needed in this small, "much governed" colony, or perceive any of the benefits which it conferred upon the community. In the "good old times" it was considered to be merely an expensive legislative ornament,—a dignified assembly of old gent'emen, appointed to remind loyal people of the House of Lords in England, and to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" of Acts of Parliament. But then our legislators were only directly responsible to the electors and to the Imperial Government. The people did not so sedulously scrutinize the acts of Parliament and Government as they do now, the press was not so active, and the Imperial Authorities were too distant and too ignorant of our local affairs to exercise a great controlling influence over the legislation of the colony. So that, under the old *regime*, there was, perhaps, a show of reason for a second Chamber, the function of which is to prevent over-hasty legislation. But now we are under a new *regime*; and the "checks and guards" have been drawn closer. Instead of a people comparatively uneducated and uninterested in the politics of the Island, we have a people educated, intelligent, well informed in politics, and particularly watchful over the conduct of their rulers,—rulers whom they have power to depose every four years. Instead of the British Government, which could neither understand nor sympathize with our local wants and interests, we have the Dominion Government, which is intimately acquainted with the requirements of our people; and to it all Acts of our Local Parliament must be referred before they become law. So that the Local Parliament is now curbed and hedged in, so to speak, by two powers, each of which is stronger than itself. Therefore, if there ever was any real need for a "Second Chamber" in this Island, the need no longer exists.

But, the Legislative Council of this Island was at one time respectable. Consequently it was respected. Now, however, there are "none so poor to do it reverence." The little influence it once possessed has been completely lost. The climax of its humiliation was reached last Session. A majority of its members, under the guidance of R. P. Haythorne, were so blinded by party jealousy and spite—so utterly lost to anything like a just perception of their functions,—to anything like patriotism or honor—that they passed a resolution in which they expressed their satisfaction with the terms under which Mr. Laird tried to get the Island to enter into Confederation, and then connived at having it sent by telegraph to Ottawa, so that the efforts of Messrs. Pope, Howlan and Haviland to obtain better terms of union might be defeated. The design, happily, miscarried. Still "Better Terms" were granted, and the Island is now richer by $25,000 a year. But the infamy of the act remains. It can never be blotted out. The Legislative Council has taken upon itself a load of disgrace which, no matter how honest and patriotic the members who compose it may in future be, it cannot wholly throw off. Then why not abolish it at once, and let its very name be forgotten? We think that, under the shameful circumstances, even those who compose it should consent to its immediate abolition.

If it were, however, the only check on the House of Assembly—if without it the Lower House would be possessed of supreme power—we would, notwithstanding the disgrace which is attached to our Legislative Council, vote against its abolition. We would say, reconstruct it, and purge it; but do not abolish it. For we fully recognize the danger there is in permitting any holder of power, whether an individual or an assembly of individuals, to be supreme and untrammelled. It is not, we think, right that any body of legislators should be exposed to the corrupting influences of undivided authority. But the House of Assembly is now—apart from the Legislative Council—checked by two separate and distinct powers. On one hand, the people—aided by the press—will guard well their rights and liberties. A free press and quadrennial Parliaments are potent checks to the power of the Legislature, and safeguards of the liberties of the people. On the other hand the Minister of Justice—whose duty it is—will carefully examine our Local Statutes and see that nothing becomes law which is inconsistent with the constitution, or which in any way conflicts with the prerogatives and duties of the Dominion Government. Thus we possess, without the Legislative Council, the most effective checks to aggressions of our local rulers. The liberties of the people and the stability of the constitution are both—as far as possible—assured.

There is, we think, only one argument which can, with any show of reason, be urged against the abolition of the Legislative Council. It was used by Donald Ferguson, Esq., on the hustings in Charlottetown. That gentleman then contended that, as our public revenue cannot be made to expand as it could formerly, the greatest caution will be needed in the expenditure of public money, or we will be obliged to resort to direct taxation; there are many expensive public enterprises in which it will be expedient to embark, if the public funds will afford it; the House of Assembly is generally made up of young and rash spirits, who will be very apt to commence works to carry out which it will be necessary to resort to direct taxation; the Legislative Council—which is generally made up of older and more conservative minds than the Assembly—will be needed to check hasty legislation and prevent this (dreaded) alternative. This is a plausible, but not a weighty, argument. Popularity is a necessity to a party; and to be popular, it must be economical; therefore, the party in power, to retain popularity, will be economical. The Lower House is not always composed of young men; and if the Legislative Council were abolished, all the old politicians who were worth anything would find seats in the Assembly, and would, of course, exercise an influence upon legislation commensurate with their experience and ability. We have not far to go for an instance of the justness of these conclusions. Our own House of Assembly furnishes a very striking one. Notwithstanding the existence of the Legislative Council, many of our most experienced politicians sit upon the red benches in the Lower House. And as for economy, was there ever a party in power more economical than the party which now has charge of the public money? Yet it is uninfluenced by the Legislative Council.

All things considered, we think the Legislative Council should be abolished, and upwards of $3,500 a year saved to the public Treasury.

TRADE RETURNS.

BY courtesy of the Customs officials, we are enabled this morning to lay before our readers a short statement showing the trade of this Province for the six months ending 31st December, 1873. To many it will, doubtless, be somewhat startling. At first sight it will appear that the "balance of trade" is largely against the Island; for while the value of our imports is shown to be $925,822, the value of our exports is only $556,429. The cause of this apparent discrepancy is easily explained. A large proportion of our imports was composed of material for the construction of the Railway; and a large proportion of our exports were to the neighboring Provinces—to the markets of St. John and Halifax; since Confederation, produce shipped to any portion of the Dominion has not been set down as an export,—and therefore it is that the balance of trade *appears* to be against us.

We regret that we are unable to furnish a "Comparative Statement." Under the circumstances it would be extremely difficult to make a correct comparison of our Trade during the past year with that of the years preceding it. Comparative Statements must in future date from Confederation.

TRADE OF P. E. ISLAND.

Statement of Imports into P. E. Island for the Six Months ending 31st December 1873.

Value of Dutiable Goods imported	487122
" Free " "	438700
Total value of Goods imported,	$925822
Value of Goods paid duty ex Ship,	465779
" " ex Warehouse,	26538
Total value of Goods paid duty,	$492317
Value of Goods placed in Warehouse,	39735
Value of Goods remaining in Warehouse,	29459
Customs Duties Collected,	$91997.76

Statement of the value of Exports from Prince Edward Island for the Six Months ending 31st December, 1873:—

Products of the Mine,	$ 653
Fisheries & their produce,	113263
Products of the Forest,	34953
Animals & their Produce,	56677
Agricultural Products,	148988
Manufactures,	2267
Other articles,	979
Total Produce of Dominion,	$357780
Coin and Bullion,	480
Goods not Produce,	5569
	363829
Vessels Exported U. Kingdom & Nfld., 20 vessels—4815 tons,	192600
Total Exports,	$556,429

SOUTHPORT FERRY.

The inhabitants of Vernon River and vicinity, intend petitioning the Legislature to remedy a "great grievance," viz., the ill-appointed, ill-regulated Southport Ferry—its docks and boats. Good. We trust their representations may have the desired effect. We, not long since, made some practical suggestions respecting this disgrace to the Island—this source of annoyance to people living south of the Hillsborough. We shall, ere long, return to the subject.

THE WAR IN ASHANTEE.

AN engagement has taken place in Ashantee, during which the British lost nearly three hundred men. The following despatch from General Wolesly has been received:—

COOMASSEE, Feb. 5th.—We reached here yesterday, after five days hard fighing. The troops behaved admirably. Our casualities are under 300. The King has left the town to-day, but he promises to visit me to-day and sign a Treaty of Peace. We hope to start on our return to the coast to-morrow. The wounded are recovering, and the health of the remainder of the army is good.

(Signed) "WOLSLEY."

This despatch occasioned great relief in England.

OATS.—During the past week oats sold freely in this city at 41 cents per bushel.

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

THE Dominion Board of Trade met at Ottawa on Tuesday last. Delegates from all the Provinces were present; the representatives of several Boards in the United States, also attended. To the hearty welcome accorded these gentlemen Mr. McLennan, of Milwauki, responded. He showed the benefits derived from business men of both countries meeting frequently. It would lead finally to closer commercial relations. Reciprocity, he said, was not an absolute necessity to either country. What their natural positions required was that trade should be placed on an unrestricted basis, consistent with the necessary revenue. He urged the development of the canals of both countries. With all the facilities on both sides of the line, the internal means of communication had not been yet equal to the requirements of commerce. In the report of the Executive Committee, which was read after the organization of the meeting, the late Government were thanked for the passage of several Acts for the benefit of trade. Among the Committees appointed was one to consider a new bankrupt law. The following officers have been elected for the current year:—

W. H. Howland, Toronto, President.
C. H. Fairweather, St. John, Vice President.
Executive Committee—Robertson, Montreal; Hon. T. R. Jones, St. John; Bennock, Ottawa; Harty, Kingston; Brown, Hamilton; Cathcart, Thompson; Halifax; Labelle, Montreal; W. Thompson, Toronto.

After addresses from the President and Vice President, the question of International navigation was discussed, and a resolution adopted expressing satisfaction with what has been accomplished, and urging upon the Government the enlargement of the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals. The following amendments were made to the constitution: "To elect officers at the close of the yearly meeting; to have the Secretary and Treasurer reside in Montreal; and to have a Vice-President from each Province represented at the Board. Mr. Marshall, of St. John, N. B., read a lengthy paper upon the question of Canadian tonnage. He referred to Plimsoll's bill, as brought before the English Parliament, and read a paper on the subject. He concluded by moving, seconded by Mr. Fairweather, that a committee be appointed to draft a memorial to be forwarded by the Board to the Governor General in Council, urging upon our Government the importance of adopting such measures as to it may seem necessary to prevent any legislation that may be proposed in Great Britain in consequence of the report of the Royal Commission, recently held in London, prejudicially affecting the tonnage of the Dominion of Canada. This motion was carried. After some remarks, Hon. Mr. Jones, of St. John, N. B., moved that it is of great importance that all lines of railroad leading from one part of the Dominion to another should be made by the most direct waters, and as all the lines leading through our own or our neighbors are to large extent circuitous, therefore, resolved, that the Dominion Board of Trade look favorably to the early construction and completion of the Lake Megantic Railroad, which will make as nearly as possible a direct line from Montreal to the seaboard in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and P. E. Island. The question of the tariff elicited a lively debate. Mr. McPherson moved that a duty of 15 per cent is fair and reasonable, and no disturbance of the tariff is at present desirable. Mr. Gillespie, of Hamilton, moved in amendment, that the tariff should be increased to 20 per cent; seconded by Mr. Elliot. Mr. Walker, of London, moved an amendment to the amendment that the Board approve of 15 per cent duty *ad valorem*, and it is of opinion, that in the event of any increase of revenue being required, it should be raised by increasing the duties on articles of luxury, not necessaries of life, and the Board is further of opinion, that permanency in the fiscal policy of the country is most important to its commercial and manufacturing interests. By telegraph to the *Patriot* of Saturday evening we learn that Senator Howlan proposed a resolution suggesting the necessity of procuring the fullest information on the Fisheries of the Dominion, and that a Commission be appointed to report on the best means of protecting them. This resolution was carried. A telegram to the *News* dated Feb. 26, reports:—

"The Dominion Board of Trade have passed resolutions in favor of a uniform system of gauging liquors, and in favor of a passage of a law requiring foreign mercantile agencies to appoint agents who shall be liable to actions at law. They also advise that the various Boards of Trade appoint local average adjusters, and urge the government to subsidize a line of steamers to ply between Dominion ports and the West Indies. A resolution approving of the land and water route to Manitoba was rejected by a vote of thirty-five to eleven. Senator Howlan has been elected Vice-President of the Board, which has adjourned to meet at St. John, N. B., in July."

"A visit from the members of the Board and their wives and daughters to the Maritime Provinces," says the *St. John Telegraph*, "would be a most pleasing result of the meeting of the Board. Our people would be delighted to meet their friends from the Upper Provinces, and no less so those from the United States. We shall look forward to the visit in the summer, and expect to see the strangers ascending the St. John or the Restigouche, taking a ride over the Prince Edward Island Railway, or regaling themselves with the scenery of the Bras d' Or." These sentiments we heartily endorse.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

WE trust that the Administrator's speech at the opening of the Legislature on Thursday next, will contain the announcement that a measure is about to be submitted to amend the Education Act, so that Catholics may hereafter be relieved from the necessity of supporting a school system to which they have such well-grounded and deep-rooted objections, and which works with such manifest injustice to them.

THE WAR IN CUBA.—Late advices by telegraph from Cuba state that another battle has been fought near Puerto Principe, in which 3,000 Spanish troops and 5,000 Cubans engaged. Over 300 Spaniards were killed and wounded, including Brigadier General Bascomes, the Spanish commander. There is no evidence that any Cubans were captured, or that they were more than barely repulsed.

THE LAND QUESTION.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, called for the purpose of considering the Land Question, and other local wants and interests, were recently held at Clifton, New London, and at Winsloe Road North. Although the inhabitants of both these thriving settlements have our deepest sympathies and our best wishes for the success of their efforts, we are unable, owing to the crowded state of our columns, to publish detailed reports of those meetings in this issue of the EXAMINER. The Secretary's report of the meeting at Winsloe Road, is unfit for publication. It is so extremely partizan that it cannot be strictly correct. Such expressions as "This unprecedented piece of foul political spite," "Despicable acts," "disgraced by a Government based upon deception," are, in our opinion, proof positive that the report is not reliable.

The Secretary who penned these expressions rejoices in the euphonious cognomen of "John Kenneth McInnis." We should like to know what right "John Kenneth McInnis," or any other secretary of a public meeting has to constitute himself a governmental censor. Who authorized him to use bad language containing charges which he cannot prove? After hearing such foul inuendos in respect to the servants of the public we can imagine the good genius of the Province seizing John Kenneth McInnis by the throat, and saying in the same voice of thunder as Othello, the Moor, said to Iago:—

Villain be sure of it; give me the ocular proof,
Or by the worth of mine eternal soul,
Thou had'st better been born a dog,
Than answered my wake'd wrath."

Seriously, we advise John Kenneth McInnis to weigh well the question whether or not it is right and expedient for Secretaries of public meetings to constitute themselves critics.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON'S LECTURE.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON's lecture in St. Patrick's Hall, on Friday evening last, was, we regret to report, ill-attended. But the audience before which it was delivered enjoyed a rich intellectual treat. It was a long and a brilliant discourse on "Shakespeare's Julius Cæsar."

The Chair being taken by P. R. Bowers, Esq., he introduced the lecturer with a few appropriate remarks. Professor Anderson then proceeded to show that the play of "Julius Cæsar" is one of the most remarkable of Shakespeare's dramas. It had not the depth of feeling aroused by particular phases of passion as portrayed in Macbeth, Hamlet, King Lear, and Othello, but it displayed a knowledge of the workings of the human mind in general, not to be found in any of the others. After explaining that Cæsar himself was by no means the leading character in the piece, inasmuch as it only included the last month of his life, and that Brutus is the real hero of the drama, he gave a slight sketch of the life of Cæsar, showing that by the power of Rome he conquered Gaul, and by the plunder of Gaul he conquered Rome, and having attained to the offering of divine honors by the Senate he became suspected, by the ardent supporters of the then crumbling republic at aiming at the hateful title of King. The honest fears of Brutus, worked upon by the selfish and crafty jealousy of Cassius and others, a conspiracy was formed which culminated in Cæsar's assassination. Then giving a masterly sketch of the philosophic and unworldly disposition of Brutus, and the keenly discerning selfishness of Cassius, he proceeded to point out how Cæsar, perceiving the worth of Brutus, had, after taking him prisoner at the battle of Pharsalia, not only spared his life and all the degradation with which the custom of the times overwhelmed the vanquished, but had, both from esteem and policy, heaped favors and distinction upon him; and how gratitude and patriotism struggled for mastry in the mind of Brutus, until the crafty urgings of Cassius led him to take the lead in the fatal conspiracy. We have not space, nor would it be well timed, to repeat the leading extracts of the drama, such as the justificatory speech of Brutus, and the condemnatory funeral oration of Antony, as we could not possibly reproduce the masterly reading of Professor Anderson. We can only request our friends to read them for themselves, now, whilst the impression is fresh upon their minds. The workings of remorse in the mind of the conscious-stricken Brutus, who, at Phillipi, perceived that his crime had produced nothing but disaster, was given with a keenness of appreciation and an eloquence which, to our mind, defied criticism. At the close of the lecture, the Chairman made the usual appeal to those present for any remark which they might think fit to offer, but no one had anything to suggest, save to express the general satisfaction felt; and a motion of thanks to the lecturer was moved and carried, *nem. com.*

The *Westminster Review* for January has just been reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 140 Fulton Street, N. Y. The following is a summary of the contents:

ART. I. "The disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England." Holds that the established church does not in its present condition fulfill the needs of the people; mentions the abuses connected with it, such as the sale of livings, etc.; and points out the necessity which is forcing itself into prominence, of separation of Church and State.

ART. II. 'The Metropolitan Police System.' We have heard so much about the excellence of the London Police Regulations, that it is with interest not unmixed with surprise, that we read this account of the working of the system, and find how imperfect it is, and what great need it has of reform.

ART. III. 'The Christian Missions to the Heathen.' An able paper, suggesting that religious instruction would be likely to take deeper root by following in the footsteps of civilization, than preceding it.

ART. IV. 'The Working Classes.' The labor question has attained such prominence in all countries of late, that it is unnecessary to call attention to anything bearing upon that subject. This paper refers particulary to the English labourer, his temperament, condition, and habits in all of which he differs in many respects from his prototype in this country. Trade-unionism is represented as useful in many ways, but as being only a temporary organization from which, in course of time, Industrial Co-operation is to be developed.

ART. V. 'John Stewart Mill.' An excellent article, giving a 'brief view of the sources and method of the Mr Mill's education, and the primary effect it had on his mind and character,' with 'the opinions of his mature years,' and 'some of the results of those opinions upon his labors in moral and political science as well as in practical politics.'

The remainder of the *Review* is devoted, as usual, to brief notices of Contemporary Literature, which will suggest to each reader the new books that will be most attractive to his mind.

THE CENSUS.

[From the British Colonist.]

The second volume of the Dominion Census of 1870-71 is printed. It is a bulky volume of between four and five hundred pages. The first table, number 7, gives the number of births during the twelve months immediately preceding the 2nd of April, 1871. Tables 8 to 12 call for no special remarks; but table 13 contains the enumeration of the people by occupation, being a general expose of the various industries in which the population is engaged. The five following tables are devoted to the enumeration of the deaths that occurred during the twelve months preceding the 2nd of April, 1871, by districts, giving the sexes and status of the dead. We are told, no doubt truly, in the introduction, that as is always the case when deaths are enquired into by means of a census, instead of a system of registration from day to day, the number of deaths recorded falls very greatly short of the actual rate of yearly mortality. In the Province of Ontario the recorded deaths are about equal to one in every 89 individuals of the total population, in the Province of Quebec, to one in every 57; in New Brunswick, to one in every 80, and in Nova Scotia also one in every 80; being one in seventy-three persons of the population of the four Provinces. Even in the Province of Quebec, where the census returns of deaths are more accurately given than elsewhere, there is still a deficiency. It is added, however, that means exist to enable an adjustment of these figures to be made, so that an expression of the real facts may be arrived at sufficiently near. The causes of deaths, under the categories of disease, accident, and by criminal interference are given by Provinces. These causes, of course, partake of the deficiency experienced in the general census record of deaths. The 10th table, the last of the second volume, contains a statement of the number of churches belonging to the several religious denominations, with the number of buildings attached to, or immediately connected with, these churches. Similar information is also given in relation to the higher class of educational institutions, and to penitentaries and jails, with the additional information of the total number of persons abiding in these institutions on the 2nd day of April, 1871.

Although census returns are, on the face of them, a dry subject of study, still, when carefully investigated and intelligently handled, they afford much curious as well as useful information. In consulting the tables it must be borne in mind that the figures now furnished are nearly three years old, so great is the delay in the issue of these volumes, of which, we believe, it will require several more to contain the entire returns of the census.

From table 10 it would appear that the number of children going to school in the four Provinces are 351,122 boys, and 330,769 girls; 161,104 males, and 138,471 females over 20 years of age are unable to read, and that 198,721 males, and 213,421 females are unable to write. There are in the Provinces 2,049 male, and 1,740 female deaf mutes. Of these latter 1,630 are in the Province of Quebec. The totals by Provinces of those who are unable to read is for Ontario, 57,379; for Quebec, 183,852; for New Brunswick, 19,002, and for Nova Scotia, 31,332. This gives a proportion, to the entire population, of about four times as many for the Province of Quebec as that of Ontario.

The total number of the blind in the four Provinces is 2,576, and of these 11 are over a hundred years of age. In point of sex 1,400 are males, and 1,167 females; and they are distributed as follows: Ontario, 1,209; Quebec, 1,203; New Brunswick, 216, and 328 in Nova Scotia.

There are in all the Provinces combined 5,026 males, and 4,397 females of unsound mind. Four of these are more than a hundred years old and the ages of 74 are not given.

OPINION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Victoria *Standard* states that Mr. Mackenzie's intentions, as represented by the opposition, are objectionable. It concludes an article on the Pacific Railway question as follows:—

When, however, we take up the accredited organs of the Government, and read what they put forth as the sentiments and intentions of the Cabinet as a whole, it has a tendency in a great measure to dispel our fears as to any intention on the part of the Government to violate the conditions of the agreement made with this Province. They tell us the railway is to be commenced at the earliest possible date, simultaneously on both sides of the mountains, and that by utilizing the vast stretches of water communication lying between a point not far from the Rocky Mountains and Fort Garry, and between Lake Superior and French River, on the Georgian Bay, communication will be opened across the Continent in five years' time, and that the entire line of railway between the Pacific Ocean and Fort Edmonton, at the eastern base of the Rockies will be in running order. If Mr. Mackenzie succeeds in doing this, and having accomplished the work so far, asks from British Columbia a relaxation of the terms, so far as we can see at present, we should say no serious objection will be offered thereto, at least so far as an extension of time is concerned, should further time be deemed necessary. The utilization of the American system of railways, pending the completion of our own through line, we should look upon as a wise step on the part of the Dominion Government, viewed from a British Columbia standpoint. *As for the completion of the line through on British territory, we may safely leave our eastern cousins to attend to that matter, as no doubt they will, it being to their interest to have the road completed through their territory with as little delay as possible.*

The *Colonist*, having quoted largely from the Toronto organ of the Government which said, "The people of British Columbia are too reasonable to expect Canada to commit itself to an impossibility"—proceeds to remark:

At the same time we beg to assure our big contemporary that the people of British Columbia are too sensible to relinquish or relax the railway covenant without receiving a fair and substantial equivalent. The Pacific Province does not want the 'pound of flesh' which, according to the 'bond,' she might demand; BUT SHE DOES WANT JUSTICE, AND SHE SHALL HAVE IT! The railway obligation entered into by Canada constituted THE consideration which induced British Columbia to cast in her lot with the Dominion, and if that obligation be found impossible of fulfilment as to the element of time, the people of this Province have a right to demand, and will demand, a substantial compensation for loss arising from delay.

Taxes are an awful reality in South Carolina. Negro and carpet-bag rule is a costly business. It is said that while taxable property has fallen from $500,000,000 to $175,000,000, taxation has been increased from $400,000 to over $2,500,000, so that the people are compelled to pay about twenty times as much as before the war for the support of their State Government. The cry of the people is, how this tremendous load can be lightened.

Paris lost a great deal in various ways when the Germans were driven from it, but the tone adopted towards them up to the present time is not likely to bring them back. Some Frenchmen carry their hatred to a point injurious to their own interests. The King of Bavaria desired to have some works of art in Paris reproduced by photography. The photographer who were employed found out, when part of their work was completed, for whom it was intended, and refused to deliver it. We read in one of to-day's papers that photographers are being sent from Munich.

CARLYLE ON THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

A book by Cunningham Geikie, addressed to young men contains the following admirable letter from Carlyle:—

CHELSEA, March 13, 1843.

DEAR SIR:—Some time ago your letter was delivered me; I take literally the first free half-hour I have had since, to write you a word of answer.

It would give me true satisfaction, could any advice of mine contribute to forward you in your honorable course of self-improvement; but a long experience has taught me that advice can profit but little; there is a good reason why 'advice is so seldom followed'—this reason, namely, that it is so seldom, and can almost never be, *rightly given*. No man knows the state of another; it is always to some more or less imaginary man that the wisest and most honest adviser is speaking.

As to the books which you, whom I know so little of, should read, there is hardly anything definite that can be said. For one thing, you may be strenuously advised to *keep reading*. Any good book, any book that is wiser than yourself, will teach you something—a great many things, indirectly and directly, if your mind be open to learn. The old counsel of Johnson's is also good and universally applicable: Read the book you do honestly feel a wish and curiosity to read. The very wish and curiosity indicates that you then and there are the person likely to get good of it. "Our wishes are presentiments of our capabilities;" that is a noble saying, of deep encouragement to all true men; applicable to our wishes and efforts in regard to reading, as to other things. Among all the objects that look wonderful or beautiful to you, follow with fresh hope the one that looks wonderfulest beautifulest. You will gradually by various trials (which trials are that you make honest, manly ones, not silly, short, fitful ones) discover what is for you the wonderfulest, beautifulest; what is your true element and province, and be able to abide by that. True Desire, the Monition of Nature, is much to be attended to. But here also you are to discriminate carefully between *true* desire and false. The medical men tell us we should eat what we *truely* have an appetite for; but what we only *falsely* have an appetite for, we should absolutely avoid. It is very true. And flimsy, 'desultory' readers, who fly from foolish book to foolish book, and get good of none, and mischief of all—are not these as foolish, unhealthy eaters, who mistake their superficial, false desire after spiceries and confectioneries for the real appetite, of which even they are not destitute, though it lies far deeper, far quieter, after solid nutritive food? With these illustrations I will recommend Johnson's advice to you.

Another thing and only one other, I will say. All *books* are properly the *record* of the history of past men. What *thoughts* past men had in them, what actions past men did; the summary of all books whatsoever lies there. It is on this ground that the class of books specially named History can be safely recommended as the basis of all study of books. Past history, and especially the past history of one's own native country—everybody may be advised to begin with that. Let him study that faithfully, innumerable inquiries, with due indications, will branch out from it; he has a broad beaten highway from which all the country is more or less visible—there travelling, let him choose where he will dwell.

Neither let mistakes nor wrong directions, of which every man, in his studies and elsewhere, falls into many, discourage you. There is precious instruction to be got by *finding* that we were wrong. Let a man try faithfully, manfully, to be right; he will grow more and more right. It is at bottom the condition on which all men have to cultivate themselves. Our very walking is an incessant *falling*; a falling and a catching of ourselves before we come actually to the pavement! It is emblematic of all things a man does.

In conclusion, I will remind you that it is not by books alone, or by books chiefly, that a man becomes in all points a man. Study to do faithfully whatsoever thing in your actual situation, there and now, you find either expressly or tacitly laid to your charge—that is your post; stand in it like a true soldier; silently devour the many chagrins of it, as all human situations have many, and be your aim not to quit it without doing all that *it*, at least required of you. A man perfects himself by work, much more than by reading. They are a growing kind of men that can wisely combine the two things; wisely, valiantly, can *do* what is laid to their hand in their present sphere, and prepare themselves withal for doing other wider things, if such lie before them. With many good wishes and encouragements, I remain yours sincerely,

THOMAS CARLYLE.

THE COMMUNE IN NEW YORK.

In a special telegram to the *St. John Telegraph*, it is said that "The French detective, who mixed among the rioters driven from Tompkin's Square, New York, some time since, both before and after the riot, in his full report to the chief of police, states that they are almost all Communists, who advocate sacking of the houses of the wealthy, and Mr. May, who is their leader, told them after the riot that it had been a day of great success, as it had shown that the working men would stand by them even to death, and that their organization was now made sacred by blood. They say that they will be ready hereafter, by organization and with arms, to overcome their enemies. At a recent meeting of these Communists, one of the committee of safety reported the following organization of working men here, which was adopted 'The working men of all nationalities must organize themselves by sections and companies. Each section will be composed of 100 men, each company of 400 men commanded by captains and other officers. Men will select their own officers, and every one of them will be elected by the working men of each company. Four companies of 400 men each will form a legion of 1,000 men, commanded by a superior officer. Each one of the men shall be very obedient to his officers, and faithful to his duty of a working man till death. A meeting of each section will take place every week; a general meeting of each company (400 men) will take place separately every month, to report to the committee of safety, the proceedings of every meeting of each section.' The names of all the leaders and their places of residence or business are known to the police."

Emigration to New York in 1873.—The report of the Commissioners of Emigration for the year 1873, shows an alien immigration into the port of New York for that year, 266,818 persons, being a falling off of 26,763 from the returns made for the year ending Dec. 31, 1872, which was an exceptional year for immigration, showing the largest returns since 1847, excepting two years—1852 and 1854. As to nationalities, England has decreased 3,110, and Germany 28,491. Ireland is almost the same as last year, there being a decrease of 135 in her emigration; Scotland has decreased 622, Sweden 2888, and France 3,991, while Norway has increased 1,378.

THE CAUSES OF MR. GLADSTONE'S DECLINE AND FALL.

The crushing rejoinder of the English constituencies to the appeal of Mr. Gladstone, is as decided as it must be humiliating. The actual ruler of England, for many years past, is all but consigned to oblivion; how long it will last, who can tell? and this not on account of the strength of the Opposition, but because of the distrust of Mr. Gladstone and aversion to his policy, which have recently been engendered. It will require all the philosophy and all the Christianity which Mr. Gladstone possesses, and we believe that he is no stranger to such consolations as they are respectively fitted to impart, to enable him to bear his defeat with composure. Of one thing he may assure himself, that however he may have temporarily fallen in public estimation, his past career will form a bright page in the English history which will be read by future generations of Englishmen.

While all this is true, it will appear that there are reasonable grounds for the fall of the late Premier. It is probable that his reforms were based too much on abstract principles, to bear all the practical tests to which they were put. Then the number of influential classes aggrieved thereby was very great, while many of those who were benefitted, because they asked for other favors and did not get them, were quite as hostile as if nothing had been done for them—were ready even to trust a new leader who was not likely to do anything for them.

The bid made for power by Mr. Gladstone, a snare into which Mr. Disraeli was near falling, by proposing the abolition of the income tax, worked differently from what was expected. It seems a settled point in England that indirect taxation cannot be increased. It was shrewdly inferred, therefore, that the abolition of the income tax just meant increased direct taxation, ere long, and perhaps in a more objectionable form, than that of the income tax. The country being rich and prosperous, people asked themselves why the national exchequer should be crippled, or if the taxes paid must be continued why there should be any shuffling about the mode of paying them. When the doubtful scheme of Gladstone was associated with the humiliating cheeseparing of Lowe, the people felt more disposed to pay the old taxes than to avail themselves of the new deductions.

Add to all this that Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy was not as firm as was desired by the English people. Averse as they are to the intermeddling spirit exemplified by Lord Palmerston, they are more averse to truckling, whether it were to Russia in the matter of the Black Sea treaties or to the United States in the Alabama matter, and as what was done in these respects did not please them, a great deal of irritation was caused which Mr. Gladstone's political foes turned to good account. Mr. Gladstone, being a scholar and a thinker, who lived in comparative separation from the people, never had that personal popularity which Palmerston enjoyed and which Disraeli knows so well how to cultivate, and did not really understand the public sentiment of the country. Owing to these and other causes, including the English love of change of governments, Mr. Gladstone's defeat can be understood. It is one of the greatest of modern times. It has not been without a cause, just as the overturn in Canadian politics has not been without cause; but, while this is the case, Gladstone may find solace in looking back to a past in which he was a great and distinguished figure, and we may say the same of our own Canadian leaders.—*St. John Telegraph*.

JAPANESE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The recall of the Japanese students from this country and Europe in such large numbers has led some persons to suppose that the Japanese Government has abandoned its policy of educating its youths abroad. This, however is by no means the fact. The necessity for the recalling of a large number of students in foreign countries arises partly from the lack of funds, but mainly because those having charge of the matter committed a great mistake in ever sending so many unprepared lads abroad. Most of them arrived in America or Europe unable to speak a word, and having but the merest elementary acquaintance with a foreign language. Encouraged by injudicious foreign advisers, and without fully considering the wisdom of the step, they sent hundreds of the lads abroad, who, instead of studying science and literature, had to begin the spelling-book and first reader, and spend two or three more in elementary drudgery. About six months ago, seeing their mistake, as well as warned by a sinking treasury, they sent Mr. Kuki, an official of the education department, to order back to Japan all who had failed to make progress, or who had not reached a certain standard. Only a very few out of the hundreds sent abroad wasted their time. The large majority of those recalled were able and diligent; but the mastery of a language is the task of years. Notwithstanding good schools, good teachers, and good friends, no student found a royal or a gilded road to learning. Too many of them ruined their health or lost their lives. Those who were grounded in the language before they left Japan, are the lucky ones who remain. The others, perhaps as worthy, diligent and promising, must return. It seems a pity to recall these young men, and to acknowledge the commission of a vast, organized and expensive blunder; but the sending of these lads abroad at the wrong time was nothing less. They should have spent from two to four years in good grammar schools, under experienced foreign teachers in Japan; so that when in Europe or America they could appreciate what they saw, heard, and tried to learn.

There have been some curious instances of wasted or misspent time among these returned students. One from France had utterly forgotten his own language, remembering only a very few words, but incapable of forming a Japanese sentence. He could talk French like a native Parisian; but knew nothing of the usual branches, such as arithmetic, geography, etc. The examination of these returned students is now becoming part of the regular duties of the professors of the Imperial College in Tokei. The student is examined by professors who are natives of the country in which he studied. With every desire to give the student a fair chance, not a single applicant has yet been able to enter the first or second classes of the College, though a few have answered a sufficient percentage of the questions propounded to admit them to the third class. The students of the first and second classes in the Imperial College already average three years of study devoted to the English, French, or German languages. It is intended to send abroad a certain number of students annually; but they will be young men already thoroughly grounded in the language and elementary studies of the country in which they will reside. If American teachers are pleased with their Japanese pupils, it will please them to know that there are scores more who are just as good and bright and much better prepared in the College of Tokei, waiting very patiently for their turn to come to go abroad and see the things they are already familiar with by their daily description and long study.—*N. Y. Independent*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Spain has removed her duties on exports.

It has been proposed at Washington to reduce postage to two cents.

Deaths from famine are reported at Nepaul, India.

Asiatic cholera at Buenos Ayres is carrying off about 50 persons daily.

There is said to be much sickness among the British troops at Ashantee.

The Ohio has arisen 37 feet at Cincinnati, and fears are entertained of a flood.

It is reported that Secretary Fish is to go to England in the place of Schenck, resigned.

The insurrection in China is spreading, and the insurgents are marching on Negasaki.

New buildings to the value of twenty-two millions of dollars were erected in New York last year.

A severe earthquake is reported in Venezuela, causing much damage to life and property.

A merchant in Troy, N. Y., recently shipped an invoice of stoves to Siam and China.

Nearly half the population of a village in Connecticut are suffering from small pox.

A reciprocity treaty is about to be arranged between the Sandwich Islands and the United States.

Mr. Disraeli, in limiting his Cabinet to 12 members, is generally approved by the press. Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet comprised 15 members.

Mr. Cardwell, of the Gladstone Ministry, will be elevated to the Peerage, under the title of Viscount Rivington.

The Indian Government states that it has now sufficient grain to meet any demand from the distressed districts.

Charles Shirley Brooks, the novelist, dramatic author, and editor of the London *Punch* is dead.

LOOK OUT.—The women crusaders are moving east. They are already attaching the 8,000 bar-rooms in New York.

A correspondent of the *Standard* on the Gold Coast writes that a treaty has been signed by Wolseley and the King of the Ashantees.

Lady Burdett Coutts has offered to devote £5,000 for the benefit of destitute boys in London, and the money is to be used to fill out a training ship.

In a late fight the Dutch troops in Acheen captured an important fort, killing 2,000 defenders. The loss to the expedition is only six killed and fifty-six wounded.

Mr. Dillion, a member of the Livingstone search expedition, with Livingstones's remains, is expected ty reach Zanzibar the 20th inst. The Cameron expedition will proceed to Ujiji to obtain documents and property left by the doctor.

Francis John Parkham, Secretary of British Legation at Washington, and Watson, Secretary of British Legation at Copenhagen, are to exchange places.

Political disturbances have appeared in Japan. The people clamor for a war with the Coreans. This, or a civil war, is inevitable. An insurrection has broken out in the district of Tizen.

Rev. Mr. Moffatt, English Missionary to South Africa, doubts the correctness of the reports concerning Dr. Livingstone's death. The Foreign Office likewise entertains some doubt.

A Jewish journal, called *Glad Tidings*, has been commenced in Calcutta. It is published every Friday, and is printed in the Arabic Language and Hebrew character.

There are more negroes than white men in the Mississippi Legislature, which is not at all unreasonable, as, according to the census of 1870, the white population of the State numbered 383,000 against 444,000 colored.

The *Times* says a despatch received at Cape Coast Castle on the 28th January, from the expeditionary force, announces that Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee, surrendered to General Wolsey, and that the King and family were made prisoners.

Three railway accidents occurred in England lately. The most serious happened to the Scottish mail train, which ran into a luggage train near Preston. Fifteen persons were injured, of whom two died. The cars were all demolished.

It appears from Parliamentary Blue Books that the last administration of Mr. Disraeli brought down the taxation of the country from £2 8s 4d per head to £2 5s 6d, and that Mr. Gladstone's Government has raised it again to £2 8s 2d.

A despatch to the *Times*, from Calcutta says that 280,000 persons are distressed from want of food in the district of Tirhoot and Baylipoor, Presidency of Bengal. The same dispatch says it is estimated that, but for aid furnished by the Government, 500,000 persons would have perished.

It is said that on the assembling of Parliament, it will immediate be prorogued until March 12th, so that the members who accepted office from Mr. Desraeli may have an opportunity to go before their constituents for re-election. It is also said that the Queen's speech will not be read until Parliament re-assembles. Sir William Fitzgerald will probably be appointed under Secretary of State for India.

Want—hunger—famine still haunt the streets of New York. Tens of thousands are on a very short allowance, and thousands have to live daily on the dole of charity. The rich men happily are very liberal, and no case of want made known fails to be relieved. It is hoped that in a few weeks better times will come. Meanwhile charity must hold her hand open.

A brutal massacre of Chinese has recently taken place in Costa Rica. Some of the men employed on the railroad had offended the chief of the camp, an irascible Frenchman named Lafeychine, in consequence of which they thrashed them with a whip. The Chinese resented this treatment, and drove all of the white men out of their camp, whereupon one of the contractors named Meyers, in his fright, telegraphed to Cartago for troops. A force of thirty-five drunken soldiers consequently arrived in the middle of the night, and at once proceeded to fire into a body of 300 Chinese as they lay asleep in their tents. Six were killed and nine others mortally wounded. The officer in charge is now to be tried by court-martial; and the residents are regretting this episode in the history of the Costa Rica Railroad.

The Siamese Twins eclipsed.—The Albury *Border Post* records the death of the wife of Mr. F. W. Tietyers, who had recently given birth to twins. The extraordinary complication attending the birth caused great exhaustion, from which deceased never rallied. The infants, who are full grown, and in every respect perfect, are joined together from about an inch below the armpit to the upper edge of the hip bone, and about four inches in width; with this exception, the infants (both females) are well proportioned, and in every respect each in itself perfect. The case is one which will doubtless possess many features of interest to the medical profession no record being known of any case so extraordinary—the union of the infants being more complete and of much greater extent than that existing between the celebrated Siamese twins.

FALSE TEETH AND MOLASSES CANDY.—A Newark, N. J., husband brought home a hunk of molasses candy for his wife the other evening. His wife wears false teeth. The candy was of an adhesive nature. She helped herself to a generous hunk, and planted both rows of teeth in it. There they remained. Strenuous were her efforts to release them, but she was not successful. She wanted her mouth free that she might say something to him. She wanted to say something to him that the candy not only prevented, but the tone of which from its prominint quality it debauched. But she could not get her jaws apart. Then she went to the sink and dropped the whole mass, teeth and candy, into a basin. Again she looked at him as if she was on the point of saying something that he would be interested in, but every effort was broken and destroyed by the orphaned jaws. Imagine a woman, a direct descendant of Eve, in such a fix. Think of the mighty thoughts surging and battleing through her brain think of the torrent of eloquence busting from her throat with a roar and striking out into the air and vapour; think of the blazing eyes, the distended nostrils, the trembling frame, the nervous hands. Picture her thus tearing the miserable candy from the glistening teeth, and comprehend if you can, O man! the velocity with which the freed teeth were into there place, and with which that wretched man subdued his merriment and tore out of that house.—*Danbury News*.