

the scepticism of Hume, had defended it in his profounder German fashion, and had thus given rise to the German Transcendental Philosophy, with all that has since come out of it. This philosophical activity of Kant falls fully within the life of Rogers, for Kant died in 1804, when Rogers was a man of forty. In France, on the other hand—the intellectual scepticism of Hume mingling at once with what may be called the native moral and social scepticism of Voltaire—there had issued, as the natural but still illogical result, that Gallic system of sensationalism, which far more avowedly materialistic than the contemporary sensationalism of England, reigned supreme till, in comparatively recent times, Scotland and Germany supplied modifying elements. Now, both of these foreign philosophies, reacted on that British controversy with which they had original relations. Through the poetic-philosophic mind of Coleridge, as through a window of coloured glass, there was poured into the prevalent sensationalism, or into the ill-mixed sensationalism and traditional theology of England, a flood of tinted German light; while the task of revising Reid's philosophy from the foundation, with the aid of a thorough knowledge of all that Kant and his German successors had done, and so deepening and rebuilding the national Scottish Philosophy, fell to the harder and severer mind of Sir William Hamilton. The communication between English and French sensationalism had all this while been going on through such thinkers as Bentham and Mill; and more recently we have had an infusion of French sensationalism in its most pronounced materialistic form of so-called Positivism, through translations from M. Auguste Comte.

Had any one informed old Rogers that he had lived through all this, he would probably have said that he was really not aware of it, but was very glad to hear it, and hoped it was all over. He was certainly one of those who put in practice Goethe's famous anti-metaphysical maxim, and did not trouble themselves with thinking about thinking. Herein he differed greatly not only from his friend Coleridge, but also from his friend Wordsworth, and many other contemporary poets. His philosophy, so far as he had any, was the simple practical philosophy which confines itself to the consideration of the art of pleasant and tranquil living; and, wherever he deals with maxims, it is with the time-honoured maxims which have been rubbed smooth by poets in the service of this philosophy. Hume or Reid, Kant or Comte, it was all the same to him; for, whichever philosophy was uppermost, there seemed little danger that his little metaphysics—which consisted very much in believing that men ought to pay their way, keep their temper and cultivate soft affections—would ever be disturbed or persecuted. Almost the only one of his poems in which one discerns something of the influence of contemporary metaphysical speculation, in his *Pleasures of Memory*, which is a mild, poetical exposition of the doctrine of the association of ideas as made popular by Hartley and others. Nor, unfortunately as regards the interest of his *Table-talk* in the department of gossip about contemporary philosophers and philosophic systems, was Rogers one of those who make up for not thinking about thinking by (what is really a very different thing) thinking about thinking about thinking. Goethe, who desired to avoid the first, was his whole life practising the second; and hence his own metaphysics consisted in being anti-metaphysical. Moreover, for the same reason, his talk was rich enough in reference to the history of thought and speculation in his time. But in Rogers's case it was otherwise; and had it not been that eminent men were interesting to him as such, without any regard to the precise grounds of their eminence, and that, seeing, in the course of his long life, celebrated thinkers as well as celebrated poets, or actors or men of fashion, he noticed them with curiosity, and afterwards told his reminiscences of them, the history of British speculation in his time, important as that history was, would have had nothing to represent it in his *Table-talk*. As it is, however, simply because Rogers lived so long and knew so many people, he could not but have some interesting enough recollections of the ways and physiognomies of men of the philosophic tribe; here are a few such:

**Story of Hume and his Critics.**—"Hume told Cadell the bookseller, that he had a great desire to be introduced to as many of the persons who had written against him as could be collected; and requested Cadell to bring him and them together. Accordingly Dr. Douglas, Dr. Adams, &c., &c., were invited by Cadell to dine at his house in order to meet Hume. They came; and Dr. Price, who was one of the party, assured me that they were all delighted with David."

**Recollection of Adam Smith.**—"When a young man, I went to Edinburgh, carrying letters of introduction (from Dr. Kippis, Dr. Price, &c.) to Adam Smith, Robertson and others. When I first saw Smith he was at breakfast, eating strawberries; and he desecrated on the superior flavour of those grown in Scotland. I found him very kind and communicative. He was what (Robertson was not) a man who had seen a great deal of the world. Once, in the course of conversation, I happened to remark of some writer that he was 'rather superficial,—a Voltaire.' 'Sir,' cried Smith, striking the table with his hand, 'there has been but one Voltaire.'"

**Anecdote of Paley.**—"I never saw Paley; but my brother knew him well and liked him much. Paley used to say, in his broad dialect, 'I am an advocate for corruption;' (that is, parliamentary influence.)"

**Coleridge's Talk.**—"Coleridge was a marvellous talker. One morning, when Hookham Frere also breakfasted with me, Coleridge talked for three hours without intermission about poetry, and so admirably, that I wish every word he uttered had been taken down. But sometimes his harangues were quite unintelligible, not only to myself, but to others. Wordsworth and I called upon him one forenoon, when he was in a lodging off Pall Mall. He talked uninterruptedly for about two hours, during which Wordsworth listened to him with profound attention, every now and then nodding his head as if in assent. On quitting the lodging, I said to Wordsworth, 'Well, for my own part, I could not make head nor tail of Coleridge's oration; pray, did you understand it?' 'Not one syllable of it,' was Wordsworth's reply."

**Mackintosh.**—"When I lived in the Temple, Mackintosh and Richard Sharp used to come to my chambers, and stay there for hours, talking metaphysics. One day they were so intent on their 'first cause,' 'spirit' and 'matter,' that they were unconscious of my having left them, paid a visit and returned. I was a little angry at this, and to show my indifference about them, sat down and wrote letters without taking any notice of them. I never met a man with a fuller mind than Mackintosh, such readiness on all subjects, such a talker!"

**Rogers puzzled as to the origin of evil.**—"Why there should be evil in the world is indeed a mystery. Milton attempts to answer the question; but he has not done it satisfactorily. The three acutest men with whom I was ever acquainted, Sir James Mackintosh, Malthus and Bobus Smith (an elder brother of Sydney), were all agreed that the attributes of the Deity must be in some respects limited, else there could be no sin and misery."

This last quotation will indicate, better than anything else could, Rogers's *calibre* as a metaphysician on his own account. Only fancy a little old gentleman citing it as the deliberate opinion of the three acutest men he had ever known, and intimating his disposition to agree with them, that, in order to account for the existence of evil, it is necessary to suppose that the Deity is in some respects incompetent, and does not fill all creation, but only, as it were, a large piece of the middle of it! That such a wretched little bit of Anthropomorphism could have lingered in the theology of any

creature in the nineteenth century, and much more that it should unsuspectingly be given out by him in conversation as passable metaphysics, might seem incredible. That Rogers had misconceived something which he had heard Mackintosh, Malthus and Bobus Smith say, we take for granted; and, indeed, but for a note of Mr. Dyce's, which shows that he was himself surprised at the opinion he heard Rogers quote, we should fancy that the mistake was his. As it is, the saying is an authentic measure of the intellect, and we might say, also, of the imagination of Rogers.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

TO THE TENANTS OF THE EARL OF SELKIRK'S ESTATE.

GENTLEMEN.—Some time ago I was entrusted by a large majority of your body to transmit to the Earl of Selkirk a Petition, in which your wishes were set forth that his Lordship would sell his estates to the local Government, in order that you might at once become Freeholders under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, and no longer be liable to be sold to land speculators, in order that an exorbitant profit may be made at the joint expense of yourselves and his Lordship.

I think it now my duty to lay before you an account of my stewardship, by which it will be seen that your wishes are likely to be accomplished. But first let me say in explanation, that a correspondence has taken place with Her Majesty's Government, from which I infer that money, to make this or any other similar purchase, will be obtained under the guarantee of the Imperial Government; that is, always supposing that this beneficial intention meets no interruption from the House of Assembly, where an Address was voted last session to Her Majesty for the obtaining this guarantee, and carried on a division which may be seen in the parliamentary proceedings. I now transcribe the correspondence on the subject, and remain, Your obedient servant,

October 7, 1856. Wm. SWABEY.

No. 1. From the Earl of Selkirk to the Hon. Wm. Swabey. LONDON, 25th June, 1856.

SIR,—I have received your letter, accompanying a petition from some of the tenants on the lots owned by me in Prince Edward Island. I have no anxiety to keep this property in my own hands; on the contrary, I shall be perfectly willing to dispose of it either to the local Government or any other parties who may be inclined to offer a reasonable price for the lots.

If the whole property were to be taken at once, and the price paid in full, it would be an additional inducement to me to treat.

I am, your most obedient, SELKIRK.

WILLIAM SWABEY, Esq., Commissioner of Public Lands.

No. 2. To the Right Hon. the Earl of Selkirk from the Hon. Wm. Swabey. JULY 28, 1856.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated London, June 25th, 1856. After laying it before the Lieutenant Governor in Council, I was directed to wait on your Lordship's agent—represented by Mr. James Douse, son of William Douse, Esq., who is in England—to obtain information as to the amount of wilderness lands and occupied farms on your estate, in order that some data might be afforded the Government on which to found an offer for their purchase, or to consider any proposition which might emanate from yourself. I showed Mr. Douse your Lordship's letter, which, I should have thought, would have justified his giving some information, however limited. This, however, he declined to do, as by his letter in my possession. The Government is desirous to purchase this property, but till furnished by your Lordship's order, with the necessary particulars, nothing can be done. I can only inform you of the facts for your guidance, that the Worrell Estate (82,000 acres) was purchased by the Government for 4s. sterling per acre; that of Sir John Walsh (7000 acres) for 3s. 6d. sterling. The price to which the Government is limited is 5s.

I think it right to suggest that though the local Government are prepared to expect every impediment from their political opponents, in their endeavours to bring about the purchase of proprietary lands, in order to set at rest in an equitable manner the warfare existing between tenants' and landlords' interests, they would gladly do so on as good terms as your Lordship could obtain from other parties.

Your Lordship's obedient servant, Wm. SWABEY, Commissioner of Public Lands.

No. 3. From James Douse, Esq., to the Hon. Wm. Swabey. 26th JULY, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of yesterday's date, requesting me to furnish a statement of the quantities of land (occupied and otherwise) in the possession of the Earl of Selkirk.

I beg to reply that his Lordship's agent, Wm. Douse, Esq., is at present on his route to England, where he will doubtless have immediate communication with his Lordship, and be made fully acquainted with his wishes respecting the sale of his property in this Island; that I expect his return home in the latter part of the month of October; and that, during his absence, I do not feel myself at liberty to communicate any information respecting the estate, without instructions to that effect.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JAMES DOUSE.

No. 4. From the Earl of Selkirk to the Hon. Wm. Swabey. 4th SEPTEMBER, 1856.

SIR,—I have received your letter, of the 28th July, respecting the purchase of my property in Prince Edward Island. My agent, Mr. Douse, will return to the Island early in October, and he will be instructed to furnish full information to the Government as to the amount of wilderness land and occupied farms on my estate, and he will be authorised to negotiate with the Government for the sale of it.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, SELKIRK.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., OCTOBER 13, 1856.

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE.

UNDER this head we have, at various times, had our attention called to all sorts of anomalous combinations, the general object of which is, by the use of any available means, however incongruous in principle, to reinstate in place and power those who formerly held a baneful influence in this Island. Escheators and Proprietors, and Proprietary Agents, were, in the last Session of the Legislature, found helping each other to overthrow the present Government, by votes, arising from nothing in common in principle, but only the hope of a majority being obtained, which, if it ever occurred, would leave the respective parties in it still to fight amongst themselves for what they could get. One party or the other of these must predominate,—either the proprietary party must become escheators, or the escheators become proprietors. What care they for the constitution? They have revived the old story of excluding heads of departments from the Legislature—desirous to see the return of the good old times, (as they deem them) when no official person was either responsible in his place in the Legislature, or subject to have his accounts and proceedings pass under the examination of qualified auditors—when Treasury Warrants

bore an interest of six per cent., and formed the staple investment of officials and their friends, and the public monies were to them a source of speculation and profit. It is to reproduce this system that an anxiety is expressed to have the holders of office removed from Parliamentary scrutiny. Some there are, too, who are parties to this alliance, who view with no favour the means taken under the present regime to counteract the lucrative business of smuggling, and to protect the revenue. Others again look on the universal system in education with no favourable eye, because they are not only taxed for its support, but they feel assured that things went on better for them when knowledge was more confined than it is at present. The spread of intelligence in our day enables the mass of the people to detect official peculators in their mal-practices, and to know in what consists the freedom and happiness of mankind,—the former of which is a nuisance, and the latter not worth having, when monopoly and misrule are to be the price paid for its employment.

But of all things just now serving the turn of the Obstructives, the Land Purchase Bill is the most recent, and the best to play upon. Much pains, much sophistry, and an incalculable amount of falsehood have been employed to defeat the object this Bill has in view, which is to lull the raging waters of discontent by destroying their source—by using means at hand, and not apocryphal, to turn discontented leaseholders into happy freeholders. To prevent this, every artifice is at work,—all the means that can be scraped together are collected to purchase from the absent and deluded proprietor, to forestal the Government, so as to keep up the price of land, and to retail to the tenantry at two or three times the price at which the Government would be disposed to sell. If any one can doubt the intentions of the unholy Alliance in this matter, let him turn to the division on the address to Her Majesty, to guarantee a loan, in order that this healing and beneficent measure may uninterruptedly proceed. There they will find arrayed against the only effectual means of settling the land question, Messrs. Cooper, McIntosh and Laird, with the real proprietary faction, Messrs. Palmer, Haviland, Longworth, &c.

These, and such like things, are the stalking horses of those who strive to ride into power on the heads of the ignorant and the credulous, and who, being as wide as the poles from each other in principle—(may we be forgiven for prostituting the term!)—will not cease to aid each other to pick a bone, the remains of which they will, if ever the time should come, snarl and fight over to the last. This spirit of hostility to public liberty and social improvement prompts an opposition to the extension of the number of the people's representatives. Is it not enough to say in favour of this measure that these people are banded together to oppose it? Does not that very circumstance demonstrate that it is an enlargement of popular interests? When was ever anything proposed for the public good that this unholy alliance did not combine to oppose? We hear, in connection with these matters, that the better to carry on these inveterate obstructive objects, forsooth a Society is formed, called the "Political Alliance." The manoeuvre of those who lead people by the nose in this hopeful squand, is to persuade ignorant men that a Liberal Government is not proceeding on liberal principles; and in order to pick up a few loose fish, who, at one time, styled themselves liberals, but never understood the meaning of the term or its application—who never knew or felt that the object of true liberality is not the disruption of all law and order, and the confiscation of property, but the establishment of as much freedom as is consistent with public, private and social safety; and above all, the dragging of public officers from the skulking places in which they formerly plundered the revenue, into a place where they cannot escape the public scrutiny; and although it is not openly avowed, it is for this very reason that the policy and persons of the present Government are more particularly disliked by the leaders of the Obstructive faction.

The "Political Alliance," as the new confederation style themselves, but which we shall continue to designate the "Unholy Alliance"—held their first regular meeting at the Temperance Hall on Thursday evening last. The number present, the proceedings of the meeting, and the plan of operations for the future, were kept as secret from the outer world as bars and bolts could secure them. None but those who had tickets could gain admittance to the "charmed circle,"—and the very limited number of tickets printed, warrant us in supposing that there was a very beggarly array of empty benches. The Tories delight to work in secret, and in the dark; and as fate would have it, their proceedings had scarcely commenced when every gas light in the building was extinguished suddenly and instantaneously. This event, at the inauguration of the Unholy Alliance, is universally believed to typify the extinguisher which Public Opinion will shortly put upon the combination.

Our readers do not require to be told what materials constitute this precious "Alliance." It is readily believed, and truly so, that the first and principal element is the old Tory party—that impracticable and obstructive faction who could never see beyond the length of their noses—who opposed all changes and reforms as long as they could, because they hate changes and reforms of any kind—who have been thoroughly whipped at the hustings and outvoted in the Legislature—who have had their misdeeds, their pecculations, and their wholesale robberies, exposed and punished at the bar of public opinion; and with those are leagued discarded temperance lecturers; a rejected servant of a late House of Assembly, who contrived to exact payment for work he did not perform; and two or three deserters from the liberal ranks, who sought small offices which have been given to better men, and who ever since pretend to have discovered great faults in the conduct of the Liberal party.

We do not see any necessity to put the Liberals of the Island generally on their guard against this shabby and disreputable combination. Although it may include some who think they are wise in their generation, they are false prophets without the power to deceive,—for let them bring every stalking horse to their aid—let them pretend that they are in favour of temperance, while their leaders habitually get drunk—let them pretend a zeal for religion, when they only want to conciliate the Bigots and the Orangemen—let them profess an attachment to some ultra principles of Liberalism, when they only want to ensnare a few of the most unreasonably discontented and disappointed of the Liberal party,—and still we defy them to come openly and publicly before the people of Prince Edward Island, for if they do, we are prepared to guarantee their overwhelming condemnation.

The English Mail, which arrived in Halifax on the 8th inst., in the Royal Mail Steamer *Niagara*, reached Charlottetown on Friday last. Affairs in Italy begin to assume a more serious aspect, and a war with Naples, at no distant day, does not seem improbable. Austria pretends not to be favourable to the designs of King Ferdinand, but it is incredible that the latter should assume a defiant attitude towards England and France, unless he were encouraged by the Court of Vienna. The appearance of the Anglo-French fleet in the Bay of Naples—for which destination it was preparing at latest accounts—will be most likely to bring matters to a crisis.

Field-Marshal Lord Hardinge died at his country seat near Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, the 24th September last.

We intended to have published in this day's paper the several speeches delivered at the Normal School Soiree, but did not receive the whole of them in time to put them in type.

NEWS BY THE MAIL FROM ENGLAND.

If we are to credit communications from the capitals of Russia and Turkey, the question of the Isle of Serpents, so far from being settled, still wears an angry and threatening appearance. Russia has not yielded her claim to the rock, and has no intention of doing so. The squadron of Admiral Lyons in the Black Sea has received orders to remain until the dispute is settled. In the event of Russian troops again attempting to land on the island, our guns will open upon them. This looks very like a determination to bring the matter to a crisis. French ships will also be speedily sent to the Black Sea; but the representatives of that Power, it is understood, will pursue a more reserved policy in the affair.

As regards Naples, the Western Nations are determined to bring Bomba to his senses. The appearance of an Anglo-French squadron in his beautiful bay will speedily dispose of unsettled points. There are no less than fifteen screw-steamers waiting at Spitehead for orders to sail, but their departure has been delayed in order that the ultimatum of the Western Powers may be prepared with all the care and formality becoming so important a step. Austria, if a communication from Vienna is to be credited, will leave the wretched fellow to his fate; but Austria herself has been detected in as disreputable a transaction as could by any possibility be imagined: that is to say, the arrest and imprisonment of a number of private and non-commissioned officers, Austrian subjects, on their arrival from Malta, in the Austrian States. Their offence is accepting employment in the Anglo-Italian Legion, to fight against Russia, without the permission of their own Government. This has caused a great stir throughout Italy, especially among the discharged legionaries of Piedmont. The English and French representatives at Tuscany and Parma, where the men are imprisoned awaiting their trials, have protested against the act, and, considering the broken promises of Austria herself during the whole of the Russian war, in, we have no doubt, very indignant terms.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* alludes to a report of its being the intention of the United States to form an alliance with those European Powers who may be disposed to adopt, as an article, the immunity of merchant vessels and merchandise from capture in time of war, even by men-of-war.

THE SECOND NOTE TO NAPLES.—A Frankfort journal gives a synopsis of the second note sent by the Western Powers to the King of Naples. They express their desire to come to an honorable understanding with him. They admit that under present circumstances the King cannot grant a general amnesty, and, therefore, request the King to grant a pardon to those political prisoners who may apply for it, and make their submission in proper form. But this they particularly insist on; and they, therefore, give their note the form of an ultimatum, allowing the King a fortnight for consideration, after which they will resolve the measures they think advisable.

THE FRENCH SQUADRON FOR THE BAY OF NAPLES.—The *Moniteur de la Flotte* publishes the names of four vessels which are ordered to cruise forthwith in the Bay of Naples. The squadron is to consist of the *Bretagne*, the *Ulm*, the *Algerias*, and the *Napoleon*, under the orders of Admiral Trehouart. The ultimatum addressed to the King of Naples has not yet gone. It is said that Count Walewski thought it necessary to exchange one more communication with the Emperor before despatching it. A Cabinet courier is expected from England, bearing the ultimatum of the English Government, which, with that of France, will at once go on to Naples. Count Walewski, seeing the great effect produced out of doors by the announcement of the decided measures resolved upon by the two Governments, deemed it advisable to represent it to the Emperor before taking the final step. In this manner, at least, has the delay been explained.

NAPLES.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says it is not doubted that the ultimatum will be despatched to Naples by the end of the week. Other advices, however, speak of the probability of the Neapolitan affairs being again referred to diplomacy, and that consequently the squadron intended to be despatched to Naples will not sail at all for the present.

At the last dates from Naples rumours had begun to circulate of the Anglo-French naval demonstrations, and some symptoms of popular agitation were observable. The police maintained a strict surveillance on the English residents. An Austrian squadron of 7 ships of war is cruising in the vicinity of Sicily.

THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA.—A despatch to the Minister of War, from Marshal Randon, gives an account of the expedition of General Jusuf in the Frikal country in Algeria, and of a series of hot skirmishes with, and village attacks on the Kabyles. In these affairs the enemy, as usual, are said to have suffered serious loss. The French had three men killed and 24 wounded—among them two officers of Chasseurs, and one of the *Tirailleurs*. The Marshal adds to the report, that the struggle with the *Gnechtolas* approaches its end, that the hill positions are in possession of the French, and that soon the reinforcements of Algiers will appear upon the plain country of the Boghni.

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA DANCING WITH HER RECENT ENEMIES.—The most agreeable news from Moscow is the statement that, at the Coronation ball, the Empress of Russia showed her remarkable good sense by dancing with the allied Powers that opposed her country, that is to say, with M. de Morny, Lord Granville, and the Turkish representative. The Emperor himself is reported to have received the Frenchman very cordially, the Englishman with reserve, and the Turk with impatience. Be that as it may, the dancing is a fact, and who can doubt that the diplomatists of France, Turkey, and England were more usefully employed in dancing with an Empress than in sitting in council at Vienna?

SERIOUS AFFAIR AT TREBIZOND.—The *Journal de Constantinople* reports that a serious affair happened at Trebizond on the 8th. Some Turkish boatmen tore down the flag of a Russian merchant vessel, and threw the Russian sailors into the sea. The Russian Consul demands the dismissal of the Captain of the Port, a compensation, and the bastinado for the boatmen. The Divan is inquiring into the affair.

THE CIRCASSIANS RALLIED TO FIGHT THE RUSSIANS.—CONSTANTINOPLE, SEPT. 12.—The Naib Chief of the Circassians, sent by Sefer Pacha, has arrived here. Sefer Pacha, who is at the head of 30,000 men, has issued a proclamation, calling on all the Circassians to fight the Russians with energy.