

can buy off the advocates of self-government. We are men—we will be free men; and our liberties must be in our own keeping. The imperial Government hath given us proofs of its wish to induct us into the enjoyment of all our privileges. A few families in the Colonies stand between us and the throne: they intercept its rays: they rob us of our rights. That party must yield or abide the result.

LAICUS WESLEYENSIS.

THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1847.

OFFICIAL INTERVENTION.

We thought of making some lengthy observations on the Despatch which follows, written by Earl Grey on the subject of the complaint made by the Hon. Mr. Coles, against the intervention of official persons at his Election; but the shortness of our present available space—owing to the English and Colonial news—compels us to be brief. Till the present time we saw no necessity for reverting to Mr. Coles' complaint. We did and do, however, consider it a very just and proper one, for how can any Government proceed with safety, if its servants be allowed to oppose and obstruct it in every conceivable shape. We know it has been contended, that the practice complained of can be attended by evil results, under no other system than the Responsible one; but surely if it would be found to be injurious under that system, would it not be found to be equally injurious under any other? Those who use the argument, that official intervention may be safely tolerated under the present mode of Administration, argue indirectly for the introduction of the Responsible system; for if it is one of the beauties of our old Colonial policy, we have no reason to dwell with enthusiasm on the remembrance of it, or to struggle for its perpetuation.

We have been furnished with a copy of Mr. Coles' letter, and we find that his case is clearly and broadly stated, and, in quoting from a Despatch addressed by Lord Glenelg in 1835, to Sir Francis Bond Head, Governor of Upper Canada, he shows clearly enough that the practice of which he complains is not applicable to any kind of Colonial policy—and the abolition of which is not dependant on the establishment of the system promulgated by Lord John Russell four years after the writing of Lord Glenelg's despatch. We give the passage quoted by Mr. Coles:—

"If the head of any department should place himself in decided opposition to your policy, whether that opposition be avowed or latent, it will be his duty to resign his office into your hands: because the system of government cannot proceed with safety on any other principle than that of the cordial co-operation of its various members in the same general plans of promoting the public good. The inferior members of the different offices should consider neutrality on this great litigated question of provincial policy, as at once their duty and their privilege."

Earl Grey's despatch does not declare that official opposition to the Government shall be allowed to continue. It says, that its toleration will depend upon the answer he may be required to give to the Earl of Elgin's Report on "the broader and more general question,"—meaning, we presume, Responsible Government—respecting which the Lieutenant Governor was directed to communicate with his Lordship the Governor General. In abiding the result, we have little fears for the ultimate establishment of the only remedy for many of our political and social evils: And if the Imperial Government become thoroughly cognizant of our true position, the "considerations" raised by Lord Grey may be easily satisfied or set aside. These "considerations" are—that we have not made any provision for the payment of our Civil List—that our

population is smaller—and that we are "less in possession of the means of general education" than are any of the neighbouring Provinces. We shall next week return to review these "considerations," for the present we need only say, that we have within ourselves resources sufficient for the payment of the Civil List, if left to our disposal—that though our population be small, we are not to be denied the privileges of our fellow Colonists in Canada or Nova Scotia; for if we were so denied, Earl Grey would be sanctioning a policy, which would contemplate only the welfare of the many, and not that of the few, and as for our educational "means," we trust they will be found, upon enquiry, to be quite as extensive in proportion to our population, as they are any where else.

(Copy, No. 40.)

Downing Street,
September 3, 1847.

SIR,

I have received your Despatches dated the 29th June last, No. 93, and the 13th July last, No. 95, with their enclosures on the subject of the complaints which have been preferred by Mr. George Coles, respecting the intervention of certain officers of your Government as his opponents at his Election, for his seat in the General Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

The questions which have thus been brought under my notice are so intimately connected with the broader and more general question on which I have directed you to communicate with the Governor General of British North America, that until I shall be in possession of the Earl of Elgin's Report of the result of that communication, I must abstain from entering on those topics at all. In the meantime, however, I think it right to observe, that the question incidentally raised by Mr. Coles, respecting the introduction of what is usually called the system of Responsible Government into Prince Edward Island, must rest upon grounds and be affected by considerations there, which are not applicable to that question in reference to the adjacent British Provinces. Thus, especially, it must be borne in mind, that the Legislature of Prince Edward Island have not, hitherto, made provision for defraying the annual charge of its Government, as is the case in every Province in which that system has hitherto been introduced. It must also be remembered that the population of Prince Edward Island is both less numerous and less in possession of the means of general Education than is the population of any one of the British Provinces on the North American continent. I do not at present undertake to say what influence these circumstances ought to have upon the question of the proposed change of system. I notice them only as circumstances which it would be impossible to overlook before proceeding to establish or to sanction such a change.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble Servant,

(Signed) GREY.

Lt. Governor,
Sir H. V. Huntley, &c. &c. &c.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

At a quarter past 12 o'clock on Friday morning last, the steamer CONQUEROR arrived with the English Mail from Pictou. In order to put our readers in possession through this week's paper, of as much of the intelligence as may be found interesting or important, we have excluded a large portion of matter previously prepared.

The main feature of the English news is the continuance of the commercial panic, by which the most stupendous mercantile establishments of the old world are daily tumbling to the ground. It is frightful to contemplate the immeasurable extent of suffering which this extraordinary paralysis of the commercial body must produce—the brightest exchanged for the gloomiest prospects—the most animating hopes for the most deadening despair—the rich argosies and the well filled coffers, for dependence and destitution. It is not, however, those who are forced to retire from the busy walks of life, with their thousands and millions in arrear, who shall suffer most by the present calamity—but it will be the hundreds and thousands of poor families, the labourers, mechanics, small tradesmen, and operatives of every kind; who made their living by labouring to enrich those houses whose treasures have departed "like the baseless fabric of a vision," leaving, however, many a wrecked heart and despairing spirit behind.

In the midst of this calamity, it is a source of gratification to the philanthropic mind, that the sister Kingdom of Ireland is slowly rising from the slough of despondency, and is every where affording heart-warming

evidences of renewed confidence and vigour. In confirmation of this, we extract the following sentences from the *European Times* of the 5th instant:

"The transition which Ireland is now undergoing, from the condition of one vast pauperised province, to a more wholesome state of self-dependence for the support of human life, is keenly watched as one of the greatest and most interesting experiments which has ever been attempted by Government. The real and sincere friends of Ireland have at length procured the passing of a Poor-law, the object of which is not only to give the Irish poor a lien upon the soil of their country for support, but it has the higher aim of endeavouring by indirect means to raise the condition of the people, by stimulating them to exertion, in order to maintain themselves. A great clamour is being raised by impoverished landlords against the 'cruelty' of England in endeavouring to make them do their duty by supporting their own poor; and this outcry is swelled by not a few of the tenants, who, having got in their harvest, seek by the invasion of the payment of rent to keep the produce in their own hands, in order to get through the winter. The Government, with a view to lighten the burden of the incipient Poor-law, have consented to postpone a part of their claims in a certain ratio, until the early rates under the poor-law shall be collected. But, on the other hand, they have expressed a determination to enforce the law unflinchingly—the landlord shall have his rent, the collectors shall have their rates—the poor in the sequel will be provided for from their own earnings, which it will now become the interest of the landlord to make as large as possible, as the only mode by which his own contribution to the poor fund can be lessened. Doubtless, a revolution in national feeling cannot be effected in one season; but the good work has commenced, and every friend of Ireland should contribute, both by his moral and political influence, towards the success of a measure which has for its object the regeneration of one of the fairest countries in the world. The Earl of Clarendon, the enlightened Lord-Lieutenant, is buying golden opinions from all parties in Ireland. 'The spirit of exertion and manly self-reliance,' he tells them, 'can alone avail to restore the condition of Ireland, bowed down as she has been by an unparalleled calamity.' The social fabric has to be reconstructed; let the Irish people put their shoulders to the wheel, trust to their own energies, and we shall not despair of seeing her, indeed in a very brief period, 'great, glorious and free.'

By Authority.

Downing Street, September 12, 1847.

(Copy.)

No. 41.

SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 12th August, No. 107, transmitting a Letter addressed to you by Mr. Edward Palmer, a Copy of your answer to that Letter, and also a Copy of the Minutes of the Executive Council, having reference to the subject of that correspondence.

It is not necessary that I should express my opinion upon the propriety of the course adopted by Mr. Palmer in repairing to England to procure your removal from the Government, whilst holding an official situation. It is sufficient that I state, that I cannot recognize the right of that Gentleman to tender the resignation of his seat at the Board of Executive Council, accompanied by the condition which he thought proper to make. I can therefore regard Mr. Palmer's resignation in no other light than as an absolute one, and must accordingly consider him to have retired from the Executive Council of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.
Lieut. Governor Sir Henry Huntley, &c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

Downing Street, 28th September, 1847.

No. 46.

SIR—I have received your Despatch, No. 111, of the 23d August. You will acquaint the persons who signed the Petition to Her Majesty which accompanied it, praying that you may be relieved in the Administration of the Government of that Island, that I have laid that Petition before the Queen.

I think it due to you to take the present occasion for stating that the decision communicated to you in my Despatch of the 12th of August, 1847, regarding your retirement from the Government of Prince Edward Island, was adopted without any reference to, or knowledge of the charges preferred against you in this Petition, and that it is not in any degree dependant on, and could not in any way be affected either by the proof, or by the refutation of them. I do not, in the slightest degree, assume or suppose that these charges are well founded, but regard them as entirely immaterial and irrelevant to any practical question now depending before me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.
Lieutenant Governor Sir Henry Huntley, &c. &c. &c.

FIRE.—A House and Furniture, owned by Angus Currie, at Fullerton's Marsh, were destroyed by fire on Sunday last. There was no person about the premises at the time.