

The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1849.

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THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, FEBRUARY 19, 1849.

Later from Europe.

The Steamship *Niagara* arrived at Halifax from Liverpool on Friday the 9th instant, being 13 days on the voyage. The Mail for this Island reached Charlottetown on Wednesday night at a late hour. Latest dates are to the 27th January. In this and succeeding columns will be found all the news worth extracting.

ENGLAND.

THE MINISTRY.—The Ministerial arrangements upon the death of Lord Auckland are now completed, and Sir Francis Thornhill Baring has accepted the office of First Lord of the Admiralty. By this appointment the Crown and the country recover the services of an experienced Minister—of a man perfectly conversant with the details of public business, and peculiarly fitted by his experience in a financial office, under a former Government, to promote all such reductions in the expenditure of the navy as are consistent with the efficiency of that most important branch of the service. The negotiations which have ended in this appointment have been somewhat protracted by a laudable attempt on the part of Lord John Russell to strengthen his administration by offering the department of the Admiralty to Sir James Graham. The offer was made in a spirit of frankness and good feeling, with a sincere desire to bury in oblivion all past differences which may have interrupted the harmony of men now holding the same opinions, and which are prejudicial to the permanent interests of the country. On the part of Sir James Graham the offer was received with a perfect acknowledgment of the public motives which had suggested the proposal, although, after some consideration, he declined to accept it. Had that offer been accepted, it would naturally have led to some further modifications of the Cabinet, with a view to extend the basis of the Government; but under existing circumstances we believe no further changes are likely to occur.

It has been the custom to throw a veil, which history itself has not always removed, over those abortive combinations which usually precede any important change in the distribution of public offices; but, in the present instance, the transaction between the Government and Sir James Graham is so creditable to both parties, that we rejoice it has transpired. It is a renewal, on the part of Lord John Russell, of those liberal dispositions towards his former opponents which led him to offer places in his cabinet to Lord Lincoln and Mr. Sidney Herbert, on the formation of the Government, and which subsequently conferred upon Lord Dalhousie the most magnificent appointment which can be held by a subject of any crown. We record the fact with the most pleasure, inasmuch as it rebuts the charge of domestic influence and family connection sometimes urged to excess against the Whig Government. It is the misfortune of the Whigs, as well as their strength and their glory, that long adherence to the same political tradition has gradually welded their leading houses, into near family connexion; but Lord John Russell has not neglected any opportunity which has been afforded him, to show that, in choosing his colleagues, he looked beyond his relations. We feel the more called upon to make this observation, inasmuch as we were led to protest with what has turned out to have been—unnecessary promptitude against the return of Lord Minto to the Admiralty. No such appointment was contemplated by the Government, and Lord Minto himself had at once declared not only that he put forward no claim whatever to the office which he had formerly filled at the Admiralty, but that he held his present office of the Privy Seal entirely at the disposal of the Prime Minister, if it could be the means of facilitating the projected arrangement with the remnant of the moderate Conservative party. We mention these circumstances not because they are of any great weight or importance in themselves, but because they convey correct impressions of the share taken by several eminent persons in these arrangements, which are creditable to themselves and to the country.—*Times*.

The Bank of England accounts present the usual features which generally mark the period of the payment of the dividends. There is an increase of circulation with a small decrease of bullion. Money has become more abundant, and the chief brokers refuse to take deposits at all at 1½ per cent.; discounts of the best bills are not higher than 2 per cent. The Bank of France has resumed payment in specie of its notes under 500 francs. Its published accounts do not, however,

furnish any proof of the increase of trade in Paris. The Californian gold seeking mania has extended to the continent of Europe, and in the ports of Germany and Denmark, there are already vessels fitting out for the conveyance of adventurers to the auriferous region. The English journals are still crowded with advertisements of vessels loading, enterprises organising, and joint companies forming—all set in motion by the continued favourable reports from the United States of the marvellous riches of the new discovery.

Looking to the magnitude of the events which disturbed the commerce of the world during the past year, we cannot but acknowledge that it has shown wonderful elasticity. Already has trade begun to flow in its usual channels, though Italy is still unsettled, and the rest of Europe, to say the least, uneasy. At home, we find our textile artisans finding almost full employment; and though work is scarce in some other branches of our manufactures, there can be no doubt but that a continuance of full employment to the former classes will shortly lead to a similar state of prosperity in those who now suffer under depressing influence.

It is understood that the Navy Estimates for 1849 already in course of preparation for Parliament, will be on a considerable reduced scale, so as to save a million on that branch of the public expenditure as compared with the last year. It is generally believed that Government intend to make a reduction in the army of 10,000 men.

FRESH PORK FROM AMERICA.—The *Niagara*, from Boston, brought this time, as part of her cargo, 100 carcasses of fresh pork, from America. They were preserved in ice, and were in fresh and excellent condition. On Thursday last they were sold by auction, and brought from 32s 6d to 35s 6d per 120 lbs. This is the first importation of the kind from the States. Should the experiment succeed on a larger scale, it cannot but produce a material effect upon the general provision market.

COMMITAL OF TWO WEALTHY SILVERSMITHS AT BATH.—The utmost excitement it has prevailed in the city of Bath and its neighbourhood, in consequence of the apprehension of two of the largest silversmiths in that city, Messrs. Warren and Fuller, upon the serious charge of having forged the Goldsmith's hall-mark, by transferring the hall-mark from old plate to articles of new plate. The prisoners are the Rundel and Bridge of Bath, and keep a large establishment at the corner of Westgate-street and Stall-street. In the course of last week, in consequence of information given to the Goldsmith's Company, by a party who had been an apprentice of a Mr. Cosens, the manufacturing silversmith for the firm of Warren and Fuller, the present prosecution was instituted; and to the surprise of every person in Bath, Messrs. Horatio Warren and Samuel Fuller were apprehended; and, having undergone a private examination before the magistrates, were remanded. Their bankers, Messrs. Tugwell & Co., offered bail to the amount of £10,000 for their appearance, which, however, the magistrates were obliged to refuse. Bail for £20,000 was also afterwards offered, but declined.

SALE OF SHIPS AT LIVERPOOL IN 1848.

In making a review of the sales of ships at our port for the year just closed, we find the total number sold amount to 146 sail, and the total tonnage to 46,282 tons, of which

50 are British-built, equal to	12,205 tonnage,
19 are Quebec, " "	11,171 " "
32 are St. John's, " "	12,064 " "
12 are Miramichi, " "	5,446 " "
32 are P. Edward Island, " "	5,597 " "

We are sensible the prices obtained have, for the most part, been in favour of the buyers alone, and must have proved unsatisfactory to colonial shipbuilders especially, who have consigned to our port for sale. Comparatively few new British-built ships have appeared in the market, and the prices obtained show no improvement upon the prices of 1847. The unusually depressed state of trade, together with the continued apprehension of a repeal of our Navigation-laws, have conspired to produce this result. The latter cause has induced many parties to hold back who were otherwise desirous of investing freely in shipping. For well classed British-built vessels retaining a few years of their first classification there has been a steady demand, and fair prices obtained.

Among colonial ships, St. John's and Miramichi are in increasing favour. The number from Quebec this year has been larger than usual, and some by favourite builders have fetched £6 5 per ton, O. M.

Of Prince Edward Island vessels we have had a large supply of small craft, averaging from 89 to 229 tons register, which have been slow of sale, arising from their

having for the most part a great rise of floor, rendering them unsuitable for the coasting trade. If colonial shipbuilders would make an alteration in this respect, giving their small vessels a longer and flatter floor, it would be found much to their advantage.

QUOTATIONS OF PRICES OF SHIPS FOR 1848:—

	Per Ton, O. M.
New British-built vessels, with Baltic outfit,	£10 0 to £16 0
British-built vessels having two to four years to run on the A I,	6 0 to 10 0
Lower classes,	5 0 to 8 10
New Quebec ships, not iron-kneed or classed,	5 5 to 6 5
New St. John's, N. B., " "	5 5 to 6 6
New Prince Edward Island	4 10 to 5 10
New Miramichi,	5 5 to 6 5

FIRES IN LONDON.—On Monday morning, at half-past four o'clock, a fire broke out in the house No. 2, New-square, Lincoln's-inns. The destruction of property is variously estimated at from £15,000 to £20,000. Most of it was insured in the principal London fire-offices. On Saturday morning, shortly before four o'clock, a fire broke out in the cabinet manufactory belonging to Messrs. M. and J. Mahony, in Brown's-lane, Spitalfields, which was destroyed. On Saturday night a fire broke out on the newly-erected premises termed the Hampstead Water Works. The damage is thus officially reported:—"Buildings of engine-house and works generally consumed; supposed loss about 3,000l. Machinery, steam-engine, &c., partially destroyed; estimated loss about £5,000. Total supposed loss 8,000l." Unfortunately the whole of the property was uninsured.

IRELAND.

Ireland is again attracting no inconsiderable share of public attention, the judges of the Queen's Bench having overruled the errors assigned in the cases of Mr. W. S. O'Brien and his fellow-prisoners. The court was unanimous in its decision.

Mr. Duffy has been allowed to plead over, and accordingly his final trial is again put off, and will not take place until after Feb. 6, at the next commission.

The incendiary fires in the province of Ulster are still going on. Last week a daring act was committed by two young women named M'Veagh, near Knockbrea, in the county Down. They kept watch on their father's premises, one armed with a sword and the other with a fowling-piece. Two incendiaries came to set fire to the stack-yard, when a scuffle ensued; one of the young women shot one of the villains, and the second stabbed the other. Through some cause or other the wounded men decamped, and no trace has been found of them since.

The Limerick papers which we have lately received contain lists of outrages in various parts of that county, chiefly in the houghing and maiming of cattle, and the plunder of sheep.

There is also an extensive plunder of provisions on the Shannon.

The decay of the landlords continues. Within the last few days the lord-lieutenant of a county in Munster had thirteen executions against him. The *Freeman's Journal* thus alludes to the once great commoners, whose break down is matter of general conversation:—

"From every side we hear the crash of falling families and fortunes. Members of old patrician houses, some of the most ancient and aristocratic in the land, are outcasts and beggars. One southern commoner has fled in disguise from his ancient castle, alone and unattended, without host or retainer, to avoid the inconvenience of the Gazette. He was supposed to be the wealthiest and safest proprietor in the south. He turns out to be penniless, and his incumbrances hard upon a quarter of a million. Another instance of a reverse of fortune was lately brought to our notice. A gentleman, with a nominal rent-roll of £10,000 per annum, who lately filled the office of high sheriff in a most important county, and represented one of the most honoured protestant families in Ireland—a family, too, to which the Catholic proprietors of Munster owe no small debt of gratitude—this gentleman, we have heard, is now waiting at the office of the poor-law commissioners, looking for a vice-guardianship."

IRISH REFUGES.—The Correspondent of the *London Standard*, writing from Constantinople, under the date, December 27, affords us the following intelligence of some of our countrymen, the latest to quit the Irish shores:—"We have had amongst us several gentlemen comprised in the recent events in Ireland, among the rest, Messrs. O'Gorman, O'Donnell, and Doyle; they made a short stay here, and, last week, they started, via Smyrna, for New York; it was their intention to have proceeded to Vienna, and from thence to Paris."