

Prince Louis Napoleon, who had been on a visit to M. Odillon Barrot. The probability is, that the assassins were merely common thieves who attacked the house, under the impression that the family was absent.

AUSTRIAN AFFAIRS.—According to letters from Vienna, it appears that General Windischgratz has modified his cruel system, and put a stop to the executions which have occasioned so much alarm. It is also reported that he had declared that he would not have allowed Messenhauser to have been executed, if the army had not unanimously called for it. Many persons alleged that his modification in the conduct of Prince Windischgratz had been the result of orders transmitted from Olmutz, where the general disapprobation manifested itself throughout Germany at the executions which had taken place.

HERE'S MERRY CHRISTMAS COME AGAIN.

Here's merry Christmas come again,
With all it ever used to bring,
The mistletoe and carol strain,
The holly in the window frame,
And all the bloom from hill and plain
That Winter's chilly hand can fling.

It must be welcomed with a song,
Though nothing new may fill the ditty;
Old-fashioned feelings may be wrong,
But prejudice is very strong,
And dear old Christmas, wo'd so long,
Shall find us faithful if not witty.

It comes with roar of many bells;
It comes with many a village chime;
And many a village grand dame tells
Of places where the white ghost dwells,
Of demon forms and robbers' cells,
And all the tales of Christmas time.

It comes with music in the hall
That starts the old man in his chair,
And when the midnight measures fall
He'd lead the blithest dance of all,
Spurning alike the chimney wall,
And seventy years of wear and tear.

It comes with frolic, feast and mirth,
It sings the chants it used to sing,
And makes the yule-log on the hearth
An altar forge where links of earth,
That bound and broke in strongest girth,
Are welded fast in Memory's ring.

Here's merry Christmas, and methinks,
Although it seems an olden story,
There's something pleasant in the wink
Of blue eyed fire that boils and blinks,
Mocking the palm that snaps and shrinks
Above the tempting plums of glory.

Here's merry Christmas, and it seems
To call back childhood on the breast,
With kindly words and laughing screams,
With leaping steps that shake the beams,
With noisy games and happy dreams,
And all of Life that's bright and best.

Bring fragrant bay with laurel tied,
Bring shining chestnuts—how we'll roast em;
Bring forth the bowl in wassail pride,
Bring sack and brown ale, side by side,
Bring foaming flip in endless tide,
Bring friends around—and how we'll toast 'em!

Here's merry Christmas come again,
Cling heart to heart and hand to hand,
"Love one another," was the strain
Of Him who never taught in vain;
And let it sound o'er hill and plain,
And rule the feast in every land.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, DECEMBER 26, 1848.

PROFESSOR NUMSKULL AND HIS SCRIBE.

PROFESSOR NUMSKULL, of the *Islander*, has positively been fortunate enough to get some person to write him an editorial article for his last paper, on the subject of Mr. Coles's retirement from the Executive Council, just a fortnight after the correspondence relating to that retirement was published in THE EXAMINER, and about a fortnight also after declaring most solemnly, that he (Professor Numskull) would not henceforth publish any thing in reference to Mr. Coles, or in reply to THE EXAMINER. When we read the announcement in Professor Numskull's issue of Friday week, to the effect, that he meant to violate his promise—which was, in

plain English, that he was so deeply wedded to his blackguard propensities, he could not readily abandon them, we were led to expect that an article of unusual weight and brilliancy would be found to embellish the columns of the *Islander*, as a palliation of some sort, at least, for the perfidy of the luckless Professor Numskull. Alas for the vanity of human expectations! The *Islander* has, indeed, published a whole column of an editorial; but, as the result of the fortnight's deliberation, we have not three sentences decently written, not a solitary argument—not the least perceptible gleam of wit—not the most distant approach to eloquence! Why, Professor Numskull himself, or his illustrious cotemporary and descendant of the race of Numskull's—he who prints advertizements for "the Queen's most excellent Majesty"—might have written quite as good a defence of Sir Donald Campbell as that which has taken a fortnight for the "literary man" of the *Islander* to prepare. Although it may be deemed a matter of doubtful respectability to reply to this production of Professor Numskull's "literary" hack, we are nevertheless content to run the risk of forfeiting the good opinion of our readers by offering a few remarks on the subject of it, if for no other reason than to show into what wretched hands the vindication of His Excellency's public character has fallen, and how, after so much time spent in meditation, so poor a defence has been vouchsafed.

The editorial purports to be a review of the correspondence relating to Mr. Coles's resignation, but instead of being any such review, it is a vile attack upon Mr. Coles. It states that this gentleman "despised the friendly caution" of His Excellency on the subject of his opposition to the Solicitor General. Mr. Coles did no such thing. The Lieutenant Governor sent for him to ascertain whether or not he intended to support an opposition to the Solicitor General. He replied he did intend to support such opposition if Mr. Lord became a candidate. Was this "despising" the Governor? As to His Excellency's "condescension," we must confess we are at a loss to perceive it. If he had been influenced by a "friendly" motive in cautioning Mr. Coles against opposing Mr. Palmer, why did His Excellency send for him the second time? Did he suppose Mr. Coles to be so fickle as to say one thing on one day and a different thing another? Was it not His Excellency's desire rather to secure Mr. Palmer's election than the continuance of Mr. Coles in the Council? We are told that Mr. Coles acted not only "in defiance" of the Governor, but in direct opposition to the principle, that one member of the Government should not oppose the Election of another, of the violation of which principle on the part of Mr. Secretary Haviland and some others, Mr. Coles complained to the Colonial Minister two years ago. Was it a crime to act in defiance of the Governor? If so, the whole batch of officials must plead guilty: they acted in defiance of Governor Huntley on more than one occasion: they traduced his character both public and private—they promoted the absurd delegation scheme with the view of effecting his removal;—did they resign their situations? Not one of them: they clung to their offices with unblushing tenacity: As to the violation of principle;—many of the officials opposed Mr. Coles at his election in 1847—some of the Executive Council voted against him: His appointment was not a secret one—it was regularly laid before the Council,—if those opposed to him at that Board disapproved of it, they should have resigned at the moment. Mr. Palmer's appointment was private—the Council were not consulted upon it. Mr. Coles was in no way compromised by continuing in the Council, on commencing his opposition; where, then, was the violation of principle? If we take into consideration the answer transmitted by Earl Grey to Mr. Coles's memorial, we shall see that it was not incumbent on him to resign because of his opposition to Mr. Palmer. In Mr. Coles's second letter to the Governor he adverts to this topic, when he says, "it appeared to him (Earl Grey) that he could not interfere to prevent such opposition in the absence of Responsible Government." The *Islander* replies: "This is a misstatement, framed to answer the purpose of Mr. Coles. Earl Grey said no such thing." We admit that Earl Grey did not express himself in the language used by Mr. Coles—nor does the latter assert he did;—what Mr. Coles meant to convey, we presume, is simply this, "it appeared" from the tenor of his lordship's despatch, "that he could not in-

terfere," &c. Now let us quote the language of the Despatch:

"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 mean time, 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."

Now what other interpretation can be put upon the passage thus quoted, than this—that Earl Grey begged to be excused from entering on the topics discussed by Mr. Coles in his memorial, because they were so intimately connected "with the broader and more general question" of Responsible Government, which, in his Lordship's wisdom, is not applicable to this Colony.—Earl Grey having thus sanctioned the opposition to Mr. Coles at his election, was he not justified in opposing the Solicitor General? We are told that the Earl of Elgin long since made the report referred to in Lord Grey's Despatch. How does the *Islander* know this? Has the "literary" hack, whoever he is, become a back-door spy into the secrets of the Government? If such report has been made, why has it not been published for the general information?

The *Islander*, in its blundering impudence and stupidity, complains that Mr. Coles dragged the question of Responsible Government into his Resignation letter, just as if it were a crime to broach the question: and farther on we find the admission made that His Excellency himself introduced the question in his interview with Mr. Coles, "for the only reason" "to teach Mr. C. that he was violating one of its vital principles." The *Islander* then goes on to justify the course taken by His Excellency on the ground of Mr. Coles violating this "vital principle." Then we must conclude, that either the Governor took an improper course, or that Mr. Haviland held his place unwarrantably, after violating this "vital principle" in the case of Mr. Coles in 1847.

But if the Governor was so very anxious about maintaining the principle, why did he tell Mr. Warburton that he should be removed from the Council because he is in favour of the whole system of Responsible Government? Answer that, Master Brooks, answer that.

If His Excellency has so much zeal for the maintenance of this "vital principle," why did he suffer to pass unnoticed the opposition with which two members of his Government (Messrs. Coles and Warburton) were assailed by the Provost Marshal, the Collector of Customs for Bedeque, and the Collector of Customs for Three Rivers? Were they not, as Government Officers, as strongly bound to abstain from opposition to the Executive Councillors, as Mr. Executive Councillor Coles to abstain from opposing the Solicitor General? Answer me that, Master Brooks, answer me that.

If the Governor has set his heart upon this "vital principle," why did he allow it to be outraged with impunity by Mr. Secretary Haviland and Mr. Treasurer Smith, when Harry Tanton made oath, that he heard Mr. Yeo declare, that he was induced by those Officers to oppose Mr. Warburton—a member of the Government—at the election in July last? Did not His Excellency wink at the allegation of Harry Tanton—at the violation of the "vital principle" on the part of Messrs. Haviland and Smith? Answer me that, Master Brooks, answer me that.

But it is useless to argue with a person who perpetrates a blunder at almost every turn he takes. The Governor has placed himself in an awkward position, and it is out of the power of the *Islander* to relieve him. For the credit of the Press—for the fair fame of His Excellency, who, as a private gentleman, and as Her Majesty's Representative, we respect, we wish sincerely he had a more able apologist for his bad acts, and we an antagonist more worthy of encountering. The subject of Mr. Coles's resignation is a delicate one, and the more the *Islander* may publish in reference to it, the more will it, assuredly, damage the reputation of the Governor. If we had the misfortune to have him for an ally, we should enjoin perpetual silence, lest, through his blundering stupidity, he should expose our most vulnerable points to the attacks of an adversary.