

ing that two of you, Mr. James McNab and Mr. Howe, had a very few days previously, and after mature deliberation, given in their renewed adherence to the existing Council, and to the principles of Government on which I had theretofore acted, abandoning the project of a Party Government. Mr. James B. Uniacke had never informed me, that he contemplated resigning, and therefore no renewed expression of adherence was necessary on his part.

The reasons which make the appointment of Mr. Almon expedient in my opinion at this time are such as, far from indicating a change of policy, appear to me to afford convincing evidence of the sincerity of my desire to avoid a change.

On the late dissolution of the Assembly the Council became openly divided on the question whether a Party Government is or is not adapted to the actual condition of Nova Scotia, I myself entertaining a strong opinion that such a Government would be injurious to the best interests of the Country, and that a Council formed on the principles on which the Board which had up to that time assisted me in the conduct of affairs was constituted, is better adapted to the exigencies of the Colony than any which could be formed on any other principle.

The members of the Government went to the Hustings, each stating his own views—Mr. Howe declaring at Halifax that if he and his party succeeded in obtaining a majority, he should expect those who differed from him to retire, and that he would retire if he found himself in a minority.

Mr. Johnston, at Annapolis, unequivocally denounced the system of a Party Government, and avowed his preference for a Government in which all parties should be represented.

On the elections taking place, a House was returned which I believed would be opposed to the views of Mr. Howe. I sent for that gentleman, and expressed my conviction to him that such was the case, inviting him to remain in the Government. Mr. Howe differed with me as to the probable feeling of the new House of Assembly, and said that nothing but the most imperative necessity would induce him to retain his seat in the existing Executive Council,—but, after consulting his political friends, agreed to do so, and to give a cordial support to the Administration.

After such a public manifestation of differences of opinion between Members of the Council, it seemed to me absolutely necessary that the mode in which the Government was in future to be conducted should be made apparent.—A vacancy in the Executive Council gave me an opportunity of appointing a gentleman known to be hostile to a Party Government, and by so doing, of shewing to the Country that I was averse to that principle; in other words, that I was desirous of continuing to govern, as I always had done, with the advice of a Council consisting of the leading men of all parties. This was no change, and I do not conceive that Mr. Howe, or those who act in conjunction with him, had any right to complain of such a course, especially as they had so lately, though so reluctantly, given in their renewed adherence to the Government.

I selected Mr. Almon for advancement because, although the recent declaration (at the Halifax election) of his sentiments with regard to a Council composed exclusively of persons belonging to one party, rendered my motives for his elevation unlikely to be misinterpreted in this respect, he had previously to that event been so little engaged in political life that it was not probable that the distinction conferred on him would offend the prejudices of any portion of the community, he being known to entertain liberal views on questions of general policy; and further because from his affinity to Mr. Johnston, the leader of my Government, his appointment would be looked upon by the public as a proof of my confidence in that gentleman.

Had Mr. Howe been in a position to insist on Mr. Johnston's dismissal, he would have done so. Mr. Johnston only requested that a vacancy in the Council might be filled up by a gentleman agreeing with him in principle on one subject of deep importance, and I cannot allow that a compliance with his request could under the circumstances of the case afford any ground for assuming that I intended to change my policy.

The practical value of the admission made by you all of my right to make appointments amounts to nothing, if you are justified in seceding from the Council; and opposing my Administration, on my making one which you deem injurious to your influence. Other members of the Board would be equally warranted in acting in a similar manner on an appointment being made consonant to your wishes, and in this way the prerogative of the Crown would be wrested from the Queen's Representative, who is responsible to Her Majesty for its being judiciously exercised, and become vested in certain Members of his Council responsible to the Assembly.

On a question relating to matters of a local nature, and which did not affect the Royal Prerogative, I should deem it my duty to pay every regard and deference to the views of the Members of Council, as well as to the wishes of the people, however much those wishes might militate against my own opinions, but the claim which your resignations tend virtually to assert, I have no power to recognise.

I am glad to receive your assurances of personal respect, and the express recognition of the confidence and good feeling which so long subsisted between us.

I am, gentlemen,  
Your most obedient Servant,  
(Signed) FALKLAND.  
To James B. Uniacke, James McNab, and Joseph Howe, Esquires.

REPLIES:

Halifax, 27th December, 1843.

To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia, &c.  
My Lord,  
I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's communication, of the 25th inst., addressed to Messrs. Howe, McNab, and myself, on the subject of our resignation of seats in Council, to which your Excellency was pleased to elevate us, on assuming the government of this province.

When I tendered my resignation to your Excellency, I anticipated that I might be required to defend that step in the Assembly, and would have preferred a course more congenial to my feelings than a discussion in writing, not likely to produce benefit to those engaged in it; but the course adopted by your Excellency compels me to offer respectfully a few observations.

The right of the Lieut. Governor, in the exercise of the royal prerogative, to call to his Councils whomsoever he may deem eligible, I have always admitted, and still recognize, to the full extent; but if, in wielding that power, any member of his Council is convinced that a policy is pursued, by which the Government is weakened, his usefulness impaired, or political reputation hazarded, I am of opinion that he possesses the constitutional privilege of withdrawing from responsibility which he has not been instrumental in creating, and is unwilling to assume, more particularly as the Lieut. Governor is now clothed with power to dismiss public officers, whether of honor or emolument, if the policy of the country demands it.

For some time previous to the departure of your Excellency's predecessors, a large portion of the people of this colony had pressed for the administration of the government, more in accordance with their interests and feelings, to whom were opposed a numerous and influential body, whose opinions were expressed by a minority in the Assembly; and almost the first duty which devolved on your Excellency was, to work out this principle, sanctioned by the Parent State, and approved by a majority of the Assembly, to accomplish which, you formed a Council, composed of persons entertaining various political views, announced your approbation of a mixed government, and so long as the members selected by your Excellency continued to co-operate harmoniously, confidence was reposed in that body, and measures submitted to the Assembly generally carried.

I was, as your Excellency is aware, opposed to the dissolution of the Assembly. I could not perceive the urgent necessity of the measure, especially as that branch of the Legislature had invariably sustained your Excellency's Government, and signified, by a vote, their confidence. I certainly was unconscious of the Council being openly divided on the question of party government—that never having been discussed, to my knowledge, in the Assembly or either Council; and I cannot believe that opinions have been elicited from the people on that subject by the recent elections. I admit that individuals, differing publicly, and openly addressing the people on those differences, have endeavored to gain influence with particular constituencies, by espousing or denouncing such measures; but the general wish of the people, is for a government, created by a union of persons in whom they rely, and who repose mutual confidence in each other.

When I understood, from your Excellency, that differences between members of your Executive were reconciled, that they had consented to act together, and that you intended to meet the convened with the same Council that surrounded you at the dissolution of the late Assembly, of course, as I had kept aloof from the dissensions which existed, and had avowed myself free from the influence of any individual, I could have no objection to continue a member of that body, and lend my aid to support your Excellency's administration; but the change of your Excellency's determination influenced mine, and the appointment of a gentleman, for whom personally I entertain great regard, evinced a line of policy so destructive to the vigor of your Excellency's government in the Assembly, that I felt unable to defend it to the satisfaction of myself or that body.

A Council formed on the principle of representing different political sentiments and interests, existing in the Legislature, with a view of producing concord between its branches, can only be useful so long as those interested have confidence in the justice of those who create it; and even the appearance of depression on one interest or elevating another will unsettle the equilibrium so essential to its preservation, and produce discord instead of harmony. The party forming a majority in the Assembly, during Sir Colin Campbell's administration, and an equality, if not majority in the late House, although they complained that they were not numerically represented at your Excellency's Council, yielded cordial support to your Government, which, upon the principle adverted to, it would have been prudent to retain; yet the advisers of your Excellency, notwithstanding the public manifestation of differences of opinion, on various subjects, between leading members of your Government, and the reluctance evinced by Mr. Howe, in renewing his adherence to it, recommended the appointment of a gentleman to the Council, who, it is said, was conspicuous at the late election, in opposition to members of your Excellency's Council.

I do not think any Government can remain powerful, unless it possesses the confidence of the majority of the people, and their political sentiments, I believe, are liberal, giving so numerous a party cause for withdrawing support I deem unadvised, and the course pursued, I apprehend, will produce that effect, and diminish the influence of those who approve of it; therefore I ought not to hold offices, the tenure of which I have always understood from your Excellency rested on political support.

I feel that your Excellency is under the impression that a large majority of the Assembly will sustain the views of your Excellency's advisers; if so, the removal from your Council of myself and others will materially increase the power of your Government, and the more circumstances of our withdrawal does not imply opposition to your Excellency's administration, unless the measures of it are considered objectionable.

The experiment of wresting the prerogative of the Crown from the Queen's Representative will not be attempted by any public man responsible to the people of Nova Scotia, who entertain a just estimate of Constitutional Government, and prize that prerogative as highly as their more immediate privileges. I never wish to see it attacked, and will be found foremost in its defence, if invaded, and I regret that the conscientious discharge of a public duty should have occasioned such an idea, or that reluctance to sustain and defend an appointment of a gentleman who had never sought the suffrages of the people, when others are compelled to ask renewed assurances of their confidence, which seemed to disregard the claims of many whose political support for years has been given to Government, and to some of whom such marks of distinction have been almost professed, should subject me to such an imputation; but I must, notwithstanding, repeat what heretofore has been unquestioned, the constitutional right of retiring from a Government, unprepared and unwilling to defend its acts, the judicious exercise of which privilege will be tested by the increased or diminished confidence of the people.

I have the honor to be,  
Your Excellency's obt. Servant,  
JAMES B. UNIACKE.

Halifax, December 26, 1843.

Mr. Lord,—Having, at very heavy personal sacrifices, deemed it my duty to resign into your Lordship's hands the offices I held, I was prepared to defend the course I had taken on the floor of the Assembly, and to meet the objections which might there be urged by your Excellency's advisers, in the presence of those who must ultimately decide on the wisdom and propriety of my conduct. This, I believe, is the constitutional mode of adjusting such points as are now at issue between us—a departure from it has elsewhere produced embarrassment, and may here complicate what seems to be a very simple question. Further correspondence, I fear, can now do no good, but I am reluctant to appear to treat with disrespect a formal communication from your Lordship, and must therefore offer a few observations upon the letter of the 25th inst. with which I have just been honored.

When I consented to take a seat in the Executive Council, the party with whom I acted formed a considerable majority in the Assembly, which majority was not weakened by the Elections of 1840. These gentlemen, during the three years I sat in the Council, were represented at the board but by *two*, and, for a short time, by three members who enjoyed their confidence. Their opponents, a minority in the House, had, during all this time, six Representatives in Council. This inequality, as your Lordship knows, produced much dissatisfaction among the Liberal party; notwithstanding which, by great exertions, a majority of them were rallied to give a steady support to the Government. This was done, because their leaders were anxious to give to Her Majesty's Government their best assistance in carrying out a new and advantageous system of administration in British America, and because they relied on the pledge, given by Lord Sydenham, and subsequently by your Excellency, that, as opportunities offered, the inequality should be redressed. In the new House, as I judge of the returns, this party, without taking Mr. Uniacke and his friends into consideration, will constitute at least one half the members—they would have had, even if Mr. Almon had not been appointed, but *two* out of eight at the Board. This, your Excellency must acknowledge, would have been a sufficiently slender "representation" of the "political sentiments and interests" of one large party "in the legislature;" yet I was willing to have met the House, rather in deference to your wishes, and the advice of friends, than with any very confident hope, that, without an increase of influence in Council, the party to whom I have reference would have been satisfied. My argument to them has always been, "Have patience—as opportunities offer, justice will be done." While a disposition was shown to do justice, as vacancies occurred, force was given to this argument. When, however, your Excellency announced your intention to appoint Mr. Almon, thereby giving one half the House a representation of *two*, while the other was to have *seven*, I felt that the "policy" was "changed," that justice was not to be done—that the only ground upon which I had induced my friends to support the Government, or could hope to induce them, was to be struck away, and I left in the position of sanctioning a policy by which a fair representation of their political sentiments and interests was to be indefinitely postponed.

It was no wish, therefore, to "wrest the prerogative from the Queen's Representative," which induced me to resign, but a desire to guard myself from a total loss of confidence and influence in the Assembly, by which I would be deprived of all power either to serve Her Majesty or benefit the Province. I respect the Queen's prerogative as much as I do the privileges of the people, and your Excellency knows that during the three years I served you, I never counselled its surrender, or attempted to tamper with it in the slightest degree; but it would be a hard case, if the prerogative could be so starved, as to compel public men to serve the Crown, at the price of their consistency and the wreck of their reputation.

Assuming that Mr. Uniacke and his friends were to act with mine, then the case would be but little better, because we, who had good reason to count upon a majority of the Assembly, were to have but *three* seats in the Council, while the minority, led by Mr. Johnston, were to have *five*, even without Mr. Almon, and with him they were to have *six*. Under these circumstances, it was a proof of our desire to avoid all embarrassment, that we consented to meet the House with a Council thus constituted, and it is not surprising that we should have opposed an appointment which we believed could not, even upon your Lordship's own principles, be defended.

With respect to "party Government," your Lordship is well aware that, for many years prior to your arrival, party government existed here in its most offensive form—the minority having all the Executive influence, and the entire distribution of patronage, while the great body of the people had nothing but a representation of two to one in the Assembly. Your Lordship found the Executive and Legislative Councils, and almost all the public offices, filled from the minority, under this vigorous party government, to which your present advisers cling as long as it could be sustained. They now profess to dislike a party government, merely because Her Majesty has declared that the interests and opinions of the minority are hereafter to be respected, and yet, being a minority, they seek to preserve, in the Executive Council, an unvarying and clear ascendancy.

It is true that your Excellency has done a good deal, as opportunities offered, to win confidence and support by a fairer distribution of patronage; a few satisfactory appoint-

ments have been made to the Executive and Legislative Councils, but, at both Boards, and in public commissions and departments, the preponderance is still largely in favor of that party who support your present advisers. It is, perhaps, your Lordship's misfortune rather than your fault, that more could not be done in a short administration to redress this state of things, but you will at once perceive, that the only guarantee the people had, that it would ever be improved, was founded on the assurance that the party who have equal, if not superior claims with those who have so long profited by this patronage, would fairly participate in those counsels which were to influence its distribution.

The desire for what is called "party Government" has arisen in this Province out of circumstances over which neither your Excellency nor myself have had much control. For several years your Lordship was called upon, almost weekly, by the friends and supporters of your present advisers, to dismiss from your Council the few Representatives which the majority of the Assembly had there—and latterly others have claimed a party government, for two reasons, first, because they believed that those who gave your Lordship but hollow support fared equally well with those who sustained the administration cheerfully—and, secondly, because circumstances, to which I need not refer, had created the impression that the Council was not only divided upon important public questions, but that some of its members entertained for each other no very friendly feelings.

I have never asked, and do not now desire, a party government formed of but one interest, to the exclusion of all others; but it does appear to me that it would be better to form a strong government, of gentlemen representing different interests and different sections of the country, but agreeing upon common principles and common measures, and secure a good working majority in the Assembly, rather than to attempt, by any exercise of the prerogative, to bind men together who have but few private or public ties, and who cannot fail to weaken any government by the absence of that united personal influence upon society and public opinion which the members of Council should steadily exert, and without which they cannot expect support either in Parliament or throughout the country.

To Mr. Almon, personally, I have no objections—his elevation to the Legislative Council I should not have opposed; but your Lordship's opinion of his political position differs widely from mine. Mr. Almon supported the last administration, which was of a decidedly exclusive party character, and whatever he may have said, in a few brief public observations he made from the Hustings, he voted and acted with the minority in this Township against Mr. McNab, a member of the Government, and with those who have incessantly demanded a party government, based on a Representative minority. Mr. Almon's party connexions and opinions were, then, sufficiently decided; but I had other objections. I did not think it wise, in making an appointment to the Executive Council, under the present system, to pass over the members of both branches of the Legislature, of all parties, in favour of a gentleman, who had never represented any constituency, and upon no graver public necessity than his relationship to Mr. Johnston.

That I did consider that those members of Council who had opposed the dissolution, with their friends in the Assembly, were "in a position" to enable you to carry on your government without Mr. Johnston, your Lordship may remember—that I did not "insist on his dismissal" is proved by the fact of my consenting to serve with him, although I never attempted to conceal from your Excellency that some change or modification of the Council might be forced upon the Executive by the Assembly. What might have been Mr. Johnston's opinion as to the propriety of retaining my services, had he been confident of a majority, I cannot determine, but I would not much like to hold a seat by so frail a tenure as the moderation of those by whom he is sustained. My belief is, that an erroneous impression has been made upon your Lordship's mind, both to the composition of the new House and the construction which will be placed upon the policy of the new appointment. Those who differ from my friends and myself will soon have an opportunity of testing the sobriety of our judgment and the accuracy of their own calculations. I thought and still think, it would have been better to have tried the temper of the new House, without making any appointment, or to have made one that would have brought to the Government some parliamentary support.

"The claim" which we "assert" in our "resignations," your Lordship will permit me to observe, is simply this:—that we not only have a right, but are bound, to retire from the Council, when a course is adopted which we believe will damage our public characters, and shake the confidence of the Assembly in the Executive Government. I should be unworthy to advise your Excellency, if I did not back the sincerity of my opinions by the cheerful surrender of office, and your Excellency might reasonably complain, if I clung to what was only given up to me as a guarantee for sincerity, and ought to be yielded up as a pledge of grave and deliberate conviction.

Retirement from the Council does not necessarily involve "opposition" to the Government. Personal or factious opposition to your Lordship, I am incapable of. Whether or not your advisers are to meet with hostility in the Assembly, will depend upon the wisdom of future arrangements, the soundness of their principles, and the value of the measures they bring down. I fear, from the course pursued, that a large body of the leading men in the Legislature will be driven into opposition; and it is more than probable that, unless those that have advised it, materially change the views by which they paralyzed the last Administration that they almost exclusively influenced, I shall be compelled, however reluctantly, to press upon them, at times, what may appear to be the opinions and interests of the country.

I have the honor to be with great respect, your Lordship's most obedient, very humble servant,

JOSEPH HOWE.

To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Halifax, 28th December, 1843.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of the 25th inst., addressed also to Mr. Uniacke and Mr. Howe, and think it due to your Lordship and to myself to state, that although Mr. Almon's appointment to the Executive Council was the immediate cause of my resignation, it was not the only circumstance which influenced me in coming to that conclusion.

Having been a Member of the Council under His Excellency Sir Colin Campbell, your Lordship will not fail to remember that you urged upon me the necessity of obtaining a seat in the House of Assembly, and that I consented to stand for the Township, in order to retain my place in the Government, and protect the interests of the party to which I have always been attached. That party in the Assembly and elsewhere uniformly and cordially sustained your Excellency's administration, although they were far from satisfied with their share of power in the Executive Council, and murmured against many of the appointments which were conferred on their opponents. My belief is, that their personal regard for your Lordship, and an assurance of your disposition to do them justice, reconciled them to some acts which were distasteful to them, and would otherwise have been rejected in the Assembly.

Several Members voted for the Qualification Bill chiefly from this feeling, and trusted to time to allay the discontent which was excited by that measure in many of the Counties.

The majority of last House therefore were entitled, in my opinion, to the protection and favour of Government; and having in some cases sustained it at the risk of their popularity, they had reason to complain of the suddenness of the dissolution and particular time at which it was determined on. So decisive a step adopted by your Lordship, notwithstanding the remonstrance of all the members of your Council who represented the feelings and wishes of the Liberal party, seemed to indicate a change of policy, and would have justified us, perhaps, in then resigning.

After the Elections I was willing, and, as your Lordship is aware, induced Mr. Howe also, to remain in Council and

meet the Assembly; but I had no expectation when I did this, that the Liberal party were to be weakened and the opposite party proportionally strengthened by a new appointment.

Mr. Almon's opinion on a party Council I have learned for the first time from your Lordship's letter, having never before heard of the declaration your Lordship refers to.

Mr. Almon's political opinions were, however, sufficiently manifested at the Halifax Election, and although I would not be understood as entertaining any personal objection to him, I am convinced that his personal elevation will be far from acceptable, and would have rendered it impossible to reconcile the Liberal Party in the Assembly to a Council so constructed. I may, however, be mistaken in my judgment, and if your Lordship's present advisers can command a majority in the House, it will approve the wisdom of your Lordship's choice. But whatever the event may be, I will not regret the step I have taken, because I feel that I could not otherwise have preserved the confidence of the people which I have hitherto enjoyed, nor of those with whom I have generally acted in the Assembly.

I beg to renew to your Lordship the assurances of my personal respect, and have the honor to be,

Your Lordship's most obed't. servant,  
JAMES McNAB.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor.

COST OF A EUROPEAN TOUR.—Mr. Erastus Brooks, one of the Editors of the New York Express, having recently returned from a rapid tour in Europe, gives the following account of travelling abroad, in answer to sundry inquiries:

"The route of the writer, after landing in England, at the Isle of Wight, and visiting Portsmouth and Brighton on the way to London and the towns in the vicinity, was through Belgium, Holland—from Amsterdam to Hamburg, to Kiel in Denmark, from Kiel to Copenhagen, and from Copenhagen to Elsinore and Gottenburg in Sweden, from Gottenburg to Christiania, and the interior of Norway. From Norway the writer retraced his steps to Gottenburg, and thence by post and canal to the capital of Sweden. In Sweden he visited Upsala and the mining districts. Returning to Stockholm he took passage for Abo and Revel, in Finland, and thence to Cronstadt and St. Petersburg. In Russia he travelled from eighteen hundred to two thousand miles, nine-tenths of the distance by the land conveyances of the country. Poland came next in his route, and entering the country upon the Russian frontier, he left it by the Prussian. His route in Prussia, after visiting Berlin, Potsdam, and all places of interest in the vicinity, was by mail road to Leipsic, and thence to Dresden by the same conveyance. Having spent a few days in Saxony, we passed on by land and water to Prague, and continued our route through Bohemia to Linz on the Danube, descending which, we found our way to Vienna. Our route, after visiting all the country in the neighbourhood, was to Trieste, across the Styrian Alps to Trieste, thence by the Adriatic to Venice. By Padua, Ferrara, Bologna, Florence, Rome and Naples, we reached the Mediterranean, leaving Naples for Leghorn, Pisa and Genoa. By Pavia we reached Milan, and re-entered Sardinia, after crossing the Simplon. Switzerland came next, and after passing many pleasant days upon the lakes and mountains, we left Genoa by the Jura mountains and entered Paris by the interesting province of Burgundy, following the Seine from Dijon by the capital. By Rouen and Havre we re-entered England, and after travelling one thousand miles in England, Ireland, and Scotland, took passage from Liverpool to New York, in the ship which, in sight of land and home, had well nigh given us a grave beneath the sea. We have mentioned but few of the places we visited;—the time of absence was a few days short of eight months. Our travelling expenses were a little more than one thousand dollars. The distance, including two voyages across the Atlantic, about nineteen thousand miles. The most expensive country for travelling we visited was Russia. England came next, and then Holland. In Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Prussia, Austria, and all the German country, expenses are about the same as they are in the United States. In Italy and France, travelling is cheaper than with us. In Russia, one of the most expensive items, as well as the greatest annoyance, is passports. The custom of feeing servants prevails all over Europe, and the demand is legion. At the respectable hotels in England, waiter, chambermaid and boots expect a per diem of fifty cents. If you ride a hundred miles upon an English or Irish mail coach, you must pay the guard and the coachman, who demand at least two English shillings each. The list of sundries, too, are many for portage. Railroad travelling in England is very expensive, and the price in the second class cars is considerably more than in the first class cars in the United States. In Prussia, Saxony and Austria, where altogether there are about three or four hundred miles of railroads completed, railroad travelling is about the same as with us. In France, the difference is not material, but in the second class cars, which are generally equal to our best, the price of travel is cheaper. Travelling by coaches in Great Britain varies from \$4.50 to \$8 for one hundred miles, the inside seats being most expensive, and in good weather the least comfortable. The prices in the French and Italian diligence also vary, and almost in the same ratio. Throughout almost all Europe, boarding is almost a piece-work business. A Dane, Swede and Norwegian will eat four or five meals a-day; and a Frenchman never more than two. Each pays for what he has, and the amount of a bill, of course, depends altogether upon the fancy and appetite of the traveller. More we might add, and have given in the series of letters we have written, and which are now in the course of publication. Our present aim has been only to comply with the wishes of several correspondents."

Some of our readers may be curious to know the composition and estimated value of the crown of Victoria, Queen of England. The crown itself weighs about three pounds, and is composed of hoops of silver, enclosing a cap of blue velvet. These hoops are studded with precious stones; and upon the crown is a ball, set also with precious stones, and surmounted with brilliants in the form of a Maltese cross. The rim is flowered with Maltese crosses and the fleur de lis. In the centre of the large Maltese cross, is a splendid sapphire, and in the front is the immense ruby once worn by Edward the Black Prince. Numerous other precious stones, rubies, pearls, and emeralds, are intermingled with these gems down to the rim, which is formed of ermine. The following is its estimated value:

20 diamonds around the circle, at £1500 each,	£30,000
2 large centre diamonds £2000 each,	4,000
54 smaller diamonds, at the angle of the former,	100
4 crosses, each composed of 25 diamonds,	12,000
4 large diamonds on the tops of the crosses,	40,000
17 diamonds contained in the fleur de lis,	10,000
18 do. smaller do. do.	2,000
Pearls, diamonds, &c., on the arches and crosses,	10,000
141 diamonds on the mound,	500
26 do. on the upper cross,	3,000
2 circles of pearls about the rim,	800
	£112,400

Or half a million of dollars in round numbers. We take the above from an instructive article on the commercial value of gems, in Hunt's Merchant's Magazine.

EXTENSIVE PREACHING.—The following remarkable declaration is found in the statute book of the University of Cambridge, and should not, in fairness, be overlooked by those who indiscriminately charge those with idleness who preach "without book":—

"Mr. Vice Chancellor and Gentleman,—Whereas his Majesty is informed that the practice of reading sermons is generally taken up by the preachers before the University, and therefore continued even before himself, his Majesty hath commanded me to signify to you his pleasure, that the said practice, which took beginning with the disorders of the late times, be wholly laid aside, and that the aforesaid preachers deliver their sermons, both in Latin and English, by memory, and without book, as being a way of preaching which his Majesty judgeth most agreeable to the use of all foreign churches, to the custom of the University heretofore, and the nature and intent of that holy exercise. And, that his Majesty's Commands in the premises may be duly