

COLONIAL LIBEL LAW.

(From the London Colonial Gazette.)

[The following article is from the Morning Herald of Tuesday last. We congratulate the colonies that, in the task we have imposed upon ourselves, we have already gained so powerful an auxiliary. Surely the other journals of the mother country, metropolitan and provincial, will not hesitate to follow the Herald's example, and demand justice for their colonial brethren.]

"Now that Lord Campbell has effected some improvement in the libel law of England, his lordship would do good service by turning his attention to the condition of the law on that subject in our colonies. Party spirit runs so high in many of those dependencies, and violent language is so much the order of the day amongst their journals, officials are brought into such constant collision with the press, and the judicial and legislative functions are so continually and perniciously confounded, that a general revision of the Colonial Libel Law is most desirable. At present the most frightful punishments are occasionally inflicted in our colonies for libels; personal security and private rights are not unfrequently utterly disregarded; prosecutions are sometimes instituted to suppress public complaints, and in one case that has lately occurred, it was decided in a suit at the instance of the Crown Counsel, that to show two resolutions of a public meeting, condemnatory of the constitution of the Provincial Government, to the conductor of a public journal, and to ask him to insert them as advertisements, amounted to the publication of a libel, and a verdict of guilty was recorded.

"The case to which we refer took place in Prince Edward Island, and is thus stated in the Colonial Gazette:"

[Here the Herald quotes the statement of Mr. McLean's trial from our last, and proceeds:—]

"Anything more monstrous than this in the shape of public libel has not occurred of late years; it is, as the writer whose statements we have borrowed very truly says, to make a crime, in order to obtain a pretext for punishing a man; it is more; it is an attempt to prevent the feelings of the colonists reaching the ears of those whose duty it is to redress them, and is almost a proof that the complaint which constitutes the libel is well founded. It is a fair specimen of the general condition of the law in Prince Edward Island, no wonder there are agitation, riot and disorder in that colony. That Lord Stanley will countenance or sanction such injustice is not to be supposed for an instant; but he must go further than censure the proceedings in question, and direct their instant abandonment; his lordship must move the enactment of such a law of libel as will protect men from any such prosecutions in future. In this instance the proceedings for libel were aimed at the suppression of a disagreeable and unpalatable public opinion; but we greatly fear that many prosecutions for libel in our colonies are directed against the very existence—if not of the press generally—at least of a particular journal. Thus for instance, there lies, we are informed by competent authority, in the royal prison of St. Lucia, the editor of a newspaper in that colony called the Palladium; it will in England at least be scarcely believed that he has now been rotting in gaol upwards of three years! This gentleman was cast by an exceedingly ill and incongruously constituted court of law in damages notoriously far beyond his means, and the insolvent laws of the island are in such a state that, having now no property to surrender, in gaol he must remain for the remainder of his life, unless the plaintiff relent, or the law and administration of justice in St. Lucia be reformed. The libel thus punished was, we are told, the mere transcript of a letter, with a few alterations, which had appeared in a London journal. The confinement of this gentleman in prison for three years, in a tropical colony remarkable for its general unhealthiness, is perfectly disgraceful to our boasted civilization; and, great as the trouble which this little pestering island has given the Colonial-office may have been, we do trust that Lord Stanley will direct, if not his own, at least the Governor-General of the Windward Islands' attention to this case, and to the discreditable condition of the law generally in St. Lucia."

The *Novascotian* of the 7th of August contains an able exposure of the grievances under which the inhabitants of this colony are groaning. We have extracted enough of the article in question to convey to our readers a notion of the political pressure which bears upon the colonists, and shall next week lay before them the economical view of the question. Among the whole of our neglected colonies, there is not one that has more just reason to raise its voice against the neglect of duty which characterises the Colonial-office than Prince Edward Island.—*Colonial Gazette.*

RAISING WHEAT WITH STRAW.

(From the New Brunswick.)

We observe in the last number of the *Head Quarters* a letter from C. L. Hatheway, Esq., on the raising of wheat with straw, which we publish for the information of our Agricultural readers, and trust that the benefits resulting from this discovery will be improved by our farmers. We have seen it stated in an English Journal, that excellent crops of wheat have been raised on the most barren soil by means of straw, and it gives us much pleasure to add the testimony of one of our own farmers, in favour of this method of raising wheat:—

"Having seen an account of raising wheat by covering the seed with straw, I ventured to try the experiment in the spring of 1842.

"I had a piece of clayey ground ploughed for the purpose of planting potatoes on, and manuring along side of a field previously planted with potatoes, and then prepared for wheat. On the same day that I sowed my old potato ground, I had a ridge of the poor clay ground harrowed, and sowed with wheat, which, without harrowing, I covered with straw, at the rate of about one and a half tons per acre. At the time of harvest, I found that my straw-covered wheat was better than that which had been harrowed in on the old potato ground; and I am certain, if it had been harrowed in and left without the straw-covering, it would scarcely have been worth harvesting.

"As it had been asserted that it had been produced on grass, with a straw covering, I had the curiosity to examine the roots, and found that, under the straw, it had rooted in the cold clay about two inches in depth, and in the old potato ground four inches deep.

"Considering the great quantity of wheat and flour annually imported into this Province, it is of the first importance to Agriculturists to raise their own wheat; and I have no doubt, from the result of my experiment, and what I have seen elsewhere, that the poorest soils in the Province would annually produce a good crop of wheat, if sowed in that manner and covered with straw. As straw in the market scarcely pays the expense of conveying it there, it must be considered a very cheap manure. And if the straw produced on an acre of wheat will cover the seed of an acre the ensuing year, New Brunswick may be wholly independent of any other Country for flour.

"FARMERS! try the experiment—it is cheap and important. I here publish the result, for the benefit of others. How far repeating the wheat-covering of straw would prepare the soil for other crops, is yet to be learned by experience. The bright yellow straw has a powerful influence in attracting the rays of the sun, and as dry straw may be considered like charcoal, purely carbon, it may, on exposure to the atmosphere, acquire again that proportion of hydrogen and oxygen which it formerly possessed, and thereby become a very active manure. Another benefit in the wheat crop should not be forgotten, that under the straw-covering, the wheat will be entirely free from weeds and foul seed. I tried covering some with old hay, but it did not answer as well as the bright yellow straw.

"Maugerville, Sept. 1, 1843." "C. L. HATHEWAY.

IRISH WIT.—In Darlington, the following dialogue took place between a farmer and an Irish reaper—the latter considerably under the common stature:—Irishman: Do you want anybody for the harvest?—Farmer: Yes.—Irishman: Will you take me?—Farmer: No, ye're too little.—Irishman: Arrah, now, and do you cut your corn at the top?

PAPERS BY THE ACADIA.

(From *Willmer's American News Letter*, September 19, 1843.)

Last Thursday week the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince de Joinville, embarked on board the royal yacht at Treport, on their return to England, after nearly a week's residence at the Chateau d'Eu. The royal yacht, escorted by the *Pluton*, *Archimede*, and *Napoleon*, French war steamers, and a British squadron of ships of war, arrived at Brighton on the same day, after a passage of little more than six hours. Her Majesty and the Prince remained at Brighton till the following Tuesday, when they re-embarked, with the intention of paying a visit to the King of the Belgians at Ostend. Having passed the night off Walmer Castle (the residence of the Duke of Wellington, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports), the royal squadron stood out to sea early the next morning; and the illustrious voyagers, after a rough passage, arrived in good health and spirits at Ostend, where King Leopold, accompanied by his queen, awaited their arrival. The royal party is to visit Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other famous cities of the Netherlands, all equally rich in historical recollections, and is not expected to return to England till towards the end of the present week.

The agitation in Ireland moves on at the usual pace. The weekly repeal rent has for some months past exceeded £1000, but last week it fell to £735. This, however, appears to have been a manoeuvre to increase the nominal amount of the following week's subscription. For next day we find the acknowledgment of £500 from Philadelphia and £399 from Connaught, which will, of course, go to swell the sum-total of the next announcement. The association have issued a counter-manifesto to the Queen's speech, addressed "to the inhabitants of the countries subject to the British Crown," and signed by Daniel O'Connell. It is an elaborate attack on the "Saxon" government of Ireland, and is ordered to be printed on a broad sheet, and posted "in London, and Bath, and Bristol, and bigotted Liverpool," and elsewhere. The ministerial *Standard* stigmatises it as seditious, presumes that the signature can be substantiated, and hints that the 12 English judges, whom O'Connell, in moving its adoption, called "as stupid a set of fellows as he ever saw," would be of opinion that its publication would subject its author to a few years' imprisonment. The repealers are anxiously looking forward to the assembling of Dan's mock parliament, to consist of 300 members, each of whom is to bring £100 with him, and whose meeting is to constitute the "next great step" towards the obtaining of the grand object of their desires. Meanwhile Government is evidently preparing for the worst. The most formidable military preparations are making throughout Ireland, in the evident anticipation of a coming struggle; and such is their extent, that, according to the *Spectator*, they caused some alarm in the money market last week, which was evidenced by a reaction in the funds.

The state of South Wales is not a whit less formidable, and to such a pitch has the agitation there arrived, that parties talk seriously of placing the district under military law! Some days back an attack was made by the Rebeccaites on a gate near Pontardulais. They were 150 in number, and well armed. Before their work was entirely completed the police attacked them in their turn, and after some firing the mob withdrew, leaving Rebecca and six others prisoners. This check, however, instead of suppressing the popular discontent, seems to have caused it to blaze forth with ten-fold fury. Several gates have since been destroyed; and a few days after, an attack was made on a turnpike called Hendy gate, close to Pontardulais, and an old woman who kept it, aged 75, was wilfully shot dead on the spot. The thatch of the toll house had previously been set fire to, and when the old woman applied to her neighbours, for assistance to put it out, it was refused! An inquest was held on the body. The Medical men examined agreed in ascribing her death to the shots she had received; and yet the jury found that "she died from effusion of blood on the chest, but from what cause is to this jury unknown!" This verdict, given directly in the teeth of the evidence, has very naturally, created great alarm; and, indeed, the whole district seems to be in a most frightful state. Several incendiary fires have taken place on the property of an active magistrate named Chambers. One of these fires was in the very centre of the town of Llanelly. Middleton Hall, the seat of another magistrate, named Adams, has also been attacked. The military were sent for, but the messenger returned alone, bringing an intimation from the commanding officer that his men were so harassed by their day's work as to be unfit for further duty. An attack has also been made on the hoise of the harbour-master of Llanelly; and the Rebeccaites have entered the dwelling of a wealthy farmer, who acted as a sort of banker to the district, and eased him of £600. A grave has been dug in the park of Lord Dynevor, and an intimation given, that it is intended for his son, Colonel Trevor, who, as an active magistrate, is obnoxious to all the true children of Rebecca. The insurance offices decline to grant policies on farming stock; bands of marauders prowl the country, demanding alms, and threatening the vengeance of "Becca" to all who refuse them; and, in short, since the extraordinary verdict of Pontardulais, terror seems to have established an undisputed reign over the once proverbially peaceful people of South Wales.

The *Erebus*, Captain Ross, and the *Terror*, Captain Crozier, composing the Antarctic Expedition, which left England in 1839, have returned to this country, casting anchor at Woolwich, on the 12th instant. The *Literary Gazette* contains a long and interesting detail of the proceedings of the expedition, and concludes its account by stating that "the acquisitions to natural history, geology, geography, but, above all, to the elucidation of the grand mystery of terrestrial magnetism, raise this voyage to a pre-eminent rank amongst the greatest achievements of British courage, intelligence, and enterprise."

The East Indian Regular, Captain Carter, from London to Bombay, sprung a leak on the 8th July, in lat. 37 30 S., lon. 36 30 E. The passengers and crew left the vessel when her gunwales were under water, and took to the boats, and were next day picked up by the French frigate *Cleopatra*, and treated with the greatest kindness. The *Queen Victoria*, another Indian, from Bombay to Liverpool, has been totally wrecked off Rodrigues. The captain was saved, but the first officer, a passenger, and nine seamen, were drowned. H. M. S. *Fantome*, 16, has also been lost, off Monte Video. The crew are on their way home, to abide a court martial.

The seamen of Liverpool are raising a subscription to establish a Sailors' Home and Registry Office. It is said they have already collected £2600. An action is about to be commenced by Lord William Paget against Lord Cardigan for *crim-con*. This last-named nobleman has been again committing himself by the treatment of his officers. His regiment is at present station-

ed in Dublin. Father Mathew, after administering the pledge to 74,000 individuals in London, visited Norwich, Birmingham, and Liverpool, in which towns he was most favourably received, and made numerous proselytes, and has since returned to Ireland. Richard Dadd, the unhappy artist, who lately murdered his father in Kent, has been apprehended in France, where he attempted the life of a fellow-passenger in a diligence. He is evidently insane. A man residing at Hernosand, in Sweden, has assassinated his wife, and seven children out of nine, with a razor and hammer. He has given himself up to justice, and states that fear of inability to provide for their necessities drove him to the act. At Messina, a public scaffolding, 110 feet high, erected for the exhibition of fire-works, lately fell to the ground, precipitating with it fifteen workmen. Four died immediately, eight shortly after, and the lives of the remaining three are despaired of. At Maisonfort, in France, a most extraordinary duel has taken place. Two gentlemen quarrelled at billiards. They cast lots which should first throw the red ball at the other's head, and he whom fortune favoured threw it with such force and correct aim as to kill his adversary on the spot.

SPAIN.—The party who overthrew Espartero appear to be utterly incapable of wielding the power of which they dispossessed him, and the flames of civil war have again burst forth in this unhappy and disturbed country. The army has been in a great measure destroyed by the weeding out of officers disaffected to the ruling party, and by the disbanding of a large portion of the rank and file. The extreme liberal party are quite as discontented with their present rulers as they were with Espartero, and from the various accounts received from the provinces it is evident that the whole country is hastening towards a state of insurrection and anarchy. The Emperor of Russia arrived at Berlin on the 16th instant, on a visit to the King of Prussia.

On Tuesday, the daughter of Victor Hugo and her husband were drowned in the river Seine.

There are 2441 uninhabited houses in Sheffield, and 619 mills and warehouses to let, the amount of rental on which the rate is made being £17,922 8s. 6d.

The Rebeccaites in one night raised three pillars, built of stone, 27 feet high, on one of the hill tops, about a mile from the road, in the neighbourhood of Llangadock, in commemoration of their success.

The Government run contract for 100,000 gallons was taken last week by an individual house, at the rate of 1s. 6d. per gallon. The qualities are one-half East India and one-half West India spirit, of proof strength.

The French Naval station in the China seas is to consist of the *Cleopatre* frigate, of 52 guns; the frigate *Syrene*, also of 52 guns; and the *corvettes Sabine*, of 30; *Alemene*, of 30; and *Victorieuse*, of 24.

There has been for some time past a considerable emigration to America going on from the port of London; the emigrants are chiefly of the better class, very few steerage passengers being amongst the number. One of these ships cleared out of the Katherine Dock yesterday week, with 50 cabin passengers.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have issued orders that from henceforward the *Madeira*, *West Indian*, *Mexican*, and *Mediterranean* mails are to be embarked and landed at Southampton, instead of at Falmouth, by which the steam-ships will be allowed to proceed to their destinations, and the delays that have hitherto occurred will be avoided.

MURDER OF LORD NORBURY.—The examination of Peter Dolan, charged with the murder of the late Earl of Norbury, has terminated in his committal to abide his trial, by Sir Nicholas Fitzsimon, at the next assizes for King's County, at Püllamore. He has not made any confession of guilt; on the contrary, he persists in saying he is innocent, and has given a plausible account of himself from the day of the murder, which he recollects, up to the present time. He admits that he was in Durr on the day of the fatal deed.

ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIA AND GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIPS.—Great interest existed on the subject of the arrival of these two splendid vessels on their last voyage. It will, no doubt, be remembered by our readers, that the *Great Western* sailed from New York on the afternoon of the 31st August, and the *Hibernia* from Boston on the following day—twenty-four hours later. Taking into consideration the difference in distance and other circumstances, the start was, as nearly as could be, equal. Well, now for the result. The *Hibernia* reached the Mersey at half-past one o'clock on the morning of the 13th; and the *Great Western* at half-past four o'clock the following morning; so that the *Hibernia* was the victor by exactly twenty-seven hours. The *Great Western's* friends account for the length of her passage by having been supplied with inferior coal.

LOSS OF THE STEAMSHIP MISSOURI.—We regret to have to announce the total destruction, by fire, of the splendid American steam-frigate the *Missouri*, while at anchor in this bay, on Saturday week. She had the Hon. Mr. Cushing on board, proceeding to Alexandria, en route to China, as Minister. The alarm was first given at eight o'clock precisely, and was immediately followed by such a burst of flame from the engineer's store-room, as to lead to the belief that it originated among the oil and spirits. Every exertion was made to subdue it, and the large pumps were instantly put into operation; but the progress of the flames was so rapid, that it became necessary to flood the two magazines, which was done so effectually, that it was not until twenty minutes after three, a. m., that any explosion took place, and then not to an extent to endanger the shipping in the bay, the nearest of which had already been removed by the exertions of the acting captain of the port. Assistance was promptly sent from the *Malabar*, under the personal superintendence of Sir George Sartorius; and the *Locust* got up her steam and ran alongside the *Missouri*, with the view of towing her into deeper water, or rendering any other aid; but, unfortunately, she had already grounded, which rendered it impossible to scuttle her. As soon as the fire broke out, the governor ordered the Waterport gate to be opened, and proceeded himself to the wharf, from whence he despatched two engines under charge of the artillery and sappers; but in spite of the united efforts of the crew of the *Missouri* and her friendly auxiliaries, the progress of the flames, which at one time appeared to be got under, was such, that at length Captain Newton was forced to abandon his ship, after summoning a council of his own officers and those British officers about him, who unanimously decided there was no hope of saving the ship. The order was then given by Captain Newton for all to quit the ship, which was done immediately by the crew taking the water, and receiving the ready assistance of boats sent, in anticipation of the exigency, from the *Malabar*, and from the vessels in the harbour. Such was the state of the ship, when the officers and crew left her, about a quarter past eleven o'clock. We are happy to add, that the officers and crew are believed to be all saved. His Excellency the American Minister, after securing his papers of importance, returned to the ship, and zealously united his exertions to those of her officers. The line wall was crowded until a very late hour with spectators, anxiously watching the fate of the noble ship. The sight was awfully grand, until the masts at length fell overboard, the tracery of her spars and shrouds standing out in bright relief against the dark sky, was beautiful. The whole rock was light as

day; and probably such a sight has not been witnessed in the bay since the conflagration of the floating batteries in the memorable siege. We trust it will not be considered presumptuous to refer to the discipline on board this ill-fated vessel; but, as persons employed alongside during the progress of the calamity, and on whose veracity we can place the utmost reliance, have been desirous of bearing undeniable testimony on this most important subject, we beg to inform our readers that they describe the discipline and order on board as most admirable: the several orders were given and obeyed as if the vessel had been in perfect safety, and nothing had occurred to excite alarm or confusion.—*Gibraltar Chronicle.*

COMMERCE.—The state of trade in every part of the country is most encouraging. Confidence has revived, foreign orders come pouring in, money is abundant, the home trade has received an impetus, and, what is perhaps better than all, the harvest, thanks to the lovely weather of the last few weeks, has been got in with safety, and is described as an average one. These combined circumstances have operated most favourably on the public mind. Commercially speaking, a better feeling prevails at the present moment than has existed for years.

A letter from Constantinople states, that "the impression is every day gaining ground in this place, that the report of the murder of Colonel Stoddart and Capt. Connolly, at Bokhara, is altogether unfounded in fact. All the Hajjis who pass through Constantinople, on their way to Mecca, agree in contradicting this story, and state that though incarcerated, these gentlemen are still alive."

COL. STODDART AND CAPT. CONNOLLY.—On Thursday last a meeting took place in London, at which it was resolved that efforts should instantly be made to ascertain the fate of these two officers; that a committee be authorised to communicate forthwith with the Government, in order still, if possible, to secure their interference; and if they do not succeed in that, to send out Dr. Wolff for the purpose: a handsome subscription has already been entered into.

Potatoes are so plentiful in Ireland, that they may be had in many places at one penny per stone.

THE OPIUM COMPENSATION.—Upwards of £1,200,000 was paid, on Wednesday, at the treasury.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS, Sept. 19.

Timber.—American.—Pine.—The supply of this article continues to be abundant; the importers, however, are looking for higher rates. Cargoes of St. John Pine, of large average, have brought 17d. to 18 1/2d per foot; by auction, a parcel of small beam fittings was sold at 11 3/4d per foot, and moderate sized logs 15d to 17d per foot. Red Pine at 9 1/2d per foot. A cargo of Halifax Planks has been sold by auction in lots, at 19-16d to 17d per foot of two inches. St. John's Spruce Deals, of fair quality, may still be quoted at 2d per foot of two inches.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, Oct. 1.—A Public Meeting of persons opposed to the maintenance of a plurality of Colleges was held, pursuant to advertisement, in Mason Hall, on Wednesday last, the Hon. H. Bell in the chair.

The Chairman, with his usual ability, explained the objects of the meeting, and concluded by reading a series of eleven resolutions, to the effect that the educational object of first importance, and to the maintenance of which the larger portion of the funds at the disposal of the Legislature for such purposes ought to be appropriated, is a sound system of Common School Education; that one College, conducted on liberal principles, and exempt from denominational control, is sufficient for the wants of the Province; while the plan of denominational Colleges involves the maintenance of six, at an expense altogether disproportionate to the claims of those who sought their establishment, and which could not be granted without seriously curtailing the allowance already sufficiently limited, to Common Schools; that Halifax was not less fit for the site of a College than the cities of the United Kingdom, &c. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Wm. Stairs, Esq., M. P. P., George R. Young, Esq., and the Hon. Joseph Howe; the resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and a petition to the House of Assembly, in accordance with their purport, was read and passed. A numerous Committee was then appointed to convey a copy of the Resolutions to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to organize similar meetings in other parts of the Province, to prepare petitions, and otherwise to carry out the views of the meeting.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

St. John's, Sept. 5.—The officer who relieved the gentleman implicated in the charge of firing upon a French fishing boat from the boat of H. M. S. *Electra*, a short time since, and killing a man belonging to that country, has arrived here from Lamaline, having been shipwrecked on the voyage, and we learn, saving nothing but his life. An investigation into the circumstances connected with the above unhappy event has resulted in the acquittal of the officer in command of the British boat from all blame, and we are happy it is in our power to add, that the French Governor at St. Pierre has expressed his entire conviction that the fatal shot, above adverted to, was purely accidental.—*Post.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT JAMAICA.—By an arrival at Boston from Kingston, we have dates from that place to the 26th ult. A most destructive fire, supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, had taken place, and the number of houses destroyed is stated to have been between 600 and 1,000. A reward of £1000 was offered for the apprehension of the wretch who was the cause of this great destruction of property.

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1843.

The Royal Mail Steamship *ACADIA* arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, after a passage of 11 1/2 days. London dates to the 18th, and Liverpool to the 19th ult. have been received by this conveyance.

The most remarkable events of the day—and which seem to engross the largest share of public attention in England and on the Continent, at the present moment—are—the recent visit of the Queen of Great Britain to the King of the French, at the Chateau d'Eu, in France, where, it is said, "all the parties assembled appeared in their natural characters, and where the Crowned Heads, more especially, appeared divested of all the formality appertaining to Royalty."—Her Majesty's return to England, after nearly a week's residence at the Chateau;—and the re-embarkation of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, a few days subsequently, on a visit to the King of the Belgians, at Ostend. After a rough passage of a few hours' duration, the Royal party landed at Ostend, where King Leopold, accompanied by his Queen, awaited their arrival.

The state of trade, we are happy to perceive, is everywhere represented as most encouraging, and a better feeling, commercially speaking, prevails at the present moment than has existed for many years.

The state of affairs in Ireland and Wales is much the same as at the period of our previous advices from those countries.

Copious extracts from the latest English papers are given elsewhere—to which we beg to refer our readers.

PERSECUTION OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—In another part of this day's paper our readers will find the minute of the Special Commission of the Free Church of Scotland, held at Edinburgh on the 8th August last. We