

prisoners whose guilt has been proved. Upwards of fifty have been convicted of agrarian outrages, and the sentence of death hangs over no fewer than sixteen, who have been found guilty of murder. Outrages of a frightful character continue to afflict the provinces; and the state of reckless immorality disclosed by the evidence before the Special Commission is frightful to contemplate.

A number of influential gentlemen, with the decided sanction of Earl Clarendon, are endeavouring to raise 1,000,000*l.* to establish a "Farmer's Estate Society." They propose to buy estates in fee as they come into the market, and re-sell them in small lots of not less than forty statute acres. Provision is to be made to prevent subdivision. The present tenants, if unobjectionable, are to have preference, and the purchase-money taken in half-yearly payments. The scheme has the appearance, at first view, of being capable of affecting an amelioration in the condition of the farming and agricultural classes generally.

## INSURRECTION IN SICILY.

Sicily has been the theatre of a general insurrection, which has terminated in a complete revolution. The King of Naples, in the hope of putting an end to the movement, decided, on the 24th ult. to concede various legislative and administrative reforms, including an amnesty and a law on the press; which measure, it was at first thought, would effectually put an end to the revolt. In the mean time, Palermo was bombarded by the Queen's troops on the 14th; and, on the 15th, the bombardment continued, and shells were showered into the Town. The consuls of Sardinia, Switzerland, Prussia, Russia, the United States, Austria, and England, endeavoured in vain to induce the Duke de Majo to cease firing. At length a brief suspension of hostilities was agreed upon. During this short respite, the French Consul embarked the French residents on board an American three-masted vessel lying in the harbour. The people, at a parley granted, demanded the re-establishment of the Sicilian Constitution. The concessions wrung from the King of Naples, did not satisfy the insurgents in Sicily, nor in the least degree tranquilize the country. The promulgation of the decrees at Naples on the 24th, was attended with no effect. The news from Palermo, of the bombardment of that city, and the landing of the wounded soldiers on the quay of Naples, created a most profound impression. That silent communion between all classes, more dangerous than noisy turbulence, soon convinced the King's advisers that the monarchy was in peril. The infatuated King became at length convinced of the danger of his throne, and he yielded to the advice given him. His confessor, M. Cocle, was sent away from Naples to a convent at Benevento, and Del Carretto, his obnoxious Minister of Police, was conducted on board a vessel lying ready, and without being allowed to see his family, was sent off. After exciting tumultuous demonstrations at Leghorn, he proceeded in the Nettuno to Genoa, where we learn that he landed amidst the execrations of the people, and was forced to re-embark.

It soon became apparent that the feelings of the Neapolitans could not be controlled by their leaders. Thirty thousand of the populace assembled in the afternoon of the 26th ult. in the Via Toledo, and demanded a constitution. The red flag was hoisted on the Castle of St. Elmo, and the troops under the orders of the Government attempted to charge upon the mob. They were soon unhorsed, but the people offered them no violence. Gen. Stratella was permitted to enter the crowd, and promised them a constitution. The King, however, hesitated to the last. But on the 27th ministers resigned, and a liberal and enlightened administration was immediately formed. On the 20th, a royal ordinance was issued, decreeing a national constitution for the kingdom of the two Sicilies, to be founded on the same principles as the French charter of 1830, including two chambers, the royal inviolability, the responsibility of ministers, the liberty of the press, and the national guard. Religious toleration alone is withheld. The Roman Catholic remains as before, the national religion exclusively. On the 30th the King appeared in the streets of Naples, and was well received. On the next day the national guard was brought into action, with whatever arms could be mustered, and everything was quiet, a new era of liberty having commenced for Naples. At Palermo a suspension of arms was concluded on the 29th ult., between the insurgents and the troops, and the latter had retired to some distance from the city. An order for their immediate return to Naples had been sent to the Duke of Majo. An insurrectionary movement broke out at Messina, but no collision took place between the people and the garrison, as the latter retired into the forts and the citadel. The English frigate *Thetis*, and the steamer *Gladiator* were protecting British interests, the vengeance had proceeded to Palermo. The latest accounts from Naples describe the general rejoicings which were taking place at the success of the revolution. The King was universally popular.

## Colonial and American News.

## COLONIAL.

MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.—The Legislature of Canada met on the 25th of February. The *Quebec Chronicle* furnishes the following information in reference to the Election of a Speaker:—

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—The House met at half-past three o'clock, p. m., for choice of a Speaker. Sir Allan MacNab was proposed by the Hon. W. Cayley, and seconded by Colonel Prince. House divided.—Yes, 19; Nays, 54.

The Hon. A. N. Morin was proposed by Hon. R. Baldwin, and seconded by Hon. L. H. Lafontaine. Mr. Morin unanimously elected.

We copy the following list of the contemplated Ministerial arrangements from the *Montreal Herald*.

Mr. Baldwin—Provincial Secretary.  
Mr. Sullivan—Attorney General West.  
Mr. Blake—Solicitor General West.  
Mr. Hincks—Inspector General.  
Mr. Malcolm Cameron—Crown Lands.  
Mr. LaFontaine—Attorney General East.  
Mr. Aylwin—Solicitor General East.  
Mr. Leslie—Receiver General.  
Mr. Caron—Speaker of the Legislative and President of the Executive Council.

*The great Trunk Railway.*—In a notice of Legislative proceedings in the *St. John Courier*, we read—

The Committee on Railroads have not yet reported, but their proceedings are stated to be very important. It is said, that they will recommend the following grants and advantages to facilitate and encourage the Great Trunk Line from Halifax to Quebec. The interest of £400,000, at 4 per cent. per annum, (say £15,000) for twenty years, to be paid by the Province as a direct and absolute bonus toward the construction of the railroad; with the right to a strip of land, free of all expense, of 200 feet in width for the railway, and free grants of every third lot of 100 acres of the ungranted land on the line, and of 500 acres at every station required for railroad purposes. Mr. Partelow is Chairman of this Committee, and we look for an able and interesting report on Colonial Railways.

*Line of Telegraph from New Brunswick to the United States.*—The *New Brunswicker* adds the following information:

We have since seen a letter from F. O. J. Smith, Esq. of Boston, the proprietor of one of the American lines, on the subject, who is anxious to obtain the same privileges granted to the Quebec Company, for running a line from Calais and St. Stephens, via St. Andrews and St. John, to Halifax. He says that if this object can be accomplished, "capital can be obtained to extend the line from Portland to Calais, and if need be, without much aid from the Provinces, to Halifax—erecting a station at each important point, with a branch to Fredericton."

The advantages which would result not only to the people of the United States from having a line of Telegraph to Halifax, but also to the people of this Province, would be incalculable. We should then be in instant communication with Halifax, and in ten minutes could obtain intelligence from New Orleans! The people on the other side of the line are too intelligent not to perceive the disadvantages they would labour under, if the inhabitants of Canada should get the start of them with their line; and rather than this should be the case, they would undertake to establish the line through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia at their own expense. The Committee appointed at the Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce have acted with great alacrity—having prepared the Bill and Petition, and proceeded to Fredericton for the purpose of obtaining an Act of Incorporation.

## UNITED STATES.

*Peace with Mexico.*—Mr. Freaner, bearer of despatches from Mexico, arrived at Washington on the 20th. He has brought with him a treaty of peace, which was signed by the Mexican Government on the 1st of Feb., and in a few days it would be brought before the Mexican commissioners, who it was thought would ratify the negotiation without much division. The terms of the treaty are, that the United States shall keep a standing army of 12,000 men in Mexico to protect the Government, the Rio Grande to be the boundary, and New Mexico and California to be ceded to the United States. The amount of money to be paid is trifling.

*Death of Hon. J. Quincy Adams.*—The papers by the Steamer *Hibernia*, from New York, record the death of the Hon. Quincy Adams, at the advanced age of eighty years. For upwards of sixty years he has been actively engaged in public business, and has always been known as the friend of the poor and enslaved.

## PUBLIC SUPPER TO THE HON. G. COLES.

On Thursday evening last a very numerous and highly respectable party of gentlemen sat down to a Supper at the "Globe Inn," given in honour of the Hon. George Coles, on the event of his recent re-election to a seat in the House of Assembly. The Supper—prepared by Mr. Cairns—was served up in admirable style, and comprised every luxury and delicacy which the market could afford. The Chair was ably filled by the Hon. Captain Swabey, M. L. C., and he was supported in the Vice Chair by J. W. Le Lacheur, Esq., M. P. P. On both sides of the Table we noticed many of the Members of the Legislative Council and of the House of Assembly—many of the Merchants of Charlottetown, and several of Mr. Coles's constituents—who had travelled many miles to compliment, by their presence at the Festival

Boad, their worthy and zealous Representative. Immediately after the cloth was removed, a number of letters were read from gentlemen who were, owing to various circumstances, prevented from attending,—two of which only we can insert in our present No:—

CHARLOTTETOWN, March 16th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN;

I am under the necessity of requesting you to make my apology for absence from the proposed entertainment to the Hon. George Coles, this evening. I must beg you to assure him and the friends who may assemble together to grace this demonstration, that my best wishes are with them. I consider Mr. Coles' conduct, under the almost unprecedented circumstances in which he has been placed, to be highly honourable to him; and he has proved himself to be fully deserving of the high confidence which has been accorded by his constituents.

I congratulate you, Gentlemen, that in the agitation of those important questions which have lately occupied the public attention, the friends of reform and advancement have neither failed in their demonstration of loyalty to the Queen, nor of deference and respect to her representative in the Colony; and as long as our proceedings are governed by sound and moderate views, we may assure ourselves that we are taking the surest course for obtaining the object sought for.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

CHARLES HENSLEY.

E. Whelan, & J. F. Clark, Esqrs.

GENTLEMEN;

It will not be in my power to attend this evening at the entertainment prepared on the occasion of the return of the Hon. George Coles to Parliament.

I fully recognise the motives by which you have been actuated in making this demonstration of public opinion, and am fully prepared to unite with you in testifying your approval of his high-spirited and proper conduct under circumstances of great provocation and much personal inconvenience. Fully convinced in my own mind that the policy of which he, together with ourselves, is the advocate, will eventuate in a great improvement in our Colonial government, and that the public welfare will be highly benefitted, it remains only for us to pursue the even tenor of our way with firmness and moderation, and the principles which have been the means of restoring the Hon. George Coles to his seat, will overcome all opposition, and the community will, I trust, see, ere long, the good fruits of their temperate exertions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. HOLL.

To E. Whelan, & J. F. Clark, Esqrs.

The Toasts were then given, alternately from the Chair and the Vice Chair, prefaced by very happy and eloquent observations, and replied to, in several instances, in a style which reflected great credit on the different speakers. After the drinking of each Toast, an appropriate air was played by an excellent Band of Musicians who were in attendance, and whose eloquent and well-performed music gave an almost indispensable zest to the entertainments of the evening. We subjoin a list of the Toasts drank upon this occasion:—

1. The Queen, God bless her!—The loyalty and attachment of a free people, are the best proofs of a good and gracious Sovereign.
2. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the Royal Family.
3. The Honorable George Coles, our distinguished guest: May the respect and admiration of a grateful people, long attest his noble services in the cause of Reform, and the advocacy of Liberal Principles.
4. His Excellency Sir Donald Campbell, Baronet, our worthy Lieutenant Governor: May the policy of his Government be controlled by a desire to promote the social, political, and moral condition of the great mass of the people; and may no considerations of party ever induce him to listen to the machinations of a Clique, when found to be in opposition to the wishes of the many.
5. Our late Lieutenant Governor, Sir Henry Vere Huntley: The last two years of his administration form a brilliant epoch in our Island annals—and may they furnish an important and valuable lesson to all his successors.
6. The majority of the Electors of the First Electoral District of Queen's County: May the remembrance of their zeal in the vindication of Liberal Principles, animate the Electors of other Districts, on future occasions, to pursue a line of conduct similar to that which distinguished the independent freemen who re-elected the Hon. George Coles.
7. The advocates of Reform and of Responsible Government in both branches of the Legislature in this Colony.
8. The Clergy of all denominations on this Island.
9. The Army and the Navy: The best security for their bravery is that they are the descendants and protectors of a free and enlightened people.
10. The Farmer, the Mechanic, and the Merchant: They are the only real source of all political power, and were their feelings and energies united in promoting the cause of reform and good Government in P. E. Island, their power would be irresistible.
11. The fair Daughters of Prince Edward Island.
12. The Press: The true palladium of popular liberty, when independently and morally conducted.