

important the triumphs of the one or the other may have been; neither, unless fortune and success may have been his inseparable companions, will ever secure in life the full meed of praise and honour which he may have bravely or nobly won. To the historian and posterity he must bequeath the task and the duty of doing justice to his services and worth, and haply, he may at length receive from them the high and ennobling record and universal applause too long delayed.

So, however just and clear the views, however honourable and patriotic the motives of action, however strenuous and well-directed the efforts, however liberal and beneficial the changes accomplished, and how few soever the failures and mistakes of the, at present, dominant party in the House may be,—they need not look for an unprejudiced review, or impartial estimate of their legislative proceedings, but must expect, in some cases, the censure even of their friends, and, perhaps in all, the condemnation of their enemies. This anticipation, however, we know will neither paralyse nor dispirit them; and conscious of the rectitude of their intentions, and the necessity of their policy, they will independently and fearlessly proceed in their mission of reform; trusting that, as the ameliorating and beneficial effects of their measures become felt throughout the Colony, the abilities and public worth of the liberal party in the House will justly and proportionally rise in the estimation of the people.

D. MACLEAN AND THE ISLANDER.

We are glad to learn that the Family Compact have at last succeeded in buying up an editor for the *Islander* in the person of D. Maclean—the rejected. We say we are glad, because in exchanging civilities with the *Islander*, which we are very often inclined to do, we like to know that we are addressing something better than a man with an ass's head upon his shoulders. The person who penned the announcement of Mr. Maclean's appointment to the editorial chair seems to have been most satirically, waggishly inclined; it is given in these words—"The Proprietor of the *Islander* has engaged the services of Duncan Maclean, Esq., to assist him in the conducting of the editorial department of his paper." What mischievous fellow has thus excited Professor Numskull's vanity at the expense of Mr. Maclean's "intellectuality"? We know the Professor to be innocent of the ruse—innocent of writing any paragraph for the Press. Alas! how have the mighty fallen! Duncan Maclean—the champion of Toryism—the self-styled leader of the "intellectuality" of the First District of Queen's County—published as the assistant, the sub, the servant of John Ings! Yet, what cares D. Maclean for the style of his appointment; it is not to the honour, but the profit of the thing he aspires. Being disappointed in his hope of getting thirty pounds from the House of Assembly, he has no objection to receive thirty pounds direct from the pockets of the officials, which they will, no doubt, ungrudgingly pay to him or to any other man who will be mean enough to vilify and misrepresent their political opponents, and insure, if that be possible, their continuance in office.

Independently of the pleasure we shall feel in knowing who our political anta-

gonist will be—(not as now, when it is notorious that the editor of the *Islander* is a person who has neither a local habitation nor a name, who is here, there, every where that he may be found to do the necessary mental drudgery for that incomparable blockhead, who has pride enough to put himself in a position for which Nature and education never fitted him)—we shall have in addition to this pleasure, a satisfactory confirmation, by his own act, if that were at all necessary, of Mr. Maclean's apostasy to his first political principles,—and, therefore, a complete justification of the course we have pursued in reference to him.

What a change in the relative positions of the *Islander* and Mr. Maclean since 1843,—the former was then playing the scold and the latter the patriot: in the estimation of the one Toryism was the curse of the Island—the officials a set of vampires that ought to be exterminated at any risk,—in the opinion of the other, the pseudo patriot was a vile rebel in his politics, and an atheist in his religion. The *Islander* is still, indeed, the scold, while Mr. Maclean, from being the advocate of popular opinions, has reached the acme of degradation in suffering himself to be made the *locum tenens* of John Ings, the hired scribbler of a party who despised and persecuted him in 1843, and who use him now only because they cannot get a more facile tool in the country.

English Mail.

The Courier brought the English Mail early on Monday Evening. Below are given such extracts from the English Papers as furnish the latest and most important intelligence.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—Parliament was opened on the 31st Jan. with the usual ceremony. The royal speech was delivered by commission, the commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdown, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Minto, and the Bishop of London.

(From Willmer & Smith's European Times.)

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Royal speeches, measured by Talleyrand's standard, that "language was given to us to disguise our thoughts," approach very near to perfection; the maximum of words to the minimum of meaning is carried out with provoking effect in the document which was put into the mouth of her Majesty on Thursday. The Speech deals amply with the past, but is most enigmatical respecting the future. In the second paragraph her Majesty pays a compliment to the virtues of her aunt, the late Queen Dowager. We see no objection to this, providing the matter ends there. But if the allusion to her charity and virtues be the precursor of an attempt to provide for her servants and connexions at the expense of the country, we hope it will be steadily and successfully resisted. The enormous stipend which the late Queen drew from the public purse after the death of William the Fourth, was out of all proportion to her requirements, and any effort to perpetuate the burden, even on a greatly reduced scale to those connected with her, will go far to neutralise the public appreciation of the charity and virtues of which the Royal Speech somewhat ostentatiously reminds us. The allusion to the differences between Russia and the Porte, and their settlement, and to the royal visit to Ireland, are matters of history; but a very suspicious sentence closes the paragraph in which reference is made to the cholera. "Vigilant precautions against the more obvious causes of sickness," implies, we imagine, a sanitary measure which will dip extensively into the pockets of the al-

ready over-burdened tax payers. If property were made to contribute to the state in proportion to its means, there could not be the slightest objection to such an announcement; but while by our present system of taxation the least able to contribute are the most heavily oppressed, much dissatisfaction will be excited, and a considerable amount of injustice perpetrated.

On the subject of Free-trade the tone of the Speech is unequivocal. Sympathy, in a quiet satirical way, is expressed for the landlords. "Her Majesty has observed with regret the complaints from the owners and occupiers of land;" but the following paragraph announces her Majesty's "gratification at the increased comforts and necessities of life" enjoyed by the people, produced by the cheapness and plenty against which the landlords rail so bitterly. This is essentially what is styled a "left-handed compliment," and the manner of its introduction is the neatest and most telling feature in the Speech. Strange to say, while a measure for the better government of the Australian Colonies is announced, not a word is said about Canada or the Cape of Good Hope—colonies that demand, of all others, the most prompt attention, from the startling events connected with them during the last few months. Surely the colonial reform, of which we have heard so much recently, is not to be limited to Australia. Ireland figures conspicuously in the present, as it has unhappily done in too many former speeches. The Queen, it is clear, entertains a lively sense of the joyous reception which she received from the warm-hearted Emeralds, an anxiety to better their physical condition is apparent in the manner in which the subject is approached. But Irish misery is too ulcerous and deep seated to be touched by such puny remedies as a change in the Grand Jury law, or by adding to the number of parliamentary electors.

The concluding paragraphs in the Speech, if they have any meaning at all, point to an amendment in our electoral system. It is possible that the Cabinet intend to take the country by surprise on this question, for the tone of the leading ministerial print did not convey the remotest hope that the subject would be entertained. If a really complete and comprehensive measure of electoral reform be introduced during the session which has now commenced, it will strengthen the Ministry and delight the country, just in the proportion that a feeble or partial measure will produce general dissatisfaction, and end, probably, with upsetting the state coach.

The debate which followed the reading of the Speech and the amendment of the Protectionists we are only enabled to glance at, from the length to which our report of the water inquiry yesterday has extended. But we can state that the fallacies which the landlords have been engaged during the recess in palming upon the farmers were brushed away like cob-webs by Mr. Villiers and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was proved that at no former period was the country so prosperous. Bankruptcies had decreased. The home trade had largely increased. There was less pressure on the poor rates, even in the agricultural districts. During the last sixteen months more food had been imported than during the preceding sixteen years. The lower classes were employed, food was cheap, money was abundant, and the country was in a sound and healthy state. The debate in the Lower House was adjourned at midnight; but in the Upper Chamber a division gave the Government a majority of 49 on the amendment.

DEATH OF LORD JEFFREY.—Edinburgh has lost the most admired and most beloved of her citizens. Lord Jeffrey died on the 19th ult. He was born in Edinburgh in the year 1773—his father being a writer in respectable practice, chiefly from the north. He himself was called to the bar in 1794. In 1820 he was elected lord rector of the University of Glasgow, his immediate successors in that office being Mackintosh, Brougham, and Campbell. He was chosen dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1829, when he resigned the charge of the *Edinburgh Review*, of which he had been

editor from its commencement in 1802. He became Lord Advocate on the accession of Earl Grey's Government in November, 1839. He was raised to the bench in 1834. The late Lord Jeffrey was twice married. By his first wife, Miss Morehead, he had not any children. He married secondly Miss Charlotte Wilkes, a lady of the United States, who still lives; and by her he has left one child, a daughter, married to William Empson, Esq., professor of the law of nations in the East India College, at Hailebury, and, since the death of Mr. Macvey Napier in 1847, Lord Jeffrey's successor in the editorship of the *Edinburgh Review*.

IRELAND.

APPALING CATASTROPHE AT THE LIMERICK WORKHOUSE—TWENTY SEVEN FEMALES KILLED!

It is our painful duty to record the particulars of a fatal and melancholy casualty which took place last night at Clare street auxiliary workhouse, by which twenty seven human beings lost their lives, and twenty eight were seriously injured. Between eight and nine o'clock, shortly after the inmates, five hundred families, had retired to rest, on the lofts of the store set apart for sleeping apartments, a false alarm of fire was given by one of the women, whether with an idle intention of causing alarm, or by design, is unknown; but so electric was the panic created, that almost instantaneously the females on the first loft leaped from their beds, and in the darkness, rushed in a body to the staircase or ladder, leading from that portion of the building to the ground floor. The strenuous efforts of all to gain access to the ladder, upon which several had crowded together, necessarily caused a crush and confusion, until ultimately the paupers on the other lofts congregated in the narrow passage, when the ladder broke, and numbers were precipitated to the ground, from a height of not more than ten feet. The scene that ensued is almost indescribable—the shrieks from below induced those above to press more eagerly towards the staircase, and as they came to the verge of the passage, down they fell in crowds over each other! For some time all remonstrances were unavailing to dissuade the paupers from rushing headlong to ruin, and before the surprising nerve and exertion of the matron, Mrs. Sleeman, and the assistant master, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, had effect, twenty seven females were killed, or rather suffocated from falling on top of each other! The occurrence having become known outside, numbers of citizens proceeded to the auxiliary establishment, to render assistance. The Roman Catholic Clergy congregated also, as there could not have been less than twenty present. The city police, with the mayor, were also in prompt attendance, and all united in relieving the sufferers, and extracting the dead bodies from beneath the half suffocated group that lay struggling on the ground. The scene was truly appalling, as the relatives and friends of those who were located in the workhouse crowded before the premises, and as each dead body, or dying sufferer, was brought out on a door for conveyance to Barrington's Hospital, the progress of the carriers was violently stayed to catch a glimpse for recognition. At ten o'clock, the number of dead bodies received into Barrington's Hospital was 27, and a more heart-rending spectacle never presented itself—there lay, side by side, the livid remains of these unfortunate creatures who, a few hours before, were in the prime of life! The majority were young and well looking females—indeed some had the smile of innocence on their youthful countenances, and seemed as if in a dream of joyful ecstasy. Dr. Gore was the first medical officer in attendance at Barrington's Hospital, and, aided by Dr. Cavanagh, resident apothecary, made every proper arrangement for the reception and treatment of the wounded, and accommodation of the dead. Drs. Geary, Brodie, and Leane, were also at the Hospital, and saw the patients who were brought in taken care of. The number received into the Hospital seriously injured was 28, and of these there are three not expected to recover. No blame is attached to the officers of the institution,