

LIVERPOOL, April 16.—*Travelling at fifty-six miles an hour.*—The ten feet wheels attached to the locomotive engines employed on the Great Western Railway not being found fully to answer the expectations of the Directors, they have altered their plan, and, in future, wheels of seven feet in diameter only, are to be employed. The result has been the attainment of the speed of fifty six miles an hour.

A meeting was held in London, April 24, to protest against the "opium war"—Earl Stanhope in the Chair. Strong resolutions were adopted, and a petition to Parliament, which was to be presented in the House of Lords by Earl Stanhope, and in the Commons by Lord Sandon. It was resolved, also, that the resolutions should be done into Chinese and sent to the Emperor of China.

O'CONNELL ON TEMPERANCE.—This celebrated orator, in the course of a speech lately made in Dublin, after congratulating his countrymen on their present quiet, uses the following remarks concerning the late temperance movement.

"I hail with the most unalloyed feelings of delight, this disposition of my countrymen, and the tranquillity that at present prevails over the land. But, above all, I hail with feelings of joy and gratification, to which, I confess, I am utterly unable to give expression, the mighty miracle of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors that has been wrought. (Tremendous cheering from all parts of the House.) O, blessed be my God that has given me to see the day that Ireland, universal Ireland, has set an example, such as has never been equalled by any other nation of the earth, whether savage or civilized. A few, a very few years ago, indeed, the feast of our patron saint, St. Patrick, was celebrated in a manner the most iniquitous and degrading. Then even female lips were polluted by the poisoned draught, and hundreds of thousands sacrificed to the filthy Moloch of intoxication. Who, I would ask, that saw last St. Patrick's day, and was not struck with the mighty change that came over the habits and morals of the people? To see immense masses coming forward to say they were purified from the grossness that had so recently overwhelmed them—who did not feel the full force of that moral energy that had forever dashed the poisoned draught of intoxication from their lips? (Great applause, and "one more cheer for the Teetotallers.") I may, perhaps, be asked, why it is that I do not myself practice what I preach? I have been always sober. I do confess I did entertain a very strong notion, indeed, to take the pledge, but then I considered that my doing so might be construed by some that it was for party or political purposes. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) However, my mind is fully made up on that point. A cry may be raised against me, that what I preach to others, I am unable to practice within myself.—Let every man who hears me enquire of his own heart what power it was that urged forward this imposing exhibition of moral control over the worst of passions? A gentleman informed me that he had been recently through four of the largest towns in the south of Ireland, and that not in a single instance had he seen a human being go into a public house, in any of them. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Other countries of the earth have been converted to Christianity, as ages roll on; but in Ireland the conversions were simultaneous, so that preachers of the word could not be had in numbers sufficient to give baptism to the converts; and in the course of three or four years, all the land was a land of converts—and that miracle of Heaven has again been enacted here. A great moral change, general and universal, has come over us, and I laugh to scorn all our calumniators when Ireland will thus be a land of morality. I have been led away by this topic, but it is a topic so intimately connected with that act of justice which we seek to obtain, that I could not refrain from thus advertising to the subject."

FAR NORTH.—Several British Whaling ships have proceeded as far north as within ten degrees of the North Pole. In 1816, several passed the 80th degree of North latitude—and according to the log-book of the Neptune of Aberdeen, that ship actually attained the 82d degree.—It is said that the Prince Frederick of Liverpool, in 1765, commanded by James Bisbrown, actually reached the latitude of 83 40.—This is the highest latitude which has been attained.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR COLONIES.

(From the London Colonial Gazette.)

We have just received a little volume entitled *Responsible Government for Colonies*, and published by RIDGWAY, with the following

ADVERTISEMENT:

"Except a portion of the Introductory Chapter and the Conclusion, which are chiefly new, the following papers are reprinted from a Series of papers, written week by week, for the *Colonial Gazette*, and published in that Newspaper in the months of December, January and February last. Though originally intended to elucidate and apply a doctrine of Lord Durham's Report, that had often been misunderstood and misinterpreted in the strife of party politics, the papers were based on principles of the widest range; and while their appearance has been welcomed in the Provinces of British North America, for their bearing on questions of the highest interest to those countries, they have been received with equal favour in the West Indies, as a contribution to the cause of good government in all the Colonies. To aid in this object, and preserve them for reference, they are now collected, revised and published in a compact form."

And a most opportune publication it is, as will be seen by referring to the news from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In those colonies, not less than in Upper Canada, (all of them being free from the war of races which complicates affairs in Lower Canada,) the one thing on which the people appear to be bent, is Responsible Government as suggested by Lord Durham. In Nova Scotia the question takes a practical shape, and calls for immediate decision by the Home Government. The Assembly, disappointed in

the expectations raised by Lord John Russell's despatch of the 16th October, addresses the Crown for the removal of the Governor. The ground of this prayer is, that Sir Colin Campbell has refused to carry into effect the instruction of Lord John Russell's despatch. He continues his confidence to a body of executive officers in whom the Assembly has no confidence; and, therefore, the Assembly, being unable to procure a change of Ministry, seeks to remove the quasi Sovereign. This is the revolutionary state of things which has generally prevailed in Colonies with Representative Assemblies—the "chronic anarchy" necessarily occasioned by giving representation and withholding executive responsibility. If the Governor had removed the unpopular officers, and appointed others enjoying the confidence of the Assembly, the Assembly would never have thought of praying for his removal. But it seems that Sir Colin Campbell's "reading of the despatch" differs from that of the Assembly; and he wishes Lord John himself to decide between them. They too refer the matter to Lord John, by praying for a new Governor who will read the despatch as they read it. And thus the whole question is brought before Lord John Russell for a practical decision. He must give the Colonies his own reading of his own despatch.

That important document admits, no doubt, of several very different readings. All that it positively expresses, is authority to Governors to remove executive officers at pleasure. It thus placed at the mercy of Governors those Family Compacts who have hitherto been able to do as they pleased with Governors. It therefore gave Governors the power to choose Ministers from time to time, agreeable to the Representative body; but it did not direct them to pursue the policy of thus providing for harmony between the Executive and the Assembly. The authority bestowed upon the Governor was ample; but there really is not a word in the despatch expressive of the object with which the authority was given, still less of the manner in which it was to be used. "I hereby," says Lord John in substance, "put an end to the system of Family Compacts ruling over Governors by means of their life tenure of office; I authorize you to dismiss and appoint whom you please." But this is all. The purpose with which the new power was given to the Governor, is not merely left unexplained, but all allusion to it seems to have been studiously avoided. It might well happen, therefore, that an Assembly and a Governor should differ about the reading of this circular.

What is meant by "the reading," is the opinion as to the aim of the writer. Now it appears to us that he might have had three widely different purposes in view. First, supposing the despatch to have been composed by Lord John Russell himself, and considering how long and how violently the question of Executive Responsibility had agitated the Colonies to whose Governors it was addressed, the conclusion is that it was designed for the purpose of enabling the Governors to appoint officers enjoying the confidence of the Assemblies. To this object it was completely *apropos*; and if this were not its object, then it was *apropos* to nothing. In this sense, therefore, it was almost universally received, and especially in the Colonies. But, secondly, there have not been wanting suspicious persons who imagined, that Lord John Russell's only purpose in signing his name to the circular, was to frighten the Family Compact of Upper Canada, to place them at the mercy of Governor Thomson, and thus to give him the means of obtaining from the Anti-Union Assembly an unconditional vote for the Union. It certainly did enable him to do this, and was therefore not quite *apropos* to nothing, though it would have appeared so at the time if it had not been very applicable to the question of Responsible Government. Lastly, supposing the despatch to have been written by Mr. Mothercountry, and merely signed without reflection by Lord John Russell, it may have been designed to render the Colonial Family Compacts subservient to Mr. Mothercountry, whose own tenure of office is still for life. That it might have that effect is obvious. The Governors are at all times but servants of Downing-Street; and the great power which it bestows on them must needs be wielded according to every bidding from hence. The official tenure for life of the Family Compacts has enabled them to assert a sort of independence of Mr. Mothercountry, and not unfrequently to set him at defiance. The new authority for the Governors may only be meant as a new authority for him—to be exerted through the Governors on the Colonial officials. In this view of the subject, the effect of the despatch would be to constitute a system of colonial government more than ever like the bureaucracy of France or Russia, of which the Colonial Office would be the centre and Mr. Mothercountry the head. And this interpretation of the despatch is much favoured by observing the extreme care of the writer to avoid every thing like explanation or statement of the purpose with which it is written.

However, the secret must soon be out. If Lord John Russell should take part with Sir Colin Campbell against the Assembly of Nova Scotia, all British America will understand that the despatch was not written with any view to the question of Responsible Government. It will then bear one of the two other interpretations of it which we have here suggested. The colonists may take which they like best. Once more, steam for ever! This paper will go by the British Queen to-morrow, and reach Halifax and Toronto in three weeks. We say to our friends there—to all colonists in all parts of the world—mark Lord John Russell's course as to the Assembly and Governor of Nova Scotia! The question of Responsible Government for Colonies has to be practically decided now, and perhaps for ever.

HALIFAX, 27th MAY, 1840.

We understand that the Lieutenant Governor has received a Despatch from Lord John Russell, intimating his regret that it has not been in his power to submit to Her Majesty the recent Address of the House of Assembly, forwarded for that purpose by the Speaker; the same having been transmitted without the intervention of His Excellency, and the proceeding being unusual, irregular, and inconvenient; and his Lordship, considering it his duty therefore to assert, on behalf of Her Majesty's Representative in the Province, the strict adherence to those observances to which his station gives him an indisputable claim, and which cannot be disregarded without derogating from the respect due to his power and authority.

We are also informed that Her Majesty's Government has expressed its approval of His Excellency's determination not to assent to the Address of the House of Assembly for the change of the Members of the Executive Council collectively, without the previous sanction of Her Majesty; and has distinctly signified that His Excellency would not have acted in conformity with his Instructions, by making, on his own authority, the change demanded by the House.—*Gaz.*

(From the *Novascotian*, June 3.)

The above would seem to be "a heavy blow and great discouragement" to the popular party in Nova Scotia, and will, we apprehend, be read with surprise and disgust throughout the British North American Provinces, save and except by those only who favour the miserable system of misgovernment which it is their desire to maintain. For ourselves, we may say, that while we feel indignant enough that a course of such proceeding intended to save the feelings of the Governor, (for to ask a man to transmit an address complaining of himself, was to offer a needless insult,) should be characterized as "unusual and irregular," we cannot perceive the consistency of a Government that, in the case of New Brunswick, received, considered and approved an Address, transmitted precisely in the same way, and then urges this miserable point of form against a Colony, second to no other in loyalty, public spirit, and intelligence. Lord John Russell mistakes the stuff of which Nova Scotians are made, if he supposes they will be content with this evasion.

One of two things is evident—either that Lord John Russell does not intend that his own Despatch shall be any thing but a dead letter, in Nova Scotia at least—that he intends to act upon Mr. Stewart's advice, and try how much she will bear; or that, believing the representations sent thence, that the Governor would be sustained by a majority of the people, he has been advised to strengthen his hands in this way, and let him dissolve the House under the most favourable circumstances. If the Governor can get a majority, then he will be all right—if he cannot, his conduct will be highly approved of, but he will be withdrawn, and another one sent out to pursue a more prudent policy. Our advice to the country then, is—trust not in Governors nor Secretaries of State, but in yourselves—and remember that *all now depends upon the Elections.*

As regards the Address, it has done its work, though Her Majesty has not been permitted to read it. It has been, and will be, read in all the Provinces; by the members of both Houses of Parliament; and by some portion of the British People—and it must elicit despatches and explanations, about which there can be no mistake. If the system is to be changed, we care little for the approval of Sir Colin's conduct—if it is not, Lord John may be assured, that it is not the last that will be written, and the rest will certainly be sent through the proper channel.

PAPERS BY THE UNICORN.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 4.—Pursuant to a motion by the Lord Chancellor, Chief Justice Tindal advanced to the table, and stated that on the part of Her Majesty's Judges he had the honor to represent to their Lordships that they had all, with the exception of Lords Denman and Abinger, met together in Sergeants' Inn, for the purpose of taking into consideration the several questions respecting the Clergy Reserves in Canada, which their Lordships had been pleased to propose to them, and that after due discussion and consideration of the several subjects involved in these questions, they had agreed unanimously to the answers to be returned to them. The purport of the answers was, that they were all of opinion that the words "a Protestant clergy," in the 31 Geo. III. cap. 31, are large enough to include, and they do include, other clergy than the Church of England; and when their Lordships asked "if any other, what other?" the judges answered, "the clergy of the Church of Scotland." They all agreed in opinion that the powers given to the Legislative Council and Assembly of either province, by the 41st sec. of the 31 Geo. III. cap. 31, were prospective only, and could not be extended to affect lands already allotted and appropriated under former grants, and that the Legislative Council and Assembly of Upper Canada had exceeded their authority in passing an Act "to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof," and that the sales which have been, or may be, effected in consequence, are contrary to the provisions of the Statute of Geo. III., and are therefore void.

The Marquis of Westmeath asked the Noble Lord (Melbourne) whether the British Government had interfered to prevent the persecutions that had been inflicted on the Jews at Damascus. Lord Melbourne was understood to say, that the British Consul had been applied to on the subject.

The Duke of Wellington has supported, in his place in the Lords, the conduct of the British Superintendent in China, Capt. Elliot. Earl Stanhope's motion, disapproving of his policy, has been abandoned in the Lords, and Mr. Palmer, in the Commons, has abandoned a motion of which he had given notice, for declaring that the seizure of opium was not a sufficient cause of war.

The Lord Advocate has communicated the

heads of his intended bill for the settlement of the Scotch Church question, to his friends in Edinburgh. It appears he proposes to give the congregations a right of rejecting three Presbyteries in succession, without reasons, and the subsequent ones only on reasons, which may be examined by the General Assembly.

MURDER OF LORD WILLIAM RUSSELL.—This nobleman, aged 73 years, was found dead in his bed, with his throat cut, on the morning of the 6th of May. Suspicion has fallen upon his Lordship's valet, a Swiss, named Courvoisier, who has undergone several examinations. Whether he is the actual murderer, does not as yet appear, but circumstances have transpired which prove that Courvoisier had been engaged in an extensive system of peculation from his Lordship. Much property had been missed at several times, and on the morning when the horrid deed was discovered, the house presented the appearance of having been entered by burglars, but no evidence has been shewn to prove that this could have been the case. All the property missed at several times, had been found secreted about the house, and in parts of it to which none but the valet had access. The Times says:—"The excitement produced in high life by the dreadful event is almost unprecedented, and the feeling of apprehension for personal safety increases every hour, particularly among those of the nobility and gentry who live in comparative seclusion." The deceased nobleman was the uncle of Lord John Russell.

It is stated that there are now in Dublin, no fewer than 16,000 puncheons of Whisky, the property of large distillers. The celebrated John Power, Esq., the most extensive and probably the most wealthy distiller in Ireland, is, it is understood, taking measures to close his extensive concerns. Honour to Father Matthew!

Sir John Franklin, the traveller, has resigned his office of Governor General of Van Dieman's Land.

Mr. Morrison, the *soi disant* hygeist, died at Paris on Sunday se'nnight.

The Bishop of Bruges lately consecrated at Ypres, the new Abbess of the Convent of Irish Benedictines. She is a Miss Jarrest of London.

TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES WITH NAPLES.—The brief and bloodless war with Naples has terminated after the capture of a number of Neapolitan vessels, in the acceptance by the King of the Two Sicilies, of the proffered mediation of France. His Neapolitan Majesty had laid an embargo on British vessels, but it was removed in a few days. It is supposed that the captured Neapolitan vessels will be released, but this is not certain. The arbitration will be carried on at Paris.

A Lyons paper asserts, that the batteries of Syracuse had exchanged shots with and compelled the retreat of two British ships of War that had chased under their guns two Neapolitan vessels.

RUSSIA AND CIRCASSIA.—A letter from Galatz, in Wallachia, the 13th ult., in the *Augsburgh Gazette*, states that the Circassians have never shewn so much resolution and courage as recently. They no longer confine themselves to skirmishes, but fall upon the Russians in the open field, and attack their fortresses, which they take before relief can be received by sea, putting their garrisons to the sword, and carrying off the arms and ammunition, of which they were much in want. They have taken during the present spring the forts of Nicholas, Rajewsky, Lazza-reff, and Williamoff; the fort of Tuabs still held out, but had sustained two assaults. The ports of Sebastopol, Odessa, and Theodosia, were crowded with troops for the campaign, and 10,000 men had been hastily embarked for the coast of Circassia.

FROM THE POLISH FRONTIER, May 3.—According to the latest accounts from the interior of the empire (which, however, seem to require confirmation), orders have been now given for the immediate embarkation of part of the army collected on the coast of the Black Sea; in consequence of which the fleet of Frankfort would soon sail from Sebastopol. The troops, it is stated, are to be conveyed to the Circassian coast to combat the mountain tribes, and especially to chastise the Circassians for the atrocities committed by them at the surprise of Fort Sudscha; but the body of troops appears too large for this object, and it is not easy to refrain from conjecturing that other dangers are in the background, especially when we consider that the news of the movement of the Persians against Bagdad, however unaccountable it appears, is again repeated, and is supposed to be not wholly unfounded. It is also again expected that a corps of troops to reinforce General Perowsky is to cross the Caspian and land in the bay of Kuli Derieh, from which the march by land would be attended with no difficulties.

BRUSSELS, May 7.—Hoang-tong-Kas, a Chinese Commissioner, has just arrived at Amsterdam, on board a vessel belonging to the Handel-Maatschappij. He is the bearer of a rescript of the Emperor of China, which empowers him to deliver letters of marque against the English, whence, after having executed his commission, he will proceed to those of North America.

UNITED STATES.

THE BLOOD-HOUNDS.—It is, we believe, pretty generally known, that the enlightened government of the United States, finding themselves inadequate to drive out or extirpate the Indians of Florida by fair means, or by what may, even in Indian warfare, be called fair fighting, recently imported a number of blood-hounds from the Island of Cuba, for the purpose of hunting them down. The experiment appears to have been a failure, for which, we believe few will be sorry. In the House of Representatives, now assembled at Washington, Mr. John Quincy Adams recently offered the following curious Resolution on the subject: