

HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Condition of the Population of the Islands and Highlands of Scotland, and into the Practicability of affording the People Relief, by means of Emigration, and who were empowered to report their observations from time to time to the House, have agreed to the following Report:—

1. Your committee, having concluded their inquiry into the subject referred to them, beg to state, that the following important facts have been established by the evidence which they have collected for the information of the House. They have divided their inquiry into two branches; first, as to the origin and extent of the distress which was said to exist in certain districts of the country; and, secondly, as to the practicability of affording relief by means of emigration. It was established by the evidence before your committee, that an excess of population existed beyond that for which the country could afford the means of subsistence, or furnish adequate employment, along that part of the western coast which includes portions of the counties of Argyll, Inverness and Ross, as well as amongst the islands; and this excess of population, who are for the most part for a period of every year in a state of great destitution, was variously calculated at from 45,000 to 80,000 souls.

2. Your committee were informed that the famine and destitution in the years 1836 and 1837 was so extensive, that many thousands would have died of starvation had it not been for the assistance which they received from Government and the public; that the sum of £70,000 was collected and distributed at that period in the shape of food and clothing, and all the witnesses were of opinion that this district of the country were liable to similar visitations in succeeding years.

3. Your committee are of opinion that the origin of this excess of population must be traced back as far as prior to the year 1745; that it originated in the feudal system which existed at that time, when the proprietors were accustomed to value their estates according to the amount of their population, and the number of men whom they could bring into the field; this led to the minute subdivision of lands, and to the croft system, which was maintained up to a late period in those districts, by the full employment which the people received from the manufacture of kelp, as well as by an occasionally abundant herring fishery, which the coast at one time afforded, and for the encouragement of which considerable bounties were awarded by Parliament. Most of those resources have now failed them.

4. This excess of population was further maintained, and its tendency to increase confirmed, by the practice of the Government, of raising large bodies of volunteers and fencibles, and by the consolidation of farms in the interior of the country, which had the effect of removing the people from the glens to the coast, where they found it more easy to obtain a subsistence, either by fishing or in the manufacture of kelp.

5. Your committee also find it stated that the deficiency of education has tended to perpetuate this evil of excessive population, as want of knowledge of the English language, and the ignorance of the people in other respects, made them unable to estimate the advantage it would be to them to seek for employment where they might find a better market for their labour. The want of roads, also, in some districts of the country, by which the people are prevented from reaching a better market for their produce, has been stated as a further cause of the general distress.

6. Your committee have already reported to the House their opinion that a well-arranged system of emigration, in order to relieve the present state of destitution, and as preparatory to any measures calculated to prevent a return of similar distress, would be of primary importance; and they now beg leave to add, that it seems to them impossible to carry such a system, upon so extensive a scale as would be necessary, into effect, without aid and assistance from the Government, accompanied by such regulations as Parliament may impose, to prevent a recurrence of similar evils.

7. It has been stated to the committee, that the Province of Upper Canada alone, without reference to other portions of our North American colonies, might annually absorb 10,000 labourers, implying an emigration of 50,000 souls; that 36,000 actually arrived in Canada last year, at least one-half of which number were absolutely destitute; and, although no extraordinary means were taken, they have all found employment. It was further stated to be to the advantage of emigrants, even with small capital, to be employed for the first two years as labourers, rather than at once to be located upon land.

8. To give effect, however, to an enlarged system of emigration to these colonies, it would be desirable that Her Majesty's Government should ascertain from the Colonial Governments what assistance, if any, they might be disposed to afford to emigrants arriving in the colonies, either by employing them in public works, or by undertaking to convey them to those districts of the country where their labour would be most readily absorbed.

9. It has appeared in evidence that the people, being fully aware of the impossibility of finding adequate subsistence at home, are now most anxious to emigrate; and your committee have considered it to be their duty to call the attention of the Government to the subject, from the concurrent testimony of all the witnesses leading them to believe that the country is not only liable to a return of such a visitation as that which occurred in the years 1836 and 1837, but that, in the nature of things, it must recur; that the population is still rapidly increasing, in spite of any checks which the landlords can oppose, and without any corresponding increase in the natural productiveness and resources of the country.

May 24th, 1841.

BRITISH COLONIES.

It will scarcely be denied that Britain possesses the noblest colonies which ever belonged to any country; and it becomes an object of anxious and paramount concern to ascertain the management which, instead of a heavy incumbrance, shall render them a source of glory, strength, and emolument to the parent state; for that Colonies may have the most debilitating effect on the parental stock, has been amply proved by the example of Spain and Portugal. The parent state may, in its conduct towards its colonies, attempt to sacrifice them by the most jealous selfishness for its own interest, as has been done by Spain with the most pernicious consequences to both, or it may with an affectionate solicitude, like that fabled of the pelican, extravagantly foster them with its streams of life or, lastly, by statesmanlike, enlarged and equitable policy, contrive that the effects like those of the Indian fig tree taking root, and flourishing, shall gratefully and copiously repay the

strength, nourishment, and splendour derived from the first stock. This last has been the exalted and wise course pursued by the Romans and by this country, and we now find a violent and reckless effort about to be made, by a numerous, restless, and audacious portion of the community, to breach, overthrow, and dissipate this noble structure, by a flood of crude, untried, and visionary theories. In regarding our colonies we should look to a market for our own produce, a source of steady and fair supply; for such these colonies yield a nursery for our navy, and employment for our seamen in the carrying trade both ways, and assistance in time of need; such as we received from India in our operations against the French in Egypt. As friends and fellow-subjects we naturally and justly expect that the Canadians and other inhabitants of British North America, the East and West Indians, and the Australians, shall give our manufactures and products the preference to those of other powers; nor are our fair expectations in this respect disappointed. Our North American Colonies, with a hundred part of the population, and we may add, the wealth of those states whose commerce finds an outlet through the Baltic, takes from us a quantity very little less than they do in our West Indian Colonies; of trifling extent and of a population less than a million, they find a market for our goods greater and more profitable than that afforded by the illimitable extent, and numerous population of South America. With such facts before their eyes, these infatuated men propose to sacrifice the timber trade of North America to the welfare of Russia, Prussia, and Sweden, and the interests of the sugar growers of the West Indies to those of Brazil, Columbia, and of the Spanish, French, and Dutch colonies, who, it must be borne in mind, would as soon yield us their life's blood as, in the slightest degree, relax in our favour the griping liberality of their fiscal system. We unfortunately have, from time to time, had too much reason to complain of the avowed views, the undisguised feelings, and the actual conduct of the United States, and it is of the utmost importance to retain the inhabitants of our North American colonies in a state of cheerful allegiance, and to have the military force there so disengaged, that we could at any time march our conquering army into the heart of the territory of our aspiring and encroaching neighbours. How then do our ministers propose to effect this desirable consummation by loading timber, the staple, and in fact the only produce of those Provinces with an additional tax of 10s., or just 10s. per cent. increase on that at present levied, whilst the duty on Baltic timber is to be favoured with a reduction of 5s. Now it should be remarked that this must ultimately act as an absolute prohibition on the importation of American timber, as it is obvious that the importation of so bulky an article, transported three thousand miles across the Atlantic, can never be brought into successful competition with that which has only to be conveyed seven or eight hundred miles across the German Ocean. Farther, no trade of the same amount employs so many ships and so great a number of sailors. Twelve hundred ships, and nearly twenty thousand men, employed in this trade, form a truly important element in our nautical strength, and such seamen, not educated or practised in any pedlar coasting trade, but ever busy in buffeting the stormy waves of the Atlantic. Yet it is certain that if ministers carry this rickety project, the capitalists engaged in the timber trade of North America are doomed to inevitable bankruptcy; their ships to rot in our havens, or be broken up as lumber, and nearly twenty thousand sailors, in their proper department, the glory and strength of Britain, to be thrown out of employment, a helpless and pitiable burthen on the over-loaded resources of their country. Such must be the inevitable result, as the carrying trade of the Baltic timber must inevitably fall into the hands of the Prussians and neighbouring powers, since it is notorious that, from the cheapness of timber, the abundance and excellence of their iron and copper, and the low price of labour, they can build and navigate ships at a far lower rate than the British.—London Colonial Observer.

(From the London Times.)

We now come to the speech of Mr. Roebuck, who, we suspect, will be a much more important person in the new House of Commons than he has ever been before. He is a man of talent and energy—one who does not adopt a revolutionary cry for party purposes, or for the sake of salary and place, but who advocates revolution upon principle. If, as may be anticipated, the Whigs in opposition should find that they have no chance of regaining power except by becoming Radicals, this is the man who, at no distant period, will become their leader. Once embarked in the same course of politics, John Arthur Roebuck will twist Lord John Russell round his little finger: and as for Lord Palmerston, Heaven help him! he will have to go to school again, and learn his political alphabet. Mr. Roebuck knows what he is about, and where he is going to, which the Whigs do not.

The first thing we have to do, in criticizing this speech, is an act of justice—namely, to state that Mr. Roebuck disavows the placard upon which we have commented more than once) in which he was represented as offering to relieve the people from the national debt by the summary process of the sponge. Mr. Roebuck disavows, not only the placard, but its principle. It is, of course, unnecessary for us to state, that our information concerning this placard was derived from a source which we supposed to be credible; nor were we aware that it had been contradicted till we read Mr. Roebuck's speech in a Government paper on Thursday last. There is nothing in the hon. gentleman's political creed which could have led us to regard his adoption of such a placard as at all improbable or inconsistent.

Mr. Roebuck's view of the present position of Ministers is worthy of great attention. He considers them as having abandoned the doctrine of finality, and determined to enter upon a course of (what he would call) progressive reform: in fact, as having come round, in principle, to his own opinions.

"They were now," he said, "turning their faces toward the people, in whose favour they had proposed two or three measures as an earnest only of what they would do—as a small commencement of the great work which they had undertaken, for if they stayed there, they could not hope to bring back the people to them. Under the banners of the Ministry the people would fight against their enemies—the Tories; but they must be steadily, completely, heartily, the people's friends."

He then proceeded to chalk out the line of opposition which it would, in his judgment, be necessary to adopt after the accession of Sir Robert Peel to power, and the leading measures which the Whigs must advocate, in the following remarkable passages:—

"He asked of those who were now the Ministers of the Crown, and who might not be so two months hence, to bear with him while he pointed out to them the course which they must pursue if they wished to gain back the people. They must go on in the path which they took in 1830. The Tories must be put down everywhere—not by half measures, not by any pretended fear of them, for they were the enemies of the people, and as such must be put down." "The church was theirs, for they made it. It was their servant for bad purposes; but it must be made a national church, and not a church for any sect or party." "They must unite all the sects of the country, not into one belief, for that could not be, but under one law, equally good for all. They must not turn their attention to civil liberty. They must not blink any,

question, but they must learn to put confidence in the people. It was that want of confidence which had been their ruin; they must now throw themselves at once, and generously, into the ranks of the people. They must take up the people if they wanted to preserve their power, but that power must be preserved only for national purposes. There must be no sectarian, no peculiar principles, no aristocratic distinctions."

Such are the terms upon which John Arthur Roebuck, the newly elected member for Bath, offers his support to the Whigs. He stipulates for the destruction of the church, and for the abolition of all aristocratic distinctions. Will they accept his support on these terms? We think they will. He judges them rightly, when he gives them credit for a disposition to sacrifice everything for the sake of place and salary, and to "keep out the Tories." His colleague, Lord Duncan, is not, that we are aware of, more radically disposed than most other Whigs; yet, after delivering to his new constituents a common-place harangue, which he mistook for an exposition of principles, he wound up by saying that—

"On these principles it was that he had come forward with his hon. friend, Mr. Roebuck; and if he had one satisfaction which was greater than another, it was, that in the late struggle he had been associated with that gentleman."

Extract of a letter from Corfu, in the Malta Times:

"Corfu, June, 23.—Sir Howard Douglas took his departure in the Ionian steamer on the 16th. The day before he left I went to take leave of him, and on entering the palace I found it crowded to suffocation with people, all in tears, and so eager were they to get a last sight of Sir Howard, that I had difficulty in coming near enough to shake hands; and when I did so Sir Howard spoke very feelingly to me, and was deeply affected at seeing such strong demonstrations of regret amongst the people. There were crowds outside the palace, who, when he left the palace, followed him to the waterside, and there he was gratified with a very pretty sight; there was a beautiful barge waiting to convey him to the steamer, manned by eighteen officers of the garrison in sailors' uniform, each having an oar, and Sir G. Berkeley officiated as coxswain. As Sir Howard stepped into the barge, the citadel fired the usual salute, and on leaving the steamer the officers gave three cheers. I never saw a multitude show such unfeigned grief as on the day Sir Howard departed. Captain and Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Duckworth, and Lieutenant Forbes, Sir Howard's aide-de-camp, accompanied him. They will join Lady and Miss Douglas at Trieste, and thence proceed to the baths at Carlsbad."

(From the Government Gazette of June 12.) On delivering the Government into the hands of his Excellency the Right Hon. J. A. Stewart Mackenzie, Sir Howard Douglas thus addressed him:—

"In placing in your hands the office of Lord High Commissioner, in the presence of the noble Senate and its president, I wish you all success, and trust that your Administration will be prosperous in every respect, honorable alike to your country and yourself, and advantageous to the inhabitants of these states; and I sincerely hope that your residence in these islands will be as agreeable to your family and yourself as it has been to my family and myself."

To which his Excellency the Right Hon. J. A. Stewart Mackenzie replied:—

"Allow me, Sir Howard Douglas, to express my most sincere thanks for the anxiety you have so kindly manifested relative to the prosperity of my government, and the administration which I am about to assume. It will, indeed, give me great satisfaction if, at the end, my administration shall obtain that prosperity and good success of which you have to boast, which has signalized the progress and distinguished the close of your long and arduous career in these States, whose interest and permanent well-being you have promoted with so much ability, so as to secure to you the high satisfaction and approval of the protecting sovereign of your measures, as well as the general voice of a grateful people."

"I thank you likewise for the kind expressions which you have used towards me and my family."

UNITED STATES.

LYNCH LAW.—The Cincinnati Gazette publishes a letter, dated at Williamstown, Kentucky, June 11, which states that on the preceding day Liman Couch and Smith Maythe, who were in jail on the charge of cutting the throat of a man named Utterback, were forcibly taken from the jail by a mob of from four to seven hundred men, at 12 o'clock, conveyed to the place where Utterback was found, and at 4 or 5 o'clock they were hanged, and subsequently buried on the spot.

The following letter, from an eye witness, is published by the Cincinnati Chronicle:

"The citizens of this country, with a few exceptions, took no part. I, myself, took none; only I endeavoured to save Couch; but the mob were deaf to all entreaties, as they refused to hear anything that might be said either to the sanctity of the law, or anything that could be said in favour of giving the culprits any further time to prepare for their cruel deaths. Both of the robbers confessed the crime of robbing Utterback and having cut his throat; but made no further confessions. Couch declared under the gallows that this crime was the only one he had ever committed, and called God to witness the truth of what he said. Maythe said that all he had stolen would not amount to more than \$250, and called on his maker to witness the same. They were attended to the place of execution by a minister of the Gospel, who performed his duty in a very solemn manner by supplicating the Throne of Grace in their behalf. Couch appeared much affected, and talked of his wife and children in a very affectionate manner, and then prayed to his maker to give him forgiveness for all his crimes, and said he was prepared to meet the fate that awaited him. Maythe said that he was not prepared, and earnestly requested further time to prepare himself, as he believed there was a just God that would punish his creatures for all their crimes, and prayed the mob to give him until Monday, to prepare his mind for the fate that awaited him, but they refused. The mob then took them to the gallows, and after Maythe and Couch shook hands, saying they hoped to meet in a better world, they were hanged up. Couch suffered but a short time, but Maythe suffered very much."

N.B. The names of most of the mob can be ascertained, and I have no doubt, the court will be compelled to have all those that were concerned indicted."

A MAN CAST AWAY.—We have just arrived from the Falls, (yesterday, 5 P.M.) whither we went yesterday morning, per cars, on learning that a man was cast away on one of the Three Sisters islands, situated in the rapids, just above the Falls, and that all efforts to rescue him were as yet unavailing. On our arrival all was excitement, hundreds of which he could be observed. We were soon on the spot. These islands lie side by side near the head of Goat Island, and the unfortunate man is on the farthest one, and where no human being was ever known to be before. The first and second are very rarely visited, but the third is inaccessible. The daring Robinson was on the second, preparing ropes to cast over, by which it was hoped a boat might be drawn over by running cords. This was, after much difficulty, performed, and the empty boat was sent over, but attempted, and the boat returned without him, and so matters stood when we were obliged to leave by the cars.

He had been on the island 48 hours, and was discovered by the smoke of his fire. He signified by signs that he was above, when one of his oars broke, and with the other he succeeded in making a landing. We believe food has been sent him. The distance across the boiling flood is nearly fifty yards, and it is doubtful whether he can ever be brought off. His name is Allen, a brother-in-law of Robinson, and resides at the Falls, and has a family.

When we saw him he appeared restless and uneasy, wandering about constantly with what seemed a small hatchet in his hand. God help the unfortunate man.—Buffalo Rep. P. S. We have learned that the man has got off by means of a boat made fast to a rope connecting his rocky inlet and the precipice.—Buffalo Com. Adv.

HORRORS OF SLAVE TRADE—CAPTURE OF A SLAYER WITH 510 NEGROES ON BOARD.

Latest accounts from Rubice, in the West Indies, state that great sensation had been experienced at that port, by the arrival of a slaver, a Portuguese built brig, called the Deusa Feveira, captured off the Brazilian coast, on the 16th February last, by Her Majesty's brig Fawn, after a chase of eight hours. We give the details from the log book of the Fawn, as published in the Berbice Gazette, which presents a picture of horrible suffering almost without a parallel.—

On the 19th of February, 1841, lat. 22 30, long. 40, west, Cacupos, on the Coast of Brazil, about 18 miles, observed a large brig standing in for the land, altered our course so as to cut her off if possible. On approaching, she appeared not to have the least idea of our being a man-of-war—allowed her to close within range of our 32 pounder—fired a gun over her, and another as quick as possible ahead—she then up with her helm, attempted to run, but appeared in great confusion.

We continued to throw the shot over, ahead, and astern of her, without intention of striking, as we were positive of slaves being on board; after a short time she was increasing her distance; Lieut. Foote then determined to put a shot into the hull, but with great regret, on account of the unfortunate beings on board. Shots were then thrown close under her stern twice—a third was about to be fired, when we observed her round to. In about 20 minutes we came up and boarded her. The slaves were all below with the hatches on; on turning them up, a scene presented itself, enough to sicken the heart even of a Portuguese.

The living, the dying, and the dead, huddled together in one mass. Some unfortunates in the most disgusting state of small pox, in the confluent state, covered from head to foot, distressingly ill with ophthalmia, a few perfectly naked others, living skeletons, with difficulty crawled from below unable to bear the weight of their miserable bodies. Mothers with young infants hanging to their breast unable to give them a drop of nourishment. How they had brought them thus far appeared astonishing, all were perfectly naked. Their limbs were excoriated from lying on the hard plank for so long a period. On going below, the stench was insupportable. How beings could breathe such an atmosphere and live, appeared incredible. Several were under the plank, which was called the deck, dying—one dead.

We proceeded to Rio Janeiro with the prize. On the passage we lost 13, in the harbor 12, from small pox and debility—a number also died on board the recovery ship "Crescent." After clearing the hold, and fumigating the brig, it was determined by Mr. Ousley, the British Minister, to send the brig with a part of her cargo, for adjudication, to the nearest Colony, under the command of Mr. G. Johnstone, mate of the Fawn. We sailed on the 16th of March with 108, well provided with medicines and directions in what manner to use them. Tapioca and lime juice were also provided.

Notwithstanding all the care that a small crew could bestow upon them, we unfortunately lost 20, chiefly from the scurvy and general debility. This unfortunate brig left Bahia fort, on the coast of Benguela, with 510 negroes; and 13 days after, on her capture, she had but 375!

CANADA.—The Montreal Commercial Messenger gives the following information of an important change likely to take place in the Government of Canada:—

"We have been informed that the delicate state of Lord Sydenham's health is such as to render it advisable if not absolutely necessary, that he should return to England; he will leave early in September, and if a change of Ministry shall have previously taken place, it is probable that Lord Canterbury will succeed him."

DISTRESSING CALAMITY.—In the thunder storm which passed over Woodstock, on Tuesday the 6th inst., the lightning struck the house of Mr. Samuel McKay, passed down a stove pipe, and melancholy to relate, killed him and a man of the name of Leslie, from Zorra. The stove had been removed from the room in which they were, but the stove pipe, which was run up through the roof, was left suspended, and they were standing immediately under it at the time. There were several other persons in the room, but they escaped uninjured.—The building is considerably shattered throughout. This melancholy catastrophe has thrown an unprecedented gloom over the whole neighbourhood. Mr. McKay was an active, useful member of society; he had by his exemplary conduct gained the esteem of all parties. He was a native of Nova Scotia, came to Canada about six years ago, and has ever since resided at Woodstock. He has left a widow and two children to deplore his untimely fate. Mr. Leslie was a man of about sixty years of age, a native of Scotland; he has likewise left a widow and family—they however are come of age.—Toronto Examiner.

St. JOHN, July 28.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor being desirous of obtaining correct information with respect to the Indians frequenting the River Saint John, lately directed M. H. Perley, Esq. of this city, Commissioner for Indian Affairs, to visit all their settlements on the Saint John in succession, and to furnish a return of the number of Indian families in each district, to report on their present condition and to examine and report upon the several valuable tracts of land which have been reserved for their use and which they partially occupy, and also upon other matters connected with the welfare of the Tribes, and their moral improvement. On this mission Mr. Perley has been absent for the last four weeks, having proceeded as far as Lake Temiscouata, from whence he returned to this city yesterday, after having obtained very full and accurate information upon the various matters referred to him for a report. We learn from Mr. Perley, that while at Temiscouata, Captain Nelson, of the Royal Engineers, arrived there express from Quebec, with instructions to put the various frontier posts, now held by detachments of the 56th Regiment, in an efficient state of defence without delay.

Musket proof defences around the barracks at Temiscouata were forthwith commenced, and Capt. Nelson then proceeded to the Degele and the little falls at the mouth of the Madawaska River, where a new and very strong blockhouse is in course of erection. Capt. Nelson remained at the little falls to superintend the completion of the blockhouse, and despatched Lieut. Norton of the 56th (as acting officer of Engineers), and Mr. Tennant of the Commissariat, to the Grand Falls, for the purpose of removing all the guns and stores placed there to the block house, and also to bring up the Artillerymen stationed there to the same place. Mr. Perley left the Grand Falls last Saturday, when the packing of the stores had commenced, and it was understood that the whole would move upwards on Wednesday last in tow-boats, which were getting ready. It was said that these arrangements were made in consequence of an apprehension that some difficulty might arise between Mr. Fox and the American Government, in consequence of the apparent determination to place Mr. McLeod upon his trial for murder, and it was therefore deemed prudent to put these posts in a state of defence, in order to prevent the possibility of the being suddenly cut off.

The detachment of the 56th at the Little Falls is under the command of Lieut. John Smith; the post at the Degele is held by Capt. Walmsley and his company, and the post at Lake Temiscouata is commanded by Capt. Charleswood. We understand that Mr. Perley has received His Excellency's commands, to visit all the Micmac settlements on the eastern coast, to obtain the like information with respect to them upwards of Sixty Thousand acres, in several most valuable situations. The Miclicet Lands on the St. John, amounting to Eighteen Thousand acres, comprise some of the most fertile lands on the bank of the river, respecting which some immediate measures are to be taken.

HALIFAX, N. S., August 7.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday morning Miss Lydia Margaret Anderson was accidentally poisoned by taking a quantity of Oxyd Muriate of Mercury for a dose of Epsom Salts,—administered by her mother. The mistake was immediately detected by the unfortunate sufferer; castor oil