

# THE QUEBEC MERCURY.

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[No. 17.]

Mr. CARY,

Much has lately been said and written on the advantages and disadvantages resulting from the establishment of Banks in a commercial country; but, in my humble apprehension, the advocates for their *utility* have not done that justice to their cause which its importance required of them.

Cash or ready money, when considered as the medium of payment in a commercial country, comprehends every species of negotiable paper; and in proportion as that or metallic coin is increased, the currency or floating medium of circulation is more abundant; money is no longer a mere metallic substance. Gold, Silver, Copper, and their various alloys, are no longer the necessary tangible objects of exchange. Paper assumes a legal validity, and securities of various kinds supply the place of coin. Bills become the common medium of payment, and the merchant looks to the nature of his security as the stability of his wealth. A good bill is estimated by the annual revenue of the drawer or drawee; but assets in merchandise, in stock in trade, in ships, &c. give *equal credit* to the circulation of paper, with the real security of landed property. This being the situation of all commercial concerns in which cash or ready money is required, and as ready money is the support of trade and commerce, it may be worth while to examine the source whence *credit* springs, before I enter upon a minute view of its effects.

All credit is derived from an opinion of the solvency of the borrower. No man has credit who is known to be insolvent. As it is with an individual, so it is with any number, aggregate body, or company of individuals. They only who are known to be, or are believed to be capable of paying, have

the means of borrowing. Credit, then, is matter of opinion, and it must be observed, that it not unfrequently happens in this, as in other matters of opinion, that the public is mistaken.— Confidence is sometimes given to insolvency; and an act of bankruptcy dissolves the dangerous error: whilst, on the other hand, honest, hard scraping industry scarcely has credit enough to feed its hunger or support existence.— False credit, however, while it lasts, has all the advantage of genuine, it enables the borrower to borrow. What, then, is the effect of this order of things in the mercantile world? Cash or ready money is the vital principle of trade and commerce; credit is the fuel of this principle; without this it decays, withers, dies. Hence it follows, that whoever has credit, has the means of trade; or in other words, the means of borrowing money or commodities for his purposes.

As it is impossible for all men to know precisely each other's situation or affairs, or if they did, to calculate with certainty on all the various events by which they may be altered or affected, so it is impossible to prevent evils, which arise from unforeseen losses in commercial concerns, from rational speculations, or knavish practices. Credit, however, is one and the same thing, in principle it never varies; and though it be, like Fortune, mutable, it must be remembered that it always proceeds upon an opinion of solvency or stability of payment. Whether a slip of paper bears the name of Abraham Newton, or Stephen Burroughs, is the same thing; to give it currency, requires equally the belief of a sufficiency of property for the purpose it is designed. In reasoning, then, on the effects of paper currency, we must attend to the credit on which that paper passes cur-

rent; for whilst it is current, and has credit, the effects are the same in trade and commerce, and all the purposes of payment, whether the credit be true or false: whether the issuers of any current paper have a surplus of thousands, or debts beyond their assets, in this point of view, is of no consequence.— No possible injury can arise to any holder of this paper whilst he can pay it as cash, it is only when it loses its credit and sticks in his fingers that he becomes a loser; and when it is no longer negotiable, then the holder is injured. If, then, the holder of the bill of an insolvent person can pass the bill, it is clear that for all the uses of cash, it is as useful as the bill of the richest man in England. Negotiability then becomes validity; and by various mercantile inventions and usages, paper receives a currency from adventitious occurrences in the course of circulation. By the addition of a name, by indorsement, paper receives credit, and becomes cash. Is this facility which multiplies money desirable or not in a commercial country? That it is desirable for a commercial nation to possess wealth, no one can doubt. That wealth is as *real* which flows from the *credit* of paper as that which hangs on the *weight* of metals, will no longer be doubted. An increase of gold in circulation would hardly be thought an evil in any society, yet an increase of paper currency is by many thought a great evil, sure it is, however, that an increase of one or the other acts on the very same principle. In all countries where money is plentiful, things will be, that is, they will seem to be dear; in rich countries more money will be required for the same articles than in poor countries where money is less plentiful. This observation will hold good, whether we pay in ducats or assignats, in dollars or bank notes. The

currency of the country will operate in the same manner, when it is plentiful in every country whatever may be the form which it assumes.

In my next communication, I shall consider this subject in another point of view; in the mean time, I think, enough has been said to shew the general utility of paper currency in any country where commerce has reared its head.

A. C.

Montreal, 10th April, 1807.

Mr. EDITOR,

So our Tabbies cannot be satisfied with their daily and nightly lectures on servants, in close divan, but they have thought their gossiping of importance enough to lay before the eyes of the public, through the medium of your paper, after calling in to their aid the pen of some male amanuensis. It is a pity but mistresses heard the many retorts courteous made, by servants, on the very delicate charges brought against them, in language not altogether suiting the most immaculate chastity. But mum—I shall not defile your paper with the slime of that viper, Slander.

From all that I have heard on the subject I am led to inculcate one short lesson. It is—If masters and mistresses wish to have and to keep good servants, let them secure their attachment by good treatment. Where servants are often changed the fault must be more with the mistress than with the servants. A punctilious scrutiny into, and exaction of character, in a new country, where servants are comparatively few, may be very well in theory, but an over scrupulous mistress, I fancy, will oftener be obliged to do her own drudgery than find impeccable servants to do it for her. Particularly while servants are found of importance enough to be inveigled away from house to house. In old countries their number may enable masters and mistresses to choose, but they have no such choice here. In any country garrisons can never be places of the most correct morals.

As to high wages and fine dresses, there are no more than the natural result of the increase of trade and wealth, and their concomitant luxury. They are regular symptoms of the growing

prosperity of a country; which, in its effects, must pervade all ranks. After all, what is the great luxury of muslins, in these times, particularly in Scotland?

It is to be sure matter of deep regret that the real state of things should, at any day, be so widely different from those arcadian times, as delineated by the romantic pens of fair novelists.—Admirers of the pictures drawn by such writers as Mrs. Brooks, must certainly be adorers of the present plans of the mighty Napoleon, whose great object is to restore the golden age, when the vices and luxuries arising from that great corrupter, trade, shall be no more. When mortals shall breakfast and dine on the fruit, and cloathe themselves with the leaves of their own fig-trees.

Mrs. Brookes's fine drawings of the happy state of Canada, in her days, are to be sure wondrous captivating in a novel. But I must request the complaisant reader to accompany me, and we will together, if he please, make our exit from her Utopian Eden, into the world of briers, thorns and thistles, as it really existed. When we shall find that the Canadian world of that day, like most other parts of the world at large, making due allowances for the progress of wealth and luxury, was much the same as at the present day; and that the tongue of scandal wagged full as glibly as in our times. And upon due enquiry, we shall further find that Mrs. Brooks could distinguish herself as well in a scandal party as in painting an Arcadian scene. Nor was it on eagle's wings only that, in her time, immortal scandals flew. She was known to have often intrusted them to *feuilles volantes*. Whence it will be seen that the hacknied exclamations of *O tempora! O mores!* can be compared only to the querulous garrulity of the aged, by whose tales, the days of their youth were the days of perfection; whilst, judging from themselves, those of their decrepitude, are full of imperfection and degeneracy.

COSMOPOLITUS.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, Feb. 11-

Criminal information.

Mr. Garrow said that he was instructed to apply to the court for leave to file a criminal information for a libel. He made this motion on behalf of Marquis Wellesley, who, for a considerable time, having filled the distinguished office of Governor in India, returned to

England, expecting to receive the unanimous approbation of his country. He had not, however, long arrived, when he found persons, whom it would be waste of time of the court to name, who made his lordship the constant subject of libels, but which he passed by, relying partly upon the insignificance of authors, and partly upon his own exalted character.—Of what ever import these speeches delivered during the contested elections might be, Lord Wellesley had always left them unnoticed, thinking that they were delivered in a moment of irritation. But there was a period when forbearance ceased to be virtue, and when the honor of an individual rendered it necessary that the defamations, should be put an end to. That time was now arrived, and the Marquis Wellesley came before their Lordships to treat their interference. The libel complained of was published in a newspaper, the report of a speech delivered at the Middlesex club, at the Crown & Anchor tavern. It was wholly unnecessary to state, whether such an address was or was not made, since the libel, as inserted in the newspaper, was not only an insult offered to the noble Marquis, but also to the character of the speaker, as the learned council was convinced that it could not have been by a man of honor or respectability. The moderation shewn by Lord Wellesley, had, however, been attended with some bad consequences, for it had increased the breed of libellers, with which the metropolis was already over-run; and as this was not the first, neither could it be the last prosecution to bring to justice those who made it their interests to stain the unsullied character of others. In the newspaper above alluded to, Mr. Paull was represented to have returned thanks to the freeholders of Middlesex for the honor they had done him; to have advertised to the endeavors he had made to bring to justice, that great delinquent the Marquis Wellesley. He said that his motive in prosecuting the impeachment was not from private malice, but from ideas of public justice, in dragging forward a person who was guilty of the most lavish profusion of the public money, and of a most wanton and atrocious murder, perpetrated upon an independent prince who was forced from his throne into a dungeon. The passage from that dungeon, to the grave was not long, for he was murdered by the Marquis, and the bloody robes were sent to the mother of the victim as a proof of the commission of the crime. The learned counsel thought, that the court would consider that the noble applicant was fully authorised in appearing before their lordships, and would grant the object sought by the motion, against the printer, publisher, and proprietors of the paper in question. *Rule to shew cause granted.*

FROM THE LONDON COURIER OF DEC. 6.

THE NEGOCIATION.

A Pamphlet has been just published upon the subject of the late Negotiation with France, which is evidently written under the authority of ministers. The following, which is the most important part of it, contains a

History of the rise, progress and termination of the late Negotiation:—

“Russia consented to treat with France upon the simple basis of the *status ante bellum*, with regard to herself. Now, as Russia had neither gained nor lost any territory, *status ante bellum*, with regard to her, was the same as the state of actual possession, the forces of the two belligerents having only to retire, and leave every thing as they had found it. Russia, therefore had no sooner proposed this form of treaty to France, than she proposed the same to England. This principle, however, as applied in different circumstances, became nominally a different basis—with regard to Russia it was the *status ante bellum*—with regard to England, *uti possidetis*. But the difference, as is evident on the face, was but merely nominal.

It was in this state of circumstances that the overture was made by France—first in indirect and general terms, that—

“Restoration of Peace being equally to the evident interest of the two kingdoms—France having nothing to fear in the general success of her armies, and England having no further possible object in the continuance of hostilities; the Emperor of Germany having made peace, and the Emperor Alexander retreated from Europe with a resolution to disturb its tranquillity no more—in this state of things, so happy for the glory of France, his Royal and imperial majesty had no other wish but that of peace; which might restore the intercourse of nations that were not formed to be enemies.”

The reply, therefore, to the french notification, was substantially—

“That England, embarked in a common cause, had no interest but that of the Confederation; that France could not be more anxious to restore the tranquillity of Europe; that England, therefore, in concert with her allies, would eagerly embrace any overtures for the commencement of Negotiation, which, by duty and officially pledging the public faith to the sincerity of such overtures, promised their successful termination to an honorable and permanent peace.”

This was a direct acceptance of the French overture, qualified only with the condition that it should be repeated in form.

The French Ministry now thought proper to reply directly; the substance of the answer, however, was little more than the same assurances officially repeated, in the form of a letter, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Paris, to the Minister of the same official responsibility and duty in London. Upon this, though irregular, the British cabinet consented to act, giving her another proof of their anxiety for an honorable peace, by this repeated surrender of preliminary forms, and voluntary departure from diplomatic reserve. The notification, however, of the French Cabinet, was still general; the British Government, accordingly, replied by a demand of—

“The basis upon which the French Government were willing to enter upon Negotiation, as in the event of such a Negotiation be-

ing commenced, it would much facilitate its happy termination to confine, within certain preliminary limits, the line of discussion; that an explicit declaration on this head was therefore expected from the part of the French Government, and was necessary to confirm the confidence of his Majesty's Government in the sincerity of the French proposals.”

The answer to this, on the part of the Government of France, gave the decided form to the Negotiation. The French Government replied with a detail not usual in the ordinary course of official correspondence; it repeated its anxiety for the restoration of peace, and even entered on that state of things which rendered it an equal object of desire to France and England. In that interrogatory form, which is deficient equally in gravity, and, in some degree, contrary to the equality of Independent States.

“It was demanded, what France could further seek or wish by war; that the fortune of war had given her enough, not only for her safety, but for her glory; that the fate of her arms had left her no other bounds but her moderation; that, having thus effected all her own interests—the interest of her safety and her glory—he had now no other object than to contribute all in her power to the restoring of general tranquillity, and the recovery of the blessings of peace.—That, as France had nothing further to fear, so could England have nothing further to hope in the continuance of hostilities. That this state of things presented a suitable foundation for the restoration of peace. That France gave full credit to the assurances on the part of the English Government, that that Government was anxious to give its efforts to procure an event of such manifestly general interest, and in which general interest that of England was not the most inconsiderable. That France, on her part, demanded the same confidence; as to a sincerity so conformable to her interests from the British Government. That the French Government could not but applaud the directness with which their overtures had been hitherto received. That such conduct was worthy of an honorable nation in intercourse with a nation equally honorable. That, in this confidence, the French government had no hesitation to comply with the invitation of the English ministry, and declare, as a preliminary, the basis upon which the negotiation should be conducted. That, upon this subject, France had only to reiterate declaration, that, neither in peace or war, had she any further object of aggrandizement; that the French government, therefore, had nothing to seek in peace, but peace itself; the restoration of the repose of herself, and that of Europe, and the ordinary securities that such peace should not be merely nominal.—That, as a result from this state of circumstances, the French Government had to propose to that of England, that the basis of the negotiation about to be entered upon between the two governments, should be—

“The state of actual possession, the *uti possidetis*, subject, however, to the exchange upon equivalents”

To this an immediate answer was returned from the English Ministry, unequivocally accepting the proposed basis, but—

“Exempting, from the principle of exchange upon equivalents, His Majesty's Hanoverian dominions, which, having been seized without any pretext of hostility, or just exercise of the rights of war, were not an object of treaty, and as such an assurance was required on the part of the French Government, that, in any negotiation which should be entered upon, they should not be so considered, but should be restored upon the conclusion of peace, without the demand of any equivalent.

The basis of a treaty was no sooner agreed upon, than there arose an event equally unexpected by both governments,—an event which, on the part of the British government, gave substance and meaning to what before was but a line marked by a shadow. This was the capture of the Cape by Sir Home Popham.

The French now perceived that the *uti possidetis*, which Mr. Fox had concluded upon, was raised into a signification which they never intended; the English had something to retain, and what was more, they were resolved upon retaining it.

The French government, therefore, protested against this acquisition being included in the agreed basis,—that having arisen since, and being not even within contemplation of the two governments, it could not be considered as making any part of the contract concluded between the two powers—that it was evidently no part of the state of actual possession, and as such the restoration of it would be expected on the part of the French government.

It was replied, on the part of the British government—

“That the basis of actual possession, as agreed upon between the agents upon both sides, could not look merely at the state of things at the precise point of time in which it was concluded—but that it must necessarily comprehend those variations, from the circumstances existing at such point of time, which must be expected to occur—that all such circumstances, and the variations produced then on the original state of things, must be considered as part of the general state of possession—that at the time in which the basis was agreed upon, it was known to Europe that the English expeditions were out upon some distant capture. The Cape of Good Hope was at least as possible as any other. It could not therefore be pretended that the French Government agreed upon the basis of actual possession with a perfect ignorance that any thing might possibly arise to vary the state under which it was concluded. That the basis, consisted of two parts—that of actual possession, and exchange upon equivalents. That the British Government, in their earnest desire for the friendly progress of the Negotiation, would oppose no difficulty to the discussion of this subject under the latter part of the basis;—that if France desired the restoration of the Cape, the French had only to propose an equivalent in exchange.”

It was now replied on the part of the French Government, with that tone of haughtiness and ill-humour which, from the undignified interposition of the parties too immediately concerned, has not unfrequently characterized that Government—

"That the honor and good faith of France to her Allies demanded the restoration of the Cape of Good Hope; that it could not be for a moment sustained; that the acquisition of it by England had not varied the state of things under which the basis of actual possession had been agreed upon by France;—that the assertion was equally groundless, that, in the then existing state of things, France could have foreseen the necessity, or even possibility, of such an event; that France fixed her attention upon her own marine, and had no regard to the British expeditions; that, therefore, France would not consider the Cape as any part of the state of actual possession; that the restoration of it was necessary; that if England required an equivalent, France had already consented to give her one, in the restoration of Hanover."

"To this, in the express words of Mr. Fox, it was replied decidedly by entering fully into the subject of the occupation of Hanover.

"That Hanover had been seized, not conquered; that it had been taken from the Elector, not from the king of Great Britain that it was the spoil of Peace, and the pillage of neutrals—that no negotiation could proceed, or would have been commenced, unless from the direct assurance that it should be unequivocally, and without equivalent, restored to the Elector—that such assurance had been given—that Hanover, therefore, must be considered as exempted from all further discussion—that the Agent of his Majesty's government had it moreover, in order to express the resolution of his Majesty's government to retain the Cape of Good Hope as a permanent possession, unless the French government should offer in exchange a Continental object of equal great value."

The French government replied by repeating their offer of Hanover, or, "perhaps Malta," in a long argumentative answer.—The fact was, that the situation of the French government was now changed by some political occurrences. It was now known that the court of Petersburg was inclined to peace. The powers of D'Oubri were said to have been signed, and the Russian ministry, as a last resource to preserve their places, had been compelled to fall in with the Court party, and propose peace.

The English agents were upon this desired by the government at home to declare,

"That the negotiation must remain suspended, till the French government should return to the basis within which it had been mutually agreed that the discussion should be confined—that it was only upon this basis that his Majesty's government had been induced to enter upon the proposed conferences—that they beheld with regret the wide departure of the French from their own proposals—that his

Majesty's government could not but see in this departure too much reason to suspect the sincerity with which that of France had made pacific overtures—that in this state of things his Majesty's government could not but consider it as contrary to its dignity, and all honorable candor, to continue a negotiation, which, in its commencement, promised so little success, and in which one of the parties seemed to hold it a rule to retract, what they had granted, and grant only what they intended to retract."

It was not, however, the interest of the French government, that the negotiation should be thus closed. With whatever little sincerity they had hitherto conducted it, it had answered a good purpose to them, and could they have procured the kind of peace which they sought, it would have done more to have confirmed the fortune of France than many victories. The French government therefore, alarmed by the firmness of the English cabinet, now again shifted their tone and relapsed into that ostentatious profession of a desire for peace, which that government knows well how to employ when circumstances require. It replied to the English note or remonstrance, by repeating in yet more minute detail all those circumstances which rendered peace desirable to the two nations.

"Who had commenced the work of peace? Who had invited the attempt to give repose to Europe? France—Why, therefore, should she destroy her own work? In a state of things which did call for sacrifices, which would scarcely leave them justifiable in the eyes of posterity, France had come forward in a tone of concession more suited to her humanity than her glory. That France did not wish to conceal that it was now the highest point of her ambition to give peace to Europe, and repose to the world—that the French government still retained the confidence that the government of England would concur in its efforts to this end—that the appointment of Plenipotentiaries, or fuller powers to the Agents now employed, would much facilitate such an event—that it did not appear that the present Gentlemen had any other specific powers than those of endless conference—that the French Government waited with confidence and impatience for the farther testimony of the pacific disposition of the Government of England."

The English Government replied to this Note by enlarging the powers of the persons entrusted with the management of the Negotiation in France, by a direct assurance that when then the Negotiation had assumed the necessary form, a Plenipotentiary should be sent without delay. It was now, therefore for the first time, that the Negotiation began to proceed in earnest, and with every appearance of a favourable termination. The Russian Minister was daily expected at Paris and not a doubt was entertained but that the end of his mission would be peace. A change indeed was momentarily expected in the Russian Ministry, but even this change, as brought about by Court intrigue, was expected to be in favor of peace. The English and French parties were

so nearly balanced at Petersburg, that, destroying each other's influence, it was believed they would be totally without effect, and that the event would be regulated solely by Russian principles and Russian politics.

France was now called upon to present a *projet* on which the Negotiation might assume a determined form. It was agreed, however, between the negotiating Ministers on both sides, that the *projet* should first come from the part of the English Agents, and that the French Ministers should reply to it by a *contre projet*.

It is not within the purpose of this detail to follow Note by Note the alternately abrupt and retarded progress of this Negotiation—Let it suffice to say generally that nothing was neglected on the part of the French Government which could elude or deceive the British Negotiators. Such were the endless conferences upon the subject of Malta—the manner in which the confirmation of the British Sovereignty over it should be expressed—the extent to which it should be confirmed—whether it should be passed *sub silentio*, should be mentioned as a cession on the part of France, or simply considered as a part of the state of actual possession—whether England should possess it in perpetuity, or for a term of years. These several points, with many others of the same kind, were debated with the usual diplomatic dexterity on the part of the French Negotiators. The complaints against the liberty of the English press were revived, and in reply to the answer of the British Negotiator, that the English Government could not prevent even structures upon itself, a singular demand was made, whether an act of Parliament was not of force to effect every thing? In another of the conferences the French Negotiator expressed his confidence, and, as it would appear from the language employed, expressed it as the direct organ of his sovereign, that in the event of the successful termination of the Negotiation, the peace of the two governments would not be again interrupted by the ostentatious reception, according to their several Titles and Orders, of the French Emigrants in the British Court—that such acknowledgement would ever be considered as cherishing the direct enemies of the French Government and must moreover render impossible the domestic intercourse of the two Courts. These kind of topics lengthened every conference, and were distinctly the subject of many. It is as impossible, as it would be useless, to relate them all minutely—Suffice it to say, that after the exchange of many *projets* and *contre projets*, the following, which was proposed by the Negotiators on the part of England, was the one under discussion so late as the middle of July last.

1. France to confirm the Cape of Good Hope in perpetual sovereignty to England,
2. France to procure the immediate restoration of Hanover.
3. France in the same manner to confirm the island of Malta in perpetual sovereignty to England. This article to be expressed simply.
4. France to evacuate the kingdom of Naples,

and become a party in a general guarantee of the integrity of the Turkish Empire.

5. That in return for a due valuable consideration, the Sublime Porte could be induced to the surrender or exchange of the district of Montenegro to his Russian Majesty, France should not oppose, but should on the other hand faithfully and strenuously, concur to give effect to such negotiation.

6. That the republic of Ragusa should be declared independent, but under the protection of Russia.

7. England, on her part, in return for the above concessions, and the restoration of the ordinary amicable intercourse between nations at peace, to acknowledge the Imperial and Royal title, and the state of actual possession on the part of France and her Allies, subject to the above exemptions only.

8. The several settlements and islands conquered on the part of his Britannic Majesty from France or her allies, in Asia, Africa, and America, with the exception of the Cape of Good Hope, and the settlements of Surinam and Pondicherry, to be restored to the several Powers from whom they may have been conquered.

This scheme or project had been but a few days in discussion, when the honor and actual sincerity of the french government appeared in its proper point of view. The project was admitted into discussion, and discussed with much apparent heat, so as to give the most natural colour to the artifice,—Whilst the suspicions of the British Negotiators were thus laid asleep, and they were congratulating themselves upon being on the point of effecting the fond object of their aims—a Russian and Turkish barrier—the french government procured D'Oubril to sign the act of the 20th of July, and renounce for ever that for which England was contesting.

How did this effect the project under discussion between the french and english governments?—Why, the french Negotiators immediately declared, that Russia having renounced the required barrier, and Ragusa being otherwise disposed of, the proposals upon those points could no longer make part of any discussion.

In the mean time the English Court were lost in astonishment when they learned the act of D'Oubril.—They were already better acquainted with the new Ministry at Petersburg than D'Oubril himself. They had received assurances from them of fidelity to the common cause, at least of negotiating in concert—How therefore were they to explain this act of D'Oubril? The Ministry had been long enough established for D'Oubril to have received new orders. D'Oubril, however, had evidently received none—the Court of Petersburg was too much governed by private faction.—The immediate Court party might have prevailed—even supposing the act of D'Oubril not authorized by the new Ministry, how could the Sovereign refuse to ratify it?

Such was the situation of the Cabinet of England.—In this difficulty it was accordingly resolved to send the Earl of Lauderdale.—What remains may now be dismissed.—The details of the Negotiation of Lord Lauderdale will soon meet the public eye.

The proposals of France were now dwindled down to the cession of the Cape, Malta, and the restoration of Hanover, and a free commerce upon paying certain allotted duties, for which England was to surrender all other conquered islands, and to confirm, &c. &c. the state of actual possession with regard to France and her Allies.

It was now that another incident arose on the general state of European affairs, which was not without a most considerable and immediate effect, upon the relations on all sides. This was the decisive and even angry tone assumed by Prussia in her intercourse with France.—The perfidy of the Court of Paris had at length outstript that of the Court of Berlin, and the latter, having already lost its honour, found it necessary to enter into conflict for her existence. The season for temporizing was now past, and though in the habit of eluding, she had now lost half her courage to act; the enemy was on her frontier and it was necessary to march forward and meet him.

This disposition of Prussia doubtless improved the situation of the Earl of Lauderdale.

The government of France, on their part were rendered by the same event more anxious for a final settlement between France and England.

This change of circumstances produced accordingly a change of the form of negotiation on both sides; some concessions were made on the part of the French Government, which induced the Earl of Lauderdale to resume the negotiation after he had demanded his passports. These concessions are said to have related to that most material point of discussion, a Turkish barrier, and the consent to the principle of a general guarantee, subject to certain qualifications. This was doubtless something, and justified the concession on the part of our Plenipotentiaries.

In the mean time the important intelligence of the refusal of the Emperor of Russia to ratify the act concluded by M. D'Oubril, and about the same period of time an official assurance to the Government of England, that his Imperial Majesty of the Russias would conclude no peace but in concert with Great Britain.

Here was therefore a third era in the Negotiation since the arrival of the Earl of Lauderdale. His Lordship was now raised to higher ground—He had no necessity of moving to avail himself of it. The suppleness of the French Government anticipated him and enlarged its terms. The Greek Islands were to be given to his Russian Majesty. England now proposed the terms upon which Russia and herself would conclude a treaty, and England in the mean time concluded it provisionally. The demands of England were argued in a tedious detail, but as it is said were not refused. The demands of Russia, still more just and moderate, were all refused.

Prussia was now in the field, and there was no further time or even motive for delay on either side. The earl of Lauderdale again repeated, as an ultimatum, his demands both for England and Russia, and France again decidedly rejected all that regarded the latter, with

an assurance that France had nothing so near at heart as to preserve the permanent repose of Europe, and to that purpose to prevent the interposition of Russia in European politics—that with these intentions France would not consent that Russia should receive in Europe an additional acre of land,—that France would as soon give to Russia one of her own immediate provinces as one of the Greek or Mediterranean Islands.

The Earl of Lauderdale saw that his mission was finished, demanded his passports, and returned.

*From London and Liverpool papers received at Baltimore.*

FEBRUARY 12.

It was rumored yesterday, that Austria had declared war against France, and that official advices of this important determination had been received by government. It would afford us the highest satisfaction to be able to confirm so pleasing an article of intelligence; but we fear the French army in Poland is not yet so much reduced as to encourage the court of Vienna to assume a line of conduct which must end in a war of extermination with France. However pacific the disposition of the cabinet of Vienna may be, it is impossible that Austria can enjoy the blessings of peace one year longer. If the Russians prove victorious, she must make common cause with them; should they unfortunately be worsted, she will have to fight for existence.

The exertions making by the emperor of Russia for the vigorous prosecution of the war are every way worthy the magnanimity of that monarch, and the immense extent and physical resources of the country over which he rules. He has issued an order for the establishment of a militia for the defence of the country, in case of necessity, over and above the regular army. Of the 42 governments into which Russia is divided, 30 of the most populous and the most exposed have been ordered to embody this militia without delay, according to a plan submitted to them. The number of men thus to be armed and equipped, is 612,000; and the other ten governments not enumerated are to supply provisions, arms and ammunition, according to their means.

*The Speech of Mr. Abbot on being elected Speaker of the British House of Commons, Nov. 1806.*

Mr. Abbot.—I rise with the deepest sense of gratitude to address the house, and to thank the right honorable and honorable gentlemen, for the very kind sentiments they have expressed in my favor and for the eminent arguments which have been urged. Though they say that past experience has rendered me fitter to fill the high office of the chair of this house, I can assure them that it has only more fully convinced me of the various difficulties attending it, and of my own insufficiency. Nevertheless, having been so far honored with the present nomination to so distinguished and exalted a station, it would not perhaps, become me to shew any further hesitation to accept the honor conferred on me; and it is my earnest

hope the event of their choice may not be detrimental to my own honor, or to the rights and privileges of this house and of the empire.

Mr. Abbott having ascended into the chair, concluded thus—

“Since it has been the pleasure of the house to place me in the chair, I have to return them my warmest and most sincere thanks; and to assure them that while I live to fill it, my every thought, word, and action, shall be constantly and uniformly employed and exerted for the interest and welfare of my country.”

It is supposed that madame Bonaparte's return to Paris is the forerunner of Bonaparte's return. But we hardly think he will quit Warsaw or Berlin immediately. He is at present almost as much occupied with negotiations as with military preparations; every lure and inducement has been thrown out to induce the king of Prussia to make a separate peace. On a sudden his tone with respect to that monarch and his beautiful and virtuous Queen has changed. We find none of that coarse and unmanly abuse which he indulged in the first moments of his triumph and his victory; and our readers did not fail to remark the compliment paid to M. De Zastrow, the new Prussian minister for foreign affairs. The mission of Baron Vincent is supposed to relate to peace; and it is added that he has been directed by the court of Vienna to assume a tone of vigour and decision—to state definitively, that the emperor Francis saw the present state of his Polish subjects with just apprehensions; and that nothing would so effectually tranquilize reciprocal fears of his majesty and his faithful subjects, as some proof of the emperor Napoleon's moderation, in acceding to the offered negotiation of his Prussian majesty. Upon this rumour, however, we must observe, that his Prussian majesty has pledged himself not to make peace but in concert with the emperor of Russia, who does not seem disposed at present to enter into any negotiation.

**UNCOMMON ACCIDENT.**—The following particulars are mostly extracted from a report of survey of three persons, on oath, appointed to ascertain the fact.—

The ship morning Star, Capt. M. Hopkins on her voyage from Amsterdam to Boston, having put into Dover, (from which she sailed Sept. 6th) on

the 28th September in lat 54, 6, long 28, 13, was struck by lightning, which split and rent the main-mast into small pieces, within eight feet of the deck; the whole, together with the main top-mast and top gallant mast fell over the side, which they were obliged to cut away for the preservation of the vessel and cargo, and was lost, together with nearly all the main rigging, blocks, &c. broke the chief mate's arm, wounded and injured three men, and entirely burst up and broke twelve planks of the quarter deck, twelve planks of the main deck, two ceiling planks, and thick streak on the larboard side and left it so open, that a man could creep therein, started one plank below the bends about an inch off, ripped off a great deal of sheathing from the bottom, broke two main deck beams, hove up the grab beam about nine inches, broke four carlins, and four knees, hove off the water ways larboard side the quarter deck, & broke the plank shears, broke two waist-timbers hove off and broke the partners of the mainmast and pumps, broke one quarter rail, & one channel, burst out the cabin windows, broke a brass compass in the binnacle, and broke the iron caboofe. The splinters of the mainmast went through the sail, and cut the mainfail to pieces. This shock, as may well be imagined, put the vessel in a most perilous situation; and the greatest efforts were necessary to save the vessel from sinking; she making much water, which greatly damaged her cargo, and compelled them to put away for Milford, England, where they arrived on the 7th October.

LONDON, OCT. 27th, 1806.

The Royal Crown of England has lately undergone considerable repairs, and was deposited in the Tower on Tuesday, by Mr. GILBERT, the Goldsmith. It is valued at 100,000l.

On the 18th of October, the english frigate Caroline, of 36 guns, entered Batavia Roads, and after a short engagement, captured a dutch frigate of the same force. Another dutch frigate, and several other vessels ran ashore near the batteries. Two dutch brigs were captured in the offing.

By a letter received from Portland, we learn, that the Portland Bank has refused payment of its Bills, and that the holder had protested a part of them, and proceeding to protest the remainder.—And also that the Maine Bank had

refused payment of its Bills, except in copper or by a draft on Boston, payable from 20 to 30 days from date. *Am. pap.*

On the evening of 12th January a vessel lying in the Rapenburg Canal, near Leyden, (Ger.) having on board 10,000 lbs. gun powder, blew up; several hundreds of people lost their lives, and the chief part of the buildings in the city were thrown down.

We are happy once more to contradict the report of the death of Mungo Park, who was said to have fallen a victim in the interior of Africa. Accounts were received of him about the middle of the present month, which stated his arrival at Tombuctoo, on his return. It is to be feared that he will encounter great difficulties in his journey, as he has to tow his boat all the way back against the stream. The journal that is sent to Europe is dated from Sansapang. [*Tilloch's Philo. Mag. Oct. 1806.*]

We are happy to announce the arrival in London of Lord Viscount Valencia on his return from India by the way of Suez, with his Secretary Mr. Salt, after nearly 5 years absence from England in various parts of India; his Lordship made several months stay on the Red Sea, and the adjacent seacoast; and has made some valuable charts of those different places. Mr. Salt, his Lordship's secretary, made an excursion into Abyssinia with Major Aundie as far as the Capital Gondar.—The public will be exceedingly gratified by much valuable information, collected by his Lordship during this long, laborious and laudable research. A young Abyssinian Prince is in his suite, who is a near relation of Negade Ra Mahomet, one of the principal officers of state, so often mentioned by that celebrated traveller Bruce, as being his friend. This young prince appears possessed of great natural endowments, and anxious to become acquainted with the manners and customs of Great Britain. *London. pap.*

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Washington, Kentucky, to his correspondent at Cincinnati, dated 26th Feb. 1807.*

“A report, says the Kentucky Gazette, was in town, though not credited, that Burr had shot Wilkinson at Washington, Mississippi Territory, where he, Wilkinson, had come to depose against him, when at the bar, giving in his testimony.”

The Legislature of Nova Scotia have appropriated one thousand pounds to be expended in bounties on the manufacture of Salt; and a sum for bounties on salted and pickled fish.

JEU D'ESPRIT.

*Postscript of a letter from M. Le Grand, deputy chamberlain to the Emperor and King at Berlin, to M. Le Petit, at Paris.*

“January 13.

“How happy am I, my dear friend, that before closing this letter, I am able to send you the most glorious intelligence that ever yet reached Paris!—The english have lost Pondicherry in the East-Indies, St. Lucie in the West Indies, the Cape of Good Hope, and every other colony, which they had taken either from us, or from the king of Holland, during the

war. Rejoice my friend. I know your genius is at this moment employed in imagining a programme of the superb fête with which these great events shall be celebrated at Paris. But, perhaps, some dull doubter, unworthy of the name of frenchman, may suggest to you to inquire how I should have received at Berlin this sublime news. Know then, that my authority for it is indisputable. You cannot forget that celebrated proclamation, in which our august emperor and king, whose genius embraces at once all the possibilities of both hemispheres, assured his army, that he would conquer all these places, in Poland, and solemnly promised, that, *he would not quit Poland* till England had surrendered them. Now mark how sure my intelligence is: the emperor is coming here; the army is quitting Poland; I am ordered to prepare for his reception, and to be ready to proceed even to Paris. You see therefore, the thing is beyond a doubt; I have the inviolable word of the emperor himself for what I say. I shall soon see you in Paris; prepare the programme of the fête, and then employ yourself upon the model of a column to perpetuate the memory of this reconquest of all our East and West Indian colonies and of the *Liberty of the Seas!*

"LE GRAND."

It is to be remarked, that the French say the Russians had a great many generals killed and wounded; yet they do not give us the name of one of them, though, as they took all the hospitals, according to their own account, they would have been able to have found out the means. But let us see what the French suffered in killed and wounded. The following are the names of the officers, whom their own bulletins confess to have been killed or wounded:

Gen. Fenerolles, killed.

Marshal Lasnes, slightly wounded.

Gen. Vedel, do.

Gen. Claperede, do.

Gen. Treilhard, do.

Gen. Boustard, do.

Gen. Rapp, do.

Col. Semele, do.

Col. Barthelemy, do.

Barrow, aid de camp to marshal Bessieres, wounded.

Boisen, aid de camp to marshal Lasnes, killed.

Curial, aid de camp to general Suchet, killed.

Segur, camp-martial to Bonaparte, made prisoner.

"I wish," said Rigby to Charles Fox, that "you would stand out of my light, or that you had a window in that great belly of yours"—"What," said Charles, "that you

might lay an additional tax upon it, I suppose."

QUEBEC, APRIL 27, 1807.

We have been obligingly favored with the perusal of a file of the latest english papers, by which it appears that advices had been received from the french army as high up as the middle of January, at which time the troops continued unmolested in their cantonments. Daily skirmishes, however, took place between the advanced posts of both armies. All the troops from the sea-coast were ordered to march into the interior of France, to replace those sent to Poland. It was supposed some serious disaster had happened to the french in Poland. Notwithstanding the war and the late french decree, it appears that the late imports into G. Britain, from France, Spain, Italy, Holland and other hostile countries had been very considerable. By a letter from an officer at Buenos Ayres it appears that all the british officers occupy the same lodgings they had, in the town, prior to the re-capture; where they are well treated. The privates were sent into the country. We have selected a number of interesting extracts which will be given to the public with all speed.

We predicted, in our last, that Mr. Jefferson would continue the suspension of the non-importation act until the next meeting of Congress. This has since appeared to have taken effect, by a proclamation, wherein the President exerts the full extent of his power, by continuing the suspension to the 2d of December.

We hear, but do not vouch for its truth, that the directors of the Seminary, as well from a principle of justice to the rising generation, as from a sense of duty to the nation, of which this province is a part, have it in contemplation to innovate, in some degree, on their present system of education, by making the english language a part of it. We hope and trust that we are not misinformed, as such learning would greatly accelerate the general acquisition of useful knowledge, and the consequent well-being of the individual; and, in the event, considerably augment the prosperity of the province, by exten-

ding agricultural and commercial enterprise. It would be much to be lamented should any interested or systematic views be permitted to prevent so beneficial an addition to the branches of education at present taught. Such a change, with the inculcation of sound morals, so as to lay a solid foundation of future integrity, would, in time, effect wonders, and enable us successfully to emulate our industrious neighbours, in their spirit of improvement. Parents and guardians must feel it a debt due to their children and wards to give them the benefit of such branches of education, wherever they can be had, as are best calculated to enlarge their future views.

We should be wanting in justice to the Montreal Seminary did we not mention that the english language has been, many years, a part of its system of education; which has been attended with the best effects.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

*Chronobetonibologos*, came to us in an imperfect state, one line of the third couplet being wanting. At any rate such personalities are neither grateful to the public or ourselves.

*Castigator*, came to hand too late for this number.

#### THEATRE.

By particular desire;

ON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 28,  
Will be presented a COMEDY, in five Acts,  
written by G. COLMAN, Esqr. called

THE  
HEIR AT LAW.

TO WHICH WILL BE ADDED,  
The celebrated Entertainment written by JOHN  
O'KEEFE, Esqr. called

THE  
POOR SOLDIER.

Tickets, &c. as in the bills.

The doors to be opened at five and to begin precisely at half past six o'clock.

BOXES 5s.—PIT 2s.—GALLERY 1s.

BY AUCTION.

Without reserve, will be sold by JAMES GRAY,  
at his auction room, on Friday next, 1st May.

A general assortment of India goods, on their way from Montreal, consisting principally of fine and coarse India white and printed Cottons, Checks, Teas and Spices.

Also, 3 rich fashionable lace Cloaks, and 4 do. do. Veils, Laces and Edgings, a quantity of Cotton thread in balls (now generally used in preference to flax thread) Irish Linens, colored threads, Hosiery, Household furniture, and a variety of other articles.

Sale will begin at one o'clock  
Quebec, 27th April, 1807.

## POETRY

### LINES ON CAPT. FRASER.

Fighting at Boston in September,  
 Poor Fraser lost a useful member;  
 And tho' at first a heavy woe,  
 He gloried in his timber toe.  
 To England come with servants many,  
 He hopp'd a dashing buck as any,  
 And with the fair was quite the go,  
 Altho' he had a timber toe.

Charles in return his favours lavish'd,  
 His figure Lady \* \* \* \* \* ravish'd;  
 She sigh'd and look'd and long'd to know  
 Charles Fraser and his timber toe.

Th' acquaintance form'd o'erjoy'd my Lady,  
 Charles ever at her service ready—  
 She, generous soul, with a rouleau  
 Won both his heart and timber toe.

Now many rouleaus were expended—  
 Charles in one luckless hour attended—  
 My Lord rush'd in, and with a blow  
 Destroy'd his handsome timber toe.

My Lord was glum, my Lady pouted,  
 Charles and his broken toe was scouted,  
 Nor ever did he dare to show  
 Again, the favourite timber toe!!!

JULIA FRANCESCA.

We received from a correspondent at the eastward a caricature, representing a great emperor with a drawn sword ordering his minister, *Whiskerandos* to raise his voice and tell "dem American for give you MORE MILLION; tell dem I will have eat."—Opposite the emperor stands the minister in a cringing posture with bat in hand, who replies; "Imperiale Majeste est fidel be donne." In the back ground is seen a gun-boat in a corn-field manned with militia, and armed with a common chamber utensil instead of mortars, firing at a flock of crows which appear to be completely routed, and are retreating with great precipitancy in every direction.—Underneath is written, "Cornfield Defence."

From Bell's Weekly Messenger.

On Sunday afternoon the methodist congregation in Milbourn place, North Shields, was disturbed in their devotion, and the Minister arrested in the midst of his discourse, by the loud lamentations of a child about six years of age, who bawled out, "O, my finger! O, my finger!" The Orator desired the child might be taken out, but that was found impracticable, without amputating the finger, as the child had got it through a small hole in some wood, which caused it to swell to such a degree as to render all extrication impossible without the assistance of a Carpenter. Accordingly a carpenter was sent for, who gravely entered with his tools on his shoulder, and, with some difficulty, liberated the unhappy sufferer, who even then screamed more violently than before. But, alas! the thread of the Minister's discourse was broken, and finding it impossible to resume it, he seriously exhorted his hearers to remember what he had said (though it was evident he had himself forgotten) and dismissed them.

### AGENTS FOR THIS PAPER

Messrs. James Brown, stationer *Montreal*,  
 Ezl. Hart, Mercht. *Three-Rivers*,  
 James Sawers, P. M. *Wm. Henry*,  
 Judah Joseph, Mercht. *Berthier*,  
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 UPPER-CANADA  
 John Bennet, Printer *York*,  
 Jer. Patrick, P. M. *Kingston*,  
 The price to all but Quebec Subscribers is FIVE  
 DOLLARS Per Annum.

### BY AUCTION,

Will be sold on Saturday next 2d May, at noon,  
 at the Merchants Coffee House, Lower Town.

A Variety of valuable Books, among which are the following—Hawksworth's account of Voyages 4 vols. Oeuvres de Bossuet 21 tomes, Histoire Ancienne, par Robin, 13 tomes, Ecole de Mœurs 3 tomes, Geographie de la Croix, 2 tomes, Dictionnaire Philologique, 2 tomes.—2 Pipes, 2 Hlds. & 2 Qt. Cask Malmsey Madeira; all warranted to be imported four years past. 40 doz. Port Wine, about 50 gallons of high flavored Brandy, in small lots, and a few pounds Hygea Tea, 4 Horse Nets, Spy Glasses, Steam Boilers and Mustard.

AND—on Wednesday next, the 29th Inst. will be sold at the Subscriber's Rooms, an assortment of Dry Goods, among which will be blue and white Cottons, Callicoes, Dimities, Shoes, Nankeens and a few pieces of Bunting. Also, 6 pipes French Brandy, 5 Pans. Rum, 4 Pans. Molasses and 10 Barrels very fair Mufcovado Sugar.

The sale will begin at one o'clock each day.  
 JOHN JONES, A. & B.  
 Quebec, April 27, 1807.

### L I N E N.

THE Subscriber has on hand and intends keeping, a constant supply of best Irish Linen, of every description, which as they come direct from the manufacturer he can afford to sell at a very moderate price.

BENJ. TREMAIN.

Quebec, 27th April, 1807.

### FOR SALE,

By the Subscriber cheap, for cash.

450 Barrels Canada prime Pork,  
 250 Tierces & Barrels best Irish Mef's Pork,  
 the greatest part being of last year's importation,  
 300 Barrels of Upper and Lower Canada prime Beef,  
 120 Kegs Hog's lard,  
 60 do. Upper Canada Butter.  
 20 do. Neat's Tongues, of 2 doz. each  
 100 Boxes best mould Candles,  
 80 Cafes do. Chocolate,—and  
 A small quantity of Lisbon Salt.

CHARLES SMITH,

Quebec, April 13, 1807.

### TO BE LET.

A CELLAR, at Mrs. GEORGE'S No. 4  
 St. Peter Street, Lower Town.  
 Quebec, 30th March, 1807.

### FOR SALE, A GRAND PATENT PIANO FORTE.

Enquire of the Editor.

Quebec, April 6th, 1807.

### N O T I C E.

THE Subscriber, in her own name, and in quality of Tutoress to her minor Children the issue of her marriage with the late JAMES HANNA, of this City, and as sole Executrix to the last will and testament of the said deceased James Hanna, requires all persons indebted to his Succession to make immediate payment, and those having demands against the said Estate, to give them in duly authenticated to Mr. JOHN MACNIDER, N<sup>o</sup> 10, Fabrique Street Upper Town.

ELIZABETH HANNA.

Quebec, 9th February, 1807.

### N O T I C E.

THE Subscriber hereby requests all those indebted to him to make immediate Payment or give approved notes at a short date that the same may be liquidated, and all persons to whom he may be indebted, are requested to send in their accounts that they may be examined and paid.

The inconvenience he has experienced from the great inattention shewn to bills when given in, obliges him to declare that in future he will sell on no other terms than for cash or very short credit; and for which he has reduced from his date the prices of his bottled Beers as follows. Viz.

Burton Ale, pr. doz.	9/.	} Botls. included.
Porter, ditto	7/.	
Mild Ale, ditto	7/.	
Burton Ale, pr. doz.	6/.	} Botls. returned.
Porter, ditto	4/.	
Mild Ale, ditto	4/.	

He likewise has on sale, Lime Juice, Shrub, Cordial Peppermint, Wines, and Spirits, as usual.

He takes this opportunity to return his sincere thanks to his friends and the public for past favors and hopes for a continuance of the same, orders punctually attended to and forwarded with dispatch by

J. M. GODARD.

Quebec, 7th July 1806.

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