

[FOR THE BEE]

Mr. Editor,

Sir,—There is a long time since Picou became notorious for the respectability of its inhabitants and the purity of its morals. No part of the Province excels it in respect of opportunities for improvement. But it often happens that the more liberally we are supplied with privileges, the less careful are we to appreciate and improve them. There is a remark common in the mouth of almost every individual of our day—that, if they lived in the primitive ages, their conduct would have been very different from that of their ancestors: and in this manner it not unfrequently happens that epithets of the most opprobrious nature are collected to express our disgust at their manners and customs. But if we examine our own condition now, and view the advantages that we possess, then consider carefully the folly of our own day, we will be little disposed to find fault with those of former centuries. The undeniable fact too that those who live a hundred or two hundred years after this will look upon our customs and follies with feelings of equal abhorrence that we do upon those of the dark ages, ought always to restrain us from severely censuring the past. Let us however fearlessly censure the present. Let us commence with Picton with all its purity of morals—with all its boasted privileges: let us endeavour to rescue it from the devouring conflagration; let us raise our feeble voice to resist the enemy “coming in like a flood.” How many of her fair sons have already gone down the stream of licentiousness. How many are now fast approaching the rapids. Some in middle age—some just blooming in the roses of youth, allured now and again within her irresistible influence, and her hell consigning sway. Winter, the season of nocturnal dissipation, gambling and public amusements, is now fast advancing. Then the father and the son, the mother and the daughter, priest and people, will all be seen busily engaged. Some casting “the lot into the lap,” some quaffing the poisonous draught, and all joining chorus in the song of midnight revelry. The hands that lately handled the symbols of the Redeemer’s body, will then be employed in handling cards and dice. The tongue and lips that once symbolically tasted the precious blood of Him who died, will then join chorus with Baecchanalian votaries; and instead of *righteousness which exalteth a nation*, there will be *sin which is a disgrace to any people*.

I have no doubt that many who may read those lines will be disposed to cast some very severe censures upon the writer. “This is the language of a reformed sensualist, of some person whom the genius of human woes sadly afflicts, or the vagaries of a bewildered imagination.” Some such uncharitable constructions will no doubt be uttered against the author. But let them consider well the truth of the observations, before they pass judgment:—let them take a retrospective view of the three last winters, and calculate the amount of time and money that has been uselessly spent during these periods—the persons by whom it was spent: and then I candidly enquire if my anticipations of the ensuing winter are not likely to be realised. Mistaken notions respecting our moral accountability is the principle source whence so much evil proceeds. Mankind, or at least a great portion of them, foolishly imagine that when by a course of industry and fortunate circumstances, they have amassed a considerable portion of riches and influence, they are at liberty to use them as they please, and that there is no power to which they are responsible. Nothing however can be more inconsistent with the righteous law of heaven than such a doctrine. There we are taught that every blessing and every

comfort we enjoy comes from God, and of those to whom he has given much, much will be required, consequently of those to whom he has given health, prosperity and influence, will be demanded a corresponding improvement. So that no person is at liberty to engage in any speculation or amusement, or to use his health, money, time, or any other bounty that Providence has conferred upon him, only in such a way as that they may be subservient to the real interests of society.

If parents, masters, and teachers of youth, exercised due attention in instructing the minds of those committed to their care, in such principles as these, we would witness fewer scenes of dissipation and wretchedness in our land. But while the present state of things continue, while parents are themselves ignorant of these duties, we can enjoy but faint hopes of their rearing a virtuous and happy offspring; if their children instead of being kept properly employed during their evenings, are allowed to roam about the streets, where the most obscene conduct is every moment to be witnessed, we may bid farewell to improvement, and consequently to a virtuous community. Let all then who profess attachment to the cause of virtue, discourage vice in every shape; let them abstain not only from evil, but from the appearance of evil, and whatever degree of ridicule they may experience from a world lying in wickedness, still, they will be rewarded with the approbation of a good conscience, which is infinitely better than all the pleasures of iniquity or thousands of worlds.

A. Z.

COLONIAL.

QUEBEC, Nov. 6th.

ADDRESS

IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY’S SPEECH.

The House went into Committee to consider the Address drafted by the Special Committee appointed for that purpose, Mr. Wells was called to the chair.

Mr. MORIN then rose and said, that considering Members had been a sufficient time in possession of the printed copies of the Address, to form their opinions, he would not trouble the Committee by entering into any explanation, he would merely ask that it be read paragraph by paragraph, and the question of concurrence put on each.

The two first paragraphs were concurred in without discussion.

The third paragraph having been read,

Mr. CLAPHAM rose and said that he had an amendment to offer on this paragraph. He felt convinced that the Commissioners should be explicitly acknowledged by the House of Assembly. Complaints of grievances had proceeded from that House to England, and from various other quarters petitions for the redress of grievances had been transmitted to the Imperial Parliament. The Commissioners had been sent out to this Province with full power to investigate all these complaints of grievances, and consequently he felt it highly necessary that the commission should be acknowledged by the House of Assembly. He would, therefore move an amendment to the third paragraph, that all the words after “Government,” inclusively to the end of the paragraph, should be struck out, and the following substituted: “We consider it a proof of the wisdom and magnanimity with which His Majesty has listened to our complaints, that a Commission, of which your Excellency is the head, had been appointed for the purpose of enquiring fully, and upon the spot, into the complaints which have been made; and we confidently hope that the conclusions to which the Commissioners will come, and the final result of

their labours will be satisfactory to all classes of His Majesty’s subjects.”

This called up Mr. Speaker PAPINEAU, who declaimed at great length and with much warmth on this amendment. He considered the said appointment of Commissioners an insult to the House, it cast a doubt upon the representations which had been gravely and deliberately stated by that Body in their Petitions to the King and to the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament. It information was wanted on the grievances of the people, that House was the proper channel through which it was to be obtained, and to seek it by any other was degrading and insulting to the Representative Branch. The Act which gave a Commission to Canada, he said had been referred to as a boon for which the Canadians ought to be grateful. He saw no cause for gratitude—it had conferred no favour on any class of his Majesty’s subjects. Those who were of British birth enjoyed all that it conferred as their patrimony—and those who had been the subjects of France acquired the same rights on giving their allegiance to the new possessors of the soil, and becoming themselves British subjects.

The Commissioners, he asserted, had no constitutional or legal power vested in them. They ought to be sure draw up a report and submit it to his Majesty’s Government; if it coincided with the declared wishes of the House, who were competent also to report, well and good,—there would be no harm done, but their work would be superfluous; for, if they differed from what the Assembly had advanced, they might be assured that the body would not recede one iota from what it had demanded, but would enforce its claims to the utmost.

The Hon. Speaker continued at great length in the same style, and was replied to by Mr. GUY in an eloquent and manly speech, which occupied nearly an hour in the delivery.

This day, (Nov. 9) Mr. Speaker and Fifty one Members of the House of Assembly, went up to the House with the following ADDRESS:

To His Excellency, the Right Honorable Archibald Earl of Gosford, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, his Majesty’s faithful and loyal subjects the Commons of Lower Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly thank your Excellency for your speech at the opening of the present Session.

We congratulate your Excellency on His Majesty’s determination to call to the head of the Government of this Province, in the person of your Excellency, a distinguished individual, whose habits, and former station, have, independently of his other qualifications, rendered him more able to accomplish this important charge. We congratulate your Excellency in like manner on your safe arrival among us.

It is indeed under no ordinary circumstances that your Excellency has assumed the reins of administration. The Government has not for some time past, sufficiently possessed the confidence of the House and of the people, to fulfil the purposes of its institution. In this state of things, it was in conformity to the ancient custom of Parliament, and in the spirit of the Constitution itself, as well as for the advantage of His Majesty’s subjects, and of the Government in this Province, that the House adopted constitutional means for obtaining the redress of grievances and abuses.—We shall see with pleasure, that His Majesty’s Government has acquired that practical and local knowledge of the Province which is necessary for the discernment of the most appropriate remedies. It is therefore with feelings of hope that we contemplate the extensive powers, attributions and circumstances with which your