

GREAT BRITAIN.

POLICY OF THE NEW MINISTRY.

To the Electors of the Southern Division of the County of Kent.

GENTLEMEN,—The acceptance of an office under the Crown renders it necessary that I should again appeal to the judgment of the independent and public-spirited body by whom I have been three times elected.

Since the last of those elections, a period short in time, but important in events and fruitful in consequences has elapsed.

Placed however, undeservedly, at the head of the largest and most powerful Opposition which was ever united against a Minister of the Crown, I have endeavoured to render the influence which that proud position gave me conducive to the interests of the country.

The attitude assumed by the late Ministers, & their professions in favour of Reform, to which many indeed the greater part of them had always been hostile, afforded a tempting occasion for invective and crimination. I have endeavoured as far as possible to avoid that course. The Ministry of Lord Melbourne had contemplated large, and, as I believe, necessary improvements in our institutions of Church and State: it was my main object to see that these reforms were not endangered or obstructed in their progress by the change of councils which took place in November.

In conformity with these purposes, Lord Morpeth proposed and carried an amendment to the Address to the Crown, in which a hope was expressed that the liberal and comprehensive policy which restored to the people the right of choosing their representatives, and which provided for the emancipation of all persons held in a slavery in his Majesty's colonies and possessions abroad; will, with the same enlarged views, place without delay our Municipal Corporations under vigilant popular control, removed all the well-grounded grievances of the Protestant Dissenters, and correct those abuses in the church which impair its efficiency in England, disturb the peace of society in Ireland, and lower the character of the Establishment in both countries.

With respect to the Municipal Corporations, the report of the Commissions, which has since appeared, has abundantly confirmed the opinion of the House of Commons. It is clearly proved by experience, that self-elected Corporations tend to violations of trust, perversions of justice, the abuse of charitable funds, political jobbing, and the injury of the communities for whose benefit they were established. The true remedy for these evils, in my opinion, was to adopt the principle of free election, known in our ancient Laws, and established in the Reform Act, to our Municipal Corporations. In this principle Lord Stanley and all the members of Lord Grey's Ministry cordially concurred. The late Ministry, on the other hand, confined themselves to a vague declaration, of their willingness to consider the report, and reform abuses.

We likewise declared that we desired to remove all the well-founded grievances of the Protestant Dissenters. In conformity with this declaration I voted for an address to the Crown, praying for the grant of a charter to the London University, where the conscientious Dissenter might obtain the literary honours which at Oxford and Cambridge, are exclusively confined to those who declare themselves members of the Church of England.

With respect to the marriages of Dissenters, Sir Robert Peel has introduced a bill founded on a liberal and just principle; but I fear that if it were to pass in its present shape, Protestant Dissenters would still feel that the line drawn between them and the members of the church tended to lower them in public estimation. Some alteration in the bill may, perhaps, remedy this defect, but the establishment of a civil register of births, deaths and marriages would afford the best and truest solution for all the difficulties of this subject.

In regard to church rates, the agitation on religious subjects of which these rents are the constant occasion, makes it in every way desirable to abolish an impost which is at once a grievance to Dissenters, and an injury to the Church.

With respect to the Church of England, Sir Robert Peel did not hesitate clearly to declare his intention to correct its acknowledged abuses. The opinion which I declared to you in 1832 that the revenues of the Church of England were not too large, but that they ought to be more equitably distributed, seems no longer to be disputed. The application of this principle must be regulated by caution, but not enfeebled by a lurking desire to keep alive the seeds of abuses which we profess to destroy.

With regard to the Church of Ireland the case is widely different. I refused to assist in making perpe-

tual parochial sinecures where the clergyman and his clerk, week after week, and year after year, formed the whole of the congregation. Besides the general injustice and glaring absurdity of the system, it is easily proved that the maintenance of these ecclesiastical sinecures irritates the people of Ireland, weakens the reputation of the British Crown abroad, and injures the Protestant religion which it is intended to promote.

Let us add to these evils that the present system cannot be maintained except by a large military force; which, in case of foreign war, must of necessity be greatly augmented. Burdensome to England, sanguinary in Ireland, disturbing the peace of society, and injurious to the religion it professes to serve, no eloquence can recommend, and no talents can long maintain so vicious a policy.

In place of this system, I propose that the surplus revenue of the establishment, after providing for the spiritual care of the members of the Church, should be devoted to the education of all classes of the people, without distinction of religion. It was my object to teach the poor and industrious classes that they have some interest in the Church revenue; to inspire them by means of religious and moral education, with the love of their neighbours, and a sense of their duties to the State; finally, to open their minds to great truths, and to soften their hearts toward the government which rules them. Then, indeed, might the Protestant Church hope to diffuse its influence, for it would be judged by its merits and not by its actions.

These were the chief subjects of debate, and often of essential difference between the majority of the House of Commons and the late Administration. On some other topics an agreement appeared, which must to many have been unexpected. It was a constant subject of reproach to Lord Grey's Ministry that it did not sufficiently relieve agriculture from its burdens; and the maintenance of the malt tax was pointed out as a glaring instance of this neglect.

Sir Robert Peel held a different opinion, and upon his declaration that his Ministry would stand or fall with the malt tax, it at once appeared that the clamour which supposed Lord Grey hostile to the landed interests, and Lord Althorp indifferent to the welfare of the farmer, had been a mere factious cry raised without scruple, and abandoned without shame.

Nor does it appear that had the late Ministry continued in office they intended any thing further than the relief of the land from some part of the county rate, to which Lord Althorp had last year consented. The only measure actually proposed by the late Ministers for the advantage of agriculture, was a bill for the voluntary commutation of tithes.

I have often stated to you that I do not think such a measure would be effectual, and I fear that in those cases where tithe is most grievous, the remedy would be most imperative. To frame a measure just alike to the tithe owner and tithe-payer is undoubtedly difficult, but I see as yet no reason to abandon the attempt.

Such have been the views which have guided my conduct in opposition to the late Ministry. In succeeding to office I shall endeavour faithfully to carry them into effect. By so doing, I am of opinion, that I shall be assisting to gather from the Reform Act its legitimate fruits. As one of those deeply engaged in framing, proposing, and carrying that great measure, I am bound to declare that on the one hand I did not intend that it should be the first of a series of organic changes, each exceeding its predecessor in importance and rapidity. Even were the changes meditated useful in themselves, I am of opinion that the public mind and the public energies, will be far better occupied in considering and urging practical improvements, than in squaring our ancient institutions to abstract theory, or suiting them to foreign example.

On the other hand, I did not intend that the reform act should be a mere toy in the hands of the people, without benefit to themselves or their posterity.

It was my wish to see the popular influence control and check the exorbitant or corrupt expenses of the State: to see our institutions renewed and purified by clearing them of their defects and restoring their original spirit; to witness the removal of all unnecessary impediments to free thought, writing, and action; to have the interests of all classes weighed, not by the prejudices and partial affections of those who counterfeited the people's voice, and usurped the people's inheritance, but by the legislative representatives of that people, summoned by the Sovereign to uphold that monarchy of which they are the firmest support, and to be the image of that enlightened nation whose confidence they enjoy.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient and obliged servant.
JOHN RUSSELL.

TO LET.



Entry Immediately.

THE Premises lately occupied by Mr. J. Romans as a SHOP and DWELLING.

For particulars apply at this Office.

Pictou, July 10, 1835.

NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBER having now in full operation his

Carding Machine

attached to his Mills at the West River, respectfully informs the Public that he is ready to receive WOOL, and will continue to do so till the end of October next. The machinery is in most complete order, and he solicits a share of the public patronage; and by assiduity and dispatch, he trusts their confidence will not be misplaced.

Any Wool left at the Store of Mr. RODERICK MCKENZIE, Pictou, will be sent for once every week, and returned to the same place the week following. TERMS—2 1-2d per lb. Cash; and if paid in produce, 3d per lb.

DAVID ROES.

West River Mills, 1st June, 1835 m-w

FOR SALE.

The SLOOP



LADY

Lying at the Subscriber's Wharf.

THE LADY has lately undergone a thorough repair, and can be sent to sea without any expense—has good accommodation; and is well calculated for a Packet, or for the Mackerel Fishery. Terms liberal, apply to the Subscriber.

GEORGE SMITH.

Pictou, 6th June, 1835 b-w

TO LET.



THE Convenient COTTAGE on the Subscriber's Farm;—having a frost proof Cellar, Dining Room, one Kitchen, and three good Bed Rooms; also the privilege and use of the Garden and Stable attached to the premises. For particulars, apply to

GEORGE SMITH.

Pictou, 6th June, 1835. b-w

PICTOU ACADEMY.

AS the third Teacher in the Institution, is about to relinquish his charge, so notice is hereby given, that the first Wednesday of August next is the day appointed for the examination of such as may feel disposed to appear as Candidates for the situation. The Branches to be taught are, English, English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Book Keeping, Practical Mathematics including Navigation, Geography, Latin, Greek, and French. The salary is £100 currency annually.

All who make application must be provided with certificates of their moral character.

By order of the Trustees,

JOHN MCKINLAY, Sec'y.

June 2, 1835.

Editors of Papers will confer an obligation by giving insertion to the above.

EASTERN TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

NOTICE is hereby given to all those interested in the cause of temperance, in the Eastern division of the Province and Prince Edward's Island, that a CONVENTION of Delegates and others will be held in the Court House of this place, on Thursday the 9th of July next, at the hour of 3 o'clock P. M.

All those friendly to the object of the convention, are particularly requested to attend.

JAMES DAWSON.

Pictou, 9th June, 1835.

Secretary.

FUNERAL LETTERS, VISITING, INVITATION and other CARDS.

Executed at this Office in the neatest manner.