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MESSRS. KERR AND NELSON.

The Public has been told by the daily Press that the issue to be decided by the "free and independent and enlightened electors" of the Centre Division is, on the one hand "Constitutional Government," and, on the other Economy, Retrenchment and everything that is pure, virtuous and lovely, but—of course, according to the other side—unconstitutional. Now, if we could only have all of these what a happy people we should be to be sure! But we cannot. For the Conservatives say the Country will be endangered by the return of the Joly Ministry, and the Liberals contend that if they are not returned the Province will have to make a general assignment. This is very dreadful to read about and one scarcely knows which of the two evils is the least. Then, to the rescue come Messrs. Kerr and Nelson. Mr. Kerr quotes you authorities from sixteen different authors until he bewilders you with facts and you scarcely know whether you are, legally speaking, on your head or your heels. Mr. Nelson having a pretty good constitution of his own, evades the question and goes into figures to prove that, after all, a man's interest is more affected by the state of his purse than by his knowledge of constitutional remedies. The question therefore narrows itself down to the enquiry: Who is the better man of the two? Mr. Kerr, Q. C., is an able lawyer; perfect at fence; polite in argument; cutting in sarcasm, and without an excellent gentleman. Mr. Nelson is an Alderman, and were he not the able Chairman of our Finance Committee the fact of being an Alderman would be no great honor of itself. For is not Mr. CHAS. THURMANT also an Alderman? But Mr. Nelson is something more than a city officer. He is a Merchant and has made much money by toying with young Canada and supplying rocking horses for the rising generation to ride upon. Pegasus is not a mere figure-head so far as Mr. Nelson is concerned. Mr. Nelson is slow in speech, deliberate in his calculations, and usually knows what he is talking about. But Mr. Nelson is an American by birth and if a Canadian dollar happens to be worth more than ninety cents that is not his fault. Mr. Nelson was also one of the founders—not the founder, mark you—but one of the founders of the now defunct Canadian National Society. Whether he has severed his connection with the McLaughlin interest by request, or through the pressure of circumstances, does not yet appear: but it does seem a trifle singular that the Alderman should have a sudden love for the Liberal Party now, when he deprecated Grit and Tory alike not three months ago in the "Long Room" of the Mechanic's Hall on a certain occasion when the Canadian National Society was in its most sanguine mood. But it seems to be a case of "off with the old love, on with the new," as it is with many other politicians. Notwithstanding these apparent inconsistencies, Mr. Nelson is an honest gentleman, and for all we know, he may be able to explain them away. To strengthen his position, his requisition, it is said, was signed by nearly a thousand persons. But it is also alleged some of the signers were not voters, while many signed it under the impression, that it was a request for him to remain in the Council—a most excellent suggestion by the way. Be this as it may, the requisition was no mean compliment to his general popularity—as an Alderman. Mr. Nelson does not speak French. We conceive that Mr. Nelson, if elected, may hope to become a Minister, and it has been laid down by an eminent Authority that a Minister should speak in a language that the people understand. In this respect Mr. Kerr has a decided advantage. But yet Mr. Nelson has time to learn it. It may be taught in twelve lessons, for a consideration. For our part, our esteem for Alderman Nelson is large and liberal, but we do hope for the sake of

our City Treasury that he will remain where he is. He is an honest man and we want honest men to keep off those cormorants who would make our Treasury poorer in a very short time. We have pointed out the advantages and disadvantages under which the candidates labour, and, in the contest that has just begun and which has, so far, been marked by the absence of personal abuse to any great extent, may the best man win.

A LEGEND OF QUEBEC.

There was a man surnamed St. Just,
In whom this Province placed its trust,
To supervise what was discussed
In our Local Legislature.

ALICK MACKENZIE on him smiled:
By "Blues" he could not be beguiled,
Which made that Party "awful riled,"
In our Local Legislature.

Together, then they put their heads,
To find a plan to tear in shreds,
The little game of "Blues"—not "Reds,"
In our Local Legislature.

Then up arose DE BORTCHERVILLE:
Said he, "By all the saints we will
Manoeuvre through this Railway Bill
In our Local Legislature."

"Our good LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, he
Is but a mere nonentity—
For guidance pray look up to me!
In our Local Legislature."

"Tis we that run this old shebang;
'Tis we that boss the blessed gang."
Then "Pull together boys" they sang,
In our Local Legislature.

Then through the House they mighty quick
Did sling their measures fast and thick;
The Railway Bill they "fixed up slick"
In our Local Legislature.

Unto St. Just the Railway Bill
Submitted was, (of course you will
Perceive he was considered *AW!*)
In our Local Legislature.

But soon the startling VERO came,
A bombshell that burst into flame,
And all the "Blues" cried "What a shame!"
In our Local Legislature.

DE BORTCHERVILLE turned up his eyes
In holy horror. Then he cries
"This act will revolutionize"
Our Local Legislature."

"Whoever heard of such a thing?
'Tis sure the work of some Grit ring!
And nothing else but mischief bring"
In our Local Legislature."

Our country isn't safe you know
If governors and such can go
And place upon our Bills—VERO
In the Local Legislature.

Then up arose bold ASGERS, too,
All at his back a mighty crew
Who cried "We'll fight till all is Blue"
In our Local Legislature.

Their loins they girded for the fray,
Determin'd straight to win the day,
And show the "Rouges" that they'd stay
In the Local Legislature.

The clans are gathering for the strife;
With politics the streets are rife,
And now it is "War to the knife,"
In our Local Legislature.

The battle now will soon begin,
Then won't there be a "Joly" din?
If "Blue" goes out, then "Rouge" goes in
Our Local Legislature.