

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

of the material interests of France. The policy of his recent conduct may be open to suspicion; but, before it is condemned, account must be taken of the dangers with which he finds himself surrounded, and also of the financial difficulties of the country. He must strengthen and fortify his position, or those difficulties will increase. He would be glad to form an alliance with Austria as well as England. And this may serve to explain that recent conduct of his which, in this country, has been regarded with suspicion. He cannot afford to lose the support of England; but England alone is not sufficient for his purpose.

GENERAL TODTLEBEN.

You may perhaps, says a correspondent, know the pretty story about Todtleben's wife and father-in-law. The latter a rich merchant of the name of Hanf, did not much like his daughter's marriage with the young cadet of engineers. During the siege of Sebastopol, however, thick and fast come the tidings which plotted the lieutenant, the captain, the colonel, and gave Hanf a general for his son-in-law. "Daughter, I love Todtleben for your sake," says the worthy merchant. Suddenly Hanf himself was created a baron by Nicholas, in consideration of the son-in-law's services. The new noble forthwith had an inscription attached to the front of his dwelling, from which he removed his business (it had till then been carried on there). The inscription ran thus—"House of the Baron Hanf." One day two officers called at Todtleben's, and asked "Was Madame at home?" entering before the maidservant knew what to reply. The wife happened to be coming down stairs at the moment. The officers bowed low, and one of them said, "Excuse our visit, it is to beg you tell your husband that I the Grand Duke Constantine, and my brother here, the Grand Duke Nicholas, could not leave the capital without offering our respects and congratulations to his wife." They then withdrew. When the father-in-law heard this, said he, "Daughter, I love you still better for the sake of Todtleben."

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HARBOUR GRACE, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19.

We give to day a brief summary of the proceedings of the Northern Circuit Court, and as its sittings are for the present at an end, we feel at liberty to make a few remarks upon one or two highly objectionable features in its constitution. We would not be understood as entertaining the slightest personal objection to the hon. gentleman who presided over this Court, on the contrary, we are of opinion that it would be difficult to find a more talented, urbane, and benevolent Judge, or one better calculated under different circumstances to give general satisfaction; but when we call to mind the fact that objections were raised and successfully pressed upon the home government against the principles of political judicial appointments; knowing also that a Chief Justice was removed owing to such objection, and by the exertions of that party to which the hon. the Acting Judge pertains;—we feel constrained to strenuously object to those principles being put into operation by the same party, now that they are in the ascendant—under any circumstances the practice would be objectionable; but when it is borne in mind that this Acting Judge was sent to administer Justice in the very District where he had been rejected as a candidate for Legislative honours, the gross impropriety of this act of the Executive

becomes glaringly apparent. There is also another little circumstance worth notice. Judge Emerson, when practising Barrister in the Northern Circuit, had many clients, and several important cases remain still undecided; we have heard of one or two instances in this place, which, notwithstanding the readiness of parties could not be tried,—the Judge very properly objecting to sit in judgment upon cases in which he had been himself engaged, and those cases must be tried in the Supreme Court to the additional expense and inconvenience of parties already kept too long litigant. We were informed that his Excellency the Governor, viewing this appointment in an objectionable light, recommended that Charles Simms, Esq., should be sent on this circuit;—assuming this report to be correct, we may observe that his Excellency deserves full credit for this honourable attempt to influence the Ministry for good, and his failure in this, as in other instances, can only be attributed to that fatal obstinacy by which men are generally actuated before a precipitate fall; be this as it may, the act in question remains a convincing proof of the incompetency, obstinacy, and recklessness with which measures bearing upon the rights and liberties of the people are planned, and pursued by those in whose hands the government of this Country is unfortunately placed.

Another ground of complaint, even to those who have been elevated by the change was, the alteration in the Grand Jury Panel in this place; however much certain parties in the Capital may be flattered by a sudden elevation to a seat in the Grand Inquest of the Country, in Conception-Bay, men are disposed to be guided by reason and correct principle, and so far from feeling pleased by their promotion, several of them complain most lugubriously of the awkwardness of their position when removed from one for which (to use their own words) God and human nature intended them, and placed where their pardonable incompetency must become glaringly apparent; far be it from us to undervalue or depreciate any man—but when those who are supposed to be the gainers by this POPULARITY CATCH, seriously complain of the changes to which it has given rise; we may be pardoned for hazarding an unprofessional opinion that Grand Jury men should, at least, be able to read correctly, and that even the additional accomplishment of writing would not be a superfluous qualification. Of course, these remarks are not intended to apply to any but those who are conscious of their inefficiency, and regret their sudden transformation.

We learn from the St. John's Prints, that our present, most efficient, and excellent Governor, is about to be succeeded by another; and whatever may be the qualifications of his successor, we cannot forbear expressing our regret that the man under whose auspices the first principles of Responsible Government were introduced here, should be removed before an opportunity is afforded him of testing, by personal observation, the full amount of evil which a foul perversion of these principles is calculated to engender, and of applying the necessary corrective when further experience would demonstrate the necessity for curbing the reckless career of Ministers nominally responsible, but actually independent—of men who presume to act in defiance of public opinion, and under the mask of liberalism to prostrate liberty in the dust.

We speak advisedly, and with all due respect, when we observe that an aged stranger cannot be so well qualified to represent the Sovereign in a Colony

circumstanced as Newfoundland unquestionably is at this time; none can entertain more respectful feeling for the venerable than ourself; but, when great difficulties are to be surmounted, and constitutional principles revised with such material as our representative system is composed of, common prudence would dictate the propriety of having at the head of the executive, a man not only experienced, but with every faculty ripe and unimpaired,—however, there is something consoling in the assurance that Sir Alexander Bannerman is an experienced politician, and a truly honourable man, and we trust that his influence in this foul field of action will be exercised for good.

We have been requested by several Planters and vessel owners again to refer to the subject of a Light House on Baccalieu; we beg to assure our friends and subscribers, that they need fear nothing on the score of our neglect in this or any other particular involving their interests.

We recommend first that Petitions be forwarded from the various electoral districts in the usual way; and, secondly, that public meetings be held in each and all of those districts for the purpose of calling upon their representatives to strenuously urge upon the Ministry the great necessity for the erection of this life-preserving beacon, and let those representatives be further directed, if necessary, to make a common stand, imperatively demanding as their right, and that of their constituencies, the necessary consent and means to carry out this most important and too long deferred object of general utility.

Having expressed our views at some length upon this subject a few weeks since, we do not deem it necessary to repeat arguments so recently urged, particularly as we have on hand a few numbers of the "Conception-Bay Man," which contain the remarks alluded to, and which may be obtained by application at this office.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT COURT.

The Honourable the Northern Circuit Court, closed its sittings in this town, on Friday evening last, and the honourable Acting Judge, George Henry Emerson, left in the steamer yesterday for St. John's. We are enabled to give the following as a correct epitome of the proceedings whilst on the Circuit:

CROWN SIDE.

At Greenspon, on the 11th Sept., Mary Kellaway pleaded guilty to the concealment of the birth of an illegitimate child, under very aggravated circumstances. Sentenced to three months imprisonment in Greenspon gaol.

At Harbour Grace, William Butt Pynn, Master Mariner, was convicted by a Jury with the felony of some rope, the property of Mr. Patrick Devereux, merchant of this town; and the presiding Judge, on consideration of his long imprisonment, and advanced years, on the 14th instant, revised his sentence, and gave him nine days imprisonment, from the day of his conviction, which, on that day liberated him from gaol.—Samuel Butler, for felony of numerous articles, from different persons, to large amounts pleaded guilty to three indictments, was on the 5th instant, sentenced to imprisonment for six calendar months. William Shippard, pleaded guilty for an assault upon Elizabeth Gosse, at Spaniard's Bay, was sentenced to pay a fine to Her Majesty of Two pounds, stg. The following were the members of the Grand Jury, at Harbour Grace: William Donnelly, Esq., Foreman, Nicholas Nicholle, Richard Power, Edward W. Quinton, Pierce Maher, Hugh W. Trapnell, John Richards,

Nathaniel Davis, Jr., William Innow, John Coady, Patrick Strapp, Thomas Higgins, Coleman McCarthy, John Ryan, James Callaghan, James L. Prendergast.

Upon subsequent application, Mr. Coleman McCarthy, of Carboner, was, on account of age, being over sixty, excused attendance.

Archibald Emerson, Esq., conducted the Crown prosecution, as far as Harbour Grace, when John Hayward, Esq., Acting Solicitor General, with his usual ability, succeeded him in that duty.

CIVIL SIDE.

4 Cases on the Docket at Twillingate.
5 at Fogo.
2 at Greenspon.
20 at Bonavista.
15 at Trinity.
2 at Old Perlicane.
20 at Harbour Grace.

77—Total cases for the Circuit.

A Jury case was tried at Greenspon, involving the Defendant, John Pope, in heavy costs for shooting one sheep, the property of John Spurrell, on Fool's Island. A case was also tried at Bonavista, between two neighbours and relatives, at Catalina, of George Russell vs. Francis Drake, in which the Defendant was cast on damages and subject to heavy costs; otherwise the business on the Circuit was trifling, compared with former years—exhibiting, at least, an improved state of society, and a more healthy state of morals, discouraging enough to lawyers, as they must well know. The Barristers accompanying the Circuit were, Henry Clift, W. G. Flood, and Archibald Emerson, Esqs., who took their departure for St. John's, on Saturday last.—Communicated.

(To the Editor of the Conception-Bay Man)

Mr. Editor,—I have witnessed the proceedings of the Northern Circuit Court, in this town, and whether it was in his charge to the Grand Jury, or his lecturing of prisoners, or in conducting the Civil business of the Court, his Lordship, Acting Judge Emerson, acquitted himself to my entire satisfaction, and I am of opinion, the public would be well satisfied with his confirmation in his office of Judge. Let every man have his just reward.

AN AUDITOR.

(To the Editor of the Conception-Bay Man)

Sir,—I think the personal disputes of the Editors of the St. John's newspapers are not in the smallest degree interesting to the people of the Outports. Their squabbles are very tiresome to read and wholly unedifying.

I think Dr. Mullock and Mr. Bennett have been made ridiculous by these foolish party scribblers. I think I see a little toad, ism—the besetting sin of Englishmen—peeping from under these rags of flattery. Is it the man or his pelf that these Editors worship? Did the broad cloth do all, and the fustian nothing at the fire?

I think no man is too good or too exalted to aid his neighbour in distress. Was the name of the good Samaritan paraded in the *Jericho Gazette*, or in the *Jerusalem Scribe*, and *Pharisee Record*? I trow not. No doubt, said gentlemen, like a thousand others, did their utmost to subdue the flames, and they have their best reward in feeling that they have done their duty;—party puffs can add nothing to their merit.

I think the *Express* and *Newfoundlander*, are unperceived by themselves, falling rapidly from their former respectable positions. The *Express* unfairly seized the opportunity of having a fling at the members of the Ministry because they were not at the conflagration. And straightway in reply, the *Newfoundlander* took up the old song on Free Trade, and sang to loathing. But for the latter paper. I had begun to think that Anti-Free Traders were extinct, dead, defunct. Can it be that the Editor of the *Newfoundlander* has become a monomaniac?

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Ridley & Sons,