

on which some who either were then, or are now members of government, did not vote against each other, and thus prevent them from becoming law. It was in this way that the much required law for assessment for railroad damages was lost, and numbers of people are now suffering injustice in consequence.

I will now enquire how they have carried out the principles they have professed, that office is to be the reward of political support, for I must here remind the hon. Attorney General that he was not always as non-committal as he has been in the presence of this house. When they required the aid of all the subordinate officers in the country, and it was necessary to drive them to the hustings, the hon Attorney General in that celebrated exposition of the principles of himself and his party, addressed to his constituents, wrote as follows :—

‘The Government were charged, too with the dismissal of the Postmaster at Windsor, but I do not hesitate to avow that the principle we then acted on we are determined to adhere to as the British rule, and that the subordinate officers of Government who oppose it must be content to resign or to lose their places.’

I need not say here how utterly opposed I am to principles so despotic when applied to any small subordinate offices in the Country,—and those principles have not only been professed but pushed so far as to deprive a man of his office of Sheriff because he was, by the Attorney General’s own confession, only suspected of holding opinions adverse of the Government Candidate. But, sir, it would appear that while the small and insignificant office holders of the Country are thus to be dealt with a very different course is to be taken with those who are in positions of influence. Almost every office of emolument or honor disposed of since the House rose has been conferred as the reward of opposition whilst the constant supporters of the Government have passed unnoticed. It is no secret that the present Judge Wilkins refused his support and differed with the Attorney General on several questions—for instance the Sheriff’s Bill and the Railway Land Damages Bill. He has since been translated to a Judgeship. The hon. member from Victoria was, it is well known, strongly disaffected towards the Government. He has received the appointment of Commissioner of St. Peter’s Canal,—and I do not at all question that Hon. Gentleman’s qualification for the office. It was matter of very general notoriety that the late Solicitor General, Mr. Henry, was rather restive in harness and indisposed to follow his Leader last winter, and I do not

blame him. He has since been promoted to £700 per annum.

The hon. member for Colchester, Mr. Archibald not only made one of the most damaging and effective speeches against the Government last winter, but occasionally withheld his support, and he has been honored with the office of Solicitor General. It will become necessary to test the sincerity of that hon. gentleman’s opinions directly by contrasting them with his conduct. My friend, the Hon. Mr. McKinnon who went boldly into the opposition and with very good ground, and voted against the Government on which they declared was a test vote has been rewarded by a seat in the Executive Council. I must not forget to notice also that the Hon Mr M’Heffy who then tried the action of the Government in the Upper House by his opposition has been made a Member of that Government. Descending from the Halls of the Legislature we find the same thing continued. The Government were attacked and most coarsely assailed by the *Eastern Chronicle* for the appointment of Mr. McKinnon, and I will here say that from the slight acquaintance I had with that gentleman I would be much more inclined to agree with the complimentary notice which appeared of him recently in the *Morning Chronicle*. The reward of this opposition was soon given by making the author of it, Mr McDonald, Register of Deeds for Pictou. This, sir, is the manner in which their principles have been illustrated.

I must now invite the attention of the House to the position of the Government on the question of education, which I regard as utterly unworthy and untenable. The hon. Attorney General promised the bill at a public meeting when the Normal School was opened at Troro, and as he has since boasted had the astounding moral courage to frame it and lay it on the table of this House. Subsequently having obtained the opinions of gentleman in high positions on the bill in that state, and quoted them in its support here, he brought forward and added to it several clauses, all altering fundamentally the character of the bill, declaring they were contemplated from the first and finally abandoned it altogether, as he now says because the opposition were prepared to defeat it. Now, sir, I do not say that it is necessary for a Government to deal with the question of education at all or that assessment is the proper mode, but they said so. They declared that it was a question of vital moment, and undertook to carry it; they failed and abandoned the measure, and when I heard the reference to it in His Excellency’s closing speech I was reminded forcibly of the observation of the celebra-