

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1890.

TO THE YOUNG MEN.

Young men, of Victoria, a very serious responsibility rests upon you in the present political crisis. It has ever been the boast of the youth of Canada that they stood firmly for the Constitution which their fathers maintained through long years of strife. The British Constitution is no new thing. It is not an invention of recent days. It is not derived from the bounty of any sovereign. It was not decreed by any legislature. It has been the birthright of the British people so long, that to use the words of the old law writers, "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary thereof." When Alfred the Great compiled the laws of England, he only proclaimed ancient rights which then were hoary with antiquity. When Edward the Confessor promulgated them afresh he added nothing to them, for nothing could be added. The Barons at Runnymede, when they forced King John to sign the Great Charter, only demanded the recognition of the ancient rights of the people. When, in the reign of Charles I., parliament passed the famous Petition of Right, it only declared the rights of free-born Englishmen. The long struggle between George III. and parliament as to ministerial responsibility was only an assertion by the House of Commons of rights which had ever been theirs. Do not misunderstand this point. There have been many changes in the method of carrying on free government in this country. Read Tennyson's poem, a part of which is reproduced elsewhere on this page. This tells you the nature of the British Constitution, and how it has grown to be the glorious thing it is—the greatest guarantee of human liberty that the world has ever known. Read those majestic lines, and when you vote to-morrow, vote as becomes the heirs of that freedom which

"Has broadened slowly down
From precedent to precedent."

What is the key-stone of the British Constitution?

It is ministerial responsibility.

And why is ministerial responsibility the key-stone of the edifice?

Because ministerial responsibility means the government of the people. Strike this down and we have left a despotism. If the lieutenant-governor of a province can dismiss a ministry, and no one be compelled to assume before parliament and the people the responsibility of his act, ministerial responsibility is at an end.

Do we make this point plain to you?

It is the great issue of the hour. The question is not whether or not the reasons assigned by the Lieutenant-Governor for his action in the correspondence already published were sufficient. The Colonist has already discussed this point and has shown that, even conceding that everything stated by the Lieutenant-Governor in his letters was absolutely accurate, he failed to make out a case which, under the Constitution, justified his course. But we are not now concerned with the sufficiency of these reasons. We are not now asking you to decide between what is alleged on the one side and denied on the other in regard to the advice given to the Lieutenant-Governor by his late ministers. The question to which we invite your attention is one upon which there can be no absolutely no dispute, either as to fact or as to the principles laid down by the Constitution.

It is a fact that the Turner ministry was dismissed.

It is a fact that the reasons of that dismissal have never been stated to the legislature.

It is a fact that the ministry, which has succeeded that of Mr. Turner, has not publicly accepted the responsibility for the dismissal and attempted to justify it.

It is a fact that the legislature has been in session four weeks, and it has not yet been informed of the grounds of the dismissal, and has never been given an opportunity to express its views on the sufficiency of those grounds.

These propositions cannot be disputed. If they or any one of them can be, will some one mention which of them is incorrectly stated above?

These are the only facts to which we at present invite the attention of the young men of Victoria, for the constitutional question with which they are most deeply concerned is that involved in the dangerous precedent, that a lieutenant-governor may arbitrarily dismiss his advisers and no one be held accountable to the people for his acts.

Remember that the voters have no means of getting at a lieutenant-governor directly. He may be called to account by the federal authorities, but this means that a partisan majority of the representatives of other provinces may pass upon questions directly concerning this province alone, which would at once strike at the foundation of provincial rights.

Did you ever hear of "Downing Street dictation?"

Probably not many of you did, for your fathers struggled until they freed Canada from this incubus.

What was Downing Street dictation?

It was the control of the provincial governments from the office of the colonies in Downing Street, London. It led to all manner of abuses and brought Canada to the verge of rebellion. It almost lost Great Britain this great Dominion.

When you are told that the place to settle constitutional questions is at Ottawa, you are told to do what no true British ever did—that is, surrender to others the duty of standing up for his rights.

By the principles of the British Constitution, although the Lieutenant-Governor

dismissed the Turner ministry, the Semlin ministry is responsible for the act, "as fully as if they had been present, and advised it to be done," to quote from the words of Sir Robert Peel under similar circumstances.

If they were not prepared to accept the responsibility of the dismissal, they should have declined to take office, and thus compelled the Lieutenant-Governor to find advisers who would accept the responsibility of his act. If he could find no one to do so, he would have been obliged to recall Mr. Turner.

If you have followed the argument thus far, you will understand what ministerial responsibility means. To recapitulate: The Lieutenant-Governor is not directly responsible to the people, but by compelling him to find a ministry who will assume the responsibility for the dismissal of the late ministry, or else to recall Mr. Turner, we throw the responsibility for the dismissal upon the shoulders of men who are directly responsible to the people. This statement of constitutional law is borne out by every precedent in the annals of the British parliament, and by all colonial precedents in the responsible government was established in the colonies.

A vote, therefore, for the opposition candidates is a vote to compel the government to assume the constitutional responsibilities of its position which it is now shirking, for it has shirked that responsibility by not avowing it when the legislature was called together and stating and defending the ground of the dismissal.

Let us now suppose what might happen, if the principle above laid down is abandoned and the Lieutenant-Governor is permitted to dismiss a ministry whenever he chooses, without the successors of the dismissed ministers being compelled to accept the responsibility and defend it. Let us suppose that a very important federal question is pending, and it is necessary for partisan purposes for the government at Ottawa to secure control of the patronage of one of the provinces. The Lieutenant-Governor could be called upon to dismiss his ministers and appoint others who would use the patronage as directed from Ottawa, and if he would refuse to do so, he might be dismissed and a more partisan officer appointed in his place. These ministers, appointed to Ottawa, after they had fulfilled their mission, could resign and all the Lieutenant-Governor would have to do would be to call upon some one else to form a ministry, and the new comers would be under no obligation to accept the responsibility for the outrage. During the interval every law and every safeguard of the provincial constitution might be disregarded, patronage might be misappropriated, wrong might be done and as long as the Ottawa cabinet stood by the Lieutenant-Governor, the people of the province would have no remedy. Would our whole system of government go to pieces in a moment if this sort of thing were done? And yet it is perfectly true that if the precedent which the Semlin government is endeavoring to set up is allowed to prevail, all that is necessary is to have a government in power at Ottawa sufficiently unscrupulous to bring about just such a state of things.

Do you say that such things are not possible in a British country? Granted; they are not possible in a British country; but where the British Constitution is no longer regarded, the country ceases to be British.

Young men of Victoria, the struggle to-morrow is not for the supremacy of Mr. Turner and his friends, nor for the overthrow of Mr. Semlin and his associates; but for the maintenance of British institutions.

THE ARGUMENTUM AD HOMINEM

Government supporters appeal to the voters of Victoria to support the government candidates on the ground that Victoria ought to stand in with the government of the day. This is not a very clever argument, but it must be remembered that the government party is not giving us high-class politics. It may be well, therefore, to meet these gentlemen upon their own ground, for if this argument can be shown to have no real foundation, the whole force will be taken out of the claim for the election of Messrs. Gregory, Paterson and Stewart.

Is the position of the government so secure that Victorians should put their respect for constitutional law in the dust and vote for men who stand for its degradation? Let us see. The house consists of 38 members. With the Speaker in the chair, there are 37 members on the floor, under normal conditions. It so happens that just now five seats are vacant. Of these four were filled by opposition members and one by a government member. This divides the parties on the floor of the house to-day as follows: Government, 20; opposition, 12. The opposition has a first rate chance of carrying all five seats now vacant. If they do, the vote will stand: Government, 20; opposition, 17. There are almost certain to be three elections next summer—one in East Lillooet, one in North Yale, and one in another government-constituency, which it is not expected to mention to-day, because the grounds upon which the vacancy is likely to be created must for the present be kept secret. It is conceded on all hands that North Yale will go opposition. They will bring the government majority down to one, with the Speaker in the chair. If either East Lillooet or the other constituency above referred to should go opposition, that party would be in a majority, and it would thereupon become the duty of the government to resign. If they do not resign, their defeat when the next session opens would be a foregone conclusion.

This is, of course, to take the most favorable view of the chances of the opposition; but this is the correct view

to take when answering such an appeal as that referred to in the opening sentence of this article. Victoria, North East Kootenay and Nelson are being appealed to on the score that they should elect government supporters, because the government will stand. The absolutely conclusive answer to this is that if they elect opposition supporters, the government will be defeated.

UNWARRANTED BY FACTS.

The Montreal Gazette says: "Fighting Joe Martin" seems to have taken with him to British Columbia the violent language and bad manners which made him conspicuous and unpopular at Ottawa. He is evidently too wild and woolly for the Pacific Coast, and had better try further north. Dawson City would probably furnish a standard of manners not too far above the level."

The above is altogether unwarranted by the facts, and residents of Dawson City will resent the imputation that they are lacking in manners. Law and order and the amenities of civilization are observed and practised at Dawson equally with other cities of the Coast. The Gazette should retract the aspersion, and if it is in earnest about securing a congenial habitat for its friend should consult Hansen's map of his journey towards the North Pole.

Mr. Ralph Smith and Mr. Gregory have been in haste to write themselves to own as a couple of Mr. Joseph Martin's "fool hard heads." The Colonist is a perfectly legitimate reference to Mr. Smith's political attitude towards the liquor traffic and two vicious elements in the community. If any public man seeks to play fast and loose with the public on this or any other matter, it is perfectly proper to expose his duplicity. These "fool friends" of the Attorney-General, instead of permitting the reference of Mr. Martin to be taken for what was intended, rush before the public and attack the Colonist for assailing Mr. Martin's private character. The Colonist knows nothing about Mr. Martin's private character and does not want to know anything about it, but it is more amazed than it can express that Mr. Martin's friends have jumped to the conclusion that when a reference is made to a man's political relation to certain matters, the intention must be to direct attention to his personal indulgence in such matters. We recently had a majority campaign, when very forcible attacks were made upon Mayor Redfern for his alleged attitude towards the very things referred to in connection with Mr. Martin's political conduct. Did any one insinuate that this was an attack upon Mr. Redfern's private character? Not at all. What then was the difference in Mr. Martin's case? The answer is that Mr. Martin is surrounded by a lot of "fool friends," whose minds are cast in so base a mold that if there is a nasty side of any proposition they seize upon it with avidity. Mr. Martin himself knows perfectly well that the reference was to his political character only, and he must have every poor opinion of the men who have been so prone to put any other interpretation upon the observations of the Colonist.

The Times devotes a large amount of space to an agreement made between the promoters of the Victoria & Sidney Railway Company and Messrs. J. H. Turner and R. A. L. Kirk. Messrs. Turner and Kirk were to transact certain business for the promoters and were to be paid a commission for it. There may be something dreadfully immoral in this. It is quite possible that it is a grossly immoral thing for Mr. Turner to have any business of any kind. The Times appears to think so. Stripped of all verbiage the dreadful charge amounts to this, that when the promoters of Victoria & Sidney railway, who were not known on the London money market, wanted to raise money for the undertaking and they employed people who were known on the market to act for them, they might have employed agents in Montreal, New York or London. Like good loyal Victorians, they preferred to employ Victoria people. The guaranteed bonds of the railway would not have been put on the market by any one without the sanction of the promoters, and yet ever offered bonds to the public without being paid for his trouble. It requires a distorted vision of the Times to see anything wrong in the matter.

CONDUCTOR WILLIAM G. LUCAS, of the N. & W.R., and living at Gastown, B.C., suffered for years with acute valvular form of heart disease—commonly known as "drop" or "congestion of the heart." He was discharged from the hospital, and he spent a small fortune in remedies and treatment, but without success. He was then advised to try Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, and he found it gave him relief and strength, and says, "I tell all heart sufferers that I can highly recommend this great remedy."

DR. AGNEW'S OINTMENT cures eczema, scald, rheum, tetter, scald head and all itching skin diseases: 40 doses, 20 cents.

DR. AGNEW'S CATARRHAL POWDER relieves cold in the head or hay fever in ten minutes—will cure most stubborn and long standing catarrh cases quickly and permanently.

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The Times quotes Finance Minister Cotton as authority, for the proposition that the interview with Provincial Secretary Hume, published in yesterday's Colonist was inaccurate. Mr. Cotton has no more information on this subject than any newsboy who sells the Times. The interview was furnished to the Colonist by a member of Mr. Hume under the circumstances mentioned, and to whom Mr. Hume made the statements attributed to him. Mr. Cotton also is represented as casting doubts upon the good faith of a telegram to the Colonist from Nelson. Mr. Cotton is a newsboy, and he has the habit of making a specialty of Japs and Dryers for less money, by using Carter's Little Liver Pills, than by any other means.

The policy of the present government is to centralize power of every kind in its hands. Take for example the clause in the Placer Mines act relating to corporations. The government by that act takes to itself the power to crush out of existence at any moment any corporation engaged in placer mining. Such power never was taken by any government in any other British country. It is ten fold worse than any thing done by the Boers of the Transvaal against the Uitlanders. Jameson's raid was for a far smaller outrage than this. Just fancy it. If men come into this province and form a company to engage in hydraulic mining, and vest millions of money and employ hun-

dreds of men, the government, without assigning any reason, and without having in point any reason, but simply as a mere whim, may wipe such a company out of existence by a single stroke of a pen. There never was anything quite as bad as this attempted in any other country. If a South American republic should propose to use British capitalists as the Semlin government propose to use them, the British authorities would send down a squadron to compel the repeal of the obnoxious legislation.

One of the best features of the policy of the late government was the inauguration of a policy of co-operation between the provincial and federal governments, looking to the development of British Columbia. It was a strong policy and one likely to be crowned with success. There was no politics in this. The intention was not to co-operate specially with the Laurier government, but to arrive at some understanding with that government, which would be regarded as binding upon any future government as to the share each should take in the great development works so much needed by the province.

Very satisfactory progress was being made along these lines. It was being demonstrated how it was equally to the advantage of the Dominion and the Province that out great resources should be opened up. It was being made clear that, if each government did its share, the progress of the province would be rapid.

All this good work is to be brought to naught, and instead the voters of Victoria are asked to elect three men to help Joseph Martin fight a battle with the Dominion. The people of this city will be true to their own interests and those of the province and give to this appeal an indignant denial.

More cases of sick headache, biliousness, constipation, can be cured in less time, with less medicine, and for less money, by using Carter's Little Liver Pills, than by any other means.

What a boon to many a man or woman! This was literally so—How many spirits are broken because this remedy is so effective by disease—and yet how many times has Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart brushed against the grim reaper and robbed him of his victim.

Diseases of the heart are by far the most treacherous of ailments which afflict humanity—ruthless to old and young alike—not insidious but violent, for when the heart fails the whole system suffers violence. Discussing causes here will not console the suffering one. The one great remedy of the heart-sickened patient is how to get relief and a cure. Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart stands prominently to-day as the star of hope to sufferers from that dreaded and so far past the experimental period that the belief that were it not for this great remedy they would have long ago passed into the great beyond.

Most eminent doctors, whose heart cases have baffled, have tested Dr. Agnew's claims, and to-day they prescribe it in their practice as the quickest and safest heart remedy known to medical science. What are the symptoms? Palpitation, fluttering, shortness of breath, weak and irregular pulse, swelling of feet and ankles, pain in the left side, chilly sensations, fainting spells, uneasiness in sleeping, dropping tendency and as many more indications that the heart is deranged. Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart is a heart specific; and no case too acute to find relief from it inside of thirty minutes—a powerful cure.

Mrs. J. M. FITZPATRICK, of Gananogue, Ont., after having been treated by eminent physicians for heart disease of five years' standing, was discharged from the hospital, and she suffered from acute pain and palpitation, her feet and ankles swollen, and there was every tendency to the development of dropsy. She was cured by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, and she declares, as a last hope, that she had never recovered from a very acute heart disease in less than thirty minutes, and these bottles cured her—was a symptom of the trouble remaining.

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MINERAL OIL, 1890.

Certificate of Improvements.

NOTICE—Iron Duke, Count of Monte Cristo, Conductor of the Victoria & Sidney Railway, in the West Coast, Vancouver Island, B.C., located in the West Coast, Vancouver District, where the Victoria & Sidney Railway, from the Victoria Creek basin, Tofofo Inlet.

From the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further, that the said improvements, under section 37, must be commenced before the expiration of this Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 22nd day of December, 1889. A. S. GOING.

THOS. TUGWELL, Jr.

Carelessness in girlhood causes the greatest suffering and unhappiness in after life. Little irregularities and weaknesses in treatment given once Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription promotes regularity of all feminine functions, makes strength and builds up a sturdy health with which to meet the trials to come. The Favorite Prescription is not a universal panacea, solely, but one set of organs.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Advice, a book of 310 pages, containing the most fully illustrated, will be sent free on receipt of 21 cent stamps to cover post and packing. Address: World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

DIED.

KEEFE—At the family residence, 182 Port street, on the 23rd inst., Capt. M. L. Keefe, of the 8th Battalion, 48 years.

GIBBONS—At the family residence, 90 Quebec street, on Monday, January 30, 1890, at 40 years, John Gibbons, second daughter of Charles H. and Agnes S. Gibbons; aged 3 years and 8 months.

MARRIED.

CAMPBELL-WOOTTON—At Collingwood, Ont., on the 25th inst., 1889, by the Rev. T. E. Bartley, Major R. G. Campbell, of the 35th Battalion, Simcoe Foresters, to Miss Jackson, of Victoria, B.C.

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