THE COURIER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1849.

THE CONVENTION.

We published yesterday the two series of Resolutions moved by Mr. GAMBLE and Mr. GOWAN, respectively, in the Convention, together with a summary of the debate as we found it in the *Toronto Patriot*. By some mistake, our Toronto correspondent's letter has not reached us, and this *embargo* has obliged us to borrow from our contemporary, the *Herald*, the report of Mr. GOWAN's speech on moving the first of his own series of Resolutions, as amendments to those of Mr. GAMBLE. This speech is by far the most important yet made in the Convention, and we think it will convince every unprejudiced person that the statements in the Annexation Manifesto, with respect to the depressed condition of the Province, are not exaggerated.

There is nothing in the other speeches that renders it necessary for us to print them at full length, but the admissions made by some of the speakers are so very significant, that we cannot refrain from a running comment, particularly as they fully bear out our opinion as expressed by us yesterday, that those members of the League, "who are not absolutely bound down by prejudices, too deeply rooted to be removed, will be compelled to join those, at last, who have resolved that nothing short of a radical change in our political system and connexion will prevent us from social, commercial, and political, destruction."

In the first Resolution, proposed by Mr. GAMBLE, there was a clause which affirmed that the Annexation agitation is "engendering disunion, discontent, and fierce political animosities." This clause excited a good deal of discussion; several of the delegates strongly objected to it.

Mr. CRAWFORD denied that the discussion of the Annexation question was exciting any ill will in the Province; the Montreal Address was a most temperate one, and most moderately discussed. He had been lately travelling through the country, and found no irritation prevailing from this cause. The irritation was between the old Radicals and old Tories, not between the Annexationists and their opponents. Every one thought, and knew, that at some time or other Annexation must come, and, therefore, the sooner men's minds were prepared for for it the better. This is the purpose.

Mr. MACDONALD, of Gananoque, declared that he quite agreed with Mr. CRAWFORD, and really believed that the sentiments expressed in the Annexation Address were the only ones that the country would be likely to agree upon, in the end.

In a subsequent speech Mr. CRAWFORD made some observations which are so exactly in accordance with our own opinion that we must notice them. He said that when the League was first formed it was feared that it should embrace both political parties; but it had not, and would not, if those irritating topics were continually alluded to; he wished that the Reformers would join them, for where he complained of bad Government he did not allude to the men now in power, for he thought their predecessors as bad as they, and if he believed the object of the League was only to restore those men to office, he would leave it at once. This strikes at the root of the matter. We do not oppose the present Ministry because they are Reformers, but because they are Reformers resolutely upholding a bad system. We shall, as a general principle, oppose any and all Ministries that accept office in Canada, and work our present political system as it has been worked since the Union. We shall unhesitatingly uphold the particular measure of any Ministry, provided it is a good one in the abstract, and as unhesitatingly find fault with the bad measures. But we shall pin our faith to the skirts of neither party, believing them both to be radically bad, not so much in themselves, as men, but as Ministers working a bad system. A Liberal Ministry happens to be in office just now; they may do good things, and they may do bad ones, but because they are Liberals, is that any reason why a portion, which is avowedly the advocate of sweeping change in the whole system of Government, is to refrain from rebuking them, and pointing out the evil tendency of their measures? If, for instance, we conceived that the issue of Government Debentures was injurious and unwise, ought we, as journalists, independent of either party, to be deterred from pointing out the evil consequences of the issue, because it is the measure of Mr. HINCKS, and not of Mr. CAYLEY? Mr. CRAWFORD, who is a thoroughgoing Annexationist, is wise enough to see that both the present political parties must be placed on the same level as regards the new Annexationist party, and that no men of the old parties who join in the new movement must be overwhelmed at attacks by the Annexationist Press on their old friends. Our object is to expose grievances; how is that to be done unless we attach the authors and perpetuators of those grievances, and we maintain that, in the perpetuance of many of the most crying evils under which the country groans, the tory ones are as guilty as the *outs*.

Another delegate, Mr. HAMILTON, thought that it would not promote good to censure all persons indiscriminately, who were in favor of Annexation, whether near or remote.

Mr. DIXON desired the question to be discussed boldly and freely;—not to be buried.

Mr. FERRIER said that Canada was hampered by a Colonial tie, and how it was treated by Great Britain to which it was tied, might be gathered from the manner in which the petitions on the Rebellion Bill were neglected in Downing Street. Rather than submit to the present management system, he professed himself ready to seek a strong remedy—a change that would give Canada a national existence. (Loud cheers.) Instead of the present form of Government, which began and ended in the raving for place! place!! place!!!

During a subsequent part of the debate, Mr. MURNEY, a violent Anti-Annexationist, and a violent Tory in all things—the man who boasted that he had trodden and yet drove the deputation on Annexation at the Kingston Convention, contrary to the wishes of the Reformers, and in a grave and rebukeful tone, cried out that the cry should be, that we will stand by our country whatever may befall, and that it was clear that the Annexation feeling, started in Montreal, (remonstrance,) had been carried forward in Montreal, (hear, hear,) and had met with some friendly encouraging force. The Annexationists are certainly deeply indebted to Mr. MURNEY for their first admission.

Mr. WILSON asserted his loyalty to his Sovereign, but thought his first loyalty was to his country and family; and he knew that, unless large concessions were made, the people would demand Annexation. He had no idea of the extent of the feeling in Upper Canada, till he found that a very fair means had been tried to ascertain it; the question had been asked of the farmers, as they came to do business in one of the largest stores in the city, and out of forty, thirty-three had declared themselves for Annexation.

Mr. DUNCAN said that Annexation was now the prominent question, and from the whole tenor of his speech, implied that nothing was to be expected from England.

Such is the gist of the debate, so far as it bore on the Annexationist question, and is there any man hardy enough to declare that a great change has not come over the public mind since the Kingston Convention?

We subjoin Mr. GOWAN's speech:—

Mr. GOWAN, after expressing his regret at being forced by this determination to move an amendment to the whole of Mr. Gamble's Resolutions, moved the first of the set of Resolutions of which he had given notice on Thursday morning. He declared that he was born, and hoped to die, a Briton; but it must not be concealed that Annexation was making rapid progress. It had become a question of private feelings and peace; and it was England, not her faithful children, who had put the question on this head; we are following her example—we who should say we had acted in an unbrotherly—unpatriotic manner! Annexation was a hard word to pronounce; and with him, though the love of Britain might be thought a prejudice, it had become a principle. He, therefore, proposed, if this first Resolution were carried, that some gentlemen should be named to go home to England and lay one last appeal at the feet of the Throne before Annexation were allowed before the people of the Colony as the only remedy. He would go to Lord Grey and certainly would not threaten; but he would point to the road once travelled before. We would remind him of Franklin, and would tell him to come to Canada; not to take his opinions from Lord Elgin; but to visit the country himself, and, with his own eyes, judge of our present state. Suppose Lord Grey landed at Halifax, what would be the first views His Lordship would see?—The Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, St. Johns, Newfoundland, would be on all sides of him. They produce coal, fish, and timber, and His Lordship would be told he had allowed American vessels to come into their ports, and trade there as readily as their own vessels—the former trading from port to port, round Cape Horn to California, while the latter are unable to go except with full cargoes, and to one single port of discharge. His Lordship would understand the exclamation lately made by Mr. Robertson at Quebec: "Would to God my thirty-three ships were American instead of British bottoms." He would understand why it was that Mr. Robertson was building ships now in American ports. Let Lord Grey then come to the city, represented by the first statesman—Annexationist, if he chose—Mr. Wilson. (Mr. Wilson said he was not a strong anti-Annexationist.) Well he (Mr. G.) was a strong anti-Annexationist himself. But if Lord Grey had landed at Quebec a few days ago, he would have seen the Annexation demonstrations which were taking place there. And here he (Mr. Gowan) would say that Quebec had more than any other city to gain by Annexation.—Cheap materials and labor combined her now to build ships for the British market, what would she do after Annexation had given her the command of the American market, in addition to the one she now enjoyed? Advancing to the Eastern Townships, Lord Grey would find land, on one side of a crooked fence, selling for 10*l.*, 14*l.*, or 18*l.* an acre, while the proprietor on this side of the same fence, could obtain only 4*l.* or 5*l.*, after long advertisement. Yet there was no more economy nor industry on the one side than the other. If he came thence into Montreal, His Lordship would see what had been called the Elgin Marbles—a monument of an act which he might compare to the misfortune of a friend whom he once saw dying, after what was called an honorable duel. He might mourn departed worth, but could not forget in his grief the insult which his friend had died to revenge. Going through the streets of the late Capital of British North America, His Lordship would see on every other house,—"House to Let,"—"Sheriff's Sale,"—"Bankrupt Sale,"—and if he imagined this state of things was only true of Lower Canada, and if he proceeded to Upper Canada, His Lordship would soon be seated in the cars of the only Railway yet made to connect the two sections of the Province. There, too, he would learn that men had been glad to sell their stock in the undertaking at 40 per cent. discount, and could not now sell it at 80 per cent. If he went on board the steamer to ascend the St. Lawrence, the first place of delight was Prescott, and its ruins walls good on a place which, twenty years ago, was flourishing and prosperous. But let His Lordship cross to Ogdensburgh, and he would see a contrast, with which every gentleman present must be too well acquainted. Crossing again to Brockville, he would remark an excellent Court House, fine buildings, plank walks, and a macadamized road; but he would be asked how all this, where even the farmers wagons, the steamboats, or batteaux, bringing goods and taking them away, He would be pointed to a ship-yard, which, few years ago, gave employment to hundreds. You have driven, he would be told, the proprietor of that establishment to be an Annexationist by your present policy—you have driven his workmen to the adjoining States! On that, the Johnstown frontier, large numbers of persons were engaged in the honorable occupation of smuggling, and His Lordship would be asked, if these men must not pant, and with reason, for a state of political existence, where they could honestly get their tea and their sugar as cheaply as they now did by smuggling? Mr. Gowan then went over the state of things at Gananoque and Kingston, in a similar strain to the above. But for the military establishments at Kingston, he said—now, as he heard, about to be removed to Toronto—Kingston would be no better off than Prescott. If His Lordship went into a Township there, he would be told that American goods came into Kingston for 7½ per cent. while Canadian goods could not go to the other side paying 20 per cent.—Cobourg and Port Hope were truly beautiful places, but let His Lordship enter there, and he would there find the farmers pouring in with produce, and would learn that if they could deposit their wheat on the other side, they would get 6*s.* per bushel; while depositing it on this side they get but 3*s.* 6*d.* If a farmer had a surplus of 200 bushels, that was a tax of 15*l.* per annum, which he paid for the connection. The *Globe* had asked if the farmers were to sell their allegiance for a few cents on a bushel of wheat? He might ask, if those who had nearly swung in 1837 for their heads at that day, were going to sell their principles, for which they then risked their lives, merely to decide those friends of theirs in office? (Loud cheers.) Now coming to Toronto, Lord Grey would find the *Globe*—who told us of what we were going to lose—to throw away by Annexation. First, he mentioned "the Emigrants from Europe"—the best argument which could be used, if the arrivals at Quebec were compared with those from New York. Our own fellow-subjects only came here to conserve there. Then comes "our increasing revenue!"—he might to have said our decreasing revenue, and increasing taxation. Next, the *Globe* spoke of our "excellent farms," and "fine cities." Toronto was a fine city, and he (Mr. G.) was free from any feeling towards it, was for the union promotory policy,—But look at the farms on Yonge Street, and on the fine city. It was the Protective policy which built them up. He referred not to the past, he referred to the present. Next, our "cheap Government." It is said to be cheaper than those of the United States, and, of the men who considered it, it was not enough to say that they were good—that they were comparatively excellent, the *Globe* never qualified this comparative excellence, the *Globe* never yet heard of any public man in the United States walking into Congress and giving himself a post with 1200*l.* per year. (Loud cheers and laughter.) If the Editor loves British connexion, he must be easily satisfied. The Ministry had promised to remove it. Lord Elgin, however, had suggested his remedy, and had recommended a change of the seat of Government for the future. But how did His Lordship and his Ministers proceed to secure this children? They took a leaf from his (Mr. G.'s) diaries, and tempted him on the Provincial Revenue for no other service than for deserting his country and joining rebels (Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Given.) Then "our sense of loyalty" was spoken of the Ministry which he thought showed anything but a willingness to forget, and then, referring to Lord Grey's supposed visit, continued to say that if His Lordship came to Toronto, where the Seat of Government was, perhaps for the present, mined the village—he would be pointed to capital improvements made by the proprietors. (Mr. Gowan here read a list of works which they brought back Stock under other policy, and the element of which that Stock was now derived.) And the Government would tell a similar tale in his own way. Yet, according to the *Globe*, the present policy of Great Britain and the Provincial Government was the result of years of agitation in behalf of the Province. Every person, said, was paying a tax—every house, building, or lot was taxed—every person was obliged to pay a pilot, and every person was compelled to pay tonnage dues. (Cheers.) Canada, said, for others, was not best. Colonists and Californians. The Editor of this paper and of the *Pilot* resembled him of two legions, the unknown, prosperity Rebellion, who might be treated as he recommended Hamilton, (Laughter.) His Lordship, he (Mr. G.) did not know how it was that Mr. Hincks, (Mr. G.) did not know how it was that Mr. Hincks, with more reading than he, was left for 6*l.* The *Globe* would reply that the population on the other side was greater, but the true cause of prosperity was greater freedom; but the true cause of poverty was greater freedom, on the other side, every person was able to take three papers, while here they could scarcely take one paper. He would be found that carriages could be bought from Boston and sold here cheaper than they could be from other places and sold here cheaper than they could be from other places and sold here cheaper than they could be from other places