

GLIMPSSES AT THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, IN 1846.

[From the Head Quarters.]

On the right of Mr. Raulin, sits George S. Hill, Esquire, one of the members for the County of Charlotte, and one of the most persevering and uncompromising advocates of Responsible Government on the floor of the Assembly.

Mr. Hill, although generally found acting with the party in the Assembly denominated Liberals, seems very seldom satisfied with the extent to which any measure is proposed to be carried, when it involves any principle calculated to forward the development of his favorite theories, and he seldom hesitates to give vent to his opinions without ceremony or circumlocution. It appears to us that, if there be any member of the present House entitled to the appellation of an open and avowed Radical Reformer of the present system of Colonial Government, it is Mr. Hill. His measures of Reform are not, however, confined to attacks on the Government, or on the officers acting under it; for, although a sworn enemy to high salaries, and a steadfast opposer of what he no doubt believes to be undue power vested in the Executive Government, he has also the hardihood to attack the House itself for extravagance, and a stranger to listen to this gentleman's philippics on the state of the Province, would be apt to suppose the Executive Government in this country, created for the purpose of absorbing all the power and the largest portion of the money belonging to the people, while their representatives employed themselves in getting the largest practicable share of what remained of either.

Newspapers in the many fearful forebodings, and in many cases the very wholesome advice which Mr. Hill from time to time feels it his duty to give to his hearers, in the Legislature, we never could perceive that the former were fulfilled to anything like the extent which the enemy of extravagance predicted, nor that the latter had any visible effect in teaching the majority of the House greater wisdom in dealing with public questions. The fact is, Mr. Hill is difficult to please. When the Liberals bring forward a measure, having for its object the adoption of a portion of his favorite measures, it is more than an equal chance that the member for Charlotte will object that it does not go far enough, and it is quite likely he will introduce an amendment containing innovations on the Tory tactics, so bold and sweeping that they sometimes appear to stagger the advocates for the gradual introduction of changes which appear necessary to be made, to suit the altered condition of the Colony and the increasing intelligence of the masses of the people. It is worthy of remark, however, that although Mr. Hill is sure always to ask for more than will be granted, he seldom fails to give his voice for the largest modicum of liberality which can be squeezed from his inexorable friends the Tories. He will, "on compulsion," take the half loaf rather than no bread, taking good care at the same time to let the House know that he is by no means satisfied with the partial adoption of a principle which he contends ought to regulate all the machinery of Government. We would not be understood to mean by these remarks that Mr. Hill ever advocates any principle which is not perfectly in accordance with the British Constitution, and compatible with our situation as British Colonists under certain circumstances. The greatest objection which can be urged against Mr. Hill's reasoning is, that it appears predicated on a state of society which is rarely found in any country—a state of society where the people have all the intelligence, all the experience, all the moderation, and all the discrimination and public virtue which would fit them for the exercise of the utmost limit of power which can constitutionally be withdrawn from the different branches of Government. The doctrine of expediency, the state of society, or even the known wishes of the people, do not seem to have much weight in this gentleman's mind, which put against the correctness or incorrectness of the principle upon which the measure is based, with reference to his favorite doctrine of complete accountability to the people. Mr. Hill's views of Responsible Government are beautiful in theory, and supported by powerful reasons; but it must be confessed that the sudden introduction of all his views would be attended with some inconvenience and followed, perhaps, by some danger; their successful operation requiring an amount of political knowledge among the masses of the people which cannot be suddenly diffused in an extensive and thinly populated country. The most remarkable feature in the Parliamentary character of Mr. Hill, is his perseverance. When he rises to address the House, no interruption, no carelessness or listlessness on the part of his auditors, appears to have the slightest effect on him; he begins at the foundation by examining the principle upon which a measure is based, and continues to argue until he has exhausted all the reasons which had operated on his own mind in arriving at the conclusion, which he wishes to impress on the House. If symptoms of impatience are unequivocally expressed,

they are allowed to pass unheeded by him, and he pursues the thread of his argument apparently unconscious, or perhaps regardless of what may be passing around him. Mr. Hill is a very close reasoner, but speaks in a tone of voice so low as often to be quite inaudible in the gallery; he is a staunch advocate for the improvement of the educational system pursued in the Province, and gave his hearty support to the Bill introduced last session by his colleague, Mr. Brown, for that purpose. In person Mr. Hill is under rather than above the middle height, has a high open forehead, and a countenance expressive of mildness and benevolence. In religious belief, we understand Mr. Hill adheres to the Wesleyan Methodists.

The place on the right of Mr. Hill is occupied by James Boyd, Esquire, another of the members for the County of Charlotte, and an advocate for Responsible Government to a certain extent. Mr. Boyd's views are expressed in the Assembly, are by no means ultra, for, although in common with the Liberals, with whom he generally acts, he is a warm advocate for the responsibility of the Executive Advisers of the Queen's Representative to the representatives of the people;—we are not aware that he has ever been an advocate of a purely party Government; nor have we ever heard him insist on the doctrine that the Executive Council should be formed in part or in whole, by the heads of departments and officers of the Crown, holding situations of emolument.

As a public speaker, Mr. Boyd is by far more distinguished for the honest bluntness of his observations, than for the elegance of the language by which his meaning is conveyed to the House. He seldom stops to pick his way along the rhetorical mazes in which the merits of a question is sometimes almost lost, nor does he take much pains to answer philosophical argument when it happens to be used in support of a measure of which he does not approve. Facts, former precedents and arithmetical calculations, form the principal offensive and defensive weapons which he uses, and those are conveyed in language which none can attempt to misunderstand. Although Mr. Boyd speaks but seldom, he seldom speaks long at a time, and if he takes little pains to round his periods, he seldom fails to bring forward in very few words his views for or against a measure in a forcible light. This gentleman appears to possess a very retentive memory, and it is not unfrequently happens that this faculty enables him to bring forward arguments used by his opponents on former occasions, which do not agree with those that have just been advanced, in which case he very readily turns their own weapons against themselves. Mr. Boyd, like his left hand neighbour, Mr. Hill, sticks well to his post, and there is little of importance brought before the House, which he allows to be disposed of without expressing his opinion, and giving the reasons on which that opinion is founded. When a spontaneous debate arises on a question of which no previous notice has been given, Mr. Boyd appears peculiarly apt to perceive and point out the drift of the mover, and often deals with the supposed intention of the party bringing forward the motion or resolution rather than with its abstract merits. This course of procedure seldom fails to lead to the disclosure of the Parliamentary ramifications of party policy, and is often productive of good effects, by bringing up a discussion on the expediency of the measure. Mr. Boyd is among the few members in the floor of the Assembly who are continually conversant with the general internal trade of the Province, and has within the last few years done himself much credit by the part he has taken in debate, when the House was in Committee of ways and means. His general knowledge of the business of the country, and the attention which he has evidently given to the articles of import consumed in the Colony, on which a Provincial duty is levied, with the character and circumstances of the principal consumers, has, in many instances, enabled him to make effective speeches when the basis on which a Revenue Bill should be founded came under discussion.

Mr. Boyd has been forty years in succession a member of the Committee on Trade, and has acquired a fund of statistical information on matters relating thereto, to which he refers with facility and urges in strong and effective language; he has also for years been on the Committee to whom are referred all matters connected with the Fisheries in the County of Charlotte; but his efforts have hitherto been met with strenuous opposition, and by some means or other they have always been defeated. This measure appears to have been a favorite one with Mr. Boyd, who no doubt considers it would be of great benefit to his constituents; it does not, however, find much favor in the eyes of the powerful representatives for the City and County of St. John, and their determined opposition, has called forth more than one bitter speech from the

member for Charlotte, whose heart seems to be set upon protecting the Herring Fishing ground in the neighbourhood of Grandmanan from the indiscriminate ravages of the fishermen from St. John. The Bill to continue the Act for the encouragement of the Fisheries, which was brought in by Mr. Boyd and passed the lower House during the last Session, was also lost by being quashed in the Legislative Council in such a way as precluded the House of Assembly from agreeing thereto, consequently all the labor and pains which he had taken to benefit the fishermen throughout the Province, generally, and the fishermen belonging to the County of Charlotte, in particular, was thrown away. Should Mr. Boyd be again returned to represent the County, it is probable he will again return to the charge, and persevere until he has attained the object which may fairly be called his hobby for the last few years. This gentleman is a Magistrate in the County he represents, and Colonel of the 1st Battalion of his Militia.

In person, Mr. Boyd is rather above the middle height, strongly made, and has apparently a robust constitution. The expression of his countenance would indicate energy and perseverance of character, with a ready perception of the fulcrum of the fulcrum. In religious belief, he is a staunch Presbyterian, and before the Free Church movement, was a decided supporter of the Scottish national Establishment. Since that singular out-break, we do not know to which side Mr. Boyd adheres.

The place to the right of Mr. Boyd, is occupied by James Brown, Esquire, another of the members for Charlotte County, and an able and consistent advocate for Responsible Government.

Mr. Brown's political career has, we believe been uniformly marked by a degree of consistency of which few can boast, who have for many years filled the seat of a representative in the Assembly of this Province, and the liberal views which he has either supported or originated, may be said to comprise all the measures of reform which have been adopted in New Brunswick within the last fifteen years. We are informed on authority which we cannot doubt, that during this long period this gentleman has never been absent from his post for a single day, from sickness or any other cause, and there is, perhaps, not another member of the present House to whom that observation would apply. Since we have been familiar with the House of Assembly, we have often remarked the constancy of Mr. Brown's attendance—morning, noon, and afternoon, you never enter the gallery but you are almost sure to find the member from Charlotte within the walls of the Assembly room, unless when he happens to be employed on a select committee; and it is seldom indeed that an important discussion goes on for any length of time before you see this gentleman making his way to his seat, which he rarely leaves until the debate has terminated or has been adjourned to a future day. There are few members in the Assembly who appear to listen to other speakers with more patience and attention, or who watch more closely the details of all the business brought before the House, and still fewer who can with more apparent ease master the subject under discussion; for, although he seldom takes notes of what is passing, his audience are soon made aware that he has not been an inattentive listener. When he rises to address the House, he is invariably listened to with the utmost attention, and seldom produces a more brilliant and successful display of memory, and a great facility for recapitulating the arguments of those opposed to him, in almost the same words in which they had been used. He has likewise the rare faculty of stripping his subject of any ambiguity or misconception in which it may have been involved by former speakers, while he states, in clear and forcible language, the position he has chosen to assume, and the data on which he sends the reasons he is about to urge. He then proceeds from point to point with surprising clearness, accompanied with a force of reasoning which it is always difficult and sometimes impossible for more eloquent speakers to overthrow.

As a public speaker, Mr. Brown is far above mediocrity; his voice is strong but by no means disagreeable, and although the Scottish accent is clearly discernible throughout all his speeches, we are not sure that this circumstance takes much from the beauty of his well rounded periods, or lessens the general effect of his frequently powerful addresses. There is not perhaps to be found among his contemporaries in the Assembly, any member who speaks with so much method, for, however much he may disapprove of the sentiments which may have been previously uttered, or however exciting the matter under discussion may be, Mr. Brown invariably begins at the beginning of his subject, taking up the arguments of his opponents in the order in which they had been delivered, and reserving his comments on each until their proper place.

The speeches of this gentleman indicate a powerful practical mind, and he is unquestionably possessed of abundance of strong and clear language in which he has never appeared

recently any difficulty in clothing his ideas. Some of his speeches appear more like a practical essay on the subject under discussion, than a periphrastic speech favoring any particular view of the question; but when it suits his purpose he can attack and overturn the argument of an opponent with much ingenuity, and often with good humor. On the whole, Mr. Brown must be allowed to be a clever debater, quick and circumspect, while at rest—cautious and unflinching, and we believe, honest, when roused by opposition, which he thinks uncalled for or misplaced.

Judging from appearances, we should say that Mr. Brown was a favorite speaker with the audience in the Gallery, and from the attention which we have already noticed as being bestowed on him when addressing the House, we should imagine that the same popularity existed among the members of the Assembly. His speeches, although sometimes occupying a considerable space of time, never appear to create impatience or the any portion of his hearers. The two principal measures brought forward by the gentleman during the last session were first: the first was for the registration of freeholders entitled to vote, and secondly, for the General Assembly, and secondly, by far the most important measure of the Session, "The School Bill," as it is called, was also lost by a majority of one. Although Mr. Brown was unable to carry his favorite measure with regard to Parish Schools, the people of this Province cannot but award him the highest praise for the unwearied perseverance with which he pressed a measure which he unquestionably believed in his conscience would be of incalculable benefit to his constituents and to the country. In attempting to carry this measure he had the powerful aid of some of the best speakers in the Assembly, but was opposed by an amount of talent and obstinacy on the opposite side, in face of which it was impossible to carry his Bill through the House. On this question some of the best speeches which we ever heard on the floor of the Assembly were delivered, and the subject of this sketch made several appeals, which one would have thought would have induced at least some one of the opposition to relent—but they were dealt to his arguments—unmoved by the thrilling appeals of some of his supporters, and in some instances the well-meant and persevering efforts of Mr. Brown were repaid with being sarcasm and undignified ridicule.

Mr. Brown, in common with all his colleagues, looks sharply after the interests of his own county, and with them does much to restrain the powerful influence of the St. John Representation, when the public funds are being disposed of. There is not a county in the Province whose members all stick better to their posts, consequently they continue to have a fair share of all that is being disposed of for their constituents.

We had almost omitted to notice the vigilance with which Mr. Brown watches over the financial affairs of the country. He has for many years in succession been Chairman of the Financial Committee, and is said to take great pains and labor in preparing their Annual Report. When the House is in Committee of Supply, many and earnest are the warnings which comes from the gentleman who makes his own calculations, and strange to say, is seldom in error in the anticipations which he forms with regard to the Revenues of the Province, although his predictions are stoutly combated by the member from Charlotte.

In person, Mr. Brown is rather below the middle height, strongly made, and has a keen eye and dark hair, which he wears closely combed down all round. His countenance generally wears the expression of serious thoughtfulness, but there are times when in debate that it is lighted up with a conical expression of quiet drollery which gives additional point to the good natured wit which he scatters among his opponents. In politics we have heard him accused of being too Democratic. This probably arises from his advocacy of Free Trade principles, to which he has long adhered, and which he has now the satisfaction of seeing partially established in England. In religion, we believe Mr. Brown adheres to the national establishment of Scotland, his native country, and is one of the most tolerant members to other denominations on the floor of the Assembly.

A Pretty good one.—A funny clergyman down in Maine, who was one of the trustees of an academy, lately attended the examination of the scholars, and made an address to them. He enlarged upon the inducements to exertion in this country, and encouraged "the boys" to make themselves distinguished. "Some of you," said he, may make a Washington; some of you may make a Jefferson; any of you may make a Polk.—Exchange paper.

HARVESTING GRAIN.

MILLERS long since have been aware, and farmers have generally admitted that wheat or other grain cut as it does before it is perfectly ripened, will make more and better flour than if suffered to stand too long before harvesting. There seems to be enough of the developed pieces in the stem and ear to perfect the filling of the kernel, while the envelope or bran does not become as thick, dark, and hard, as when the cutting is too long delayed. Grain that is lodged or struck by the rust or mildew should always be cut with the least possible delay, as in the first case the straw becomes worthless, while the kernel will not improve; and in the last instance, the longer it stands the more rapid and extensive will be the deterioration of both the straw and the grain. Cutting prevents the accumulation of more of the pieces in the straw, where the already ruptured vessels and envelope prove they are not wanted, and the appropriation of those that remain will be carried on by the kernel, until the straw is dried. Grain cut before it is fully ripe, is less liable to more difficulty than that which stands fully matured, but since the general introduction of machines, this objection has not the weight that formerly belonged to it. There are various ways of putting up the sheaves of wheat in the field to cure, before they go to the stack or barn. Some put six, together, passing their heads into as small a space as can be, and then capping them with a seventh; some put a dozen sheaves together by two, and cover the tops with two sheaves placed lengthwise together in the centre; but unless it is necessary the grain should stand a long time before curing, as good a way as any, perhaps, is to set up the sheaves by twos, merely leaning them gently against each other, and without any capping at all. This system is practiced by our most extensive wheat growers, and while it requires less labour than any other mode of setting up, is found to occasion as little loss, and give full as much security to the grain, as any that can be used.

When, however, it is necessary that grain should stand several weeks in the field, it should as soon as dry be put up in small stacks of six or eight shocks each, and well capped and secured against rain.

Relief of Choked Cattle.—Take a lump of hard (cold) about the size of a hen's egg, and a spoon full of powder mixed with it, and haul out the tongue and throw it into the throat; let the tongue go back, and they are relieved in one minute. I have known cattle killed by the use of the tanrod in common use.

The coloured people of Washington, held a fair, lately, to raise \$300 for the purpose of buying their Preacher, who is a slave.

Lord John Russell, like Earl Grey, has sent a donation of £100 to the Cobden-Festivals.

It is stated confidently, that Lord George Bentinck, enmeshed of his new profession, has determined to give up the turf, and turn his whole attention to politics. He has actually sold his stud as a commencement.

Collisions of Vessels at Sea.—It appears from a return issued by order of the House of Commons, relative to the number of collisions of vessels at sea during the last year, that in the course of 1845, there were no less than 451 of these disasters.

Mr. Jobard, a French chemist, has discovered a method of producing gas for illumination from water. He charges the hydrogen from aqueous vapour strongly with carbonaceous vapour from oil of gas, tar, or any other oil, and produces a brilliant white light.

Reclaiming Land in Ireland.—Upwards of 4000 acres of land have been reclaimed from the sea, on the shores of Lough Foyle, in the County of Derry, under auspices of John Robertson, Esq., of London. The cost of reclaiming has hitherto been £15 to £20 per acre, but the expense has been much increased in consequence of litigation and difficulties inseparable from a first attempt at so large a march into the sea. The land is of very superior quality, being a tender loam, with a thick deposit of vegetable matter, and it is anticipated will grow crops for many years without requiring any manure.

On the 18th ultimo a child, near Crook, was born with a full grown tooth, and several others cut through the gums.

It appears to be quite certain that Marshal Soult will retire from the French Ministry, and it is said, from public life, as soon as the general election is over.

The English Cholera.—Within the last few days there has been an enormous increase at the various metropolitan hospitals and dispensaries, of English cholera, a very acute form. It is attributable more to atmospheric influences than to use of fruit, to which it is generally ascribed.

Setting a snare.—The title given to a picture of a very pretty young lady arranging her curls at a mirror.

The anxiety that a man feels for the want of funds is called capital punishment.