

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

[FROM THE REPORTER NOV 1856.]

Family Compacts, and Family Monopolies.

THERE are three families at this moment who rule the destinies of this Country. They are the SHEAS, the LITTLES, and the KENTS. And these same people tell us the country is well-governed now, and that the rest of the people are perfectly satisfied with things as they are. Some say, however, that things might be managed a great deal better, and that much greater good might be effected for the Country under different auspices, and with different management. How these families have contrived to come together, and fall into rank under the same flag may appear strange to those who are not acquainted with the way in which intrigues, as they are called, that is to say in plain English, imposition, deception and swindling are usually carried on. Surely no honest-minded man in the Country had ever dreamed that the SHEAS would turn patriots; or that a triangular government composed of the three sides we have named would ever come to pass within, at least the present generation. But yet these things have come to pass; and so the SHEAS, the DOCTOR and ARMBROSE and all—are now in the patriot business; and doing well too, as we shall see. Mr. Little the patriot introduced into this Country the grand secret by which a government can be made out of any materials, and by which all sorts of people may be made to chime into a ministerial harmony, like a fistful of rusty nails and a gimblet. Accordingly the SHEAS, the LITTLES, and the KENTS are astride on the Country now; and spurring it along with the utmost satisfaction, at least to themselves. And they tell us that no government could be better for the people than this, no government more satisfactory to rational men, and no government more solidly based on the "well-understood wishes of the people!" We know, to be sure, that this triangular government hates itself most cordially; but then it loves the people, and studies their advancement! It is true that the SHEAS have been brought up on the parish since they were born; but that is no reason why they should not now be a blessing and a comfort to that same parish; and so they are. Let us see how it is. Through thick and thin, for the last quarter of a century, since a legislative institution was conferred upon this Country, they helped, as far as their comical position enabled them to do it, to resist the progressive movement of that institution, and to warp it to the views and convenience of those who had resisted its introduction into the country in the first place. They lived, nay, they flourished in that line of business; and public liberty was ever and always their hatred and their aversion. No matter what the nominees of imperial authority thought, and said, and planned, the SHEAS swore to it; no matter what the great merchants thought, or said, or planned, the same SHEAS clung to it as an admittance from Heaven; in short, the Government, whatever it was, and the Chamber of Commerce, whatever it was, were to the SHEAS nothing less than twin-gods—Castor and Pollux. Well, we don't mean to insinuate that they did wrong in all this; if such was their creed they did well to profess it; and if it fed them it might be nothing the worse for that. The old government, however, and the Chamber of Commerce began to falter beneath the hand of time; old age, as it assails every thing, made inroads upon the might and the prestige of those, too. Time and old age, we say, laid their hands upon the Old Government and the Chamber of Commerce; but the SHEAS did not, like the parasite ivy around a crumbling wall, go down with the fallen fortunes of their keepers and feeders. The old government fell beneath the assaults of the liberal party; the SHEAS fought in the ranks of that government, but fought as soulless skulkers ever fought, without zeal, without fidelity, honour just as they fight now in the opposite ranks; they fought, however, but they fought beside the canteen; and the first moment that saw the flag waver beneath which they marched, they deserted their comrades and protectors, and skulked over to the enemy. The citadel was taken; and as the prizes were being distributed there were none so loud, none so forward, none so impudent in their pretensions to a participation in them as those spunging deserters of the cause they had espoused from the earliest hour, and by which they had lived and thrived. And they are now, as we have said, following the patriot business. Mr. Little the patriot from the Islands, saw their value and took them into partnership. Their proportion of the dividends arising from this patriot concern are indeed fair and reasonable; and as long as the establishment continues in a healthy condition, and that no appearance of bankruptcy gives warning that another shifting of the scene would be desirable, they will doubtless continue faithful to their new accomplices and swing away at the responsible canteen.

The SHEAS receive out of the Public Chest, — out of the Public Taxes — out of the sweat and blood of the unfortunate Fishermen and labouring people of all classes of this Colony, the sum of ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE POUNDS, CY. EVERY YEAR! And, mark, we don't include in this sum the perquisites which

drop into their pockets in an indirect way out of the public Money votes. In round numbers and currency, then, they pocket annually as a reward for their new-fangled patriotism the incredible sum of ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE POUNDS! exclusive of all collateral windfalls and fraudulent pickings! Need we offer any comment upon this? So much, then, for one branch of the Family Compacts and Family Monopolies. A review of the others must be reserved for next week.

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

HARBOUR GRACE, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25.

THE Capital Elections, *Alias* Rotten Borough Elections, *Alias* Illogical Elections—

"Merrily every bosom boundeth,
Merrily oh merrily oh
Where the song of freedom soundeth
Merrily oh merrily oh!"
Messrs Kavanah, and Casey, have been triumphantly returned for St. John's Mr McLoughlan we understand was, either by external or internal pressure, constrained to retire; thus leaving his opponent free to walk the course.
Well—this is another phase in the character of our pseudo liberalism; any man, liberal or conservative, who dares to exercise constitutional rights in any other way than that chalked out by Messrs Little Kent and Shea, must be put down by the high hand of those liberals "Far excellence," aided by their principal supporters the Club-law and Liberty boys of the metropolis.
Hear this ye honorable aspirants to legislative honors—there is no approach to seats of the Assembly but through the political sewer, marked out by this unprincipled cabal, and dug out by their abject and degraded subordinates.
We must express our deep regret that Mr. McLoughlan, the Fisherman, and the fishermen's friend, wanted the moral or physical courage to persevere for a time, even though like some of his truly liberal predecessors, he should ultimately give way: it would have been worth a struggle to rank with a DOUGLAS who after thirty years devotion to the cause of liberty and progress—relying on the grateful recollection of the thousands he had contributed to elevate—made the attempt, and manfully persisted until all chance of success was, by open violence, wrested from him and from his faithful supporters.

For this and more than this, the man, whether liberal or conservative, must be prepared, who ventures to dispute the palm with Little and his gang. St. John's still is, and must remain a rotten borough, so long as unprincipled politicians may successfully appeal to the blind prejudices and fanaticism of the ignorant and unthinking portion of society.
Notwithstanding the game was altogether in the hands of the ministerialists, Mr. Little the Premier, and Mr. Kent the Colonial Secretary could not refrain from indulging their penchant for low popularity, by Spirit and prejudice stirring appeals to the gathering: The Hon. the Speaker of the assembly, and the scarcely less honorable, long-hand Reporter also took opportunity to hold forth to the august assemblage, who must have been at once edified, and excited by the eloquent appeals to the principle of constitutional liberty, fitly exemplified by the recently exhibited puppet face of the Ghost of a Butterfly: "Yet would the *Newfoundlander* gravely insult his readers by representing the whole as a triumphant display of liberal principles and liberal popularity; and as if to shew the spirit by which the triumph is recorded, we find paraded on the first side of the same paper a piece of polite literature, entitled—BROWNSON ON THE CHURCH—an extract insulting to the religious feeling of a majority of our population, yet strangely enough, literally endorsed by the signatures (to about forty advertisements) of the very class who are thus, on the point of their religious professions, wantonly or maliciously insulted. When to all this we add the enviable position of some half dozen of the same class who are hired to do the dirty work of the above mentioned trimmerate, need we wonder at the impudent presumption of an Editor who pockets £700 or £800 a year out of the taxes wrong from every denomination of Christians in the Country. But to return to the Elections—Altho the present ruling faction would not be injuriously affected by Mr. McLoughlan's return, still in common with many others, we would have hailed his election with satisfaction, inasmuch as it would demonstrate that the St. John's voters were not really such political cunctuses as they have been represented, but that a chance still exists for open manly and straightforward candidates for senatorial honors; but it appears that liberalism or Patriotism is at present represented by Messrs Shea Kent and Little alone; this party having insidiously managed to worm themselves into power, and to grasp the public purse strings, now boldly set forth that they alone are the persons in whose hands the exercise of liberal principles would be safe; and they though their committees have asserted that they are patronised and supported in such an illiberal dogma by sacerdotal influences; if this be correct they are sustained by an influence unknown to the British Constitution, and if not,

they outrage religious principle by the foul insinuation.

Where now is the civil and religious Liberty so loudly advocated by LITTLE with all the boldness and duplicity for which he is proverbial? It is sacrificed at the shrine of Family Compact, and grasping selfishness on the part of the hopeful trio, who scruple not to urge the all potent talisman of religious prejudice for their personal advantage; it was a dangerous and deceitful procedure, alike insulting to the good of every party and of every creed. Wretched indeed is that version of religious liberty, which whilst it would elevate one class would persecute another. We repeat for the hundredth time, that there is no necessity for such distinctions in our domestic policy, and those who make them, do so to cover their own demerits, and to perpetuate their own illgotten, and worse sustained positions.

We would call attention to this days notice of the Meeting of the Harbor Grace British and Foreign Bible Society; and earnestly solicit on the part of that noble Institution, that general consideration and support, which an object so truly Christian-like and Philanthropic, unquestionably deserves.

In apologising to our Subscribers for not issuing this paper last week we would respectfully state, that our order for paper was duly sent, and executed by our agent in St. John's, but that the article was detained in the custody of Mr. William Coughlan whilst several opportunities for this place were neglected.

(To the Editor of the *Conception-Bay Man*.)

Sir,—Every true liberal must regret the result of the last Election in the Capital. The *Newfoundlander* fearing an enemy in the Liberal Camp, would give no credit to the Electors for their independence in selecting and supporting a candidate other than the Government nominee. The division in the liberal ranks, he observes was due to the intrigues of a petty clique of despicable incapables. And yet, while he affected to despise them, he could not conceal his apprehension, his silly fears of their power and influence. The great bugbear of his existence appears to be a small knot of invincibles who stupidly refuse to receive as true all his political dogmas. I expect in every successive issue of his paper to read such a Jeremiad on the sin of political secession as will cause the tears to start from the eyes of Capt. Mack and his late supporters. But why this half-mourning half-menacing tone of the *Newfoundlander*? Is it because Electors would dare to break the withes with which he would gladly bind them in political serfdom? Is it because they undervalue his wisdom and merit, and refuse to fall down and worship the political calf he sets up? Some of them were reformers when he wore pinacres and cried for *frankum*. Others were (or certain) Liberals before he cut his wisdom teeth, as witness his never to be forgotten attempt to impose export duties. Is he then who yesterday suffered himself to be made a cat's paw by the wiser monkey, to be sainted to day as a guide and prophet by Reformers? Every true liberal answers emphatically No—ten thousand Nos.

It is matter for regret that the *Express* blew hot and cold on the endeavours of the Independent Electors of St John's to free themselves from the political thralldom attempted to be imposed on them by the Editor of the *Newfoundlander*. Instead of his ill-concealed distrust they deserved his sympathy and support not that they could claim his aid on party grounds, but because they were fighting the battle of true liberalism—the liberty of electing the man of their choice—the liberty of freely and independently exercising their right of voting for whom they please. If the Electors preferred Planter McLoughlan to former Casey, why rose the spite of the *Newfoundlander*? The nominee of the people was as likely to be as honest and true a liberal as the nominee of the Government and his return would not necessarily involve a change in the present majority of the House. But the *Newfoundlander* dreads nothing so much as the cry of measures in preference to men. Leave the matter to them, and the exclusive old system of the family compact would be brought back right early.

But apart from the momentary interest and excitement caused by the late contest in the Capital there is a deeper and more important consideration involved. In the tone of the *Newfoundlander* there is evidence of a lurking desire to coerce and extinguish opposition; and, come his inspiration whence it may, there is sufficient animus displayed to cause uneasiness, if not alarm, to the thinking and independent men of all parties. Every attempt to coerce electors should be met with a bold and determined opposition; or the time is at hand when the Constituencies of this Colony will be paraded at the hustings and the polling booths as the birthralls of Cedric the Saxon or O'Kilt the Celt. Men of the Capital, men of the Outports will ye consent to that?

Faithfully yours
AN OLD LIBERAL.

(From the *Express* of the 18th.)

The following intelligence was received from the *Morning post* office on Saturday last; The Havre Steamer off Cape Race last evening, brings English dates of 4th inst.

INDIAN NEWS.—Delhi has fallen—no quarter given except to women and children. The King Victor Emmanuel has given 10,000 Francs to the Indian Relief Fund, King of Prussia's health is improved.

The attempt to launch the Great Eastern failed—several men injured, two seriously—will be tried again in a month.

Borough Bank of Liverpool suspended—abilities three millions stg.

The *Post* of the 7th inst. announces the arrival at New-york of the *City of Washington*, which left Liverpool on the 4th instant. "No further particulars relative to Delta, except that it had been captured by the British after six days hard fighting and heavy losses."

LATEST NEWS.

We have been favoured by the Messrs Ridley with the following Telegraph:—

Lucknow relieved—General Niel Killed—Nicholson died of his wounds—Delhi taken, our loss fifteen hundred—King prisoner—three of his sons taken and shot.

We have been much gratified by a visit of the Lord Bishop of this Diocese, His Lordship arrived here on Saturday last, accompanied by the Revd. G. M. Johnson, of Portugal Cove. On the following day, being the Sabbath, the Bishop officiated and preached in St. Paul's Church to a very large congregation, after which a large number of Candidates received the rite of Confirmation. His Lordship proceeded so Carbonear on Monday last.

A serious riot took place in our street last week; A foreign sailor having got into a row with some of the towns people, either in revenge, or for the purpose of defending himself drew his knife and stabbed three men, seriously wounding one but we are happy to add not mortally. With great difficulty the Sailor was saved from the fury of the populace and lodged in prison; this was principally owing to the intrepid exertions of the Hon. John Munn, who with a few other spirited citizens aided the Constables and saved the man from a dreadful death.

There is one circumstance connected with this riot which it is our duty to notice, during the row Her Majesty's Acting Solicitor General issued out of a public house and instead of endeavouring to suppress the riot, called out to the mob to annihilate the wretch, but his Honour was quickly checked by Mr. Archibald Emmerson and others who remarked that the man was in the hands of the law and should be protected.

MARRIED.—On Saturday last by the Rev. J. S. Pinnney, Mr. George Puppey to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. John Merchant Planter of this place.

Yesterday at St. Paul's Church by the Rev. Bertram Jones, Mr Alfred Webber to Miss Jane Maria Chippet, all of this place.

"It is appointed unto all once to die."

DIED.—On Wednesday last, After a short illness Susanna, the beloved Wife of Mr. Richard Power, Planter of this place.

The same day Daniel, son of Mr. John Shea. On Friday last Francis, son of Mr. Francis Morten, aged two years.

On Sunday last Mr. Richard Ash an old and respectable Inhabitant of this place.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.

Nov. 14—Rothesay, Taylor, Pernambuco 25 days
20—Three Sisters, Percy, Liverpool, 26 days,
Caroline, Green, P. E. Island, 8 days,
21—Julio, Coloso, New York 10 days,
Bride, Walsh, Glasgow, 30 days,
Panton & Munn.

Nov. 14—Annie Grant, Heath, Hamburg 40 days
20—Acastus, Walsh Liverpool 25
Valencia, (Sp.), Sister, Porto Rico, 17
24—Robert Keed, Johnson, Alexandria N.S 30
Ridley & Sons.

Nov. 16—Highlander, Fraser Baddech C.B.
Rutheford Brothers.

CLEARED.

Nov. 12—Susan, King, Gibraltar,
19—William, Trapani, Cork
Panton & Munn.

Nov. 13—Haidee, Tucker, West Indies.
19—Mary Banfield, Suerris Naples.
21—Greyhound Layton, Liverpool.
Ridley & Sons.

Nov. 13—Commissary Sparks, Liverpool N.S.
21—Highlander Fraser, Baddech C.B.
Rutherford Brothers

The Annual Branch of the B will be held at 11 on Thursday eve 24th Nov. 1856

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