

[FROM THE PICTOU OBSERVER.]

## THE COLLEGE QUESTION IN COLCHESTER.

ALIAS.

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS ALLIES ON "BIBLE HILL," AGAINST THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MR. EDITOR,—

For some time past it has been well understood by those who are in the confidence of the *Honorable Exciseman*, that the crisis "to do or die" was fast approaching. A scout from *head-quarters*, the *Honorable Mr. Annand*, arrived here about 10 days ago with credentials as "Plenipotentiary Extraordinary," to arrange preliminaries, and if possible to *disorganize* those who supported *Ross* at the last contest for the Representation of this County, with a view to enable *Mr. Howe* to send his nominee to this County from Halifax, as he did the *Pictou Exciseman* in 1841. The College question was chosen as the *ostensible* object of the meeting. The main supporters of the irresponsible corrupt system of conducting the affairs of the Government chiefly reside on "Bible Hill," and such is the bad odour of all their doings, that they durst not now *originate* any measure *openly*, and therefore to cloak their old tricks and designs, they had to go to Onslow, where the nephew of your Excise delinquent has hed just as much of the *Dickson* influence left as to deceive some honest, well-meaning individuals to sign a requisition to convene a public meeting to discuss the question of *one University vs. Acadia College and the Pictou Academy*. The Responsible Sheriff, a *new made* Coroner, and the Township Member, left Truro on SUNDAY, the 1st of this month, in company with *Mr. Annand*, after having set their plans, for Halifax, to report progress to their master, *Mr. Howe*, and invite him and his nominee to make speeches and admire the skill they had displayed in fortifying themselves, as they supposed, by the assistance of some of those who were opposed to them at the last political struggle. Some men are so honest and single-hearted themselves, that they cannot be brought to suspect even those who had frequently deceived them on former occasions. Such has been the case in this instance. The question of Education is one of immense consequence to the Country, and consequently the people take a corresponding interest in the subject, in whatever shape it may be presented to them.

The meeting in Onslow, thus organised, was a crowded one, consisting at one time of at least 800 or 1000 individuals. It commenced a quarter of an hour before 11 o'clock, and continued with unabating interest until after 8 in the evening. Those who called the meeting came prepared with a series of Resolutions, which I suppose will find their way to the public press, as *Mr. Croskill*, of the "Morning Post," was present taking notes. They were met, however, by another series of Resolutions, offered to the consideration of the meeting by *Mr. Ross*, whose popularity the other party

wished to destroy. Long and spirited speeches were made on the occasion. The division took place on the green in front of the Onslow Meeting house, where the meeting was held about 9 o'clock at night. I am told each claim the victory. The Requisitionists claiming *one* of a majority, and the other side *thirty-six*. The theory of *Political Sheriffs* was finely illustrated, but I will not anticipate *Mr. Croskill's* report. One extraordinary fact was brought out by *Mr. Ross* which cannot be too soon or too extensively known, viz:— "That the Academy in Truro is drawing more money from the Public Treasury for the number of Scholars taught the Classics, INDIVIDUALLY, than some of the Common Schools in the County received for ALL the Scholars taught!"

The Return made last year from this Academy exhibits 32 Common Scholars and 9 studying the Classics. The Common Scholars throughout the County had drawn from the Treasury an average of 6s. 1d. for each Scholar, thus—

32 Common Scholars, at 6s. 1d.	£9 14 8
9 Studying Classics, at £10 0 7.	90 5 4

41 Am't drawn by Academy,	£100 0 0
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Now it will be seen by the above that the sons of the rich Merchants, Road Commissioners and Responsible Magistrates, in TRURO, are drawing from the Treasury *more* INDIVIDUALLY than 39 poor Common Scholars in any other part of the County. And these are the very men who have attempted to cajole the people into the belief that they were labouring to extend the Common Schools. But there is another feature in this case to shew these gentry in their proper character which ought not to be overlooked. Last year a young man educated at the Horton Academy, was the Teacher. The gentry whose sons were reaping the public bounty so abundantly, while hundreds of children in the outskirts of the County perhaps had not a school within half a dozen of miles of them, were not satisfied with the advantages their children derived from the Teacher's tuition. They must not only have their children taught, but they must have the money too. The young man was dismissed accordingly, and now we find one brother receiving £10 0s. 7d. for teaching a younger one; but they are both the *brothers* of a Sheriff, the *sons* of a Magistrate, the *cousins* of a Coroner, and the *nephews* and *cousins* of 4 Responsible Magistrates. Is it a wonder that they had to go to Onslow to get up a Requisition to support them a little longer in power? But their days are numbered—they have fallen into the pit they themselves have dug.

I herewith send you a copy of the Resolutions offered by *Mr. Ross* and passed by the meeting. *Mr. Howe* is still here, perplexed where to go—conning no doubt.

"I gang na mare to you Town."

A RIFLEMAN.

Truro, 12th October, 1843.