

## THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

The *Pilot* of Montreal (ministerial of course,) says on the subject,

"If it be too late now to call upon the home authorities to reconsider their award, whose is the fault? Even if 'the Seat of Government, with all convenient speed, be transferred to Ottawa;' as an editorial, in Saturday's *Colonist* has it are the members of the Cabinet, individually or collectively, entirely, or indeed at all to blame! Shall not the parliamentary majority which ordained the impolitic reference, be rightly made answerable for the evil done, if such it be?"

"But to deal seriously with a serious subject, we confess to cherishing a regretful feeling, that reference was ever made."

Whose the fault? Why who proposed it to the Parliament? Parliament never dreamt of such a thing: till the Ministers themselves proposed it on the suggestion of one of those wonderfully clever French Canadians, who, reversing the teaching of the English, hold that the nearest way between two points is by the crooked, instead of a straight line. The consequence is, just as might have been expected, that they have been nicely taken in—we beg pardon, *humbugged* is the Parliamentary expression. We must apologize to our readers for the use of so many low expressions, but ideas must be indicated by corresponding words, and this age of rascality and sham creates its own vocabulary.

A slang course of conduct demands as its exponent a slang language. Cant, trickery, humbug rule the day, and must of necessity create the medium by which, their results are promulgated. Whose the fault? The man who advised the Ministry, the Ministry who advised the Parliament, and the Ministerial Press, foremost among whom is the *Pilot* of Montreal, which advised the people. Nice figures they cut now.

But the most contemptible among all are the Quebec *moutons*.

Little Bo peep has lost his, sheep,  
And does not know where to find them.  
Let them alone, and they will come home,  
Leaving their tails behind them.

Quebec actually had obtained the seat of Government. After severe Parliamentary struggles it had been the victorious competitor, and when holding forth its hand to receive the prize—was told—oh now, we will refer it to the Queen. This is, what the present prime Minister himself calls, *humbugging*, with a vengeance!

We must do Mr. Simard the justice to admit that he was one of the very few who strenuously opposed the reference. Mr. Evanturel also did so, and thereby has brought on himself the vindictive action of the Government, who have strained every nerve, and used every means, fair and foul, to exclude him from the Legislature. While Mr. Alley, who voted for this reference on every division, has been promoted to office.

The reference itself was most unwise, it was impossible that any satisfactory issue could be obtained, no matter what the decision, the people of Canada could not be satisfied with it, when made by any arbiter but themselves as represented in Parliament.

The only way of settling it properly was that of taking the votes of the Representatives. That was done, and Quebec was chosen.

Therefore, if there is blame in this matter, it must rest on those who proposed it, and their supporters.

We shall probably have a new election for Quebec very shortly, and then the merchants of Quebec will be enabled once more to shew their generosity, and political presence at one and the same time, by pulling out their purses to pay for the Election of men to betray them, their interests and those of this city.

Meantime we cannot see what is to be done on our parts but to accept loyally,

the Queen's decision. The Seat of Government must first come here for the 4 years, and unless a Federation of the Provinces takes place must then go to Ottawa.

We conceive that there are many circumstances favorable to that city in the present political status of Canada. It is central, it is secure from sudden invasion it is on the border line of the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

It is in a direct line from Quebec to the British Pacific Coast, and when the Seat of Government is established at Ottawa, the North Shore Railroad direct to Ottawa will be a necessity, as it will shorten the distance thither by one-half; and militarily, will be of paramount importance to the defence of Canada.

## THE EXCURSION TO SOREL, AND PRESENTATION OF A SILVER CUP TO CAPTAIN RAMSAY.

In accordance with the announcement, the Foot Company of Artillery, Capt. Wand, and No. 2 Troop of Cavalry, Capt. DesRivières with about 250 of their friends, assembled on board the *Iron Duke* on Wednesday morning last, at eight o'clock. All the preparations were as advertised, and at the hour the steamer slipped her fastenings, and gracefully sailed from the wharf, accompanied with delightful music, which the smiles of the ladies, apparently so bewildered the imagination of the bystanders that they, for a few moment thought themselves gazing on some fairy scene.

The party had not proceeded far, when the music of the Quadrille Band started the dancing which was kept up with great spirit till the arrival at Sorel. The several Companies then marched through the town, headed by the Band. Returning to the Victoria Hotel, they then sat down to a sumptuous repast prepared by the worthy host, Mr. Ralph Fish. This part of this programme being finished, the whole party, with a large concourse of people, proceeded to the Government green, opened for the occasion by the kind permission of the Government officials.

Capt. Wand, then, on the part of the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Foot Company, addressed the assembly as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The great number present the afternoon shows how pleasing is the occasion that calls us together. We are met to do honor to a gentleman lately one of ourselves—who ranks high in the high degree in social scale, either as a man, husband, or father. In neither of these capacities have we assembled to honor him, but as our late Captain; and while we do so, we deeply regret his departure from our ranks, because he has done his duty so well; so affably and so firmly; on every occasion that it will be difficult to fill the vacancy occasioned by his retirement. His loss is that of an able commander, a valued friend, and a christian man.

Then turning to Captain Ramsay, the addressed him as follows:

Sir,—There is no cloud so dark but has its silver linings. It was fallen to my lot to perform a very pleasing duty: that is; to present you on behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Foot Company of Artillery; this Silver Goblet as a small mark of the respect and esteem in which you have been held during the time of your Captaincy over us. We feel sure that you will accept it, not for its intrinsic value, but as a token of the esteem in which you are held. Having greatly heightened the moral tone and efficiency of our Company, much of your valuable time has been spent upon us for our benefit. We feel we can never repay you; we can only heartily thank you.

In taking our leave, allow me to add the wishes of all present, that the remaining period of your life may be long, useful and happy; and, whenever you fill your goblet, may the recollection of this occasion steal upon your memory, and may every drop you drain from it be a drop of bliss, cheering your declining years. With this warm and friendly feeling towards you, we bid you adieu.

Captain Ramsay replied as follows:—  
BROTHER VOLUNTEERS,—I can assure you

that I never was placed in a more embarrassing position in my life than the one I am caught in now. You all know very well that I never was my hand at speech-making but even if I were in possession of that gift or acquirement, this splendid and unexpected token of your esteem and friendly feeling would be sufficient to upset and confuse ideas: and I would here remark, gentlemen, that in cases like the present, there is generally some notice given, so that the party may be prepared to make a suitable reply, and you know that I have only now heard your kind and flattering address read. I arrived from Portland last night, and had not the slightest idea of your mode of attack, till I got on board the steamer this morning, so that I have a good excuse to get me out of my present ticklish position; but you will say soldiers ought to be always ready—so be ought—and here goes:—

Gentlemen, I have been with you since the formation of the company, and I can assure you that it is with feelings of the deepest regret that I am compelled [on account of business engagements] to resign the command of the company. I tell you now, gentlemen, that I considered it [and do so still] the greatest honor that has been ever paid me to be placed in command of a company composed of such noble and respectable fellows; and I say now, gentlemen, [what I could scarcely say before when I was with you, for you all know what a modest person I am] that the Montreal Foot Company of Artillery cannot be surpassed by any other company in the Active Force.

Capt. Wand, officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners, in accepting this cup, I return you my heartfelt though but poorly expressed thanks, and trust that I may always merit your goodwill and kind regard. In my feeble endeavours to promote the interest and improvement of the company, I have been at all times ably seconded by the officers and men, and have at all times received that respect and implicit obedience which is so essential to the well-being of a volunteer corps.

In bidding you adieu for the present, I would say that I am proud to have my name enrolled as an honorary member of the company; and, so long as I am spared in health, and the company exists, I shall always consider myself one of you; and if you are ever called out on active duty, you shall find me there.

I again thank you, gentlemen, for your kindly feeling, so well and substantially expressed, and trust that this cup may be handed down to my sons' grand children, and proudly shewn, in token of the esteem you entertained of their great-grandfather.

In the trust that you may enjoy long life and happiness, and go on improving in the proud position you have already attained.

I AGAIN DID YOU GOOD-BYE.

Three cheers were then given for Capt. Ramsay, and then for the Queen, Captain Ramsay then led the National Air, which was joined with heart and voice by the whole assembly.

The light fantastic toe was put in motion, and kept up with much spirit till the hour of departure. Proceeding then to the boat, dancing was kept up on board sometime.

Mr. Rickaby favored the company with a few of his favorite songs, which were heartily encored. Other songs were sung by the members of the Cavalry and foot Company, and the whole party separated much delighted with the trip.

We cannot speak in too high terms of Captain Munroe, of the *Iron Duke*, and Mr. Merry, whose uniform politeness and exertions to render the trip agreeable, was all that could be desired.

The cup bears the following inscription:—

PRESENTED TO

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER RAMSAY,

By the

Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners of the Montreal Foot Company of Volunteer Artillery, as a small token of their esteem, on his retiring from the Company.

The cup was made by Mr. Pendery, Craig Street, and engraved by Mr. Francis Adams, Notre Dame Street—*Transcript*.

## QUEBEC DIRECTORY for 1858-9.

A very neat little *duodecimo* work edited by Messrs. Cherrier and Hamelin has just been issued by Mr. P. Lamou-

reux at his Printing Office in the Lower Town. Price \$1.50.

This is a very well got up volume, especially useful to numerous classes, such as Masters of Vessels and others, who, as comparative strangers, require the information it contains.

## INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS.

Mr. Malcolm Cameron gives notice of a motion to reduce the allowance to members of the Legislative Assembly to \$3 per diem.

In our opinion there ought to be no daily allowance. A fixed indemnity of \$500 for the Session would be far preferable and would get rid of the stupid accusation that Members prolonged the Session for their personal benefit.

## FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

The principal action of the Assembly during the past week, has been the disposal of three prominent questions.

Vote of confidence in the Government.

Vote on Double Majority question.

Vote on Seat of Government question.

We will not tire the patience of our readers by discussing these matters, they can form their own opinions from the results. The whole may be sublimated into one expression, "*humbugging*," a system which very clever men think very fine, but which we (with less pretension), think leads to the conclusion, that the country would be very much better governed without any Legislative Assembly at all!

## NOBLE CONDUCT.

During the crisis last fall Messrs. West & Caldwell, dealers in dry goods, used in the hat and cap business, at 52 Broadway, were compelled to suspend. They forthwith called a meeting of their creditors, and laid a statement of their affairs before them: A committee was appointed, who after a thorough investigation, recommended that the creditors accept fifty cents on the dollar. This was with like unanimity acceded to, and the whole matter was closed, and the firm discharged.

On the 1st day of July instant, the creditors each received a printed circular, stating that the assets had turned out much better than there was any reason to expect when the compromise was made, and that enclosed would be found a check for the balance and interest. The checks were all found as stated, and amounted in the aggregate to over \$36,000 not one cent of which were they under any legal obligation to pay. We would rather have the consciousness of this act, with the letters of hearty acknowledgment that came showering in upon Messrs. West & Caldwell, in response to their circular than to receive \$36,000 multiplied by ten. One of the creditors (a leading firm) informed them that they had taken the liberty to have the circular framed and hung up in their office. Blessed and refreshing, in these degenerate days, are such instances of honorable fidelity to the right.—*N. Y. Evening Post*.

Saturday, 24th July, 4 P. M.

The *Indian* has arrived.

Nothing important from India. Columns are marching on Gwalior. A massacre of Christians has taken place at Jeddah in Arabia.

The Sultan of Turkey has called undox arms 100,000 men of the Reserve.

The Visit of the Queen to Cherbourg is officially confirmed.

The Gazette contains the nominations of Major-General Sir H. Rose, K. C. B. and the Maharajah Jung Bahadoor, Commander-in-Chief of the Ghoorka troops lately acting with the British army in India, to the dignity of Knights Grand Crosses of the Order of the Bath—Orders had been received at Malta for the 2nd battalion of the 2nd Foot, and the 1st battalion 14th Regiment, to proceed to the Ionian Islands, to relieve the 46th and 91st, for India; the former corps would be replaced in Malta by the 100th Foot (recently raised in Canada), and the 4th battalion Rifle Brigade.