

is known to exert a marvellous controul over our planetary system. The fact can be demonstrated though the body cannot be seen. So it must be in this case. We know that a secret and controuling power exists, and was exerted upon our Railway policy, though we may not yet be able to determine the moment, the agent, or the mode.

The Prov. Secy. vaunts over my defeat in Cumberland, but he well knows that, though a comparative stranger, I ran two elections in that County, and when I had time to meet the people, carried them handsomely. He knows or might have known that my friends could have secured my return the last time, by compromise, but refused. He knows also that I was beaten because I only arrived in the County a few days before the election, many in the remote settlements believing that I was not coming at all, and was still in the United States. He may glorify himself over the victory, but really, if the humour seized me, and I had a summer month and a pair of good horses, I should not consider it any great feat to turn him out again.

That Mr. Hincks may have been disappointed at my not joining him in England is probable, but I could not be in two places at once. I was running the Cumberland election all winter. Sir John Harvey died on the day the contest closed, and I could not leave an old officer, suddenly and unexpectedly called to administer the Government without a Provincial Secretary.

The pile of sleepers, found by Mr. Laurie and Dr. Tupper at the Long Lake are easily accounted for. Strange as it may seem, in this wooded country, we had the greatest difficulty to procure sleepers at fair prices, and in reasonable time, when we commenced our Railroads. To insure a supply at a cheap rate we imported a moveable steammill for sawing them, sold it to a man named Stewart, entering into a contract with him to take so many thousands. Delays occurred, and they were not supplied in time, and the furnishing of the sleepers was let with the later contracts. Those cut by Stewart were taken, however, and piled by the lake, where they remain as a reserve, for repairs, and for the general supply of the lines.

But we were told that the Provincial Railroads will not pay—that Inter-Colonial ones are the remedy. The gentlemen opposite, having thrown away the chances of an Inter-colonial Railway when they were very fair, having failed to carry out the Jackson scheme when they had the power—some of them having opposed Railways, from first to last, with all their might, are now very anxious to give us more. What is the meaning of all this? Simply that the Provincial Secretary, having all along humbugged the people of Cumberland with great things to be done for them in the railway line, if they would only throw me out, is very anxious to keep up the delusion. The road is on its way to Pietou; but, upon the principle on which the Irishman drove the pig, the Doctor is anxious that his constituents should believe that it is going to Cumberland.

The Provincial Secretary asked, "what had the member for Windsor to do with the introduction of Responsible Government? It grew with the country." Constitutions do not grow like beets and turnips, (and to grow them, seeds and

cultivation are required.) Great constitutional changes and reforms, especially when they are opposed, (and when are they not?) require the aid and combined action of politicians to carry them forward. I may not have done much, but I was, at least, an humble laborer in the field. In that Pamphlet of mine, published 19 years ago, and for which the Attorney General has so often called me to account, the new system was developed, explained and vindicated, at a time when not three men in the British Parliament, and no large number in the Colonies, understood it. I need say no more than this—that Land my friends advocated and maintained the new principle of Administration, while the friends and patrons of the Provincial Secretary opposed their introduction. We prevailed. The honour and the distinction of success in a good cause was ours; and we can contemplate with pride the Provinces flourishing under the system which we labored to introduce.

Mr. Howe now turned to and discussed, good humouredly, the cases of the men who had been dismissed from office. The Sovereign, under our system, must possess the power to dismiss any officer at any time. That power could, in practice, be only exercised under advice. There was no limit but the power of the Legislature, which could dismiss the advisers if it was abused, if not restrained by a sense of justice and due regard to the interests of the Province. He did not deny, then, to the Government, the right to dismiss any or all of these men, nor should we have complained if the right had been claimed and exercised without miserable attempts, in most cases, to damn and destroy the men's characters. He spoke of the Rogerses, Franchville, Logan, Davidson, Lewis, Randal, Morris, as men he had long known, and who were, in the places where they lived, held in the highest esteem. He had read all that had been written, and heard all that had been said, about their dismissals, and he did not believe that either of these men had forfeited their characters, or done anything of which they ought to be ashamed. Mr. Hamilton he knew but slightly, but had understood from the Shelburne members that he maintained a fair reputation in his county; and one thing was quite apparent, from the statements made here, and from a letter addressed to Mr. Locke, which he held in his hand, that the man had not had anything like a fair investigation. Mr. Franchville, we are told, did not enjoy the confidence of the community or know one fish from another; but the true reason for his dismissal is, that he possesses so much of the people's confidence that, in a sharp contest for the county of Guysborough some time ago, the Fin. Secretary only beat him by 17 votes. Randal Morris, we are told, "lived in an inconvenient place." But why not give the true reason, that, at elections, Morris himself was inconvenient. That my flag was always flying over his ship-yard, and that the friends of Provincial progress were rallied under it. Davidson, we are told, was dismissed because he had been a bankrupt 17 years ago, yet another person had been appointed to a similar office in Parrsboro', who was a bankrupt about 7 years ago. One or two of the cases were indefensible. One he could only express sorrow for, because, although it was the common one of a very young man exposed to strong temptations, it involved