

From the Halifax Morning Post.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

Halifax, Saturday, March 9th, 1841. We place before the country this morning the Resolutions moved on Tuesday last in the House of Assembly, by Mr. Howe, and the Amendment by the hon. the Attorney General.

The debate on it on Tuesday afternoon was remarkable for nothing peculiar, save that the real effect of the resolution—i. e. to introduce a system of governing the country by Heads of Departments, was carefully kept out of sight; and no wonder; when it must be felt on all hands that the country would never submit to a system that would transfer the most important public business to political demagogues.

The meaning of the proposition is that the Lieut. Governor, for the time being, shall be advised by nine Office-holders—and of course, if there be not nine Heads of Departments already, they must be created; and when they lose a majority in the Assembly, they must retire with a pension—to be paid out of the Provincial Funds, as in Canada. (Not fact.)

The Amendment passed in the House on Tuesday, 24 to 22—Messrs. Ross, Creighton, and Geo. Smith, being absent; and after a long debate the next morning, with closed doors, on the motion of Mr. Doyle for rescinding the vote of the preceding night was confirmed. We italicise important expressions Mr HOWE'S resolution:

Whereas, the principles of Administration applicable to the Government of the North American Colonies, have been formally sanctioned, by the highest authority, on several occasions, and ought to prevent misrepresentation or mistake, to be recorded on the Journals of the Assembly, with its deliberate sanction:

And whereas, the following Resolutions, moved by Mr. Secretary Harrison, were adopted by the Parliament of Canada, on the 24th September, 1811.

For these famous Resolutions, see immediately under the Editorial head. And whereas the following declaration was read to this House on the 14th day of March, 1812, by the Hon. Mr. Dodd, with the concurrence of all the Members of the then Administration:

"In Canada as in this Country, the TRUE principle of Colonial Government is, that the GOVERNOR is responsible for the acts of his government to His Sovereign, and the Executive Councillors are responsible to the Governor. He asks their advice when he wishes it, he adopts it at his pleasure, and it is the duty of those that disapprove of his acts to retire from the Board."—Extract from a speech of Hon. A. Stewart.

We admit the whole of this, and have stated it several times, we also admit that any system of Government which does not include the responsibility of the Governor to the Sovereign, and of the Councillors to Him, is INCONSISTENT with the relation of a Colony to the Mother Country.

"Lord Falkland has received Her Majesty's commands to govern the Province in conformity with the well understood wishes of the people as expressed through their Representatives. His responsibility to his Sovereign, therefore, renders it imperative upon us to consult your wishes and possess your confidence.

"If, in carrying out his instructions, he comes in collision with the House, his Sovereign must judge between him and them, the people between the House and his Council; the success of his Administration depends upon his having a Council secure in the affections of the House. His Councillors are responsible to him, but he takes them because they possess your confidence, and he will dismiss them when they have lost it. This involves their responsibility to you. We admit our responsibility to the Governor, we admit the Governor's right to act and appoint, but we confess our obligation to defend his acts and appointments, and your right to obstruct and embarrass us in carrying on the Government when these are not wise and satisfactory; the exercise of the prerogative must be

firm and independent, in every act, of the Government, general and local; but its exercise is to be defended here by us; and the necessity there is for your possessing the confidence of the people, the Council yours, the Governor theirs—includes all the strength, and yet responsibility, which any desirable under a Representative Monarchy."

And whereas, His Excellency Sir Charles Mordaunt has thus explained, in answer to an Address from Gov. in Canada, his views on Colonial Government.

"If you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well understood wishes and interests of the people; the Resolutions of September, 1811, should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent to the Council to offer advice on all occasions, whether as to patronage or otherwise; and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers; and consult with them in all cases of adequate importance; that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them; that the Council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and the people; and that when the acts of the Government are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign; then I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on Responsibility in a Colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds, devoid of party spirit."

Therefore Resolved, That this House recognize, in the above Resolutions and Documents, the true principles of Colonial Government, as applicable to the Province.

The Kingston Corporation appears to be in particular bad odour at the present time, with the public; and its members at loggerheads among themselves. Reckless extravagance is the cause of the outcry against it: the Market House which was to have cost £10,000, is but three parts finished, and has exceeded £18,000. The Corporation, after giving its Architect permission to leave, for the Government, and armed him with high recommendations to the Corporation here, has discharged him for neglect of his duties. Part of a loan of £22,000 raised for purposes of improvement, has been lent by the Corporation to its own members, and it is said with but little prospect of its ever being repaid.—Times.

Military Road.—A party, consisting of an officer of the engineers, two officers of the 14th, two civil assistants, and twelve men, will start in a few days to explore the ground between Quebec and Halifax, for the purpose of marking out a line for the formation of a grand military road of communication between these places. The Imperial Government has granted £1000 sterling, for the purpose of this survey. The work is intended to be carried into execution as soon as practicable. This measure will be highly beneficial in opening out that portion of the Provinces, and facilitating the carriage of the mails, and the transport of produce.—Montreal Times, March 22.

Fortifications.—A line of permanent fortifications, of the strongest description, is about to be constructed upon the frontier, between New Brunswick and Quebec. They will be made with reference to the intended Military road, to protect or sweep it in the case may require. As soon as the surveys and plans are completed, the works will be commenced. This does not look as if Great Britain has any present intention of giving up this colony to be governed by itself, or any other nation. We have not heard whether the chain will be extended to Dandee and St. Regis, but it will be incomplete without; those parts of the country are at present much exposed.

The Army—Woolwich, March 1.—A detachment of intelligent non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Sappers will embark next Monday steamer for Halifax, N.S., to join and assist a party already employed in determining the boundary line between New Brunswick, and the United States.

Distribution of the Forces in Quebec.—Quebec—Detachment Artillery; 63rd and 82nd Regiments. Head-quarters of Major-General Sir J. Hope, K. C. B. Sorel—Reserve Battalion, 71st. Chambly—Do. Do. Do.

St. Helen's (opposite Montreal)—Detachment of 74th Montreal—Head-quarters of the Army. One battery Artillery; 43rd and 80th Regiments.

Liprarie—Head-quarters 74th St. John's—51st Regiment. Isle-aux-Nois—Detachment [Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment.

Philipsburgh, Oueltown, and Humpingsford—Provincial Cavalry.

Chateaugay—Detachment Royal Canadian Rifles. Coteau du Lac—Do. Do. Kingston—Detachment Artillery; 14th Regiment and one wing 93rd Highlanders. Head-quarters of Major-General Sir R. Armstrong, C. B.

Toronto—Head-quarters 93rd. Niagara—Head-quarters Royal Canadian Rifles.

Amblerburgh—Detachment of Do. Do. London—Detachment Artillery, and Reserve Battalion 23rd Welch Fusiliers. Penetanguishene—Detachment 93rd Highlanders.

We fully subscribe to the following observations copied from the Quebec Gazette. As a proof Postmasters make free with Printer's papers we may adduce the fact, that on Wednesday last the Halifax Post and the Nova Scotia arrived here for subscribers, but we received no exchange; and as we see no notice in the Lower Canada papers of the important proceedings which have taken place in the Nova-Scotia Legislature, we presume they have been served with the same treatment.

"There has been great irregularity of life in the receipt of the Halifax papers. It is possible that, having become interesting, they are taken to be read at some of the way post offices. This comes from teaching people to read, without giving them, at the same time, a good moral education: 'thou shalt not steal;' or even covet 'any thing that is thy neighbour's.' The printers are very much interested in this essential part of education, for it is ruinous to them that people can read, if they covet having newspapers, without making them their own, by paying for them."—Kingston Chronicle.

Lord Brougham—"This Peer of Parliament," has again begun abusing his civilized friends, the Whigs, for an utter abandonment of their "Lord Brougham," says the Examiner, "is like the madman who insisted that all the rest of the world were out of their senses. According to his assertions, both Liberals and Tories have changed their opinions. In one sense he has never deserted a principle—for perhaps he never had one." This paragon of political faith, voted with his old enemies, the Tories, against any inquiry into the grievances of Ireland.

We find in the Liverpool Mercury the following paragraph, describing a curious incident connected with the state trials in Ireland.

Father Lalor and the Attorney General.—Mr. Attorney General Smith, in his opening speech, said he was in a position to prove certain observations made by persons present at the Balmglass meeting, and among the rest the following:—'Father Lalor told them, in the chapel, that it was too far gone now, and that they should get it, but not without blood being shed.' The Rev. Daniel Lalor, P. P., has addressed a letter to the Dublin Evening Post, in which he says:—'Respectfully this quotation, if it refers to me, be it known to all whom it may concern, that I never said so, either in or out of the chapel; that whoever asserts it is a liar, whoever swears it is a perjurer, whoever knows me and believes it is a blockhead. The language is not complimentary, nor intended to be either so or otherwise; but it is what, under the circumstances, I want and like—short, handy, and intelligible.' And Father Lalor, hunt as he is, has infinitely the best of the dispute, for the Attorney General gave no evidence on the subject.

On Friday last crowded meetings of the Catholics of Tralee and Killarney were held in their respective towns, and resolutions unanimously adopted, denouncing in the strongest possible terms, the course pursued by the law officers of the crown in striking off the names of every Catholic from the special jury panel balloted for the state trials as an insult to the Catholics of Ireland; a violation of their rights

as British subjects, and in direct opposition to the spirit and letter of the emancipation act.

Positions to Her Majesty, founded on these resolutions, were agreed to at both meetings.

Internal Improvements in Michigan.—A bill has passed the Michigan House of Representatives, appropriating \$85,000 in lands for the grading and superstructure of the Central Railroad of Kalamazoo, and \$75,000 out of the net proceeds of the road, for ironing the same to that point.

Remarkable change in the Government.—Within three years the United States have had 3 Presidents, 2 Vice Presidents, 4 Secretaries of State, 4 Secretaries of the Treasury, 4 Secretaries of War, 6 Secretaries of the Navy, 4 Attorney Generals, and 3 Postmaster Generals. This includes the administration of Mr. Van Buren. Since his administration, the account according to a letter in the Herald stands as follows:

- President—Harrison, Tyler. 2
- Secretaries of State—Webster, Legare, Upshur, Nelson. 4
- Secretaries Treasury—Ewing, Forward, Spencer. 3
- Secretaries War—Bell, Spencer, Porter, Wilkins. 4
- Secretaries Navy—Badger, Upshur, Henshaw, Gilmer, Warrington. 5
- Attorney Generals—Crittenden, Legare, Nelson. 3
- Postmaster Generals—Granger, Wickliff. 2

Total, 28
In these seven offices, in the ordinary and undisturbed course of events, seven persons would administer the government for eight years.—Albany Advertiser.

A New Cure for Consumption.—A subscriber, who has for a long time been afflicted with consumption and its attendant evils, informs us that as an experiment he mixed one part of Chloride of Iodine with six parts of water and kept it in his bed-room, in a partly covered dish, for a fortnight—during which time his health has been so sensible improved that he attributes it to be the Iodine, and desires us to give publicity to the fact.—[New York Sun.

What does the term esquire now import? If nothing it ought to be disused—if something it then must confer a title of some precedence. Counsellors at law, justices of the peace, and aged gentlemen were formerly entitled to it, more by reputation than in strict right. But now no one can venture to address a youth who has passed twenty-one—a merchant, or even a haberdasher, without esquireing him! And though it can break no bones, nor pick any pockets, it is still hugely out of keeping, and strongly indicative of the ultraism of our democracy. Would it not be far better wholly to abolish every title of precedence, than use them without the least discrimination.

It appears that during the last year, out of upwards of a million of persons who have travelled by railway in different parts of England, only one met with a fatal accident from causes not attributable to individual carelessness or rashness.

There is a report in circulation that a large body of "the Evangelical Clergy" are about to secede from the Established Church, and to set up a distinct communion on the principles of Episcopacy.

Two or three building yards in Sunderland, which have been unoccupied since 1840, have been taken for the purposes of ship building, which will shortly be in full operation there. These signs of reviving trade, however small, are gratifying.

Several iron steam-boats have been ordered to be built by the Lords of the Admiralty, to be employed for the conveyance of despatches.

The National publishes a letter from Rome, announcing that the utmost distress prevails in that city. Commerce, agriculture, and manufactures, are in a deplorable state; and the only income derived by the shopkeepers is from strange.