

# The Standard, OR FRONTIER GAZETTE.

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## COMMUNICATIONS. For the Standard.

Mr. Editor,  
The system of "Responsible Government," or Government "in accordance with the known wishes of the people," has now been in operation in this Province nearly four years. Previous to that time the powers of the House of Assembly were extremely limited. The Executive was independent of the Representative branch, and could at pleasure set the people at defiance. The ungranted resources of the Colony were vested in the Executive, and subject to no Legislative control; and although large sums of money were in various ways drawn from the pockets of the people, yet so far from being at the disposal of their Representatives, such monies only added to the uncontrolled power of the local Government.

Under the operation of this system various abuses gradually crept in, and grievances of no ordinary character ultimately alarmed the whole country. An Office was established at Fredericton, and its principal incumbent rewarded with the enormous salary of £2000 per annum. The office exercised unlimited and undefined powers over the lands and forests of the country, and Commerce, Agriculture, and Emigration, were all within its grasp. In the meantime quit rents and other odious exactions were called for, and when the people made complaints to be laid before the Throne, their complaints were rebuffed by the then Lieutenant Governor. Great dissatisfaction and excitement prevailed throughout the Province—the measures adopted had a direct tendency to alienate the deep rooted affections of the people from the parent Government, and a crisis was apparently fast approaching, which might have produced the most disastrous results. Happily for this Province, and perhaps for all British North America, Messrs. Simonds and Chandler, and afterwards Messrs. Crane and Wilnot, in their several missions to London, settled the conditions of a Contract which produced a complete revolution in the affairs of New-Brunswick.

The ungranted resources of the Colony were given up to the people. The people in return granted a liberal civil list.—The Lieutenant Governor was removed.—The Executive and Legislative Councils remodelled.—A practical and enlightened Statesman was appointed to preside, and a period of contentment, prosperity, and harmony ensued, hitherto unknown in any Colony on this side the Atlantic.

The partisans and abettors of the exploded system, completely defeated and disappointed, have in many instances joined heartily with the present order of things; the rest have ever since been steady and unceasing in their opposition. A paper called "The Chronicle," published weekly in St. John, is their mouth piece, and with truth it may be said, that "their mouths is full of cursing and bitterness." All their attacks on Sir John Harvey and his Government have hitherto been anonymous, but as he has now left the Province, some of them are beginning to crawl out of their lurking holes and to show themselves. They are known to exist as a party in the City of Saint John—some of them are in Fredericton—a considerable number in Woodstock—a party in Northumberland and Gloucester, and a party in the County of Charlotte. They are just now making a desperate effort to bring about a counter revolution. They hope by a united application to the new Governor to induce him to dissolve the present General Assembly, and by influencing and misleading the public mind by all manner of falsehoods and misrepresentations, to change the character of the House of Assembly at the coming General Election. In this County they have already made very considerable progress; several requisitions have been got up for the holding of political meetings. One of these has already been held in the Town of Saint Stephen, and although it was a most signal failure, it has been hailed by "The Chronicle," as the omen of final success.

It is not my intention to refer to their various methods of operation in other sections of the Province, but to point out and expose their machinations in this County of Charlotte. First then, They have taken infinite pains to persuade the people that the present House of Assembly has made a most wanton, extravagant, and improper use of the public money, and already overwhelmed the Province with a debt of £100,000!!!

Secondly—That the members for the City of Saint John, by their undue influence, obtain a great deal more than their due share of the public money—that some of the Charlotte and other County members join with them, by which unfair and disgraceful means St. John gets too much, and Charlotte too little.

Thirdly—That a large majority of the present members are corrupt and unprincipled men, and are arranged under certain political leaders who manage them as puppets in a show are managed by him who pulls the strings behind the curtain.

That the increase to the salary of the late

Lieutenant Governor—the vote of £1500 sterling at the close of his administration—the grant of £1000 to the Central Bank—the grant to Saint John of every thing applied for—and the consequent overwhelming debt with which this unhappy Province is burdened, are so many instances of the baseness of the present House of Assembly, and so many good and substantial reasons why that House should immediately be dissolved.

Your Humble Servant,  
ANTHONY CLODPOLE.  
May 10th, 1841.

"Oir tha an unbhachda 'nan beul."

Mr. Editor,  
The people of Saint Stephen, Saint James, and Saint David, met on the 24th ult. for the purpose of passing sentence of condemnation upon the majority of the members of the House of Assembly—Jas. Frink, Esq. J. P. in the Chair.

The business was introduced by J. H. Clarke, Esq. in a very luminous and eloquent speech, pointing out the whole of the financial proceedings of the House since the year 1820, and showing, in the majority of the present members, the most extravagant, wanton, and unpardonable waste of the people's money. He concluded by moving the first resolution.

This was seconded by A. Campbell, Esq. Barrister-at-Law, who, after giving the members a sufficient drubbing for their unprincipled and disgusting extravagance, pointed out in a most convincing manner that the Province was £43,000 in debt at the end of the year 1840, and would be at least £100,000 in debt at the end of the present year.

The Chairman being about to put the question on the resolution, James Brown, M. P. arose, and laboured under the manifest conviction of the baseness of his cause, endeavoured to persuade the meeting, that the resolution was wrong. A sum exceeding £100,000 had been allotted to be paid at once into the hands of the Assembly, being the proceeds of the casual Revenue, besides the ordinary "annual receipts" of the Provincial revenue; so that by the resolution the said £100,000 must, until this hour, have remained in the public chest unexpended. The House had, however, determined to expend a part of this sum every year, in addition to the "annual receipts" for roads and schools. He then took out his Journals and, from page 126, shewed a balance in favour of the Province on the 31st of Dec. last of £73,000—this he said included a bad debt of £3,900, due from Mr. Baillie, and was not otherwise all at present available, but he maintained that the Province was clear of debt. Messrs. Clarke and Campbell, however, soon turned the tables on him, by proving that the book was on the other leg, and that his pretended £73,000 was the balance of debt with which the Province is now burdened—and which, during the current year, will amount to £100,000!!! The resolution passed unanimously.

Having therefore resolved the Province into an overwhelming debt, the second resolution moved by G. J. Thomson, Esq. Barrister-at-Law, condemned the House, "in the existing state of the Revenue," for increasing Sir John Harvey's salary, and voting £1500 at the close of his Administration.

Mr. Brown said that he objected to the £500 at the time, and stated the reasons why he was overruled by the House—that Sir John's salary was about £1200 a year less than Sir Archibald's, and after the breaking out of the Canadian Rebellion, Gov't House became a perfect thoroughfare for officers, couriers, messengers, &c., that with regard to the £1500, Sir John had saved the militia expenses to the Province amounting to more than £6000, which had been refunded from the military chest. That after all his valuable services, he had been turned out of doors and disgraced without a moment's notice, and rendered unable to pay the debts which he had contracted in appointing his staff officers, and fitting up his establishment as Commander in Chief of the Province. These plausible reasons, which were urged at some length with a good deal of earnestness and seeming candour, made a little impression on some. Most of the gentlemen, however, considered them as without foundation in fact, and the resolution passed accordingly.

The two other resolutions passed in the same harmonious and unanimous manner; but I must not trespass too far by stating particulars, messengers, &c., that with regard to the £1500, Sir John had saved the militia expenses to the Province amounting to more than £6000, which had been refunded from the military chest. That after all his valuable services, he had been turned out of doors and disgraced without a moment's notice, and rendered unable to pay the debts which he had contracted in appointing his staff officers, and fitting up his establishment as Commander in Chief of the Province. These plausible reasons, which were urged at some length with a good deal of earnestness and seeming candour, made a little impression on some. Most of the gentlemen, however, considered them as without foundation in fact, and the resolution passed accordingly.

James McKenzie, Esq. of our Parish made several eloquent speeches, for which he was loudly cheered.—He was in fact the oracle of

the Parish, and gave ample proof of the wisdom of our four County members who recommended him last year as a Justice of the Peace, a service for which they will command our everlasting gratitude.

Colonel Marks was then called to the chair, an honour, which for some unaccountable cause he accepted with great reluctance, and the meeting having returned a vote of thanks to J. Frink, Esq. adjourned, with a determination to get up a Petition to the new Governor to dissolve the present General Assembly.

I expect that some of the movers will send a version of the proceedings to the Chronicle.  
DUGALD MACDHU.  
St. James, 6th May, 1841.

St. Andrews, May 13th 1841.

Dean Mr. Erroll,

Will you confer a small favour on a number of who read your valuable paper, by inserting the following hints. And first we would ask, whether the Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, organized lately in St. Andrews, is a sectarian one or not? or what sir, can the reason be that out of four of the Reverends in St. Andrews, only one attended the respectable meeting that was held last Wednesday evening in Paul's Hall? It certainly appears lamentable that in so small a town as St. Andrews where the inhabitants look up to you for example from the Clergy, that so cold and distant a feeling should be allowed by those who, we are informed by Scripture are placed for a light in the world? "How is the gold become dim, and the fine gold changed." Can those Divines feel the importance of the command of Scripture upon them: "Go into all the world and preach: Go into the Highways and ditches" &c. &c. we fear not, but it certainly looks like a passage we have read in Holy Writ, about blind leaders of the blind. It seems almost an incredible thing, sir, that a meeting could be held in this County, yes, in the shire Town, for the purpose of distributing the Word of Life to our destitute fellow men, and the Clergymen belonging to the Town, refuse their aid, and example.—What! Clergymen, those who profess to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, refuse to attend a meeting of the Bible Society? yes, they did; or rather they did not attend which amounts to the same thing. "I wish it was in Gath, tell it not in Ashdod." I was, dear sir, really sorry to see that faithful soldier of the Cross, Rev. Mr. Desbrisay, all alone there; the only Clergyman that attended. I will not do you any longer but hope the Reverend Gentlemen that were not present at the last meeting, may, at our next, come forward in all the might of their Master, and advocate so good a Cause.

Sir, I am yours, respectfully,  
ONE OF THE MEETING.

For the Standard.

THE EVILS OF SCEPTICISM.

Truth gains access to the mind in various ways and under different forms; but it always presents itself as being the reality of things. It is that conviction, which takes hold upon the mind, that things are really what they appear to be. The source of this conviction are the senses, intuition, consciousness, reason, and testimony. These are the constitutional grounds of all certainty and reality. Aside from them there is no possibility of knowledge or of existence. The state of mind attendant upon the exercise of the senses and the various faculties of the mind is belief. Belief may vary according to the amount of evidence proceeds from slight presumption up to absolute or moral certainty. In some minds the legitimate grounds of belief do not satisfy them. Hence doubts arise; doubts as to the reality of matter, the existence of mind and a Supreme Being; doubts in relation to the authenticity of the Bible and the great truths of religion. Such minds breathe an atmosphere of Scepticism. They violate the primary laws of our nature; they break away from the great balancing principles of truth; and their thoughts, under the influence of passion, are driven about, like dust in the whirlwind, until reason is bereft of its power and lies prostrate. Upon such minds argument is lost; evidence vain; truth, though written with sun-beams, thick darkness.

Scepticism does not usually come from the intellect; it does not originate in the understanding; it emanates from the heart, from depraved affections, and vicious habits. It is mist and vapour, that rise up from the stagnant mire of the disordered affections, and gather in thick clouds and settle down upon the low vale of inferior minds, but shrouds with impenetrable darkness the loftiest summits of intellect.

Under the forms of Atheism, Infidelity, and Heresy, Scepticism assumes a terrific aspect. It takes away from men the fear of God—cuts off accountability and shuts out eternity from the soul—puts out the hopes of immortality— consigns man to the grave of oblivion—and locks up his existence in a perpetual and eternal sleep. It unspiritualizes the soul and lets down upon it a deluge of materialism. It sweeps away every vestige of civil government, permits men to run reckless and without law. It extinguishes the light, that beams from the Bible,—dries up the foundation of the social affections, and pollutes with its poison the cup of domestic bliss. It completely unsystematizes the whole course of things, and introduces confusion and universal chaos.

In its application to civil government, its effects are clearly seen.—The fear of a Supreme Being lies at the foundation of every successful form of human government. It is the corner stone in the temple of Liberty, one of the pillars upon which it rests. Strike out from the minds of men the belief in the "existence and overruling power of a Supreme Being, and there is no possibility of sustaining civil authority. No republican form of government can exist for a day, where this belief has been blotted out. The history of ancient republics affords clear evidence of this truth. The founders and rulers of Greece and Rome, in order to the establishment and permanency of their institutions, found it necessary to introduce a system of religious belief. And they took care that the people should be instructed as to the existence of a Supreme Being, that they might learn to fear his power. And whether they believed in this system themselves or not, they understood its importance. They knew what were the elements of the human mind,—that it was impossible to restrain the lawlessness and perverseness of men without an appeal to a higher than human power and human punishment. They knew that the fear of the Gods was necessary to strengthen the sinews—to temper and harden the iron hand of civil law, before it could be stretched forth and laid upon the turbulent passions and "boiling wrath" of men.— And it was under the influence of this fear and belief, that Greece and Rome were able to raise themselves to a proud eminence above the level of the surrounding nations—to plant their academic groves—to build their temples—erect their altars and burn their incense to Liberty.—Nor did their glory depart, and their splendour become extinguished, until the philosophy of Epicurus began to diffuse itself through the public mind. It was not till Epicurean Atheism had sapped the foundations of virtue and morality, that they experienced a political earthquake, that sank them into the grave of despotism. And in the modern notions of theorists where "Vice prevailed, and immodest men bore sway" we may see the effects of Scepticism still more clearly exhibited. That great nation of Sceptics, in their solemn assembly, deliberately voted God out of the world and out of existence. And when they seat forth the proclamation that there was no God and death an eternal sleep of joy thro' the whole realm of France; and the people shouted with exultation, as they hailed the ushering in a far Atheistical jubilee. But the turning off from human conduct the inspection of an omniscient eye, was attended with fearful results;—the effects were terrific. It was like the uncapping of the volcano, the waking of its silent thunders, the kindling to a flame its smothered embers, and letting a broad and fiery sheet of desolation roll up and settle down upon the land. Scepticism not only removes the fear of a Supreme Being, but seeks openly and avowedly for the destruction of human government. It doubts the validity of civil authority—calling it usurpation and tyranny—taking off the restraints that civil law throws around men—obliterating the distinction between right and wrong, and giving free and unbounded scope to the desires and passions. It would abolish the system of private property—annihilate this great principle of attraction that binds together the family circle and human society. It would herd men together, and send them forth day by day into one common field to feed upon the dried husks and withered shrubbery of nature. It would quench the kindlings of maternal affection—remove helpless infancy away from parental love, and commit it to the cold embrace of a selected few, whose care should be to watch over and protect it, but whose hearts, bereft of all affection, and cold as icebergs, would chill and seal up its warm existence with the frosts of death. Scepticism removes every barrier and embankment, that conscience and religion have thrown up to check and restrain the passions; and it permits them to rush with headlong impetuosity down upon the delicate and complicated machinery of human society. It cuts the last strand in that cable, by which our hopes and safety are moored, and sends us forth upon the broad ocean of uncertainty and doubt, to be tossed and driven about by the tempests and whirlwinds of passion. Scepticism excludes from the mind the proper influence of truth. In its very nature it is opposed to all truth. It would efface every vestige of it from the universe. But truth will remain the same—venerable fabric, which has stood for ages, splendid, and immutable, which time could not crumble, nor persecutions shake, nor recollections change; which has ever stood, like some stupendous and majestic Appennine, the earth rocking at its feet, the heavens roaring round its head, firmly balanced on the base of its eternity; the relic

of what was; the solemn and sublime memorial to of what must be."

P. R. W.

May 10th, 1841

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
7th May, 1841.

The following List containing the numbers of the Warrants now in the Treasury, with the names of the persons to whom they are payable, is published for the information of all concerned:—

- No. 166. Thomas Davis, Balance due to him,
- 169. Honourable Thomas Wyer, Bridge,
- 171. Commissioners of Alms House, Saint Andrews, expenses,
- 172. Overseers of Poor, Saint Stephen, ditto,
- 173. Edward & Joseph Wilson, Head Money,
- 179. L. B. R. v. Ford and Jas. Brown, Road,
- 235. J. H. Whitlock, Adjutant,
- 226. William Boyd, Sergeant Major,
- 227. Richard McGee, Adjutant,
- 231. Alexander Campbell, Adjutant,
- 233. Lieutenant Colonel H. Hatch, Cleaning Arms,

HEAD QUARTERS, FREDERICTON,  
7th May, 1841.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

The Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief has been pleased to appoint Lieut Colonel Richard Hayne, of the New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery, to be His Excellency's Provincial Aid-de-Camp, vice Lieut. Colonel the Honourable W. H. Robinson, resigned.

1st Battalion Charitable County Militia.

TO BE CAPTAINS.

Lieutenant James Simpson, vice Boyd, promoted, (Rifle Company,) dated 7th May, 1841.

Ditto, John M'Curdy, vice Grant, who retires with his rank, dated 8th May, 1841.

TO BE LIEUTENANTS.

Ensign Henry Hitchings, dated 7th May, 1841.

John Trendwell, Gent., 1st Lieut. Rifle, vice Simpson, promoted, dated 8th May, 1841.

James Kempt Boyd, Gent., 2d Lieutenant Rifle, dated 9th May, 1841.

John M'Donald, Gent., 3d Lieutenant, dated 10th May, 1841.

William Melloney, to be 2d Lieut., Sea Fencible Company, vice George M'ulloch, who retires with his rank, dated 11th May, 1841.

Henry Frie, to be 2d Lieutenant, Sea Fencibles, dated 12th May, 1841.

Ensign George Simpson, vice M'Curdy, promoted, 13th May.

TO BE ENSIGNS.

John Bradford, Gent., vice Simpson, promoted, 13th May, 1841.

Alexander Gilman, Gent., vice Hitchings, promoted, 14th May, 1841.

Samuel T. Gore, Esquire, M. D. to be Assistant Surgeon, 7th May, 1841.

By Command,  
GEO. SHORE, A. G. M.

ADVANCEMENT OF THE ANCIENTS IN COMFORT.—I have alluded to the wheel tracks which are deeply cut in the stone pavement (at Pompeii)—but these are not the only marks of actual use which strike the eye every where. The stepping stones at the doors, for example, are mostly worn down by the feet, and the sides of the wells are deeply cut with the bucket ropes. It is very remarkable, that even in the narrow streets of Pompeii are furnished with commodious raised pavements for passengers—trottoirs, as they are called in France. And this reminds me of an old jumble of circumstances. The French have the word for the thing, but not the thing itself, while we in England have the thing but not the word, which obliges us to use the compound expression foot-pavement. What is perhaps still more curious, the Italians, in process of time, instead of improving, have gone backwards in this matter; for Pompeii, which must be upwards of 2000 years old, is far better off for trottoirs than any modern town in Italy.—It may be mentioned also that at the crossings in the streets of Pompeii, a line of stepping-stones, six or eight inches high, is always placed; a contrivance for the accommodation of foot passengers which I never saw in any other part of the world.—Capt Basil Hall's *Patchwork*.

Gardening.—It will soon be time, according to the Almanac, to commence the pleasing occupation of gardening. Lord Bacon, in one of his essays, says:—"God Almighty first planted a garden; indeed, it is the greatest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment of the spirit of man, without which, buildings and palaces are but gross handiwork."

A fine lot of Bird's Eye Maple bolts and slabs has been brought in our market last winter for shipment this spring to England. The slabs are all beautiful specimens of the maple, and if what has been stated of the admiration of the Bird's Eye Maple (God in London, we think the owner will reap a reward worthy his enterprise. This lot of timber was procured in the town of Garland and its vicinity.—Bangor Weekly