

phrase, "at once," but his eye attentively rivetted on the speaker, addressing the chair. Now you cannot mistake the described. Mr. Bell's parliamentary career being as yet so brief might without any impropriety have been considered among the new members. His political principles appear less liberal than those of many of the New House. On the sixth of Howe's famous eleven Resolutions, the burden of which was a complaint against the power and patronage of the Church of England, Bell voted with the opposition, which proved to be the majority. As a debater Bell is perspicacious, nervous, and concise. On important questions, while voting on one side he sometimes expresses doubts of the propriety of his own decision. Nevertheless for the most part, his votes will be found recorded on the column of Reform, and I think there can be but little doubt that he is a true Reformer.

HUNBERT HUNTINGDON is one of the members for Yarmouth; and although not a person of any very literary attainments is nevertheless deserving of notice in these sketches. Huntingdon is a man of about the middle size, some forty years of age, full featured, vigorous, and of a hale complexion. He has been for some time in the house, and is well acquainted with its forms, and the manner of doing business. His voice, by no means musical, is rather monotonous. He never attempts a set speech, nor wears the house with tedious orations. In debate Huntingdon is strictly argumentative, and his pithy, shrewd and well drawn conclusions are never lost upon the reflecting portion of the House. Few members in the Assembly possess better discriminating faculties than the member for Yarmouth; and none more determinately marshals them in battle array against Government abuses, Religious patronage and preference, and Provincial Monopolies. In opposition to the Colonial Bank Charter he was indefatigable. The learned member for Cape Breton, and he opposed the measure with great ability, which was as ably but more successfully defended by the member for Cumberland, one of its directors, and the member of *Juste-au-Corps* its Solicitor. Herbert Huntingdon is one of the business men of the house. His views of politics are liberal: his highest ambition appears to consist in a claim to be serviceable to his Country without the usual disposition to head a party. He is a discerning unbending Reformer.

From the *Novascotian*.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

This morning (April 3.) a general Bill, for preserving the evidence taken before the Election Committees, was introduced by Mr Doyle; and when we entered the gallery we found Mr Stewart addressing the house upon that subject.

Mr Stewart, on his own behalf and on that of his friends who sent him to the house, protested against this, or any other law, which altered the law at present in existence, under which they had commenced the contest, and by which alone their rights were determinable. That the mere circumstances that neither in British, nor Colonial, nor American legislation, was any precedent of such a law to be found, was sufficient to justify him in resisting, in the most formal manner, the introduction of a precedent so dangerous here. That the resolution produced by Mr Young on the preceding day, when he was not in the house, and could take no part in the debate, as moved by Mr Stewart in 1827, was one of a series; but it was by consent of himself, who was the sitting member's nominee, and of Mr Fairbanks, who was petitioner's; and after all, in 1828, that notwithstanding such consent, the law required the whole proceedings should be commenced anew, and a new committee was struck which reported in favour of Mr Smith. That although he might remain and continue to oppose the bill in its various stages, and even vote upon it, he, Mr Stewart, considered it more decorous to withdraw altogether from the house; during the discussion, and leave his rights in the judgment of the house. Repeating in a formal manner his protest against this law, as being *ex post facto* and unconstitutional, expressing his gratitude to Mr Uniacke for his generous defence of his rights, he left the house, and did not return, we believe, during the day.

Mr Uniacke said, that as the measure had been

fully urged yesterday, he would not detain the house by going into a recapitulation of the reason upon which his opposition to the measure was founded. The present bill though nominally a general Bill, applied in reality only to the County of Cumberland. In all the other Election Committees, consent had been given to pass the law, but in the contest in which his learned friend was involved, that assent had been refused, and that constituted the essence of the injustice which the house were about to perpetrate, if they deprived him of rights which he was entitled to exercise. The change of the Bill from a particular to a general one was a mere subterfuge. If a man was unjustly and arbitrarily to be deprived of his rights, it was very little consequence by what form of words the injury was perpetrated. The Bill, in every point of view, was a violation of those fundamental rights upon which the liberties of a Briton were founded, and while in its operation it would deprive the sitting member of those privileges which the existing law conferred upon him, it would also perpetuate the testimony of the opposing candidate, while his own was left to all the chances of time.

Mr Howe would not go into an answer of the arguments so powerfully advanced by the sitting member in opposition to the Bill, as that gentleman had withdrawn from the debate. He had listened with patience and attention to the speech of his learned friend, but still he was obliged to confess his opinions to be unchanged. As the Bill would be again taken up in Committee, he would then take the opportunity of answering the arguments adduced upon the other side, and of enforcing his own views.

Mr W. Young would also refrain from going into the question, in the absence of the learned gentleman who was affected by the measure proposed. It was true that he had, on a previous occasion, employed the expressions, that unless some measure of this nature were adopted, the whole proceedings before the Committee would be a mockery and a farce. The truth of that assertion no one has attempted to controvert; but it was said in answer, that the law as it now stood was such that this consequence must necessarily follow. If the law was so, that was the best reason why it should be altered. He was glad that a general Bill was introduced, and had he been consulted when the measure was first contemplated, he would have advised that course. Now that the house had an opportunity of remedying these crying evils, by a measure not so constructed as to aim at any one individual only, it was the duty which the house owed to the country, to interpose their authority and save from annihilation all the proceedings which had already been taken.

Mr Fairbanks said, that whatever alterations some gentlemen might think of introducing into the bill in committee, it was now necessary to discuss the matter as it was before the house. By the Bill, as it now stood, the evidence only was preserved—but in the next session a new committee has to be appointed. Now, it was well known, how superior an advantage it always was to those, who were called upon to decide any point, to have heard the evidence adduced, as it came from the mouth of the witnesses. By the present bill, however, that benefit was lost, and the only advantage aimed at was to preserve the testimony. No doubt it was a hardship that all the evidence should be scattered to the winds; but as both parties had embarked in the contest, with a full knowledge of the operation of the law, he thought they must implicitly have consented to submit to all the inconveniences entailed by its defects.

The question being taken, upon a motion to allow the Bill to remain on the table for a second reading, it was carried, 24 to 15.

Relief Bill.

On the second reading of the Bill to authorise the Governor to borrow a sum of money, for the relief of distressed settlers throughout the Province—a motion was made to postpone the consideration of the Bill for 3 months. A desultory conversation ensued, of which we noted the following particulars.

Mr J. Young was as much opposed to the system of borrowing money as any man could be, but under the peculiar circumstances of distress in which the Province was now involved—he thought the house were justified in having recourse to that measure. By the scheme proposed, no addition was to be made to the public debt; the distress prevailing, would be relieved merely by the anticipation of a portion of next year's revenues, and the greater distress, which would necessarily ensue, by reason of a deficiency of seed for the crops of the present year, would thus be nipped in the bud.

Several gentlemen expressed their opinion that the want, which existed in the Province, had on a previous day been greatly exaggerated, and that there was no imperative necessity to resort to so extraordinary a mode of relief.

Mr Lewis said, that mankind were prone to run to

extremes. Some gentlemen entertained the idea, that the cry of starvation resounded within the walls of every poor settler within the Province—others seemed to consider that there was really very little distress in the country. He thought the truth lay between. There was probably a great deal of distress, but not more he thought than might be relieved, by a judicious appropriation of the money already voted for roads.

Mr Fairbanks understood, at the time the embargo Bill was passed, that a pledge was given to follow up that measure by something like the one now proposed. By the provisions of the present bill, a sum was to be placed at the disposal of the Governor, who was to appoint commissioners in the several Counties. These commissioners were to inform his Excellency of the extent of distress in their districts and procure such sum, as should be necessary to relieve it, not exceeding a certain maximum sum. Seed oats and potatoes to be purchased by the money, were to be distributed to the necessitous, whose notes, payable in six months, were to be taken in return, and might be worked out on the roads, either this year or next, and in the event of failure of payment, the County generally was to be answerable for the deficiency.

By these means, every check was interposed to prevent the abuse of the Crown. The magistrates would take care not to draw a sum above their wants, when the County had to be taxed for what would be lost. For the same reason they would exercise a judicious caution, in the choice of those who were to receive the seed; and not give it to persons who would abuse the public charity, and without any intention of paying the notes which they were required to give. Therefore, as no possible evil could accrue, and as great benefits would arise from the adoption of the contemplated scheme, he felt himself bound to support it.

Mr Huntingdon was so certain that the sum, if borrowed, would be added to the debt of the Province, that he would pledge his head upon the correctness of his predictions. If distress existed he would be willing to relieve it, but by some scheme which would appropriate to that purpose, a part of the £10,000 already granted for roads and bridges. However, he was persuaded, and always had been, that the extent of misery in the Province, was not as great as the imaginations of some gentlemen had, on a former day, represented it to be. It was astonishing to what an extent a small quantity of fact could be hammered out by a lively fancy, to gild over the most preposterous notions. A few families in different parts of the country were found to be in distress, and forthwith rose a general cry of starvation. The same fertility of imagination would have converted a village thief into a band of robbers, or an assault upon a drunken justice into a rebellion against the government. He was convinced, however specious were the pretexis upon which the present Bill was advocated, that the result would be to add to the public debt. If the majority of counties should now take from the Treasury—when the members returned next year, and on dividing the road monies found how small a sum fell to their counties, they would do any thing rather than return with the pittance left to them, and he feared that the old well beaten road would once more be trodden, and the deficiency raised by a further pledge of the public faith. He had opposed the embargo bill because it was unjust and injurious in its principle. He had just heard from his own county, that three vessels had left Yarmouth, loaded with potatoes, for the American market, a little before the arrival of the mail conveying the intelligence of the embargo act. Three were, when that intelligence arrived, even in the act of loading with potatoes, purchased at 2s per bushel. The result would be, that the Legislature having shut out a foreign market—the owners would be obliged to send the potatoes to Halifax; and they would be fortunate indeed, if, without taking the freights into consideration, they should receive enough to pay for the first cost. Should the sufferers apply to the Legislature for relief, they would be treated as Mr Starrat the other day was treated, when a tyrannical infringement of his rights, brought him a petitioner to the bar—and would learn how much dependence was to be placed on the tender mercies of the Legislature. He would advise every member, who did not intend to take any money for his own county, to vote against the measure altogether.

The question being called for, on the motion to defer the bill, it was lost 13 to 17.

A motion was then made that the house should resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take the bill into consideration, which being put and carried,

Mr Stewart then explained the different clauses of the bill, and commented upon the variety of checks interposed by its provisions, to prevent the sum that should be lent, from being lost to the Province, or added to the debt.

Mr J. Young said, that by a previous enactment, the Legislature had prevented the articles from going to a foreign market, but that measure would be inefficient for the purposes its projectors had in view, unless