

America,—their virtues are not such as to cause us to sing their *Te Deum*. On the contrary, their want of honor at times is such as to call forth the just indignation of every honest man in their respective communities. We, in this Colony, are not without examples to prove the truth of these statements. Who, at the present day, rule us? Are they men who by their antecedents proved themselves to be the most truthful individuals in the world? Certainly not. They are men who "live by lies, yet dare not boldly lie,"—politicians with double fronts,—one for the people and another for the treasury. We are well aware that political life has a demoralizing influence upon public men; that they cannot expect to rise in the State unless they become as others of their class; that political ambition infests the country and generates a feverish restlessness and discontent; that individuals who take to that line of life generally aim at the acquisition of power or a share of the public plunder, and that in order to accomplish their ends, they must flatter and caress the crowd,—must appeal strongly to its passions and prejudices. This it is that causes so many of our colonial politicians to be without principle in public life; and it also explains the reason why dishonesty, treachery, inconsistency and dozens of other charges of a similar nature, are continually ~~thrown in their faces~~. Now, if a man's religious principles be such as to prevent him from falling into such errors as the above, instead of being denounced and ridiculed, he should be the subject of praise. We may find fault with the stern bigotry of the old Puritans, but no person will question their honesty. So we say of Mr. Laird. We do not admire his strong Calvinistic principles, but we cannot bring ourselves to say that he is a dishonest or an evil-minded man. If he possessed the accommodating dispositions of some of his opponents—if he hooted confederation to-day and was its eulogist to-morrow—if he denounced as "political blackguards" last year men who gave him office this year,—then, we presume, Mr. Laird would be a successful politician, and that to-day he would be high up among those who direct the affairs of the ship of state. We have spoken only of Mr. Laird's public life, and here we think we may safely leave him.

We intended to say a few words about Mr. Donald Currie, the assistant editor of the *Patriot*. His connection with the Press entitles him to our consideration. With the exception, perhaps of Mr. W. H. Pope, he is longer employed on the local Press than any of those who now write for the newspapers. We believe him to be a more prolific writer than any of our living editors. People may dispute as to his ability as an editor, but no one, we think, will deny that the individual who inspires the *Patriot* twice a week, is destitute of intelligence or vigor. As a compiler of figures, we believe he has no equal in the Colony. His statistics on the trade, commerce and resources of the Island, have been extensively and approvingly quoted. Local as well as Colonial journals, have made use of them, and even our statesmen when on a stumping tour, have not considered it beneath them to use the figures compiled by Mr. Currie, in enforcing their arguments. As an official of the late government, his capacity has never been questioned. On the contrary, his efficiency has been acknowledged both by friends and enemies. That he has his faults, like other individuals, we freely admit, but they are not of a sordid kind. In private life his friends give him the character of being generous and disinterested, and as a newspaper writer, mixing up in party politics, we know none who has fewer enemies. Indeed, he has a peculiar knack of disarming even the most bitter of those to whom he is opposed in politics. But it may be said that we are becoming the eulogist of Mr. Currie, and that we are studiously concealing his faults. Well, perhaps so, but until he has erred more grievously than heretofore; until he has taken the side of the oppressor against the industrious poor man; until he proves himself to be without spirit, and a parasite,—until that time at least, we can be allowed to believe that our estimate of the assistant editor of the *Patriot* is correct.

As these articles have grown upon our hands, we will again have to defer our notices of the remaining of our living editors.

THE BANKRUPT COURT.

Has our Bankrupt Act proved a failure? The question is one of great importance to the commercial public, and, indeed to the general public. Some people have not only determined that it is a failure, but loudly denounced it as a nuisance. A great many Bankrupts, it is true, have taken advantage of the benefits it offered, but that fact, in itself, proves nothing. There is no doubt that there is a good deal of fraud perpetrated under the protection of the Court, but the same may be said of almost every Bankrupt Court in Christendom. Of those in this Island who have gone through the Court, we venture to say that 60 per cent at least were really "unfortunate debtors," and deserved protection from the rapacity of their creditors. The Court is doing a good work in many ways, but we freely admit that there is a great deal of evil and fraud mixed up with the good. We believe in the necessity of a proper Bankrupt Court in every commercial community, and we therefore are not prepared to join in the