

ORANGE AND GREEN-A FARCE IN FOUR ACTS.

ACT II.
$A C 1111$.
[avtr.] TO THE
Free and Independent Eleetors of WEST DURHAM.

## GENTLEMEN,-

The Government, which but a brief space since was craving a longer trial before judg. ment, has prematurely dissolved Parliament, and precipitated a gen eral election. For what reason? Because it felt that it would be weaker next year than it is to-day, and that its only chance of victory lay in a surprise? But it has not ventured to appeal to the constituency of 1878 .

IT HAS JACKEJ THE JURY.
By an iniquitous measure it has concentrated in a few districts large numbers of Liberal voters, in urder to weaken the effective Reform strength in many ridings, to impair the prospects of election of leading Liberals, and, if possible, to turn a minority of the people into a majority in Parliament. For these purposes it has disre garded the county bounds, disturbed the electoral districts, and violated long-standing associations of friendship, business and convenience throughout the greater part of Ontario. But even this was not enough. Repealing the law which makes sheriffs and registrars the returning officers, it has taken power to appoint where it pleases its own nominees to do its work, and so to reenact the scenes of ten years ago, when men defeated at the polls in Muskokia and West Peterboro' were made into members of Parliament by the will of these officials. Such acts are subversive of those principles of justice, equality, and fair play on which our constitution rests, and which gives a moral sanction to the laws. 'They show that Government, nolwithstanding all its boasts, feels itself beaten in a fair fight; and so attempts foul play. We are appealing to all good men without distinction of party, to rebuke this gross abuse of power; and to show its authors that, though they may exchange townships and cut up counties as they like, the votes of the electors on whom they count cannot be transferred to the supporters of iniquities
like these. We are calling not only for an enthusiastic, vigorous, and organized eftort on the part of Reformers, but also for the support of many, heretofore indifferent or hostile, who will yet decline to become accomplices in this transaction. And our call is answered! Such a spirit has been aroused among the people at large as I have not seen before-such a spirit as warrants the belief that the attempt will fail of its base purpose, and will recoil with just severity on the heads of the concoctors and supporters of the plot
broken pledges and added burdens.
On what do the Government ask a renewal of your confidence? On a record of broken pledges and of added burdens. They promised that they would not increase the rate of taxation; they have enormously increased it. They denounced the former scale of expenditure; they have largely raised it. They declaimed against the additions which were made to the public charge in order to carry out a policy and engagements settled under their own former rule, and left by them as legacies to their successors in 1873. They have greally added to that charge; and have, as far as in them lay, ensured the recurrence of a period of severe financial difficulty and distress. They boast of an increased revenue; due, so far as they are concerned, to increased taxation only. They boast of an enlarged prosperity; due not to them, but to the general revival of trade throughout the world, to large products at home, and high prices abroad.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY CONTRACT.
They pride themselves on their Pacific Railway contract. I condemn that bargain as improper, being made in secret, without public tender, contrary to the existing policy of the people and of Parliament, and opposed to the provisions of the law. I condemn it as extravagant, since the enterprise will cost us sixty million dollars, and twenty-five million acres of the choicest lands, while the road is to belong to the company which will realize the cost of its part of the work out of its land and money
subsidies. I condemn it as outrageous, in conferring on the company a practical monopoly, for twenty years, of the trade of our North-west Territories, and large privileges and exemptions, very valuable to thein and stillmore detrimental to the public. I condem it as indefensible, being consummated in the face of a tender to perform the same obligations for three million dollars less money, three million acres less land, without the monopoly of trade, without the exemptions from taxation, and on other couditions much more favorable than those of the contract. I condemn it as premature, since the true policy was to provide for the rapid completion of the line from Thunder Bay and for the immediate construction of railways through the prairie, and, loy securing the early development and settlement of the North-West, to give added value to ourlands and a prospect of traffic for the road before contracting for the completion for the eastern and western ends. The progress of the NorthWest is due to the work we did and proposed to do. The difficulties and drawbacks which exist, very serious now and far more serious in the future, are due to the obnoxious terms of the contract. One short year has vindicated our policy. Who can doubt that, had it been adopted, we could to-day make a bargain for the undertaking under which it would be completed as soon, and on terms infinitely better than those to which we are now committed ? The Government and Parliament declined to give you an opportunity of deciding on the question. We have now to ask the popular judgment on the men who refused that opportunity and consummated that contract.

THE TRADE QUESTION.
You know well that I do not approve of needless restrictions on our liberty of exchanging what we have for what we want, and do not see that any substantial rpplication of the restrictive principle has been, or can be, made in favor of the great interests of the mechanic, the laborer, the farmer, the lumberman, the shipbuilder,

