

and defended by Messrs. Wilmot and Gray. It was a war of words between these Gentlemen in the open air, upon the Court House steps, for some hours; but it is unnecessary to follow the speeches, or even make allusion to the points made, as they will hereafter come up in detail.

The result proved that the Constituency of St. John (the County at all events) was yet in an uncertain, unsettled political state, being actuated more by personal than party considerations; for the three Government supporters, viz: Messrs. Partelow, Gray and Wilmot—and their most implacable political opponent, Mr. Ritchie, were all returned at the same time. The City appeared to be more consistent, whether from design or chance it matters not, for Messrs. Tilley and Harding were the choice. Taking City and County, the honours were divided and therefore easy, viz: three Government, and three Opposition. The political equilibrium, however, remained unaltered in the County. In the absence of fixed principles in the minds of the electors, there could be no preponderating influence with one party more than another. The great battles of the Constitution had yet to be fought; desperate encounters had to be made between Liberals and Conservatives; but the army of the former had to look for recruits outside of St. John, for where there were so many personal likes and dislikes, there could be no political affinity, no coherence between those who called themselves Liberals for the expulsion from power of those who were recognized as Conservatives. Mr. Partelow's personal influence carried all before it. No matter what his political faults, (and who is without them?) they were all overlooked in the man himself. He had only to go among the electors and take them by the hand, and they—were converted! Perhaps no public man since the days of Fox, or Wilkes, had a more suave manner, and knew better how to take advantage of the blind side of a voter—all is said to be fair in politics that is not dishonorable. Many anecdotes are related of his strategic skill in privately conquering an opponent; but to relate them here would be out of place.