### Guelph Evening Mercury

MONDAY EVENING, OCT. 27, 1873

## Lord Dufferin's Defence.

The two despatches of which we publish a synopsis in another column, may be regarded as presenting the best defence that could possibly be made of the high-handed act of proroguing Parliament on August 13th They are an able piece of special pleading—a web of rgument woven with painstaking elaboration. Whether or not they justify the Governor General's action in following the advice of his Ministers, it is certain they do nothing towards justifying the ac tion of the Ministers themselves.

Lord Dufferin takes up a position which is certainly a novel one in the history of this controversy. He states in effect that it would have been un just to allow the House to proceed to business, because of the absence of Ministerial supporters; that it could not be adjourned; that therefore he prorogued it for a sufficient time to allow the members to be called to gether; and that then the Royal Commission came up as a separate matter, to fill up the time and to allow John A. a chance of saying something on his side of the question Now we think this way of putting it will surprise most people. The plain inference to be drawn from the pro ceedings on the memorable thirteenth was that Parliament was prorogued with a distinct reference to the proceedings of the Royal Commissioners, and that as soon as their work was done, Parliament would be called together to consider it. Had Parliament been prorogued to a definite date, and for a few weeks, with an understanding that this was for the purpose of not taking the Ministry at a disadvantage, we v nture to think there would not have been such widespread dissatisfaction with Lord Dufferin's proceedings though many would have considered he was dealing very tenderly with the Ministry. And there would still have been ample opportunity for issuing a Royal Commission subsequently, if his Excellency found there was danger of the enquiry dropping through. It is noticeable that in speaking of the Commission Lord Dufferin does not meet the strong objection that it was the creation and the creature of the very men nal was to try. As the tribuexistence by him, of course he could not very well deal with this point Looking at the matter, as he does, from the Crown's point of view, it is natural that he could not see the force of this objection.

The despatches help to show very clearly the masterly cunning with which Sir John has carried out his policy of delay, which commenced with the obstructions in passing the Oaths Bill. Notice the significant statement in the first despatch: "My law advisers called my attention to the possibility of the Bill being illegal. Sir John A. was one of these, and knew well enough that when he did this, the Governor General had no option but to submit the matter to the home authorities; and the disall awance by cable just came in opportunely to help John A. s. p.ans. Strange coincidence, was it not? The Governor admits that the publication of McMullan's letters on July 18th made some immediate action necessary; and a Minister desirous of immediate Parliamentary enquiry could at once have made arrangements for a full attendance of represents tives, if not on the 13th, very soon afterwards. If even the full six weeks' notice of the assembling of Parliament had been given a few days after July 18th, only three weeks' delay would have occurred. The excuse of making the interval ten weeks for the purpose of rolling two sessions into near is a contemp. option but to submit the matter ten weeks for the purpose of rolling two sessions into one is a contemp tible one in view of the vitally im two sessions into one is a contemptible one in view of the vitally important matter at stake—and of poor John A's intense anxiety to have his character cleared! Lord Dufferin's ingenious special pleading cannot disguise the fact that the issuing of the Royal Commission was a dodge for the double purpose of delay and whitewashing; arranged at the instance of the accused Ministry; though we are quite ready to believe that the Earl persuaded himself, with the help of John A., that it was something quite different.

We see that the Ministerial papers are already trying to twist Earl Kimberley's despatch into an approval of the course of the Dominion Ministry as well as of the Governor.

The Mail says:

The opinion which sustains Earl Dufficie of the Course of the Co

The opinion which sustains Earl Dufferin and the Government on the Constitutional question is that of the foremost constitutionalist of the age.

Now it will be observed that Lord Kimberly expressly guards against anything like an approval of the Do-minion Ministry. He says, speaking for Her Majesty's Government:

It is not their duty to express any opinion up on the particular measures adopted on the advice of your responsible Ministers, but they fully approve your having acted in these matters in accordance with Constitutional usage.

dance with Constitutional usage.

Lord Dufferin's despatches only attempt to justify his own individual action. With the action of the Ministry Parliament alone has to deal, and Lord Dufferin knows what is due to his own position too well to attempt a defence of his incriminated Ministers, though he comes awkwardly near it sometimes. This attempt of the Tory journals to make capital out of the despatches for their own cause is natural, but will be unsuccessful.

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We are prepared to show general new lines of Dress Goods this week remarkably cheap, and well worthy of the

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New Kid Gloves in black and colored;

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The various departments of our stock are now very complete, and Ladies will experience no difficulty in

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55 Wool Squares in plain and fancy Rob Roy Shepherd Checks for \$2.50, well worth \$3.25;

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Guelph, Oct. 27, 1873

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A large stock of them is now on hand, and the public are respectfully invited to examine.

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Guelph, Oct. 27, 1873.

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SURGEON DENTIST, GUELPH.

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On every dollar's worth of Goods bought, as-all were bought in the Cheapest Markets, and will be sold at the very closest prices.

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and made up to order in the most fashionable styles.

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G. B. McCullough

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Directly opposite Jno. Horsman's.

See advertisement in a few days.

CENTRAL CARRIAGE

WAGGON WORKS.

CALEB CHASE

Takes this opportunity of thanking his numerous horsesheeing customers for their very liberal support since his commencing business, and also begs to inform them that on account of the steady increase of Carriage and Waggon business, he intends to make alterations and enlarge his premises in order to fully and in doing this he finds it my business to carry on both branches of the business successfully; that in consideration of this he intends to

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On the 1st of November, 1873. No more Shoeing will be done after that date. Having disposed of his stock and tools in that Branch. Orders for Cutters, Pleasure Sleighsboth light and heavy — will receive prompt attention.

Repairing — the same strict attention prid to that branch as usual.

As soon as his promises are completed they will be known as the Central Carriage and wagon Worke, CALEB CHASE,

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