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[PRICE ONE PENNY

PUBLIC MEETING.

ADDRESSES TO SIR JOHN COLBORNE AND THE EARL OF DURHAM.

A meeting of the citizens of Quebec, for the purpose of considering of the propriety of addressing His Excellency Sir John Colborne and the Earl of Durham, on their arrival in this city, took place at the Exchange on Thursday last. A sketch of the proceedings of this meeting appeared in the Transcript of Saturday. We have since, however, been favored with a report of the speeches delivered on that occasion, which we have pleasure in laying before our readers.

Wm. WALLER, Esq. having taken the chair, proposed the proceeding of forming the requisition at the meeting. He then remarked that the object of the assemblage was two-fold, and it became his duty as chairman to offer a few remarks on the nature of the intended propositions. As the first place, then, it was proposed to prepare a respectful and congratulatory address for presentation to His Excellency Sir John Colborne on his arrival at the seat of Government. There certainly could not be a more fitting opportunity than that of his arrival here of expressing our deep sense of gratitude for the important services rendered us. He (Mr. W.) had no doubt that under Divine Providence, Sir John Colborne had been the means of preserving us from scenes of horror, desolation, to contemplate, and we are indebted to him for the conservative peace and happiness which we now enjoy. (near.) As far as lay in their power, the citizens of Quebec would testify their gratitude towards Sir John Colborne by unanimously adopting a respectful and congratulatory address to him. He (the Chairman) had, thus far, spoken of the military services rendered by Sir John Colborne; with respect to his civil capacity he (Mr. W.) had no hesitation in saying that, like his great predecessor—the immortal Wellington—he had shown himself great in the cabinet equally with the field. (near.) As he (Mr. W.) had already remarked, he had no doubt that the inhabitants of Quebec would come forward with nearly unanimity in testifying the obligations which Sir John Colborne has laid them under—(cheers.) The next object of his present meeting was the preparation of an address to be presented to the Earl of Durham on his arrival here and consequent assumption of the Government of the country. Our youthful and illustrious Sovereign had chosen as Governor of her North American Provinces, a nobleman who was one of the highest in rank in the kingdom, and had invested him with extraordinary powers to restore peace and prosperity to Canada. He (Mr. W.) durst say that all present had received assurances from the mother country—directly or indirectly—of Lord Durham having offered assurances of using his utmost exertions to restore the institutions of this country in a manner consonant with the feelings of all Her Majesty's loyal subjects; but such a topic ought to be kept out of the way at present, contenting ourselves with tendering to Lord Durham on his arrival, a respectful and congratulatory address. He (Mr. W.) thought he would be supported in saying that the address to that nobleman ought to be free from all distinctions of political parties, and couched in the most general terms.

JOHN JONES, Jun. Esq. came forward and stated that the first resolution having been placed in his hands for proposal, he would endeavour to fulfil the duty which had thus devolved on him; at the same time he hoped that he should not be considered out of order or as taking up too much of the time of the meeting, if he referred to a matter which perhaps was not strictly within the letter of the resolution alluded to. He considered the present time befitting for the remarks which he had to make, and would proceed at once to state that a body of the creation of the loyal inhabitants of this city, themselves had al-

ready anticipated a portion of the duties assigned to this meeting. He alluded to the Constitutional Association, and an address to Lord Durham, in the preparation of which that Association—or was was the same thing; the Executive Committee thereof—had been for some time past engaged—(cheers.) He (Mr. J.) was not aware until within the last few days that the Constitutional Association did not enjoy the same sanction to which it was entitled, he considered, since it was not admitted. In that Association had lost the confidence of the loyal inhabitants in whom they had faith. It is themselves; and why then did they not get up and assert it, having the power within their own hands to do so? The Association had suffered by certain remarks within the last few days, for which he was at a loss to account:—it was looked upon by some persons as not exactly in accordance with the views of the present meeting. Now, he thought had this attempt to cast the Constitutional Association under a slight cloud was owing an injury to a body which had rendered essential services to this country, and would do so again—(cheers.)

The Chairman next interposed by stating that he considered Mr. Jones to be out of order.

Mr. Jones remarked that he had presented observations by stating that what he had to offer was perhaps not strictly within the letter of the resolution which he had to propose; but still he considered that he had a right to refer to the latter part of the Chairman's address respecting political parties. He (Mr. J.) also knew to vindicate the Constitutional Association, and would maintain that every thing connected with Lord Durham and that Majesty's royal subjects was safe at its hands. The preparation of an address to Lord Durham, together with the choice of a proper time for presenting such an address ought to be confided to the Association. (cheers.) The presentation of an address ought to His Excellency immediately after his arrival might be the cause of embarrassing him. Let Lord Durham arrive here, open his office, and have a little time to look around him—then a fitting opportunity would offer for addressing him on the part of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, for which duty he (Mr. J.) must still insist, the Constitutional Association was the most competent. (cheers.) He sincerely hoped that such a course would be pursued, and British subjects generally united. We can never get on unless we go together and pull together—let us remain firm in purpose to obtain our just rights, and there can be no fear of the result—(great cheering.) He would now proceed to the more immediate subject matter of the resolution which he should have the honor of proposing and to which the worthy Chairman had alluded in terms sufficient to ensure its unanimous adoption. Mr. Jones then passed a just and eloquent eulogium on Sir John Colborne, concluding by proposing the first resolution:—

"1.—That next to the favor of Divine Providence, the people of this province are mainly indebted to the promptitude and military skill of His Excellency Sir John Colborne, Commander of Her Majesty's Forces in Upper and Lower Canada, and now Administrator of the Government in the Lower Province, for the early suppression of the late insurrection, and for the security of the lives and properties of Her Majesty's loyal subjects therein."

In the course of his observations he remarked that Sir John whenever the Volunteers had been brought under his notice had not failed, with a frankness and generosity which did him infinite honour, to compliment them; he had done more having been the means of bringing them under the notice of our gracious Queen eliciting from Her Majesty an expression of pleasure at the devotion of her loyal subjects. Such conduct on the part of a distinguished General Officer was sufficient to remove the impression that the army regarded with a jealous eye, the militia who turn out in defence of their Sovereign,

which, being the peculiar province of the former it was thought by some—but Sir John Colborne had shown that no such feeling existed—that the citizen soldiers were looked upon with contempt by the "regulars."

J. C. FISHER, Esq. L. D. seconded the motion, and in doing so alluded in elegant language to the great and important services rendered to this country by Sir John Colborne and the high military and civil character of that gallant and distinguished General Officer.—With respect to some observations which had fallen from the last speaker, he (Dr. F.) would take the liberty of explaining the views entertained by the signers of the requisition calling the meeting. It had appeared to them that it was expedient to address Sir John Colborne on his arrival at the seat of Government—in which, appeared to the requisitionists that it was desirable that an address should be presented to Lord Durham on his arrival here to assure the Government of the country, to save the time of the public—and he (Dr. F.) was happy to see every probability of that time being fully occupied in a good business season—it was thought that the best plan that could be adopted would be to call a meeting to consider both addresses at the same time. To Sir John Colborne we owe a debt of gratitude and the first resolution came home to the hearts of all present; to Lord Durham we owe a fair trial and a civil reception. (cheers.) Until the present moment he (Dr. F.) had no idea of opposition being offered to the proposal of addressing that nobleman and he hoped that the gentlemen with whom such opposition originated would think again before they persisted in it. Let them look at the matter in its true light; it was proposed that an address merely of respect and congratulation should be offered to Lord Durham, without the persons addressing him binding themselves to anything whatever. All that we had heard of Lord Durham in his favour, and although he did not advocate conservative principles, a fair trial was due him before judgment could be pronounced on his government. Let us therefore be united in paying a just tribute of respect to a nobleman honoured with the confidence of our youthful and gracious Sovereign whom it was our delight to serve as faithful subjects. With respect to the Constitutional Association, he (Dr. F.) was sure that it did enjoy the confidence of the loyalists of Quebec, (cheers,) and he heard it stated to-day for the first time, to the contrary. He humbly conceived, however, that this had nothing to do with the present question. The Constitutional Association, as its title imports, has the high office of watching over the Constitution to see that it be not impaired, while this meeting was only acting in the humble capacity of endeavouring to be the means of holding out the hand of friendship to an individual arriving on our shores.

The resolution was then carried with great enthusiasm.

THOMAS FROST, Esq., in proposing the second Resolution, remarked that he entirely concurred in what had been said by the last speaker both as regarded the Constitutional Association and the manner in which this meeting had been called. Mr. F. then detailed the various important and beneficial public acts which Sir John Colborne, assisted by the Special Council, had been the means of conferring on the country. In conclusion he said that of course he could anticipate the manner in which the first had been received—nothing but an unanimous and hearty concurrence to the second resolution.

"2.—That on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to the seat of Government, it is highly expedient that a respectful and congratulatory Address should be presented to Sir John Colborne on the part of the loyal inhabitants of this city and the vicinity, in testimony of their sense of his high character and eminent public services."

Wm. Atkinson, Esq. seconded the resolution, and it passed by acclamation.

J. B. FOSYTH, Esq., said that before proceeding to move the resolution, with which

he had been intrusted, he could not refrain from expressing his regret at the attempt at opposition which had been manifested and for which he could see no satisfactory cause. He sincerely hoped that there would be no division, as in such case we should become involved in difficulties which might continue throughout the administration of Lord Durham. The terms in which the resolution was couched were of such a general nature that it required a very capacious disposition to oppose it. He (Mr. F.) thought that—all present being of one opinion as to loyalty—there ought to be no opposition merely for the sake of dividing the meeting and showing the strength of one particular set of men. He was exceedingly sorry that a most valued friend of his, with whom he always agreed in opinion—except on the present unfortunate occasion—intended to move an amendment to the resolution. That gentleman was under the impression that it was wished to cast a slur on the Constitutional Association. Now, he (Mr. F.) could say that no such thing was ever intended. (cheers.) The meeting had been called in a manner which it was considered would render the thing as general as possible, so that there should be no party feeling manifested on the arrival of Lord Durham. (cheers.) Mr. Fosyth then proposed the following resolution:—

"3.—That inasmuch as Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint to the Government of Her British North American Possession, a nobleman of high rank and distinguished attainments, who is more especially charged with the eventual re-establishment of the Government of this Province upon such a basis as may secure the liberties and promote the interests of all classes of Her Majesty's loyal Subjects therein—it becomes the duty of the Loyal Inhabitants of this City and the vicinity to present a respectful and congratulatory Address to the Earl of Durham, on his arrival at the seat of Government, expressing full confidence in His Excellency's fitness for the high trust reposed in him by Her Majesty, and their firm reliance that the extraordinary powers with which he is invested, will be exerted for the permanent welfare and real interests of the Province over which he has been called to preside, and of this Province of Lower Canada in particular."

The resolution having been read from the chair,

Mr. Jones again came forward, stating that he had a few remarks to offer on the resolution. This was a portion of the business of the day which it had been truly said would meet with opposition; and being one of those opposed to the resolution as it stood, he would give his opinion openly and freely—his individual opinion, unbiassed by any one he would have it to be understood—in order that the meeting might know what ground he went upon. (cheers.) It had been truly said that there could be but one opinion regarding the address to Sir John Colborne. Now, an address had been voted to that gallant officer, and that done, there he (Mr. J.) conceived that the business of this meeting ought to be brought to a conclusion. The Constitutional Association intended addressing Lord Durham on a fitting occasion, and he (Mr. J.) considered this quite sufficient. Lord Durham had declared that he will be biased by no opinion whatever—recognize no party—he wished to have the case clear. Let him then, by all means, have a fair trial and do not embarrass him immediately on his arrival with an address of which he could have but short notice and to which very probably he would find himself compelled to give a short answer. (A laugh.) This perhaps might not be very agreeable, and what would be the consequence? open war! (A laugh!) and we might lose all benefits to be derived from the administration of his Lordship. Let the whole matter of addressing Lord Durham be left to the Constitutional Association, which after all is only leaving it to yourselves—(cheers and a laugh)—and let the proceedings of the present meeting stop where they are.

R. H. GARDNER, Esq. said that he was