

A TWO MONTHS' REMINISCENCE.

Reminiscences are sometimes instructive as well as amusing. On the 15th of January of the present year—a little over two months ago—a debate took place in the Assembly, in Committee of Supply, on the subject of police and stipendiary magistrates. In that debate, Messrs. Cochrane, Powell and Duncan took part, and voted that the office of stipendiary magistrate of Victoria, as well as the police of the city, should be placed under the control of the Corporation. A similar motion was sustained by these gentlemen in reference to the magistrate and police of Nanaimo: A few days ago we find our advocates of municipal institutions, adopting a very different programme. Not only did some of these gentlemen grow eloquent over the danger of turning the stipendiary magistrate over to the city authorities, but they voted for the recommitment of the clauses placing the police under the control of the Mayor and Council, in order that such clauses might be expunged. Yesterday Messrs. Cochrane and Duncan (Dr. Powell had left) voted against the clause in the Nanaimo Incorporation bill, giving the Council the power to "establish, regulate and maintain a police." Of course as things stand at present, to expunge this provision from the Nanaimo or Victoria Incorporation bill is virtually to destroy the measure. And yet we have these and other gentlemen of similar ideas in the Assembly talking glibly of municipal institutions. We have said that Messrs. Powell, Cochrane, and Duncan voted, little more than two months ago, for placing both Stipendiary magistrate and police under municipal control. On the motion of Mr. DeCosmos to transfer the stipendiary magistrate to the control of the corporation, Dr. Powell, according to the *Colonist*, said—"He had always been in favor of placing the police department under the control of the city (hear, hear), and would favor the motion, with a compromise in the salary, which he moved be \$1750." According to the *Chronicle* he is made to speak almost the same words. "He was always in favor of putting both the police and the stipendiary magistrate under the control of the Corporation. And as soon as a proper Incorporation Act was passed that must be done." There is not much ambiguity here nor sign of vacillation. Mr. Duncan, according to both papers, went even farther—"he was in favor of placing the police and goals (Heaven save the mark!) under the Corporation," and alluded in tones of indignation to the conduct of the police on the church reserve question, arguing if they had been under the Corporation instead of the general Government they would have made some effort to protest public right. Whither, alas, has the hifalutin fled! Have the "two short months" made as great a revolution in the hon. gentleman's feelings as they did in those of Hamlet's mother? Mr. Cochrane comes next, and we find this gentleman actually moving that the stipendiary magistrate be placed under the control of the Corporation at a fixed salary of \$1750 per annum. As a final proof of these gentlemen's determination to place the police department under the control of the city, we have their names down in the vote as follows:—Ayes—DeCosmos, Dennes, Duncan, Cochrane, Dickson, Cunningham, M'Clure, Powell; Noes—Helmcken, Carswell, Ash. We have said nothing in the foregoing of Dr. Trimble, who being chairman of the Committee of Supply, did not enlighten the House very much as to his ideas on the question at issue, but we have no reason to suppose, if we leave out the office of stipendiary magistrate, that his sentiments differed materially from those expressed by the gentlemen to whom we have particularly alluded. We would really like to know, if public men are to chop and change and swallow not only their deliberate words but their deliberate votes every month or so in the House, what is to become of legislation and representative institutions. Surely nothing could be a greater burlesque on a deliberative assembly, or tend to bring it into greater contempt. Of all the qualities that are most prized in public men is that of a steady adherence to a settled line of policy. The individuals who vote one way to-day and another way to-morrow, whose principles are as lippery as their ideas, are not only utterly useless but positively dangerous. With members like Dr. Helmcken and Dr. Ash, we know how to deal; and however much we may differ from them occasionally on general principles, we are always ready to concede to them an honesty of conviction—but with men who are like the conjuror's pea—"now you see them and now you don't see them"—the less the country has to do with them the better. We may in these remarks be doing an injustice to Dr. Powell. It is possible that this gentleman, although voting for the recommitment of the police clauses, had no idea of seeing the principle for which he had previously contended, signified in the Incorporation bill. It even proved that we have been wrong in placing him in the same category with the others, we shall take the first opportunity of making the

amends honorable. The matter will be quickly decided. To-day the question will come up again for debate, and the responsibility devolves on every member to be present either to kill or pass a proper Incorporation bill. If the police clauses be rejected the bill is dead to all intents and purposes; for we have no idea of seeing another emasculated measure foisted on the public of Victoria. If we are to be governed even in our local affairs from the Government buildings, let us accept the calamity in its entirety—anything is better than the wretched paralysis under which the city has been so long laboring.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Congressional. WASHINGTON, March 21.—In the House of Representatives, on the committee on the Pacific Railroad, reported a bill to secure the speedy construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad. WARD, of New Jersey, said the friends of deceased soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery were apprehensive that it should reach the heirs of Gen. Lee, therefore he desired to read a letter from the Secretary of War, which states that the Arlington property was bid in for the Government at \$260,000, at a sale for unpaid taxes January 11th, 1866. The certificate of sale would soon be placed on file in the Treasury Department. The House passed the diplomatic appropriation bill, with an amendment authorizing the appointment of a solicitor for the department at an annual salary of \$3,000. The House also passed the bill to prevent railroads which have received land grants from receiving any compensation for Government business. In the Senate, Brown, of Missouri, introduced a bill to aid the construction of a railroad from Kansas City to Galveston. Ramsey, of Minnesota, presented a memorial from the Minnesota Legislature for the establishment of a port of entry at the head of Lake Superior. The Senate passed a bill providing for incorporating the Kansas Railroad Company, and also a bill to punish counterfeiting or altering any bond. Cost of Government Printing. Secretary McCulloch contends that he must have complete control over all securities and postage of New York. The Chairman of the House Committee on Printing, in the report yesterday on printing the Patent Office Report made *ex parte* of the amount of paper used by Government calculated to open the eyes of the public. He says it uses one-thirtieth of all printing paper used in the United States, in fact by this it is the greatest publishing house in the world. And when it goes into the market to buy it affects the whole paper trade, consequently if reductions in the quantity used by Congress were made, it would have much effect in reducing the price and lowering tariff. The President's Policy.—National Mass Meeting. Several Connecticut members had an interview with the President; among them Senator Foster and Gen. Hawley, Union candidate for Governor. The interview was of a private nature, and is reported to have been satisfactory to the callers. The President assured them he had given no intimation of a desire for the election of Senator, but on the contrary desires the success of the Union nominee, and is glad to see a disposition manifested by the people to support soldiers. The House Election Committee voted six to three that James D. Brooks is not entitled to a seat in Congress, and that Dodge is. It has been anticipated for some time that Brooks would be ousted on the ground of fraudulent votes. A call is issued by the National Union Committee of which Alexander Randall 1st Assistant Postmaster General is President, for a grand mass meeting to be held at Washington next week to endorse President Johnson. Telegraph to the West Indies. The Senate yesterday passed the bill authorizing the enactment of submarine telegraph between the United States and the West Indies with exclusive privilege for 14 years. Official Appointments. The Senate yesterday confirmed a large number of appointments, among them Edward McCork of Colorado, Minister resident at the Hawaiian Islands, H. Hawkins, of Nevada, Consul at Bombay, Wm. H. Seargeant, of Oregon, Indian Agent, in the Territory of Washington; Franklin H. Head, of Utah, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for the Territory Grant, River Indians, B. L. Fairfield, of California, Agent for Mad River Indians; Jacob L. Houghton, of New Mexico, Associate Justice of the Territory of New Mexico. European. New York, March 19.—The steamship Germania, from Southampton, 7th arrived last evening. Gladstone announced in the House of Commons that the reform bill would apply to England and Wales. He hoped then to state the course to be taken in regard to Scotland. The Lord Chancellor's bill to make parties to a divorce suit complainants to answer any questions as to whether they have not committed adultery, was vetoed. The London *Times* says: The courage and decision exhibited by President Johnson in refusing his assent to the Freedman's Bureau Bill, confirms the respect in which his policy has been held in England, and will entitle him to credit as one of the ablest statesmen who have ever conducted a great nation successfully through a crisis by firmness, moderation and wisdom. The prospectus of a new company has been issued. It is called the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, with £600,000 capital, for laying a new cable and raising the old one, introduced by Morgan & Co. with Mr. Peabody on the board of directors. It is rumored that Prince Couza has addressed the Great Powers, protesting against his forced abdication and soliciting their assistance, to obtain his reinstatement. Couza has arrived at Vienna. The Porte claims authority to intervene in the Principalities on account of the dissension between political parties. Masses of troops are being concentrated at Widdin, Prest, Chokos and Silistria. Paris has been selected for the Conference on the Principalities. Three regiments of Cossacks have reinforced the Russian corps of observation on the Moldow Chain frontier. Reinforcements were dispatched from Bucharest and Jassy, and military order established along the frontier of the Pruth. Spain has demanded of Portugal the extradition of Spanish soldiers who had taken refuge in Portugal. Portugal hesitates to reply. Two regiments from Rome will return to France in April. A Montreal dispatch says that the excitement among the bank depositors during last week nearly exhausted the bank funds and would have crippled them but for Government aid. Depositors living fifty miles distant, came in hot haste to draw their little balances. PORTLAND, March 19.—The steamer Peruvian from Liverpool via Londonderry March 9th, arrived this evening. The House of Commons passed the bill for the abolition of church rates to a second reading, by 285 against 252. The announcement of the vote was received with loud cheering. It is thought the vote indicates an early solution of the question, although the present bill will doubtless be rejected by the House of Lords, as usual. The London *Post* asserts that public feeling is dead about reform. The *Times* continues to protest against dealing with parliamentary reform. News from West India Islands. New York, March 20.—Further advices from Havana, per steamer Manhattan, state that the numerous recent fires throughout the Island, are attributed, by one of the Havana journals, to negro incendiaries. The discovery of a plot on the part of the slave traders to destroy one of the Havana newspaper offices, is reported. The further progress of the Royal Commission in their work of investigating the Jamaican revolution, is reported in the *Herald's* Kingston correspondent. Abundant evidence, it is said, has already been produced to show that the affair was not morally a sudden and unpremeditated outbreak, but a deliberately organized rebellion, with the ultimate design of murdering or driving from the Island all of the whites. Members of the committee are reported to have left for England on the 26th inst. The entire British West India squadron are ordered to Halifax. A strong feeling in favor of the annexation of the Island of Jamaica to the United States, is manifesting itself among the people of that Island. In Hayti, sixty persons charged with being concerned in the revolutionary movements that Republic, have been arrested, and it is supposed that twenty of them would be executed. An Envoy Caught by Guerrillas. New York, March 20.—M. Saillard envoy from Napoleon, had left on his return to France. One of the Belgian envoys was caught by guerrillas en route to Vera Cruz. A concentrated effort will be made by the Imperial troops to clear the Rio Grande of guerrillas, and re-establish communication with the interior. AFFAIRS IN MEXICO. New York, March 20.—Advices per steamer Marietta, from Vera Cruz, show that the promised Imperial pacification of the country is as far as ever from realization, and the Republicans still maintain the contest with the invaders, and nearly all their stations with stubbornness and ability. Not the slightest indications of the withdrawal of the French is yet apparent. Additional Mendez over the Republicans in Michoacan is claimed to have been far more important than was at first reported, and he afterwards had a brilliant reception at Marlia in honor thereof. Gen. Mendez says himself he fought the bands of several chiefs combined, that he had a hard battle and that his losses were severe. Confirmation is furnished of the critical position of the Imperialists at Chiapas. The Republicans are threatening the town, bringing their force within some 30 miles of the Pacific States, the Imperialists

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The miners of Cariboo, as have not met with much success, the gentleman at present in position to abolish the road, negated by Mr. Birch. On time to bear the brunt of British Columbia—the men Mr. Birch must look for a salient fact the whole Government rests, are to be crushed by a of taxation, or driven, as huddling men have already been country in disgust. We can Mr. Birch on either his justice ment. His residence in New seems to have affected both son, in the responsible position of the Government of a agree to a system that makes a country pay double the amount demanded from the other difficult to conceive; it is even to understand the reasons as Birch for his action. According monication to the Legislative Council, told that, owing to certain reasons made to him by lumberer prospectors of the hardships he be entailed on the present by addition to the present duties impose of \$6 a ton, he has been refuse his sanction to the Council. Now let us see what will is in this overwhelming reason been so persistently used by tors around the capital. Mr. B. to impose \$6 a ton would be a the coal, lumbering and other requiring the investment of a large capital before any return can be Granting this, in what light upon the industries of Cariboo many of the projects in that the investment of a large amount before any return can be expected the history of William's Creek of hundreds of thousands of dollars on undertakings in which capital had to wait during months for a return? Where parts of British Columbia has fraction expended of that enorm which has been invested in the schemes for developing the mines of Cariboo? It would be vain reply. Mr. Birch himself must the industrious investments of country are a mere bagatelle with those of the gold mines ground, therefore, does he greater for the less? If \$6 a and impolitic on enterprises near how much more unjust and important in the interior, where the reported articles are more than 5000 But nobody, and certainly not the miner of Cariboo, wished to lumbering, coal, or other industries of the Lower Fraser. Every one permanent industries like these fostered rather than retarded, and would have been perfectly satisfied them exempted from the operation impost. Mr. Birch, however, the suggestion either directly or officials in the Council. If he the amount or character of the proposed, being the Legislator as Administrator of the country he had any other substitute for the thought proper. He shirks the responsibility, however, of doing what he deems desirable—equalizing the taxation of He holds out a kind of hope that Lilloet and Lytton will be abolished that a toll-gate will be erected instead—a measure which so far as to equalize taxation will not effect of making the miners to bear a larger proportionate weight exempting a still larger portion Lower Fraser from the general tax the country. The whole affair, glancing to end—the evident pandering clamor of a few selfish, foolish New Westminster—reflects any credit on the Government. We have already alluded to a disinclination to impose \$6 a ton duties of the Lower Fraser, but we say of his proposition to con imposing \$40 a ton on everything that ately that goes to the mines? If \$6 a ton a wrong and an injury to on the Lower Fraser, by what extraneous process of reasoning does he arrive at a conclusion that \$40 is just and expeditious for the benefit of the people of Cariboo? Is he with the British Columbian theory more difficulties nature throws in a population the more the population be taxed—that the more energetic become, the more they should contribute to the General Government? It would really appear that this is the authorities of New Westminster been imbibing some of the civilization of the Japanese, and have come to a conclusion that the more obstructions