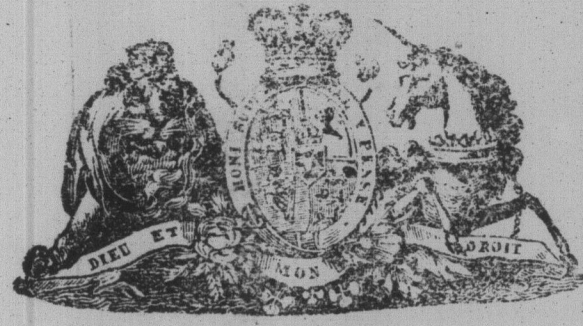


THE



STAR,

AND CONCEPTION BAY JOURNAL

Vol. III.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1857.

No. 135.

HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, Newfoundland:—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Messrs. W. Dixon & Co's.

(From the Morning Herald.)

In the appeals which, through the agency of Conservative meetings, have lately been made in all parts of the country to the common sense and patriotic feeling of the people, great advantage has been honestly and fairly derived from the distinctness and specificity of the object to be attained. To preserve the Constitution in Church and State from further change in fundamentals, is the avowed object of Conservatives. This is the positive duty to which all Conservative efforts are directed; with which there is associated the correlative duty of a negative nature—namely, the resistance by all lawful means of the promoters of revolution. If the Conservatives are assailed as the enemies of improvement, their reply is a distinct and intelligible one—"We are not enemies of improvement, unless destroying a part, or the whole, of the foundation of the Monarchy, or the Parliament, or the Church be so considered. We desire to make all of these as efficient for the purposes of their institution as they can be, but we deny that they are, in their fundamental principles, and *ab initio*, vicious, and we are determined to uphold them."

To these are opposed two parties; first, the Radicals, who boldly take up the opposite side of the question, affirming that the Established Protestant Church, and the Parliament, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons, are fundamentally vicious, and cannot by the wit of man be made good. Secondly, we have the Ministerial party, which hitherto has contrived to avail itself of whatever political strength the Radicals possess; but which *appears* to have no distinct or specific object whatever, and yet is modest enough to continue to ask for public support. We find the organs of the Ministry, either by heavy and cumbersome abuse, or by flippant and disingenuous levity, endeavouring to misrepresent or ridicule the plain direct objects which Conservatives have in view; but this is but poor work, while they have nothing to propose on their own parts, but a general intention to do what is *liberal*. Will they join in carrying into effect the destructive projects of the Radicals? Will they devote themselves to the object of destroying one of the permanent and hereditary branches of the Legislature? They take care not to give any pledge upon the subject. They are so innocent, so meek, so submissive, as to have no view beyond that of endeavouring to carry into effect what the popular voice may seem to demand. Believe the organs of this Administration, and it is nothing but a blank sheet, upon which the hand of the popular body may write whatever it will. As to principles, independently of what the popular body may dictate, they are out of the question—they are old-fashioned—obsolete—inconsistent with the philosophy of modern liberal Government.

Fond as the populace may be of having its own way, we greatly mistake the public mind of England, if it will favourably regard an Administration which indicates that it has no object of its own, beyond an accommodation to public circumstances as they arise. From whence springs this readiness to be anything, or to do anything, that is pleasing to the popular will? The Ministers and their advocates tell us that it is because they deem it to be good policy to regulate their measures by the spirit of the age; but who is there, outside the walls of the asylums of the imbecile, that will believe them? If men have not clear and distinct views of what is best to be done upon the great and leading questions of public concernment, they are not fit to govern; and none but fools will believe that men can really and truly bend their minds to whatever the public will may desire, so as to think it right and politic. They may determine to do anything that appears necessary in order to retain place—to be the humble servants of the popular body, ready to do whatever they are bid, so as they are kept in their situations; but the British public will not be satisfied with this obsequiousness. It will desire an Administration for which it can have some respect; and it can have none for professing

statesmen, who profess not to know what ought to be done for the good government of the nation, until popular opinion instructs them upon that head.

While such a Government lasts there must be continual doubt and perplexity upon public affairs. The Government has no views of its own, nor strength of its own, to carry them into effect if such views did exist. Is it to take its cue from the popular will; but that again is full of uncertainty. Who shall be the judge to decide what is indeed the popular will? What does it mean? Is it the will of the majority of the whole population? If it be, then we have universal suffrage dictating to the Government, though we will not allow it in the election of Members of Parliament; and suppose the inconsistency and unreasonableness of this were got over, still we should be at fault for a mode of ascertaining with certainty the preponderance of opinion as it exists among the whole population. It is therefore absurd to set forth, under the present circumstances of the country, that the Government will be guided by the preponderating will of the whole mass.

What then is the popular will by which the Government is to trim its sails, however the breath of that will may happen to blow? Is it to be found accurately represented in the House of Commons? Is the majority there, may be of twenty or thirty gentlemen from the other side of the Channel, to decide what is the popular will of the British Empire, and thereby determine the principles of the Administration? If it be so, then that majority is the Government, and a deliberative and independent Administration is a mere farce, the actors in which are paid rather highly. We do not think much of the expense of Cabinet Ministers, because if we give men of their condition any thing, we can scarcely give them less than we do; but if they are to be merely the servants of a majority in the House of Commons, we need not have men of such condition in these offices.—They have been hitherto employed for the use of their deliberative mirrors, but if they disclaim all use of independent deliberative minds, in public affairs, we are frustrated in our object, and common clerks would do as well.

We lay these considerations before the public, believing that it is high time for a better understanding of the objects of administration than there seems any likelihood of arriving at under the present system.—There is every reason to fear that the Ministers will keep themselves *disengaged* until the meeting of Parliament, and then go with the strongest for the sake of keeping in place. Such a plan of policy is too detrimental to the cause of the monarchy, and too disgraceful to the character of the Ministry, to be borne with patience by the public, while sentiments of loyalty and honour are held in respect.

It is amusing enough to observe in what an altered tone the Whig-Radical Journals speak of the election for the Lord Rectorship of the University of Glasgow, from that which they used in reference to it some time ago. These organs of the Ministry, which had predicted with a proud air of anticipated triumph the return of Sir John Campbell the Melbourne Attorney General for that high and honourable office, now affect to underrate the importance of the victory, and the value of the honour which it confers, since they are obliged to write themselves down false prophets, by admitting that the prize has been awarded to a very different personage from the "rejected of Dudley," even to Sir Robert Peel—a statesman without place or patronage to bestow, and with no power but the moral power of a great and splendid Conservative reputation to oppose to the rampant and place-rewarded liberalism of his Learned opponent.

While Sir John was supposed by the organs of the Ministry to ride the winning horse, they thought they could never laud too warmly the talents, the judgment, the patriotism of the students of the Glasgow University, nor put too high a stamp of value upon the prize for which the Knight

of Dudley was a solicitor to their suffrages. Now that Sir John has been beaten, and beaten by a large majority, the fable of disappointed Reynard and the pendant grapes is realised. The cluster that looked so luscious and tempting, turns out to be abominably sour; for though Reynard has shown that he can jump higher than any of his sly progenitors, yet it hung beyond his reach—it is only astonishing that he could have jumped at all at such unripe trash of Conservative fruit.

One Whig-Radical Journal speaks with becoming contempt of "the stray tribute from the motley band of Glasgow students," and yet advances a sneaking testimony to the importance of the election, by taking care to inform its readers, that out of the four collegiate "nations," Sir John had a majority in one—even in *natione Transfortiana*. Yes, the Learned Knight had indeed a majority of two in that nation—in other words "a stray tribute from the motley band," as the *Globe* beautifully expresses it, of Transfortian students; but then Sir Robert Peel's majority, or "stray tribute," in the other three nations, was no less than 102, leaving a majority on the whole of one clear hundred of the "motley band." This, our facetious contemporary, in the redundancy of his peculiar humour, calls a "windfall." Well, be it so; it is one that the Learned Attorney-General would gladly have put in his bag.

Another organ of the same party, which most vociferously proclaimed the certain success of Sir John only a few days before, now glances with a sidelong look of ineffable scorn at the insignificance of the whole proceeding. It says, we suppose upon the authority of Goldsmith, "that these little things are great to little men," how strange that Sir John, who has so many great things both in possession and expectancy, should look for these "little things." Again—"the Tories are so continually defeated upon great points, that they are obliged to console themselves with petty triumphs." When the *Courier* anticipated the success of Sir John, the forthcoming triumph was announced with the flourish and pomp of something very great; but the best of all is the following magnanimous confession:—"All that we see to regret in the contest—for we see nothing to regret in the result—is the too much confidence of Sir John Campbell's friends, which led them to boast before the victory was achieved, as well to ascribe an undue importance to the affair." Now if the Whig Radicals see *nothing to regret in the result*, most assuredly the Conservatives have no reason to regret it. "Petty," as the triumph is it is not the triumph of the Whig Attorney General, who boasted of the victory before it was achieved.

Another oracle of Whiggery protests against the notion of a re-action among five hundred boys, among whom there has been an *increase of liberal principle*. This "increase of liberal principles" has been demonstrated by the rejection of the ultra-liberal Sir John Campbell, and the acceptance of the Conservative Sir Robert Peel! Similar proofs of the increase of Liberalism have been afforded by the result of every contested Parliamentary election for a considerable time past, and we believe the Conservatives have no objection to a continuance of such proofs. It is seldom that two conflicting parties are so well satisfied—the one with *beating*, the other with *being beat*. We may now alter the old distich and put it thus, changing the verb "to cheat" to the verb "to eat."

"Some say the pleasure is as great In being beaten as to beat." Viewing this matter in the calm spirit of impartial reflection, we cannot but regard it as a very decided proof, in addition to many others, of the passing away of the delusion with which Whiggery had contrived to envelop the public mind, while it pursued securely, and in the worst of company, the path of its own selfish ambition—trampling on principle—political virtue—public honour, and not hesitating to promise its maudling accomplices the sacrilegious spoliation of the Church, and the plunder of the very temple of the Constitution. Equally

shanderers of the peasant and the Peer—persecutors of the very existence of the one, and would-be destroyers of the political rights of the other, the modern race of Whigs—the patrons of the flinty-hearted, economists—the allies of the Irish Destructives, are becoming thoroughly known.—Wherever there is mind, intelligence, respectability, there the seeds of Conservative opinion take root and flourish; and certainly it would have been strange if an exception to such a wholesome state of moral and Constitutional re-education were presented by the educated youth of Scotland.

Extract of a letter from Odessa, dated October 8th:—"The Generals Woronzoff and Witt have been called to St. Petersburg. It is believed that the Emperor Nicholas is assembling around him the most distinguished men of his empire, preparatory to a powerful expedition against the East. The equipment of the fleet at Nikolief and Cherson is going on with great activity; and three steam-vessels of 64 horse power are continually employed in conveying ammunition and provisions to Tchouput Urale and Anapa, where new magazines are being formed. We learn from Tiflis that the Tcherkes, after a repose of two months, have made their appearance as aggressors before Derbent, on the line of the Terek, and even on the banks of the Kouban; but they have uniformly been driven back by the Russian posts. By order of the Minister of War, a corps of 10,000 Cossacks and light infantry is being formed, and will be put under the command of the Hetman of the Don, Gen. Serguief, who is destined to bring to subjection the independent tribes of Tchetchouse. It is positively stated that the Crown Prince will lead this expedition in person. The troops in Georgia and Erivan have received a reinforcement of 30,000 men; engineers are fortifying the citadel of Sadar Abad, situated between the two chains of the mountains of Armenia, on the banks of the Araxes."

BRITISH LEGION.—The estimates for the Legion have been made out to the 31st of the month, by which it appears that there will be then owing to the Legion (not including the expense of the depot at Santander) a sum of upwards of £86,000 sterling. Besides this large item, there will be due about the same period from £13,000 to £14,000 to the officers and men of the two war-steamer, the Isabella II., and the Reyna Gobernadora, no pay having been issued to them for the last fourteen months—both sums making in Spanish money upwards of 10,000,000 reals—a startling sum in the present financial state of Spain.

THE EX-ROYAL FAMILY OF FRANCE.—The *Presse* affirms that serious disputes have arisen between the Duchess of Berry and the family of Charles X., the Duchess complaining of being kept at a distance in an inferior position, and of being seldom allowed to see her children. Her remonstrances having proved ineffectual, the Duchess has resolved to appeal to the Emperor of Austria as a mediator, and has requested permission to proceed to Vienna, in order to lay his grievances before his Majesty.

PRESTON OPERATIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the members of this association, held at their newspaper room on Thursday, a report which had been prepared by the Committee was read, in which it was stated—"that since the establishment of this association there has been a material change in the situation and prospects of the country. The Committee wish not to conceal that the change in municipal elections has, by the introduction of a new constituency, in some measure strengthened the influence of the revolutionary party, whose destructive projects are not now questioned. The whole power of government is at their command—every situation of trust and of honour is in their hands—and the continued agitation of the passions of the multitude, by means of the almost incessant excitement of borough, municipal, and parochial elections, is not the least of the