

WAS IT WISE?

We think it much to be regretted that Prof. Stockley should have obtained a year's leave of absence from his chair in the university, and our regrets are felt in some measure on personal grounds, but chiefly we are concerned because of the injurious effect it may have upon the interests of the college. It does not appear to us that the university can afford to allow its professors to take up or cast aside their duties at discretion, and either fill their chairs personally or by deputy as they may choose. The standing of the college must necessarily suffer in character and prestige in consequence, and it will be impossible to resist the suspicion that in the highest institution of learning in the province, the exalted work of the higher education of the sons of New Brunswick, is not entered upon by its own able, but is only taken up or retained until some other occupation offers, promising better pecuniary results. This is one of the causes which in a larger measure cripple the work of the common schools and impairs their value, but if handled in the common schools it must simply ruin them to the university. College life, it may be conceded, has not developed in the province the type of vigorous manhood which it has produced and is producing in other countries, notably in Britain; but we have not hitherto despaired of our future in this regard. We shall look upon the prospect as utterly hopeless, however, if the professors, who as college men, are presumed to have cultivated a high ideal themselves, are not above running away from their college work to take up for a time a purely business engagement because it promises to be more remunerative, with the intention of coming back and resuming their professional functions. To edit a new edition of Moliere's plays for a New York publishing house is not an undertaking of such scholastic importance that a man would be justified in regarding the other considerations involved as of secondary value. We have hoped that the day might come when our university would do for New Brunswick, in a larger measure than at present, what the public schools and universities of Britain have done and are doing for the mother country. Eton and Harrow, Oxford and Cambridge turn out the young men who give to England the resilient energy, capacity and patriotic ardor which overcome every obstacle and increase her ever expanding dominion. The boys and men of Eton and Oxford, trained to physical endurance as well as in intellectual culture, animated by manly principle and inspired with confidence in their own nation, scattered themselves among the savages of Asia, Africa and throughout the world, organize government, open the doors for trade, introduce civilization and in short make themselves the rulers of mankind. The men who have trained, cultivated and developed the youthful energies of this race have not been wanting in enthusiastic devotion to their work and, we may depend upon it, could not have been enticed away from their responsibilities and duties by any offers of mere pecuniary advantage.

Naturally the question will be asked: Who is responsible for this action on the part of Prof. Stockley? and while we think it a proper subject for inquiry, we do not feel so much interested in it as we do in the results likely to follow, and the condition of what it is, in some degree at all events, the evidence. We presume, however, that primarily Prof. Stockley himself is answerable. It was no doubt open to Prof. Stockley to separate himself from the university, and to take up any term, and no one could or would have complained, had the professor accepted an engagement in another college and retired altogether from this one. It is the consideration that Prof. Stockley's work among his classes cannot have been a matter of love, that his heart has not been in the endeavor to stimulate the intellectual ambition and vigorous manhood of the young men of our province, which we regard as one of the painful features of this occurrence. It may be that the responsibility for the existing state of things rests chiefly upon the president. The senate was convened by him, it is true, to consider Prof. Stockley's application for leave of absence; but not until the question of his resignation had been presented, and it is known by Prof. Stockley that he has Dr. Harrison's approval, and until he has actually arranged for a substitute. Under such circumstances there could be no other alternative for the senate than to assent to the proposal or summarily relieve the professor of his duties. The latter would have been a difficult thing to do, if it be true that Prof. Stockley left the province knowing Dr. Harrison's mind on the subject, and in reasonable expectation that his application would be granted. The educated and intelligent feelings towards the professor and all connected with the university, we conclude that a great error of judgment has been committed, and we answer the question at the head of this article, that in our opinion it was a most unwise proceeding on the part of all concerned, first on the part of the professor to apply for leave of absence upon such a ground, and next on the part of the president or senate to have assented to the application. We trust it may not be possible for such a thing to occur again.

The promptness with which Mr. Timmerman kept his pledge to meet the reasonable wishes of the people of Fredericton, in regard to train service, is very much appreciated by the citizens. A prominent merchant suggests that if the general superintendent will suggest to the officials in the Fredericton station that a little courtesy is at all times desirable and costs nothing, there would be not much to complain of so far as railway matters are concerned.

A rumor is in circulation in the upper provinces to the effect that a dissolution of the house of commons and a general election may be looked for this autumn. The report is vague and cannot be traced to any reliable source; but both the Mail and the Globe of Toronto think there is sufficient probability in it to utter a note of warning to their respective friends to be ready. Rumor also states a fall session of parliament as probable.

It is not want of knowledge how many synonyms there are for the word "successful," read the Sun's and Gleaner's articles on the attorney general. We call a bouquet of epithets in another column. Are they not fragrant? What kind of soil must it be in which they flourish? All these and many more such terms simply imply that Mr. Blair has been successful, and his slanders have not.

"SNEAKY AND SHIFTY."

The above are the two elegant terms used by the attorney general this week by those twin brothers in misery, the Sun and Gleaner. "Sneaky" is the euphemism epithet selected by the Sun; while "shifty" is the choice of the Gleaner. It is manifest that these kindred spirits which are so plainly intended to "shine" and "gleam" for all, will never again be happy so long as the Blair government survives the deadly shock of their fierce assaults, and it is truly sad to see how very badly they feel about it, so badly indeed that they cannot resist the temptation to use such vulgar and call names. Now every body knows that it is only politicians, sordid by disappointment and bitter over the hopelessness of the outlook for them, who call names and it is very conclusive evidence that their case is weak. We all can call names, anybody, and it will descend to it, can be vulgar, and therefore to the friends of the government no more reassuring exhibition can be afforded. Then again, "sneaky" and "shifty" introduce a little variety into the opposition nomenclature. The usual adjectives were growing stale and palling upon the appetites even of the regular members of the party.

POLITICS IN VICTORIA.

Our articles from Victoria county point to the election of Mr. Baird by a very large majority. Mr. Porter's political position will not bear examination. In January last he claimed to be a supporter of the government. The opposition counted him as such and hailed his defeat as an opposition victory. To-day he is the opposition candidate, condemning what he approved of in January. He is not a politician, but a man who is not on both sides during a single season. It is only an accident in this case. Mr. Porter is not really opposed to anything except Mr. Baird. When he thought Mr. Baird was disloyal towards the administration, he was in favor of it; and when he found that he was mistaken and that Mr. Baird was friendly to the government, he at once pronounced himself in opposition. Mr. Porter is a gentleman who is everything by turns and nothing long.

In this respect he is a good deal like the gentlemen who make up the opposition in the legislature. They have made a great deal of talk about the stumpage, for example. It is a fact not questioned by any one, that the opposition were willing to reduce the stumpage much more than the government has allowed it. Had Messrs. Hinington, Stockton, Alward and the rest had their way, the stumpage would now be 80 cents a thousand. Mr. Porter will ask the voters to vote against Mr. Baird and the local government for having reduced the stumpage to \$1, and to vote for him, Porter, that he may go to the legislature and support the men who wanted to reduce the stumpage to 80 cents. The election of Victoria will be guilty of no such absurdity.

The course of the government in respect to the stumpage will commend itself to every thinking man. The North Shore counties were determined to have the stumpage reduced. The opposition members were willing, if the government were turned out, to reduce it to 80 cents; the government, seeing that owing to the large cut of lumber the revenue would be large enough to meet the public service if the stumpage were reduced to 80 cents, agreed to a thousand, and appointed a commission, consisting of Messrs. Randolph, Ritchie and Todd, to examine into the whole question and see what is best to be done about it. Mr. Baird approved of this. What would the electors of Victoria have had him do? Do they think he should have agreed to the reduction to 80 cents at all times to come? Was it not wise to agree to the temporary reduction to \$1 and the thorough investigation of the whole subject by a competent commission? He had to do one thing or the other. Did he not choose the wiser course by choosing the latter?

Some of Mr. Porter's friends, we do not say Mr. Porter himself, but he probably more discreet, are asking the electors to vote against Mr. Baird because of the fishery regulations. Mr. Baird and the local government have no more to do with the fishery regulations than the man in the moon. The dominion government made these regulations and enforces them. There is not a word on the river appointed by or in the name of the local government; not a man is prevented from taking a salmon by anything the local government has done. It is really too bad that there has been so much misrepresentation on this subject. Perhaps people do not understand it. The law, which allows a land owner to control the fishing in front of his land, was not introduced by the local or the dominion government, it is as old as the constitution of England. It is the same law as that which says that a man may not cut his neighbor's trees, or his grass or commit any other trespass. Every land owner on the Tobique, whether he is a member of the N. B. railway or not, or a settler on a new farm, has this right, except in one or two cases where it has been reserved. The man who owns a hundred acres can warn off trespassers as well as the man who owns a hundred thousand. The regulations against spearing and netting were made by the dominion government and the local government had nothing whatever to do with them. They were made years ago by the local government came into power. The local government has not taken away even the smallest fraction of the rights of the people to fish for salmon.

The only thing which the local government has done was to reserve four roads on all ungranted lots fronting on streams. This does not apply to lots already granted, consequently there are not five people in the county of Victoria who it affects. Every member of the legislature, opposition as well as government supporters, favored this reserve, and if the government were turned out to-morrow there would be no change in the law in this respect.

The opposition in other parts of the province are attacking the local government because it proposes, with the assent of the Dominion government, to build the Tobique Valley railway. In Mr. Porter prepared to help the opposition prevent this needed aid from being given? He may say he is not; but if he is going to be true to his opposition friends he must be prepared to oppose a railway to the Valley railway. We are not surprised at this. It is not a matter for astonishment that a gentleman, who is first on one side and then on the other in his anxiety to get elected, should be willing to promise to oppose the granting of aid to this railway, if by so doing he can get help in his election from the opposition. It is well known that Mr. Porter has no special interest in the Tobique Valley.

What have the people of Grand Falls, of Drummond, of Andover, of Perth to gain by playing into the hands of the opposition? They cannot defeat the government, even if they want to, which they do not, by defeating Mr. Baird. There is no principle at stake of which Mr. Porter is the champion. If there were we should say "stand by your principles no matter what is the consequence," but as this question before the electors is simply whether they shall be represented by a gentleman in sympathy with the government, or by one who will lend his aid to those who are plotting and scheming to get into office, they will choose the former. To the average elector in any county, it is a matter of absolute indifference who form the government, provided the administration of affairs is honestly and efficiently conducted. So far as Victoria is concerned it has nothing to complain of in respect to the manner in which it has been treated by the government, and in regard to the honesty with which affairs are administered, it is only necessary to say that after nearly a year's investigation, the opposition have not unearthed a single scandal.

IS ELECTROCUTION A FAILURE?

Now that it is all over and the "experts" have been heard and the doctors have told their stories, people are beginning to think that perhaps electrocution is not much of a failure after all. But there is only one man whose opinion would be really conclusive, and that is Kemmler, and he is hardly in a position to tell us what he thinks about it. A howl was to be expected. The killing of comedians can never be an attractive spectacle. Killing is killing any way you look at it, and until the law is as merciful to human brutes as it is to the four-legged variety and chloroform them, executions will always be more or less horrible. There may be some objections, not much of a failure after all. But there is only one man whose opinion would be really conclusive, and that is Kemmler, and he is hardly in a position to tell us what he thinks about it. A howl was to be expected. The killing of comedians can never be an attractive spectacle. 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