"You know me then?" said the juror in a trembling voice.

"Not very intimately, my dear sir, but just sufficiently to appreciate your fondness for discussing bills at what your enemies might call usurious interest. I think it was about four years ago that an honest, poor man, the father of a large family, blew out his own brains, in despair at being refused by you a short renewal which he had implored on his knees."

Without replying, M. Cerneau retired to the furthest corner of the room, and wiped off the large drops of sweat which started from his brow.

"What does this mean?" asked another juror impatiently. "Have we come hither to act a scene from the Memoirs of the Devil?"

"I don't know that word," replied the major, "but may I advise you Monsieur de Bardine, to calm your nerves?"

"Sir, you are impertinent, and I shall certainly do myself the pleasure to chastise you."

"As how?"

"With my sword. I shall do you the honour to meet you to-morrow."

"An honour which, being a man of sense, I must beg respectfully to decline. You don't kill your adversaries, Monsieur de Bardine; you assassinate them. Have you forgotten your duel with Monsieur de Sillar, which took place, as I am told, without witnesses? While he was off his guard, you treacherously struck him through the heart. The prospect of a similar catastrophe is certainly by no means enticing."

With an indistinctive movement, M. de Bardine's neighbour's drew off.

"I admire such virtuous indignation," sneered the major. "It especially becomes you, Monsieur Darin'——

"What infamy are you going to cast in my teeth?" exclaimed the gentleman addressed.

"Oh, very little—a mere trifle—simply, that while Monsieur de Bardine kills his friends, you only dishonour yours. Monsieur Simon, whose house, table, and purse are yours, has a pretty wife."

"Major," cried another juror, "you are a villain."

"Pardon me, my dear Monsieur Calfat, let us call things by their proper names. The only villain amongst us, I believe, is the man who himself set fire to house six months after having insured it at treble its value, in four offices, whose directors were foolish enough to pay the money without making sufficient inquiry."

A stifled groan escaped from M. Calafat's lips as he covered his face with his hands.

"Who are you that you dare to constitute yourself our judge?" asked another, looking fiercely at Vernor.

"Who am I, Monsieur Peron?" simply one who can appreciate your very rare dexterity in holding court in your hand, and make the dice turn up as you please."

M. Peron gave an involuntary start, and thenceforward held his peace. The scene, aided by the darkness of approaching night, had now assumed a terrible aspect. The voice of the major rang in the ears of eleven pale, trembling men, with a cold metallic distinctness, as if each word inflicted a blow.

At length Vernor burst into a sharp hissing laugh. "Well, my honourable colleagues," he exclaimed, "does this now Pierre Granger still appear to you unworthy of the slightest pity. I grant you he has committed a fault, and a fault which you would not have committed in his place. He has not had your cleverness in masking his turpitude with a show of virtue: that was his real crime. Now, if after having killed his wife, he had put handsomely for masses to be said for her repose—if he had purchased a burial-ground, and caused to be raised to her memory a beautiful square white marble monument, with a flowery epitaph on it in gold letters—why, then, we should all have shed tears of sympathy, and eulogised Pierre Granger as the model of a tender husband. Don't you agree with me, Monsieur Norbec?"

M. Norbec started as if he had received an electric shock. "It is false!" he murmured. "I did not poison Eliza: she died of pulmonary consumption."

"True," said the major; "you remind me of a circumstance which I had nearly forgotten. Madame Norbec, who possessed a large fortune in her own right, died without issue, five months after she had made you her sole legatee." Then the major was silent. They were now in total darkness, and the throbbing of many agitated hearts might be heard in the room. Suddenly came the sharp click of a pistol, and the obscurity was for a moment brightened by a flash; but there was no report—the weapon had missed fire. The Major burst into a long and loud fit of laughter. "Charming! delightful! Ah, my dear sir," he exclaimed, addressing the foreman, "you were the only honest man of the party, and see how, to oblige me, you have made an attempt on my person, which places you on an honourable level with Pierre Granger!" Then having rung the bell, he called for candles, and when they were brought, he said: "Come, gentlemen, I suppose you don't want to sleep here: let us make haste, and finish our business."

Ten minutes afterwards, the foreman handed in the issue paper—a verdict of Not Guilty; and Pierre Granger was discharged amid the hisses and execrations of the crowd, who indeed, were prevented only by a strong military force from assaulting both judge and jury. Major Vernor coolly walked up to the dock, and passing his arm under that of Pierre Granger, went out with him through a side door.

From that hour neither the one nor the other was ever seen again in the country. That night there was a terrific thunder storm; the ripe harvest was beaten down by hailstones as large as pigeon's eggs, and a flash of lightning striking the steeple of the old ivy-covered church, tore down its gilded cross.

This strange story was related to me one day last year by a convict in the infirmary of the prison of Toulon. I have given it verbatim from his lips; and as I was leaving the building, the sergeant who accompanied me said:—"So, sir, you have been listening to the wonderful rhodomontades of Number 19,788?"

"What do you mean?—This history"——

"Is false from beginning to end. No. 19,788 is an atrocious criminal, who was sent to the galleys for life, and who, during the last few months, has given evident proofs of mental alienation. His monomania consists chiefly in telling stories to prove that all judges are rogues and villains. He was himself found guilty, by a most respectable and upright jury, of having robbed and tried to murder Major Vernor. He is about to be placed in a lunatic asylum, so that you will probably be the last visitor who will hear his curious inventions."

"And who is Major Vernor?"

"A brave old half-pay officer, who has lived at Toulon, beloved and respected, during the last twelve years. You will probably see him to-day, smoking his Havannah cigar, after the table d'hote dinner, at the Crown Hotel."

BATTLE OF THE ALMA.

The battle of the Alma was one of the greatest since that of Waterloo. The following description is from the *Times'* Correspondent:—

At the top of the ridges, between the gullies, the Russians had erected earth-work batteries, mounted with 32lb. and 24lb. brass guns, supported by numerous field-pieces and howitzers. The principal battery consisted of an earth-work of the form of two sides of a triangle, with the apex pointed towards the bridge, and the sides covering both sides of the streams, corresponding with the bend in the river below it, at the distance of 1,000 yards, while, with a fair elevation, the thirty-two pounders threw, as we saw very often, beyond the houses of the village, to the distance of 1,400 and 1,500 yards. This was constructed on the brow of a hill about 600 feet above the river, but the hill rose behind it for another fifty feet before it dipped away towards the road. The ascent of this hill was enfiladed by the fire of three batteries of earthwork on the right and by another on the left, and these batteries were equally capable of covering the village the stream, and the slopes which led up the hill to their position. In the first battery were thirteen thirty-two-pounder brass guns of exquisite workmanship, which only tell too well. In the other batteries were some twenty-five guns in all. It was said the Russians had 100 guns on the hills, and 40,000 men (forty battalions of infantry 1,000 strong, each of the 16th, 31st, 32nd and 52nd regiments). We were opposed principally to 16th and 32nd regiments, judging by the number of dead in front of us. I have not been able to ascertain by whom they were commanded, but there is a general report that Menschikoff commanded the army in chief that the left was under Gortschakoff, a relative of the diplomatist, and that the right was under Bodaloff, the Military Governor of Sebastopol. It seems strange that an admiral should be appointed to command an army but strange things do happen in Russia. It is also affirmed that the carriage of Menschikoff was taken, and in it was found a copy of a despatch addressed to the Emperor, in which the Prince stated that 40,000 men might take Sebastopol, but that 80,000 men could be held in check for weeks by the position of the Alma. Large masses of cavalry, principally lancers and heavy dragoons, manœuvred on the hill on the right of the Russians, and at last descended the hills, crossing the stream, and threatened our left and rear. As we we came near the river, our left wing was thrown back, in order to support our small force of cavalry and a portion of our artillery was pushed forward in the same direction. Our danger in this respect was detected by the quick eye of Sir George Brown, and I heard him give the order for the movement of the artillery almost as soon as he caught sight of the enemy's cavalry, and just as we were coming to the village. As I have already said, our plan of operations was that the French should establish themselves under the fire of the guns on the heights on the extreme of the enemy's left. When that attack was sufficiently developed, and had met with success, the British army was to force the right and part the centre of the Russian position, and the day was gained. When we were about three miles from the village, the French steamers ran in as close as they could to the bluff of the shore at the south side of the Alma, and presently we saw them shelling the heights in splendid style, the shells bursting over the enemy's squares and batteries and finally driving them from their position on the right, within 3,000 yards of the sea.

The French practice commenced about half-past twelve o'clock, and lasted for about an hour and a half. We could see the shells falling over the batteries of the enemy, and bursting right into them; and then the black masses inside the works broke into little specs, which flew about in all directions, and when the smoke cleared away there were some to be seen strewed over the ground. The Russians answered the ships from the heights, but without effect. A powder tumbril was blown up by a French shell; another shell fell by accident into an ambuscade which the Russians had prepared for the advancing French, and at last they drew from the sea side, and confined their efforts to the defence of the gullies and heights beyond the fire of the heavy guns of the steamers. At one o'clock we saw the French columns struggling up the hills, covered by a cloud of skirmishers, whose fire seemed most deadly. Once, at sight of a threatening mass of Russian infantry, in a commanding position above them, who fired rapid voleys among them, the French paused, but it was only to collect their skirmishers, for as soon as they formed they ran up the hill at the *pas de charge*, and broke the Russians at once, who fled in disorder with loss up the hill. We could see men dropping on both sides, and the wounded rolling down the steep. At 1,50 our line of skirmishers got within range of the battery on the hill and immediately the Russians opened fire at 1,200 yards with effect, the shot ploughing through the open lines of the Riflemen, and falling into the advancing columns behind. Shortly ere this time dense volumes of smoke rose from the river, and drifted along to the eastward, rather interfering with the view of the enemy on the left of our position. The Russians had set the village on fire. It was a fair exercise of military skill, was well executed, took place at the right time, and succeeded in occasioning a good deal of anoyance. Our troops halted when they neared this village, their left extending beyond it by the verge of the stream; our right behind the burning cottages, and within the range of the batteries. It is said that the Russians had taken the range of all the principal points in their front, and placed twigs and sticks to mark them. In this they were assisted by the post signboards on the road. The Russians opened a furious fire on the whole of our line, but the French had not yet made progress enough to justify us in advancing. The round shot whizzed in every direction, dashing up the dirt and sand into the faces of the staff of Lord Raglan, who were also shelled severely, attracted much of the enemy's fire. Still Lord Raglan waited patiently for the development of the French attack. At length an aide-de-camp came to him and reported the French had crossed the Alma, but they had not established themselves sufficiently to justify us in an attack. The infantry were therefore, ordered to lie down, and the army for a short time was quite passive, only that our artillery poured forth an unceasing fire of shell, rockets, and round shot, which ploughed through the Russians, and caused them great loss. They did waver, however and replied to our artillery manfully, their shot falling among our men as they lay, and carrying off legs and arms at every round. Lord Raglan at last became weary of this inactivity—his spirit was up—he looked around, and saw men on whom he knew he might stake the honor and fate of Great Britain by his side, and, anticipating a little, in a military point of view, the crisis of action, he gave orders for our whole line to advance. Up rose these serried masses, and passing though a fearful shower of round, case shot, and shell, they dashed into the Alma, and "floundered" through its waters, which were literally torn into foam by the deadly hail. At the other side of the river were a number of vineyards, and to our surprise they were occupied by Russian riflemen. Three of the staff were here shot down, but, led by Lord Raglan in person, they advanced, cheering on the men. And now came the turning point of the battle, in which Lord Raglan, by his sagacity and military skill, probably secured the victory at a smaller sacrifice than would have been otherwise the case. He dashed over the bridge, followed by his staff. From the road over it, under the Russian guns he saw the state of the action. The British line, which he had ordered to advance, was struggling through the river and up the heights in masses firm indeed, but mowed down by the murderous fire of the batteries, and by grape, round shot, shell, canister case shot, and musketry, from some of the guns of the central battery, and from an immense and compact mass of Russian infantry. Then commenced one of the most bloody and determined struggles in the annals of war. The second division, led by Sir de Lacy Evans in the most dashing manner, crossed the stream on the right. The 7th Fusiliers, led by the Colonel Yea, were swept down by fifties. The 55th, 20th, and 95th, led by Brigadier Pennefather, who was in the thickest of the fight, cheering on his men, again and again were checked indeed, but never drew back in their onward progress which was marked with a fierce roll of Minie musketry; and Brigadier Adams, with the 41st, 47th, and 49th, bravely charged up the hill, and aided them in the battle. Sir George Brown, conspicuous on a grey horse, rod in front of his Light Division, urging with voice and gesture. Gallant fellows! they were worthy of such a gallant chief. The 7th, diminished by one-half fell back to re-form their columns, lost for the time; the 23d with eight officers dead and four wounded, were still reeling to the front, aided by the 15th, 33rd, 77th, and 88th. Down went Sir George in a cloud of dust in front of the battery. He was soon up, and shouted, "23rd, I'm all right; be sure I'll remember this day," and led them on again, but in the shock produced by the fall of their chief, the gallant regiment suffered terribly while paralysed for a moment. Meantime time the guards on the right of the Light Division, and the Brigade of Highlanders, were storming the heights on the left. These line was almost as regular as though they were in Hyde Park. Suddenly a tornado of round and grape rushed through from the terrible battery, and a roar of musketry from behind thinned their front ranks by dozens. It was evident that we were just able to contend against the Russians, favoured as they were by a great position. At this very time an immense mass of Russian infantry were seen moving down towards the battery. They halted. It was the crisis of the day. Sharp, angular, and solid, they looked as if they were cut out of the solid rock. It was beyond all doubt that if our infantry, harrassed and thinned as they were, got into the battery, they would have to encounter again a formidable fire which they were but ill calculated to bear. Lord Raglan saw the difficulties of the situation. He asked if it would be possible to get a couple of guns to bear on these masses. The reply was "Yes," and an artillery officer, whose name I do not know, brought up two guns to fire on the Russian squares. The first shot missed, but the next, and the next and the next cut through the ranks so clearly and so keenly, that a clear line could be seen for a moment through the square. After a few rounds, the columns of the square became broken, wavered to and fro, broke, and fled over the brow of the hill, leaving behind them 6 or 7 distinct lines of dead, lying as close as possible to each other, marking the passage of the fatal messenger.

This act relieved our infantry of a deadly incubus, and they continued their magnificent and fearful progress up the hill. The Duke encouraged his men by voice and example, and proved himself worthy of his proud command and of the royal race from which he comes. "Highlanders," said Colin Campbell, ere they came to the charge, "I am going to ask a favor of you; it is, that you will act so as to justify me in asking permission of the Queen for you to wear a bonnet! Don't pull a trigger till you're within a yard of the Russians!" They charged, and well they obeyed their chieftains wish; Sir Colin had his horse shot under him, but his men took the battery at a bound. The Russians rushed out, and multitudes of dead behind them. The Guards had stormed the right of the battery ere the Highlanders got into the left, and it is said the Scots Fusilier Guards were the first to enter. The Second and Light Division crowned the heights. The French turned the guns on the left against the flying masses, which the cavalry in vain tried to cover. A few faint struggles from the scattered infantry, a few rounds of cannon and musketry, and the enemy fled to the south east, leaving three generals, drums, three guns, 700 prisoners, 4,000 wounded behind them. The battle of Alma was won with a loss of nearly three thousand killed and wounded on our side.

The Chronicle.

Saint John, N. B., Nov. 2, 1854.

CHANGE OF THE MINISTRY.

After the very hearty support given to the members of the late Ministry at the last Election, we were scarcely prepared to find that a knot of discontented and needy Lawyers could so far bamboozle the representatives as to obtain a Majority for the support of a Vote of "Non Confidence." Yet such is the case, and a new Ministry has been formed.

If our information can be relied on this change was not brought about without a great deal of intrigue, false promises and deception. Mr. Cutler has, since the formation of the Government, come out, and accused them of deception, it being a part of the BARGAIN! that one Roman Catholic should have a seat in the Executive! hence his vote in favour of the change. This has not been done, and Mr. Cutler, with many others, have already taken a stand of Opposition to them, and has moved a resolution of want of confidence in his late friends.

In the present Ministry there are many incongruities—First: that being chiefly composed of lawyers, the mercantile and agricultural interests, are completely thrown over board. Secondly: Mr. Street, as we view it, not being a member of the Assembly, was not eligible to a seat in the Executive, inasmuch as there being no vacancy for a member in his County, he could not go back to the people for re-election, agreeably to the requirements of the Responsible Government system. Another and we think no slight breach of the Constitution is to be found in the circumstance of Mr. Ritchie's taking office, while it is notorious that he has jockeyed himself into his present position, and will when the scrutiny takes place be sent back to his original obscurity. It is to be hoped that the anomalous proceedings of the Legislature growing out of this Responsible system, will awake the people to a sense of the dilemma in which it has placed public business, which has now become a secondary consideration, place and profit being the all absorbing idea. We may look in future for a very large part of the Session to be frittered away in personal disputes, and scrambling for office. From the chaotic state of the House, and the murmur of disapprobation that so generally prevail, we can see no choice left for his Excellency but to dissolve the house, and let the voice of the constituency decide the knotty question. In this measure his Excellency would be fully justified, as in addition to the trouble in the "wigwam." There are no less than *sixteen* contested elections to be settled. This business alone will occupy fully one half of the time of the Legislature at the next session, and cost the country thousands of pounds, which would be better spent in roads and education.

The division took place on Saturday last on the amendment of Mr. Fisher, as follows:

For the Amendment—Fisher, Brown, Ritchie, Johnson, Smith, Harding, Tilley, Macpherson, Hatheway, Steadman, Landry, McAdam, Gilmour, Connell, English, Tibbits, Lunt, Ferris, Ryan, McClelan, Stevens, Cutler, McPhelim, Sutton, McNaughton, End, Botsford—27.

Against the Amendment—Street, Partelow, Wilmot, Gray, Hayward, Montgomery, Taylor, Gilbert, McLeod, Boyd, Purdy, Rice—12.

The Government then resigned in a body. Mr. Fisher was then called upon to form a new administration. The mountain laboured—the mouse was born. The following comprise the fruit:

Hon. Charles Fisher, Attorney General; Hon. J. Johnson, Solicitor General; Hon. S. L. Tilley, Provincial Secretary; Hon. Mr. Steves, Surveyor General; Hon. Messrs Ritchie, Brown, and Smith, Executive Councillors, without place.

The house has passed the Reciprocity Treaty and will be prorogued to day.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(MR. FISHER'S SPEECH CONCLUDED.)

Thus were two offices in the Province disposed of, by the Governor sending the appointment to the *Gazette* in his own hand writing, and without consulting his Council. It was a maxim of the British Constitution that the King can do no wrong, but it was because he does nothing—it is his Ministers who act, and they are responsible to the people; when a Governor of a Colony undertook to act upon his own responsibility, he evidently violated the constitution. This was the first opportunity he had of explaining the matter on the floor of the House, and he, therefore, availed himself of it. The first he knew of it was when the Hon. Provincial Secretary met him in the street and told him what the Governor had done. He told the Hon. Secretary at the time that he would not stand it; but the Hon. Secretary advised him not to be hasty in coming to a conclusion. He wondered what Earl Grey would think if he was riding down Hyde Park, and to learn for the first time that the Queen had resignation of the Governor of Jamaica, and had appointed him Governor General of India! He did not believe Earl Grey knew how the thing was done; he would naturally suppose that Sir Edmund had consulted his Council. There was no necessity for hurry at the time, for there had been but three Judges to attend to the business of the Circuit Courts for some years previous, on account of the indisposition of the late Chief Justice, and the said venerable gentleman's resignation was not to take place until the close of the year. The majority of the Council advised that they wait until the House met—about after the period when the Chief Justice would retire—and consult then as to whether there should be three Judges or four. Where was the harm in doing so? and if any harm would arise it was not Earl Grey who would feel it, but the people of this Province, to whom the Executive Council was responsible. The despatch from Sir Edmund to Earl Grey was dated October 21th, 1850. He considered it right, and but justice towards himself, to go into details now. He might have done so on the Hustings, but it would have been inconvenient, and he had had no other opportunity.—He had been maligned, through the ignorance of parties, perhaps, but he thought proper to wait until he had an opportunity of defending himself on the floor of this House. In communicating with the Council His Excellency stated that he reserved to himself the right to recommend Earl Grey to appoint to the vacant Judgship whomsoever he thought proper, and when they enquired what he meant by so doing, he replied, in a message he sent them, that he merely asked their advice, but if they did not like the appointments he should recommend, they might take their own course (laughter). [The Hon. member then produced and read a copy of the document.] Now, what other construction was this language capable of than that if they did not like it they might resign? (hear, hear). This was entirely new to the public, and he promulgated it to defend his own character from aspersion, having received permission so to do from Sir Edmund Head. Thus he contended that the Governor erred with his eyes open. Had the Council had the independence of character to resign, the Governor could not have got another set of men to back him in a course so ridiculously unconstitutional, and must have backed out of the dilemma he found himself in. The next day the minute of Council, recommending that no appointment to the Bench be made until the meeting of the Legislature, was signed by the Hon. Messrs. Wilmot, Chandler, Hazen, Hill, Partelow, and Hamington; he (Mr. Fisher) with the Hon. Solicitor General and the Hon. Mr. Rankin, declining to sign it. Mr. Wilmot went to Government House the next morning, and got his name struck off; but still there was a majority of the names of the Council attached to it. He (Mr. F.) then wrote to Earl Grey, stating his reasons for differing in opinion with his colleagues, but did not complain that the decision of the majority should be adopted. The next he heard about the matter was on the 2nd day of January, 1851, when the Hon. Secretary met him in the street and told him that the Chief Justice and Judge Wilmot were Gazetted. He immediately said, "I will not stand this." The Hon. Secretary replied, "Don't be excited." Now, he would ask, was that the way for the Government to act?—writing a despatch to the Colonial Minister, recommending certain appointments, and not only doing this without the knowledge of his Council, but in defiance of the known decision of the majority of them! Was that the way for him to act, sending the notice to the Royal Gazette in his own hand writing, and his Council knowing nothing about it until they saw it in print! Was that the way the people of this country wished to see the government of the country carried on? If they submitted to it their liberties were worth nothing. He contended that Earl Grey knew nothing about it—if he had known how the Governor had acted all through the affair he would never have given him power to make the appointments. His lordship must have thought, as a matter of course, Sir Edmund's despatch was shown to his Councillors, and that everything was done with their consent. But they quailed before the Governor, and lay prostrate at his feet. By holding on to their offices, instead of resigning, they prostrated the constitution of the country, and is had been lying prostrate ever since. What was done when Sir William Colebrooke appointed his son-in-law and Private Secretary to the Secretaryship of the Province? Sir William's act was not so culpable as Sir Edmund's, for a vacancy occurred that required to be filled up immediately, and the weather was inclement that it was scarcely possible to call his Council together. On that occasion five Councillors tendered their resignations; the people sustained them, the new administration was defeated by an overwhelming majority, and Mr. Alfred Reade was obliged to give up his office. Had the Council of 1851 acted independently the same result would have been obtained; but they succumbed to the Governor and prostrated the constitution. The present Hon. Attorney General joined them immediately after they had committed this great political error, and thereby endorsed what they had done; and he had done this after having on the hustings declared them to be "politically dishonest." But when he joined them of course they were no longer dishonest—amber or chrystal could not be more pure and transparent. What excuse did the Hon. Attorney General make for joining them? Oh! Earl Grey had written a despatch, ordering Sir Edmund to make the appointments. But that despatch but acquiesced in the suggestions contained in a despatch written by Sir Edmund, and Earl Grey did not know that Sir Edmund's despatch had not been submitted to his Council. We let them next see what the Council done when they met, shortly after the appointments were made? Why, they entered on their minutes a *grave remonstrance*! (laughter). This curious document he must read. [The Honorable member then read the minute of Council referred to.] So it appeared these gentlemen did not know for certain that responsible government was established in this Province, notwithstanding Earl Grey's despatch on the subject, and its formal adoption by this House, by a vote of thirty to six, but say it is *understood* to have been established here. They also admit that it might be *inferred* from their minute of Council of October, that they were willing Judge Carter should be Chief Justice, on the late Chief Justice's resignation. He denied that any such inference could be drawn from the minute of Council, and they were begging the question when they said so. The fact was they were willing to see Mr. Justice Carter Chief Justice, but they did not want to see Judge Wilmot on the Bench. Sir Edmund Head was an exceedingly shrewd, intelligent man—he was a man of education, and thoroughly conversant with the English language, and he (Mr. F.) would show that he did not mistake the purport of the minute in Council, and draw an inference from it that the Councillors were willing Judge Carter should be appointed Chief Justice, for he said in his despatch to Earl Grey, "Your Lordship will observe that my Council have tendered me no advice on the subject whatever." He had, therefore, come to this conclusion—and it was impossible for any reasonable man to arrive at any other—that the Executive Council had been over-ridden by the Governor; and if they were over-ridden then, he had a right to conclude that they were over-ridden by him down to the period of his departure from the Province (hear, hear). He would now pass on to another case. If responsible government be established in all local affairs, the House of Representatives had the right to fix the salaries of all public officers, including the Judges of the Supreme Court. Now, the Judges had always been accustomed to receive fees—fees for which they did nothing; they received ten shillings for the first *motion* on every case entered for trial, although in fact no motion was made. He considered beneath the dignity of a Judge to receive those fees. In 1851 the House passed a Bill to abolish the fees, which passed the other branch, was sent home, and disallowed. The Government succumbed again. The Chief Justice was applauded by the Governor for his opinion, and the opinion he gave was acted upon. In the government of the country—in a matter that affected every litigant—the bare word of a Judge was considered of more importance than an overwhelming vote of the House of Assembly (hear, hear). The House was exercising one of its constitutional rights, and it was the bounden duty of the Government to see their wishes carried out, but nothing whatever appeared to show that they took the slightest step to advance the measure. They allowed themselves to be over-ridden by the Governor and by the Judges—they had submitted to be knocked about like a political ninepins (hear, hear). The only one of the Judges, who did not trouble his head about the fees was His Honor Judge Parker; he denied a statement that had gone abroad, however, that his good ground for holding on to their fees; he had merely stated in his letter that he would not consent to yield up his fees; like any other man, he would hold on to them as long as he could. He (Mr. F.) had brought in a bill, in 1850, to abolish Judges fees, and Judge Wilmot, who was then a member of the House, voted for it. He considered it absolutely indecent for a Judge to receive fees, when he does nothing to earn them, nor knows the parties who pay them. Some of the Judges made use of language in their letters to the Colonial Secretary that was insulting towards the House, and yet they had not resented it. They represented the House as reckless, and as having but little regard for their former obligations. Was there no honorable mind there to ward off this disgrace to the country? Had not the Government the moral courage to say, away with it? There was no paragraph of a similar nature to be found in the annals of any country—it was a standing—a living disgrace to New Brunswick. He now came to another subject, upon which he would not dwell, as he desired to touch lightly upon any one's infirmity. In 1844 a venerable Judge—one whose kindness to him when he was a young barrister he would never forget—one who was looked to by the Bar as a father, and who was entitled to the esteem and respect of the whole country—he meant Judge Batsford—in 1844 he resigned on the condition that he was to receive such a pension as Her Majesty's Government might order. The Imperial Government referred him to the Legislature of this Province, in consequence of their being a Surplus Civil List Fund. His resignation was accepted by the Government of the day, although they had no power to grant pensions. The case came before the House, and he recollected a conversation he had with the present Hon. Speaker, wherein they both expressed the pain it gave them because they could not support the motion; for they considered it wrong to establish the pension system. Now, Judge Street, who was in the Government of 1844-5, was afflicted in the same manner as Judge Batsford, and yet, somehow or other, he got on the Bench, and Judge Batsford was dismissed without a pension. All the things he had enumerated were tamely submitted to by the Executive Council of this Province, and it was likely that Sir Edmund Head said to the new Lieutenant Governor, when he met him in Boston, "The Bluenoses are not like Englishmen, they have no pluck. I managed them, and if you like you can do the same." Were that to be the case a seat in the Legislature was not worth having, and let them now tell the new Governor, in tones that could not be mistaken, that they had had enough of it (hear, hear.) He contended that the destiny of a country was deeply involved in the degree of political liberty enjoyed by the people. Next to religion there was no question in which they were half so much interested. The people of every part of the vast British Empire had a right to the management of their own local affairs, and whenever that privilege was invaded by the Colonial Governor, it was the duty of the Ministry to resign, and refuse to act with him again until the wrong was repaired; and if he chose a new set of men, the people would soon turn them adrift and support the men who defended their rights (hear, hear.) He would now refer to an unjustifiable interference on the part of the Colonial Secretary in another local affair. In consequence of Mr. Connell resigning his seat in the Legislative Council, and (having been elected) taken a seat in this House, the Duke of Newcastle, in one of his despatches laid down as a rule that in future no such resignation should be accepted until it had been transmitted to England and received the sanction of Her Majesty.—Now, in the case referred to, and in the case of his friend the Hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Brown) he would like to know what arguments could be brought to bear to unseat them, even if their resignations had not been sanctioned by the Queen. The matter was purely local, and this House was the only power that could decide who was and who was not eligible to a seat there.—There was one thing Judge Street's letter to the Colonial Secretary which deserved notice. One brother wrote about the other that he was governed by those upright and honorable principles for which he had ever been distinguished (laughter). He was willing to allow the Hon. Attorney General all the honor to which this laudation entitled him, and now he would take the calipers and measure him—not personally, but politically—as the Leader, supposed to embody the mind of the Government. Let them look at his Municipal Corporation Bill; it had done immense damage to the country—it had retarded its progress rather than advanced it. [The Hon. member then read a passage from the speech of the Hon. Attorney General, delivered in 1851]. That was in a time of public excitement, and if the Hon. Attorney General had been in earnest he might have carried a Municipal Corporation Bill, and placed it on the Statute Book, that would have been of great advantage to the country. But he had inserted a clause that no county should be incorporated, unless there was a two-third vote of the tax-payers in its favour. It appeared as though he tried his best to defeat the ostensible object in view, and why? Because it would enable a little knot of the old party to rule a county. In fact, it was impossible for the Hon. Attorney General to introduce a Municipal Corporation Bill that would suit the country, for he belonged to the old party himself, and could not advance. He admitted that Municipal Corporations could only be adopted gradually—the law should not be coercive; but here was a law under which the people could not get a Charter of Incorporation, and in the next place, if they did get it it was no good (hear, hear.) They must educate the people. And here he must say that the people had of late years been brought in contact with each other, by means of the agricultural and temperance societies, &c., and a great improvement had taken place. He contended that the want of a proper election law at this period was clearly chargeable on the Hon. Attorney General. It was worse than universal suffrage, which he abhorred—and he cared not who heard him say so. There were no less than sixteen seats contested, and if they were sent back to their constituents—not that he thought they would be—they would fight like cats. He would say no more on politics but this:—if they could effect nothing during the four years but carry this amendment, even then it would be well. It would be a lesson to all future Governments not to truckle to the Governor and Colonial Secretary in a matter purely local. In a short time we should be closely connected with the great country along side, in commerce, it was the trade that Nature had pointed out, as one of mutual advantage, and he foresaw a glorious future looming in the distance (hear, hear). The hemorrhage that had for years past drained this country of some of its best blood would now be stopped (hear, hear). The great free races of Circassian and Celt would mix together, and display to the world a noble people unmatched for vigour and the love of freedom (hear, hear.) Look at the noble spectacle of the Pilgrim Fathers landing upon the bare rock of Plymouth, having left their country that they might worship God in their own way unmolested. Look at Lord Baltimore, at the head of another race, settling Maryland and Virginia; and then what a picture of moral sublimity did the world see when the old Loyalists—from one of whom he was proud to say he was descended—leaving their homesteads and coming here to settle in the wilderness under the protection of the beloved flag under which they had been accustomed to fight (hear, hear). He hoped that the country—with constitutional freedom and reciprocal trade established—would go on and prosper, and it was his earnest prayer to God that Religion and Piety, Truth and Justice would prevail (cheers.)

Mr. Brown said he was asked by the Hon. Attorney General to move the Address, and seeing nothing political in it he consented to do so. At that time he had not the slightest idea than an amendment of this nature would be moved. He could subscribe to every word of the Address, and he could subscribe to the Amendment also (laughter); but the latter put a new face on the matter, and what was not political before had now become a political matter of the highest importance. He came to the Legislature to support the Reciprocity Bill, for he believed the Treaty would operate a trade of the greatest benefit to us. He was extremely reluctant to vote against the Government: he had no desire to deprive them of their seats—but he was in the same position his countrymen were in 110 years ago, when two Kings claimed their allegiance—they were compelled to choose between the two. He had recently come across an appropriate motto in a volume of Scotch (or Scott's) Novels, which ran thus:—

"Which King, Byzantium?
Speak or die."

[The Hon. member then stated that it was twenty-four years since he first entered the House, and he had held his seat there 20 years out of the 24. He enumerated the many reforms that had taken place since, and among them the separation of the Legislative and Executive Councils, the abolition of the Quit Rents, the exclusion of the Judges from the Legislative Council, the passing of the Civil List Bill, &c.] He had voted for all of those measures of reform; how, then, could he now turn round and give a vote that would be in direct opposition to the whole tenor of his political life? (Hear, hear). Altho' his principles had always been antagonistic to those professed by the Hon. Attorney General, he begged to assure the House that he was neither Radical or Rebel. He had always been a Liberal, and nothing more (hear, hear.) He had left the Upper House to come back to his seat once more, at the request of many of his old constituents. It was then said he could not take his seat in this House, on account of the doctrine laid down in the Duke of Newcastle's advice; but he sat down and wrote a letter to the Queen in his own hand, tendering his resignation, and questing her to accept it. In this letter he told her the whole story, knowing that Her Majesty would not refuse him, and she had graciously granted his request. A canvass was made against him in Charlotte on account of the position in which he stood, but he told the people, "if you'll only elect me I'll risk taking my seat" (laughter). He thought the Hon. mover of the amendment had sustained his charges against the Government, but he would not attempt to follow him through all these charges—he would not trespass on the time of the House; he would, therefore, confine his remarks to the Election Law, the more especially as he was sent to the House pledged to do his utmost to procure the passing of a new law. The Election Bill introduced by the Hon. Attorney General in 1853 was far from being perfect; still it might have been amended so as to be a great improvement on the present law, and ought not to have been abandoned by the Government because the ballot system was introduced. They ought to have gone on with it, and made it as perfect as possible. He certainly must consider the Government guilty of the sin of omission in this instance. They had abandoned a bill in 1853, and brought no new bill forward at the last election. When he formerly held a seat in this House he had introduced bills for the registration of voters, and he must do the Hon. Attorney General the justice to say that upon those occasions he supported him. Last Session, perceiving that the Government would not move in the matter, he introduced a Registration Bill in the other House. He was met first that it was unconstitutional, and secondly that it must pass with a suspending clause, and that before Her Majesty's assent could be procured it would be over. He was aware that no money clauses could be inserted in a bill originating in the Upper Branch, but these might have been added below, and the bill sent back. This House, however, considered the bill an infringement upon their privileges, and gave it the go by. It was lamentable to think that 16 members' seats were petitioned against, and he hoped never to see another election in this Province until there is a new law. Were the Government anxious upon the subject, he believed they might have had a new law in operation at the last general election.

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, Oct. 24th.

The Honorable Attorney General in rising to reply to the attack made upon him yesterday,—and he did not deny that the hon. member had made an eloquent speech—felt himself in a position where a great deal of moral courage was required,—a moral courage that few men possessed. It was not that he cared for what the Hon. member said about him, but on account of the conduct of Hon. members aroused him. When he saw the Hon. member who had moved the Address decline moving it again when it was necessary to do so as the order of the day, and without having heard a word declared that he would support the amendment—when he heard that a paper had been handed round, and that a great many members had signed it—when he heard that caucuses had been held, and every effort made to induce Hon. members to pledge themselves to oppose the Government,——An Hon. member—Who said so?——He would not make the assertion, but he had heard it, and he would be glad to hear it contradicted. When he heard all this, it required a good deal of moral courage to rise on his feet and defend the Government. The Government was prejudged, and he hoped for Hon. members' own sakes that they would not make up their minds irrevocably until they had given the Government members a fair trial. If what he had been told was true he had never heard or seen anything like it in parliamentary or political history; nor could the Hon. mover of the amendment find it in his political bible, Lord Durham's Report. He meant no disrespect to the memory of that talented nobleman, but nothing like it could be found in his writings. He hoped they would have a fair trial, and he would answer all the charges brought against the Government seriatim; altho' he was placed at a disadvantage, for he did not pretend to the same eloquence as several Hon. members opposed to him, nor did he know the nature of the attack until yesterday, and therefore had but little time to prepare himself. He would not follow the Hon. member through the early part of his speech.