

Chignecto Post.
SACKVILLE, N. B., MON. 21, 1872.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The more we reflect upon the subject of the Act newly creating the Legislative Council, which formed the subject of an article in our last week's paper, the more we are astonished at any thing done by our Legislators (and I am astonished at the fact of such an infamous law having been passed by the Assembly. We are ignorant of the wire pulling and manoeuvring which accompanied this through the Legislature, we have not the journals of that year within our reach to see who introduced it. But whoever was the father, was well versed in political trickery,—for who but an old stager would introduce a bill entitled as relating to the Constitution of the Legislative Council, which at once by a fraud annihilated Responsible Government?

It was before our time, but we are sufficiently conversant with the history of New Brunswick to know something about the ardent contests between the irresponsible Council and Sir Archibald Campbell whom it vitiated, with the House of Assembly while contending for the British form of government, by which the Government was responsible to the people. We are familiar with the History of Delegations across the Atlantic to Downing street, in the efforts to relieve the Province from the small knot of Tories who irresponsible to the people,—though responsible to the Crown, as they held office only during pleasure—forced it with a high hand over the Province. We have not lived our lifetime in Westmoreland, without having had repeated in our ears the stories of Charles Simonds and Edward B. Chandler, of our present Governor and William Crane, and of their patriotic efforts for the people. Nor have we been in Fredericton without seeing with pleasure the portrait of Lord Glenelg, granting the Legislative Hall, placed there as a mark of respect to the British Statesman who recognized the rights of Colonists to self-government, and frankly conceded to New Brunswick, the responsible Government so warmly contended for and which it has been our boast to possess, and duty to maintain.

The form of Government in existence at that time, was that a Council, appointed by the Crown, holding office during pleasure and possessing both Executive and Legislative powers, and composed in part of government officials and wholly irresponsible to the people. The change asked for, and after much trouble made, was in separating the functions of this Council by creating a Council of members holding office during pleasure of the Crown—having legislative functions, and a Council, its members holding office so long as they claimed the confidence of the people as expressed through their representatives—having Executive powers. The working of the political machine was thus made simple, the representatives of the people appointed to the Executive Council, which was responsible to them. The Crown appointed the Legislative Council, and the members were responsible to the Crown for the performance of their duties. And this responsibility of the Legislative Council to the Crown, while it placed them above the pressure of popular opinion operating upon the House of Assembly, influenced them to a proper discharge of their duties and prevented them from prostituting their powers, by enabling the people to refer to the Crown, an arbiter in whom all had confidence, any difficulties which might arise. This was the wisely conceived basis of responsible Government, and under it the Country was formed until the passage of the Act of 1868, taking away all responsibility on the part of the Legislative Council, and destroying the popular form of government. And by whom was the law passed? His Honor Lord Allen Wilnot, than whom no man knows or ought to know better the necessity of keeping all bodies of men subject to responsibility, sanctioned a law which struck a vital blow at the form of government it has been his life long boast to have been the leading person to introduce. The President of the Legislative Council who owes his position to the introduction of responsible government, the Honorable B. Chandler, who was a Delegate and received pay and honor for his trips across the Atlantic, and the Honorable

in the Assembly the delegation, and the introduction of responsible government, they all allowed the infamous Bill to be passed without a whisper that an assassin like stab was to be dealt to the rights of the people.

School Act Accepted.

Messrs Hanington, M. P. P., and Landry, M. P. P., have both announced they bowed to the decision of the Electors of Westmoreland in regard to the School Act. What is the meaning of this? Have these gentlemen been suddenly and mysteriously converted to non-sectarian School principles, after declarations made, scarcely a month ago, of their conscientious convictions for Sectarian Schools? Or is it, they are determined to be on the winning side? Do these gentlemen fancy they can delude the Electors of Westmoreland into the belief they have relinquished all hope and desire of obtaining Sectarian Schools—that they are prepared to carry out the School Act in its integrity and would struggle to maintain the act inviolate? If all this is true—and nothing less would satisfy Westmoreland, what has become of the consciences of Messrs. Hanington and Landry? They have declared their undying attachment to Separate Schools; they have led us to believe they would almost suffer martyrdom itself before they would change their principles—before they would do any act to sanction this "Godless, heathen, wicked, School Law." Was there ever such open, unblushing backsliding? What do the honest Catholics of Westmoreland, who believe in Separate Schools and voted for Chapman think of their Catholic representatives? What do the non-sectarian School men of Westmoreland think of men who thus desert their principles and unbitten and unwought turn themselves into honest company?

In a future what confidence can Free School men place in representatives who, believing themselves on the losing side, so heartlessly desert a sacred trust? These gentlemen took an active part in the late election against non-sectarian Schools; their efforts were completely defeated; the results showed how little confidence the people had in their policy; and they were forced to acknowledge they no longer possessed confidence of the people, or to yield up their conscientious belief. They have chosen the latter. They have deserted their colors. They have taken a subservient, cowardly, skulking course. They lost the confidence of the people before; they have lost their respect now.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Fredericton, March, 11th.

Since my last letter we have been treated the second annual offering, the Want of Confidence Resolution. The first offering, the discussion on the Debates, did not cost the country more than \$500 or \$600, but this last luxury has already cost over \$1,000, and as it will, probably, last until Thursday next, we may put it down at from \$2,000 to \$2,500. There is no use in our trying to fight against the inevitable, so we may settle down in this country to the annual certainty of resolutions of Want of Confidence in our Legislature, and without going into the motives which may prompt those who are the direct cause of the consequent waste of time, it might be well to look at the absolute recklessness which characterizes the conduct of the Debate. We might expect that those who attack the government, while keeping in view the main point—that of doing their all to prove any charges they may make—would also have some regard for public interest and the business they are sent to the Legislature to accomplish. Why then should every man whose tongue can run by the hour, take the floor and repeat over and over again what is already known, not to those who hear him but to the country at large? Why is it considered necessary for one man after another to hold the floor for hours ranging the changes on the speeches of his predecessors and splitting the ears of the House and galleries with loud mouthed declamations on parish politics and individual experiences, which are as foreign to the question at issue as the presence of most of the speeches in the House of Assembly is inimical to the interests of their constituents? Reason and a regard for the welfare of the Province would seem to suggest that even on a resolution of want of confidence it would be necessary only for one or two leaders on each

highest court of the Province, comprising within itself Judge and Jury—the witnesses being the acts of the party on trial—and we find the whole of them taking the role of counsel in the case, either pro or con and prolonging the trial beyond all reason.

On Thursday Willis opened the Debate by launching against the government charges of being tardy in putting the School Measure in operation and causing unnecessary inconvenience and expense thereby. Then he charged them with trying to pass the measure into law, from the first so that the friends of Sectarian Schools could drive a horse and cart through it, and he argued therefrom that they were guilty of insincerity, duplicity and dishonesty. He made, in fact a host of charges, all of a general kind and pressed in the stilted, windy and declamatory style which characterises all his speeches.

Stevenson replied in a very short speech, and after digging out the few points Willis had made he virtually used them up and asked him to bring along some more.

And so it has gone on from day to day, the fight being more or less uninteresting. Hanington gave the History of his life and of Westmoreland politics. He bowed to the decision of the noble county of Westmoreland and was willing to work out the School act. He still believed as he did last winter, but he must represent the people. He did not want office and never asked to be Attorney General. Landry dwelt long and rather eloquently on the Brayley House Canons, and denounced the way in which Hatheway had trekked the opposition. He deprecated the over expenditure made by the Government in the Board of Works, and did not wait all the claims of Westmoreland squared by the Moncton Bridge. He thought the Board of Works should not contract ahead for Bridges. Crawford next took up the cudgels for the government and asked for charges. He made a long and rather good speech, showing Willis' thirst for office and his attempts to grasp the prize. He said Gough was even now the real leader of the opposition. The alliance of Willis with the party was to blind the friends of Free schools, while Willis had gone over and really sold out his principles to the opposite party.

The heady fight however has been today. Hatheway has been walking into the Catholics to such an extent as to be hissed by the Catholic members. He says no Priest, Pope, or Prelate, shall intimidate him. He tells how he has been threatened on the streets by the Catholics and that a French member favorable to the government had told him he had to go armed when going home to avoid the fate of D'Arcy McGee.

No government in this province in which he is, shall recommend a sectarian grant. The veil is lifted and when the sacred emblems have been removed from the altar and meetings held in churches and resolutions passed to resist the law of the land, it is time the country looked to it. Where is now the conscience of those members who resisted the School Bill last year on conscientious grounds? How is it they can still their conscience now and rally round Willis as a figure-head and swear allegiance to Free Non-sectarian Schools. He challenged the opposition to prove a charge they had brought and he warned them that the Governor would see to it that, before their wicked combination should triumph and the reins of power be placed in their hands, they should all carry this great question before the people and have it settled by them.

I may add that this afternoon Mr. Macpherson was brought to his feet by references made to his Immigration Mission. He said that Sheriff Temple visited him on 19th January, and said the River du Loup Railway Company had selected him to go as their Immigration Commissioner to England, and that the Government approved of the choice. He accepted freely, no coercion was used and the government had nothing to do with it and certainly brought no pressure of any kind on him.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT DIGBY.—An old man named Hill, residing with his son at Le's Valley, near Digby, got out of his bed during the night of the 21 inst., dressed himself, got out of the window and wandered about until he fell off a bank about fifteen feet in height, at the foot of which he was found the next morning dead. It is supposed he was

OUR HALIFAX LETTER.

Feb. 23, 1872.

DEAR POST:—The arrangement I made to give a letter each week will I fear prove uninteresting to your readers, as nothing spicy has yet turned up and from present appearances the Session in comparison to any revolutionary fire-eating character of previous ones will be tame and flat.

The Speech you have seen. Whether there are no subjects of interest within the powers of the Local Legislature, or the Government wisely abstained from any topics which might provoke attack from the opposition I do not profess to know, but the scope of the speech suits either position. The opposition is now respectable in number and possess in their ranks several able men. The policy of the Government has satisfied nobody. At first it was a continuous thunder of threats to the Dominion and England, their dire mutterings have finally fizzled down to a whining acquiescence to Sir John A. Macdonald. The stars and stripes were to wave from our chimneys and the "Yankee Doodle, Doodle, Do" the national air, would forever enchant the disenthralled thousands frequenting the Parade. This thunder and slop policy has pleased nobody, but the opposition. Annexationists have become enraged at seeing a golden opportunity slip from them; Antis disgusted at beholding Tupper and Howe—the "arch-traitors"—still in their places at Ottawa heading Provincial patriots. Therefore it is that the Government majority is not large, and consists of several loose fish ready to swim in any direction which promises them a better feeding ground. The Government however presents a bold front, and will withstand the shock of war. Our House like yours possesses a small multitude of young men all of whom are of course born Statesmen. The inept development of fawning Privy Counsellors, Senators, Governors, and other great men reside in their breeches. The first step towards their destined greatness is to get the older and wiser members out of the way, such as the veteran Amund, and it is a remarkable fact that the young men hardly without exception claim the Local House and Local Government as their prerogative and under their especial guidance and protection. However the long headed warrior of a hundred contests will hardly yield to the hairless stripling fresh from the admonition of his mother's slipper.

Amongst the young men who have commenced a Legislative career favorably is Mr. Allison, M. P. P., from Hants, and brother of your talented President and Mr. D. B. Woodworth, M. P. P., from Kings, who sat on the same bench at the Sackville Academy, with you Mr. E. L. and me, and imbibed wisdom from the same noble founts. The new M. P. from Cumberland, Mr. Vickery, gives no indication of taking a front rank amongst our Demosthenes, but perhaps the leader of the opposition observing his restless spirit has nodded at him to keep still. Probably if the leaders of both sides were to keep on nodding at some of their clever speakers the country would not sustain any great loss. More business would be done if the gentlemen spent less time every afternoon in vile personalities and long winded harangues. Mr. Vickery will not do this. Rumors prevail that he is bent on a new departure. Annual promises Parrsboro a Railway from Spring Hill. In case his promise proves good, Mr. Vickery will in future travel in the Government team. Will it not be strange to see Dr. Tupper and Mr. Amund struggling with each other to have the privilege of building the Parrsboro Railway? Let your Parrsboro readers rely upon it. Now is the time for them to go in and win.

Yours,
C. A. D.

NARROW ESCAPES.—On Tuesday, 12th inst., three men started for Longman Island Cape Tormentine, but got bewildered in the storm, strayed from road, abandoned their horse and wandered about on the marsh nearly all night. Toward morning brought up at Tom Allens, almost perished. After stimulants were freely administered, Tom, with a posse of boatmen and others, went out in search of the horse which was found in a snow-bank and rescued.

On Tuesday, a foreigner travelling in Cow Lane or Lovers Lane (as you please) in this town, got blinded and lost in the snow and would doubtless have been smothered, but was rescued from his perilous position by an inhabitant whose kind hospitality will ever be remembered.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE.—A man named George W. Smith, who formerly a sergeant in the 2nd Batt. 17th Regt., who took his discharge in Toronto, since which time he has followed the theatrical profession, was found dead in bed at the Acadia Hotel yesterday morning. As he did not come down to breakfast yesterday morning, Mr. Nichols, when he came home from church, went to his room, the door of which was locked on the inside, and broke it open. On entering he found Smith lying on the bed quite dead, with an empty phial labelled "Hydrat Che" on the table, and two pieces of paper, each marked "Chl Hydrat," and the word "poison" in black letters. The deceased had travelled over the United States, and bore a very good character.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Inspection of United States Defences.

SUICIDE AT LEWISTON!

Pension to Lady Mayo!

Provincial Exhibition!

Special Despatches to Chignecto Post.

New York, March 18.

It is stated that Rear Admiral Inglefield, of the British Navy, within the past month has fully inspected our torpedo system, the condition of our navy, the approaches to New York, especially by Hell Gate, the harbor defences of Portland, Portsmouth, Boston, New London and Newport. He is now detailed to ascertain the same facts relative to the Southern coast and harbor defences.

Lewiston, Me., 18.

On Friday Mr. Little, of Auburn, mysteriously disappeared, and this afternoon his lifeless body was found frozen in an unoccupied house, a discharged pistol and a pistol wound through his head explained the suicide.

London, March, 18.

The London rowing club has selected its crew for the rowing match with the Atlanta boat club of New York. The following are the men, Strout, stroke, Ryan, Crulston and Strong. A pension of 1000 pounds has been granted Lady Mayo, and 20,000 pounds settled on her children by the British Government.

The balling of the Tychborne claimant has been postponed until Wednesday.

FREDERICTON, March, 21.

The Board of Agriculture has decided to have the Provincial Exhibition at Sackville next summer on certain conditions of a financial character, which no doubt the wealthy parish of Sackville can comply with. A track will be made, and buildings and sheds erected on Dixon's farm, near the Bridge.

The House to-day granted \$2000 in aid of it.

FREDERICTON, March 20.

Gough's Speech on Thursday and Friday continued serious charges of negligence against government in River du Loup matter, also charged that Fraser, president of Council and solicitor to Company, was the man who wrote the contract which was not at all binding on contractors, who, under it can do as they please and the government have no redress. He charged also that Fraser went to England in the interest of the Railroad Ring, to defeat negotiations made by Ketchum; showed by calculation of his own that difference in cost of construction between a five feet eight and three feet six gauge Railroad, only four hundred and twenty six dollars per mile, claims that the Land subsidy will be thrown away, as only twenty five miles of the Road will be built. Wedderburn replied to Gough and disproved by correspondence between English capitalists and Fraser and the company, the statements of Gough in regard to his collusion with the company against the interests of the people. Wedderburn's address was very eloquent and paid fitting tribute to memory of Moore, which brought Hanington to his feet to say he did not say Moore had acted corruptly in taking a seat in the government. Willis closed commencing yesterday and ending this afternoon. As Gough says he diluted the points of the debate and was quizzed by Gough a dozen times. Later offering to read long extracts which Willis drew out until all members who did not go home got drowsy and none were left but Hanington to say "Hear, hear." In the afternoon he became more animated, though there was but a single row of Ladies in the gallery and the seats of the floor were more than half empty at a quarter to 3 o'clock, he having had to wait until that time for a sufficient number to speak to, he talked for an hour and three quarters and vote was taken at half-past four.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Special Notice.

Green glaugeterel Hides—50 Hides per week—wanted at Sackville Steam Tannery, for which I will pay Cash on Delivery at 7 cents per lb.

J. L. BLACK.

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