

*I will not do this work by halves.* The names of the Governor and his Lady—his Secretary, and his Aid—of Mr. Robie, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McNab, Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Dewolf, Mr. Howe, Mr. Young, Mr. Bell, Mr. Stairs, Mr. Annand, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Henry, Messrs. Chipman, Mr. Whidden, Mr. Wightman, nay, of every man at all conspicuous, either as a member of the present Government, or as a steady and consistent supporter of its measures, and of the new Colonial System, has been paraded, week after week, in the newspapers, coupled with every vile charge and foul insinuation, which could undermine their public characters, or wound the feelings of their political and personal friends. These men I hold to be second to none in this country, for weight of public reputation and high attainments. It is my intention to contrast some of them with those by whom they have been reviled, and I want you, my countrymen, to weigh the amount of the provocation, whenever you fancy that my strictures are too severe.

If, in showing up a certain bloated buffoon at Pictou, who, pipe in mouth, has for months defamed these men, I lay bare the motives of his family, but mercifully spare the vices of his private character; if, in rummaging roughly through the purlieus of the Customs and the Treasury, I make their occupants wish they had not turned their offices into centres for petty intrigue against the Representative of the Sovereign, and of heartless defamation of men who have spared them a thousand times, let no man say that they have not had more warnings, and more forbearance, than ever were given to Sodom and Gomorrah. Neither will I spare the mischief manufactories on Collins's wharf, nor fail to toss, like frostfish, every now and then, a string of the small fry of Hares and Harshaws, in the political frying-pan. All these worthies have deserved well at the hands of the present Government and its supporters, and verily they shall have their reward.

Before commencing this good work, let me ask you, my Countrymen, to turn over the pages of the Liberal Press for the last four years, and, after noticing the immense amount of original writing which has been addressed to the public during that period, remark how little of personality and invective are mixed up with the whole. Having satisfied yourselves of the moderation and good taste displayed by the men whose pens might, every week, have wounded the feelings of their opponents, but who preferred calm reasoning, and gentlemanly satire, to coarse epithets and slanderous insinuation, then open the volumes of the Times and Observer, and wade through the acurrilous slanders which disfigure every page. I have taken the trouble to measure the extent of this nuisance, for the last five months, and find that the party who lay claim to all the patriotism, refinement and gentlemanly feeling in the Country, have vomited forth, through the Times and Observer, about one hundred columns of misrepresentation and abuse, in that comparatively short space of time, to say nothing of the effusions of some half-bred legal loafers, occasionally cooing through a portion of the Penny Press. With this filth, almost every man of influence in the Constitutional party has been bespattered—their families have been assailed—and evidence given of an organized system of defamation. When you have reflected on all this, you will, I think, come to the conclusion, that merciless retaliation is the best and only mode of abating this nuisance. When sentries are shot, women and children murdered, and the usages of honorable warfare are disregarded, the only way to put down such practices is to gibbet those who are notorious offenders. I intend to give the Obstructives the benefit of Martial Law. I will give them, as long as they like to continue the system, shot for shot—blow for blow. If the ladies are to come in for their share of the pleasures of politics, the petticoats on their side shall be rumpled a little. We shall then see what the country think of the relative claims of the supporters of the present Government, and of their opponents, to respectability, virtue, and refinement—for never will I hold my hand, until I have not only scattered their arguments to the winds, but driven every arrow they have poisoned, through their folds of triple brass.

To one other class of facts, I wish to direct your attention, my fellow countrymen—because I am most anxious that, at the outset, you should feel that the Obstructives have deserved all they are likely to get. You are aware that there are in Halifax three or four National Benevolent Institutions, some of which have existed for half a century. These Societies have done a great deal of good, formed delightful réunions for all ranks and classes, and have never, within the memory of man, until very lately, been defiled by politics. The first attempt to turn them into political

clubs, was during the latter part of the administration of Sir Colin Campbell. When the Legislature of the whole Province declared against him, then his friends commenced stirring up the Charitable Societies of the Capital to *negotiate the voice of the Country*. Now that the Legislature has declared in favour of Lord Falkland, the same attempts are making to get those Institutions to *declare against him*. The result in both cases will be the same. But what shall be said of those who have dared to violate these sanctuaries of the best feelings of the community? To drag these Societies, which each man should endeavour to guard from pollution as he would his Church, for weeks at the heels of the ex-Mayor, and who have recently made one of them resound with insults to the highest personages in the land, and with ribald exhibitions of political buffoonery of the most unseemly description? Who ever heard of any liberal, at one of these boards, refusing to hear a member of Sir Colin's Government return thanks for his health?—or when did members of the Constitutional party refuse the honors to Miss Campbell, even in the most stormy periods of political excitement? Never;—but yet these things have been done of late by those who boast of all the refinement and good breeding of the Town, and it is but right that the worthies who do them should be held up to the scorn and contempt of the Country.

Another point, to which I wish to direct your attention, is the conduct of the Obstructives in the working of the new Corporation. You are aware that these people for years opposed the passage of the Act. When it was carried, however, by the combined action of the new Government, the liberals were disposed to forget the past, and were anxious that a system, which was intended for the benefit of all, should be worked out by the united exertions of the best men in the different wards, without reference to party politics. Some attempts of a few of their number were made, but were discountenanced, the liberals acting upon no organized plan, and voting, generally, with reference to no other consideration than the personal qualifications of the different candidates. Not so their old opponents. *Hating and contemning*, from its first inception, the whole measure, because it broke up the monopoly of municipal power and influence which they had long enjoyed, these people availed themselves of the good natured supineness of the liberals, to secure a majority in the City Council. That majority secured, the Corporation was at once turned into a political machine to annoy the general Government; and, of late, it has been used for the purpose of breaking through the Act itself, disfranchising one of the Wards of the City, and bringing the institution into contempt. In fact, it has now become quite evident, that the Obstructives deliberately contemplate verifying their own predictions,—that the Corporation would be a failure; and that they care not one farthing about it, further than as a means of personal and political annoyance. THE ELECTIONS OF THE CITY WILL PROBABLY EXPRESS THIS GRIEVANCE before long, but, in the meantime, I wish the people of Nova Scotia to thoroughly understand the real character and manoeuvres of the faction who are disturbing the City of Halifax, because I am quite assured, that when once they fathom the designs of these men, they will heartily enjoy the merciless castigation which they have so well deserved.

For three all sufficient reasons, then, my Countrymen, I intend to give these worthies a dressing:

1st. Because they have, for months, overloaded two profligate Presses with abuse of my principles and my friends.

2d. Because they have attempted to turn the Charitable Societies of the Town into hot-beds of political discord; and

3d. Because they are trying to destroy the Corporation, and make it a curse instead of a blessing to the community in which I live.

These are my motives. Of the manner in which I shall perform my task, you are excellent judges, and I cannot doubt but that you will take a lively interest in this discussion. The man I intend to expose as your old enemies—those who, in various modes, and under different disguises, have sought for years to mislead you, and to obstruct every change and every measure intended for your benefit. To lay bare their characters and designs would seem to be a duty which the friends of the existing order of things owe to you as well as to themselves. For years, by combined efforts, and the advocacy of sound principles, we have defeated these men; and now, having left them no resource but spleenetic and intemperate opposition, I think I shall convince them that one pen, among the host that the supporters of the present Government could wield in defence of their characters and principles, is sufficient to make them ridiculous.