

Card.

RUSSELL'S HOTEL,
5th July, 1858.

The publisher hereof happening to have business in Toronto, just at the time that the *Colonist's* fourth act of political legerdemain became known in Montreal, (where the negotiations as to the price to be paid are believed to have been carried on,) procured from a friend the subjoined letter, with a view to its publication, and accordingly it appears simultaneously in Montreal and Toronto, viz.:—in the *Pilot* of to-day, and, as the reader sees, in "THE POKER."

The *Colonist* has become virtuous! and in its issue of Saturday last, comments in a tone of lofty and arrogant contempt on the reported probability that a new daily paper in the interest of the Ministry will be immediately commenced in this city. It also represents such an arrangement as disparaging to the *Leader*, endeavouring in this mean way to excite jealousy. What a noble proceeding! Now if the good cause of faction, so warmly espoused by the *Colonist*, requires two daily organs in Toronto, besides the *Weekly Scavenger*—Mr. Mackenzie will pardon me, for he has been pardoned himself—surely the cause of law and order ought not to be restricted to one. But the *Colonist* seems to forget that a few months ago it deserted the very cause it supports to-day, and that then, the objections it now urges against the Ministry, were at least as good and as strong as they are at this time. For full four years Mr. McDonald was the recognized leader of the Assembly—though part of that time nominally subordinated to others—and at two different epochs in those four years was held up by the *Colonist* as a model statesman; so it is a little too absurd for that paper to make the discovery that the said John A. McDonald is no statesman at all, but a weak and incapable leader. The explanations of the different opinions of the *Colonist* respecting Mr. McDonald are not difficult; the paper never could afford any party an independent support, but had to do what it is now doing. And what is that, saith my reader?—Why, writing to order to be sure. I am ready enough to admit that the present proprietors and editors of the *Colonist* know well how to round off and polish a sentence, but it would be gross injustice to compare their productions to the vigorous writings which preceded their advent. In my humble opinion the Government is well delivered of the time-serving sheet, which after all, will not improbably exhibit another apostacy within six months.

As I propose remaining in the City for a week or two, and if necessary, for three or four, I may take the liberty of again paying my respects to the renegade print. Meanwhile, if any friends desire the re-appearance of THE POKER, and are prepared to assist, by contributing articles, they will please address me at Russell's Hotel.

CONSPIRACY.

Sound him with gold;
'Twill sink into his venal soul, like lead
Into the deep, and bring up slime and mud,
And ooze too, from the bottom, as the lead doth
With its greased understratum.

BYRON.

To the Friends of the Administration:

Sirs,—A friend addresses you, and asks, not for himself, but for those whom he, with you, has been in the habit of regarding with respect and confidence—the Administration in power—that fair play, that fair consideration, which honest English hearts are ever willing to give, even to enemies.

The Administration of the Hon. John A. Macdonald is beset with difficulties—difficulties not of its own creation, but difficulties incident to the times, and which no Government could have foreseen, or provided against; difficulties not confined to Canada, but which in fact, are experienced in even greater force in other countries. It is hardly necessary to remind any thoughtful, intelligent, and

candid man, that times have changed, or that the change was sudden and unexpected; that it did not commence in Canada, but that it came to Canada from causes operating at a distance, and that when it reached us, it was aggravated by local conditions no Ministry could reach.

For ten years antecedent to the late financial crisis, Canada enjoyed a high and growing prosperity, and while the croakers and libellers of to-day are forward to censure the blindness which they did not see, or rather foresee, a sudden check approaching, you will agree with me that a year ago their wisdom was at fault, since they did not warn the country, and that therefore their present censures are mere *after wit*.

It is a humiliating fact that in the midst of wide spread calamities, such as fires, earthquakes, and pestilences, base-born creatures will be found adding to the distress by practising upon public fear, by plunder and rapine. It is so now, in this Province, for men whom the people in prosperity could not and would not trust, are adding to the public difficulties by magnified caricatures, and strained misrepresentations of official shortcomings. If, however, the falsehoods were indulged in only by the recognized levellers and demagogues, the charlatans and the factionists, who have been successfully kept at bay, I would not have written you this letter, for their machinations were well-understood and provided against. The harm they could do, had been done, and the remedial measures they could not obstruct, were operating satisfactorily. In a little the Clear Grit compact would have been a mere powerless arrangement, for fate had decreed its ruin. Indeed, it had exhausted its own vitality by over-exertion, and was about to perish, an unwept and unhonoured obolition of selfishness, a thing too contemptible for indignation!

If any change has supervened, if faction again raises its noisy bluster, if seditious men take courage in their despair; in a word, if Clear Gritism makes another venture, and gives another kick, we owe it to traitors in our own ranks! Yes, to some of ourselves entrusted with the duty of watching the enemy, detecting his manoeuvres and counterworking his plans, we are indebted for the attempt to sell us and our interests to a party head by two of the greatest political blacklegs and Railway chisellers in the country. I allude, of course, to the conversion, or rather to the perversion of the COLONIST, from the able advocacy of our party policy, to the mean task of attempting to create a HOLTON-GALT Ministry!!! The COLONIST has gone back, like the dog to its vomit, for after having exhausted the rhetoric of contempt and scorn in characterizing the objects of its late editor, Mr. Hogan (the present representative of the County of Grey), it has the insolence to insult the people of Canada, by recommending as advisers of the Crown, two men whose political purity and worth may be inferred from the following portraiture, drawn to the life, by one who knows them well. The extract is from the *Montreal Pilot*, of December 10th, last:—

"We are at last informed, 'on the best authority,' that Mr. T. D. McGee has been selected to fill the vacant place of third *Rouge* Candidate for Montreal. We always expected that this would be the case, as Mr. Holton is a mere political gambler who snatches at any advantage to serve the purpose of the moment, and Mr. Dorion is little better than a nose of wax in his colleague's hands. We have never doubted the cunning of Mr. Holton, though we have not committed the mistake of regarding him as a wise man, at least in public matters; but we will venture to say, that of all his blunders this alliance of his with Mr. T. D. McGee will turn out the most fatal to himself and his party. His *Fides Achates*, Mr. Galt, has openly deserted the *Rouges*; can it be that Mr. Holton is conspiring to ruin them, under the guise of friendship, as he did Mr. Elincks? We, for one, would not at all be surprised if it were so; for we state without hesitation, that he and Mr. Galt are the two most profligate politicians that have appeared on the public stage in Canada within our knowledge or memory. It always appeared to us that they have acted on the rule that every thing is fair in politics; and when they had an object to gain, neither principle, nor friendship, nor decency, held them back for a moment. Their maxim, in short, was—succeed honestly if you can, but at all events succeed. Such policy may, for a time, make a successful intriguer, but never a statesman or a popular leader, strong in the affections of his countrymen. We are convinced that the junction with

Mr. T. D. McGee is one of the smart but short-sighted coups of Mr. Holton, and beyond which he cannot soar as a politician. Let us suppose that the movement will enable him to carry his Election, though that is anything but certain; but admitting it should, he may rely upon it that the thousands and tens of thousands in this city, who consider the act of thrusting Mr. McGee 'down their throats' an insult even more than an injury, will not easily forget that Mr. Holton has aided to bring the disgrace upon them. Even those who might not shrink from the unscrupulous railroad intriguer, will turn their back on the sneak who is ready to receive aid from any quarter, if it even were from Satan himself."

And it was to promote this beautiful pair to honor, that the managers of the *Colonist*, aided and trusted as they had been, sold themselves and tried to sell their subscribers! Will any sane person acquainted with the writings of Mr. Sheppard in the *Colonist* during the past six months, and up to a week ago, be able to interpret this absurd summons by presumed convictions of duty to the country? Friendly reader, if you are a dweller in Montreal, you know as I do, that it is impossible to find a single individual of clear perceptions and sound judgment who accepts such an interpretation. The received idea, the settled conviction, is, that THE "COLONIST" JUMPED JIM CROW after having been well paid in money for the feat, and I venture to affirm that if it should succeed in foisting upon the country its present patrons, in less than one year the *Globe* will confirm the view I take of this shameful transaction. Kind reader, if you reside in the country I cannot with confidence appeal to the public opinion of your neighbourhood in support of my avowal, that this *Colonist* job is a mere sordid pounds, shillings and pence bargain, but I assure you that what I say of the Montreal opinion is true to the letter; and, moreover, that it is even more true of the feeling in Toronto, where the new loves of that journal desire to spread themselves out in new glories.

I could give you a tolerably minute account of the way in which the thing was done, but it will be sufficient to say that the owners of the *Colonist* thought they did not get enough of Government pay, that they had assumed obligations for the paper which embarrassed them, and that a party with adequate means presented a temptation they could not resist. That is all.

It would be comparatively easy to show the utterly fallacious character of the *Colonist's* new-found objections to the Inspector General, as well as to rebuke by the writings of the very man who now speaks slightly of the PREMIER, its estimate of that honorable and able gentleman, but I will not tax your patience any longer to-day. A pretentious assumption of patriotism is made to cover a mean sordid act, and a string of smooth generalities and negations serves the purpose of discussion, but the gentlemen of the *Colonist* must not run away with the notion that their gammon is going to over-ride our common sense. They have played their card, they have CONSPIRED against the party they were pledged to support, but they have not yet won the game. So, friendly reader, I beg you not to be too much moved by their infidelity.

Yours, &c.

A LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE.

P.S.—In a day or two I may address you again.

MONTREAL, 1st July, 1858.

Gleanings from the Colonist, &c.

"Members of the Opposition spoke continually against time, rising like so many puppets, in regular succession. Brown, Wallbridge, and McGee; McGee, and Wallbridge, and Brown, obstructing the public business, but earning six dollars a day. Even Mr. J. S. Macdonald reproached this senseless strife, in which constitutions, not arguments, were pitted against each other. Grits will be Grits, and the House sits on. What is to be gained by such a course we cannot see. Ministerialists will not give up, even in such a strife. The Committee cannot sit, 'astounding revelations' must be allowed to sleep, while Members wake or doze dreamily."—*Saturday, 29th June.*

"The *Montreal Witness* is accustomed to demonstrate its zeal for Evangelical Protestantism by misrepresenting the motives, falsifying the actions, and perverting the principles of political opponents. Accordingly, we find this model exponent of the religious element in newspapers foully slandering a Cabinet Minister, and palliating the vices of another and a meaner creature, who happens to belong to the Opposition. And in the same spirit our conscientious contemporary assails the management of the Grand Trunk Railway, because, on the occasion of the *Fete Dieu*, a special cheap train was run for the accommodation of people desiring to visit Montreal. Out upon such hypocrisy!—*Tuesday, 29th June.*

"The very co-fraternity of the conflicting elements of the Opposition show their impotency. What but weakness could induce a champion of Romanism to make common cause with the calumniator of his church and the reviler of his creed—with the man who has heaped more insult upon Roman Catholics, and all they profess, than the rest of Canada put together—the man who owes his seat to his 'broad Protestant principles,' and the votes caught by his bigoted denunciations of papacy. This, however, is not our business to settle—we leave the balance to be struck by Mr. McGee and his co-religionists. But what we have to do with, as journalists, is 'to show the very age and body of the time, its form and pressure'—to do our duty as a faithful watchman on the tower, and to sound the alarm on the approach of danger. It is in our desire honestly to perform this duty, that we make pointed allusion to this unseemly alliance."—*Same date.*

Two days afterwards the same paper spoke as follows:—

"And were we put upon the rack to tell by what rules the Government has so far regulated its course in the Legislature, we should be constrained to sum up all in the fact, that everything which has admitted of evasion has been evaded—that the 'policy' of the Session has been simply a series of quirks and quibbles—and that, upon the pressing financial topics of the day, the Government has succeeded only in demonstrating its incompetence. Not a question has been met upon its merits. Not a scintillation of statesmanship, not a spark of courage or capacity, has been allowed to display itself in the budget of 1858. From first to last there has been vacillation and weakness."

(Then Mr. *Colonist*, you must have been a poor pitiful tool to have sustained such a Ministry "from first to last," or until you made a better bargain.)

"His Excellency, depend upon it, will be at no loss for advisers, and it is some consolation to know beforehand that they cannot be weaker than his present ones. It is not necessary that all should be in Parliament at the moment. There are men out of Parliament whose names would awaken the hopes, and command the confidence of the country; as there are men now occupying seats whose distinguished ability, brought into official play, would call forth shouts of rejoicing from every quarter."—*Friday, 2nd July.*

(Give us the names of these paragons.)

INFORMATION WANTED.

"Suddenly it has turned round, and quite energetically, as it had previously denounced the opposition, called for the defeat of the Government! What has produced the change! The *Colonist* owes it to itself, to the Government it has heretofore sustained, and to the moderate party in the country, who have regarded it as the able exponent of their views, that some explanation more definite than appears in the article in question should be given for the change. Why is it that men whom it sustained during the election contest; whom it supported through four months of a session unparalleled in the Parliamentary history of Canada for the obstruction they have met with, and the indecency and brutal ferocity with which they have been assailed; whose honour and honesty it has vindicated against the 'astounding revelations' and 'melancholy facts' of the *Globe*; why is it that these men should now be assailed as having 'neither the inclination nor the ability to deal with the great material interests of the country, in a manner befitting their importance and their condition!'—*Peterborough Review.*