

Charlatans, who think they are specially adapted to manage the affairs of a Province, though in reality they are not fit to turn the smallest wheel in the machine, may endeavor in a cloud of words to give their conceptions of how our Local Legislature can be managed. It is easy work sitting in an office to effect savings of thousands of dollars, but when the public service requires increased expenditure, it would be poor economy to starve it. The want of confidence debate lately closed in the House of Assembly, gave the reformers an opportunity to air their grievances. The opposition laid down their platform, but the government met every charge, and the debate showed conclusively, that at every point, the interests of the country were properly guarded by the present executive. After weeks of searching, after numberless motions the opponents of the government were unable to find even the suspicion of a scandal, the slightest taint of corruption in the government administration. Every point was defended and the result of the debate was that the government was shown to be stronger in the House and country to day than ever it was before.

The independent support of such men as Davidson, Elder, McMannus, etc., men of experience, of ability, and of unimpaired respectability, will far outweigh the factions opposition of the Gillespies, the Sayre's or the Richies. The people of the Province are too intelligent to be misled by the hollow and insincere cries of a disappointed faction, who have no coherence or consistency, who change their policy to suit their exigencies, and who prate about a political economy, the first principles of which they do not understand.

As to the question of Economical Reform, it is a worthy one, and we believe the government will deal with it intelligently and well. The finances of the country are now in a good condition, and the management of the present government is bearing good fruit. In this regard let us quote the words of one of the greatest of British statesmen:—

"As it is the interest of the government that reform should be early, it is the interest of the people that it should be temperate. It is their interest, because a temperate reform is permanent, and because it has a principle of growth. Whenever we improve, it is right to leave room for further improvement. It is right to consider, to look about us, to examine the effect of what we have done. Then we can proceed with confidence because we can proceed with intelligence. Whereas in hot reformations, in what men more zealous than considerate care, making clear work, the whole is generally so crude, so harsh, so indigestible, mixed with so much unprudence, and so much injustice, so contrary to the whole course of human nature and human institutions, that the very people who are most eager for it are among the first to grow disgusted at what they have done. Then some part of the abdicating grievance is recalled from its exile in order to become a corrective of the correction. Then the abuse assumes all the credit and popularity of a reform. The very idea of purity and disinterestedness politics falls into discredit and is considered as a vision of hot and inexperienced men, and thus disorders become incurable, not by the violence of their own quality, but by the abrupt and violent nature of the remedies. A great part therefore of reform should operate gradually; some benefits will come at a nearer, some at a more remote period. We must not more make haste to be rich by parsimony than by intemperate acquisition."

These are golden words, and worth more than volumes of the windy letters of the Lawrences and others who endeavor to catch the public ear by impossible schemes of general reform. Let the government proceed in its work of reform with the full consciousness that it has the confidence of the country, and that it will be its own fault if it forfeit that confidence. The heterogeneous elements that constitute the opposition have the confidence of nobody, not even of themselves, and so far from being able to take upon themselves the duties of an Executive are far from fit to perform creditably the functions of an Opposition.

An M. P. said by some to be Mr. Snowball, went into a departmental office in Ottawa the other day. The deputy head became very rude to him, whereupon Mr. Snowball retired, and returning in a few minutes with a tin whistle, scolded the ungracious official.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

(No. 2.)

The manner in which our streets, sidewalks &c., are kept is simply disgraceful. Last year, on several occasions, we referred to this matter, but we placed the blame on the then commissioner, not knowing the real circumstances of the matter. Later on, we learned that he was one of the best commissioners that ever held the office, that he collected more, and expended the money more equitably, than any commissioner for some years. We thought the commissioner was merely appointed to do certain specified work, that he had a fixed amount to expend, and that repairs to roads, sidewalks &c., were made after some system. But we were surprised to learn that there is no system at all, that the commissioner has to assess the amount, collect it, and then expend it as he sees fit. That there is no plan of the streets, no estimates made for the requirements of this service, no idea of the amount to be collected, no fair apportionment of the tax, in fact, that the whole thing is a matter of guess work, and founded on no principle whatever. That such a state of affairs should exist in a town of the size and importance of Chatham surprises us, and we think that it is only necessary to call public attention to the matter to have it remedied.

Before 1863 the roads in the town, like the roads in the country, were repaired by statute labor. In that year this labor was commuted to a money rate, but the principle of assessing was the same as when people had to appear and work eight hours a day. The value of a day's work is computed at thirty cents. Every male inhabitant, except clergymen and schoolmasters, over 21 years of age, is assessed 3 days or 90 cents; then for any real or personal estate not exceeding \$400, one day additional, exceeding \$400, and not exceeding \$2000 another day, and for every eight hundred dollars worth of property an additional day. This does great injustice in the distribution of the tax, as the following scale will show.

A man without any property pays	\$3 90
do worth \$400	do do 1 20
do do 500	do do 1 50
do do 1,000	do do 1 80
do do 1,500	do do 2 10
do do 2,000	do do 2 40
do do 2,500	do do 2 70
do do 3,000	do do 3 00
do do 3,500	do do 3 30

So that a man worth \$3,600 worth of property only pays twice as much as the man who is only worth \$400; and a man without any property at all pays half as much as one with \$2,000 worth of property. But we need not point out the injustice of the tax, it is apparent to any one who looks at the above table, and extends it, allowing an additional day for every \$800 worth of property. A man with an income of \$2,000 a year, if he have no real or personal property can only be assessed 90c. the same as a poor laboring man. The result of this inequitable system is, that a sum of from \$700 to \$1,000 only is received for the repair and extension of roads, sidewalks &c., the renewal and repair of sewers &c., a sum entirely inadequate for the service. Then the commissioner having carte blanche to expend what he collects, at his own discretion, there are streets in the town on which no public money is ever expended, and usually each commissioner attends to his own locality, or to the interests of his personal or political friends. The interests of the public who pay the taxes are often ignored, and the office is often sought as a means of giving employment to the commissioner's horses, and a number of men, who from long experience have learned to perfection the manner of "how not to do it."

We will deal further with this matter again.

There is no talk of the Breakwater at Escuminac, no word about the telegraph line between here and Point Escuminac, because we had no one at Ottawa, to press these matters on the attention of the Commons. Perhaps Northumberland never sees the wisdom of "electing J. B. Snowball!"

It is a matter of the greatest indifference to the Conservatives, and the hundreds of disgraced "Reformers" in the county, whether Snowball runs again or not. It is all his own business what he does. The people will see about the representation.

The County of Westmorath is proclaimed to be under the coercion act.

AN IMPERTINENT INNOVATION EXTINGUISHED.

We direct our readers to our special despatches from Fredericton. Some days ago Mr. Willis gave notice that he would ask for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the sale of Crown Timber Lands at different times, and in various places, and that power be granted to said committee to summon, swear and examine witnesses, to call for papers, and deal with all matters touching the inquiry at issue: but unfortunately the motion failed to set forth the "quis furor O civis?" and more than this failed to set forth any charge at all. When the motion was named, the Surveyor General took the floor. He said he was not afraid that the light of day should shine upon the management of his office, that he was prepared to meet any specific charge made by any responsible person, but that he was not prepared again to submit to the impertinent enquiries of a committee, who had no specific charge, but were merely on the hunt for something. He pointed to the wording of the resolution, and asked the House: "If it could say what he had to meet, and turning towards Willis he said he would give the gentleman the privilege of naming the charge for which he was to answer and would then himself call for investigation. But Willis made no charge, he merely grinned, and the Surveyor General then turning to the House, said he claimed its protection—that last winter charges had been made against his department by Mr. Ryan, that he had called him self for a prompt, impartial and searching investigation, that the said investigation did not alone exonerate him from the charge, but the gentleman who made the charge denied that he had done so—and gave the house to understand that he only came round to search around, and only came round in case there might be anything wrong. He said he was not prepared to submit to a similar impertinent ordeal this winter.

Mr. Davidson said the Legislature was the highest court in the land, and the same principles should regulate it, when it resolved itself into a judicial tribunal, that regulated the proper courts. In the courts, no man was arraigned without a specific charge.

Hen Mr. Landry took the same ground and pointed to the proceedings of last winter, how Mr. Ryan had swallowed his own words before the committee, and that the time of the House had been wasted to no purpose. Other hon gentlemen, among them the Attorney General, and Mr. Elder concurred with Hon. Mr. Adams, and on the resolution being put, it was defeated by twenty three votes, to thirteen.

We look upon the loss of the Willis motion, as a gain to the legislature. It is a triumph for the dignity and traditions of British Colonial Government and the admission that the same principles which are recognized in a court of justice, are not ignored in the legislature, a body first and superior to any court in the land. In a court of law no man is called to plead, unless a specific charge has been made against him, and we are unable to discover why the same principle should not obtain in our legislature. In the case before us, one hon member asks for a committee to sit in judgment upon the conduct of the head of a Department, but when asked to name the charge which he wishes to investigate, he says he has none, he only wants to enquire and see if there may not be something wrong; that he does not know, and cannot know what the charge is till he has seen a lot of public papers, and heard an army of witnesses swear. Is it any wonder that the Surveyor General indignantly refused to submit to such a proterous enquiry, and that the House with a firm voice cried down the introduction of such a pernicious principle? The first axiom in judicial philosophy is that every man is presumed to be innocent, till he is proven guilty, but the monstrous innovation, of which Mr. Willis would become the sponsor, assumes every man guilty till he is proven innocent: for says Willis, we have no charge against the Crown Land Department, yet we assume the head of that Department to be guilty,—let him prove himself innocent by the investigation.

It was high time the Legislature closed its doors against impertinent intrusion upon official grounds; for else it would at no distant day find out the only solution to the oft recurring nuisance would be the appointment of a permanent commission, that could any day make a raid upon a public office, parade the private papers before the public gaze, to satisfy the importunities of some outside clique.

Last winter we had proof of this demoralizing spectacle, of time and money wasted, the public business kept back, witnesses called from all over the Province, —to prove nothing

but what might be found in the public accounts. In the present case, the House had only to say if it would have the same expensive, and impertinent folly perpetrated over again. It said no. Its decision was good.

HOW IT FARES WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

In 1878 the contest in Carleton County was a pretty strong one, though it was less a strife of questions than a struggle between individuals. Mr. Appleby was the Grit or Government candidate, and Mr. Geo. Connell stood upon independent ground. He told the people he was neither Grit nor Tory, neither a protectionist nor a free trader, but that he would do what he thought was best in the interests of his county. Carleton then was strongly Liberal, because the people had been told if the Government were put out the country would be ruined. Had Mr. Connell therefore confessed himself a Conservative, he would assuredly have been defeated. Hundreds of these who voted for him said, "If you are a Conservative we will not vote for you." He was personally vastly superior to his opponent and being "independent," was elected. But the wheel has turned round, Mr. Geo. Connell is dead, and the constituency is open. The new government has been in power three years, and its policy is good. Hence Carleton that in 1878 was Grit, in 1881 is Conservative strong.

Mr. Leighton, M. P. P. at Fredericton, didn't think it was, and he is a staunch kind of a man, does a large business in cedar poles and is a "strong Liberal" he says, so far as he "understands the question." So he went up to "Woodstock to see."

The next day he came back and thought he wouldn't run. So that if primitive and green in many ways, he has some little shrewdness. He found Dr. Connell there, and on enquiry learnt that he, Leighton, "had better go back to Fredericton." The latest news from Carleton is that Dr. Connell who is a pronounced and zealous Conservative will be elected by acclamation in a county that in 1878 was strongly Grit. *Sic volvere parcas.*

Mr. Mackenzie was denouncing the Government's policy in the Commons on night last, respecting the Pomona Branch and he said "The proceedings are of a true Tory character."

Sir John's response was "Satisfactory."

The amendment to the Canada Temperance Act has passed the Senate. This amendment excludes ales, porter, lager and light wines from the operation of the Act. The success of this amendment is not assured in the Commons.

Nally is the name of one of the persons arrested under the Coercion act. When he reached Dublin the masses cheered him, and as the police bore him away he cried out "For every man arrested, let one be laid prostrate."

We give our readers today a supplement containing the able speech of the Attorney General on the Blair-Lawrence resolution. We need but commend it to the perusal of the public.

The House of Commons closes this week. Nothing has been done, or will be done for Northumberland this session, because our representative basely deserted us.

In the House of Commons the other night, Mr. Finigan who was speaking described the repeated interruptions as "heavily following."

In another issue, we will give as much as we can of the powerful, clear and convincing speech of the Provincial Secretary on the budget.

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have left for England. They will spend the summer in the South of France.

Some of the Land League members arrested, are American citizens, and demand American protection.

The British are parleying with the Boers, and the truce ends Monday. Then it will be *pas or bellum.*

The Surveyor General comes home Sunday morning, and will remain two or three days.

The Queen of Denmark is dead.

DOMINION HOUSE, CHATHAM.

The subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has leased the

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Chatham, March 12, '81

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NOTICE.

I have appointed John Morley of Newcastle, Deputy for the County of Northumberland.

To all whom it may concern.

JOHN SHIRREFF,
Sheriff of Northumberland Co.
Newcastle, March 12, 1881. mar

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Otter, Bear, Fox, Mink, Lynx, Martin, Fisher, Beaver, Muskrat.
Any person having any of the above skins should take them to Brown's Store, Newcastle, where they will get the highest price going in CASH for the same.

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All of which will be sold low for Cash.
Chatham—Dec 22—tf

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J. E. COLLINS, PROPRIETOR

Chatham, Aug 30, 1880.

LOCAL MATTERS

Base - Echo.
Mr. John Lawler cleared \$150 fishing in the past season. There were twenty fish boats shanties all told on the North W.

Personal

Rev. Father Vairly parish priest, Nashua was in town this week, visit His Lordship.
Rev. Father Rich of St. Louis was here, on a similar visit. Both Reverend gentlemen have gone home.

Accident.

A great many accidents have occurred in the woods this winter. A man named Gillespie working with Scott Fairly the Southwest, cut himself severely with his axe some days ago, and had to be brought home.

Ceased lumbering.

Several parties have ceased lumbering and come out of the woods. Some of them are expected to be in consequence of the depth of snow, others have filled their contracts had no inducement to go beyond them.

Caution.

We wish to caution the public against persons "eye laws" relating to "corsets," said to be passed at the last session of the Municipal Council and now published through the town. There was no such regulation passed, but such a one was introduced, and ordered to stand over till the summer session of the Council. The publication of the alleged by law, is a fraud and done with malicious intent.

Errors.

Of course no one expects a "Rally" line "from here" Escuminac as types had it in our last. The types some times make funny mistakes. A report was once describing a large meeting, which the demonstration was very loud. The paragraph read, "The air was rent by the snouts of four thousand men."

Millar's and its Ramble Trade.

Messrs J. & J. Millar & Co. have engaged a hundred teams to haul bark to their extract factory from different localities on the snow. On Wednesday last over 200 loads of bark were brought into the factory from parties in the vicinity. The establishment is humming away with its old-time activity.

Treat Fishing.

This is a great region for fishing. On the South west Miramichi now, in a favorable locality alone, there are several fishing trout. The Ascles by during the first of the week, catching trout, made from \$4 to \$5 per day. They carry their fish home, and Mr. Brown stage driver on the Miramichi route, takes them, and sends them to Fredericton where they fetch 5 cents per lb.

The lumber outlook.

In consequence of the extended operations of last year, deals will not be summer bring the last season prices. Other timber will hold its own, deals will bring fair prices it is thought.

In the words of some of the "old settlers," the back of the winter cease to be broken, and at the same weather wise look as the leaden blue sky and raindrops patter from day to day, the matter, "bad for the logs, the snow will go before the streams are open. It seems much indeed as if the snow is a hurry to be off, but till the "Sun w Taurus rides" we will not be too sure.

The Hotel Dieu

After Vespers on last Sunday evening His Lordship Bishop Rogers, announced that a collection would be taken up for the benefit of the Sisters of the Holy Diaconess. He explained the reason why this collection was not taken up at the usual time, and said that though the season was not very favorable for a collection, yet he did not like to delay it long. As every one in Chatham knows the work of the Sisters, and is aware that very many of those who receive attention in the Hospital are unable to give anything, it is necessary for us to see that they are deserving of a large collection. As the Hospital is in a sense public institution and a credit to Chatham, many we are sure who may agree with the good Sisters in religion, but who admire their Christian charity and self-sacrifice, would like to help in increasing the collection. We trust a collection will be a generous one.

A Story of Shaking Ishmael

A Sealer belonging to Chatham was from Boiestown to a person here, among other matters refers to the "great number of accidents happening" in the woods. The letter was written on 25th Feb'y, and within a week, the writer said, "two poor fellows" had been killed. Thus he goes on—

"One of the men killed was work for one of C. E. Smith's parties. was just shameful the way they used corpses. The poor fellow belonged about 12 miles above Fredericton, and he put the body on a portage sled, hauled it home with nothing but a dead sack to cover it. He was lying on his side with his mouth and eyes open, and they say the man who hauled him stopped on the road and tra horses."

To say the least, this is about as human a proceeding as we have heard of.

STAR BRIEFS.

Mr. Cochran who lumbers on Main Southwest has ceased operating. He got out about 1,000 trees with some birch timber.

Ice still continues to come into town. Three Polemocoche horses died in winter of Epizootic.

Mr. Donald Buckley's mill at Carleton Station is cutting shingles at present. This mill manufactures about eight thousand daily.

Captain Brown's building club is meeting with success. Over thirty have already joined it.