

# Gowan's Political Sins,

OR

## FACTS FOR THE ELECTORS OF LEEDS.

**ELECTIONS OF LEEDS!**—As Mr. Ogle R. Gowan has taken unwearied pains to impose on you a belief that during the time he held by usurpation the situation of your Representative in Parliament, he had faithfully discharged the duty of a Representative of the people, and that he is a proper person to be entrusted with the maintenance of your rights and promotion of your welfare, it becomes desirable that you should have laid before you a brief review of some of his public and political transgressions. This is the more necessary as many of you have not access, or have not had time to examine the Journals of the House of Assembly and are therefore the more liable to be imposed on by his false and deceitful representations. Although from the number of his political delinquencies, it will require much time and patience to give even a summary of any considerable part of them, yet if by so doing I can aid in rousing you to a determination not to allow your County to be disgraced by his being elected your Representative, I shall feel amply rewarded.

**1.—GOWAN'S VIOLENT ELECTIONS.** Three times has Mr. Gowan been forced upon you as your Representative by violence, riot and intimidation. The horrible scenes of tumult, bloodshed and disorder enacted at Beverly many of you have witnessed and been made to feel in your persons. The recollection of them awakens in the mind of every Reformer and friend of the Country feelings of strong and honest indignation. That he, for whom these "deeds of darkness" were perpetrated, should have the barefaced impudence to solicit the votes of those he has so shamefully wronged seems incredible! Yet such is the fact; and it is said that he even boasts that these are Reformer's who will give him their support! Reformers! can it be that there is among you even one who will so far forget what is due to himself, his family and his country, as to vote for any man who has trampled on the laws, violated peace and order and robbed you, through scenes of violence and blood, of your dearest right, the freedom of Election? No, I will not believe it. Nor will I believe that one of you can seriously think of allowing such an improper person to be returned as your Representative by neglecting to record your votes against him. Reformers! Let me entreat you to shake off all apathy and indifference. Use your best and friendly exertions to induce those who have heretofore voted for Mr. Gowan to abstain from a course which promises nothing but a harvest of evils to the Country. Electors! If you desire peace and prosperity to reign in the land, if you are opposed to Religious Intolerance and arbitrary, unjust and unequal laws; if you wish to avoid the burden of a host of useless office holders with enormous salaries; if you do not desire your public monies prodigally and wastefully squandered away; and if you dread the evils of a heavy public debt and consequent heavy taxation, read what follows, reflect on his conduct at your elections, and then calmly ask yourselves if you can conscientiously vote for Mr. Gowan?

**2.—TORY SPEAKER.** Mr. Gowan voted for the Tory Speaker of the House of Assembly 8th Nov. 1836, Journals p. 14. Also with the Tories against the Reform members on the Reply to Sir F. B. Head's speech at the opening of the Session, 15th Nov. 1836, p. 41. He also voted against the Reformers on the reply to the Lieut. Governor's speech, 22d & 23d Jan. 1835, p. 43, 44, 50. *Straws show which way the wind blows.*

**3.—COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES.** The appointment of a committee to inquire into public abuses, delinquencies and misgovernment was voted against by Gowan and the Tories, 23d Jan. 1835, p. 49. They dreaded the exposure of their official malpractices and misdeeds and Gowan sought to screen them from public indignation. Would a Reformer act thus?

**4.—A MOTION** that the Clerk and Sergeant at Arms of the House should furnish details of accounts of the expenses of their respective offices, &c. was voted against by Gowan 10th Feb. 1835, p. 119. Oh! yes—he would let them squander the public money without calling them to account!

**5.—VOTE BY BALLOT.** Gowan and the Tories voted against a Bill to authorize voting by Ballot at Elections for members of Assembly! 1st April 1835 p. 216, & on the 31st reading endeavoured to throw it out, 2d April, p. 320. It however passed the Assembly where most of the measures desired by the people are kicked under the table. Gowan and the Tories are opposed to Ballot voting because it would greatly tend to do away the influence of the officials, the rich and powerful over the poor and dependant, and promote the

freedom and peace of elections, which he and they dread. Gowan knows well that it is not possible that a man of his political character and principles should succeed at a quiet and fair election; and he fears too that many of his countrymen who now vote for him because they are afraid to incur the displeasure of himself and his violent and channish partisans, if they were allowed to vote by Ballot, so that the person whom they supported could not be known, would give their votes against him. It is not to be believed that good and well disposed Irishmen would be long drawn to support Mr. Gowan because he is an Irishman, when they know that the course he has pursued has favored intolerance and unequal rights, tended to bring on taxation and a heavy public debt, destroyed freedom at our elections, caused dangerous feuds and divisions amongst us, and tended to destroy the peace and concord which ought to prevail in a Province like this settled with inhabitants from different countries whose interest and duty it is to forget all distinctions of national origin, and under the common name of Canadians, seek to advance the peace and prosperity of their now common Country. *Irishmen!* let me entreat you to ponder seriously on the consequences of supporting Mr. Gowan, and I am sure that the noble feelings which warm the bosom of every true son of Ireland will lead you to spurn him from your confidence as one who has betrayed your trust and proved himself unworthy of becoming a Representative of a free people, to protect their liberties, guard their rights, save them from taxation, advance their prosperity and promote their peace and happiness!

**6.—SIR FRANCIS HEAD'S PACKED PARLIAMENT.** A Petition had been presented to the British House of Commons complaining of the corrupt means used to effect the return of Sir Francis Head's Tory House of Assembly and among other things of bands of Orangemen generally armed with clubs or knives at Leeds driving the Reformers from the Hustings and procuring the return of their Grand Master Ogle R. Gowan as member of the County; that the rioters then proceeded to Grenville, where the Reform Candidates were at the head of the Poll, pulled down the Hustings and destroyed the Poll Books; and that by these and other unconstitutional acts, encouraged by the Lieutenant Governor and Public Functionaries in every part of the Province, the real Electors had been overwhelmed and their franchise rendered of no avail, and praying inquiry and justice to the people of the Province. A copy of the petition was sent with a message to the House of Assembly by Sir Francis. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Thorburn for printing 1000 copies of the message and petition, Mr. Gowan voted against the motion and against the Reformers, (15th Nov. 1836, p. 50), fearing no doubt the public exposure of the misdeeds by which he was elected and the vile means by which the late House of Assembly was filled by a large majority of Tory members unfriendly to the interest of the people! Yet Mr. Gowan prates about Reform and pretends friendship to Reformers! Shame on his unblushing hardness! What friend of the country can vote for him or encourage his Election?

**7.—GOWAN'S REGARD FOR THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS!** A motion was made in the House to vote £3000 for a survey of the River Ottawa, & country lying between it and Lake Huron. Seeing the folly of throwing away so much money, which could only benefit a few Government Hacks, as the country was already too much in debt to undertake any extensive public improvements, the Reformers moved and voted for an amendment that the £3000 should be paid out of the Casual and Territorial Revenues." Mr. Gowan and the Tories voted against it, 15th Nov. 1836, Jour. p. 46. The Reformers have long been endeavouring to bring the Casual & Territorial Revenues under the control of the Assembly. These Revenues are withheld from the Provincial Treasury and a great part expended in pensions, secret service money & many useless objects by the Executive of the Province without the consent of the Representatives of the People. Gowan wished no doubt to leave this fund to be squandered away by an irresponsible Lt. Governor and Executive Council and therefore voted against the £3000 being paid from it! Ah! Gowan the people will think you a miserable supporter of their interests, a wretched friend of the Responsible Government, and a sad Reformer!

**8.—MORE OF GOWAN'S AFFECTION FOR THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS!** A motion was made "that all monies received by the Crown land commissioners be placed at the disposal of the Provincial Legislature, and hereafter

paid into the hands of the Receiver General." Mr. Gowan and the Tories voted against it, (7th Dec. 1835 p. 148), preferring as above to leave such monies to the disposal of the Lieut. Governor to be squandered as he might think proper, without consulting the people's Representatives. This is another evidence of the selfishness of Mr. Gowan's boasted pretensions to reform and affected regard to the interests of the People!

**9.—GOWAN'S LOVE FOR ALIENS.** On the 23d Dec. 1836 (Journals p. 214) Mr. Gowan gave notice of a Bill to prevent Aliens [by which I suppose he means Naturalized British Subjects, as aliens were not eligible to office] from holding any office in this Province whether in the gift of the Crown or of the People." What an affection the Brave Col. Gowan has for Aliens! Surely he expects the votes of all Naturalized Aliens! Mr. Gowan also afterwards voted against a Bill introduced by and supported by Tories, and which passed the Assembly, to enable Aliens to hold lands on certain conditions, (11th Feb. 1837, Journals p. 412) another instance of his unbounded affection for Aliens!

**10.—MY LORD HIGH STEWARD!** When a Bill for vacating the seats of Members of the Assembly in certain cases was under consideration at its 3rd reading Mr. Gowan moved and voted for an amendment that the Lieut. Governor might create an office in every District to be called "THE HIGH STEWARD OF THE DISTRICT," and appoint a person to fill the office. The motion however failed, (23d Jan. 1837 p. 332) Perhaps Mr. Gowan flattered himself that he might become My Lord High Steward! Only think, Electors of Leeds, how honored and peaceable, how happy you would have been under the Rule of the modest Beverly Election Riots Member of Assembly as My Lord High Steward Gowan!!! He failed however this time, but elect him again and he may succeed—who knows? Wont you try him! On the final reading of this Bill it appears from the Journals p. 333, that Mr. Gowan had bolted "out of the Room, as his name does not appear amongst the votes. Perhaps he was chagrined because the House would not open the door for him to become My Lord High Steward, and went away to grieve in secret over his disappointment! How the poor Reformers who were stabbed and had their heads broken at Beverly Elections must have sympathized in his griefs!

**11.—BREAD AND BUTTER ASSEMBLY.** Gowan voted in favor of the Report of the Committee of their own members whitewashing the corrupt means thro' which the Elections were carried by which he and the other Tory members of Sir Francis Head's Bread and Butter Assembly were chosen. 30 January 1837 Journals p. 360.

**12.—COURT OF CHANCERY.** The Act establishing this Court is considered by many a great scourge on the Province. It creates a Vice Chancellor and several new officers who have all to be extravagantly paid, (the Judge receives £1250 annually! see Journals 21st Feb. 1837, page 524.) and permits enormous costs by which its officers and solicitors are enabled to enrich themselves at the expense of the unfortunate suitors who resort to this tribunal of tardy and expensive Justice. Gowan voted for it in company with the Tories of the House (2d Feb. 1837 page 380, 3rd Feb. p. 389) and that hopeful man Mr. Jameson, who figured at Beverly during the two first riotous Elections as the co-candidate of Mr. Gowan received the office of Judge of the Court with £1250 a year as salary!

**13.—AN AMENDMENT PROPOSED.** On a motion to amend the Chancery Bill so as to empower the Chancellor to divide the property of persons dying without making a will, equally among his sons and daughters. Mr. Gowan and the Tories voted against it, (3rd Feb. 1837, page 385.) preferring, no doubt, that the law should remain so that the eldest son could take all the real estate and disinherit his younger brothers and sisters! Electors! surely you must admire the keen sense of justice which Mr. Gowan manifested in wishing to leave it in the power of the older brother to rob his younger brothers and sisters, and if he chose, turn them homeless upon the wide world!

**14.—CHRISTIANS RELIEF BILL.** A Bill for the relief of a Religious Denomination called "Christians," a most inoffensive and pious Bill, was before the House. Gowan moved to throw it out, but even in a Tory House his conduct was considered so intolerant, ill liberal and unjust that only 8 members out of 36 present voted with him. (10th Feb. 1837, Jour. p. 435.) Failing in this he voted against the Bill. (Ibid.)

**15.—THE QUAKERS RELIEF BILL.** A Bill to relieve that quiet and worthy class of people called Quakers from an arbitrary exaction of Fines for non-performance of Militia duty in time of peace was voted against by Mr. Gowan (17th Feb. 1837, p. 407.) Another instance of Mr. Gowan's illiberality and injustice; notwithstanding which, he probably thinks to gull the Quakers to give him their votes, such is the shameless impudence and hardness of the man!

**16.—TORONTO INCORPORATION ACT.** Gowan and the Tories voted for the Bill to alter the original Toronto Incorporation act, and render its provisions more liberal and aristocratic. (17th Feb. 1837, Jour. p. 407.) thereby giving the Tories more power in the City which they have not failed to avail themselves of, to the overthrow of the liberals in the Corporation Elections; yet this Mr. Gowan, now that an Election is coming on, and he wishes to gull the liberal electors to support him, pretends that he is a Reformer! Electors! did you ever behold such a Reformer?

**17.—EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S CHILDREN.** On the 3rd reading of the School Lands trustee's Bill a motion in amendment was made to provide for replacing by other valuable lands such of the School lands granted by His late Majesty Geo. 3rd for the support of Grammar Schools in the Province as had been improperly alienated, and providing for the mode of sale of such school lands and the placing of the monies in the hands of the Receiver General, and declaring that such monies should be appropriated to Education in such manner as the Legislature might think fit. Mr. Gowan and the Tories voted against the amendment and it was lost (22d Dec. 1836 Jour. p. 205, 206 & 207.) upon which a motion to recommit the Bill was made, in order to amend it by giving to Trustees in every Township, to be elected at the annual Town meeting, the power to hold, sell, lease or dispose of such lands as should be appropriated to such Township for the benefit of Education in such Township, the proceeds to be applied with in such Township in such manner as the Freeholders at their annual Town meeting should direct. The Reform Members voted for the motion, but Mr. Gowan and the Tories went against it, and being the majority it was lost. (Dec. 22d 1836, p. 207.) Mr. Gowan was unwilling to entrust the people with so reasonable a power as the management of the funds for the Education of their own children! What a friend this Mr. Gowan must be to the people! He prates about his regard for the dear dear people, yet he won't let the dear dear people educate their own children as they like! True! he must be a very very great Reformer! Electors of Leeds, can't you give him your confidence who has not, it seems, confidence enough in you to let you manage what appertains to the Education of your own children?

**18.—DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT BY DENISE OF THE KING.** The Tories in the last Assembly, aware of the illegal and corrupt means by which the greater part of them had obtained seats in the people's House, and fearing that the demise of the late King before the expiration of their Parliamentary term of four years would send them back to give an account of their evil deeds to the insulted and ill used Electors of the Province, passed an unconstitutional act to continue themselves as Representatives of the people notwithstanding such demise of the King. Mr. Gowan voted for the act (17th & 18th Feb. 1837, Jour. 408, 502 & 503.) Shame on such faithless servants that they should fear to see the faces of their wronged and insulted masters! But could you expect aught better from your late misrepresentative Mr. Gowan, whose election was carried by club law? And can you think of trusting such a man again? No. It would be an eternal disgrace for any honest Reformer to give him a vote.

**19.—GOWAN'S ECONOMY.** Mr. Gowan affects to boast of his "economy and retrenchment, and of pre-paying debts and taxes upon the people." He did not dream I suppose that any meddling body would dare to look into the Journals for the purpose of ungluing the eyes of the Electors which he thought he had sealed up so effectually with his deceitful, false and plausive address. But my friends I cannot think it right that he should be allowed to impose on you so important a point as this. You will therefore thank me when I show you a few specimens of the Mr. Gowan's pretended "economy" "retrenchment" and prevention of "taxes." What man of common honesty, after giving the profligate votes that he has, would pretend to his deluded supporters that he had pre-vented taxes?

**20.—A SPECK OF GOWAN'S ECONOMY £2000 A YEAR TO TWO UNNECESSARY JUDGES.** When the last Tory Parliament came into existence there were but three Judges of the Court of King's Bench in the Province. They were not employed in their Judicial duties one half their time, did comparatively little in return for the large salaries they received, and could easily have discharged the labours of a 2nd Circuit. Yet Mr. Gowan with his friends the Tories granted £2000 to pay the Salaries of two additional Judges of the King's Bench! (21st Feb. 1837, Jour. 521.) A pretty little speck of Gowan's "economy" "retrenchment" and prevention of "taxes" this! J. Jones and C. A. Hagerman, Esquires, both Family Compact men and Ultra Tories, were promoted to the two new Judgeships! Only think, Electors, eight thousand dollars a year, to pay these two Judges for doing little or nothing, and enable them to live with splendour in luxurious ease! How many a farmer, yes, and Gowan's own supporters too, will have to toil and sweat in raising Wheat to sell at Four shillings, and Oats at One shilling, per bushel, to pay yearly the high salaries of these two unnecessary Judges! Gowan talk about his economy, retrenchment and prevention of taxes, forsooth! How long will he deceive and humbug his Irish fellow subjects!

**21. ANOTHER SPECK OF GOWAN'S ECONOMY. £600 ADDITIONAL TO SPEAKER McNAB.** The Speakers of the House of Assembly have by law £200 yearly salary allowed them. This is what the Speakers of the Reform House received. But Mr. Gowan must needs lavish the People's money away. Hence, on his motion the House resolved to grant, and did grant, Mr. Speaker McNab £600 in addition to his legal salary. 20 Jan. 1840, p. 201, 202 Morris and the Reformers voted against it, but Mr. Gowan and the Tories were too numerous, and so they had their own way. Yet Mr. Gowan boasts of his economy, retrenchment and prevention of taxes! Here, Electors, you see another specimen of it. Look at it you who have voted for him, or think of doing so! Look at the reward he gives you for the high honor of voting for him, because he is your Countryman!

**22.—A GREAT MANY SPECKS OF GOWAN'S ECONOMY.** Look, Farmers, where your money goes! On the 17th Nov. 1836 (Journals pages 59 to 63) Gowan with the Tory members, granted the following supplies, viz: £208 to pay the salary of the Lieut. Governor's Secretary! 840 to pay Clerks in the Lieut. Governor's office! 700 to pay contingent expenses of the Government Office! 500 to pay 2 Clerks in the Executive Council Office! 125 to pay contingent expenses of such office! 675 to pay 3 Clerks in the Receiver General's Office! 200 to pay contingent expenses of such office! 500 to pay 2 Clerks in Inspector General's Office! 100 to pay contingent expenses of such office! 1290 to pay 6 Clerks in Surrey General's Office! 1290 to the Attorney General! [A motion made 21st Feb. 1837, Jour. 523, was opposed by Gowan and the Tories.] 800 to the Solicitor General. [A motion to reduce this sum to £350, was opposed by Gowan & the Tories. Jour. 523 & 524.] 1000 to pay for printing the Statutes of the Province! 200 to repair the Govern't. House! 650 to pay contingent expenses of Public Offices! 600 for "casual and extraordinary expenses"!!!

40 to the Usher and Keeper of the King's Bench Court! 600 to the Deputy Secretary and Registrar of the Province for the years 1835 and 1836!

On the 25th Nov. 1836 Mr. Gowan and the Tories voted and carried the Bill granting these enormous and shamefully extravagant and wasteful were they considered, that even the Hon. John Elmsley, a Tory Legislator and an Executive Councillor, could not allow them to pass without notice, and therefore caused to be entered on the Journals of the Legislative Council the following objections, viz:

"1st.—A much larger sum was granted than was asked for or required."  
"2dly.—Extravagant salaries were voted to the Clerks in the public offices who, with one exception, were not employed half their time."  
"3dly.—Large sums were voted as contingencies of Public Offices."  
"4thly.—The sum granted for printing the Statutes was excessive."  
"5thly.—A Great waste and expen-

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