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Responsible Government.

Notwithstanding the occasional sneers leveled at the 'Yale Convention,' it is questionable whether popular sentiment has been more fully or more truly represented by any assembly since the union of these colonies; and it is interesting to mark to what extent the result of its deliberations must form the groundwork of a larger union, and how far some of those who scoffed at its proceedings may find themselves accepting many of its conclusions. In so far as the subject of responsible government is concerned, we venture to think that the Convention spoke universal sentiment; and, as there is too much reason to fear that the recovery of that long lost birthright is about to cost a struggle, it may not be amiss to refresh the memory of the public as to what the Convention did place on record thereanent. We find the very first article of political faith commencing with the axiom 'That all Governments should exist by the free and just consent of the governed; and that the Government that does not exist by the free and just consent of the governed is a despotism.' Passing to Article IV, we find the proposition 'That the people of British Columbia desire Representative Institutions with Responsible Government, and have the capacity to work those institutions successfully in the interests of the Colony; and that any representations that have been or that may be made to the contrary in England or elsewhere, would neither be in accordance with facts nor the views of the people of this Colony, the people being the best judges of their own affairs.' Has this ever been successfully controverted? Doubtless the colonists have been represented in official dispatches as wanting in capacity for self government, as not being the best judges of their own affairs—that people residing in London, and in many instances ignorant of even the whereabouts of the colony, really know best what is for our good; but all that forms no reply to a political dogma which we take to be unassailable. Article V boldly and truthfully asserts 'That the establishment of Representative Institutions without the simultaneous inauguration of Responsible Government would be only a partial and very imperfect remedy for the evils produced by the present form of government; and that unless the Governor were required to govern in accordance with the advice and consent of an Executive Council holding seats in the Legislature and commanding the confidence and support of a majority of the representatives of the people, there would never be that degree of harmony between the Executive and the representatives of the people that is essential to the successful working of the Government and the rational contentment of the country.' We have yet to meet the man, outside of official circles, possessed of either the wish or the courage to call in question one of these propositions. Indeed, the reader has not to look beyond the history of Vancouver Island as a separate colony for a most striking illustration of the truth of Article V. The Representative Assembly of that period was rendered utterly powerless for good in too many instances by the intervention of another body in no way responsible to the people; and it was only when the Assembly happened to act in harmony with the views and predilections of irresponsible appointees that it was permitted to do anything—a circumstance of such rare occurrence as to bring the whole system into ridicule and contempt and the condition thus superinduced was seized upon with singular avidity by those in power, as an argument to convince the home authorities of the unripeness of British Columbia for self-government. Is that political farce to be reproduced under Confederation? If so, we must warn the Government of the consequences. The colonists are not in a mood more favorable to a deprivation of what they well know to be their political rights to-day than they were six years ago; nor will they be at all more submissive to official dictum. There is less reason for withholding responsible government under Confederation than existed formerly, because the larger and more difficult questions will be dealt with at Ottawa. It is well that the Governor should distinctly understand that one of the chief reasons why the colonists have desired union with Canada has been because they regarded the enjoyment of self-government as one of the *immediate and inevitable* results of such a union, and that no political change can be acceptable to the country which does not bring with it that constitutional right. Nothing but the possession of the fullest powers of self-government could ever have preserved the Eastern Provinces to the British Crown; and nothing short of the *immediate* restoration of political rights to those hardy, self-reliant and adventurous Britons who have established a colony in the Great West can be contemplated with any degree of safety. Political slavery is bad enough in any case; but it can hardly exist under the very nose of liberty! We hope the Governor will think long and seriously before making himself a party to so dangerous an experiment.

Lord Granville on the Colonies.

Like others occupying public positions, Lord Granville is experiencing the too common annoyance of having one's utterances misconstrued. So much has been said and written upon what has been alleged to be his lordship's views anent the relations subsisting between the Imperial and the Colonial Empires that it may be worth while to reproduce here an extract of what was said to the deputation, who, in the name of the colonies, waited upon the Secretary of State in December; and we are disposed to think that a careful perusal of the words will lead to conclusions very different from those arrived at by the London *Times*. After replying to the various points presented by the gentlemen composing the deputation, Lord Granville (we quote from the *Times* of 17th Dec.) took occasion to say:

'It has been stated that I have expressed a wish that England should be separated from her colonies. Sir George Grey, who has taken an active part in this matter, and whom I regret not to see here to-day, is reported to have asked whether it was tolerable that a Minister sitting quietly in his room at the Colonial-office should tell the colonies that they were at liberty to separate from England. I presume this statement was based on an extract from a letter read by Mr Wilson at a meeting in which his correspondent, after describing a conversation with me, stated that I had in effect said that separation was a matter more for the consideration of the colonies than for that of England, and that if the colonies thought it was for their good they had better go. The writer of the letter in question called upon me some weeks ago with a note of introduction. He was gentlemanlike, intelligent, and pleasing in manner, but had probably not been much used to reporting business discussions. He repeated to me one by one most of the criticisms which have been circulated on me and the New Zealand policy of Her Majesty's Government. I answered each point as best I could, and may add that I seldom met with a rejoinder. At last he threatened me with separation and annexation to the United States. I replied by declining even to discuss such a matter, adding, however, somewhat inconsistently, that I was curious to know what was the practical object of any colonist who entertained such an idea. Did he expect the States would send an army to conquer the Maories for him? He answered, no; they would not send an army, but would send a band of filibusters and cutthroats, who would be ten times worse than the Maories. I could not resist observing that the practical object then would be to obtain a substitute ten times worse than the only grievance of which New Zealand had to complain. I do not remember saying one word more on this question of separation. What I did say does not appear to be disrespectful to the great colony of New Zealand, uncivil to the colonist who volunteered privately to catechise me, or intolerable even from a Minister sitting quietly in his office room. Anyone who has observed the astounding progress of some of the colonies during the last 20 years in wealth, population, statesmanship and intelligence, in everything which constitutes a great community, must feel it difficult to prophesy as to the future. I should be exceedingly sorry to see England deprived of all her colonies, but this country will never attempt to retain them by brute force, but I believe, however, that the bonds which unite us, though slender, are elastic and much stronger than some suppose.'

Tuesday, Feb 8

The Beechy Bay Murder.

The following reply to the petition of the settlers of Metchosin, praying that the murderer Me-Shek should not escape punishment, was received yesterday by Messrs Parker, Cook and other memorialists:

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
6th January, 1870.

GENTLEMEN—Your memorial relative to the Indian 'Meshek,' convicted at the late assizes for the Murder of Archibald Campbell, has been under the consideration of the Governor.

The reply has been delayed by regard to circumstances upon which His Excellency desired to be advised.

The Governor finds that the Court, in passing sentence upon the prisoner, having regard to the evidence as it then appeared, stated that his life would probably be spared, and that with such a qualification of the sentence the infliction of the extreme penalty of the law would be inconsistent with British jurisprudence. The criminal, however, will be imprisoned for life with hard labor.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

PHILIP J. HANKIN,
Colonial Secretary.

ROBBERY BY 'INFANTS.'—Two lads, aged 10 and 12 years, were charged yesterday before the Police Magistrate with entering the house of Mr John Collins, on Vancouver street, and stealing therefrom about $180 in gold coin. The complaining witness testified that upon returning home on Friday evening last he discovered that his house had been entered, his trunk opened and a tin box containing the money abstracted. He complained to the Police, and officer Kennedy searched a neighbor's house, but found nothing. The next day Inspector Bowden heard that the boys now in custody had offered $60 in gold for a gun. This gave him a clue and he overhauled the little fellows on the street and recovered $155, which they had secreted in a barn, and a miscellaneous lot of articles which they had purchased with the sum spent. The father of the oldest boy said his son acknowledged that he had taken the money and spent part of it in the purchase of guns, powderflasks, jackknives and a bale of hay! The complainant said he would be well satisfied with the amount recovered and the discharge of the children. Remanded for one day.

THE BEECHY BAY MURDER.—The Executive has commuted the punishment of Me-Shek, the coldblooded murderer of Archibald Campbell, to imprisonment for life. Imprisonment for life in this colony means imprisonment for a period of four or five years, during which the prisoner is clothed, lodged and fed at public expense; and after the whole affair has passed from people's minds, he is set at large to resume his depredations. The settlers of Sooke and Metchosin are deeply incensed at the commutation. They rightly say the deed was one of the most atrocious ever known, and that the wholesome moral example which the execution of the criminal would have exerted upon the members of his tribe has been literally lost; hence, the life of no isolated settler is safe. The result of this state of feeling will, we fear, be that the settlers, for self protection, will string up the murderer who next may chance to fall into their hands, without appealing to judge or jury to try him.

SACRED CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH.—A sacred concert at St. Andrew's Church will be given on Thursday evening, commencing at 8 o'clock. A very effective choir volunteered some weeks ago and have assiduously practiced selections from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, The Messiah, Judas Maccabeus and Samson. The solos will be taken by lady and gentleman amateurs connected with the St Andrew's and other choirs. This concert will manifest how much musical talent there is in our young community, and may prove the forerunner of many similar reunions. The proceeds of the entertainment will go towards freeing the new and beautiful edifice of St Andrew's Church from debt.

HANDSOME TESTIMONIAL.—Capt. Clarke, when last at Nanaimo, was made the recipient of a handsome Past Master's Gold Jewel by the members of the Nanaimo Lodge of Free Masons. The jewel was made by Spencer, of Great Queen Street, London, and bears the following inscription: 'Presented by the Nanaimo Lodge, No 1090, E R, to Bro Wm Clarke, P M, in recognition of his services as W M for two years. January, 1870.' Captain Clarke may well feel proud of the handsome gift, so worthily bestowed.

THE Municipal Court of Revision will sit again on Wednesday next, at 11:30, a m. Parties who have appealed against the assessments are expected to attend in person or by their agents.

'HIS OWN SON!'—Last week we chronicled the arrest, conviction and sentence of one Gravelle, for stealing wood. To-day we announce the arrest of Gravelle's son, a child of the tender age of ten, who stands charged with having, in company with another boy of eight, stolen a purse containing the sum of $180 from a house beyond the church reserve. No one who has read 'Martin Chuzzlewit' but will call readily to mind the parrot-like croak of poor Old Chuffey when speaking of that hard young villain Jonas—'His own son!—his own son!' and will experience no difficulty in applying it to the younger Gravelle; although really, for audacity, the child would appear to be father to the man, since the man stole a load of wood while the son, improving upon his father's brilliant example, walked off with his share of $180.

'SNOWBALL.'—Weymss, *alias* 'Snowball,' who was the primary cause of the Oriental Alley slaughter, in having supplied liquor to the murderer, will melt in prison for many weary months. The fact has been clearly established and the Magistrate has taken one day in which to consider whether he may not be committed for trial as an accessory before the fact. Weymss has served one term of imprisonment for incendiarism on Salt Spring Island.

THE sale of the B C & V I Mills, announced for the 9th inst, (to-morrow) has been further postponed till the 23d inst, when it will positively take place. There is said to be considerable inquiry as to the sale in Califronia and England.

BENEFIT OF J. W. CARTER.—On Saturday evening Mr. Carter will come forward for a benefit at the Theatre and all the available talent has volunteered to play for him. The lull in theatrical business this week will surely fill the house on Saturday.

ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society takes place this evening in Smith's Hall, at 8 o'clock, when a full attendance of members is requested.

THE steamer California sailed for Nanaimo yesterday. She will carry 175 tons of coal and 1200 barrels of lime to Portland, and will leave Victoria about Friday.

AN Indian was fined £5 yesterday for assaulting another Indian with a knife.

The Poundkeeper.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—If Wren, after an acquittal, is to be persecuted by litigation, I think we who have benefitted by his services should subscribe for his protection. In spite of all the senseless abuse heaped upon the office at the election, there is no reason why the office should not be looked upon with respect when we consider the duties of it are simply to protect respectability from the encroachments of the unscrupulous. Yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Chief Justice Needham.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—A dinner has been spoken of to be given to the retiring Chief Justice, preparatory to his departure from us.

Now, sir, I think something of a more substantial and enduring character would be better appreciated by the recipient. A dinner would be too exclusive; whereas the entire community would have an opportunity of showing their esteem if a *souvenir* were presented.

TRINIDAD.

Ancient Holiday Times in England.

In looking through an old volume of the *Penny Magazine* we find some interesting facts concerning domestic life in the baronial times of England. When reading old romances we are apt to be astonished at the lavish expenditure and prodigality displayed in the Middle Ages, not thinking of the reason that made such profusion necessary. During the feudal ages each great landowner was a sort of independent chief, and kept a little army of his own for the defence of his estate. It consisted of persons living on his estate, who in those days were little else than serfs and paid their rent in produce or personal service. Money was very scarce, so that the great landowner, surrounded with every other necessary of life, had but little cash. There being no railroads and hardly any other means of communication, the productions of each great estate were consumed at home, and this accounts for the lavish hospitality of the olden times. We read of one great lord who maintained a household of three hundred persons and wrote an imploring letter to borrow twenty pounds in money, for which he offered to pledge his knighthood.

In 1507 the Duke of Buckingham gave a Christmas dinner on the following magnificent scale—Two hundred and ninety-four persons dined with him. Thirty-six rounds of beef were on the table, and six hundred and seventy-eight loaves of bread were dealt out from the pantry, together with wine and ale in corresponding abundance. What do you think of that for a Christmas dinner?

INCONSISTENCY OF HUMAN NATURE.—There is scarcely anything that a man may not do however inconsistent it may be with his general character, without offending against the laws even of common probability. David betrays Uriah and yet remains the most pious of men. Hector runs away at the mere sight of Achilles and yet remains the bravest. Nero cannot find it in his heart to sign an ordinary death warrant and yet remains the most cruel. Napoleon married his first Empress for love and yet remains the most heartless.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

DESPERATE SUICIDING IN PARIS.—A shocking tragedy has just taken place in Paris. A widow lady in easy circumstances resided with her daughter aged 20, in her own house opposite the Theatre de Cluny. She had for some time past shown signs of mental derangement, and frequently complained that she heard strange noises about her head, and imagined she was followed by soldiers or police spies. The young woman appears also to have been of very narrow intelligence and completely under the influence of her mother. A few evenings ago the elder lady resolved to commit suicide—and induced her daughter to consent to die with her. They first wrote letters announcing their determination, which were afterwards found on the table, with the will of the mother; they next lighted a pan of charcoal, but as death did not come quickly enough, they drank some bleaching fluid used by washerwomen, in which they dissolved phosphorous scraped from lucifer matches. Even this poison did not produce immediate results and the mother then took the curtain rope and strangled her daughter. She then lighted more charcoal, but without success, and at length went down stairs and told the house porter's wife to come up for a moment. The police were sent for and the mother, on being questioned, quietly gave every detail of the horrible drama, but without assigning any motive for the attempted suicide. She is detained in custody awaiting a medical examination as to her sanity.—*London News.*

ARCTIC WHALING.—The Honolulu *Commercial Advertiser* says some of the oldest and most experienced whalemen predict that whaling in the Arctic will not pay more than three or four seasons longer. They say that the past season they never met with an old fashioned bow-head of earlier days that used to stow down from 200 to 300 barrels, but that the present voyage will not exceed eighty barrels apiece—young whales. Where are the big ones? The answer is, killed off long ago, and the oil and bone taken to New Bedford. Should the great Polar Sea be reached, about which there is so much said, it may be that there will be found the last resort of the poor bow-head—his so far safe retreat from the lance of the insatiate whaleman. Walrus appeared plentiful this season, and in the earlier part, before the whales made their appearance, a number of ships made a business of taking them for their oil. They make, on an average, twenty-five gallons each, and the tusks are worth about twenty-five cents per pound. Polar bears are seen pretty often, and quite a number killed for their skins—the only available thing about them.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS IN INDIA.—The Governor-General of India, Lord Mayo, has sent to the United States for an engineer accustomed to the expeditious manner of constructing railways in this country, and at a cost far below that which an English engineer would consider possible. India is yet in want of thousands of miles of railway, and if, by Lord Mayo's experiment, they can be made cheaply, the benefit will be great to all concerned, including English engineers, who may perhaps learn a useful lesson therefrom, and lay down cheap railways in Australia. By the way, Australia is seeking to develop a trade in another kind of live stock as well as sheep and oxen, and has offered to supply the Indian Government with all the horses required for their army at $25 in gold each.

ALL the stories told of the Siamese twins hardly equal this of the Scotch double man, of whom the following account is given by the *Rerum Scoticarum Historia*: During the reign of James III, of Scotland, and at his court, there lived a man double above the waist, and single below that region. The king caused him to be carefully brought up. He rapidly acquired a knowledge of music, the two heads learned several languages; they debated together and the two upper halves occasionally fought. They lived generally, however, in the greatest harmony. When the lower part of the body was tickled the two individuals felt it together; but when, on the other hand, one of the upper individuals were touched, he alone felt the effect. This monstrous being died at the age of 28 years. One of the bodies died several days before the other.

The discovery has recently been made, the Sheffield *Independent* says, that immense quantities of coal exist throughout the whole of the district lying in the neighborhood of Nottingham, and important mining operations are accordingly now in progress. There is said to be sufficient coal under Willord estate to make Mr Markam Clifton, the new proprietor, the richest man in the North Midland counties. It is also anticipated that the Nottingham Corporation will find coal under their land, and it is suggested that they should open collieries.

WALL PAPER.—The custom of putting one wall paper over another till a thickness of an eighth of an inch or more is accumulated is too common and is attended with the worst consequences. This, as ascertained by the London *Lancet*, was the cause of the puzzling offensive smell at Knightsbridge Barracks, London, that recently threatened the whole establishment with fever. The examination of the drains and taking up of the floors revealed nothing, while the introduction of increased means of ventilation left the evil as it was. At last an examination was made of the wall papering, when it was found that one paper was pasted over another till a thickness was accumulated amounting in one case to fourteen layers. Between these layers there was rotten paste in which fungi and even maggots germinated, and the wall being hollow the stench spread into the passage and over the establishment.

The Rev Dr Davison, in his lecture, says it does not cost a cent to raise cattle at Red River. Turn out a calf on the unfenced prairie—brand it with a hot iron so that you will know it from others—and soon you have a massive ox or cow rolling in fat.