MR. LAWRENCE'S SPEECH

DURING THE SCENE, AT THE CLOSE OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. Lawrence said he had hoped that after the plain, clear, and unassuming manner in which the Attorney General announced in the morning that the Government in Council had the evening before unanimously agreed to advise the Governor to dissolve the House, and afford the people an opportunity to give an expression of their views as to whom they wished to entrust the government of the country to, that they should have been allowed quietly to return to their respective homes. In this he was disappointed. The resolution of Mr. Smith was one that could not be allowed to pass without discussion. He anticipated something from the Opposition, from the fact that Mr. Fisher was in his seat all yesterday afternoon, with a large book before him, the contents of which absorbed his entire attention. He (Mr. L.) was confirmed in his convictions that he was going to discuss the constitutional question relative to a dissolution, when he went into the Library and found the table covered with the journals of the House of Commons from the year 1745 down to the present day. He therefore decided to be prepared on the following morning to meet him and contest the question. It was a remarkable fact that while on Monday every member of the Opposition was calling aloud for the Government to dissolve, to-day their leaders are endeavoring to raise the cry that to do so would be unconstitutional. If it was unconstitutional to-day it must have been so on Monday, and therefore their conduct was nothing else than an act of political hypocrisy. When the Attorney General on Tuesday morning, in his reply to Mr. Smith, stated that probably the Opposition might get a dissolution sooner than they expected, he did it in a manner which struck terror into their ranks, and paralised them completely for the day; his speech was withering in the extreme, and the constituency of St. John might well be proud of such a representative; he was an honor to the Government, and a credit to the country.

The Opposition had been charging the Government with delaying the business of the country; on their own shoulders the responsibility rested, for they had in every possible manner thrown obstacles in the way of the prosecution of the duties for which they were sent there. In the first place ten days were consumed in the discussion of the question of want of confidence. After the Government were sustained on that occasion they brought in their Election Bill, and stated that on a certain day they would move the House into committee on it. The Opposition wished it might be postponed four or five days, as their new leader was down in Gagetown attending Court. Out of deference to them the Government assented, as they did not wish to deprive them of his assistance, or take any advantage of his absence; here again the Opposition were responsible for the delay. When the Government stated their willingness to go into committee on the Railway Bill the Opposition thought it better be deferred, as there were eight or ten members absent. Out of deference to them it was not taken up until last Friday, on which occasion the Attorney General stated the case in a speech of about ten minutes' length. He was shortly followed by Mr. Johnson, who commenced by declaring that there was nothing in the Bill, notwithstanding which, he occupied over two hours in speaking in opposition to it, maintaining all the time that the Railway measure of the late Government had been adopted by the present one. This he (Mr. L.) denied, as the correspondence with Messrs. Baring clearly showed; but assuming that they had done what Mr. Johnson alleged, what was the course he and his followers ought to pursue? An article in a number of the *Edinburgh Review* clearly points it out, when it said—"When a body of men originally collected and banded against others by a political faith, in holding which it differed from them, finds all differences at an end, and former adversaries acting upon its own much cherished principles, a new line of conduct ought straightway to be pursued. Common honesty to the country, as well as a regard for consistency, requires that there should be an end of the opposition when there is an end of the only diversity that called for it, or indeed could justify it. Whoever would still keep aloof in such circumstances, and continue in opposition on a question on which there is no longer any ground of difference, plainly admits his real motives all along to have been personal and selfish, however cunningly he may have varnished them over with the pretence of principle." This quotation was from the pen of Macaulay, and it portrayed in vivid colors the motives of the Opposition to be guided not by principle but by unmitigated selfishness. The House must remember that new and onerous duties had been thrown upon the Government by the surrender of the initiation of money grants, and all the petitions which formerly were received by the House and referred to the different committees, had now to be sent to the Government for their investigation, and it ought not to be forgotten that these petitions were seldom sent in until the expiration of the time allowed. If they look at the session of 1855, at a time when the late Government was all powerful, four or five weeks passed before they introduced a solitary measure, and yet this was the party who had been so clamorous during the present session.

When Mr. Smith addressed the House this morning, after the Government announced that they had advised the Governor to dissolve, he stated that it was an unconstitutional act. His remarks clearly showed that he had mistaken the character of the men to whom was entrusted the government of the country. It is quite evident Mr. Smith thought that when the Attorney General told him on Tuesday morning that they might get a dissolution sooner than they expected it, he looked upon it as an idle declaration. The Opposition having discovered that it was soon to be a reality, they were now endeavouring to prove that no precedent could be found in justification of such a course of procedure. The Opposition must have read British history to but little purpose when they took up such a position as Mr. Fisher did on Tuesday afternoon, when he stated that the Government never dissolved a parliament of its own calling. He (Mr. L.) had formed a poor opinion of the leaders of the Opposition at the short session, for they were really at a loss to know whether the Governor had the power to dissolve or not. In the correspondence which took place in May last they told his Excellency that he had the power to dissolve the House, but at the short session some of them denied his right, while others doubted it. On these points they had no fixed views, and were not the men to be entrusted with the government of New Brunswick. The action of the Government in advising a dissolution and then appealing to the people, would meet with a response from every man who really had the good of the province at heart, and they were entitled to the best thanks of the people for not surrendering the reins of power into the hands of men who had, by their actions this session, showed themselves to be wanting in those qualities which the country had a right to look for in men who aspire to the position of the chief officers of the Government.

He (Mr. L.) felt, after the personal insult offered to himself and to the constituency he had the honour to represent, on the floor of this House by Mr. Johnson, he had no confidence in a body of men who would consent to recognise him as their leader. In the course of the discussion on the Election Law, he (Mr. L.) proved beyond a doubt, that the Amendment of Mr. Johnson deprived the four hundred citizens of St. John, who were left off the registry, of their undoubted rights. What course of argument did the hon. Member from Northumberland adopt? Did he prove his (Mr. L's.) declarations to be incorrect? No; when he found that his Bill was a failure, he was so exasperated that he forgot the dignity that was due to himself as a legislator, the respect which was due to the House of which he was a Member, and the constituency whose servant he was. That he began by sneering at his (Mr. L's.) position in life, by ridiculing the business which he followed, and then to add bareness to what he had already done, under the cover of a Latin quotation, he insulted every man in the country who lived by the sweat of his brow. Can the country place confidence in a body of men who would select such a man for their head; the man who in his place could give utterance to the proverb of Pliny, "*ne sor ultra crepidam*," the translation of which was "let the shoemaker stick to his last." He was not the man to whom he (Mr. L.) was disposed to trust the government of the country. Labor was honourable, and to sneer at it was indicative of a little mind. At an exhibition of the labour of New Brunswick in the city of Fredericton, three or four years ago, Judge Wilmot, a man of whom New Brunswick may well be proud, said, "That believing with Lord Bacon, that the essentials of national prosperity are to be found—first, in fertile fields, and, secondly in busy workshops, the Society have spared no effort or encouragement to draw out the ingenuity of our home mechanics, and enlarge them into new and valuable fields of labor. And nobly have the manufacturers of New Brunswick responded to the invitation; their industry and their ingenuity is attested on the tables of the exhibition, which demonstrate to every fair and intelligent observer that there is nothing deficient in the ingenuity of our mechanics; they lack neither industry nor skill. Many of the articles exhibited by our mechanics would have been received with favor even at the World's Show. I trust that the effect of the comparison now instituted between the produce of agricultural and manufacturing industry from the various sections of the province, will be to excite a healthy and general competition, an ambition to grow more and make better, which will advance every important interest." The Judge went on to say that, "He trusted that it would be regarded as he regarded it, as a splendid illustration of the *true dignity of labour, and of what constitutes the real wealth of the country, and that it would give a death blow to that disparagement of the respectability of labor which has heretofore been too general among us. Let our young men know and remember that the labor of a country supports its wealth and power. It lies at the foundation of the greatness of Great Britain; her army, with all its victories—her unconquerable navy—her wide-spread commerce—her diffusive missions of civilization and christianity—all, under God, rests upon the labor of those who till in her fields and workshops. It is a noble ambition of patriotism to take part in thus sustaining all that is good, all that is essential to the promotion of public prosperity. Let our young men and our old men emulate this ambition, and all will be well.*"

Contrast the language of the gentlemen who with dignity adorns the bench of New Brunswick with the language of the man whose ambition is to reach that envied post. Such a character must have been in Lord John Russell's mind when he penned the following graphic yet truthful passage:

"Generally speaking, however, the first disposition of a lawyer, it must be confessed, is to enquire boldly and argue sharply upon public abuses. They are not apt to indulge any bigoted reverence for the depositaries of power; and, on the other hand, they value liberty as the guardian of free speech. But the close of a lawyer's life is not always conformable to his outset; many who commence by too warm an admiration for popular privileges, end by too frigid a contempt for all enthusiasm. They are accustomed to let their tongues by the hour, and by a natural transition, they sell them for a term of years, or for life. Commencing with the vanity for popular harangues they end by the meanest calculations of avarice. So frequently has such a change happened, though indeed but seldom in proportion to the whole number of lawyers, that the profession has become, we have seen how unjustly, a bye word with many for apostacy and servility."

He (Mr. L.) put it to every man in this House, and throughout the length and breadth of the country, to give an honest answer to the question as to which of these two classes was the most useful to the country, and which had the greatest stake in its prosperity; and from the ranks of which was the country most likely to find practical legislators? There was a time when men thought that if they wanted to get for their sons a position in life, all that was required was to put them in what was called one of the learned professions. Those days had gone and gone for ever. The world had discovered that there was a new class rising up to claim a voice in the affairs of the country; they belong to the *aristocracy of labor*, and in the mother country they were making themselves felt. Under the free institutions of Britain no barrier existed that talent and application could not surmount; no position so high that genius, when backed by the voice of the people, could not reach, save one, and that was to wield the sceptre. In the ranks of the illustrious of our mother land we find a Peel, the son of a cotton spinner; Lord Lyndurst, (for many years Lord Chancellor) a colonist and the son of a portrait painter; the two Scotts, sons of a collier of Hull, not only elevated to the peerage, but occupying, for years, two of the most prominent positions in the Judiciary of the Kingdom. In that free land men recognized the truth of the sentiment of the poet, that

"The rank is but the guinea stamp—
The man's the goud for a' that."

If we come nearer home what do we find? Who were the rising men of New Brunswick? Were they not nearly all from the middle walks of life, and some from the humblest? Ask the men of wealth how they acquired it? They would tell you it was labor that made them what they are; and what was more, they were not ashamed to own it; they took pride in the fact that they were the architects of their own fortune. Who were the men that had made for our fair Province a name as wide as the world? Were they not those who were connected with our ship yards, our foundaries, our factories, and workshops? and were they to be sneered at on the floor of a British Legislature by a man who claims a superiority over them, from the simple fact that he was a lawyer? and who, to use a line of the poet Burns,

"Has a tongue that is evenly hung."

He would be unworthy of the position in which he had been placed by the free citizens of St. John, if he had not raised his voice in vindication of the dignity of labour, when thus looked down upon. The mechanic of New Brunswick could do whatever could be done by the same class of men in any section of the world. Our locomotives, our cars could be built, and built as well and as cheaply here as elsewhere, and out of New Brunswick wood, New Brunswick iron, and by New Brunswick labour; and he hoped that all future cars and locomotives would be built at home, and thus not only keep money in the country but give employment to our own people. Was there a man here who witnessed that noble procession in the city of St. John, on the occasion of the turning of the first sod for the Railroad, some three or four years ago, that had forgotten the appearence presented by the mechanics with their banners and emblems? As their representative he claimed an equality with every member on the floor of the House, and would yield to no one. He felt that if the Government gave up their places to the Opposition, and allowed the hon. member from Northumberland to take the post of chief law officer of the Crown, every man who toiled from day to day would raise his voice against them. The Opposition had given no proof of competency from anything they had done. It was true they had their Executive Chamber in one of the upper rooms of the Barker House, where they prepared their questions, wrote out their addresses, and laid their plans. No one supposed for a moment that the hon. member from Carleton (Mr. Perley) composed the address relative to enquiries about filling up the vacancy in the Legislative Council; he was only doing the work of others; and he (Mr. L.) could not help thinking that the hon. member for Carleton was anxious to prevent any one "getting up stairs" until an overturn of the Government could be accomplished, when he might be rewarded for his services to the Opposition with the title of "Honorable." When the member for Queen's (Mr. Earle) told that gentleman that he would not stand in his way, for he had no intention of deserting his constituents, his answer was that "he would not take office from the present Government." The fair inference was that he would not refuse taking it at the hands of the Opposition, if they got into power. (The members of the Opposition having frequently attempted in a most disorderly manner to put Mr. Lawrence down, by alleging that he was taking up too much time). He (Mr. L.) had the floor, and he would not yield to any one until he was through, and that the efforts of the Opposition to put him down was only an attack upon the freedom of speech. Was not this a combination? The Opposition left their seats ten minutes ago and went into one of the committee rooms, and there laid a plot to put him down; but it could not be done. He had during the session paid proper respect to every member who rose to speak, and he would insist on his privilege, in spite of all their combination. They had heard a great deal from them about the privileges of the House, and they had seen how hard they had striven to find out if an hon. member for Queen's was not a member of the Legislative Council; but what were they doing now? Trampling upon one of the most cherished rights of the people—the liberty of speech—the freedom of debate. To no man would he yield the floor until he had spoken what he intended; no intimidation would frighten him; no threats would awe him; as one of the representatives of St. John he would insist on his rights. The Opposition talked of their Liberalism; it was counterfeit, and the people were beginning to know it. Ashamed to have their constituents witnesses of their doings, they had sought for a pretext to clear the House of as orderly and as well behaved an audience as was ever within its walls. It was useless for the Opposition to attempt to compel him to give way; he would retain the floor until he got through, if it took him till morning. As long as his tongue could move, and his voice be heard, he would keep on until he was allowed to proceed without interruption. There was a principle involved which was dear to every man. It was, whether an opposition, giving way to their rage because of being shortly about to obtain the very thing they were so very clamorous for the other day, should be allowed to trample upon the rules of the House, and set at defiance the decision of the Speaker, and whether a representative of the people should be allowed to exercise a clear and undoubted right. Were these men to govern this country? Were these the spotless Liberals of which we have heard so much? This was Toryism of the darkest type. The scene which was then being witnessed on the floor of the House was a living disgrace to its perpetrators. From day to day bulgering the Government either to resign or dissolve, and when told that a dissolution would shortly take place they became frantic with rage. There was the member for Queen's (Mr. Perley) all eloquent at once, with his voice rising almost above all the others, speaking out for the first time during the entire session, and just awakened from his slumber in sleepy hollow. As for Charlotte County, she had one representative (Mr. McAdam) who had stooped so low as to be entirely unworthy of notice by every man who claimed to be guided by decent deportment, by coming to his (Mr. L.'s) desk while addressing the chair, and shaking a tumbler in his face. The Opposition might as well allow him to proceed, for he was determined to keep the floor until order was restored and members gave him a hearing. The Opposition had a precedent in English history for their extraordinary proceeding. In the month of September, 1830, a general election took place, consequent upon the death of George IV., and the accession of his brother, William IV. Parliament met in the month of February, 1831, and on the 1st day of March Lord John Russell introduced the Reform Bill, which, after a discussion of three weeks, was carried by a majority of one. A day or two afterwards an amendment was carried by a majority of eight against the ministry. Immediately thereupon they announced that they should dissolve Parliament and appeal to the people. At this declaration the Opposition broke through all restraint, and denounced them as revolutionists and traitors. They dreaded the appeal because they felt the country was against them. That Parliament only lasted seven months. This was a precedent, and one which the Opposition had closely followed, to the loss of their own character, for they had left a stain upon the legislation of their country. Faction had gone its length, and an outraged public would ere long punish the perpetration of an act which no friend of order would desire to witness a second time in the hall of British legislation.

If any additional proof had been required to justify the Government in not only refusing to yield up their posts to the Opposition but to appeal to the country, that evidence the Opposition themselves had this day produced. They talked about the unconstitutionality of the act of dissolution. The cry last year at one time was that the Governor had not the power to dissolve without the consent of his Council; now, when the Council had unanimously advised him to dissolve, the cry is, "The act was unconstitutional." When will these men have fixed principles? Were they forever to be in a transition state? We had been told that a Ministry never dissolved its own Parliament. Had they proved it? He (Mr. L.) challenged them the other afternoon to make good their declaration. Had they done it? One hon. member talked about Charles I. They appeared to have a great reverence for antiquated times. Why go back so far. This was the out-cropping of the Toryism which most men thought was natural to their new leader, the hon. member from the County of Northumberland. If the Opposition would listen they would find that it was not a quarter of a century yet since a British Ministry dissolved a Parliament of their own calling. After Sir Robert Peel left power in the year 1835, the Whigs took office; their position could be seen from the following extract from a work called the British Cabinet:

"They were in office, but could hardly be said to be in power. The majority on which they they leaned for support was smaller than any which a Minister had ever before attempted to govern the country; and even that majority was not composed of a compact and united body. They were thus compelled to shape their course, not as his own sense of right and political experience would have dictated, but in such a way as would unite in one body the larges possible number of supporters; the consequence was that few great measures were attempted.'

It was impossible that such a state of things could last for any length of time; the wonder was that it lasted so long as it did. The death of King William IV. and the accession of her present Majesty in 1837 brought with it a new election. The Whig Ministry, still in power, shortly afterwards summoned their *own parliament* for the despatch of business, and although in 1840 they were in a minority ten times, and in 1841 three times out of our, it was in the latter year that a final struggle ensued on the budget, in which the sugar question, and the reduction of the duty on wheat was involved, which led to the union of two powerful interests, and which ended in the defeat of the Government, who were unwilling to surrender to the Opposition without another effort. Did they resign? No; they *dissolved the parliament of their own calling*, and appealed to the people. Here then was conclusive testimony that the act of dissolution was perfectly constitutional, but what was more, the Government when in a *minority* did not give up to their opponents, but appealed to the people. Surely then it would have been an unwise act in our Government yielding to men who, as was justly remarked the other day by the hon. member from Charlotte, (Mr. Street,) "Were possessed of arrogancy of manner and boldness of speech, and if these were the only qualifications sought for in aspirants for power they certainly possessed the best claim to rule the country." He (Mr. L.) hoped the day would never come when we should cease to respect or undervalue Imperial precedents. Under the existing institutions of the mother country she had risen to a preeminence inapproachable, let us therefore value all that had been accessory to her greatness. Let us while guarding with jealousy our own branch, take care that we are not encroaching upon the rights of the other; each body is entirely an independent part, and one has no right to encroach upon the other. He would never allow it to be said that he yielded up the undoubted privilege of a representatived of a free people to be heard in the Hall of Legislature to a body of men the most of whom had lost all self-control. By this time no doubt they were fully convinced that when the Attorney General in his place announced that the Government intended to do a thing, they were not the men to shrink from it.

(Mr. Lawrence continued speaking during the most violent disorder on the part of the Opposition, and only yielded when the Usher of the Black Rod brought a message summoning the House to attend the Lieut. Governor in the Council Chamber, when the Assembly was prorogued, with a view to its dissolution.)

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Those who have been taught to believe that there is no remedy for cancer but the knife, are invited to read the following statement. Reuben Withers, late of Brooklyn, and now residing at Marysville, California, was for several months treated *secundem artem*, by two physicians, for what they pronounced to be a cancerous tumor on the left breast. Finally they recommended excision, but the patient having heard much of the efficacy of Holloway's Ointment, in such cases, resolved to try its effects before submitting his flesh to the steel. He used in conformity with the directions, for two months, at the end of which time the lump had entirely disappeared, and up to the date of his leaving for San Francisco, in August last, an interval of fourteen weeks, no symptoms of its re-appearance could be discovered. The Pills are equally efficacious in all internal diseases.

REQUISITION.

To Samuel H. Gilbert, Esquire,—

SIR,—

Having cause to believe, that a vacancy will soon be created in the Representation of the County of Queens, and aware of the great necessity for immediate action, in selecting a competent individual to fill said vacancy, in order that every part of the aforesaid County may be fairly represented. From our knowledge of your past services, as one of our Representatives, which were satisfactorily and independently performed. We the Electors, feel it our duty to invite you again to enter the Political world, and request that you will consent to allow yourself to be put in nomination, and we pledge ourselves to give you our support and influence.

William Foshay, J. C. P.	William McMulkin,
Daniel Smith, J. P.	George Simpson,
John J. Millidge,	Harry Peters, Jr.
William McDermott,	Charles Elliott,
Edward Simpson,	Thomas W. Morrison,
Jonathan Watson,	John Watson,
Hugh B. Johnston,	Andrew Elliott,
Joseph Stockford,	William Graham,
Edward McMulkin,	Robert Dwyer,
James B. Chase,	W. B. Dwyer,
George B. Chase,	George W. Weston,
J. H. DeVeber,	Thomas Simpson,
James Kincade,	George Simpson,
James Wallace,	John Simpson,
Gilbert Williams,	Michael Law,
Gilbert Lemont,	John Nichols,
Thomas Wallace,	John Davis,
Thomas Allingham,	David Purvis, Senr.,
John Lipsett,	David Purvis, Jr.
Benjamin Appleby,	David Nichol,
John Wilson	William Lemont,
John Hamilton,	Gerard Simpson,
William Hamilton,	William Allan,
Luke Appleby,	Thomas Allan,
Samuel Knight,	Dennis Corrigan,
Robert Dingee, jr.	James Cooper,
William Currier,	William Hagshaw,
Archibald McAllister,	James Kerr,
James McAllister,	Thomas Hesty,
Lewis Dingee, Senr.,	William Nelson,
Michael Doile,	James M'Crackin,
Thomas Welch,	David M'Crackin,
Thomas Carney,	Thomas Heasty,
Patrick Callahan,	John Armstrong,
Michael Owens,	Andrew Corbett,
William Nichols,	James Russell,
James Thompson,	William Wilson,
John Maxwell,	Richard Graham,
Lewis C. Dingee, jr.	
William Taylor,	And 100 Others.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—

I receive with great satisfaction the kind invitation you have given me to allow myself to be put in Nomination, to represent Queen's County.

I should be destitute of feeling, if I was not deeply affected by the strong proof which you have given me of your confidence, with respect to my former conduct in the public service.

I derive from it a gratification, which those who are conscious of having done all that they could to merit it can alone feel, conscious of having exerted my best faculties with unwearied zeal, to support the rights and advance the prosperity of Queen's County, in the various important trusts, with which the Freeholders of my Native County have honoured me; the approbation which you have expressed of my conduct is very gratifying to me.

Although I have been accused, and falsely accused of having joined the Radical Party, for the benefit of all who are in doubt, I beg to say, that my Political principles are the same now as they were in 51, when you gave me a majority of 366 good votes, over the opposing candidate.

I can assure you it has been my undeviating effort in every situation in which I have been placed to promote to the utmost of my abilities, the success of a true Liberal Conservative Government.

I accept with pleasure your kind invitation to again enter the Political world, and I consent to allow myself to be put in nomination for any vacance that may occur for the Representation of the County of Queens.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient and Humble Servant,
SAMUEL H. GILBERT.

PROPOSED BREAKWATER AT THE MOUTH OF THE MERSEY.—At the meeting of the Polytechnic Society, on Monday, Mr. Joseph Boult, the president, in the chair, Mr. George Rennie, F. R. S., explained, at some length, his project for a breakwater at the mouth of the Mersey, illustrating his remarks by reference to maps and diagrams. His proposal was to erect a breakwater from the Black Rock for about three miles in a north easterly direction, for the purpose of guiding the stream of the river in certain courses, and causing the currents to pass more directly through them, and also to protect the northern shore from the strong winds which now blew against it. One of the evils to which the port was more particularly subject was, he said, the various channels and sandbanks at the entrance, which required constant watching; so much so, in fact, that it was a wonder to him how such an immense trade was carried on. He proceeded to say that if these channels were combined into one, and vessels could pass right out to sea by that one channel, the navigation would be rendered more easy, the expense, the navigation would be rendered more easy, the expense of keeping the channel in a state of efficiency would be less than at present, and there would be fewer shipwrecks. The only way to carry out this object was to build a breakwater in the direction he had pointed out. The victoria Channel was well sheltered when the wind blew from the south and south-west, and it appeared that in 1856 no fewer than 15,000 vessels passed through that channel alone. He would, therefore, allow a gap of half a mile to the breakwater, through which that channel might continue to flow. He did not propose to build the whole breakwater at once, but to extend it by degrees, so that the effect of it could be ascertained as the work progressed; and, in addition to the breakwater, he suggested that a sea-wall should be built along the east side which would be the means of saving a considerable quantity of land. The Chairman exhibited surveys of the river taken at different periods since the year 1689, that date and the year 1817 the north shore from Bootle to Formby had advanced 1000, yards; that the harbour which in 1689 existed at Hoylak, had been completely filled up; that the area and height of the banks had materially increased, and also that the channels had materially changed. In reply to a question put by one of the visitors, the chairman said these changes were to be attributed principally to freshes, draughts, winds, and reductions of the tidal area. The banks of the river consisted for the most part of clay and gravel, and he no doubt that they were formed in great measure by the washing from the shore. Captain Cook, superintendent of pilots, said that within his knowledge the Channel was never in a worse condition than at present, and he thought it a miracle that the pilots got vessels into port at all. Mr. Heath thought it would not be safe to adopt the plan proposed with the limited and partial information they had at present. He suggested the professional men should generalise the facts which came out piecemeal, and lay their generalisation before the public, accompanied with their own conclusions. Captain Cook said he considered the preservation of the Rock channel essential to the navigation of the river, and as Mr. Rennie's project would have the effect of silting up that channel, he was very much opposed to it. Mr. Rennie replied that the tendency of the breakwater would certainly be to fill up the Rock channel, but it would compensate by generally improving the principal channel. The river was becoming inaccessible, not from any decrease in the depth of water, but from the changes of the banks would be either to remove them gradually or to drive them further from the mouth of the river. The chairman having expressed his regret that for more than two years no move had been made by the corporation or any other public body with a view to the improvement of the navigation of the river, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Rennie, for having brought the subject before the society.—*Liverpool Paper.*

The Chronicle.

St. John, N. B., April 10, 1857.

The all engrossing question of the day is the coming Election for the City and County. Our choice of men stands as heretofore, if we except the filling up of the vacancy caused by the defection of J. A. Harding; this breach in our ranks will be filled up by L. H. Deveber, Esq., a staunch Conservative, and a man universally respected by this community. Our present Government have been so foully dealt with by the Radicals, that there appears to be but one opinion throughout the country, that of showing them, in true English style, fair play, and giving them a fair trial. We regret to find that such is the effect of offices *to be won*, on the feelings of the Opposition, that no argument, no reasoning, and not even the fear of meeting a betrayed and insulted constituency could choke them off from their determination to Rob the Treasury. Pirate like they had hoisted the black flag, and regardless of consequences, they would if not successful, go down with colors nailed to the mast. There never was a more disappointed party, there never was a more reckless, and vicious opposition offered to a Government, nor do we believe in the annals of any civilized country there can be found a parallel for the outrages committed in the Commons House of the people. Common courtesy, we should have tho't, as well as the ordinary decencies of civilized life would have not only been known to these men, but practised by them in their position as Legislators. It would be instructive as well as salutary to them, did they read the articles of war as promulgated in the British Navy, where they would have found that ungentlemanly and indecent conduct and language, is punished with loss of office, and that disrespect to officers in command and who like His Excellency represent Majesty is considered a high misdemeanor; but what can we expect from men whose conduct even in their place in the Halls of the Legislature, have been so outrageously disgraceful that they were hooted by the spectators in the gallery. It is however cheering to find, that all unexpected to them, they have been sent to meet their constituents, and there to answer for their crimes. It is also pleasing to hear that through out the length and breadth of the Province, the cry has gone up "turn them out." Indignation meetings have been held in several of the Counties, and resolutions passed to effect a cleansing of the Ægean stable, and replacing the renegades with men of truth and character. The closing scene of this worse than rump Parliament, we gave in our last issue. We now give the closing speech delivered by Mr. Lawrence, and which will be found in another column. The truths contained in which cannot be denied, and the language in which it is couched scarcely be excelled. The war goes bravely on, and meeting on meeting will be held throughout the city and county until the glorious consummation is achieved. To say that we doubt the result would be to express a feeling to which we are a stranger—and that our Government and Governor will be sustained by a loyal, a true, and an enlightened people, is now placed beyond the probability of a question.

CONSERVATIVES BE PREPARED.—The Radicals boast that they will make an attack physically on everyone who opposes them at the coming election. We learn that they are prepared with weapons on the Californian system. Such as brass knuckles, &c. A specimen of the effects of which was exhibited at the meeting in Richie's Building last week, when one of their Rowdies, thus armed, treacherously struck at, and cut the eye of our Reporter. Many versions of the affair have been, by them, given to the public, one of which is that our Reporter seized Mr. Wright by the collar and threw him down on the floor, and beat him; but this story, partaking rather too much of the marvelous, another is substituted, viz. that he frequently interrupted Mr. Tilley by calling him a *Liar*, with sundry other variations, as suited the taste of the teller. The latter version is given by the *Horse Doctor* of the *Courier*, and which if he had told it among his sick horses, they would (supposing him to possess any) certainly have kicked out his brains.

So utterly false is the whole of their fabrifabrications, that many Conservatives who were in the room at the time, saw the movement, but there having been *no interruption* given to the meeting, they did not really know what caused the scuffle. The fact is, that when Mr. Tilley asserted that on examining the Poll Books, after the election, he found he had a majority of good votes over Mr. Lawrence. This was such a whopper that it caused our Reporter to groan, and in an under tone, to the person standing next to him, said "*That was not true, that it was a Lie;* but no one two yards from him could possibly have heard him, as he spoke in a low tone. A Rowdy standing next him a fellow of the name of Busby, who has neither vote nor property in the county, with his prepared brass knuckles, treacherously struck him on the eye and cut it to the bone. Many of the party have since denounced such conduct as *all* Liberal, while the *Horse Doctor* not only approves of such dastardly conduct, but appears agrieved that the party maltreated, was not thrown out of the window. Liberalism here has long been assimilating itself to Border Ruffianism in the States, and as brute force is to be the order of the day at the coming election, it is to be hoped that the Conservatives will meet them on equal terms, when we entertain no fears as to the results.

Without the aid of a public notice, and on mere verbal intimation, a most satisfactory and numerously attended meeting of the Cartmen and draymen took place on Wednesday evening last, at the Saint John Hotel. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Gray and Lawrence and several other gentlemen, friends to the Government. The speeches were received with enthusiastic cheers. No discord, no riot, no ruffianism prevailed, but harmony of the most cordial kind. We wish the *Radicals* would learn from us the common courtesies of life. If any of those should attend our meetings, (and we shall have many,) we can promise them they shall neither have their eyes blacked, nor be thrown over the banister at the risk of their lives.

CONCERT.—On Tuesday evening next, the Saint John Harmonic Society will repeat their performance of "The Messiah," at the instance of a large number of persons who, from various causes, were unable to attend the last concert. The great sacrifice of both time and money made by the members of this society, in catering for the public amusement, richly entitles them to a large share of public consideration, and we hope their call will be responded to by a full house.

☞ We have been handed a "Report of the Sewerage and Water Commissioners," for the last year, giving a full account of their proceedings during that period, with a Report of the auditors appointed by the Common Council.

CIVIC ELECTION.

The Election for Charter officers took place on Tuesday last. Several new candidates were in the field, and in some of the contested Wards considerable animation was manifested, altho' the proceedings throughout were most orderly. In King's Ward, Councillor Everett opposed Alderman Fairweather, and the vote at the close was—Fairweather, 157; Everett, 97. Messrs. T. M. Reed, J. Hooper, and E. E. Kinnear were the candidates for Councillor, and the vote was as follows:—Reed, 119; Hooper, 77; Kinnear, 66.

In Wellington Ward, Alderman Peters and Messrs. Keans and Mercer were the candidates for Alderman, and Messrs. Marter, Ballentine, and Price the candidates for Councillor. The polling went on briskly during the day, the total number of votes polled being 514. At the close, Alderman Peters and Mr. Marter were declared duly elected, the numbers being—Peters, 201; Keans, 170; Mercer, 123. For Councillor—Marter, 311; Ballentine, 77; Price, 49.

In Duke's Ward, Mr. John McGrath opposed Alderman Woodward, and Mr. F. Neill opposed Councillor Wilson. The vote was—McGrath, 162; Woodward, 140; Wilson, 211; Neill, 92.

In Guy's Ward, Carleton, Alderman Littlehale and S. Strange, Esq., polled an equal number of legal votes, amounting to 159 each, and the Common Council decided on Tuesday evening that a new election for Alderman for this Ward is to take place on Monday the 20th inst. The vote for Councillor was—Colwell, 174; Stackhouse, 106.

In Brooks' Ward, Messrs. Ketchum and Cougle were the candidates for Alderman, and Messrs. Josiah Adams and James for Councillor. The result of the vote was—Ketchum, 147; Cougle, 80; Adams, 133; James, 90.

Four new members have been returned to the Council, viz:—Messrs. McGrath, T. M. Reed, T. Marter, and J. Adams.

There was no opposition in Queen's or Sydney Wards.

We trust that the members of the new Board will enter upon their duties with a determination to further the best interests of this growing City.

At a meeting of the Common Council, held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, Thomas Merritt, Esq., was unanimously re-elected Chamberlain for the ensuing year. Aldermen Fairweather and Foster spoke in warm terms of the ability of this officer, and of his unimpeachable and correct deportment in the discharge of his important duties, which met with a response in the hearts of all present.

The News by the Asia.

The steamship *Asia*, which sailed from Liverpool on the 21st March, arrived at New York on Saturday last. The steamer Niagara, from Boston, was passed off Kinsale on the 22d.

The steamer Circassian left Liverpool on the 19th March with a full cargo and 200 passengers for St. John's, Newfoundland, which place she reached on the 30th, and would sail for Halifax on the 2d inst.

Money continued in active demand at London. Consols were but a shade lower in the week, though they had touched 92 7-8. The drain and bullion in the Bank of England had increased £261,880. The Asia brought £1,879,000 francs. The Liverpool cotton market was unchanged, but breadstuffs in the British and French markets are very dull, and lower in price.

Parliament was formally dissolved on the 21st, the day of the sailing of the steamer. The Queen did not attend in person, and the royal speech was delivered by the Chancellor, as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen:—

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that in releasing you at this early period from your attendance in Parliament, it is her Majesty's intention immediately to dissolve the present Parliament, in order to ascertain, in the most constitutional manner, the sense of her people in the present state of public affairs.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

We are commanded by Her Majesty to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the exigencies of the public service during the period that will elapse before the new Parliament, which her Majesty will direct immediately to be called, shall have been able to give its immediate attention to these matters.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—

We are commanded by her Majesty to express the satisfaction which she feels at your having been able to reduce materially during the present session the burthens of her people.

Her Majesty commands us to assure you that it is her fervent prayer that the several constituencies of the United Kingdom, upon whom will devolve the exercise of these high functions which by the Constitution belong to them, may be guided by an All-wise Providence in the selection of representatives, whose wisdom and patriotism will aid Her Majesty in her constant endeavours to maintain the honor and dignity of her crown, and to promote the welfare and happiness of her people.

In the House of Lords, on the 16th, Earl Derby made an able review of the policy of the Palmerston administration, in the course of which he expressed his apprehensions that if the British financial system is not thoroughly revised, there will be a deficiency of 6,500,000l. in 1860. This prospective deficit has been already estimated by Mr. Disraeli at nine, and by Mr. Gladstone at eight millions, and the moral of the remarks of all three statesmen is, that the public expenditure of the country must be reduced. The question of "reform" will enter largely into the elections.

The next week was to witness all the turmoil of a general election, and opinions were divided as to the result, as the field was cut up into many parties. Lord John Russell had acquired new strength in London. The Irish liberal party is understood to have agreed on their programme for the hustings as follows:—

1. Tenant right as recently modified.
2. The disendowment of all religious sects and the abolition of the Irish Church as a state establishment.
3. Religious freedom and equality, including the repeal of the ecclesiastical titles act.
4. Opposition to any Ministry which will not comply with the foregoing demands.
5. Enlargement of the county franchise (on the basis of Locke King's motion.)
6. The abolition of the property qualification.
7. The reduction of the qualification for voters in towns to £5.

It is now said that the final sitting of the Paris conference on the Turkish affairs (which will be chiefly devoted to the question of the Principalities,) will be held in June. The third meeting of the Neufchatel Conference at Paris will take place shortly, instructions of a more favorable cast having been received from Berlin.

Austria is on the point of breaking off diplomatic relations with Sardinia, and the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has voted, by 103 to 14, the considerable sum of 5,000,000 Francs to put the fortifications of Alessandria into an immediate state of defence. It is understood that a full reconciliation is likely to be effected by King Ferdinand of Naples with both England and France.

It is decided that France shall send a land and sea force to the China station. The Emperor of China has ordered that hostilities against the British shall be confined to Canton. Governor Yeh seems favorable to American interests, and has had some communications with Minister Parker.

The London *Morning Chronicle* says:—

Government have received information that the Emperor of China has desired the authorities at the four ports to preserve amicable relations with the British, and to continue the trade without interruption. It is plain from this that no notion of war can be entertained by the government at Pekin, and that Commissioner Yeh will find himself without authority, and his mob allies of Canton without protection.

The British have a difficulty with Japan, and two British war steamers have forced the fortified port of Nagasaki, the Japanese making no resistance.

It has already been mentioned that Mehemet Bey (the Polish Colonel Pangya) with 300 men equipped by English sympathisers, had landed in Circassia from the war steamer Kangaroo, to aid the Circassians. M. Boutenieff, the Russian minister at Constantinople, has demanded explanations from Great Britain on the subject.

Dr. Vogel, the African explorer, had been assassinated on his way from Kuka to the Nile.