

merely apply to more recent appointments; and here, also, I draw a line of distinction between men who received their appointment from the considerations enumerated in referring to the former class, and others whose principal claim to the distinction they now enjoy consists in doubtful services rendered to political upstarts, and demagogues, who "eat the fruit of the land without money," and who, in sowing political dissension among the people, leave behind them, in too many localities, a crop of "thistles instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley."

Yours, &c., &c.,

P. O'HARA, Esq., J. P.

King's County, March, 1871.

To the Editor of THE BROAD-AXE:

Dear Sir,—Will you do me the favor to contradict, in the columns of your favorite publication, the lying reports and slanders that are now being circulated in connection with certain gentlemen who honored the Concerts lately held in aid of the French Relief Fund with their patronage, to the effect that they failed in their duty so far as to forget to pay for their Tickets.

I am, dear Sir, yours to command,

INDIGNANT LOYALTY.

THE LOCAL PRESS.

No. 5.

In the last issue of the *Broad-Axe* we intended to discontinue our notices of the local Press, but as we disposed of all the journals published in Charlottetown, with the single exception of the *Argus*, we have been induced to devote a few lines to it, in order to keep its editor in countenance. It has not been long established. Mr. Fletcher is, comparatively speaking, a stranger in journalism. Some time ago, we heard him named in connection with certain inflammatory communications published in *Ross's Weekly*, of tenant league notoriety. Previously to his starting the *Argus*, he was professedly, an anti-confederate and a liberal. Just then it chanced that the "better terms" came down from Canada for our acceptance, and Mr. Fletcher, in the columns of his paper, was one of their most strenuous advocates. It is within the recollection of every one who read the *Argus*, that its editor contended "that Canada conceded every financial point to this Colony," and that we were great fools if we did not jump at the offers then within our reach. The public, however, did not choose to accept Mr. Fletcher's advice. Indeed, they were so unkind as to treat it with the greatest contempt, until at length the writer himself had to repudiate his own arguments and calcula-

tions, thus proving that the people were right and that he was wrong. Since then he has taken his place "upon the fence," and it is pretty difficult to drive him from his perch. We do not blame him for clinging to it with the utmost tenacity. The "location" is a convenient one for men who do not care which party is in power, and the individual who can balance himself steadily on the uppermost rail, so that he can drop on either side when there is a likelihood of gain, cannot be said to be destitute of considerable shrewdness and ingenuity.

Next on the list comes the *Summerside Progress*. It was established in 1866, to support the people's rights, and to battle against confederation, and it has well discharged its mission in that respect. It has grown to be one of the largest, and most ably conducted papers in the Island. Its present editor, Mr. Henry Lawson, wields a ready, skilful and cautious pen. He is a man of considerable reading, as well as of a reflective and logical cast of mind. His connection with the local press has been of long standing. He was a regular contributor to the *Examiner* in its palmy days, and many of his leaders and letters were credited to the ablest and most polished writers in the Colony. During the tenant league agitation he rendered good service to the cause of law and order by his contributions to the last-named journal. The most liberal and progressive measures on the Statute Book, have ever found in Mr. Lawson a cordial supporter. He has faults, like other men, but they are of the venial sort.

The *Journal* is another *Summerside* paper, but, though we have observed its course for years, we are, at this moment, unable to say what are its politics. Its frequent change of editors is against it, and leaves us and the public in blissful ignorance of who is now at the helm.

The *Eastern Advocate*, the first paper started in King's County, is, with one exception, the youngest candidate we have for popular favor. Its principal hobby is the Railroad. It has also successfully advocated the extension of the mail communication of the County. Its editorial department is not brilliant, but it is useless to deny, that if Mr. Ross's ability as a writer were equal to his perseverance as a canvasser, the *Advocate* would shoot far ahead of all its compeers.

There is one gentleman more or less connected with our local Press at the present time, that we cannot allow to pass unnoticed. We allude to our friend Mr. A. McNeill, the efficient summary reporter of the House of Assembly. Heretofore he has been the editor and proprietor of a newspaper—the *People's Journal*. Those who read that paper will remember that it was conducted with