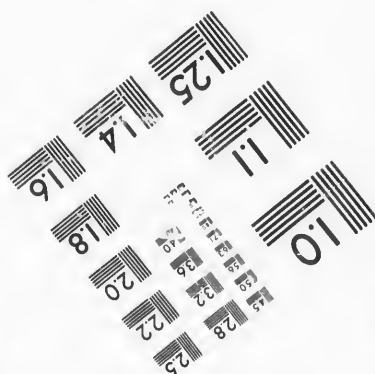
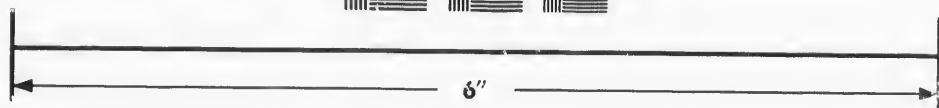
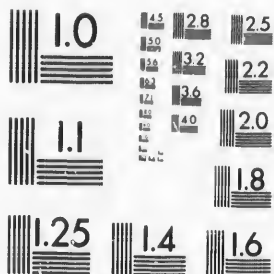


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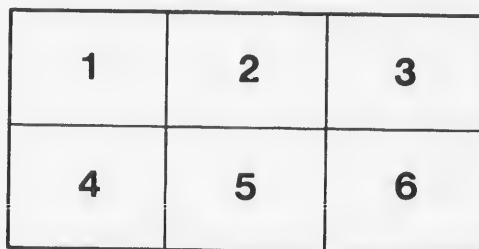
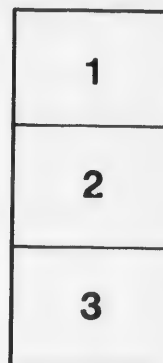
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SPEECHES

DELIVERED AT

~~UNSL~~ ~~OW~~ ~~AND~~ **PORTAPIQUE,**

ON THE SUBJECTS OF

COLLEGES

AND

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT,

ON THE ~~2~~ ~~ND~~ 23^d OF OCTOBER, 1843,

BY

JOHN ROSS

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR FOR THE INFORMATION OF SUCH OF THE COLCHESTER
CONSTITUENCY AS WERE NOT PRESENT AT THOSE MEETINGS.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1843.

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TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF
COLCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN—

THE following Speeches were prepared for publication before the Dissolution of the House was at all probable before another Session of the Legislature. It was principally with a view to enable you to judge of the merits of the scheme propounded by the advocates of One College, *and that one to be in Halifax*, they are given in this shape—in hopes that you would express your opinions by petition before the House met. Petitioning not only on the College question but also on the reduction of high Salaries—high in a three fold degree, when compared with the price of country produce and other commodities *now*, and the time those Salaries were granted. And as I have every wish to be instructed in all matters of general import, if I should have the honour of being returned your Representative—but particularly on Colleges, I will cause three columns to be prepared upon the Poll-Book,—one for those that are favourable to one College in Halifax—one for those who would prefer my own plan of dealing with the question—and one for those who would prefer not to adopt either plan, but wait until the present excitement die away, to enable the people to deal with the question coolly and dispassionately, for the general good of the Country and the rising generations,—so that every man in the County will have an opportunity of expressing his opinion when he votes, and the instructions of the majority, thus ascertained, shall be entirely my guide in the matter.

My opinion on protection to the Agricultural interests of Nova Scotia, is pretty well known, as recorded in the numerous Petitions forwarded from this County last winter, to the House of Assembly, praying a protective duty on American produce, and to urge upon the English Government to admit Colonial produce to the British Market *Duty Free*. A boon granted to Canada by the Imperial Parliament, during its last sitting, but in which Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are not included, merely because it was not asked for.—This is a question on which the prosperity of Nova Scotia depends, as much as that of Colleges, and this is the time to call those into account who have sacrificed the best interests of the Country to keep themselves in power, by pandering to the interests of a few in Halifax, whose incomes are increased in the same ratio as productions fall in the market.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedt. and Humble Servant,

JOHN ROSS.

TRURO, Nov. 1st., 1843.

2340

SPEECH AT PORTAPIQUE,

23d October, 1843.

WHEN I arrived here to-day, I did not expect that an opportunity would be afforded me to address this meeting. The liberality and courtesy displayed by the yeomanry of Londonderry, naturally bring to my recollection the last time I had the honor of addressing them, in this neighbourhood: the confidence and support then received has only been echoed to-day in the reception I have met; and the cordial invitation of the Revd. Gentleman who has urged me so pressingly to mount the rostrum.

It will be necessary for me to explain, that the note* to which the Revd. Gentleman alluded, and which he states was placed in his hand after he left home this morning, does not imply that I did not intend to be here, as he will perceive by a reference thereto. The Revd. Gentleman will discover the purport of my communication to be, that by the rules which I understood were to govern this meeting, I would be precluded from addressing you; but that I did not convey the idea that I would not be present, and fearing that he would not receive that note in time, and consequently not have it in his power to comply with the request therein contained, I provided myself with a copy of the letter to which it alludes, and which I had the honor to address to the Revd. Gentleman three days after the meeting at Onslow.

TRURO, 13th Oct., 1843.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

I regret that I had not an opportunity of conversing with you, before your return home, on the question now engrossing so much public attention—that of Colleges. The views I entertain and expressed upon this subject at the Meeting in Onslow, are, I am told, construed by some to serve party purposes, as inimical to the interests of Presbyterians, or rather favorable to the

*TRURO, 21st. Oct. 1843.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

It has occurred to me since I saw you the other day, that since you have excluded *foreigners* from taking a part in your discussions on Monday at Portapique, that I will not have an opportunity of explaining my views as regards Colleges to the inhabitants of Londonderry; and as I know that misrepresentations have been made to those who were present at Onslow—will you oblige me by causing the letter I had the honor of addressing to you on the 13th inst. to be read at the Meeting, which I think will remove impressions caused by incorrect statements.

I am, Revd. & Dear Sir,
Yours very respectfully,

The Rev. Mr. BAIN,
Londonderry.

maintenance of "Acadia College," with a view to give the Baptists an ascendancy in educational matters, in which the Presbyterians cannot partake. In the discharge of your professional duties, you are apt to be obliged to listen to the tirades of my political adversaries, particularly in Truro; this being the case, I think it is but natural that you should receive unfavourable impressions, and consequently inadvertently attribute improper motives to me, for the course I pursued on that occasion. Pardon me therefore, for bringing the matter under your notice in this form, as I am most anxious that there should be no misunderstanding betwixt us, not only as to motives, but as to opinions also. You will therefore do me the justice to believe me, when I declare solemnly, (and God is my witness that I state what is true,) that there is no subject connected with the general education of the country, in which I feel a greater and deeper interest than to see a Seminary of high standing founded in the Eastern section of this Province, where I know the Presbyterians form a large majority.—When I say Presbyterians, I mean the Kirkmen of Pietou and Cape Breton, as well as those of the Synod of Nova Scotia.

There was a time when I thought that one College not only *might* but would be best for this Province—that period, in my opinion, has passed and never can be recalled, unless the Trustees of "Acadia College," Horton, "King's College," Windsor, and "St. Mary's College," Halifax, agree to unite with the Presbyterians upon the principle of an University, in which none of them can have an ascendancy. I say agree, for without unity, equality, and cordiality, the project must fail. There is, I think, a *laudable disposition in mankind to resist coercion* even should the services demanded ultimately tend to their good. Now, it is self-evident, do at present the Baptists consider the question of one University as hastily got up to crush their efforts in maturing the object they had in view, in acquiring a charter to build "Acadia College?"—It is therefore a hopeless matter to reconcile them.—"King's College," Windsor, is entirely independent of Colonial aid, and its friends will, and can easily maintain it, even should the Provincial Legislature pass a law to affect its present endowment, and of which I have strong doubts.—It has been asserted upon the authority of Mr. Howe, that the Catholics have agreed to relinquish "St. Mary's." This has been strongly denied by some of the leaders of that denomination,

since the meeting at Mason Hall, where the allegation was made, on the 26th of last month,—even suppose the Catholics do acquiesce in the scheme of one University, every body who knows anything of the extraordinary influence their clergy exercise over their flocks, must know that they have only to will that treble the amount given to St. Mary's should be raised annually by private subscriptions, and it is done. That denomination therefore, will not only sustain their literary standing, but actually gain upon their Protestant brother subjects, who are not so easily managed when money is required to promote the literary or religious views of their several denominations. I look therefore, upon the elements of support which the Catholics, Episcopalians, and Baptists have at their command, as ample to promote the education of their several bodies, without one farthing of the public money. Their interests would be affected only, by the measure proposed, to the extent of the pounds, shillings, and pence bearing on the subject. Their sectarian Institutions would be fostered, and their youth progressing in education, while the Presbyterians, having no bond of union, would have their young men growing up without that education essential to qualify them to fill situations in the Colony, in which they now occupy so respectable and commanding a position, would they only agree to avail themselves of the power of unity. Such a prospect for the Presbyterian population, is to me particularly painful; and thus far I have used every means in my power to prevent it. To Pictou Academy I look with an intense interest and unabated hopes, as the source that is to open to the youth of the Eastern section of this Province the means of acquiring an education, that will qualify them to compete for the higher offices of the state in this Colony; and I know they have natural talents equal to any similar number of Her Majesty's subjects.

Now my plan of dealing with those seemingly conflicting elements, would be to raise the Pictou Academy to the same status as Acadia College—endow them both in perpetuity in terms of my resolutions, with £400 annually. Combine "St. Mary's" and Dalhousie Colleges in Halifax, on the principles of a general "University," without any preponderating tendency to favour one denomination more than another, with a grant of £800 a-year, also in perpetuity. Such an University would forever debar application for aid to build or endow any other Colleges, as its portals would be alike free to all, and no sect could afterwards advocate its claim on the ground now urged, "that those in existence are calculated to propagate their sectarian dogmas to such students as attend their classes.

This Country can never command the many natural resources it possesses, so as to render them subservient to the wants and comforts of the people, except through the application of

science. Natural Philosophy, but Chemistry in particular, must be taught in the Country, before the great bulk of the people can properly appreciate the great fertility of our soil, and the exhaustless treasures of wealth the mineral kingdom of Nova Scotia presents to a learned, scientific, and enterprising people. More than ordinary efforts ought to be immediately made to found in Horton and Pictou, Professorships of Agriculture and Chemistry, with experimental farms attached, where students might combine science with practical farming and mineralogy.

These are my views and opinions, without regard to local petty differences that may exist, between Presbyterians, or Baptists, or any other sect. They are confirmed after comparing the present position of Nova Scotia with that of Scotland, at the time the Universities of that country were founded. It is absolute folly to expect such an education from the county Academies as the country requires. The apparatus for teaching the sciences, even if the masters were capable, is entirely beyond their means. I speak with confidence as regards the Trinity Academy—the same branches were taught, and as capable teachers employed under the Grammar School system, as at present. Doing away with the county Academies would enable the Legislature to appropriate £1400 annually more to the Common Schools, and allowing an average of ten pounds to each School, and 30 scholars to each School, 4200 individuals would be benefited, or 247 in each county, instead of the eight or nine now receiving instruction, and those the very class who can best afford to pay for the education of their offspring. These are my views, Revd. and dear Sir,—I may be wrong, but if so, it is an error of the head and not of the heart. If health permit, I will be present at the Meeting at Portapique, and if an opportunity is afforded, I shall explain those views more fully.

Yours, &c. JNO. ROSS.

The Revd. MR. BAIN,
Londonderry.

Now Gentlemen will perceive that my scheme of endowing Colleges is not so absurd nor yet so regardless of the various interests of other denominations besides those of Baptists and Presbyterians, as is insinuated by a sneaking correspondent of the Nova Scotian, who dates his communication from Colchester, but to which he would not dare to affix even an anonymous name, knowing that any name appended to that communication would become a word to which the finger of every honest man would point as synonymous with falsehood, cowardice and malice. I repeat that no one dare look an honest man in the face and avow himself the author of that communication. That the individual had an object in view no one can question; an object

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which he has been seeking through life, the pursuit of which has carried him triumphant over obstacles at which honesty and fair dealing would shrink:—that object is to deceive and mislead the people. (Mr. Howe. You had better take care where you are, sir, there is a limit to forbearance.) Mr. Ross humourously—I know I carried a rifle somewhat like Sam Slick's Irishman; but I did not expect it would kick me off the platform. Now be the author who he may, the garbled and false statements that communication contains, are quite in keeping with the policy pursued by the Gentleman and his party, who naturally concludes that my sarcasms aim at himself, of crowding the columns of a paper already in a state of decomposition, with the virus of falsehood and malice which he wishes to infuse into the minds of the inhabitants of Colchester who were not present at that Meeting.

I had not an opportunity in Onslow of shewing the doublings and tortuous windings by which he endeavoured to extricate himself from the ridiculous position in which he was placed. He has to day given you a specimen if not a recapitulation of his ding-dong calculations, his false statements of assumed facts which an ordinary mind would be ashamed to palm upon any people enjoying as much common sense as would be sufficient to enable them to discriminate between their right and their left. Notwithstanding the distinct statements I made at Onslow as to the combining St. Mary's and Dalhousie Colleges, and the mode of calling into useful operation Pictou Academy and Acadia College, as well as the means of preventing any future application for denominational Colleges, by endowing the Halifax University on such liberal principles as would render it unobjectionable to any denomination, as stated in the letter I have just read,—yet he clings to the old position of one College or six, as if a common sense view of the matter, so self evident, was an element he never allowed to enter into his calculations or conclusions. I however urge upon this Meeting, composed of men exercising common sense in all their ordinary occupations, to pause before they yield up their assent to positions founded in error, and conclusions consequently erroneous as to the economy of this political juggle.

You will distinctly perceive, and I beg that it may be understood, that according to the principles which govern all popular institutions, the Pictou Academy must partake of Presbyterian views; not because I would have its charter to be sectarian, but because its government must partake of the feelings of those who manage it, just as other popular institutions exhibit the views and feelings of those who administer them. I would ask the Honble. Gentleman who is present, how the Government, of which he is a member, becomes a *Liberal Government*? Is it not because he and his majorities by their feelings

and professions, have stamped it with that character, which by the bye is very problematical, altho' it has assumed to itself that name. So also would the Pictou Academy become Presbyterian—at least in name, because the majority of the people whose interests the Trustees would represent are of that denomination, and compose the great bulk of the population of the Eastern Counties. The same principle applies to "Acadia College", if the Western Counties consist, as I am told they do, of the same proportion of Baptists. This is a principle acted upon in all well regulated popular institutions. It does not follow, however, that Teachers are to be chosen from the same denomination; on the contrary, I know I do but justice to the Presbyterians of Pictou, when I assert, that if an individual presented himself qualified to fill the highest chair in the Pictou College, and if that individual belonged to the small number of christians to which I referred the other day, and which are scarcely known in this Province; yet if he had raised himself to literary and scientific distinction, his sectarian views would be no bar to his appointment. Even *Kirkmen* would overlook the fact that one of the same creed had lately placed his foot on the highest round of the political ladder, and kicked the dearest emblem of the people's regard into the face of those who placed it on his head for a consideration, which a Virginia negro driver would spurn to change his anti-abolitionist views,—and join the other party most cordially to procure a Teacher even of that denomination, did they believe that their youth would derive more benefit from his tuition than from a Presbyterian.

The illustration of the Honorable Gentleman as regards common Schools is equally applicable to Colleges. Did it ever occur to the versatile mind of this great statesman, that if Laymen only were appointed as Professors in Colleges, that Sectarianism would be as rare in the highest Institutions of learning, as in Common Schools.

Now it may be asked how it happens that sectarian animosities have become of late so intense that the worst passions of our nature are excited, and it is to be feared the christian virtues of charity and brotherly kindness will be rooted out from among us? There is nothing in sectarian views of themselves calculated to disturb the peace of society, particularly if denominations are only aiming at promoting the interests of the kingdom of our Blessed Saviour; on the contrary may we not suppose that the diversity of opinions entertained by different individuals, is an essential means of aiding the great scheme of spreading the influence of the Gospel of peace. We know that in temporal matters the great bulk of mankind are pursuing the same object,—pecuniary gain; but the means employed are as varied as the geniuses of men are diversified. In the natural world we perceive effects produced which the puny efforts

of man's intellect would vainly attempt to reconcile to reason, did we not by experience learn to trace them to causes palpable to our senses. Our conceptions of the means employed in the dispensations of Providence may be equally faulty if we attempt to trace by the power of reason the cause and effect of divine influences. We also know that the noblest virtues when pushed to extremes sink into degrading vices,—thus the economist becomes a miser, and the philanthropist a prodigal. Sectarianism then, in itself, is a harmless attribute of the christian faith; but what renders it so malignant of late is the political influences that are brought to bear upon those who profess our holy religion, and by those whose duty should lead them to suppress, rather than foment dissensions.

The Honble. Gentleman exults in the belief that he has outlived the slander "that he was the personal enemy of all Churchmen," because he opposed and destroyed the old Council, consisting entirely of that sect, with the Chief Justice at their head. Is it not possible, that during the period *that* slander, if it were such, took to ripen into maturity and decay, (an assertion of which I have my doubts,) that ten others equally injurious to the gentleman's reputation may have grown into existence, and circumstances fully as suspicious corroborated the mild accusations. When we come to the political discussion I will undertake to convict the Honorable Gentleman of something more than personal animosities towards individuals. *I will convict*, I care not who the Jury may be,—he may have the benefit of a picked Jury, even that would not screen him. It is true, that under such circumstances I might not be able to get an audience to express their opinions, but I know I have the materials to carry conviction to the mind of the most partial of his favourites, that he has wielded the powers vested in him for the public good for other purposes than that for which they were bestowed.

The more I examine the conduct of those who have taken the lead in this agitation, the more I am convinced that in coming to the country to set one denomination of Christians in battle-array against another, the Government has incurred an awful responsibility, and consequences may follow that sober minds cannot contemplate without apprehending that the character of the people may be vitiated, and their affections alienated from a Government that permits one of its members to sow discord with a broad-cast over the face of this once happy colony.

I have already stated at the Onslow Meeting that it was proper for the Honorable Gentleman who represents this Township, or any other member of the Legislature, to convene meetings such as this, and endeavour to remove any unfavourable impressions that may have been made as to his or their policy. But for a member of the Government to make a stalking-horse of Colleges or Education to stir up strife. [Mr. Howe.—I did

not come here without being sent for.] Mr. Ross continued;—Well, those who did send for him have led him a dance, the figure of which they themselves did not understand. Will the Honble. Gentleman confess that in the matter he could not exercise a discretionary power? Or does he imagine that any one can be found silly enough to believe that if he did not approve of those proceedings, he would be here to insult the judgments of the people regarding constitutional views, and involve himself in the awkward position he now occupies. Perhaps this is another inking of Responsible Government, eked out as other measures have been, in small doses at a time, fearing, no doubt, that if the whole quantity of physic that is preparing for the people to swallow be offered at once, they would scarcely allow such quackery to be practised upon the Constitution, or allow the person preparing the *Responsible* dose, to attempt it with impunity. I believe, Gentlemen, it is one of those ingredients which constitute the juggle of the present Government, and which has rendered the true "Responsible," a word signifying derision and contempt, and it will convey that idea so long as they are allowed to remain at the Council-board.

But, Mr. Chairman, some may consider that I am discussing the political tendency of the proposed measure of *one College*. It has strong political aspects, and when the Honble. Gentleman shall find it convenient to come to the political discussion he has condescended to promise us, he may discover that we are not so ignorant of the principles by which countries are governed as he would wish us to be; we may perhaps be able to shew him that all countries are governed by the influences of the Lawyer, the Schoolmaster, or the Soldier. Great Britain has no wish or disposition to govern us by the sword, and leaves it to ourselves by which of the other two we will be governed; we are now governed by Lawyers, and they are afraid that if the Schoolmaster is allowed to come among us, he may teach us that we can govern ourselves without so much of their aid as we are now blessed with. In France the people are governed by the sword; the Schoolmaster has been among them, and to protect the present Dynasty, who attempted to make *one Press* do what *one College* is to do for us. Paris must be fortified, or the Government must, to govern the Parisians. This could only be accomplished by deceiving the people as to the object of having it done. Accordingly, a quarrel must be had with the English and Russians on the coast of Syria; an invasion was held in terror over the heads of the Parisians, and to magnify the delusion, the recollection of the hordes of Cossacks, Polish Lancers and Scotch Greys that invested their capital and trampled upon their eagles in 1814, were dragged into the picture of degradation they had conjured up, and which, they said, must be wiped from the page of their glory.

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The bait was too gorgeously gilded not to be swallowed by the "Glorious Nation," and to prevent a recurrence of so humiliating a Drama, they consented—Paris is fortified, and now when it is too late the Parisians find themselves at the mercy of the Cannon, Government had led them to believe were planted to defend them from Foreign aggression. Let us compare small things with great,—take warning before it be too late; there is a striking similarity between the tactics of the one College Statesman and the Polignac policy which attempted to compel Frenchmen to give to Government the control of the Press, as we are required to do that of Education. The Honorable Gentleman thinks there is a great deal of inconsistency displayed by me in endeavouring to renege the Pictou Academy, and to make out his case he repeatedly asserts, that I was instrumental to its destruction.—Now I once for all on my own behalf and for the Kirk Party in Pictou, throw back the false accusation upon those who first gave it utterance. The Kirk Party wanted to make it useful to the whole bulk of the people—they neither wanted to destroy it, or exclude those who claimed it as their own; what they wanted was equal participation in the blessings of a liberal Education, from an institution endowed by the fruits of their industry. Now, I will tell you *who did destroy it*. It was destroyed by those who pretended most friendship for it, by Pseudo patriots and wily politicians, who would, and did sacrifice the best interests of the Colony to keep themselves in power. Pictou Academy was the Juggle that kept politicians of former days over the heads of the majority in Pictou, while the County of Halifax was undivided. As soon as that was accomplished, they saw their occupation was gone,—another shuffle of the cards was necessary, and we find them remove the Rev. and learned Doctor from the scene of his usefulness to be confined to the dreary walls of a dead edifice,—rather than the majority in Pictou should have the rights of British subjects,—that of educating their children. The great bulk of the people of Pictou of both parties, began to see the deplorable situation in which the political trickery of false friends placed them. They did unite last year, upon a broad, liberal, and judicious system of education; they went to the Legislature, as they had a right to do, for aid; they were met there by the opposition of the flag end of that tribe of Jesuits, the member for Colchester, who were determined upon its ruin rather than the Kirk party should benefit by it. This is the spirit that actuates the Honorable Gentlemen, who to gain his ends and gratify his propensities, is ready to sacrifice the real interests of all the Presbyterians, both Kirkmen and Seceders, upon the pretext that the Province would be benefitted in a pecuniary point of view, by the adoption of one College to the exclusion of all others. Such an artifice may deceive for a time,

but the old adage of "murder will out" will soon overtake such infamy.

Having said thus much as to the political expediency of this measure, let us compare the present condition of Nova Scotia with that of Scotland—a country whose example in matters of education we would do well to imitate. Here Mr. Ross referred to and read the statistics of Scotland as exhibited by him in Onslow, and published in the Morning Post of the 19th Inst., and continued: Now gentlemen, bear in mind that one hundred years after three Universities were founded, the population did not much exceed that of this Province. Recollect also, that this country has got elements of wealth, and means of increasing and sustaining a population which Scotland never possessed. The mineral productions of the soil are not surpassed either in extent or variety in any portion of Her Majesty's dominions. Nothing is required but Science and Responsible Government to make this a wealthy and populous colony. Not such a responsibility as requires one of the Government to come periodically to assure us, that this and the other measure is a part of the Responsible system—but a responsibility that every man would feel, by the institutions of the country being conducted with honesty and fair dealing—opening up the many resources of the country to the enterprise of the people—a responsibility that will season every man's dish with the relish,—that the Government his labour supports is one that required no propping, being built upon the well understood wisdom of a free and learned people. Institutions of learning of a high standing planted in the country, is the foundation upon which our prosperity must be reared, and in whatever shape the question may be disposed of by us, the day is not far distant when a College must be in Pictou, and no spirit of prophecy is required to foresee that such an institution must of necessity be partially endowed by the Legislature. The Eastern counties are chiefly settled by emigrants from Scotland, and I greatly mistake their character if they will be satisfied with less opportunities of acquiring the blessings of an education than have been their forefathers. Let me also implore you to investigate and thoroughly understand the proposition submitted to the Onslow meeting, as embodied in a number of Resolutions proposed by myself, the same that have been moved in amendment to the original resolutions now before this meeting; by a gentleman to me unknown—the proposition of uniting St. Mary's and Dathonsie Colleges, in Halifax, and to endow Acadia College, Horton, and the Pictou College, separately—the former with £800, the latter with £400 each annually, would be a saving of £176 on the present system. (Mr. Howe—But your scheme embraced a College in Cape Breton for the Catholics.)—Mr. Ross.—It did not. What I said in Onslow was, that the great blunder committed in the Le-

was endowing St. Mary's in Halifax, at the very threshold of Dalhousie. When the Honble. Gentleman asked me if the Catholics were not as much entitled to a College as any other sect. I answered, yes; but it was the duty of the Legislature before they granted a charter and an endowment, to see that it was built where it would confer the greatest benefit on the great bulk of the people, therefore it ought to have been built either in Cape Breton or in the County of Sydney, if endowed on sectarian principles. The Honble. Gentleman has also asked, how I am to dispose of "King's College" Windsor. My answer he will find in the letter I addressed to the Revd. Mr. Bain, which has just been read in his hearing,—and to prevent any mistakes, I again repeat what I said in Onslow, that the Baptists did wrong, in my opinion, in not supporting Mr. McLellan's bill last session, which would have placed all Colleges on an equal footing, and thus enabled the Legislature to deal afterwards with the question of Colleges as its wisdom might deem most just to all parties. But their position was one of extreme awkwardness, and under the existing extraordinary circumstances of the time, they ought not to be so severely blamed.

Nova Scotia is now placed in circumstances somewhat similar to that of Scotland previous to the founding of the Edinburgh University.—Scotland had then its three Universities all Sectarian: but did our forefathers, I say our forefathers, for the Presbyterians of the North of Ireland were originally from Scotland, and the first settlers of this now populous Township were from the North of Ireland, as the name implies. I ask, did they demolish the old Sectarian Colleges and build a new one on their ruins. No, Gentlemen, if they had you should not find me here to-day acknowledging myself a Scotchman and proud of the name—had they done so I would disown my native country, and shudder when I should be suspected of being a Briton. I would rather claim kindred with the Esquimaux or the Hottentot than trace my pedigree and nativity to a people guilty of so vandalic and barbarous an outrage upon the proper feelings of mankind. But, Gentleman, what did they do? It is an historical fact, creditable to the country and to our nature, that at the reformation, when the accumulated wrongs of an oppressed people armed their vengeance with sectarian zeal, which forced them to desecrate the altars at which their forefathers worshipped the same God which they adored, but under a different priesthood—yet they spared the Seminaries of Learning, knowing that they were dedicated by the same priesthood to the general benefit of mankind, although particularly under the controul of the Church, to train up a learned but sectarian and corrupt clergy, and from whose influences they were then purging the institutions of the State. They not

only pulled not down those in existence, but they built and endowed another in the capital of the kingdom, as we propose now to do with a charter as free, pure and uncontaminated as the air which encircles Bon-Lomond. Such an Institution was required to meet the growing intelligence of the country and the wants of those who congregated in the manufacturing districts, as well as those inhabiting the seat of Government. Now mark the result. While those in active and useful existence were sustained, and progressed in astonishing prosperity, adding Professorships and endowing chairs with amazing rapidity, the Edinburgh University has outstripped them all, affording the means of a liberal and polished education to any one who chooses to seek it there. The Revd. Gentleman who sits beside me, and who is in the habit of addressing his parishioners in strains of eloquence surpassing in matter and degree any effort of mine to describe, how anxious coever to do justice to his learning and talents as a preacher of the Gospel, was educated there, was a dissenter in his native country—nevertheless that country provided the means of Education to all classes in the University without any sacrifice of religious views, and we to-day witness an example in his person and usefulness, of the advantages conferred on mankind by so wise a policy. Ought we not therefore to follow that example and endow one University in the Capital to extend similar blessings to those who may conscientiously exclude themselves from the institutions now in existence, because they may have acquired a sectarian character. My own opinions are decided in favour of such a measure, enjoying as we do flattering prospects of a speedily increasing population, both as regards the natural means of increase, as well as by emigration also.

It has also been stated by an Honble. Gentleman here to-day—Mr. Howe—that there is no country with whose history he is acquainted that supports a College with a less population than Switzerland, and it contains 400,000 inhabitants. Now I complain of this mode of deception as being particularly unfair. I will not undertake to assert that the Honble. Gentleman intended to mislead, nevertheless the violence offered to a fair statement of facts deserves the unqualified disapprobation, if not the execration of this meeting. I ask him is it fair, honest, or proper policy in him, to compare the population of Switzerland now with the Colleges it supports? Ought he not go back to the date of their foundation, and compare the population and resources of the country then, with the present population and prospects of this colony? Great minds should study great questions thoroughly, and be prepared on every occasion to enter fully and unequivocally upon the various bearings of a subject involving less interest than that of the education of a country: ignorance or negligence

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on the part of those who aspire to manage the affairs of state in such matters, is highly criminal and deserves censure. The moral guilt of deceiving the people may not be so great if mis-statements are made in ignorance, but the political culpability admits of no palliation, particularly in those whose duty it is to be well informed on such subjects.

Now Mr. Chairman, let us look at the ways and means proposed by the advocates of one College for its support, and we find that £800 only will in the mean time, as they assert, be required from the Public Treasury, while it is admitted that £2,050 will be the probable annual expenditure. Another item of £800 is made up, in figures at least, as it accrues from Tuition Fees of 80 students at £10 each, or 100 students at £8 each. Now it is self-evident that for many years to come the number of students, under existing circumstances, will average one-third of the number thus assumed. The calculation:—£500 more or £1,336 will therefore be required annually from the public Treasury, instead of £800, as repeatedly asserted. In ten years we would have this great University brought to the hammer to pay a debt thus indispensably incurred according to their own shewing, or another demand made upon and paid by the Treasury for £5,360.

Now let us look at the credit side of the account—at the object to be gained and the items for which this debt is to be incurred. We are to have Professors of Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric, Greek, Latin, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Political Economy, Modern Languages, Law and Medicine, requiring an expenditure of £1550 amongst eight individuals, who are to be eminent for their learning, a model to the students in morals and religion—forming a nucleus around which will gather the erudite, the scientific of all parties, and whom the learned and good of all Denominations will delight to honor—all, all this for the paltry sum of £2050. On reading the calculations of the Hon. Gentleman now present, submitted to the great meeting convened at Mason Hall in Halifax, I felt an indescribable amount of astonishment and delight at the great bargain about to be concluded by the Hon. Exciseman for the benefit of the rising generation, between the Provincial Treasury and such a list of valuable commodities as these learned men would offer, in exchange to the youth of the country. The discovery was one of immense magnitude, almost too great for me to comprehend. I frequently on such occasions apply to my wife to assist me out of a difficulty—in this instance she happened to be from home, so that I had to cypher my conclusions the best way I could—and here they are.—Thus 8 Professors, men of unblemished character, famous for their literary and scientific acquirements, costing only an average of £193 15s. each—thinks I to myself, there must be some mistake

in the calculation: the Province now pays £5700 for the services of nine individuals, an average of £633 13s. 4d. each—to men certainly not more learned, not more honest, not more deserving than Professors should be—and amongst them we find an Exciseman, whose literary attainments do not surpass those required from a Teacher of Modern Languages, whose salary is fixed at £150. But then we are to have Professors of Law and Medicine, and for the moderate sum of £100 each. Some person has said that between the sublime and ridiculous there is but a step—that step may lead to other extremes. In the College then we are to have an eminent Lawyer to deal out the distinctions of right and wrong for £100 a year, while another receives £1250 for similar services—the simple difference being that, the one teaches, under legal pretensions, sophistry as a science by which the poor may be oppressed—the other detects, exposes and punishes villainy, except when practiced by sanction of Law under mysterious technicalities, which a common sense view of matters would despise and reject. But there may be an eminent expounder of Law and Education, who may be ambitious of being the Professor, and—and—I will not say what I scorn to tell the truth of that Profession when it tells against them, except that by a representative present? (Mr. R. asked if there were a lawyer present? “Munro” was echoed from different quarters by a dozen voices, while another little finger of the Law looked as if he was adjusting a “Docket” under evident apprehension of Martin J. Wilkins looking over his shoulder.) Mr. R. continued.—I say there may be an individual of that profession ambitious of being the hireling Professor, whose fame as a lawyer and author he is willing to attach as a tail to the kite of a political juggler, in hopes that some day he may be raised to credit by some fortunate blast of the Responsible whirlwind, that is to sweep the present Attorney General from the Council Board.

Next comes medicine; and to that useful, learned, and philanthropic profession, the enormous sum of £100 per annum is judged adequate to establish a School of Medicine in this Colony. To be serious, Mr. Chairman, I conceive the proposition an insult to the profession, if not to the good sense of the people generally. I can only say for myself, that there is no profession, except the clergy, that deserves more respect, and frequently receives less. This affront might well be spared that body,—One Hundred Pounds to entice a “Liston” or a “Wakefield” to our shores to teach the Physiology and Anatomical construction of the human body. The proposal is in itself as solemnly absurd, as it is insulting to the Profession, and a sarcastic sneer at our credulity in believing the doctrines and wonders of Responsible Government.

But, Mr. Chairman, let us enquire how it hap-

pens that these things do actually exist. The Honorable Gentleman has told us that he has outlived the old Council of twelve, consisting of ten Churchmen, six Bankers, and an Exciseman. Has he not also lived to see a Council of nine lawyers and an Exciseman. (Mr. Howe,—No, there are not nine lawyers in the Council.) Mr. R.—I only asked the question; how many are there—Eight? Mr. H.—No. Mr. R.—Six? Well it amounts to the same thing; six out of nine answers the same purpose that ten out of twelve did in the old Council. Is it a matter of

establishment, therefore, that nine individuals of that profession are pocketing out of the hard earnings of the people in the country £866 18s. 4d., while men of equal acquirements, according to their own shewing, can be procured to undertake more onerous duties for £193 15s. per annum. Here a gentleman tapped Mr. Ross on the shoulder, and informed him that the hour had expired. Mr. R. sat down, evidently disappointed in not having another hour to expose what he calls a *Juggle*.

During the discussion which took place at Portspique on the College question, the Honorable Joseph Howe alluded to a challenge given by Mr. Ross at Onslow, to discuss the political conduct of the Honorable Councillor. Mr. Howe said he was ready at any time to defend his policy against any one who chose to assail it. Immediately after Mr. Howe had done speaking, Mr. Ross expressed satisfaction at the honor conferred upon him, by the Honorable Gentleman condescending to discuss politics with so humble an individual as himself, and would cheerfully avail himself of the proffered kindness at any time and place the honorable gentleman chose to appoint, stating at the same time that as he had no intention of having an encounter with the honorable Gentleman on politics, he had not provided himself with necessary ammunition—such as the Journals of the House affords—nevertheless, he was so anxious to compare notes with an Executive Councillor, on what is termed “Responsible Government,” that he would, if time permitted, after the vote on the College Question was taken, amuse the audience, and perhaps deal out some facts, which might astonish some; but if denied by the Hon. Gentleman, he would note at the time, and prove them by reference to the Journals of the House, and publish them in the public papers of the day. Mr. Howe said, I feel confident the most of those present would much rather return before dark, than listen to anything Mr. Ross or myself have to say to them. (a number of voices—no, no, we will listen to you.) Mr. Howe then pulled out his brief and commenced a violent attack upon Mr. Ross, stating that the speech delivered by him, (Ross) was on that platform “a farrago of nonsense,” that he was a Tory, and first appeared in public life in Truro in 1830, with a Scotch bonnet on his head, fighting against the Assembly on the Brandy Question—that he was one of the leaders of the Kirk party who destroyed the Pictou Academy.—Mr. Ross interrupted Mr. Howe to remind him, that as the rules of the Meeting on the College question, confined the speakers to half an hour, he

begged to state that twenty minutes had already elapsed, and that he (Mr. Howe) had not come to the question, which he (Mr. Ross) understood to be the constitutional points of “Responsible Government.” Mr. Howe, in a most acrimonious manner, said, “I will not insult this Meeting by admitting that you possess gumption enough to know what a constitutional point is.” Notwithstanding this hint as to the time, Mr. Howe continued his *stereotyped* speeches of political Sheriffs—Judges in the Council—Collectors of Customs and Excise in the Council for life—Attorney General, the salaried officer of the Crown, and Speaker of the Assembly,—Judges Fees and closed doors of the Council Chamber. The Honorable Gentleman concluded a Speech of one hour and five minutes, stating that now five of the Executive Council must obtain the confidence of some constituency before they can obtain a seat at the Council Board. That he had accepted an office, because the people had the power to deprive him of it, whenever he forsook their interests. Mr. Ross asked how the people could deprive him of it,—they had no voice in his appointment, nor would they be consulted if it became necessary to dispense with his services—the people could only deprive him if they thought proper, of his seat in the House.

Mr. Howe.—If I should lose my seat in the House I would resign the Excise.

Mr. Ross addressed the Meeting to the following effect;—Mr. Chairman, the honorable Gentleman who has just sat down, might well spare this Meeting the indignity offered, by anticipating their opinions as to my abilities as a public speaker. I presume they are as capable of judging what a “farrago” is, as well as the *Learned* Exciseman. To save his reputation as a public declaimer, he should also have discovered before he consented to appear alongside of me on this platform, that discussing a point with a person who has “not gumption enough to know what a point means,” is not very creditable to his discretion, or displays much taste in selecting the means to amuse or instruct this audience. When I had the honor of addressing this meet-

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ing before, I stated, that I should convict the honorable gentleman before any audience who might choose to listen to the charges preferred and the proofs adduced. I now tell him, that it is my intention to convict him of *deception* and *corruption*. Now, Mr. Chairman, the honorable gentleman has repentedly in the course of his speeches to-day, endeavoured to deceive this Meeting, by describing me as an incorrigible Tory—seeking to gain the confidence of the constituency of this County with a view to deceive them as to my real political opinions. Now I ask that honorable gentleman, if he does not know, that so far back as 1828, I wrote a number of Letters, which he published in the *Nova Scotian*, exposing the misdeeds of a Magistrate in the County of Pictou, who was a Tory and a Kirkman, and who had been foisted into the Commission *against* “the well understood wishes of the people”—that a prosecution was threatened by the Magistrate—a private correspondence between the Editor and myself ensued—that Editor was the hon. gentleman who now accuses me of tory principles—I call upon him to answer and explain.—[Mr. Howe reluctantly said,—“this may be all true, I cannot recollect all this—what I say is, I always found Mr. Ross acting with the Kirk party in Pictou.”] Mr. R.—Well, I shall refresh his memory a little more before I am done. Did time permit, Mr. Chairman, I would explain to this Meeting what kind of Tory I am, by entering into the particulars of a controversy that lasted for several weeks, between the Editor of the *Novascotian*, and a writer in the “*Free Press*”, late of Halifax, who signed himself “*Anti-Monopolist*.” I am the writer of those letters, and if the sentiments they contain are tory, then I am one. Will the honorable gentleman pretend to deny that he knew I was the author of those communications, written ten or twelve years ago. He cannot,—how dare he then attempt to deceive this Meeting. But, Mr. Chairman, I shall refresh his memory on more recent occurrences. In December, 1839, when he came to this County to lecture the Yeomanry upon his plan of Responsible Government, I attended the public meeting held at Truro—the political Tory Sheriff to which he alluded, was in the chair—and not feeling disposed to put myself in the power of a person who I knew would avail himself of the influence of the chair to insult me, if I attempted to address the meeting, I concluded to keep silent, and express my opinions afterwards of the proceedings of the meeting, through the medium of the public press. Shortly afterwards I reviewed the proceedings of that meeting, and my opinion of Mr. Howe’s scheme of Responsible Government, and published the same in the “*Aeadian Recorder*,” and stated therein “that *Mr. Joseph Howe not only deserved the countenance, but support of all who wished prosperity*

to the country,—“Responsibility” being the grand preventative of corruption, and curbed the abuse of power in every department of the State,—the great majority of the people of the Province know this; and feel that the more Responsibility is infused into our institutions, the nearer we approximate to that standard which we all admit to be our best guide—the British Constitution.—But they also know that the same degree of Responsibility, and the mode of applying it, must somewhat vary from that of the Mother Country.”—“The only Responsibility, which as a Colony we can expect to introduce, is, to make the Heads of Departments *paid by the Colony*, amenable to the people, through the House of Assembly, whether holding their seats in the Executive Council or not; *by making their salaries dependent upon the annual vote of the popular branch.*” These Mr. Chairman were my opinions *then*, and mind you, *this was before the present constitution was proclaimed, and these are my opinions still.* I happened to be in the *Novascotian* office the Monday after this communication appeared in the “*Recorder*,” Mr. Thompson, the Editor of the *Pearl*, and Mr. Howe were also there—Mr. Howe accosted me, “*Ross, you wrote the article in Saturday’s paper, reviewing our meeting at Truro.*” I answered—*Yes.* “*Why, you are a Responsible Government man as well as myself.*” “*Yes—but would apply it in a different way.*” Will the Honorable Gentleman undertake to contradict one iota of these facts, yet he has the hardihood to stand up and try to make you believe that my professions of Responsibility and economy are artifices now assumed to mislead you. [Mr. Howe. But whom did he and his friends call public meetings and strengthen the hands of “*Reformers.*”] Mr. Ross. I was never very ambitious of figuring as a leader. I entertain my own opinions, and offered them to the public through the press, and do not consider the influence of name essential to give weight to an argument. Now, Mr. Chairman, I think I have sufficiently established the *first count* of the indictment, and that this meeting must find him guilty not only of attempting to *deceive* them, but himself also, as to my real character. Now Mr. Chairman, let us proceed to the other charge of using corrupt influence as an Executive Councilor, in the discharge of his duty as one of the Government. Mr. Ross here read an extract from the *Journals of the Assembly* in the year 1837—which he said happened to be among his papers—the same he read at the Onslow Meeting, but the Reporter did not think proper to publish it, for reasons best known to himself.

Extracted from an address to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, and passed by the House the 13th of April, 1837—“*In England the Representative branch can compel a redress of grievances by withholding the supplies: Here they have no such remedy: because the salaries of nearly all*

the public officers being provided for by permanent laws, or paid out of the Casual and Territorial Revenue, or from the proceeds of duties collected under Imperial acts, a stoppage of supplies while it would inflict great injury on the country, by leaving the Roads and Bridges, and other essential services unprovided for, would not touch the emoluments of the Heads of Departments in the Council, or of but a few subordinate officers of the Government."

"Apar. from the mere question of Judge's Fees, this Assembly is convinced that the presence of the Chief Justice at the Council Board, has a tendency to lessen the respect which the people ought to feel for the Courts over which he presides: while the position occupied there by the Collectors of Customs and Excise is also unwise." These, Mr. Chairman, were the grievances of this Colony in 1837, they are the grievances of this Colony now, with the exception of the Chief Justice and the Collector of Customs, having retired from the Council. The very man who moves this list of grievances, if I recollect rightly, at all events, the individual who headed and led the Reformers of that time, has had the same majorities at his back with the influence of Government, to bear upon those grievances for the last three years, and what has he done? nay, what has he attempted? We find him shortly afterwards moving and carrying a Resolution in the Assembly, declaring that the Assembly should regard the appointment of an Honorable member of the Legislative Council to the Executive, as a direct insult to the House. This record had scarcely time to dry, when we find the same Honorable Gentleman, not only lose sight of the dignity of the House, by not forcing its resolution or expunging the record from the Journals, but actually sneakingly creeping into the same Council, along side of the very man he traduced. Now, I am not saying whether the House did right or wrong in recording their opinion of that individual; what I say is, having made the attack upon him, they ought either to carry it out or expunge their hasty opinions. I can only say, as regards myself, were I one of the number, I would hesitate before condemning a man, unless I had satisfactory evidence against him, but I will also say, that there is not a man in the Council in whom I have less confidence than that Honorable Gentleman. I have not yet forgotten the part he took in *commuting the Quit Rents*; neither has he gained in my opinion in not having *resigned his seat in the Executive*, when his slanderer had worn his way into it. How different the course adopted by another, who felt the indignity of being compelled to sit in such company; he now sits there honoured by the respect of his con- peers, and by the *Special Request of his Sovereign*. I will tell you more he. Mr. Howe has done. He accepted a seat in the Council, upon the express understanding that the Casual and Territorial

Revenues, should not be again offered to this Colony. I speak positively on this point, because I hold his own *written* acknowledgement of the fact, in a letter written at the time to a person then in his confidence, but who afterwards had found him out. Now, Mr. Chairman, the Casual and Territorial Revenue of this Colony, amounting to about £10,000 a year, is just in the same situation, as regards any control the popular branch may exercise over it as it was in 1837, but in an infinitely worse situation for the Colony, when the proposal for commutation may be entertained by the Home Government; thus in the year 1837, when Mr. Howe considered it a monstrous grievance to have the officers of Government paid therefrom, the charges upon it amounted to:*

In 1837, the items chargeable } on the Casual Revenue are } £5,436 1 8	
In 1842, the charges } for 1/4 of a year are } £6,636 5 11 1/4	
Add 1/4 to make the year } £2,654 1 6	
	£9,290 7 5 1/4

This amount the Colony will have to provide for more than it would have had to bargain for in 1837:—all the additions were made by the Reformers.

Now, let it be understood, that this Province is in a worse position as regards the Casual and Territorial now, than it was in 1837, by *Three Thousand, Eight Hundred, and Fifty Four Pounds, Five Shillings and nine pence halfpenny*. You will naturally ask what are the items that swell the amount to this magnitude, and I answer the Judge's Fees, of which we heard so much, instead of being abolished, have been fixed upon this revenue to the tune of £212 10s. each, viz.

3 Judges fees, at £212 10 ea. amounts to	£637 10 0
The Attorney Genl. who never recvd fees	212 10 0
Master of the Rolls do.	212 10 0
Master of the Rolls for fuel and crier of } his court, }	37 10 0
Do. for stationery, printing, fuel, mes- } senger, and other contingencies, }	116 12 6
George R. Young, Dep'y Receiver Ge- } neral of H. M. Droits of Admiralty, }	143 2 7 1/2
His Excellency more than former Go- } vernors, }	625 0 0
" " Private Secretary,	312 10 0
	£2,297 5 14

Now, Mr. Chairman, what is the colony the better of the Hon. H. H. Cogswell changing seats in the Executive with the Hon. Joseph Howe. It is true Mr. Howe himself has gained £750 annually, but the Colony has lost by the change £3,854 5s 9 1/4d. annually. This is the kind of Responsibility that we have now, and it works amazingly well for the Honorable Exciseman and

* These calculations and facts was not given to the meeting as Mr. H. had not the Journals.—these are the ammunition to which he alluded in going into the investigation.

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those who play bass to his fiddle. But the Hon. Gentleman tells us he has accepted office, because the people had the power to remove him when he has forfeited their confidence, at the same time he sits in the House without asking them whether they approve his acceptance of office or not, and in open violation of what is considered constitutional principles in England; he also tells us that five of the Executive Council are obliged to seek seats in the Assembly, before they can sit at that Board. Now will the Honorable Gentleman explain to this meeting who has given this Constitution to this Colony, or by whose authority the Councillors must obtain seats in the Assembly? I say that no power but the Assembly has a right to say who shall have a seat in the popular Branch -- [Mr. Howe, under great embarrassment, stammered something which was not distinctly heard.] Mr. Ross—I ask again have the House declared, by Resolution or Bill, that five of the Executive Council must have seats in the Assembly. [Mr. Howe,—No, but they have done what is tantamount to it, they have allowed them to take their seats, without objecting to it.] Mr. Ross—Very well, this is another feature in "Responsible Government," we shall see presently how it works. It will be fresh in the recollection of this meeting, that the Honorable Gentleman, in the course of his defence as to the policy of the present Ministry, stated, that he spurned the idea of gentlemen in the Country or in the Assembly, being influenced in favour of the Government, either by the Magistrate's Commission or any paltry appointments. The contrary, he said, was proven in the Assembly, where a number of gentlemen voted against the Government, altho' they had accepted offices in the Probate Court. Now, I will not undertake to say what Gentlemen may do, but I will tell this meeting what a Magistrate and Councillor did do. Whilst the House was in Session last winter, it was discovered that a large sum of money was expended by a Road Commissioner and Magistrate, not only without being appropriated by the House, but without His Excellency's consent, (and I wish here to be understood distinctly, not to implicate his Lordship in any way or manner, in the various unconstitutional proceedings of some of his advisers. It is enough for me to know, that His Excellency is a Nobleman, Her Majesty's Representative—nay an Englishman, well acquainted with the British Constitution, whether he be Whig or Tory I care not; I believe him disposed to do what is right, and further, I believe if he had it in his power, and came within the scope of his duty, he would have punished the individuals concerned in the transaction I am about to relate;) on it being made known to the House, that large sums were so expended, particularly in Colchester, the Assembly Resolved, that the monies so over-expended, should be deducted from the amount allotted to the Cross-Roads for

the present year. When this became known in the country, a Public Meeting was convened in Truro by Requisition addressed to the Sheriff, a series of Resolutions passed, condemnatory of the practice, so unconstitutionally exercised by "Certain Commissioners" on that occasion, and at that meeting a Magistrate and Road Commissioner was accused of expending the money, not upon the Truro Bridge, as was alleged to the House, but upon a piece of new road, between Mr. Barry's in Truro, and Mr. Thos. Dickson's, on Onslow Mountain. This the Commissioner denied most positively, averring that the labour expended on that road, was done at his own risk, and that not one farthing of it was introduced into the accounts submitted to the Legislature at all. His son, a Lawyer, was also at the Meeting pleading his father's innocence, and defending the acts of the Government, as the Registrar of the Court of Probate should do. But, Mr. Chairman, what do the Journals of the House disclose. There we find the following Report of the Committee appointed to divide the sum of £860, for the roads and Bridges in the County of Colchester for the year 1843. "That it appears, that the following over-expenditures have been made during the past and preceding years, to be deducted from the sum granted for the County of Colchester:

Salmon River Bridge,	£183 12 0
Cl'genois Bridge,	25 10 6
Debart Bridge,	30 2 8
Section of Road between Truro and Pictou,	100 0 0
Shubenacadie Road,	92 0 0
	<hr/>
	£431 5 2

All of which is respectfully submitted.
Assembly Room, 22d March, 1843.

(Signed) WILLIAM ANNAND.
JAMES McNAB.
JOSEPH HOWE.
WM. STAIRS.

In the subdivision List of the appropriation of the same sum, the following items are most conspicuous:

"To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, to pay for an over expenditure on the Truro Bridge, by Samael Archibald, Esqr. in 1842,	} £183 12 0
"To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, to be applied towards paying Samuel Archibald, Esqr. in part the expense incurred by him in opening the section of the new line of Road between Robert Barry's in Truro, and Thomas Dickson's, in the year 1842—the same to be paid when it is certified to the satisfaction of His Excellency, that the Inhabitants subscribed and faithfully expended the like sum in 1842."	
	} £100 0 0

Mr. Chairman,—It will be readily perceived by this meeting that this is a most accommodat-

ing Responsibility—there we find Councillor Howe sitting in Committee, not only screening Commissioner Archibald from the punishment to which he became obnoxious by daring to exceed His Excellency's Commission and Instructions, but actually voting £100 of the people's money to keep him harmless in his pocket, and encourage him again to tamper with the public money, no doubt, upon the understanding that he is to approve of Mr. Howe's construction of Responsible Government. Now, let it be understood, that this service was not required either by the Government or the convenience of the public. When a Bridge is to be repaired, or a new one finished, and the sum voted for that particular service is not sufficient, even then the Commissioners ought not under any pretext exceed their instructions, but under such circumstances it might become *expedient* for the Executive to order a further expenditure. In this case no such exigence existed—the road was not required by anybody except the Commissioner and his immediate relatives to get at their fire-wood—the labour was expended not to finish the road but to commence it, and there it is to-day, untravelled, unfinished, and nobody caring whether it will be or not, as it now answers the particular object intended—a winter road for Bible-hill.—Under these circumstances I maintain that the Honorable Mr. Howe or any other Gentleman, had no shadow of right to give Mr. Commissioner Archibald or any other body, one farthing of the public money for this service, and in doing so he has thrown himself open to the charge of gross corruption. You, Mr. Chairman, or any other gentleman present who never saw this road, had

as good a right to pocket £100 of the money originally appropriated to the cross road service of this County as Commissioner Archibald, the act is a fraudulent transaction that admits of no palliation. It is an old saying that one good turn deserves another, and this is particularly observed by those who understand the Responsible system. Mr. Councillor Howe shelters the Magistrate and the Commissioner from pecuniary loss and disgrace. It is but an act of fair dealing then, that the Commissioner and his relatives who reap the benefit of the road and the money, should help the Councillor out of his difficulties in return; and it is but fair to admit that they are acting their part cheerfully. Here we find them arming one denomination against another, reckless of consequences; throwing families and communities into fermentations and discords, with a view to support this villanous system of fraud and irresponsibility—a system that enables them to pursue their unconstitutional knavery with impunity. These are the advantages the country has gained by having Honorable Gentlemen both in the House and the Council. (Here a young man mounted the ladder, approached Mr. Howe, and whispered something in his ear; he rose without saying a word, and left the stage.) Mr. Ross.—The Honorable gentleman is getting sick of my farrago; if he was not in such a hurry, I would treat him to a little more of it: I am now speaking of £100; in a few minutes I would prove to this meeting that £500 has been *surreptitiously* drawn from the Public Treasury, which it was his duty to expose and prevent. Mr. Ross followed Mr. Howe off the platform, and the people dispersed, it being nearly dark.

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[FROM THE PICTOU OBSERVER.]

THE COLLEGE QUESTION IN COLCHESTER.

ALIAS.

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS ALLIES ON "BIBLE HILL," AGAINST THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MR. EDITOR,—

For some time past it has been well understood by those who are in the confidence of the *Honorable Exciseman*, that the crisis "to do or die" was fast approaching. A scout from *head-quarters*, the *Honorable Mr. Annand*, arrived here about 10 days ago with credentials as "Plenipotentiary Extraordinary," to arrange preliminaries, and if possible to *disorganize* those who supported *Ross* at the last contest for the Representation of this County, with a view to enable *Mr. Howe* to send his nominee to this County from Halifax, as he did the *Pictou Exciseman* in 1841. The College question was chosen as the *ostensible* object of the meeting. The main supporters of the irresponsible corrupt system of conducting the affairs of the Government chiefly reside on "Bible Hill," and such is the bad odour of all their doings, that they durst not now *originate* any measure *openly*, and therefore to cloak their old tricks and designs, they had to go to Onslow, where the nephew of your Excise delinquent has hed just as much of the *Dickson* influence left as to deceive some honest, well-meaning individuals to sign a requisition to convene a public meeting to discuss the question of *one University vs. Acadia College and the Pictou Academy*. The Responsible Sheriff, a *new made* Coroner, and the Township Member, left Truro on SUNDAY, the 1st of this month, in company with *Mr. Annand*, after having set their plans, for Halifax, to report progress to their master, *Mr. Howe*, and invite him and his nominee to make speeches and admire the skill they had displayed in fortifying themselves, as they supposed, by the assistance of some of those who were opposed to them at the last political struggle. Some men are so honest and single-hearted themselves, that they cannot be brought to suspect even those who had frequently deceived them on former occasions. Such has been the case in this instance. The question of Education is one of immense consequence to the Country, and consequently the people take a corresponding interest in the subject, in whatever shape it may be presented to them.

The meeting in Onslow, thus organised, was a crowded one, consisting at one time of at least 800 or 1000 individuals. It commenced a quarter of an hour before 11 o'clock, and continued with unabating interest until after 8 in the evening. Those who called the meeting came prepared with a series of Resolutions, which I suppose will find their way to the public press, as *Mr. Croskill*, of the "Morning Post," was present taking notes. They were met, however, by another series of Resolutions, offered to the consideration of the meeting by *Mr. Ross*, whose popularity the other party

wished to destroy. Long and spirited speeches were made on the occasion. The division took place on the green in front of the Onslow Meeting house, where the meeting was held about 9 o'clock at night. I am told each claim the victory. The Requisitionists claiming *one* of a majority, and the other side *thirty-six*. The theory of *Political Sheriffs* was finely illustrated, but I will not anticipate *Mr. Croskill's* report. One extraordinary fact was brought out by *Mr. Ross* which cannot be too soon or too extensively known, viz:— "That the Academy in Truro is drawing more money from the Public Treasury for the number of Scholars taught the Classics, INDIVIDUALLY, than some of the Common Schools in the County received for ALL the Scholars taught!"

The Return made last year from this Academy exhibits 32 Common Scholars and 9 studying the Classics. The Common Scholars throughout the County had drawn from the Treasury an average of 6s. 1d. for each Scholar, thus—

32 Common Scholars, at 6s. 1d.	£9 14 8
9 Studying Classics, at £10 0 7.	90 5 4

41 Am't drawn by Academy, £100 0 0

Now it will be seen by the above that the sons of the rich Merchants, Road Commissioners and Responsible Magistrates, in TRURO, are drawing from the Treasury *more* INDIVIDUALLY than 39 poor Common Scholars in any other part of the County. And these are the very men who have attempted to cajole the people into the belief that they were labouring to extend the Common Schools. But there is another feature in this case to shew these gentry in their proper character which ought not to be overlooked. Last year a young man educated at the Horton Academy, was the Teacher. The gentry whose sons were reaping the public bounty so abundantly, while hundreds of children in the outskirts of the County perhaps had not a school within half a dozen of miles of them, were not satisfied with the advantages their children derived from the Teacher's tuition. They must not only have their children taught, but they must have the money too. The young man was dismissed accordingly, and now we find one brother receiving £10 0s. 7d. for teaching a younger one; but they are both the *brothers* of a Sheriff, the *sons* of a Magistrate, the *cousins* of a Coroner, and the *nephews* and *cousins* of 4 Responsible Magistrates. Is it a wonder that they had to go to Onslow to get up a Requisition to support them a little longer in power? But their days are numbered—they have fallen into the pit they themselves have dug.

I herewith send you a copy of the Resolutions offered by *Mr. Ross* and passed by the meeting. *Mr. Howe* is still here, perplexed where to go—conning no doubt.

"I gang na mare to you Town."

A RIFLEMAN.

Truro, 12th October, 1843.

